

Garfield's Gazette

Serving the Northern Neck
counties of Lancaster,
Northumberland, Richmond and
Westmoreland

1st edition

Fall 2020



Making a Difference on Virginia's Northern Neck - one cat at a time!

A Rescue is Born!

Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) was born to provide humane care and reduce numbers of countless community cats (homeless) on the Northern Neck of Virginia (NN). Upon retirement I volunteered with an animal welfare organization on the NN. After 6 years of volunteering with that organization and uncovering the community cat issue on the NN, I along with other volunteers, realized immediate action was needed to relieve the suffering of large numbers of community cats across the 880 square miles of the NN. GRI's mission is, "Eliminate the suffering of homeless cats on the Northern Neck". There are two humane ways to do that: foster/adopt along with spay/neuter.

The vast majority of homeless cats are socialized verses un-socialized (feral) and our data proves that case. In July of 2020, GRI brought 45 community cats into foster care: 28 were owner surrenders, 13 were socialized strays, and 4 were transfers from Animal Control Officers. All 45 cats will be spayed/neutered and adopted over time thus reducing the community cat population.

GRI's birth was a team effort and I am honored to lead a phenomenal dedicated team. In a short period of time much work was accomplished to meet the demands of establishing a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Once established, the NN community stepped up and provided much needed monetary donations to support our goals. Visit our website, www.garfieldsrescue.org, to see our transparent mission, goals, and actions.

Enjoy GRI's first newsletter, visit our website, become a member and/or volunteer and donate so that GRI will continue to "Make a difference on the Northern Neck, one cat at a time." We have accomplished much in our young life and we stand poised to achieve much more.

In Appreciation,
Ann Bedford, President
Garfield's Rescue Inc.



GRI Board of Directors

President - Ann Bedford

Vice President - Cyndi Lee

Recording Secretary - Mary Sydnor

Treasurer - Charles Yarbrough

Corresponding Secretary/Data Management - Kathy Haurand

Directors at Large - Judy Burnley, Cheryl McPhearson

Director of Fosters - Ginger Tinsley

Advisors to the Board - Roger Lee, Steve Bedford, Louise Mohardt, Ginger Landry, Karen Peterson



Community Cats

“Community cats” are homeless cats. They were one-time pets that were abandoned, roamed, and reproduced. These cats are adults, kittens, healthy, sick, altered and/or unaltered, socialized or un-socialized. All are homeless.

The more we understand these cats and the issues related to them, the more effectively we can reduce the homeless cat population and protect wildlife. Population estimates vary widely, but community cats are found in almost every neighborhood across the Northern Neck.

A cat colony is a group of community cats. Frequently a colony consists of related cats. If left to survive on their own, a colony will reproduce and increase in population rapidly. Kittens as young as 4 to 5 months can have kittens. It is possible for an unsterilized female to have three litters a year. Kittens often succumb to predators, parasites, and disease.

Community cats try to survive living in the outdoors the best way possible. Living outdoors with no food or shelter is a harsh existence and makes for a short unhealthy miserable life. As a Northern Neck citizen, you can advocate for every cat's right to be safe, healthy and valued.

You can start the empowerment by talking to another person about best ways to save a homeless feline. If a network of communication begins with two people talking about helping the community cats and continues from neighbor to neighbor, imagine how powerful the positive results can be to reducing the community cat population!

These are the ways caring and concerned people can help community cats:

- Adopt
- Foster
- Volunteer
- Support community cat resources (Garfield's Rescue Inc., local animal shelters & local rescue groups)
- Speak for animals by writing elected officials at all levels - local, regional, state, and national



GRI supports and provides a robust adoption program to reduce the number of community cats. GRI also spays/neuters all cats prior to adoption or transfer. GRI also supports lawful TNR [1] programs, a humane and effective approach for managing and controlling community cat populations when fostering and adopting is not possible

Surveys show that the majority of Americans want a more humane approach to dealing with community cats. The future of these felines belongs in the same place where it all begins: locally with caring individuals who want to “make a difference on the Northern Neck one cat at a time.”. -We need to work together to make a collective impact to prevent suffering of community cats.

