

Garfield's Gazette

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

Spring 2024
8th edition



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

President's Message

I am very proud of the tremendous energy, skills and compassion of the volunteers with "Team Garfield's." Their heroic rescue, compassionate



foster care and successful adoption efforts of 1600 homeless, abandoned cats is an amazing fulfillment of the mission of

Garfield's Rescue "to eliminate the suffering of homeless/community cats on Virginia's Northern Neck." Animal rescue is a challenging, and often heart-breaking business for any team. "Team Garfield's" is a strong cohesive group of dedicated volunteers that communicates effectively, steps up when there is a void to fill and works together to fulfill the mission of Garfield's Rescue of "eliminating the suffering of homeless/community cats on our Northern Neck."

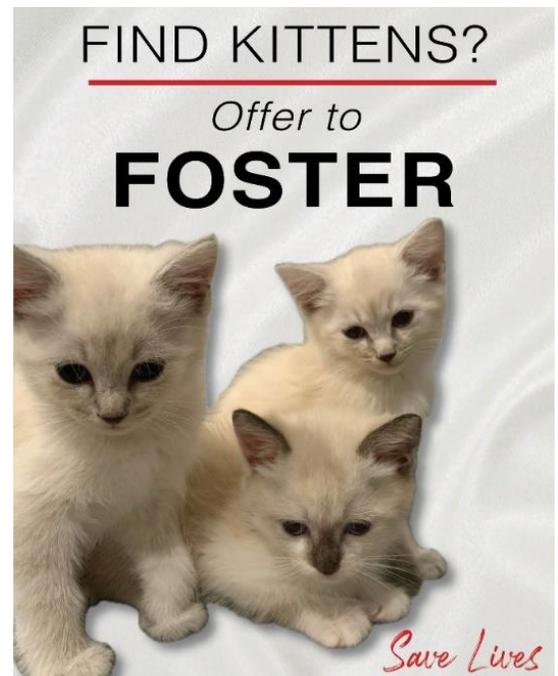
Let the thousands of Northern Neck homeless cats and kittens know you care. You can become a member of this dedicated team and support our work in the compassionate rescue, spay/neuter/vaccinate, foster to adopt services of homeless, abandoned Northern Neck felines. How can you help? Share our message, report sightings of homeless or neglected and injured cats, attend Garfield's Rescue events, donate money to support our average \$8000 monthly veterinarian expenses and through educating all on the lifesaving importance of the spay/neuter/vaccination of one's cats to reduce the overpopulation of homeless cats.

Karen Peterson, President
Garfield's Rescue Inc.

KITTEN SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING

Soon we will be inundated with cats and kittens. Some healthy, some sick, and some dying. Kittens need to remain with their mother to get the best chance of survival. Here is how YOU can help:

- If you find kittens, observe them to see if the mother returns. Reach out to Garfield's for advice and assistance but offer to keep them until we have time to make a plan. We will help you, if we can, if you give us a little time to prepare.
- Do not remove young kittens from their mom! If the kittens look healthy, the mom is around even if you don't see her. Leave the kittens alone unless they are skinny, dirty or cold.



- Provide food and water for the mother cat. Offer to foster the family!

- Look up trap neuter return programs in your area to see what's available. All adult cats, male or female, pregnant or not, NEED to be spayed or neutered.
- Donate to Garfield's Rescue. This time of year is VERY expensive for us. We go through a lot more supplies and vet bills are more extensive.
- Be an advocate for spay and neuter! Help to educate the general public by sharing informative posts and letting people know resources available for them locally.

A 20 Cat Tale

Earlier this Spring, Garfield's received a call from a family that was being evicted from their



home and needed assistance in finding homes for a number of cats that they were caring for. All totaled, eighteen (18) adult cats and 2 newborn kittens were removed from the property.

The cats were friendly and well fed; however, none were spayed or neutered. All of the males had sustained wounds from fighting and it was discovered during the spay surgeries

The faces of our 20-cat rescue that all of the females had been impregnated.

