



What's new pussycat?

saving lives since 1998

February 2009

Measurable Progress . . . Again!

The numbers are in – intake at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA is down for the fourth year in a row!

Human population in Rockingham County has increased 8.5 percent since 2004. Without intervention, cat and dog intake at the shelter might have been expected to rise 8.5 percent. Instead, dog intake has come *down* 12.3 percent and cat intake fell a whopping 13.7 percent. Adjusting for human population, this is actually a decrease of 20.8 percent for dogs and 22.2 percent for cats!

The Clinic Works

What are the reasons for this terrific news? Number one is the Shenandoah Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic. "Overall, it is cost and accessibility, not irresponsibility, that prevents people from spaying and neutering their animals," says Cate Mansfield, Executive Director of the Clinic.

Most of the 38,000 surgeries the Clinic has performed since opening in 2005 have been for low-income people who want to do the right thing. All of the decreased dog intake can be attributed to the Clinic's priceless service to the community.

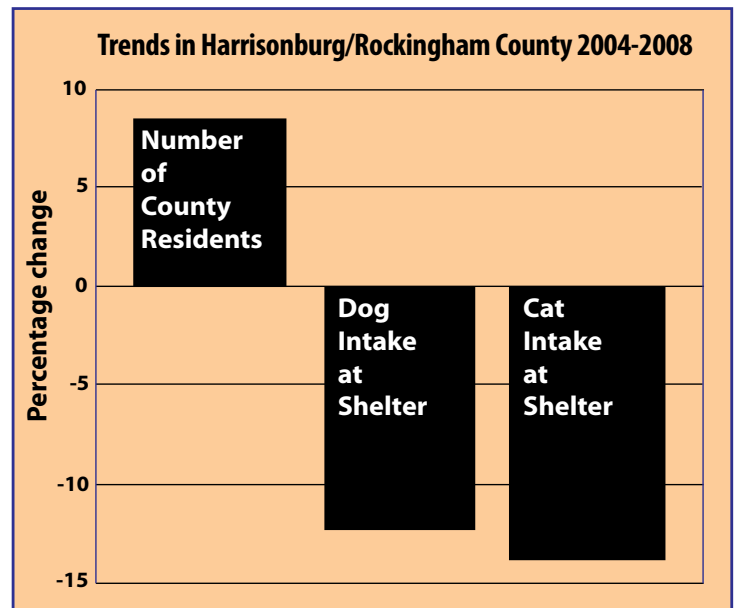
Another major factor is Project Neighborhood Cat. Teresa Kappes, Cat's Cradle's Spay/neuter coordinator, has been doing TNR (trap, neuter, return) in locations as close as possible to colonies already under control. This increases the size of "kill-free zones." The Two Mauds Foundation and the PETCO Foundation have given grant money to help with Project Neighborhood cat. In one trailer park, the grant and generous private donations helped volunteers Tom Powers and Lana Mohler alter over 120 cats last year. This trailer park has been identified as a significant source of strays brought to the Shelter, and the work to finish up this neighborhood continues.

Awareness is Up

A final factor, more difficult to measure, is general increased awareness. Cat's Cradle fields nearly 5,000 calls a year. That's 5,000 opportunities to give advice on cat and kitten care, behavior problems and re-homing in addition to spay and neuter. This helps cats stay out of the shelter. As more people receive assistance, the word about compassionate, low-cost alternatives spreads. As the word spreads, it becomes the cultural norm to spay and neuter both cats and dogs.

Although there is still a long road ahead, it is abundantly clear that it's the right road.

Onward!



Looking Up Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is a key to success. This feral kitty waiting for "mom" to bring breakfast is one of 14 TNRs done for Alice Lowman who maintains a colony with help from Cat's Cradle.



Dear Friends of Animals



You'll have to bear with me while I throw numbers at you in this issue.

While wonderful stories like Maisie (see our update on page 4) bring a tear to the eye, seeing the "right" numbers makes my heart soar. Behind every number, I see a furry face and soulful eyes.

Cat's Cradle's mission is to end the unnecessary killing of cats and dogs in the Shenandoah Valley. In 2008, Rockingham County saw definite, measurable progress.

Lives are being saved, and it's because of you. Whether you volunteer, donate, adopt, talk to a neighbor about spay/neuter, trap cats near you, or all of the above – you are making it happen.

With gratitude, and great anticipation of another year of progress!

Sincerely,

Josie Kinkade
Executive Director

Dixie the dog ends up as Sophia's choice

Dixie Jackson showers kisses on the newest member of the Jackson family, Sophia.

"They just love each other," says Joy Jackson. "Sophia loves dogs. She's quite fearless around Dixie."

Joy, who has had a black cat in the house for the past 37 years, knew Sophia was "the one" as soon as she saw the cat at Cat's Cradle foster mom Elizabeth Ralston's house.

"There was something about her ... she was very perky. And she likes dogs!"



Even with four other cats and Dixie in the house, Joy says it seemed empty without a black cat.

So home came Sophia and she settled right in. The cats and dog all get along and Dixie isn't remotely intimidated by being in the minority. "She's the leader of the pack," laughs Joy.

