

# Garfield's Gazette

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

Fall 2023  
7th edition



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

## President's Message

We practice gratitude each day because rescuing discarded homeless felines is an expensive and emotional adventure. The 2023 kitten season has been extremely emotional for the volunteers of GRI. Many of the kittens that came to us this year came in very sick and passed away before medications were able to save them. The only way to humanely stop the suffering of homeless cats and kittens is to spay and neuter pets and homeless cats. Burying tiny kittens, that never had a chance, takes a toll on those that must deal with this unfortunate situation. The average cost of a spay/neuter and full vetting by local veterinarians is \$250, and this is discounted. GRI's average monthly vet and medical supplies costs are \$5600 per month. GRI's source of funding is donations, grants and fundraisers.

The Board of Directors and volunteers are filled with gratitude for the support we continue to receive. The wonderful folks of the Northern Neck show their appreciation for our efforts through continued donations. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wine & Whiskers Community Fundraiser was a grand success. Community businesses donated wonderful items for the silent auction. Numerous sponsors donated funds to offset event costs. Ticket sales were close to sell out. The 50/50 raffles raised close to \$500 and then the winner donated her share back to GRI! Most notable was our "Fund a Need" challenge to attendees to offer pledges to support the rescue of 35 cats and kittens that we were asked to take when the owners became evicted from their home. See *35 Tails of Rescue* on page 3. Our donors and attendees opened their hearts and

wallets and helped us to raise funds to support this unexpected large number of rescues.

Gratitude overflows for all who make a difference in the lives of thousands of homeless cats and kittens on the Northern Neck. Rescue, foster, and adopt takes a team filled with love, care and energy: volunteers, members, donors, veterinarians, and last but not least, our cat café partners of Kitty Kingdom Cat Café and Cups and Claws Cat Café who love and care for our fosters and match them with loving families.

*"As we express  
our gratitude,  
we must never  
forget that the  
highest form of  
appreciation is  
not to utter  
words, but to live  
by them"*

- JOHN F KENNEDY

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

## JOIN GRI'S TEAM

Join GRI's team as a member and support humane care of homeless cats on the Northern Neck. GRI is dedicated to reducing the number of homeless cats and kittens across the 745 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 and activities. 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!

### **Trashy McPanda** (Author - Angie Shepos)

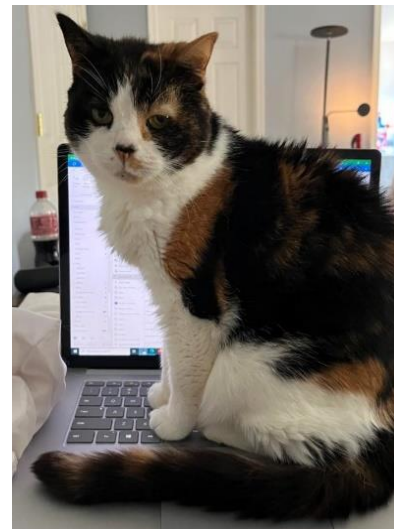
Cats, where would we be without them? Tiny dictators that run the world with their murder mitten claws and “feed me now lowly human” demands. We wouldn't have it any other way. Our family, in particular, love our miniature masters. Which is the reason we have accumulated five rescues--each with their individual story. So how did we end up with a sixth?

Simple. The power of social media. I was doom scrolling one day and ran across a photo of an abandoned elderly calico cat. I loved her tiny face and heart-shaped nose, and figured that this cat would quickly find a home. A few days later, her photo was re-posted and this time I sent a quick message to Garfield's Rescue.

Does Peaches have a home? “Not yet” was the reply. I filled out an application, just in case, I told myself. A week later we ended up bringing a very vocal and demanding senior cat into our care.

Peaches, aka Trashy McPanda, knows what she wants. And it's food. Food of any kind, especially of the human variety. When she's not begging for food she's chasing lasers, hiding under blankets, or letting the family chihuahuas know that she's the boss.

Occasionally, she gets lost in her cardboard box and signals for help with her dinosaur meow. But we wouldn't have it any other way.



*Peaches takes control of the computer!*

Without rescues like Garfield's, little elderly overlords such as Peaches would not have a second chance at life—and for that, we are extremely grateful. So, in celebration, Peaches and I will be jamming out to her personal theme song from the Mario Bros movie and hoping more families would open their homes and hearts to fostering moggies (a cat, especially one that does not have a pedigree or is otherwise unremarkable) just like ours. All that is required is an open heart, a bit of patience, and a lot of treats and pets.





