



RIKKI'S REFLECTIONS

If you're reading Reflections right now (which I know you are), you want to change the world as much as I do. You want to see a world of compassion and kindness and peace and happiness for everybody. No matter how long their ears are or how many legs they have. You want to see a time when no one is brutally murdered because nobody wants them and nobody will give them a home. Young or old, sick or well, challenged or not. You want a world where they are all loved and cherished.

And you know there is one way to reach this goal. SPEUTER. Spay and neuter EVERYTHING. Stop the overpopulation, stop the death.



Photo courtesy Paul Erhard

It matters here at Rikki's Refuge, it matters in Orange County, it matters in Virginia, it matters in the United States, it matters in the world. And on this note the Speuter Commuter idea was born. You'll read in this issue of Reflections about our first International Speuter Clinic. Those who supported this venture - THANK YOU. Funding for this project came only from specifically designated donations, not from our general fund.



Mayan Families, who we worked with on this project, can put together a Speuter Day, "fixing" 25 cats and dogs, and working to educate their owners for \$500. In conjunction with our vet, Dr. Meredith Vargas of Culpeper Animal Hospital, we hope to help raise the funds so they can run a Speuter Clinic once a month. If this is a pet project of yours, please designate a donation to Rikki's Refuge Speuter Commuter. We will maintain an ongoing fund for this project.

As we head into our 11th year here at Rikki's Refuge, we've got lots of exciting things coming up. Kerri will be telling you about our events in detail in the next few pages.

Our Second Annual Golf Tournament is just around the corner, please be there! Last year was so much fun and this year is guaranteed to be even better.

Sponsor Appreciation Day will be May 31st this year. The pleasure of your company is requested. This is a day just for YOU. We have entertainment, Larry at the grill serving up a delicious vegan BBQ, lots of entertainment watching Larry fight the goats off the veggie burgers!!! It's your chance to meet the Spokes Animals and all their friends and listen to Vincent and Duke Thomas Peabody campaign for Cats vs. Dogs. And it's my chance to get to see you in person and say THANK YOU for making this dream of life to so many animals come true. Please, I pray you can visit us for Sponsor Appreciation Day.



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IN MEMORY OF LOUISE and RIKKI



We shall carry on the tradition of love and compassion to all living beings.

Thanks to the economy, I don't think we'll be doing any expanding this year!!! We must maintain our own and we still have some projects left over that we need your help on.

Chicken City has almost finished a major overhaul, it just needs some finishing touches. Bovine Boulevard, Capri Corners and Ramsey Residence need a large multi purpose barn. Are you up for a good old fashioned barn raising party? Anybody out there want to do the design, beg for donated lumber and get it started?

The handicapped Turkeys, Ducks and Geese are squawking about their new and improved and enlarged aviary with the natural pond they were promised ... how many years ago was it? It will sit next to their current area where a natural swale in the land will feed their new pond (Daddy, come dig their pond like you did for the pigs). It will be 50 feet wide (at least) giving them a minimum of two and a half times their current space.

Rabbit Rotunda needs the roof netting replaced. I've found a better material for this upgrade. It's had a lot of repairs over the years and will not withstand much more serious weather. I prayed that we'd get through the winter. Rabbit Rotunda is also filling up - or I should say is full. We'd like to build a second Rotunda next door so we can split the population. Since they share with so many other species, we could all spread out a bit.

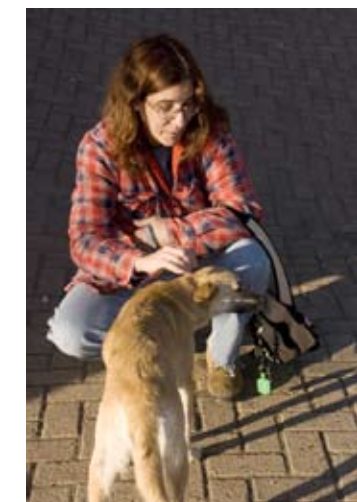
We have so much we want to do and it's all up to YOU!!!

At the top of the ASAP list, we have to pay off the debt we've accumulated over the last year or so. Gas prices seemed to tip everything in the inflation direction. And it didn't slide back down when gas did. The price of our cat litter (pound for pound, the single item we use the most of) more than doubled. Inside here you'll read the continuation of Lou Gato's story on cat litter. Purina is kind enough to donate "defective" litter to us. Sometimes it will cover us for a month or so. But we still have to buy much of our litter. And the price of that litter DOUBLED last year.

