



saving lives since 1998

# What's new pussycat?

October 2008

## 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.*



Mike and his girlfriend were visiting her grandmother on a sunny Saturday afternoon. Walking across the yard, he caught sight of something odd from the corner of his eye. Could it be a kitten?

Going to investigate, he found a small black-and-white ball of fur, with one terrible exception – its tail and the area around the tail's base had not only no fur but also no skin.

Scooping up the injured little thing, Mike

called his sister, who works at a PetSmart where Cat's Cradle does adoptions. She called us, and that is how little Maisie came into our foster program.

The vet said she had never seen an injury like this; neither had her partners. It is difficult to tell from the injury whether it could have been accidental or deliberate. Did her tail get caught in something? Dipped in something? No other cats or kittens were found in the area. Animal Control is in-

vestigating the situation.

Meanwhile, Maisie is on shaky ground. Her "intensive care" foster mom is treating her for pain, giving her antibiotics, and hoping at least part of her tail can be saved. With TLC, medical care, and patience, we hope she someday will be able to go to a forever home.

We'll update Maisie's story on the website: [www.CatsCradleVa.org](http://www.CatsCradleVa.org).



*A large network of foster homes is the key to Cat's Cradle's successful adoption program.*

*Experience the love and joy that come from fostering cats and kittens.*

Call 540-438-5222

or go to [www.CatsCradleVa.org](http://www.CatsCradleVa.org).

## Dear Friends of Cat's Cradle



This month two people asked me: "Why do you spend scarce resources treating sick kittens when we have too many healthy ones?" One of the people who asked was a veterinary technician; the other was the director of a local municipal shelter.

With over ten years in the spay/neuter field, I used to be a firm believer in focusing entirely on spay/neuter as the most cost-effective way for a community to reach no-kill. When I came to Cat's Cradle in 2005, I agonized over whether we should stop adoptions, which are so costly and time-consuming, and focus exclusively on spay/neuter.

In this issue, you'll read a letter from the Reillys, adopters who are happy to pay the vet bills for their beloved special-needs cat. You'll also read the story of Maisie, an injured kitten. It is these stories that have taught me an important lesson about "scarce resources."

The most important resource is compassion, and our community has plenty of it. Compassion for injured kittens. Compassion for special-needs cats. Compassion for strays that are too scared to be petted, but still need food, shelter, and love – if from afar.

The answer to stopping the deaths of animals in our shelters is not just spay/neuter, just Trap-Neuter-Return, or just adoptions. And it is not to kill sick kittens because of "priorities." The answer is to tap into the compassion of our community and do it all. It can be done, and it will be done. I know it because I know that you, like the Reillys, are here to help.

And I am so grateful you are.

Sincerely,

Josie Kinkade  
Executive Director

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

<b>Betty Barker</b>	<i>Roger W. Dennison</i>
<b>Margaret Brand</b>	<i>Emmet &amp; Edie Stroop</i>
<b>Doreen DeVore</b>	<i>Albert "Flip" De Luca</i>
<b>Helen Hardy</b>	<i>Dan Voorhees</i>
<b>Wayne Harrison</b>	<i>Susan Mansfield</i>
<b>Lillian S. Harvey</b>	<i>Callie</i>
<b>John and Bea Woody</b>	<i>Albert "Flip" De Luca</i>
<b>Jami Latham</b>	<i>Jessie</i>
<b>Susan Mansfield</b>	<i>Kat Kinkade</i>
<b>Cinda Morgan</b>	<i>Kat Kinkade</i>
<b>Gail Noble</b>	<i>Zeppo</i>
<b>Sandra Rose</b>	<i>Pasta</i>
<b>Sandra Rose</b>	<i>Kat Kinkade</i>
<b>Susan Staub</b>	<i>Irene S. Dawson</i>
<b>Rosemary Wagner</b>	<i>Spunky</i>



## Class raises funds in Page County

Mrs. Ehler's 5th-grade class at Luray Elementary put on "Puss in Boots" to benefit Cat's Cradle. They performed for the community and the school. They made spay/neuter T-shirts, and handed out spay/neuter information after the play. It was quite an event – they took up a collection and sold barbecue. This event raised over \$800 for spay/neuter in Page County and helped spread the word. Thanks guys!

## Robert Presgraves gave generously

Robert Presgraves passed away on October 13th. He owned and operated the unique Broadway Optical and Laundromat. He gave discounts to customers who brought cat food donations, which he then generously gave to Cat's Cradle.

Many a needy family got help feeding their cats from Robert's unofficial "cat-food distribution center." Robert's family has named Cat's Cradle for memorial gifts. We hope to help honor his memory through our work. He will be missed.



The 2008 Holiday Ornament will be available November 1

Please check the website for details:

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

## Upcoming Events

### Monday, November 1

The Mosby Foundation is holding their annual **Pet Dog-Fest** at the Harrisonburg Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a wide array of activities for dogs and their humans. Cat's Cradle will bring some dog-friendly adoptables. This is quite an event – admission is free – don't miss it!

