



at's cradle
saving lives since 1998

What's new pussycat?

fall 2006

A Helping Hand

ONE DAY, a mother cat showed up at Ann Hannah's door with two kittens in tow. Ann was unable to afford spay/neuter, and soon the mama cat presented her with six more babies.

Things were getting out of hand fast. At this point Ann had one cat for every ten square feet in her house! What was she going to do when the new litter started breeding six months later? Taking the cats and kittens to the Shelter was an unacceptable alternative.

This is when Ann heard about Cat's Cradle and the Shenandoah Valley Spay Neuter Clinic. With assistance from us, she was able to get all her cats spayed and neutered. She found homes for the six kittens from the second litter, but kept the mama, Wally, and the original two kittens, Harley and Humphrie. They all co-exist peacefully with her Australian shepherd Patty.

From a note Ann sent us recently: "Here is a picture of Harley and Humphrie as kittens. They are nearly two now. They were spayed at the (Clinic/Cat's Cradle) marathon last year. Their mother was spayed at the same time. A really big thanks to Cat's Cradle; they will not be a part of the pet over-population problem."



Harley and Humphrie Hug

Augusta Exceeds Challenge

IN JULY, an anonymous donor who wanted to give Augusta County a boost in spay/neuter assistance gave Cat's Cradle a challenge: "I'll give you \$2,000 if you can raise another \$2,000 by August 31." This inspired a second donor, who said: "If you meet that challenge, I'll throw in another \$2,000!" We sent out the word, and residents of Augusta County came through...and then some! We raised over \$8,500. This will make a significant dent in the list of nearly 600 Augusta cats awaiting spay/neuter assistance. Many of these cats are ferals and need to be trapped. Others are family pets belonging to low-income citizens. Volunteer Donna Rousseau has gotten right to work contacting clients on our waiting list, and bringing cats in to the Clinic for surgery. Our thanks to all who gave!

Happy Healthy Holsinger Cats

SHIRLEY AND LANNY HOLSINGER were accidentally omitted from the Donors List in our last newsletter. Dr. Holsinger recently wrote, "Shirley and I support the mission of spaying and neutering, and trying to place abandoned cats into good homes, rather than euthanizing." We wanted to interview the Holsingers for the newsletter, but they modestly declined, instead sending us pictures of their three cats.

Little Kitty (middle) was so small when she showed up they thought she was a kitten. Turns out she was about six years old! They call her their "golden kitty" due to the vet bills incurred bringing her back to health. Very loving, she still plays like a kitten.

Sootie, (top), now 13 years old, was a gift from a neighbor. This "lazy as can be" cat has gained three pounds in the last year, and will be starting her diet "this week", they report.

Vixen has a silly personality, which endeared her to them when she was dropped off two years ago. She sleeps in the "penthouse" (a planter on a high shelf), and follows Lanny around in the garden.

"We cannot imagine a home without cats," they say. And we can't imagine a world without folks like the Holsingers, who love cats and support the work of Cat's Cradle.



Cat's Cradle's Mission is to decrease intake of cats and dogs to Shenandoah Valley Shelters in order to end euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets.

Dear Friend of Cat's Cradle



I DON'T LIKE SUMMER. It's hot and it's kitten season. Both make me cranky. Don't get me wrong, I like kittens, but there are too many. But when I stop thinking about myself and look around at all our accomplishments, I realize the solution is in progress. We are making a difference and that is because of all the efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters.

A total of 58 people have volunteered for Cat's Cradle in the last year. The tasks they take on are varied, but each makes a difference.

Volunteers answer the voice mail, work yard sales, bottle-feed kittens, maintain the website, do graphic design work, maintain records, feed colonies, grow catnip, put up flyers, run errands, take photos, talk with friends about Cat's Cradle, trap and transport cats.

The staff works with a will and dedication above an ordinary job. They are devoted and work despite the pay rather than for the pay. Donors provide much needed funds to carry on the work.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, and donors. You are making a difference. To date this year, we have adopted out over 200 cats and altered over 1000 cats. You make that happen.