The price of labor went up with the rise in minimum wage and it goes up again this summer. It went up for us even worse when some of our regular volunteers had to go back to work or get a second job to pay their own bills. If we don't have volunteers to properly care for our 1,200 animals, we must have employees. The animals simply cannot go without proper care and cleaning EVERY DAY. Someone once said to me, "Leave the cat runs for the weekend, you just feed all week and I'll clean on the weekends." Right! In a week it'd be up to your knees!!! 400 pounds of kitty poop times 7 days = uhhh, how'd it get that disgusting????!!! Every square inch of every animal area must be scrubbed and cleaned every single day. Some places more than once a day.

And speaking of the budget! Don't even think about hay and straw. Winter bedding for everybody, we go through TRUCKLOADS of straw. And everybody here except the cats and dogs eat hay all winter. Hay went up a few years ago because of the drought, then it went up because it was too wet, then it went up because the price of diesel to run the tractors and balers went up, then it went up because the price to deliver went up. Goats eat anything - soon it will be cheaper to just feed them the dollar bills!

Cat food, dog food, cow food, goat food, pig food - all went up 25-50%. No kidding! Have you looked at prices lately? I'm sure the grocery store has you in as much shock as the feed store does me. Every delivery, the price is higher. This really is Price Subject to Change Without Notice!



Life is expensive - but it's definitely our preferred method!!! And we'll do everything in our power - with your help - to continue being able to keep 1,200 animals alive, happy and healthy at Rikki's Refuge.

Thank you for sparing what you can and keeping the dream and the animals alive!!!

Kerry Hilliard
Executive Director - Rikki's Refuge



OUR MISSION

Rikki's Refuge is a 367 acre, no-kill, all species peaceful sanctuary, supported solely by donations from kind and loving individuals, just like you. Our mission is to reduce, with the ultimate goal to totally eliminate, homelessness amongst animals of all species. Loving, thinking, breathing individuals who so often must pay the ultimate price for their simple crime of being homeless with their very lives. Creatures who want the same chance to life and love and peace and happiness that you and I do. We carry out this mission by:

- rescuing homeless, abandoned, abused and or injured domestic and farm animals, providing medical care (traditional, alternative and holistic), finding suitable homes for adoption, and for many (the handicapped, the elderly, the unsocial, those displaced due to the death, incapacitation or displacement of their human companion) providing permanent shelter, care, love and compassion;
- promoting zero pet population growth through education and low-cost or free spay/neuter in an attempt to reduce the number of homeless animals, which often end up in animal shelters;
- promoting awareness of the animal kingdom through educational programs that teach compassion, for we firmly believe one who learns to feel compassion toward any living creature makes the world a more compassionate, caring and peaceful planet; our programs are designed for children, the elderly, the homeless and the handicapped;
- providing a site for safe release and the future home of rehabilitated native Virginia wildlife;
- maintaining 297 acres of pristine natural woodlands and wetlands where native Virginia wildlife may always roam free of human intervention.

Rikki's Refuge is owned & operated by Life Unlimited of Virginia, Inc, an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Virginia Corporation. Federal Tax-ID 54-1911042. Members: Combined Federal Campaign #77674, Combined Virginia Campaign #3163, PetsMart Charities #1377, iGive, paypal.com (mail@rikkisrefuge.org), your donations provide direct support. A financial statement is available upon written request from the State Office of Consumer Affairs.

A big thanks to the hard working, dedicated members of Rikki's Board Directors: Joe Callahan, Jan Chetnik, Candy and Paul Erhard, Fred Friedman, Kathy and Mike Gallagher, Elizabeth Hamilton, Ron Herfurth, Kerry Hilliard, Judy and Kurt Link, Rene Luther, Deloris Quick, Larry Ramsey, Mariza Soliman, Mary Walker, Rober Wallace, Mike Wood. Advisors, Coordinators and Liaisons: Debra Barrett, Paula Burns, Andi Dies, Laurie Karnay, Eleanor Kaufer, Judith Peele, Tom Sabol, Lena Stocks, Jane Whitmore, Kerri Williams. Invited Guests: Kathy Doucette, Melanie Hansford, Alyce Smith, Donna Winans, Cindy Wright.