## TNVR at Work

(Trap-Neuter/Spay-Vaccinate-Return)

This past Spring, a Lancaster County resident requested GRI's assistance with reducing the large (50 and growing) number of cats



*Feeding time for this 'super' colony*

surrounding her home and neighborhood. She feeds and cares for the cats and wanted to stop their reproductive habits but was not able to do so herself. GRI developed a collaborative plan and put a team together to work on this humane, lifesaving community project.

A low-cost veterinary clinic in Newport News was contacted. They are able to accommodate up to 20 cats a day for spay/neuter services. Since the cats are not social, they needed to be trapped. We gathered 20 traps and several trappers who trapped over a 2-day period. As the cats were trapped, they were placed in a quiet protected space owned by a GRI volunteer for the time before appointment day. They were kept warm and fed as they waited.

On appointment day the Garfield's van was



*A volunteer returns one of the sterilized cats back to its home*

loaded at 5:30 am and headed to the clinic in Newport News. The cats were picked up mid-afternoon and spent the night in the same location

where they were fed and kept quiet. The following morning, they were released back to their home where they are cared for and happy.

This event required several trapping sessions over the summer months. To date, 65 cats from this colony have been sterilized and vaccinated against rabies and distemper and had an ear-tip. Ear-tipping involves surgically removing a small portion of one of a cat's ears while the cat is under anesthesia for spay or neuter surgery. It is the universally accepted way to signify that a cat has been spayed or neutered. In addition, thirty-six kittens were removed and placed into GRI's foster care. While there are still some elusive felines, we do know that we have prevented 101 cats from reproducing!



## 35 Tails of Rescue

This is a true accounting of poverty and eviction, love of pets and a humane rescue. Many of these stories do not have happy endings for the pets. When Mr. and Mrs. "R," her with the complication of a disability, were given a 2-week eviction notice, their pets were also "served" with that same notice. The "R" family was tasked with an immediate search for affordable housing and many times pets are typically not welcomed... certainly not 35 cats. In these situations, many pets are left behind to fend for themselves. Fortunately, the "R" family contacted Garfield's Rescue (GRI) for help in providing immediate care and homes for their beloved pets.

GRI volunteers visited the home, assessed the situation, and discovered two nursing momma cats inside the home, each with four kittens, in addition to 25 teenagers and adults outside. None had received veterinarian care or been spayed or neutered! GRI developed an action plan, but the timing wasn't good as it was the

height of the summer kitten season, and our foster space was overflowing with kittens.



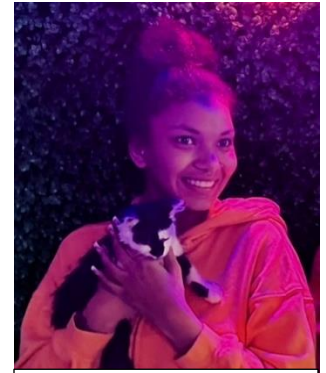
*The faces of 35 evicted cats*

We reached out to the community with pleas for fosters and two wonderful volunteers stepped up and took the mommas and babies. The outdoor cats, which were friendly, were gathered up and brought to the GRI foster house to wait for complete vetting and spay/neuter surgeries to make them “purr-fectly adoptable.” At an approximate cost of \$250/per cat, the minimum medical costs alone for this 35-cat rescue is \$8750! Once fully vetted many others were lovingly fostered by our partners, Kitty Kingdom Cat Cafe in Chesapeake, VA and Cups & Claws Cat Cafe in Newport News, VA.

During the initial observation period of this “super colony,” volunteers noticed that two of the teenage kittens had unusual gaits. Upon initial consultations with Bayside Animal Hospital, neurological disorders were suspected and the performance of an MRI by a specialist was recommended to confirm and clarify the complications. MRI costs for pets begin at \$1500. This amount, and the above \$8750 complete 35 cat vetting cost, is in addition to our average \$8000 monthly housing, food and routine medical costs for our resident homeless foster cats. Our no-kill philosophy does not promote euthanasia. Community safety and good quality of life for pets are guiding principles of this no-kill philosophy that GRI follows, as we engage in best practices to humanely save the most lives possible with well-defined protocols. ALL of these cats (and our other resident cats) will find loving homes due to GRI’s robust

spay/neuter/vaccinate, foster to adopt program. They thrive under our 24/7 compassionate care as they await adoption.

Your support of GRI’s Community Fundraisers provides critically needed funds for daily and emergency care of homeless cats and kittens on the Northern Neck; and, to continue our lifesaving mission to “eliminate the suffering of homeless community cats on the Northern Neck of Virginia” making the Northern Neck a healthier, safer place to live, work and raise a family.



