



# What's new pussycat?

February 2010



**Two of the sponsored kitties:** *Cinnamon (above) had a rough early childhood and was our wildest kitty. He was slow to trust, but rewarded efforts with purring. Freddie (below) was left for dead in a field by his desperate stray mamma cat. Freddie is now sleek and sweet. He remains a "wobble" kitty, probably because his mom was malnourished when she was pregnant with him. He now is loving life with his adoring new human and nine new feline buddies!*

## And now, a word on our sponsors

Not all of our supporters can provide a foster home or adopt one of the Center's cats, but many still want to help in addition to other volunteer contributions.

Sponsoring a cat helps achieve Cat's Cradle mission. For a contribution of \$129, sponsors get to support the stay of a specific cat at the Adoption Center in downtown Harrisonburg.

The \$129 is based on the average "hotel bill" for adoption center cats including rent, food, litter and cleaning supplies.

To become a sponsor or find out more, stop by the Center between 11 and 6 M-F or 11-4 Saturday and Sunday or visit us online at: [www.catscradleva.org](http://www.catscradleva.org).



### A big Thank You to all of the sponsors at the Adoption Center

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## Tributes since our last newsletter honoring special people and pets

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### In honor of

Doris Taylor  
 Dr. Sarah Whitman  
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 Huey the Russian Blue  
 Shadow  
 Coco & CJ  
 Callie  
 Clyde  
 Amelia Marigold  
 Bootsie  
 Fenway Brower  
 Margaret Kowalski & KoKo  
 Betsy & David Christianson  
 Albert "Flip" DeLuca  
 Margaret Kowalski & KoKo  
 Nuke  
 Paco  
 Mel Dalen  
 Baby Girl  
 Chuck Auckerman  
 Clawdette  
 Donnie Hess  
 Pepper  
 Gigi, Giorgio, & Susan Mansfield  
 Sable & Bugsy  
 Margaret Kowalski & KoKo  
 Brewster, Lucky, Honey, & Baby  
 Bugsy, Bunny, Cricket, and  
 Sable Sue  
 Miss Lindsey, Rumi & Finney  
 Paula Putman  
 Margaret Kowalski & KoKo  
 Lucinda  
 Do-Do  
 Jeff Sponaugle  
 "Frannie" Van Patten  
 Erynn and John Langhans  
 Margaret Kowalski & KoKo  
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 & K-town Cats  
 McCavity Langhans  
 Milton and Vinnie Langhans  
 Tom Cat  
 Rosemary/Liesel  
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 Louis P. Stark  
 Jackson  
 Mike & Jean Noblette & Family  
 Suzanne Auckerman  
 Little Boy  
 Jerry  
 Margaret Kowalski & KoKo  
 Mary Reilly  
 Scooter & Ziggy  
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 Robert F. Dodd  
 Zachary  
 Pushkin, Duchess, Dante, Savi,  
 Bijoux, and Blue Boy.  
 Suzanne Rogerson  
 Joseph E. Wood  
 Noah Terschereun  
 Owen  
 Charlie Cat  
 Doris Taylor  
 Charlotte Rynerson  
 Peggy Hardy  
 Mischa  
 Nittany

## Dear Friends of Cat's Cradle



Dear Friend of Cat's Cradle,

Since 2005, when I started with Cat's Cradle, I have been amazed at the dedication of the volunteers. Even as I worked from my home office, I kept in contact by email. When the Adoption Center opened, however, and I moved my office here, I became even more acutely aware of volunteers' contributions.

Cat coming in? Will be fostered by a volunteer. Want to adopt a cat you see on-line? A volunteer will coordinate the effort. Need TNR in Staunton? We'll call a volunteer. Sending kittens to Long Island to the North Shore Animal League? Volunteers will drive the 16 hours. Coming in to the Adoption Center? You will be greeted by a volunteer.

Volunteers do the book-keeping, taxes, data-entry, computer maintenance, PetSmart adoptions, transportation to the vet, outreach events, fund-raisers, educational events, newsletter, ... the list goes on and on.

Most non-profit organizations use volunteers to boost their mission. But at Cat's Cradle they aren't just a "nice addition". They are the heart and soul of the organization.

This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to Cat's Cradle volunteers. Thank you.

