

# Garfield's Rescue visits RWC with cats and kittens

IRVINGTON—All paws went up at Garfield's "Cat Cottage" when foster cats and kittens were asked who wanted to go on another field trip to their favorite place, RWC!

As "the curtain was raised," the cast of characters included seven entertaining kittens of various ages and colors, reported president Karen Peterson.

Three-month-old siblings Roscoe, Ringo and Ramona loved to cuddle and eager residents couldn't wait to enjoy the love only a kitten can give, said Peterson. The kittens curled up on laps, draped themselves upon shoulders and were not shy about giving nose kisses.

Six-week-old orange kittens, Jack and Jim, were born to a loving momma who had given birth on a cold, dirt ground beneath a wood pile to six babies the evening before she was to be surrendered to Garfield's, she said.

The Lottsburg neighbors of this community cat decided this gentle momma deserved a



From left, Mildred Loudy and Gwen Head cuddle kittens.

rest after birthing multiple litters in her young four-year life outside, continued Peterson. She and her babies are all now enjoying a warm, safe environment, clean water and full bellies. These tiny babies enjoyed the warm embraces they received by dotting residents.

Two-month-old Hattie with

her momma was rescued from a property that didn't have running water. It was critical to move several cats and kittens from this property for medical attention and nutritious food.

Two-month-old Pacer is one of six released to Garfield's from his home colony where more than one unspayed female

had had litters. Pacer was quite the entertaining escape artist of our entourage, jumping out of the kitten pen causing all to laugh at his boundless energy and curious nature.

"Many of the RWC residents from each, the independent living and assisted living, RWC population are unable to have cats of their own, and look forward to our visits, as do we," said Peterson. "We love hearing stories about their many former, beloved pets."

Garfield's volunteers share its rescue mission "to eliminate the suffering of homeless/community cats in Virginia's Northern Neck through its humane rescue, spay/neuter/vaccination, foster to adopt programs." Spay/neuter is the only permanent 100% effective method of birth control in cats. It reverses the exhausting cycle of reproduction in our region's homeless cat population.

RWC hosts, life enrichment specialist Bonny Magerko, activity manager Rebecca Mahoney and life enrichment

director Amy Lewis provided a welcoming, spacious area for residents to happily interact with Garfield's Rescue volunteers and the energetic kittens, said Peterson.

Staff made a special requested trip to a lovely bedridden resident who wanted to hold and cuddle a kitten, she said. Unseen, she exclaimed "is it real," not believing she was actually holding a real kitten. She was so happy to learn Roscoe's gray and white coloring was the same as her own beloved cat from the past. Roscoe didn't want to leave her warm embrace and made himself at home in her arms.

"This wonderful memory seeing such comfort and joy will be one of Garfield's most treasured," said Peterson.

Garfield's Rescue is a private, home-based rescue organization that serves the Northern Neck. The all volunteer workforce enjoys challenging but gratifying experiences in the world of animal rescue and community service, such as

visits with staff and residents at RWC.

Become a part of Garfield's story. Visit [garfieldsrescue.org](http://garfieldsrescue.org), on Facebook; or, the new Volunteer River Counties portal.

Make a lifesaving gift and give a starving cat or kitten a second chance at life. Email [garfieldsrescue@gmail.com](mailto:garfieldsrescue@gmail.com), call 480-2066, or mail a one-time or recurring gift to Garfield's Rescue, Inc., P. O. Box 257, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

