

# Garfield's Gazette

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

Spring 2023  
6th edition



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

## President's Message

In the later part of my career, I worked for an inspiring leader. During one of his motivational talks, he closed with 3 questions that have echoed in my mind. "Have you lived? – Have you loved – Have you made a difference?" I have lived a fulfilling professional career and retirement on the beautiful Northern Neck. Love comes in many forms, people and passions. I love my family and friends and developed a passion for rescuing the many homeless and forgotten cats on the Northern Neck. The pathway to Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) was not an easy one but one that has made a difference for me personally and for over 1155 cats. GRI's success with feline rescue, foster and adopt is due to the outstanding work of the Board of Directors, volunteers, members, and donors and if you are one of those, you can answer the question, "Have you made a difference"? If not, I invite you to make a difference through membership and donating but more importantly volunteering for one of the many tasks to make a difference on the Northern Neck, one (homeless) cat at a time!

I dedicate this message to a wonderful friend and animal advocate, Martha Sheridan, who recently passed after a short battle with cancer. Martha was an integral part of my journey into feline rescue. We met while volunteering at AWL, she supported Northern Neck Partners for Pets, and recently was an integral part of GRI's very successful Wine and Whiskers Fundraiser. Martha, you made a difference, and for that we love you and will miss you.

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

## Kittens Having Kittens

Kittens having kittens, we see it way too often. Please, spay your cat(s)!



Aside from the obvious benefit of population control, spaying a cat reduces her risk of mammary (breast) cancer by 25%, makes her less prone to urinary tract infections and prevents uterine cancers. It also prevents pyometra, a deadly infection of the uterus.

Cats are sexually mature by 4 MONTHS of age! ACT FAST before your kitten has kittens! Cats can get pregnant while they are still nursing a litter. A cat can have multiple litters per year; there is no time to waste!



Constant reproduction wreaks havoc on a queen's body; it robs her body of nutrition and physically exhausts her. Sometimes, her body cannot support the kittens and they're either born deformed, stillborn or naturally aborted.

A spayed cat is a healthier, happier cat. Please spay your cat before 4 months of age.

## Kitten Season Is Here and Fosters Are Needed

Kitten season is here and kittens are popping up everywhere. Kittens, like babies, need focused love and care. They need time with kindhearted people providing love for momma cats



with nursing kittens, orphaned newborns needing to be bottle fed and young kittens who are eating on their own. One on one time with a

loving foster develops loving kittens and cats that are easily adoptable. No foster experience needed as we will teach you everything you need to know and connect you with experienced fosters.

A fostering commitment lasts 2 weeks to 2 months, depending on the situation. The kittens fit well in a small bathroom, bedroom or laundry room.

If you don't have a small room, we also have specially designed kitten cribs we will loan you. Approved fosters receive an amazing kitten starter kit that includes written information, contacts for support, food, litter, blankets, warmers, bottles (only needed if no momma cat). Medical care is also provided. There are no financial costs incurred by fosters.



Share your love and a small space and make a big difference in the life of homeless cats and kittens.

## Tony's Story

Tony was found alone and cold in a ditch by a local resident while on a job site. He and his fellow workers took turns keeping Tony inside their coats throughout the day to warm him up. After a quick trip to a nearby Dollar General to get a can of food, Tony was offered breakfast. He was so hungry that he tried eating the piece of cardboard that they fed him on.



Named for his rescuer, Tony was estimated to be 9 weeks old. He was neutered, vaccinated and tested for feline aids, feline leukemia and heartworms before being transferred to Kitty Kingdom Cat Café. The café staff stated that the 'workers had spoiled Tony as he preferred being carried versus being on the floor.'



After meeting several potential adopters, Tony picked his family by quickly warming up to his new dad. Tony will never be cold and hungry again.

## Wine & Whiskers

Due to popular demand and numerous requests,



Garfield's will be holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wine & Whiskers Fundraising event this Fall. Details are being worked out and will be announced later this summer. Stay tuned!





## Garfield's cats enjoy visiting Cat Cafes

GRI recently celebrated its one-year anniversary of partnering with Kitty Kingdom Cat Café in Chesapeake, VA. GRI has also worked with Cups & Claws Cat Café in Newport News for over 6 months. Both cafes serve as wonderful foster homes for some of GRI's rescued felines. They support cage-free adoptions with the adoption fees going back to the rescues they partner with. Patrons are able to enjoy beverages and snacks while spending quality time helping to socialize homeless cats and kittens looking for their 'forever' homes and have the opportunity to fall in love with their new feline companion.



While at Kitty Kingdom Cat Café, you can visit one or both of their kitty rooms. The Curious Cats room houses the peaceful adults. The Katz N Kittens room is full of playful youngsters. KKCC serves craft beers, wine, specialty coffee, cheeses, hot dogs, BBQ and more!

Cups & Claws Cat Café offers their patrons a large, open area with separate sitting areas in a lounge type atmosphere. While enjoying a hot or cold beverage and a baked snack, patrons can listen to music, read, study or just enjoy the antics of the cats and kittens lounging about.



The rural communities of the Northern Neck do not have the population needed to give homes to the many homeless cats and kittens that are entered into GRI's foster to adopt program. GRI is honored and thankful to partner with these two successful businesses, located in high density populations.

## GRI Volunteers Attend Pet First Aid & CPR Class

Always willing to learn more to assist the cats in their care, GRI volunteers recently attended a Pet First Aid and CPR class. The 6-hour class offered the latest techniques through demonstration, lecture and hands on practice.



## VFHS Annual Conference

Members of GRI attended the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS) Annual Conference held March 29-31 at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA. GRI volunteers are always looking for opportunities to learn from and network with other animal rescues; the 3-day conference enabled attendees to do that.



An added bonus to this conference was the announcement that GRI was being awarded a \$1,000 grant from Spay Virginia. Spay Virginia is a project of the VFHS that helps with the cost of spay and neuter surgeries.



Talk to your vet about the best Flea Control for your cat(s)

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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 includes Lancaster, Northumberland, Westmoreland and Richmond counties.



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