

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Sporting Library & Museum

Emmanuel Episcopal Church to Host Interfaith Blessing of the Animals at National Sporting Library & Museum on October 4

All creatures great and small — dogs, cats, horses, livestock, gerbils, fish, hounds, even beloved teddy bears — are welcome at the annual outdoor service in Middleburg

MIDDLEBURG, Va. — Emmanuel Episcopal Church will host its annual Interfaith Blessing of the Animals on **Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 2 pm**, held on the front lawn of the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM). The community is invited to gather with their beloved pet companions for a heartfelt outdoor service. The service honors God's care for all living creatures and reflects the call to love and be good stewards of creation. Dogs, cats, gerbils, fish, horses, livestock, hounds, teddy bears, and all creatures great and small are welcome to attend. The blessings will take place rain or shine.

Ministers from faith communities across the Middleburg area will co-officiate the service, offering blessings for animals of every kind. Participating clergy include:

- **The Rev. LeCouteur**, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Middleburg
- **Rabbi Rose Lyn Jacob**, Madison County
- **Pastor Jonathan Lamb**, Middleburg United Methodist Church
- **Father Christopher Murphy**, St. Stephen the Martyr Roman Catholic Church, Middleburg
- **Pastor Herman Nelson**, Shiloh Baptist Church, Middleburg

The Blessing of the Animals is a beloved community tradition, bringing together neighbors, congregations, and companions of every species for an afternoon of fellowship and reflection against the scenic backdrop of the National Sporting Library & Museum.

This year's event is made possible in partnership with **Salamander Middleburg, Middleburg Library**, and **Admiral**.

Event Details

What: Interfaith Blessing of the Animals

When: Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 2 pm

Where: National Sporting Library & Museum (front lawn), Middleburg, Virginia

Hosted by: Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Middleburg

Community Partners: Salamander Middleburg, Middleburg Library, Admiral

Cost: Free

Note: Rain or shine

About Emmanuel Episcopal Church: Emmanuel Episcopal Church is a faith community located in Middleburg, Virginia. Learn more at emmanuelmiddleburg.org.

About the National Sporting Library & Museum: The National Sporting Library & Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution in Middleburg, Virginia, dedicated to preserving and promoting the literature, art, and culture of equestrian, angling, and field sports. Through its collections, exhibitions, and public programs, NSLM serves as a resource and gathering place for the community.