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— YOU'RE INVITED —

SPONSOR APPRECIATION DAY

SPRING INTO THE ANIMALS

OPEN HOUSE

MAY 31, 2009
12pm - 4pm



This is the one where we get to see all our old friends, our sponsors, donors and volunteers who have been such an important part of Rikki's Refuge; who have helped us make Rikki's what it is today. This is the one where we get to meet new friends who become members of Rikki's family.



Yes folks, this is the one - the first Open House of 2009.

Meet and greet the animals and find out what we're doing at Rikki's this year. Hear the story of how we came to be. Did you know we now have over 600 cats in residence?

Learn about volunteering for Rikki's and what you can do to help. Sign up for Volunteer Training and become part of the project we call Rikki's Refuge.

Visit our gift shop. Support the animals and buy a Rikki's T-shirt. Wear it proudly. We also have a variety of beautiful handmade gifts created by our volunteers who donate all proceeds to Rikki's Refuge.

Bring your camera and get great shots of the critters. Register for Rikki's photography class and learn how to Photograph Your Animals Like a Pro.

Join us for a Vegan BBQ specially prepared by our own Larry Ramsey and have your picture sketched by regional artist Carrol Morgan.

Admission fee is 2 (or more) cans of cat or dog food per person. Tours leave the gift shop every half hour.

CATS VS DOGS

While you're celebrating with us, don't forget to cast your final donation vote in the 5th Annual Cats vs Dogs contest. Vincent's charming personality has given his brood a victory for the past four years, but now it's time to overturn the run and give the dogs their due. Duke, the dignified gentledog that he is, asks only for love and kindness to all animals, not just dogs. His goal this year is to see all homeless animals with a loving family and food in their belly. Vincent, as in past years, while a spokescat for all creatures, hopes to again profit from the canned cat food donations that seem to shroud his campaign every year.

While the humans here at Rikki's don't take sides, and while we understand the importance of Vincent's canned cat food campaign - let's face it, we do have over 600 cats - we'd like to see the underdog, that would be Duke, get a head's up on the vote count this year. He's got 40 dogs to support at the Refuge, as well as the over 600 aforementioned cats and ... well, Rikki's is now housing over 1,200 animals and they all need to eat. And while Vincent's campaign does support all the animals at Rikki's Refuge, it just seems to swing, how do we say? Personally, we think he's saving those cans to sell on ebay to make money for a trip to Washington, DC to vie for his place as the Presidential Cat.

May 31st will be the last day to donate. Support the cause and support the dogs...um, cats of Rikki's Refuge. And remember, no matter who you vote for, all the animals of Rikki's Refuge benefit from your kind and loving support.



"The more you love, the more you'll find,
That life is good and friends are kind.
For only what we give away,
Enriches us from day to day."
---Helen Steiner Rice

Call it karma, giving back, buying your spot on the planet or just kindness. It's what makes us all feel good. It's knowing that we're a part of good change slowly happening each and every day.

THIS AND THAT

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR ANIMALS LIKE A PRO

Yes, you can photograph your cats without their eyes glowing like aliens at a night invasion! Yes, you can photograph your dog without making his snout look enormous! And, yes, you can photograph those small animals without losing them in the mass of surrounding furniture!

On Saturday, May 9th, from 9 am - 12 pm, you can learn the secrets of taking great photos of your beloved pet. This class is not a camera class, but you will need a camera. In fact, you can bring any camera you want, from a point and shoot to a high end SLR (a digital camera will provide an instant review of your photos). In this class, you'll learn to develop your eye, how to frame your shot, how to get the best picture possible. This is a working class where we'll be touring Rikki's Refuge and taking pictures of Rikki's animals. Please note that you will get wet, muddy and slobbered on. You'll be outdoors and should wear waterproof shoes, old clothes, long pants, sun lotion, hats, etc; dress for the weather. Warning - lots of prickles and hooves so sandals and shorts aren't recommended and please keep in mind that animals can bite, kick and butt.



Photograph Your Animals Like A Pro is a hands on, one on one course with professional pet photographer Kerri Williams of Magpi Studios. Kerri is Rikki's Refuge's Official Photographer and has been photographing animals since 2003. She is a member of the Professional Photographers Association. This three hour course will focus on practical skills where you'll gain insight on the three qualities that Kerri devotes to photographing animals - patience, understanding and respect. During the class, we will also explore a bit of nature photography. Cost is \$100 in advance (please register by April 30th) and includes a vegetarian lunch at which time we'll answer any remaining questions and share our experiences. Magpi Studios will donate all proceeds to Rikki's Refuge.