*One of the evicted kittens getting adopted*

## Pictures Come True

(Author - Sue Griffin)

In the Fall of 2022, I moved into my new condo with my Golden Retriever Grace, leaving behind a male Golden Retriever with his dad. Everything was new and interesting for Grace, but I soon realized she needed a buddy.

Ten years prior, my father was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. He did puzzles to help with his dexterity issues. My mom framed and hung them until there was no more wall space in their



house. Then she gave them to family. I took one with a golden retriever and a little yellow kitty looking at a sunset. I knew then I wanted a little yellow kitty for Grace.

I waited until kitten season as I thought the chances of finding a kitten to love my very exuberant Golden retriever would be greater. I began the search for a female yellow tabby kitten, which are rare as 90-95% of yellow



tabbies are males. I located a yellow female tabby kitten at Garfield Rescue Inc. She was 3 weeks old and not ready for release, so I put a deposit on her. I visited her at Garfield's several times waiting for her to weigh 2 pounds so I could take her home as a "foster to adopt".

I chose the name GG and couldn't wait for her to meet Grace. I opened the door and brought GG in a carrier into my home. Grace was very excited at this new smell. I made Grace lay down and let GG out of her carrier. Little 2-pound GG walked right up to 65 lb.



*Grace and GG*

Grace! Grace was immediately a goner, and it was love at first sight. Within 24 hours they were lying next to each other and soon after that Grace was licking GG's face.

It's been inspirational watching this friendship grow. GG will come out of nowhere and jump up and bite Grace's face and then "crab walk" away! Sometimes I see Grace walking and GG is holding on to her stomach as Grace drags her along. There is something new every day and I'm so thrilled for Grace and myself to have this sweet, sassy little kitten as a member of our little family.

## **Fostering Saves Lives**

If you're looking for a way to help homeless or discarded cats, our rescue organization, and families in your community, consider fostering! It's an experience like no other. There's a foster out there for just about any situation or lifestyle. It can be as simple or involved as you like. All you need is a little patience, a little space, and a lot of love.

Every rescued cat/kitten that moves into a foster home frees up space for another cat that we

wouldn't otherwise be able to take in. It's that simple. More foster homes mean more saved.

Some animals come to us in great physical and mental shape and can go up for adoption right away; therefore, not needing fostering. However, the support of fosters means more resources are available to quickly transition the ready-to-adopt animals. This reduces stress on the animals and the rescue organization.

Foster homes provide a much-needed opportunity for socialization and to experience a loving home. This process supports a successful adoption.

As a foster parent, you have the opportunity to see what kind of lifestyle the cat will thrive in, its likes and dislikes, whether it has any training or behavioral issues, fears, or special needs. This insight is invaluable when we are trying to place the animal with the perfect 'fur-ever' family.



Whether you foster long-term cases, focus on healthy fosters, or work with those who have medical, behavioral, or socialization needs, it's a way of giving. There's a sense of value and self-worth that comes from fostering. If you get too attached and "fail" at fostering, you'll end up with a new best friend who'll be glad you did.

## **Clear The Shelters**

In August, Cups & Claws Cat Café, Purrociuous Styles Cat Boarding & Grooming and WAVY TV 10 teamed up for a Clear the Shelters donation drive and benefit for Garfield's Rescue! It was held at Purrociuous Styles in Yorktown and was hosted by one of WAVY-TV 10's news reporters,



with live cut-ins to the evening newscasts! The event included two food trucks and a dozen vendors.

GRI had 14 cats and kittens on site for people to meet and apply to adopt. One of the cats was Reese, a favorite of our volunteers, who was not



*Reese enjoys 'strutting her stuff' while visiting the vendors*

adapting well to life at the foster house and needed a home of her own. Reese happily walked on a leash and visited the vendor booths, making all sorts of friends. As the evening was winding down, a family, who had just lost their beloved feline family member, met Reese and immediately knew

that they needed her as much as she needed them! Volunteers cried, Reese purred and the event was deemed a success!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine & Whiskers

Garfield's Rescue, Inc. hosted its 2nd annual "Wine & Whiskers" community fundraiser, a benefit in support of GRI's homeless cat rescue, spay/neuter/vaccinate, foster to adopt mission in service to Virginia's Northern Neck (NN) communities. More than 100 guests attended the highly anticipated gala evening filled with music by Paragon DJs, specially selected wines, and hors d'oeuvres catered by D. Goodman Catering. The event was held September 7 at the Trinity Episcopal Church Pavilion in Lancaster.



