

Garfield's Gazette

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

Spring 2021
2nd edition



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

President's Message

Happy Spring and kitten season! There is nothing sweeter than a cute cuddly kitten except when there are too many of them. Often one wants to increase their numbers, as in getting a pay increase. In the case of kittens, we hope that our numbers decrease from spring/summer of 2020. We will keep you updated.

Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) held our first general membership meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021 via email. We are pleased to announce that the amended bylaws passed unanimously along with the election of three new At Large Board of Director Members, Ginger Landry, Louise Mohardt, and Karen Peterson.

In 2020 GRI rescued/fostered 321 kittens/cats that were friendly strays or owner surrenders. We are pleased that 209 of those kitten/cats went to their furever homes. At the end of February another 77 cats have been adopted. Your support and donations are key to our success. Please continue to support us through monetary donations or donated items for our spring and fall online auctions. With your support we will make a difference on the Northern Neck - one cat at a time!

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

Welcome Spring and Kitten Season

Last spring a kind citizen reported finding a newborn kitten to Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI). The kitten, named Apollo, required bottle feeding every 3 hours. Later Apollo's mother and siblings were located and reunited with Apollo in foster care, and all was well. The best news is that Apollo's family were all adopted.



If you find a kitten(s), please do not pick them up. Observe the kitten(s) from a distance. According to Alley Cat Allies, "Separating kittens younger than ~8 weeks old from their mother is harmful to their wellbeing. Kittens need their mother as she is their best possible caregiver." The kittens may seem abandoned; however, the mother cat may not be far away hunting, hiding, or waiting for you to move away from her babies.

If the kittens are sleeping and seem content, then the mother is probably nearby. Check on the kittens every few hours. When you

check the area again and there are fewer kittens, the mother is most likely moving them to a new area. If you are not sure, sprinkle flour around where the kittens are located and look



for paw prints in the disturbed flour when you revisit the site. The only time you would want to move the kittens is if they are in obvious danger.

If you determine that the mother is present, continue to observe the family from a distance, she will most likely move the kittens to a new area. It is best for the mother cat to nurse the kittens for a greater chance of survival.



Around six to eight weeks the kittens should be socialized by humans. When the kittens have reached that age, contact GRI at 804-480-2066 or by email at garfieldsrescue@gmail.com. GRI will foster the mother cat and kittens and prepare them for adoption into their furever home. Please call Garfield's before contacting your local animal shelter. GRI works closely with all Northern Neck animal shelters during kitten season. The animal shelters will contact Garfield's to take un-weaned and very young kittens they have in custody. Let Garfield's know if you have reported found kittens to an animal shelter.

My Adoption Story

Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) changed my life for the better in October, 2020. I was happy, but felt that something was missing in my life. I thought about my love for animals. With a future plan for school and work, I needed my fur friend(s) to be independent. I dreamed about cats. While researching breeds, shopping, adopting, care tips and statistics, I located a local organization that rescued homeless cats.

I was fascinated by such a dedicated organization and decided I wanted to adopt from them. GRI's web page, featured many foster cats for adoption. I found GRI on Petfinder and of course, Facebook. Each foster cat was interesting, but I fell in love with two. Communicating with GRI was easy. GRI's foster and I met virtually and she provided great

support. She responded to all of my questions on preparing the house for homecoming.

Finally, I got to meet the foster and all of her foster cats. Being in an environment of love and animals honestly changed me forever. The foster mom was so sweet to my mother and me.

The genuine welcome we received will always be remembered as she introduced us to my future babies. Without a doubt, I knew I'd take them home and keep them forever.

Dixie Reese was initially shy. Now she licks me and loves her cheeks and chin rubbed. Dobie loves any attention he can get from anyone and always wants to know what I'm eating. They love watching birds and playing mice games on YouTube. My life will never be the same after adopting my fur companions, thanks to Garfield's Rescue, Inc.

- Tommiya Bre Koonce



Auctions to Support Our Cause

In order to support our life-saving goals and foster to adopt mission,

Garfield's (GRI) is working

with Big Red Auctions in Irvington.



GRI's next auction will run from May 3 - May 9.

We accept household items, furniture, tools, and estates. We have convenient drop off locations and pick up available. Contact us at (804) 480-2006, email: garfieldsrescue@gmail.com or visit our website <http://www.garfieldsrescue.org> for more information.

WE NEED YOUR TREASURES!



GRI website a wealth of information

Visit Garfield's Rescue, Inc.'s website, <http://www.garfieldsrescue.org> for an abundance of information for all cat lovers. In addition to the usual About Us, Donate and Contact Us pages, there are pages devoted to numerous aspects of cat care.

There are pages to assist you with T-N-R (Trap-Neuter-Return) including tips for hard to trap cats; how to trap a mom & kittens and post-surgery care. For the cats that have received T-N-R and are living in colonies in the wild, there are pages on how to care for these colonies, including how to build shelters for the cats.

In a rural area such as the Northern Neck, Barn Cats are a plus for rodent control. There is a page discussing all of the benefits of keeping barn cats as well as how to prepare to receive the cats and get them acclimated to your property. Our Barn Cat Adoption Application is accessible on these pages as well.



Have you found a stray cat or do you need to re-home your cat? Both of these subjects are covered with suggestions of what to do in both cases. If you do have a cat that needs to be surrendered to GRI, our Release form can be found on these pages.

Love cats and want to assist with the GRI mission? Our Volunteer pages describe the many ways that you can use your skills and interests while helping the cats in our care. Fostering is one of the most rewarding ways to volunteer. Many people are hesitant open



their home to fostering for a number of reasons. Our Foster pages offer reasons you can foster, even if you think you can't. We also have a section on tips for letting go when your foster cat is adopted. Ready to give fostering a try? Our Foster Parent Application is waiting for you to download!

Our goal is to place our cats/kittens into loving and responsible homes. Is that home yours? Our Adopt pages will help you in choosing the right cat, including reasons for adopting an adult cat over a kitten. If you already have another cat at home, we have tips for introducing the new cat. You can view many available cats and kittens on the website and once you've found one (or two) that you are interested in, our Adoption Application is available to download or complete on-line.

You'll be amazed at what you can learn on the GRI website!

Zur

Making a difference, one cat at a time. Every day volunteers of Garfield's Rescue, Inc. (GRI) see what a difference we make in the lives of homeless cats. Zur is one example of GRI not only making a difference, but saving his life.



Zur was surrendered to one of the Northern Neck's county animal shelters on 12/31/2020. Zur was thin and lethargic. He drank lots of water and his coat was unkempt. Shelter caregivers took him to a veterinarian who found that Zur was diabetic and needed insulin

injections. The shelter was unable to provide the care required by a special needs cat. Reluctantly the decision was made to euthanize Zur on 1/5/2021. A shelter volunteer, who is also a Garfield's Rescue member, reached out to GRI with information about Zur. GRI's Director of Fosters immediately said, "we'll take him!"

After three months on insulin and routine testing to adjust his dose, Zur has gained four pounds, has a thick healthy coat, and enjoys interacting with his foster siblings and GRI volunteers. At 7 years old, Zur will be a wonderful addition to a family who is comfortable tending to his diabetic needs. Fortunately, the insulin and syringes are not expensive. Zur accepts his twice daily injections without complaint and leans into the hand of anyone offering to pat him.



Zur has been featured on CBS Richmond's Channel 6 "Paws for Pets" program that promotes cat and dog adoptions. Zur's segment may be viewed on their wtvr.com website.

Rescuing Zur did not change the world, but it did change the world for Zur.

Ways you can Donate

You can help to change the world for community cats on the Northern Neck. GRI is affiliated with companies that help support our work. Details are on our Donate page:



<https://www.garfieldsrescue.org/info/donate>

AmazonSmile <https://smile.amazon.com/>;
Chewy.com Garfield's Rescue, Inc. | Chewy;
Amazon.com Wishlist Charity Lists
(amazon.com) and Farm & Home Supply in

Kilmarnock all have ways that you can help make a difference to these cats. Monetary donations can be made by PayPal **Donate** (paypal.com) or mailed to our Post Office box.

amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

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 will receive 0.5% of the price of your purchases.

Queensboro Online Store

Garfield's Rescue, Inc. has an on-line apparel and accessories store offering embroidered logo merchandise. Every purchase you make helps raise money for GRI!



Show your support of GRI by wearing one of the numerous products available with the GRI logo on it. You will look great and help us rescue cats at the same time.

No minimum order. To view our products and order, visit our Queensboro store today:
<https://garfieldsrescue.qbstores.com>

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."

804-480-2066

garfieldsrescue@gmail.com

www.garfieldsrescue.org

**PO Box 257
Kilmarnock, VA 22482**