



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Linda Shea, Director

News Release

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Project Hope: Keeping Pets with Their Families

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick County Division of Animal Control is pleased to announce [Project Hope](#), a program developed by the shelter's auxiliary group, Frederick Friends of Our County Animal Shelter (FFOCAS). Project Hope, managed by members of FFOCAS, will aim to help pet owners navigate local resources with the goal of helping pet parents:

- Find a way to resolve problems and keep their pet when possible and appropriate,
- Rehome their pet safely with assistance or
- Decide if surrendering their pet to the shelter is truly is the best or only option.

According to Division Director Linda Shea, "Surrendering your pet to Frederick County Animal Control or another open-admission shelter should be considered only as a last resort. Open-admission shelters have limited resources. The busyness of the shelter environment can create undue stress for pets and make them more susceptible to illness."

Sometimes a pet who is wonderful in a home is deeply affected by the stressful shelter environment and develops undesirable behaviors or demonstrates a defensive temperament.

One of Project Hope's goals will be to help families keep the pets they have by providing the resources to help them resolve common behavior problems and find pet-friendly housing.

For more information about Project Hope, visit www.ffocas.org/project_hope.php.

For more information about the Frederick County Animal Control Division, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/animalcontrol or call 301-600-1546.

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