Due to the nature of this class and working with the animals of Rikki's, this class is limited to six participants. This allows for direct interaction with the animals as well as personal attention from Kerri. If you have questions about the class, please contact Kerri at info@magpi studios.com. You can register at www.rikkisrefuge.org/photoclass.



THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

Spring is in the air and the animals have caught its scent. They know it's time to cut the fields and permeate the air with the smell of fresh, cut grass. They know it's time for new straw, new bedding. They know it's time to repair the fences and paint the buildings. They know it's spring. And they want you to know. Over the years, they've caught the chatter of humans and want to pass on to you the top reasons to volunteer.

Feels So Good - Good karma and all that. Nothing makes you feel better than doing something good for those who can't help themselves.

It Does A Body Good - You can't beat a day of fresh air and exercise.

Getting To Know You - Meet new people and make new friends with other animal lovers.

I Got Skills - There are lots of projects that require specific talents. Let us know what you can do and we'll match you to the perfect project.

If you'd like to experience the joy of volunteering at Rikki's, it's best to first visit the Refuge. Come see us at a tour or open house to get a feel for the animals and life at Rikki's. This way, you know what you're getting into. If at that time you're interested in volunteering, we offer volunteer training the first Saturday of every month (unless that Saturday is a holiday, then it's the second Saturday of the month). Training lasts about an hour and trainees are welcome to stay and work on whatever project needs doing that day.

RSVP is a must for volunteer training so we can make sure a volunteer coordinator is available. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer for Rikki's Refuge, please contact Mary Walker for information at HorsesDCats@aol.com.

The animals hope to see you soon.

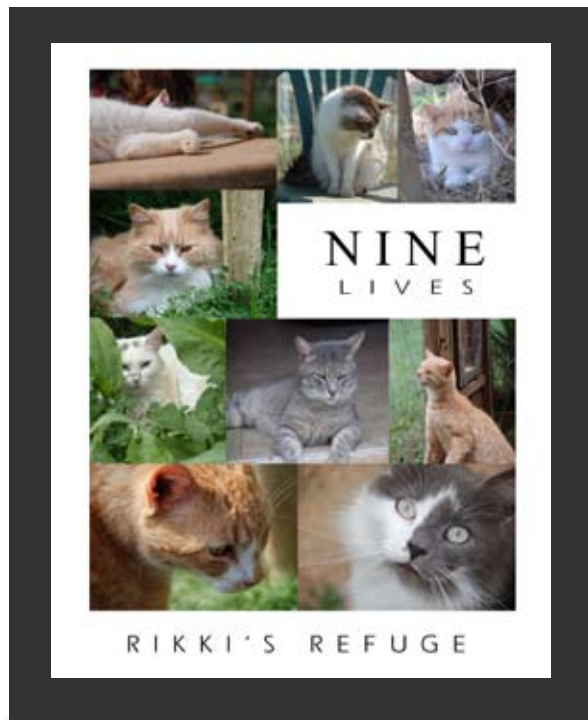


Looking for something to do today?

Go to iSearchiGive.com and raise 2¢ for Rikki's for each search you do. Enter Rikki's Refuge as your cause when you sign up. Use iSearchiGive.com as your preferred website. For every 50 searches you do, that's \$1 for Rikki's. That \$1 will feed four hungry creatures a good meal today. So, learn something new today. Search the internet today. Feed four of Rikki's animals today!

NINE LIVES

Rikki's Refuge is home to over 600 cats. Many of them come to us because they are ill or injured. Most come because they're unwanted.



Share in your love of cats with a full colored, limited edition print, aptly titled Nine Lives.

For this piece, photographer Kerri Williams has selected nine of her most compelling studies, all portraits of Rikki's cats, to produce a truly unique montage of nine distinctive feline lives. Through Kerri's generosity, Rikki's is able to make this memorable work, suitable for framing and hanging with pride in your home, available for \$47 (plus \$6.95 shipping and handling). Only 200 prints have been made available for purchase.

With the purchase of your print, you will contribute to the care and well being of the cats at Rikki's Refuge. Each 11"x14" glossy print is personally signed and numbered by the artist and will capture the heart of every cat lover.