[1] When TNR is needed, community cats are humanely trapped, tested for FeLV/FIV, spayed/neutered, given a rabies vaccination, given a FVRCP vaccination, and ear-tipped. While recovering, GRI evaluates each cat's personality. Through GRI's Adoption program, adoptable (socialized) cats are brought into our foster program to find them a furr-ever home. Non-socialized cats are returned to their original location where caretakers provide them with regular food, water, and shelter. Cats that are sick are not returned.

References: ASPCA.org, alleycat.org

Season's Greetings and Giving

The tornado that caused destruction across the Northern Neck in August left physical damage and loss of life. As a result of the loss of life, two older cats were left homeless. GRI took the bonded siblings into foster care only to realize that both cats needed dental work and medications. Funds are always needed to provide these lifesaving services for animals that have many years of life and love to give. As you consider your seasonal donations, please keep GRI in mind so that we can continue our mission of "Eliminating suffering of homeless cats on the Northern Neck. The GRI Board of Directors and Volunteers thank you and wish you and your family a healthy and joyous holiday season.

DONATE

Help us make a difference.



Your Donations pay for the following treatments

Fecal & Deworming
\$40.00

Distemper combo vaccination
\$2.00 per booster

Rabies vaccination
\$10.00

Physical Exam
\$15.00

Spay/Neuter
\$100.00



Kitten-Adult

Monthly Flea
treatment
\$5.00 per dose

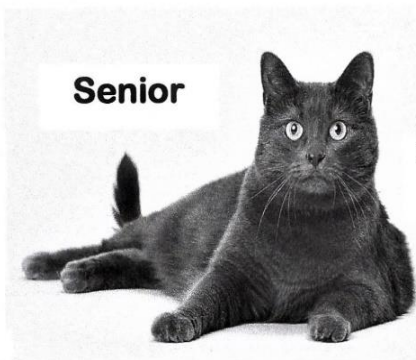
Feline leukemia & FIV
blood test
\$35.00

Ear mite exam &
treatment
\$25.00

Senior

Initial Senior
bloodwork
\$190.00

Dental (if needed)
\$250.00



Making a Difference on Virginia's
Northern Neck, one cat at a time!



GRI Memberships

Join GRI's team as a member and support humane care of homeless cats on the Northern Neck (NN). As a new rescue organization, incorporated in March, GRI is dedicated to reducing the number of homeless cats and kittens across the 880 square miles of Virginia's Northern Neck. Your membership



supports GRI's rescue efforts and in return you receive updated news on GRI's progress. Each Member, in good standing, gets to vote in Officer Elections, Executive Board Elections, Changes to the By-Laws, and other issues presented to the membership for approval. Annual membership rates are \$25 per person, due in January and are valid for one calendar year. As a courtesy to members, dues paid in November and December will be credited to the next year. Use the envelope in this newsletter to mail your membership check payable to Garfield's Rescue, Inc.

After you become a member, you may wish to consider becoming a volunteer. Volunteers are the heart of GRI. There are many unique and fulfilling volunteer positions to fit your skills and interests. Volunteer Application Forms are available on our website.



The kitties thank you from the tip of their nose to the tip of their tail!