Josie Kinkade  
 Executive Director

## Make your voice heard by joining Citizens for Animal Welfare (CAFW)

One way to make a difference for animals is to make sure tax dollars are being spent only for compassionate, up-to-date care. As a rescue group, Cat's Cradle has on-going dialog with local officials, and the relationship is generally warm. Sometimes, however a cooperative relationship is not enough.

Citizens for Animal Welfare (CAFW) is a local political action group whose purpose is to bring pressure to bear on behalf of cats and dogs in the Valley. CFAW believes

shelters and the elected officials who fund them need to be held accountable for the percentage of animal lives they save.

Cat's Cradle endorses CFAW's efforts, and invites you to join. CFAW is currently spearheading a campaign to bring life-saving best practices to the Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA. If you are concerned about the high death rate at this shelter (80% of cats and 45% of dogs in 2008), please visit: [www.citizensforanimalwelfare.org](http://www.citizensforanimalwelfare.org) and sign up.

*Don't forget Cat's Cradle in your will.*

## Mother and daughter volunteers

Heather and her 11-year-old daughter, Sabrina, go to the library every Saturday. The Adoption Center is a block away, so they dropped by and ended up staying about an hour, quietly visiting with each kitty. They returned the next week, and the next.

Their presence did not escape Josie, the Director. Would they be willing to volunteer an hour or two regularly on Saturdays? Sure!

They quickly caught on to what needed to be done – folding laundry and scooping poop is not glamorous, but they did not shrink from any task. Their “hour or two” quickly grew to several hours each Saturday and Sunday, and at times they held down the fort by themselves.

Heather has gone a step further and become the Adoption Center Volunteer Coordinator, and both are learning lots about cat care. Sabrina wants to become a vet tech or a vet.

Heather says: “I love the people, I love the kitties, and I love Cat’s Cradle’s mission and helping spread the word. We’re hooked!”



## A tribute for Nittany

I adopted my Nittany (known to you as Kit Kat Beasley) in 2005 and have loved him every day since. He passed away on October 17, 2009 from complications with his spinal cord. He was my love and my life and I am heartbroken over losing him. I know that he now can play, run, and walk as he loved to do.

Thank you for giving me 4 of the best years with him and for all you do. We saved him in 2005 but had no idea how much he’d save me.

– Elisa Zlotowitz, Alexandria, Virginia



## Through the eyes of a volunteer – by Taelor Skinner

*Editor’s Note: Taelor volunteered five hours a day for a month while she waited to go back to school. She made an immense difference in those first few weeks after we opened.*

No one would say my work at the Adoption Center was glamorous or exciting: scooping litter boxes, filing paperwork, and bleaching everything. I squeezed in a few quiet moments to pet each cat as I cleaned their cages, but usually I watched from behind my desk as potential adopters played and cuddled with them.

My rewards came when a hesitant but sweet gray/white longhair named Boris began to trust me, nuzzling my hand as I rubbed his cheeks. Or when Benny, the silkiest, most gentle tuxedo-cat ever, purred at me even after I unkindly (so it

must have seemed to him) gave him a dose of yucky medicine.

Although I missed them when they left, I was deeply happy as each cat went with a lucky, loving family. Nor did I forget the dozens of other cats and kittens in foster homes who owe their second chance to Cat’s Cradle.

I was privileged to help this past summer. Now I am back at school in Lynchburg, VA, but I have carried my sense of accomplishment with me. I am proud of Cat’s Cradle’s commitment to animal welfare and of my contribution to it. As I write this, I am in the process of spaying and neutering the cats in my community because of what I learned.



Don’t overlook the obvious. It’s easy to give a comfortable monthly donation online at [www.CatsCradleVa.org](http://www.CatsCradleVa.org)

# Cat's Cradle by the Numbers

**82** Cats and kittens adopted from  
the Center through January

Center volunteer hours  
from opening to February **1319**

**27** New foster homes since  
the Adoption Center opened

Informational brochures  
given out the first 2 months **550**

**7** Number of days a week  
the Adoption Center is open



**Success story** Meadow playing with a tennis ball in the front window of the Center after the December snow was one of 82 cats adopted in the first months of operation. This beautiful orange-and-white kitty is blind in one eye.



Become a fan of Cat's Cradle on facebook  
and keep up with the action at the Adoption Center.

A full-color version  
of this newsletter is online  
as a PDF that you can view  
or send to your friends  
who love animals.  
[www.catscradleva.org](http://www.catscradleva.org)

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