If you haven't taken that first step, contact us. We will help you find the right task for you. Together, we can stop the killing and make the Valley a good place for dogs and cats.

Suzanne Auckerman
President

Wish List: *Items may be dropped off at the Clinic 910 N. Liberty St. Harrisonburg (540) 437-1980*

Cargo truck	Post-it pads	Surgical instruments	Used towels
Cat traps	Sharpies	Prep sink	Paper towels
Cat crates	Stamps	Stainless cages	Rubbing alcohol
Trap covers	Digital camera	Cat litter, no-clump	Peroxide
Gas cards	Power Point projector	Cat food, unopened	Front-line Plus

Volunteer Opportunities

Keep Cat's Cradle growing; help meet the mission! If you are interested in any of the positions below, please contact Development Director Josie Kinkade. Email josiek@verizon.net or call (540)967-1905.

FOSTER COORDINATOR Work closely with the adoption coordinator. Work with clients. Access to computer and email needed; some data entry. Good listening skills and empathy for clients essential for this job. Time: 5 - 7 hours a week, flexible schedule.

VOICE MAIL HELPER Assist with answering the voice mail. Need to be a "people person" as this job entails managing expectations, education, and close listening to help clients solve difficult cat issues. Computer and email necessary; some data entry. Time: About 10 hours a week, flexible schedule.

ASSISTANT PUBLICIST Help create ads for events, and send them to print publications, radio and TV. A great opportunity for an aspiring (or experienced!) marketing maven. Time: Variable, flexible; 0 to 10 hours a week.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Work closely with the Development Director and Committees. Track volunteers' interests, and match them to opportunities. You'll need a computer and an out-going personality. Time: Flexible, 2 to 5 hours a week.



Tributes

In Memory of:

Dorothy Thomas

Janet Bowman
Barbara Josendahl
Linda Shepherd
Louise Shepherd
Dennis and Treva Thomas
Dorothy Van Patten
Patricia Wichael
Ruth Williams

Shirley Earman

Madelyn Dixon

Noah Terscheuren

Nancy Blaylock
Jon Kline
Barbara and Ike Riddleburger
Saturn of Harrisonburg

Austin Groleau Rottier

Suzanne Rogerson

John E. Davis, Jr.

Martha Chew

Debbie Blankenship

Norma Heath

Kermit O. Rice

Suzanne Rogerson

Ralph Harman

Gail Noble

"Stinky"

Mary Carr

"Rootie and Sam"

Michael Mulvihill and Charmi Neely

"Little Cat"

Sue and Russell Riggelman

"Miska"

Marilynn Katein

"Spunky and Pud"

Gail Lohr

In Honor of:

Sue Meador

Sue Haley

Josie Kinkade

Z Louis Klein, DVM

Ruth Ann Noblette

Jennifer Kirkland

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Do Away with Ringworm

By Kathryn Dobyys, DVM

RINGWORM IS THE COMMON NAME for a skin infection caused by a fungus called a dermatophyte, which can infect animals and humans.

Cats contract ringworm through contact with spores in the environment. Affected animals shed these spores as infected hairs break off. In cats, ringworm causes patchy hair loss with dry, scaly skin. The affected skin is usually not red or itchy. Often, the lesions are limited to the face and ears, although kittens and occasional adult cats may develop generalized disease affecting the entire body.

Your veterinarian will suspect ringworm infection based on symptoms, history of exposure, and exclusion of other diseases. A definitive diagnosis requires a fungal culture, which takes 5 -10 days, so treatment may be started before the culture is completed. Treatment may include application of topical antifungal creams or lotions, bathing with antifungal shampoos, applica-

tion of LymSulfur dip, and oral medications. Since oral antifungal medications can be toxic to cats, this treatment is reserved for severe generalized or persistent cases. In multiple-pet households, it is often necessary to treat all pets. Most cases will be resolved in 6 - 8 weeks.