The Rewards of Fostering

Fostering an animal has many rewards. The animal receives love, care and socialization while waiting for a forever home and the foster



family receives companionship. The Blackwell family of Reedville has fostered several litters of kittens and mother cats. They believe their children have a unique opportunity to learn compassion for animals while supporting

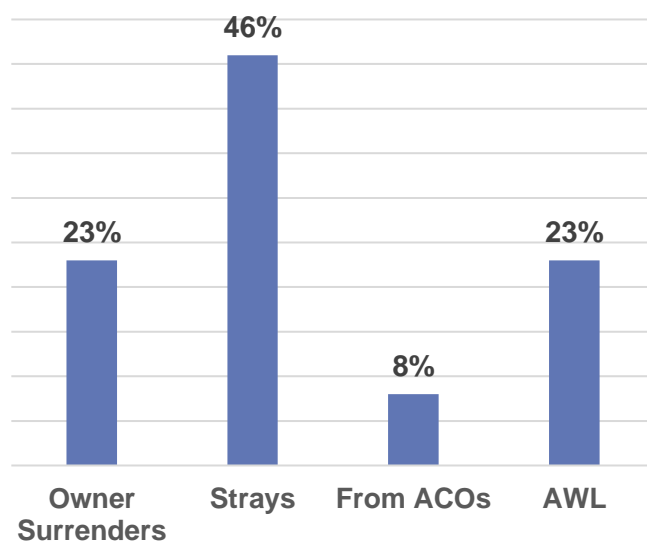
Garfield's Rescue Inc. Charlotte, age 7, and Dawson, age 5, are learning responsibility and how to care for animals. "Fostering during a pandemic has brought joy to our lives during the difficult time that my children cannot be at school," stated Kristen Walker. Garfield's Rescue needs fosters so bring some joy into your life, call us at 804-480-2066.



information includes where the cat came from; whether it was a stray, a kitten(s) born to a stray, a surrender due to its owners' health/death or a transfer from a local shelter that is either full or cannot accommodate young kittens.

While the cat/kitten is in the care of GRI, this system also enables us to keep an electronic file on each. All paperwork associated with each cat, including medical reports, are scanned into the system allowing permanent records to be easily accessed by volunteers. There is great value in recording and managing data. Not only is it required by the State, it allows GRI to see what a difference they are really making on the Northern Neck. We have

Intakes March thru September



By the Numbers

As of the end of September, 235 cats & kittens have passed through our foster care program, with 23% of them being taken in when the AWL of the Northern Neck dissolved its Cat Team.

GRI uses a data management system specifically designed for animal rescue

RescueGroups.org
technology solutions animals can live with...

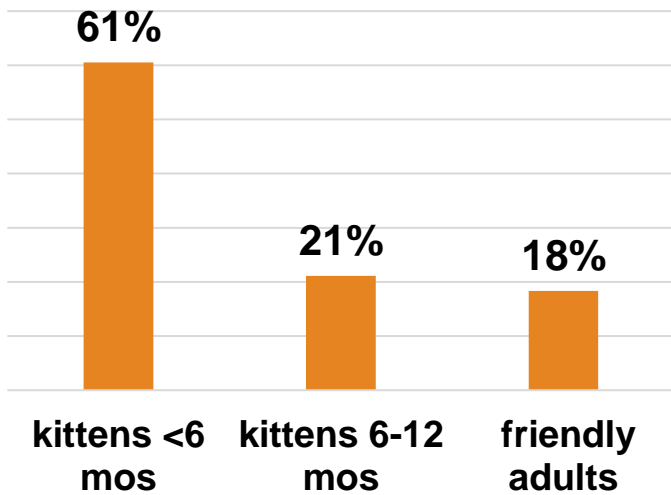
organizations to track the cats/kittens in its care. With this system we

can track several categories of information. Information recorded includes age, gender, breed and color. It's assigned an ID number, foster location, whether it is spayed/neutered and a photo to help identify it. Additional

found that the high number of owner surrenders is due to our demographics. These cat owners eventually become unable to care of their pets due to health issues, moving to assisted living and/or death.

The Northern Neck encompasses 880 square miles, most of which is farmland and rural. With such a large area, it's easy to see how the majority of our intakes are from strays. Of these strays, most are kittens born to unsocialized moms. While we do not take in the moms, we do accept the kittens which are easily tamed. Unfortunately, we have found that many of these so-called strays are friendly adults. These are cats that were pets that have either been lost or abandoned.

