



saving lives since 1998

# What's new pussycat?

fall 2007

## Man and Cat Comfort Each Other



just didn't see how he could go on. I supplied tissues and listened as Mr. Smith talked for a long time. At one point, he shared a story with me of a cat he and Mrs. Smith had loved together. They called her Kitty-boo. When Mrs. Smith got sick, she insisted they give Kitty-boo away to friends. She was too sick to care for the cat, and he was too busy caring for her. He wished he could have another cat, but his fixed income is so small he didn't feel he could afford it.

*Editor's note: We got this message in an email from Barbara ... A remarkable woman who worked with Mr. "Smith" on a business matter. Could we refer her to somewhere she could get assistance in neutering a kitten for this man? We assured her that we would be honored to cover the cost. Mr. "Smith's" name has been changed to protect his privacy, although he has given us permission to tell this story.*

**Could he have a gray one?  
"We used to have a gray one..."**

So I offered to find him a kitten. I told him I my cat had "too much", and would share with his kitten. Could he have a gray one? he asked, "we used to have a gray one." I assured him I thought we could find him a gray one. With a kitten to look forward to, Mr. Smith left my office with a smile.

That weekend I bought a litter box, cat bowls and everything a new kitten could need. I found Rita Bean in foster care. She's like a Mexican Jumping Bean; hence her nickname - "Senorita Bean." When she was ready a few weeks later, I delivered her to Mr. Smith. They took to each other immediately. He was all smiles. He called me "Babydoll", and said something about the size of my heart...

*Mr. Smith had to get a note from his doctor that a companion cat was "medically necessary", so he could have one in his*

YOU CAN TELL by looking at Mr. Smith that life has not always been easy for him. He's lost 80% of his hearing. He's diabetic. He suffers from arthritis, and has a bad leg. And he suffers from that pervasive disease: poverty. He was doing ok, though, until his wife Mary died last year. Mr. Smith came to see me recently. Instead of settling down to business, he put his head on my desk and burst into tears. He told me how empty his house was since Mrs. Smith had died, and how lonely he was without her. He

## Can't Adopt? Adopt Virtually!

"HE'S SO CUTE, I wish I could take him home...but..." Maybe you have an allergic husband, an apartment where pets are not allowed, or cats at home that would not appreciate a new addition.

Now you can be involved with a particular cat without having to take him (or her) home. Pick any of the sweeties from our website, and make a recurring donation to "adopt". We'll send you a picture and bio, and a follow up in six months and one year. Your recurring donation to the general fund helps defray the cost of preparing cats and kittens for adoption.

You can do a virtual adoption for as little as \$20 a month for a healthy cat, or \$35 a month for a special needs cat. Please visit [www.catscradle.org](http://www.catscradle.org) for details, or contact us at: [catscradle@catscradle.org](mailto:catscradle@catscradle.org) or call 540 967-1905.



*apartment. Fortunately, his doctor understands the curative power of cats. Rita Bean, now vetted and soon to be spayed, is happily sharing love with Mr. Smith, who is doing much better. And Barbara is our hero.*



**saving lives since 1998**

#### **Our Mission**

To decrease intake of cats and dogs to Shenandoah Valley Shelters in order to end euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets.

#### **Officers and Directors**

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Lana Mohler, Secretary  
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#### **Staff**

Betsy Holmes, Adoption Coordinator  
Teresa Kappes, S/N Coordinator  
Josie Kinkade, Development Director

#### **Contact Information**

Cat's Cradle  
P.O. Box 2152  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 438-5222  
catscradle@catscradleva.org

#### **Web**

CatsCradleVa.org

## Dear Friend of Cat's Cradle



IN THE FALL everyone involved in ending pet overpopulation heaves a big sigh of relief as the worst of kitten season passes. Although we usually emphasize spay/neuter, adoption is a crucial, direct part of ending euthanasia. Not only does it save the animal being adopted, it adds to the well being of the people who helped save that precious life. We dedicate this issue to adoption.

Often we hear spay/neuter is not "touchy-feely," but rescue is. I am a sucker for the little sad face with goopy eyes, fur that looks like a bad hair day, and runny stools. It is hard to describe the sense of well-being and satisfaction I have when I place that kitten, now healthy and beautiful, in a loving home.

Our adoption program is successful because of your generous donations of time and money. So many people work very hard at this, including our foster homes, intake coordinators, vet tech, transporters, adoption staff and volunteers at the PetSmart adoption sites. Donations are important because the cost of preparing the cat or kitten for adoption is greater than the adoption fee.

Cat's Cradle accounts for 25% of the cat adoptions in our four county service area; an astonishing accomplishment. You make it happen.

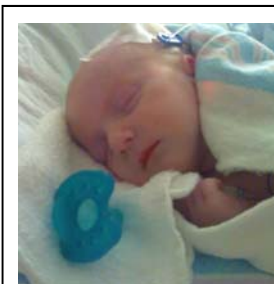
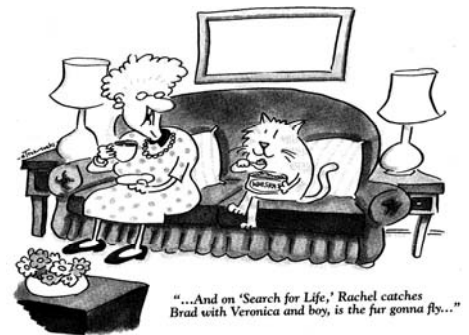
Thank you.

