



saving lives since 1998

What's new pussycat?

April 2008

Partnerships with Page County Shelter and PetSmart Stores are two ways our organization works to help save lives

For an increasing number of cats, the path to successful adoption begins with a partnership that Cat's Cradle has forged with the Page County Shelter. In 2007 your organization took more than 80 cats from that shelter and found homes for all of them.

Our 2008 goal is to increase the number taken and adopted from Page to 150.

One key to the adoption process is that PetSmart stores in Alexandria, Harrisonburg, and now Waynesboro, serve as adoption sites.

The typical path a cat takes is from the public to a local shelter and then to foster care in a volunteer private home. There the cat is socialized, treated for any illness or parasites, vaccinated, tested for FIV and Feline Leukemia, and spayed or neutered.

Then, the cat's picture goes on Petfinder.com (see page 3), while waiting for another volunteer who schedules an adoption outing. We try hard to match the needs and personalities of our cats with the family's style – for example, calm cats for households with small children.

We have been taking cats to Northern Virginia on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays for several years.



The recently opened Waynesboro PetSmart has led to several adoptions.



Happiness is a 'Forever' Home for frisky Nora and the family she makes 'laugh and smile'

Dear Cat's Cradle,

Thank you so very much for allowing us to adopt Nora, the 3-month-old Tabby you had on display last Saturday. She has brought much joy to our household. We love her frisky behavior and she is a snuggler and loves to lick us. Can't say anything bad about her and she can do no wrong. She is the first kitten we have ever owned, we are dog lovers converted to cats.

We wanted a pet who would make us laugh and smile and she does just that. She is very active and loves to play, play, play. We take naps together as well as watch her explore everything in our apartment. We are excited about introducing her to our dog Chester this June when we return home to Waveland, Mississippi. She is going to live a long and happy life with us. Thank you so very much

The Sweeney Family
Arlington, VA & Waveland, MS

Dear Friend of Cat's Cradle



For Cat's Cradle, April is the calm before the storm and the storm before the calm. Some of our foster homes are taking a much-needed breather, as they wait for kitten season to begin its annual deluge. This is an opportunity to get adoptions for some of our harder to place adult, senior, and special needs cats. With more adoption volunteers than ever, adoptions for this year are ahead of this time last year.

Meanwhile, Teresa Kappes, spay/neuter coordinator, is in the storm before the calm. She is madly trying to complete Trap Neuter Release on as many managed feral cat colonies as possible to help decrease the intensity of the "kitten storm" on the horizon. Once the first wave of kittens is born, we must wait until they are weaned and weigh at least two pounds before completing TNR – an enforced period of calm for spay/neuter.

I am a goal-oriented, optimistic person. I believe that if we create enough "storms" of spay/neuter in February through April every year, gradually the floods of homeless kittens entering local shelters in the summer will become a gentle rain, then just a sprinkle. Already you have helped decrease the intake of cats at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Shelter for the last three years in a row.

Please join me in pressing forward ... and bring your umbrella!

Sincerely,

Josie Kinkade
Executive Director

Get Shakin'

25 Volunteers needed – May 29

Step right up it's easy and fun.

- What: Outdoor concert – Shakin' at The Station
- Where: Wharf/Johnson Street Parking Lot, Staunton
- When: Thursday, May 29, event opens at 6:30
- Why: To have fun and help Cats Cradle
- How: Go to Catscradleva.org and contact us

Tributes

Donor

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Angela Arndt | Shadow |
| Commonwealth One Employees | Barbara Barath |
| Barbara Frahm | George Kappes |
| Linda Kline | Joyce Flory |
| Ronald Kyger | J.R. |
| Betsy Langhans | Erynn and John Langhans |
| Limutilish Lissanu | Richard Settle and William Pike |
| Susan Mansfield | Uri Zhivago |
| Iris Mayo | Richard Settle and William Pike |
| Ann Parry | Scooter and Sabina |
| Brenda Scott | Joyce Flory |
| Anne Stephens | Callie and Scruffy |
| Helen Tussing | Yvonne Rose Good Williams |

Thanks much!