Stray Intakes

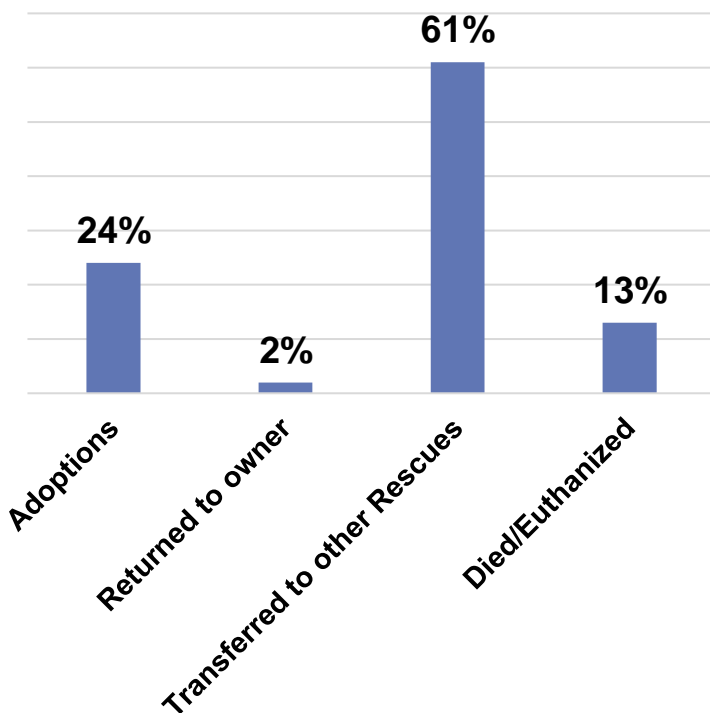


Final disposition of each cat/kitten is also tracked. We have many more cats in our care than there are homes on the Northern Neck. GRI works with a network of other rescue organizations in highly populated Northern Virginia areas where homes are readily available.

Outcomes resulting in death/euthanasia is a fact of life. GRI cares for orphaned neonatal kittens, some of which do not make it. Senior and terminally ill cats make up the remainder of those lost due to death. The consolation is that prior to their death, each of these cats were given security and compassion from GRI volunteers.



Foster Outcomes



Consider Adopting a Senior Cat

When most people seek to adopt a cat, they usually first consider getting a kitten, in large part because of the cuteness factor. But according to many Internet sites (petfinder.com, purina.co.uk, petcube.com, and thesprucepets.com), there are also as many good reasons to consider adopting a senior cat. Not only will you be able to give a senior cat a good home in its aging years, but you'll also have a clear idea of its established personality, temperament, and care and medical needs.



There are differing opinions on what age a cat becomes a senior, but the consensus is generally between seven and eleven years of age. Since a senior cat's life experiences have shaped and developed its traits, there are no surprises about reading its personality. Adopting a kitten and discerning how that kitten's personality will develop, however, is as unlikely as knowing how a novel ends after reading the first few pages. Whether looking for a lap cat or a cat with a propensity toward independence, a family can choose which senior cat's personality is a better fit for them.

Much like human infants, kittens do not come with instructions and are likely a handful. A senior cat, on the other hand, is much calmer and set in its routines. These seniors understand a litter box is not a toy box, a human foot is not a chew toy, and furniture is not a scratching post. Older cats have a tendency to prefer a sunny window seat or a comfortable spot on the bed in lieu of romping and racing around the family room couch. This makes them perfect companions for senior citizens who may not have the mobility to supervise an active kitten and its antics. Although it is important to continue to give senior cats playtime, they do not require nearly as much daily exercise as younger cats or kittens.

Although health issues may dictate special medical needs and attention, senior cats need the same basic supplies around the house as kittens do. This by no means indicates that every senior cat is unhealthy. Some of these cats end up in rescues and shelters because their owners can no longer care for them. Given good care and extra time to adjust to their new environment, older cats can give you many years of love and companionship. What better gift to give a senior cat than a loving, forever home in its autumn years?