### Thursday, November 6

“**Cat Chats**” at the Augusta County SPCA from 7 - 8 p.m. Cat-owner lecture on basic cat care by Dr. Duckett of Woodworth Animal Hospital in Waynesboro.

### Sunday, November 9

Cat's Cradle and Partners! Canine are teaming up with the Shenandoah Valley Frame Shop to do a **Silent Auction of donated art**. We have over 50 pieces donated so far – from the whimsical to the stunning, from reproductions to local-artist originals. There will be wine and cheese, and something for everyone! You can pre-purchase items at the “buy it now” price beginning this week, or join the fun and excitement of bidding! 208 Virginia Ave., Shenandoah, VA 2 - 6 p.m. And yes, we are still accepting gifts of art for this great event!

### Saturday, November 15

Cat Fanciers' Association **Cat Show** at Harrisonburg Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have never been to a cat show, this is quite an experience! The variety of cats is amazing. Cat's Cradle will have a table with adoptables and goodies to sell. Admission of \$5 is worth it just to see the cat agility course!

### Saturday, December 6

**Open House** at the Page County Animal Shelter from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., co-sponsored by Page County SPCA, Cat's Cradle and Partners! Canine.

## We miss you, Isaac

When Isaac arrived in March, he was already nine years old. He was delivered like the proverbial baby in the basket, anonymously, with a note signed “Guilt-ridden owner.” He had almost no hair. He became Susan Bennett's special foster. She and the veterinarian worked and worked with him. After treatment, his hair grew back, and he became a happy and affectionate cat.

Then Isaac started to fail. Susan tried everything, including a supplement he loved as a special treat – nutritional yeast tablets. His bloodwork was normal, but he continued to lose weight and began vomiting. When he would no longer accept his



special “treat”, Susan knew it was time – she could not watch Isaac suffer.

Isaac went over the Rainbow Bridge on September 24. He was a special kitty. We are grateful to Susan for giving him all the love and care he needed.



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

## Volunteer Profile: Renee Clark

A couple of years back, Renee noticed too many strays in her neighborhood. A self-starter, she began catching them one at a time in a carrier and taking them to the Spay/Neuter Clinic. Some she couldn't catch, so she attended a workshop on Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

There she met Cat's Cradle Spay/Neuter Coordinator Teresa Kappes. Teresa loaned Renee some traps, and some expertise, and Renee went to town. The cat population explosion in Renee's neighborhood is no more.

But Renee didn't stop there. Convinced that spay/neuter is crucial to stop pet overpopulation, she began doing TNR for Cat's Cradle as a volunteer.

When the PetSmart opened in Waynesboro, Renee became a mainstay for Saturday adoption days. “I love being part of the adoption process”, she says, “but what gives me the most satisfaction is letting people know about the Clinic and TNR. So many people haven't altered their pets because they don't know about the affordable services in our area.”

A biologist for VDOT, Renee also helps Cat's Cradle with fund-raisers and community outreach in Augusta County. She lives in Staunton with cat lover Glenn and cats Autumn, Jezebel, Twinkle Toes, and Mr. Puddinhead. Thank you Renee!



Renee with Twinkle Toes

# Special-needs kitty brings joy to family

Dear Cat's Cradle,

Please accept the enclosed check as a donation to benefit the fine and worthy work your organization performs.

We got our little rescue cat, Emma, just after Thanksgiving last year (PetSmart Alexandria) and we just *adore* her! She jumps and climbs like a little acrobat, is always cheerful, curious, and forever "up" to something! Emma's two best friends are her "sisters" – another cat, Eva, and a Golden Retriever, Rosa. They are quite a threesome!

Even full-grown, Emma is quite small and has immunodeficiency issues. In fact, just this past month she was diagnosed with asthma and uses a nebulizer twice daily now. This is probably due to the feral nature of her birth (born at a construction site near Harrisonburg).



Despite the extra expense and frequent vet visits, we are so thankful that Emma is ours. We love her and are able to provide for the medical care she needs. We look forward to many years of devotion and love for our little cat. We wouldn't change a thing!

Thank you Cat's Cradle!

Sincerely,  
Shelly and Mike Reilly

<p><b>Silent Art Auction</b> Sunday November 9 2:00 - 6:00</p>	 <b>PARTNERS! Canines</b> 
 <b>Wine &amp; Cheese</b> <i>Help our Furry Friends</i>	<p><b>Shenandoah Valley Frame Shop</b> 208 Virginia Ave Shenandoah, VA</p> 

Enjoy a scenic drive to Page County.  
"Buy it now" prices are available.

**Help kittens like Emma and help us set an adoption record this year – foster a litter of kittens!**  
**See: [www.CatsCradleVa.org](http://www.CatsCradleVa.org) for contact information and a copy of our foster agreement.**

**Silent Art Auction**  
original and reproduction art  
Sunday, November 9, 2008  
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Shenandoah Valley  
Frame Shop  
208 Virginia Avenue  
Shenandoah, VA

of the Shenandoah Valley  
P.O. Box 2152  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801



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