It is important to decontaminate the environment. Keep infected pets isolated to a room that can be easily cleaned. Vacuum thoroughly and apply a dilute bleach solution to hard surfaces. Steam clean carpets.

Since ringworm can also affect humans, be sure to wash hands after handling affected cats or suspected carriers. In people, the fungus causes a characteristic round, red, ring-like skin lesion that is often itchy. It is generally a mild condition, but can be serious in people with poor immune systems. Treatment for people and cats is not the same, so if you become infected you should consult your health care provider.

Upcoming Events



Cat's Cradle Rides!
Motorcycle Rally **October 14 and 15**. Ride in Saturday between 9 and 6 and pick up a map of area rides. Come back for

dinner and music by **Five of a Kind**, camp out, and have breakfast Sunday morning. Door prizes, raffle, great food, great fun! Event is in Elkton, VA. For more info: josiek@verizon.net or (540)967-1905.

Darkwood Manor Haunted House In Luray. **Friday and Saturday nights in October**. Be afraid...be very afraid! Darkwood Manor



generously donates a portion of the proceeds to Cat's Cradle. Volunteers needed to help with parking and safety. For more info and directions: www.DarkwoodManor.net. To volunteer, call (540)967-1905.

Volunteer Profile

Susan Mansfield

YOU MIGHT CALL SUSAN a multi-tasker for Cat's Cradle and the Shenandoah Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic. She recently took on the job of returning calls for the Cat's Cradle voice mail; she fosters numerous cats, kittens and dogs; she's a Clinic volunteer. In addition, Susan serves on the Cat's Cradle Board of Directors.

Answering the voice mail is time consuming, but Susan finds it rewarding. "About a third of the calls are regarding spay/neuter, so I am happy when I'm at the clinic and see the animals of the people I've talked to on the phone." Most of the other calls are of the "I have kittens" variety, or people wanting help with re-homing. Susan counsels them on their options, often suggesting that they list the cat on the Cat's Cradle Website.

At home, Susan fostered two of the "bottle babies" featured in our last newsletter. She currently has one kitty on the bottle that must be fed every few hours, as well as two other cats and three dogs. "I've never in my life been without animals," she says.

As a Clinic volunteer Susan was there for the 72 clients on opening day. "It was wild," she says, "The phone rang all day long. I think people thought it was a one time thing. After awhile it settled down, as folks realized that we were here for the long term."

"I want to be doing something that makes a difference", Susan says. "And I believe that Cat's Cradle is making a huge difference." We agree; because of dedicated volunteers like Susan, we are making a difference. Thank you, Susan!



New Old Friend

(Editor's Note) Many people don't realize the benefits of adopting an older cat. We're glad Ashley does, and we're glad she fell for Ralphie (now Winston). She wrote to tell us about him.

MY NAME IS ASHLEY MARSHALL. I'm 25 years old and have been in DC for three years, whining about how much I miss my cats at home with my parents. Swearing to get a cat of my own, I began visiting PetsMart (adoption center) every single weekend.

All of the cats were adorable, but I didn't really click with any of them until I saw Ralphie. He was the only adult cat there, and he seemed sad and lonely. I asked to take him out of his cage to hold him. His former owners were elderly and had lived on a farm in West Virginia. After the husband died, the wife sold the farm and the new owners told her she could stay until she passed. Once she did, they took Ralphie to the pound.

From there, Cat's Cradle rescued him. And thank goodness they did! After holding him for awhile that afternoon, Betsy Holmes (Adoption Coordinator) suggested I foster him till the following week. By the third day with such a sweet soul, I knew I couldn't give him back! So he's been renamed Winston and is now part of my family. He is such a sweet-heart! Just last week the Pest Control guys left me a note that said, "What a SWEET cat!" They sure were right. Thank you, Cat's Cradle- for all the work you do and for bringing me such a wonderful new friend!



Winston catches up on Hollywood news.

Don't forget Cat's Cradle in your will

www.catscradlevirginia.com

Return service Requested

*P.O. Box 2152
Harrisonburg, VA 22801*

saving lives since 1998



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