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Charlie the Dog Takes Office: Chantilly's First Pet Mayor Officially Collared

Chantilly, VA – February 20, 2025 – The votes have been counted, the tails have been wagged, and history has been made. A Forever Home Rescue Foundation (AFH) proudly hosted the first-ever Pet Mayor of Chantilly Collaring Ceremony on February 15, 2025, at Lazy Dog Restaurant in Chantilly, VA. The star of the event? Pet Mayor Charlie, a rescue dog with big dreams, a wagging tail, and an agenda focused on treat distribution, belly rub quotas, and ensuring all pets find their forever homes.

The ceremony, officiated by Virginia State Senator Kannan Srinivasan, marked the official swearing-in of Mayor Charlie, Chief of Paw-lice Maya, Fur Chief Gus, and the seven members of the Pet Council, including Glamorous Barcode, a trailblazing Leopard Gecko representing the reptilian community.

“Today, we celebrate leadership that truly understands loyalty, unconditional love, and the importance of snack breaks,” said Senator Srinivasan during the ceremony. “These pets symbolize the joy and companionship that rescue animals bring into our lives—and they also ran much cleaner campaigns than most human politicians.”

A Fur-tastic Celebration of Leadership and Rescue Advocacy

Emceed by nationally syndicated iHeartRadio host Ty Bailey, the event was a tail-wagging success. Maribel Taylor-Mattox, Founding Member, Treasurer, and Pet Mayor of Chantilly Election Co-Chair, delivered opening remarks, sharing AFH's mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome pets in need.

The crowd enjoyed:

- Official Collaring of Mayor Charlie and his Paw-litical Team
- Swearing-In Ceremony Led by Senator Srinivasan
- Meet-and-Greet with the Newly Elected Officials (pawshakes included)
- Adoptable Pet Showcase featuring future candidates for loving homes

- Dine & Donate Fundraiser at Lazy Dog Restaurant supporting AFH
- Nail Trimming Fundraiser by Woofie’s (because every official needs to look their best)
- Raffle Drawings, featuring prizes that made tails wag and humans cheer

Sponsors Help Make Tails Wag

Public Interest Registry (PIR), along with Centreville Dance Academy, Chantilly Animal Hospital, Woofie’s South Riding & Aldie, and Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar – Chantilly, played a vital role in supporting the event. According to PIR’s CEO Jon Nevett, "A Forever Home is doing incredible work to find homes for dogs across the DMV, and we’re excited to support their mission at this year’s Pet Mayor of Chantilly celebration." His sentiment echoed the spirit of the day, emphasizing how mission-driven .ORGs like AFH are leading the pack in making meaningful impacts.

A Bark-Worthy Administration

Each pet leader received a customized collar and a symbolic key representing their official duties:

- Pet Mayor Charlie received the Key to the City, symbolizing his mission to unite the pet community and ensure everyone gets equal ear scratches.
- Chief of Paw-lice Maya received the Key to the Treat Closet, to be used only in the interest of fairness (or whenever a snack emergency arises).
- Fur Chief Gus was honored with a Red Fire Hydrant, a prestigious symbol of leadership, responsibility, and strategic territory-marking.
- Pet Council Members, including Bella, Dyson, Tater, Melvin, Jax, Gizmo, and Glamorous Barcode, pledged to advocate for better access to belly rubs, more nap spots, and unconditional love for all pets.

Campaign Promises Turned into Action

Funds raised from this campaign will go directly toward helping rescue animals receive medical care, food, and shelter while they await adoption.

“This event was a fantastic way to bring people together while also raising awareness for rescue animals in need of homes,” said Julie Sun, Pet Mayor of Chantilly Election Co-Chair. “We hope Mayor Charlie and his team inspire people to adopt, donate, and get involved. Who knows—maybe next year, we’ll see a cat running for office!”

 [View event photos and videos](#)

For more information about A Forever Home Rescue Foundation and how to support their mission, visit www.petmayor.aforeverhome.org | www.aforeverhome.org.

About A Forever Home Rescue Foundation

A Forever Home Rescue Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving dogs from abuse, neglect, and homelessness. Through community engagement, adoption programs, and advocacy, AFH helps ensure every pet has the chance to find a loving forever home.