



Home At Last! After being at the Adoption Center for over five months, Jaime found her forever home in late July.

It was love at first sight for the adopters of Max (formerly Jules). He was ready to go home with them as soon as they brought their carrier! They have sent us pictures of him happy in his new home!



Adoption Center Wish List

- Color scanner/copier/printer
- White copy paper and card stock
- PetSmart, PetCo or Wal-Mart gift cards
- Dry cat/kitten food
- Canned cat/kitten food
- Non-clumping litter

Cat's Cradle By the Numbers

- 18 Cats currently at the Adoption Center
- 20 Volunteers regularly scheduled at the Adoption Center
- 30 Average daily calls about intake or spay/neuter assistance
- 60 Active foster families who help us intake more cats

Upcoming Events

Will You Be Mine? Adult Cat Adoption Special February 14 –March 14! \$50 for one cat, or two for \$75! Help us make room in the adoption center before kitten season!

Kitten Shower! Help us celebrate the beginning of spring by donating kitten supplies! Kitten dry/canned food, litter, small litter boxes, beds, milk replacement and donations for medicine are all appreciated!

Harrisonburg Yard Sale! Shop to support Cat's Cradle June 4th! More information about when you can donate at Mini Stor-It on South Main Street will be announced closer to the date!

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

124 South Main Street
P.O. Box 2128
Harrisonburg, VA 22801



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harrisonburg, VA
Permit #312



What's new pussycat?

FEBRUARY 2011

Rock Your World

Become a CC Volunteer

By Elizabeth L. Ihle, CC Volunteer

Would you like to meet interesting people, interact with cats, and learn new things? Cat's Cradle can help you do all that and more. Our skilled volunteer coordinator, Heather, is terrific at working around your schedule. We even have opportunities for those who can't commit to coming to the Adoption Center every week, like helping with fundraising events.

We desperately need foster homes. Never does a day go by without requests for Cat's Cradle to take someone's cat, and not necessarily because the owner is irresponsible. Our ability to help these people and their pets is directly related to the number of foster homes we can provide, and we never have enough to meet the existing need. As a foster parent, you can specify the number of animals you are able to take, their age, and the length of time you are able to foster.

If you can offer a couple of hours a week at the Adoption Center, we have various needs for volunteers. If cleaning is your thing, we could use your help to keep things sparkling. We also need "store minders" to answer the phone, take messages, greet visitors, occasionally help with grooming, and run errands. *Continued on page 3*



Harrison has a new home and is reported to have grown into quite the eater. When he is not playing at night with his new brother Tang he can be found lounging in front of the TV.

Harrison Finds a New Home

By Elizabeth L. Ihle, CC Volunteer

We all love stories with happy endings, and Harrison, the six-week-old kitten whose ears were cut off, is the star of one. Having been turned over to the Shenandoah Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic and nursed back to health by Cat's Cradle, Harrison now has a great home.

Harrison's new mom, Stephanie Miller, is a vet tech herself and a Cat's Cradle volunteer. She reports that Harrison, whom she has re-named Van Gogh, has grown a lot by eating like a little piggy. In no time he passed the two-pound mark and was neutered. Because of his injuries, Stephanie has to clean Van Gogh's ears twice weekly and keep his nails short because he can hurt himself when he tries to clean his ears himself.

Stephanie reports that Van Gogh is very loving and animated. He enjoys his doggy companion named Onyx, but growls at other dogs. A night owl, Van Gogh sleeps away his days in front of a flat screen TV and plays away the nights with his cat toys and his new brother Tang, an orange cat.

No arrests have been made in Van Gogh's case, but he was taken from an apartment on Vine Street in Harrisonburg. A \$2,000 reward has been offered, and information can be given to Crime Solvers at 540-574-5050.



Even the cats volunteer at the Adoption Center!

Imhotep was our resident groomer during the height of kitten season. Both Imhotep and Kaylee were adopted in August.



Board
 President: Suzanne Auckerman
 Vice President: Donna Whitley-Smith
 Secretary: Elizabeth Ihle
 Treasurer: Peggy Hardy
 Renee Clark
 Tom Dawson
 Don Lemish
 Susan Mansfield
 Lana Mohler
 John Yates
In Memory of Sue Lemish

Staff
 Operations Director:
 Carol Hutchison
 Spay/Neuter Coordinator:
 Teresa Kappes
 Foster and Intake Manager
 Babs Lester

Our Mission
 To ensure and maintain a safe, compassionate community for cats and dogs in the Shenandoah Valley.