Found a stray? Call today!
Hesitate... you'll have eight!
Cat's Cradle 438-5222



Tributes since our last newsletter honoring special people and pets

David Arndt
Kenneth & Joyce Biggs
Betty Blankenship
Debra Caplette
Richard Debutts

Janet Doerr
Carolyn Dove
Catherine Eckman

Kaye Estep
Barbara Finnegan
William Franklin
Val Garcia

Andrea & Richard Geiger
Robert Goldberg
Melissa & Stephen Grable
Kimberly Granneman
John & Dianne Haddick

Vivian Hevener
IBM

Bonnie Johnson
Claudia Johnson
JUSTGIVE
Ronald Kyger
Barbara Landis
Brenda Langhans
Erynn Langhans

Sharon Lohman

Dorothe Lombardi

Francesca McCann
Debbie McDaniel
Charles Miller
Eileen & William Nelson
R. R. Donnelley
Stephen & Jody Rhodes
Suzanne Rogerson

Susan Ruzala
Patricia Shifflett
Kathi Shilling
SHS Class of 1958
Susan Staub
Anne Stephens
A. L. Strawderman
Paula Thompson
Margaret Whitmore
Paula & Berlin Zirk

Shadow
"No One"
Debbie Blankenship
P-Nut
Cynthia Debutts & Sharon Richardson
Perdita
Robert Presgraves
Elizabeth Haworth & Steve Whisnant
Robert Presgraves
Robert Presgraves
Helen Vlahov
Acacia, Cornelius, Duncan, Cleopatra, and Bernard
Buddy
Jami Latham
Sable & Bugsy
Rose Frantz
Buckwheat, Oscar, Bentley, & Daisy
Shirley Hevener
Rose Frantz
Daisy
Lynn Reams
Robert Presgraves
Robert Presgraves
O. Jeff Sponaugle
Erynn & John Langhans
Ken Thomas, Faye Hoover-Thomas, & Nelson Hoover
Kenneth & Faye Thomas, John & Erynn Langhans, Colleen & Moses Thomas
Sheena, Ghislaine Duhamel
Cleo
Judi Salvino
Robert Presgraves
Marguerite Arndt
Robert Presgraves
Robert Presgraves
Ruth Ann Noblette & Hippolyata, Queen of the Amazons
Sandy Inabinet
Brenda C. Hillyard
Percey
Patti Comer Good
Irene S. Dawson
Scruffy
Robert Presgraves
Stevie
Robert Presgraves
Janet Collins



Volunteer John Smith delivers a pickup full of cat food donated by students.

Page County students pitch in

You often hear: “Don’t feed a stray – it will just multiply.” But if you don’t feed it, it might starve. Cat’s Cradle recommends compassion – feed them, but fix them!

Wilma S. feeds 11 strays. Allan L. and his elderly mom Joyce feed 14. In both cases, Cat’s Cradle helped get all the cats altered so there won’t be more mouths to feed. In the meantime, folks with hearts bigger than their pocketbooks need help.

That’s where the Page County students come in. In December, history teacher Jodi Baldwin and math teacher Linda Turgati set up a friendly competition between classes – whoever brought in the most cat food would get to watch a movie in class. The kids outdid themselves by getting 1,400 pounds of cat food. They picked up again in January – with a goal of one ton. Go Page County Schools!

PARTNERS! Canines helps

Dogs are part of Cat’s Cradle’s mission, so collaborating with dog rescue groups is important. PARTNERS! Canines has been transporting dogs and puppies from shelters in the Valley to North Shore Animal League in Long Island, N.Y., for nearly two years. On monthly trips, they take 10 to 18 dogs and puppies, primarily from the Harrisonburg and Page SPCAs. In New York, the dogs are spayed and neutered – and nearly all are adopted within a week – last year over 150.

In November, PARTNERS! and Cat’s Cradle held the art auction in Shenandoah, and in December both worked with the Page SPCA to hold the very successful Page Shelter Open House. In January the groups worked together to get straw for outdoor dogs in cold weather.

Dr. Voors on national panel of spay/neuter experts

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians has just published the Veterinary Medical Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs. We are proud to announce that one of the authors of this landmark article, published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association and endorsed by the ASPCA, is Dr. Adrian Voors, head veterinarian of the Shenandoah Valley Veterinary Clinic.

Dr. Voors is recognized nationally as an expert in spay/neuter surgery, including pediatric surgery and anesthesia protocols. We’ve put a link to the article on our website: CatsCradleVa.org. Thank you Dr. Voors for helping animals in the Shenandoah Valley and all across the Country!

Online: www.spayandneuterclinic.org or by phone: 540-437-1980.



Dr. Voors with one of her patients at the Spay and Neuter Clinic on North Liberty Street in Harrisonburg.



Don’t overlook the obvious. It’s easy to give a comfortable monthly donation online at www.CatsCradleVa.org

Artist offers to ‘hook up’ your pet to help Cat’s Cradle

Donna Bleam is “hooked” on helping Cat’s Cradle. She crafts one-of-a-kind traditional early American hooked pieces from a pet photo.

She’ll do your pet for \$100 (a bargain!) and give all proceeds to Cat’s Cradle. If interested, contact us: www.catscradleva.org



Follow-up: Injured kitten finds new home



New Outlook "Maisie" has a new name, "Pia," and a new lease on life.

From our fall newsletter



Injured kitten finds way into Cat's Cradle's care



The Harrisonburg Daily News-Record recently highlighted the case of Maisie, a kitten that lost all of the hair and skin from her tail, evidently as a result of abuse. Cat's Cradle is working to save her.

It's good news for the little kitten that was featured on the front of your last newsletter and also the Harrisonburg *Daily News-Record*.

"Maisie" had lost all of the hair and skin from her tail, evidently as a result of abuse, before she came into Cat's Cradle's care.

Now, she has a loving family.

Her adoptive mom, Paula Ginchereau, reports that the kitty, now called "Pia," is a "sheer joy."

The kitten had part of her tail surgically removed in early February. In her new home, Pia enjoys being with her "big brother" Ted. She absolutely adores him, and he, her.

Help kittens like Maisie and help us with adoptions this year – foster a litter of kittens!
See: www.CatsCradleVa.org for contact information and a copy of our foster agreement.

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

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