



Community Pet Fair & Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 5, 1:30-4:30 pm (rain date Oct. 12 same time)
Christ Episcopal Church, 8951 Courthouse Road, Spotsy

All Pets & Humans Welcome

The Saint Francis Pet Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church is sponsoring its Blessing of the Animals and 3rd Annual Community Pet Fair in honor of St. Francis. Francis of Assisi was an Italian friar, beloved saint, and one of the most venerated individuals in Christian history, who is widely known for his love of nature and animals. His feast day (Oct. 4) is often observed with a service of the Blessing of the Animals. Please join us on Oct. 5 for our Blessing of the Animals service and Community Pet Fair. The event is open to all pets and humans in the community. We hope to see you there!

Bring all your pets! Dogs, cats, birds, turtles, hamsters, etc... stuffed and plush animals... photos if your pets can't make it... even pet remains. (Cremains cannot be blessed, but a prayer may be said for them.) Come even if you don't have a pet to bless and just want to be part of this wonderful event and see all these critters gathered. We will have treats for pets and humans alike to enjoy.

******Please be sure that your pets are under control and are up-to-date on their vaccines for their safety and the safety of all the pets and humans!***

In addition to the blessing service, several local animal organizations will be on site to share information, answer your questions, and demonstrate what they do for pets and other animals. Come learn about them and how to support them. The following were among the many participants at last year's fair:

- **Spotsylvania Sheriff's K9 Unit** – see and learn about the K9 teams
- **Animal Control's Exotic Pet Display**, including snakes
- **Fredericksburg Regional SPCA** - <https://fredspca.org/>
SPCA will be on hand to answer any questions the public has for their organization.
- **Friends of Wildlife (FOWL)** – www.fowloflow.org
FOWL will focus on appropriate interaction / intervention with wildlife.
- **Awesome Possumz** – You can meet and learn about these wonderful ambassador possums.
- **AdvoCats Rescue** - organization specializing in trap, neuter, release of feral cats
- **Pup 'n Iron Canine Enrichment Center of Fredericksburg** – Pup 'n Iron specializes in dog training with love and kindness.
- **Petty Paws Rescue** – Dogs and cats will be available for adoption.

Pet Photos: If you'd like a photo with your pet, we can take it and email to you or we can use your phone to take it in our special photo area.

For more information, contact the Pet Ministry at stfrancispetministrycc@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 540.582.5033. Learn more about the Pet Ministry at <https://www.christchurchspotsy.com/ministries/st-francis-pet-ministry/>