These cats were lucky that their caregiver contacted Garfield's. They are now healthy and are in the process of finding loving homes. PLEASE, if you are feeding stray cats, or know someone that is, find a trap, neuter, return program in your area to get the cats sterilized. They will be healthier and happier that you did.

Love On Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day for love and this year was no exception. On February 14th, Mrs. Wilson and 13-year-old GRI foster kitty, Roxie, met each other for the first time. It was love at first sight!



We wish these two a life of companionship in their senior years.

Opportunity to Leave a Legacy and Save More Lives!

When GRI began in 2020, we never imagined we would be able to save 1600 homeless cats, but we have, and we are proud of that and making the Northern Neck a better place to live. There are many more cats that can be saved but our current physical space limits the number of foster cats we can hold for health and safety reasons.

Our volunteers deserve a space where they can comfortably provide safe and healthy caregiving for foster cats.



Through a generous gift we have some resources to build a modest and appropriate safe facility for housing and care of foster homeless cats, allowing us to expand lifesaving

efforts so desperately needed on the Northern Neck. We would love to be gifted a small piece of land to place this modest facility. We dream of one acre of land within proximity to Kilmarnock.

We would prefer to have existing septic and water on the land but we are open to any opportunity. A donor might be able to take advantage of a tax opportunity based on legal tax advice. You can support us in this request by sharing our need with neighbors, friends and family who might be able to support us with a gift of land for our lifesaving efforts. For additional information email garfieldsrescue@gmail.com.

Honoring a Loved One

You can honor the loss of family members, including pets, or a friend through donating funds to Garfield's Rescue Inc. With your donation, please note the person or pet 's name that is being remembered or honored along with their address and GRI will send a handwritten note to their family. You will also receive a thank you note for your donation. A donation in honor or memory of a loved one touches three hearts, yours, the honoree and the homeless cat who will no longer be homeless. Feel free to contact us for more information.



VFHS Annual Conference

Members of GRI attended the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS) Annual Conference held March 20-22 at the Founders Inn & Spa in Virginia Beach. GRI volunteers are



Pictured at conference, Karen Peterson, GRI President, Sue Bell, VFHS President and Vicki Kinsel, GRI BOD member. Not pictured, Kathy Haurand, GRI Director of Fosters/Data Manager.

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.

Wine & Whiskers

Back by popular demand, Garfield's will hold their 3rd annual Wine & Whiskers Fundraising event on September 5, 2024, at the Trinity Episcopal Church Pavilion in Lancaster. The evening will include music by Paragon DJs, specially selected wines, and hors d'oeuvres catered by D. Goodman Catering. Stay tuned for more details!



The logo for "Kitty Kingdom Cat Café" features a green shield with a black silhouette of a horse and rider. Above the shield is a crown, and below it is a banner with the text "Cat Café". The words "Kitty Kingdom" are written in a decorative font above the shield.

The logo for "Cups & Claws Café" features a blue coffee cup with a white lid and a steam rising from it. The words "CUPS & Claws" are written in a playful, cursive font on the side of the cup, and "CAFÉ" is written below it. A small illustration of a cat's face is visible on the right side of the cup.

When in the Hampton Roads area, be sure to visit our partners, Kitty Kingdom Cat Café, 565 Cedar Road Suite 12, Chesapeake and Cups & Claws Cat Café, 11006 Warwick Blvd Suite 458, Newport News! Tell them that Garfield's Rescue sent you!

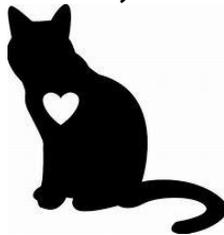


Love kittens?
 Wish they'd stay small forever?
 Well the next best thing would be to
 foster kittens until they're at an adoptable
 age, then get a new set of kittens.

Garfield's Rescue, Inc.
 PO Box 257
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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!