



The Street Dog Coalition is Coming to Virginia Beach and Helping Both Ends of the Leash

By Katrina Weschler, executive director, The Street Dog Coalition
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“Dewey is my ultimate advocate. He means everything to me and I make sure he’s taken care of. If he’s warm and happy, then I’m warm and happy.” Cody is a young man experiencing homelessness in Colorado, and he’s received services for his dog, Dewey, from The Street Dog Coalition since 2018.

The Street Dog Coalition is a national nonprofit founded in Fort Collins, CO in 2015. We now have over a 60 teams across the country, providing free medical care and related services to pets of people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. We care for the pet and its person by providing One Health services with compassion and zero judgment at our pop-up street clinics.

When asked about his journey since Dewey came into his life, Cody replied, “A lot of the weight in my backpack is dog food. I make sure he eats before I do. He gives kisses and hugs and always watches my back. He’s my baby and if anything happens to him, I’d be a wreck. He’s just the best. I like dogs better than people. They listen better.”

Our work starts with active listening. This is a fundamental piece of our four core values: Trust, Unconditional Love, Compassionate Activism and Unbridled Collaboration.



Cody hugging Dewey



Trust: Trust is the foundation of this organization. We strive to authentically connect and build trust with everyone we work with and everyone we meet, on both ends of the leash.

Unconditional Love: Everything we do is done with love and kindness, without judgment or conditions.

Compassionate Activism: We seek the courage to “swim upstream” and always do the right thing.

Unbridled Collaboration: Our work cannot be done in a silo. We rely on supporters and community partners to help us think outside the box, complement existing resources, establish trust, walk-the-talk, and deliver accessible, quality care through tailored delivery models.

We continue to grow thanks to generous volunteers, donors, sponsors and community partners who are committed to protecting the human-animal bond by caring for both the pet and the person. One such volunteer is Andrew Silverstone, D.V.M., M.S. (FORENSICS), owner of Veterinary Hospital of Virginia Beach and our veterinary expert contributor. He has volunteered to be our team lead in Virginia Beach and he’s just getting started. If you’re interested in being a part of his Virginia Beach SDC team, please submit a volunteer interest form on our website (www.thestreetdogcoalition.org) and we will connect you. We also urge anyone reading this article to look at the leash as a lifeline, and consider donating to support the lives on both ends. Donations can be tagged for teams near you, or other core programs of The Street Dog Coalition.

SDC website: www.thestreetdogcoalition.org

SDC Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcp8CtTXVnrOpQmwCrdHnAw>

SDC Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thestreetdogcoalition/>

SDC Facebook: www.facebook.com/thestreetdogcoalition

SDC Twitter: <https://twitter.com,/thestreetdog.com>



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