Corman honored

Allan Corman, a longtime Cat's Cradle supporter, was honored in March by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.



Allan was nominated for an Animal Control Officer/Humane Officer of the year award.

Congratulations, Allan!

State Tax Check-off helps spay/neuter

The State Tax Check-off for VA Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS) is used for spay/neuter grants to localities around Virginia. Cat's Cradle is grateful to have received \$2,500 last year from this fund. Please consider the check-off this year to keep funding available.

Don't forget Cat's Cradle in your will

Special needs kittens wait for their happy ending (continued from page 4)

(Continued from page 4)

The kittens are now about four months old. One will be kept by the kind people who took in the mother and another has been adopted.

FIV Information

- FIV is a virus that affects a cat's immune system. These kittens tested positive because they have their mother's antibodies. We don't know yet if they will remain FIV positive; they have to be tested again at 6 months of age.
- FIV is not contagious to dogs or people. It is spread to other cats only through fighting or mating. It is not passed through routine living situations such as sharing food bowls or even a scratch.
- Even if they remain FIV positive, the kittens stand a good chance of a long and happy life in a loving home with proper care, which is the same as top-of-the-line care for any cat.
- FIV+ cats are sensitive to parasites so they and their fellow cats should be kept indoors to avoid worms, fleas and parasites found in mice. Their vaccines need to be up to date and they should get vet recommended flea care.
- Preventing mouth and teeth problems is important, so they should visit a vet every six months to check for any problems in the mouth.
- With a little extra care, an FIV kitty can bring a family a double reward of having a feline companion, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are saving a life that others might throw away.

Our appreciation

Thanks to the Little Grill for picking us to be their charity of choice for their February Thursday night proceeds.

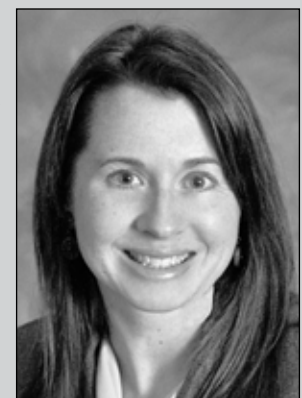


By going to the Cat's Cradle Web site – catscradleva.org – you can follow the adoption link to check on the status of the special kittens (shown above) from the story here and on the back cover, as well as other cats waiting for a loving home. We now have a volunteer who coordinates on-line adoptions, which has increased adoptions from the Web site. This is very important because we have no central office or adoption facility. The on-line coordinator gets back quickly to people making on-line inquiries, finds out where the cat is in foster care, and gets all parties together for a successful adoption if it's a good match.

Corena Knicely earns Virginia Vet Tech Award for work at the Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic

Corena Knicely, the Operations Manager for the Shenandoah Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic, received the Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year Award from the vet tech's state association.

According to the *Shenandoah Journal*, Knicely, a Turner Ashby High School and a 1994 Blue Ridge Community College graduate, worked in two veterinary clinics and later as a horse farm manager before joining the spay/neuter clinic. Since joining the clinic, Knicely has assisted in more than 19,000 spay and neuter surgeries.



Cate Mansfield, the Executive Director of the clinic, nominated Knicely. Mansfield told the *Journal*, "She's a phenomenal tech, and certainly very deserving of this award and recognition."

The clinic opened in 2005. Prior to that, Cat's Cradle volunteers transported more than 1,000 cats to clinics as far away as Richmond and Northern Virginia for spay/neuter. Cat's Cradle helped establish the clinic with the ability to sterilize much larger numbers of cats and dogs. Since the clinic opened the impact on the intake numbers of animals at local shelters can be seen.

Special siblings wait for a happy ending to their story

This is a sad story that has already had a couple of happy endings. Some very nice folks took in a cat that they wanted to have spayed, but vets refused because of the mother's health. She had a litter of seven kittens who all tested FIV+. The kittens may test negative after enough time has passed for mom's antibodies to leave their systems. All of the kitties have been completely vetted and will be altered before they can go to their new homes. For more, see page 3.



Soul looks out while PJ sneaks a peek from the back (left). Soul and Diva snuggle in a kitty carrier.

Online: www.catscradleva.org

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