To order your limited edition Nine Lives print, send your name, address and payment to:

Rikki's Refuge
PO Box 1357
Orange, VA 22980

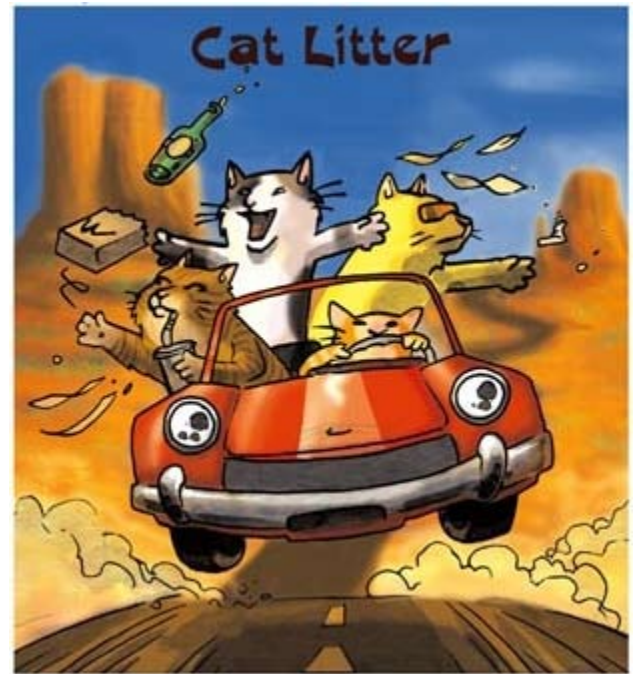
CIRCLES FOR RIKKI'S REFUGE

How, you ask, does a circle benefit Rikki's Refuge? It's just a thing, nothing more than a plane curve equidistant from its center. You'll find this particular circle we speak of on packages of Purina pet food. It's called a weight circle and contains the weight of the package of pet food you purchased. All you have to do is cut 'em out, save 'em up and send 'em to Rikki's. We'll take it from there.

You see, the folks at Purina help by converting the weights into points, giving Rikki's a rebate. For every circle you send in - doesn't matter if it's from cat food or dog food - we cash them in to help cover our expenses.

So start cutting and saving those circles, then send them to Rikki's. Every little bit helps.

GET YOUR VERY OWN COLLECTORS EDITION PUN CALENDAR



Lou Gato, Rikki's Creature Chronicler, has an old friend named Lloyd Leifer who has created an ingenious 2009 calendar containing his famous illustrated puns. Each calendar is guaranteed to contain 12 months, many including as many as 31 days! And with each month comes a unique visual pun, similar to the one shown above, taken from Lloyd's highly acclaimed book, "Who You Callin' a Cheetah?" (www.tdfpub.com). Each calendar is a full 12" x 12" closed, or 12" x 24" when hanging up opened, with the visual pun on top and the month grid below, with lots of room to write your appointments for each day and 12 visual puns, each colorfully and lavishly illustrated (Disclaimer: Only 4 out of the 12 visual puns are animal related.) But you're supporting a cause here. Read on:

When you turn the calendar over, you'll see the suggested retail price of \$12.95. We're asking \$20 per calendar. But, hey, this is a charitable purpose. And we gotta cover our shipping and handling (included in the \$20), too. We're not really in the calendar shipping business, so it takes a lot of handling. Speaking of charity, all proceeds do go to Rikki's; Lloyd very generously donated the calendars, and Lou Gato is donating the shipping costs. So your \$20 (or more ... please be generous) goes entirely to Rikki's.

Now here's the important part. Yeah, it's March already. So why would you buy a 2009 calendar in March (or April or May, depending when you're reading this)? Well, there's something extra special that Lloyd built into this calendar just for friends of Rikki's: If you keep your calendar totally intact, if you don't write too many things in all the spaces, you can save your Collector's Edition calendar and reuse it in 2015! The months will say 2009, but the days will all be numbered correctly, and you can use the calendar to nostalgically remember the year we all went broke.

Yup ... that's it ... for only \$20.00, you can own this unique piece of soon-to-be history. Lloyd won't be creating any more calendars for future years.

Lloyd sent us only 50 calendars, so you have to act now (or at least by 2015, when we'll offer them again, if they haven't sold) to make sure that you get yours.

To get your Pun Calendar, contact Lou Gato at lgato@rikkisrefuge.org.

*We make a living by what we get,
we make a life by what we give.*

Sir Winston Churchill

SPEUTER COMMUTERS - BACK FROM PANAMA

EXPANDING OUR LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD

Our little corner of the world sits on 367 acres of farm and woodlands in the rural regions of Orange County, VA. