

Garfield's Gazette

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

Fall 2021
3rd edition



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

President's Message

As 2021 draws to a close, Garfield's Rescue Inc. has much to be thankful for. Since inception we have rescued **634** homeless cats and **443** have gone to their 'forever' home. This success is due to our outstanding **33** volunteers working daily to trap, foster, maintain foster locations, transport cats to the vets, write grants, and more. We have **48** members believing in our cause and sharing our mission to "Prevent suffering of community (homeless) cats on the Northern Neck."

Thank you to those who donated to feed, house, and provide medical care for our fosters. We are making good progress, but there is much work to be done. Our hopes for reduction in the number of kittens received during kitten season were dashed when we again found ourselves overwhelmed with kittens, many needing to be bottle fed. Many of the kittens were sickly and some did not survive.

Your continued support in the coming year is essential. Most importantly we need you to spread the word that spay/neuter is necessary to reduce the number of homeless cats on the Northern Neck.

Thank you for your unwavering and generous support. Cheers to building a better tomorrow filled with compassion for the homeless and voiceless cats on the Northern Neck.

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



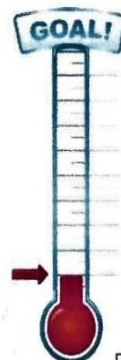
Baby Bedford, a rescue

"A Home for the Holidays"

Garfield's foster kitties are excited to announce that a new foster space has been donated to house them as they await their "forever" home! This new home space needs to be outfitted to accommodate cats' needs. YOUR help is necessary to raise \$75,000 towards the purchase of medical equipment and safe care supplies for this new home space. Examples of equipment are exam tables, carts, condos, refrigerator, washer, dryer, storage cabinets, office furniture, computer and printer.

We are on a mission to ensure that the hundreds of cats and kittens in our care have a warm and safe home. There are several ways to donate to the campaign. Send a check to Garfield's Rescue, Inc., PO Box 257 Kilmarnock, VA 22482, donate by credit card on the GRI webpage, www.garfieldsrecue.org or on our Facebook page at Garfield's Rescue, Inc.

The homeless cat population on the Northern Neck has been created by humans. GRI is working very hard to reduce the homeless cat population. Please become part of the solution by donating to this campaign.



Campaign Fundraising Goal

\$75,000

July 1 – December 31, 2021

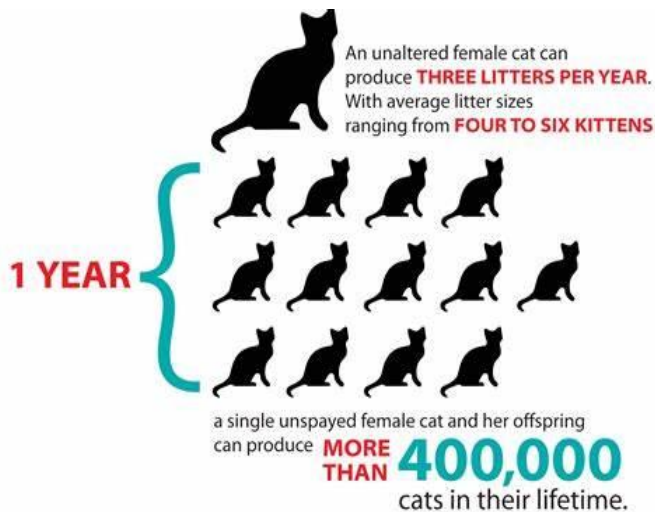


EASY DONATE: Place smart phone camera over QR code above, open PayPal link and donate!

A Long Kitten Season

Kitten season on the Northern Neck has been a very busy time for GRI volunteers. Normally kitten season is considered to be Spring and Summer. With the milder temperatures that incurred in the area last Fall and Winter, kitten season started early and continued into this Fall.

Unspayed female cats can get pregnant as early as 4 months of age and can have as many as **4** litters in one year; although on average, they have **3** litters in one year. Their gestation is only



65 days and they can go in heat even when nursing a litter. Spaying at an early age is essential in preventing unwanted newborns. Too many times GRI receives calls from residents saying that they have suddenly gone from having 2 cats to having 12 and need HELP!



Stats for the first 3 quarters of 2021 shows that **314** new felines have entered into our foster care program. Of those, **214** were kittens, ranging from newborn to 6 months of age. At the end of the 3rd quarter, **144** felines were awaiting their 'forever' home.

Fifty percent of the moms giving birth to these kittens were less than or just turned 1 year old. If you have or know about unwanted kittens, contact us. If you need assistance in getting your cat spayed or neutered, contact the Animal Welfare League of the Northern Neck at 804-435-0822

Spring Farmers Markets

GRI volunteers participated in two of Irvington's Spring Farmers Markets, on the Commons in Irvington. The big draw to our booth was, naturally, our cats! In May, we introduced Twig. In June, we introduced Nelly. Both have since been adopted by loving families.



Visitors to our booth were able to purchase raffle tickets to local businesses. Thank you to Land & Sea Farm Market in Wicomico Church and Dug in Farms in White Stone for donating gift cards for the May event. Gift cards for the June raffle were donated by Farm & Home Supply in Kilmarnock and Country Cottage in White Stone.



Contact us about our Volunteer Opportunities

Garfield's Rescue has Television Stars Among Us!

Garfield's Rescue, Inc. (GRI) is so fortunate to have a supportive partner in the "Paws for Pets" long running animal adoption segment on WTVR-CBS 6. This regional coverage of many of the sweet cats and kittens being fostered by GRI, has generated great exposure for GRI. Not only is adoption interest generated in the featured cats and kittens, but the exposure to GRI is invaluable as viewers are also directed to our website where all of our amazing adoptable cats and playful kittens can be viewed.

Mike Goldberg is the host and producer of "Paws for Pets," having first taken over the segment in 1998. An animal lover, Mike is dedicated to helping local Virginia animal adoption and welfare groups. "Paws for Pets" segments run during the Saturday and Sunday morning editions of CBS 6 News (6:00 a.m.-8:00a.m.). The featured rescue organizations are given the opportunity to showcase their adoptable animal, or "bonded pair" on a 4-week rotational schedule. The segment shows pictures of GRI's cat(s) while Mike presents a bio of their personality, whether they are dog friendly, or would be most comfortable as an only cat, or has a special toy or nap time. GRI's contact information is provided on the segment so the potential adopter can procure additional information about the featured cat and schedule a visitation after completing an adoption application. A video of the segment is also posted on Mike's website for later viewing. GRI is thrilled to be a member of the "Paws for Pets" team, working together toward the same mission of rescuing homeless cats and kittens until they find their responsible loving home.



Display at Front Porch Coffeehouse

Next time you're ready to take a coffee break, visit Front Porch Coffeehouse in Kilmarnock. While there, check out the GRI display! FPC supports our mission through our placement of a donation jar and food tub for monetary and cat food donations.



Building Cat Shelters

Winter shelter is critical for **cats** living outdoors when the temperatures drop.

Inexpensive, do-it-yourself shelters can be built in a matter of hours or less. No matter the design of your shelter, it needs three essential qualities – it must be well insulated, have minimal air space and be waterproof. Good insulation traps the cats' body heat. Minimal air space reduces the space that needs to be heated by the cats' body temperature. Waterproofing is absolutely necessary to keep the interior dry.

You can easily turn a durable storage container into a warm winter hideaway with the design pictured here. The interior walls, floor and



ceiling are lined with pieces of 1-inch-thick Styrofoam cut from a sheet 8 feet long by 2 feet wide. Precise edges are not necessary so the pieces can be hand cut. Straw is stuffed in the bottom and a doorway cut in the side. An awning that covers the opening, or a tube entrance, provides more insulation and helps to keep the rain and wind from entering the shelter. This shelter is lightweight and should be weighed down with a board or heavy rock.

Where and how you place your shelter could go a long way towards encouraging your cats to use them. For starters, put the shelters where the cats are already used to going, like near their feeding station or in an area you know they like to hang out. Putting them near the feeding station has the advantage of limiting how far the cats have to travel to eat during snow or other inclement weather. Don't put the shelters out in the open, like in the middle of a yard or lot, but under or against something, like a building, fence, tree, porch, bush or some type of overhang. Ideally, the spot will be out of the wind but exposed to the sun.

Remember that straw and hay, which is used for animal feed, are not the same thing. Hay should never be used as insulating material because, unlike straw, it draws and holds moisture.

Palmer's Story

Palmer was only 5 days old when he was found alone, hungry and vulnerable to predators. Fortunately, a caring person discovered him and contacted Garfield's Rescue, Inc. (GRI). One of GRI's fosters,



who specializes in caring for neonatal kittens, immediately took him into her care. He was expertly fed, cleaned and kept warm.

Like all neo-natal kittens, Palmer was a challenge and, on several occasions, worried his foster mom. Palmer showed early symptoms of low-blood sugar and fortunately responded to the addition of Karo syrup to his kitten milk formula. One particularly difficult weekend Palmer's foster mom was afraid he would not survive. He developed severe diarrhea. With emergency veterinary care hours away, foster mom tried several treatments for intestinal parasites and infection. Subcutaneous fluids kept him hydrated. He continued to take his kitten milk formula well and he showed marked improvement over the next several days.

As Palmer grew, he displayed the neurological symptoms and sight deficits that he deals with today.

His movements were often stiff and slow. He would walk into walls or off a step. He did not show interest in toys. His foster mom suspected he was having seizures when his vocalization and the sound of his movements caught her attention, but she never reached him in time to observe the seizure.



Prior to Palmer's discovery, a potential adopter was looking for a black and white tuxedo male

Do you know the difference, between Straw & Hay?

STRAW	HAY
Straw is a yellow, dried left over stock from crops. It has a hollow center which makes for great insulation, just like double pane windows. Use straw in doghouses and for other animals outdoors.	Hay, is green in color and is an animal food source that draws, absorbs, and holds moisture. Do not use hay or blankets for bedding outdoors, as they will get wet and freeze.



Bedding



Food

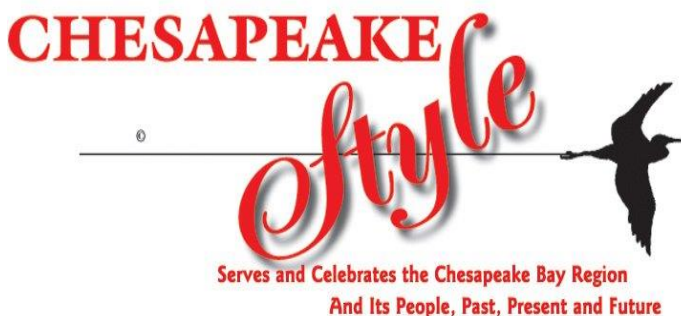
kitten. She had recently lost her 15-year-old tuxedo cat whom she'd had since he was a 3-week-old orphan. She had visited the kittens in GRI's care, but none of them "spoke" to her.

A couple of weeks later, this potential adopter saw a post on Facebook of a tiny kitten being bottle fed. It was a black & white tuxedo & it was a male. She knew instantly that this was going to be her new feline companion.

Palmer's future mom and his foster mom kept in close contact about Palmer's progress. His adoptive mom-to-be never wavered in her commitment to give Palmer his forever home. She regularly visited Palmer until in early November when she took him home. Palmer has thrived. Palmer's new mom reports that "We adore this boy. He is 'special' in many ways. He has a pretty significant visual impairment & has seizures. He gets medication twice daily & the seizures have been under control. He has a much older feline sister, an older canine brother & a younger canine sister. He is fearless! He brings us such joy & we are so very happy that he's ours. We can't imagine life without him & we are so very grateful that Garfield's saved him."



Our thanks to Chesapeake Style Magazine who originally published this article. See more stories about GRI in their free monthly publication.



A FOSTER'S STORY

"I just brought home Indie, Shelby, Alan, Addie, and Anise" I announced to my roommate who was unexpectedly out of town and left me to my own devices....



I am now a cat foster mom...I was already a "cat person." I moved to the Northern Neck about 5 years ago with no understanding of community cats. My friend left the house one night and called me. All she said was "I found something and I am coming back home." I was waiting outside where she drove up and thrust a squirming, tiny kitten at me. My first introduction to community cats. My other sister was visiting from out of state and fell in love with the little tabby who had been scooped up sitting on the yellow stripe running down the middle of Rt. 360. We had no luck finding his owner so Burgess found his way home with my sister.