Generous local businesses, service providers, restaurants, regional artisans and theater and musical production companies donated

sponsorship monies and more than 80 items for brisk Silent Auction bidding - all packaged into exciting, overflowing themed baskets. Further evening excitement was generated through attendee monetary pledges for GRI's urgent, unexpected need to provide immediate care of a NN 35-cat eviction rescue, all requiring spay/neuter/vaccination services and housing. This specific "Fund a Need" segment was fueled by pre-event donor matching funds, who understood overcrowded shelters could not take in this huge volume of cats and nursing mommas.

The monies raised through this annual event provides GRI with the opportunity to secure urgently needed medical care, spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations and food for the abandoned NN community cats in our foster care, where the cats thrive as they await adoption. GRI receives no income from government municipalities, relying solely upon donations, fundraising and grants for its income. With nearly 1500 cats/kittens rescued to date (and counting!), and 155 currently being fostered in our network of private foster homes at press time, GRI continues, with your support, to "Make a Difference on YOUR Northern Neck, One Cat at a Time." We are truly grateful for all of you who donated, attended and continue to support this event and our lifesaving homeless cat mission. Together we will make your NN communities a safer, healthier place in which to live, work, raise a family and start a business.

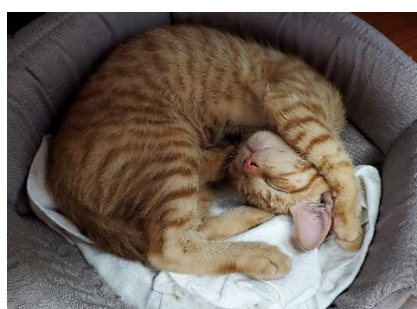
Garfield's Rescue, Inc. a proud winner of a RCCF grant award in the "Health and Wellness" category in promoting "A Healthy and Safe Community"





## “Cat Enrichment” Grant

Garfield’s Rescue, Inc. received a \$500 “Cat Enrichment Grant” in the spring of 2023 from the Petfinder Foundation. Funding from this program “supports indoor (or safe outdoor) enrichment to keep felines in [GRI’s] care happy while they are awaiting to be adopted.” Nearly 1500 cats/kittens have thrived in GRI’s network of private, home-based foster homes since its March 2020 inception. To prevent the spread of disease among cats in an indoor rescue environment, sanitization is of the utmost concern, so laundering of beds and bed liners, towels, sheets, toys and perches is paramount to the health and well-being of our feline residents where they thrive as they await adoption.



*One of GRI’s foster kittens enjoys its new bed*

Kittens require a high level of socialization to be adoption ready, and “play bite” drool, mucous, diarrhea, etc., on beds, toys, perches, blankets & bed liners require multiple washings to keep sanitized and causes ALL to fall apart quickly, requiring replacement. Clean bedding and toys prevents spread of disease among one of the NN’s most vulnerable populations.

Petfinder Foundation is a national nonprofit that gives cash and product grants to animal shelters and rescues. Their programs are designed to keep homeless pets physically and mentally healthy so they can find loving forever homes. GRI is a Petfinder Foundation member. They are the non-profit partner of Petfinder.com, the world’s largest pet adoption website, who gives grants to shelters and rescue groups that post their adoptable pets on the site. GRI is an active Petfinder member listing all our adoptable cats on the Petfinder site for adoption.

## The Season for Giving is Here

On average, about 30% of annual giving occurs in the last two months of the year. During this season of giving, we ask that you consider giving gifts to our foster kitties. Scan the QR Codes below with your smart phone to select and purchase much needed items on our Amazon or Chewy Wishlist. Donate directly to GRI’s fund for daily lifesaving medical care and nutritious food for our resident community foster cats and kittens. Checks can be mailed to Garfield’s Rescue Inc., PO Box 257, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482.



**Amazon Wishlist**



**Chewy Wishlist**




**Credit/Debit Card**

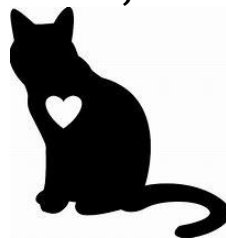


**venmo**

**CAT CARE  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!  
-Feeding  
-Cleaning  
-Socialization**

  
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 includes Lancaster, Northumberland, Westmoreland and Richmond counties.



804-480-2066 \* [garfieldsrescue@gmail.com](mailto:garfieldsrescue@gmail.com) \* [www.garfieldsrescue.org](http://www.garfieldsrescue.org)



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