A full statement of our mission, values and beliefs is available at www.catscradleva.org

Get short, timely messages from Cat's Cradle. It's easy to stay updated on a wide variety of topics.

Become a fan on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter at CatsCradleVA



The Adoption Center

Dear Friends of Cat's Cradle,

This issue of our newsletter focuses on the Adoption Center –where all the action happens. There is no typical day at our headquarters in downtown Harrisonburg. Perhaps the only routine is the cleaning and feeding that begins at 9 a.m. each day. Leora Pederson, Heather Jacob, and new volunteer Kori are the experts in charge of this essential task. By the time we open our doors at 11 a.m. each day, we are flooded with calls and visitors. We are so excited when we are fortunate enough to have a volunteer for the opening shift, which is our busiest hour.

In addition, many mornings this past summer a staff member was met with someone with a box full of young kittens that needed care. Our Adoption Center has increased awareness of our mission, and, therefore, our community is depending on us more than ever.

In July we celebrated the Adoption Center's first anniversary, and we want to thank everyone who has helped us. We had almost 350 adoptions in 2010 –more than any year so far- and this is definitely because of our Adoption Center and all who contribute to it.

Sincerely,
 Katie Jenkins
 Fund Development Director



Meet our devoted and loving staff. (from left) Babs Lester, Foster and Intake Manager; Carol Hutchison, Operations Director; Katie Jenkins.



Will You Be Mine? Adopt an Adult!

Adult cats are \$50 or two for \$75 between February 14 and March 14.

Rocket (below) is a wonderful adult cat who is in a foster home. Visit him and other foster kitties at the Waynesboro PetSmart on Saturday afternoons and fill out an application to adopt!



April (above) is eight years old and loves the view from our towel shelf –walk by it and she will roll over until you pet her!

Noah and Jamie (below) came from the same home. We would love to have them stay together and during our adoption special, adults are two-for \$75!



Rock continued from page 1

I never set out to be a Cat's Cradle volunteer, but I'm so glad that I did. The rewards have been terrific. I have never had a routine volunteer shift. I have made lots of new friends, pet numerous cats, and have amassed a lot of good conversational fodder. Despite being a long-term cat owner, I've been amazed how much I've learned about cats. I go home every Wednesday afternoon feeling good and wondering what next week's three-hour shift at CC will bring. Please join me in making the world a safer place for cats.

How You Can Contribute to Cat's Cradle

- Cleaning (mornings)
- Feeding and grooming (afternoons)
- Fostering (long-term or short-term)
- Reception (answering phones, greeting the public, data entry)
- Events (adoption events at PetSmart in Harrisonburg and NOVA, and fundraising events)
- Trapping, neutering and releasing (especially in Elkton)
- Events (adoption events at PetCo and PetSmart stores in Harrisonburg, Waynesboro and Northern Virginia, and other fundraising events)

Cat Tales

Please e-mail Katie at Katie@catscradleva.org or call 540-433-1135 to receive e-mails about our Cat Tales events at Clementine Café (Harrisonburg) and Blue Mountain Coffee (Staunton). You will have the chance to hear from our organization's leaders about what we are accomplishing with your support!



Did You Hear?

In mid-July we received a grant from PetSmart Charities totaling \$53,750 over two years to subsidize approximately 1,200 spay/neuter surgeries on free-roaming cats in the Elkton zip code 22827. People living in that area who need assistance, or anyone who would like to volunteer with this project should contact Cat's Cradle at 540-433-1135 or e-mail spayneuterassistance@catscradleva.org. We helped alter over 125 cats in Elkton in 2010 and will double that in the next two months. We also just received a grant from the Greg Biffle Foundation to cover \$3,735 worth of spay/neuter surgeries of cats in Augusta County!

Thank You To...

Nancy of Nancy's Party Things and Lynn Reams in Elkton for hosting a bake sale in July; PetCo and PetSmart stores in Harrisonburg, Waynesboro and Springfield where we have adoption events weekly; Mini Stor-It, Stow Away Self-Storage and Weyers Cave Community Center for providing space for our yard sale; Sherri Patrick Heishman of Twist & Snap Photography for hosting our "Pet Lover's Night Out" in Augusta County; Tendercare Veterinary Clinic, Commonwealth Vet Clinic, Middle River Vet, Valley Vets, Heartland Veterinary Clinic, and Shenandoah Valley Veterinary Emergency Services for their discounts on our vet bills; Middle River Vet and Twist & Snap Photography for sponsoring our Augusta County Pet Partner luncheon; and Digerati Technologies.