Amazon Smile Makes the Kitties Smile

Thank you to those who selected Garfield's Rescue Inc. as their nonprofit organization for the

Amazon Smile donation program. Each time you place



an order at smile.amazon.com with Garfield's as your identified charity, Garfield's Rescue Inc. receives a percentage of the purchase price. It doesn't get any easier than that to donate to Garfield's Rescue Inc.! To register Garfield's as your Amazon Smile charity simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Select Garfield's Rescue Inc. as your charity organization to receive donations
4. Always start your shopping at smile.amazon.com

GRI Partners with Farm & Home

Garfield's Rescue, Inc. (GRI) is excited to partner with Farm and Home Supply of Kilmarnock to support our cat rescue and foster efforts. When you shop at Farm and Home



Supply you can donate to GRI. Pick up the supplies on your list and

when you check out, tell them you want to donate to GRI. Your donation goes into a Farm and Home Supply GRI account. When a GRI volunteer needs cat food, bedding items, tools or supplies, we go to Farm and Home Supply, purchase what we need and charge it to our GRI donation account. A wonderful working relationship for two great organizations!

Cat, Spat & Seafood Fest

The Land & Sea Farm Market in Wicomico Church hosted GRI's first outreach event on Saturday, July 25th. The event was promoted



as a "Cat, Spat & Seafood Fest" with the Great Wicomico Oyster Company and Salty's Bob Oyster & Seafood Company also participating. GRI collected over 150 pounds of dry cat food, 166 cans of wet food and monetary donations. Several completed adoption and volunteer applications were also received.

The Land & Sea Farm Market continues to support GRI with a donation jar on their counter. Shop for fresh produce, seafood, meats and more and donate to GRI at the same time!

GRI Acquires A Transport Van

Garfield's Rescue acquired a transport van back in March of this year through the generosity of Pat Pugh and her company, Al Pugh Distributing.



It all came about one day in March when one of our volunteers was driving by the distributing plant. He spied the van and went inside to speak with Pat and explain GRI's need. After a week of negotiations, the van was acquired by GRI.

After a few repairs were done by a local body shop, River Collision, in Warsaw, the van was ready to have our logo affixed. The design was beautifully crafted by Kilmarnock Lettering and now adorns our van.

The van has already been put to good use transporting several cats and a generous load of cat litter donated by

Dr. Elsey Cat Products in August. It

was also displayed at GRI's Land and Sea fundraiser event, and the large fundraiser yard sale in Reedville in October. We look forward to more of our precious cargo (cats) being transported safely and in STYLE!



Dr. Elsey Cat Products Donates Litter

A donation of two pallets of Dr. Elsey Cat Products cat litter was donated to GRI this summer. Our



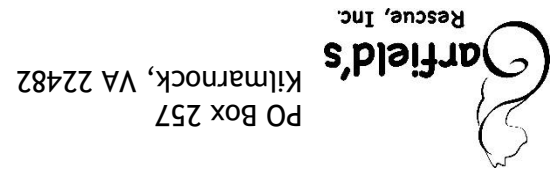
the litter cats love™

volunteers and our kitties are so grateful for the donation of nearly 4,000 pounds of quality litter.

The two pallets arrived via a tractor-trailer. With the assistance of volunteers, the litter was unloaded and reloaded into the GRI van and a volunteer's cargo trailer. It was then distributed among the fosters. The remainder is stored in an easy access location to be used as needed.

Thank you, Dr. Elsey's, for the wonderful donation.





Garfield's Rescue, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose vision is to "Eliminate suffering of community/homeless cats on the Northern Neck of Virginia" which include Lancaster, Northumberland, Westmoreland and Richmond counties.



804-480-2066 * garfieldsrescue@gmail.com * www.garfieldsrescue.org



MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON VIRGINIA'S NORTHERN NECK, ONE CAT AT A TIME!