Overtime I noticed 3 different cats coming to my patio on some nights. That is when I learned more about community cats and Garfield's in particular. I learned to feed one and Garfield's was successful trapping another who had obviously been a pet. I started following Garfield's on Facebook and my heart went out to these creatures who needed human help. While my roommate was unexpectedly out of town I decided to foster kittens. There were 2 sets of siblings who needed a place to stay until their spay/neuter surgery. It was perfect for me; I could play with kittens for a few weeks and then see them off to their new homes! They all had such distinct personalities. I even installed a camera in their room so I could keep an eye on their antics. We had some crazy times like when they exhibited their amazing hiding capabilities or attempted



escapes. It was fun for me and cleaning a small litter box and making sure they had food and water wasn't a burden and was worth what they gave back in appreciation.

Garfield's was incredibly supportive. All I had to supply was space. They provided food, litter, and everything I needed. Did I mention I brought home 5 kittens? When I was worried that one wasn't socializing Garfield's came up with a plan for him and when I last saw him, he was very settled and I am hopeful he becomes a great pet! I only have one foster left and I will be delivering Ophelia to my sister to meet her new brother Burgess. Kittens are cute and need fostering and I encourage anyone to try it but maybe don't start with 5!

After I deliver Ophelia, I plan to foster some more. One of the other things that struck me is that Garfield's has some great adoptable adult cats, too. I already have a couple favorites! So, foster, adopt, or volunteer. I am not sorry I did. In case you are curious, my roommate didn't kick me out for bringing home 5 kittens. I caught her playing with them and she will be helping with the next group.



FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is integral to the health and longevity of GRI and its mission of caring for



homeless/community cats on the Northern Neck. We receive no financial assistance from State or Local agencies. Unlike the local shelters who receive spay/neuter and vaccination costs assistance from the AWL of the Northern Neck, Garfield's relies solely on

its gracious donors, grants and our all-important fundraisers.

We have been fortunate to have been the benefactor of an estate with 3 storage units of new/slightly used merchandise. Those units, along with donations from the general public, has enabled GRI to hold sales events and auctions. We thank Big Red Auctions in Irvington and Chesapeake Mini Storage in



Reedville for working with us on these events. In addition to raising needed funds, the sales events helped to raise awareness of our mission by reaching new audiences and bringing in new volunteers. The fundraising events also helped to keep our supporters invested in the impact that we are having in our community.

Watch our Facebook page for updates on fundraisers in the upcoming New Year.



Nestle Purina Pet Care Donates Cat Litter

Nestle Purina Pet Care's King William factory produces both conventional and clumping cat litter on a 40-acre factory site with an adjacent 486-acre

clay mine site, so they are able to

efficiently and effectively mine, process, package and ship raw material and finished



product from the same facility. They are located specifically in King William County, which is approximately 25 miles northeast of Richmond and a 90-minute drive from Northumberland County. What an amazing partner for Garfield's Rescue to have in support of its homeless cat rescue, foster to adopt mission! Wallisha Hodge is GRI's "cat angel" contact at Nestle Purina's King William factory Warehouse, and GRI is so appreciative of her assistance in our navigation of the process to receive this vital product to sustain our homeless cat rescue mission

Purina Pet Care has donated over 5000 pounds of cat litter to GRI this past year; its cat litter pallets picked up by a GRI Northumberland County based volunteer via personal truck every few months. GRI's home based foster sites use 6300-6900 pounds of clay cat litter monthly, so our volunteers and many foster cats and kittens are so grateful for the donation of this very valuable and necessary product that enables us to fulfill our homeless cat rescue, foster to adopt mission.



Remember GRI on Giving Tuesday

GivingTuesday is a global movement for giving and volunteering. Giving Tuesday is celebrated on the Tuesday following the well-known shopping days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. We will celebrate it on **30 November 2021**. Every year people take the time to kick off the holiday season by giving back to their community. Whether it is donating money to a charitable



cause or volunteering, Giving Tuesday is a day when people everywhere come together to do something to support the causes and communities that mean so much to us all. Your gift of giving means so much to the homeless cats in our care.



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.

Garfield's Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 257
Kilmarnock, VA 22482



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!