Suzanne Auckerman  
President

## Tributes

*We are sorry to have lost Sandy Inabinet, Cat's Cradle volunteer and good friend to the animals. The following people sent memorials to Cat's Cradle for Sandy:* Suzanne Auckerman, Jacob Crisp, Margaret Fields, Peggy Folin. *Sandy, you are missed.*

Stacy Alder...Kitten  
Angela Arndt...Shadow  
Abby & Roberta Donlan...Charles Overman  
Catherine Elick...Harry  
Louise Holsten...Maggie  
Rachel Howdyshell...Norma W. Smith  
Bonnie Johnson...Polly  
Barbara Josendahl...Dorothy Thomas  
Sharon Lohman...Snowflake & Jeb  
Johna McFarland...Teddy McFarland  
Phyllis Moore...Alfred C. Moore  
Ruth Ann Noblette...Charles Overman  
Rosemary Wagner...Richard and Gitta Pennington  
Allison Watts...Spunky  
Patricia Michael...Dorothy Thomas  
Patricia Wiseman...Eeyore  
Elisa Zlotowitz...Nittany



Adoption Coordinator  
Betsy Holmes has a beautiful new grandchild, Alek William Hensley. Alek

is off to a rocky start, having to undergo several abdominal surgeries as a newborn. Please join in wishing Alek a speedy recovery. Come home soon, Alek!

## Friend Raisers

LAST ISSUE WE THANKED the individuals and businesses that have kept us moving toward the mission. But there is a very important group we overlooked — people who have events or take up collections on behalf of Cat's Cradle.

People like Mitzie Campbell, a pet-sitter who sent a letter to all her clients, and raised \$1,400 for a Tomathon, thus preventing many unwanted kittens.

Folks like Courtney Scarce from Chester, Virginia, who held a party in her home, collecting needed items and donations.

The Sanctuary United Church of Christ took up a special mission offering, wishing us "continued success with the valuable mission you are performing in our community."

To these wonderful people and others like them, we say: "Thank you!"

## New Web Site



PLEASE VISIT OUR NEWLY DESIGNED website at: [CatsCradleVa.org](http://CatsCradleVa.org). The new format is designed to make it easier for multiple volunteers to make changes, especially updating our cats for adoption, which need updating almost daily.

On the Adoptions page, you can click through to see either the adoptables or recently adopted cats and kittens.

You can also follow how we're doing on our spay/neuter goal for the year; check the Home page for frequent updates.

As always, you'll be able to check out upcoming events, related links, behavior advice, and, of course, ways to help.

We wish to thank Jessica Phelps who got our first website started, and Wendy Reidler, faithful and hardworking Webmaster for several years.

We welcome your input on the new site.

## Upcoming Events



**Saturday, Nov. 3,  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

We'll have a booth at the **Hair-ball in the Fall Cat Show** being sponsored by

the Shenandoah Valley Cat Fanciers Association. We'll have adoptables, baked goods, and crafts. Held at the **Rockingham County Fair Grounds**. For more information, email: [catscradle@catscradleva.org](mailto:catscradle@catscradleva.org).



Get your pet's picture taken with Santa! We'll be holding this event at the **Harrisonburg PetSmart Dec. 8 & 9** from **11 to 4**. Bring all your pets, 2, 4, 6, or 8-footed, and get some great Christmas pictures to send to the family!

## Volunteer Profile

### Carolyn Lohr Volunteer Coordinator

*Editor's note: Cat's Cradle has grown so much that we need a Volunteer Coordinator, but we haven't grown enough to be able to offer it is a paid position. Carolyn is a wonderful new addition. She hit the ground running by taking on the yard sale. We asked her to tell us what motivated her to volunteer, and she sent us this:*

There was a scrawny, sickly cat living under a shed behind my house for many months. He only came out at night to "steal" food and would take off if I came around. Gradually he stopped running from me but still would not let me get close to him. I could tell that he was very sickly. One Saturday afternoon, he came out during the daytime and started rubbing around my legs. I took him to the clinic, and he tested positive for Feline Leukemia and FIV. I had to make the decision to put him down. I wanted to do something to honor the memory of his short time with me, so I volunteered with Cat's Cradle.

Since working with Cat's Cradle, it has been wonderful to see how many people really care about abandoned and homeless animals. I am thrilled to be a small part of helping to end the overpopulation in our area.

*And we're thrilled to have Carolyn!*



*Miss Lindsay sometimes lets Carolyn share the comfy chair.*

# Look Who's Been Adopted!



(From Left to Right): Rags to Riches: *Judee and Jamee were born in a barn, where their mom catches mice. These sweeties were adopted together...in their new home they play and play!*  
The Philadelphia Story: *A volunteer's co-workers mom, who lives in Philadelphia, adopted Clay. Deciding he needed a playmate, she adopted Nermal 6 months later. Nermal really likes those hind legs back!*

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

[www.catscradleva.org](http://www.catscradleva.org)

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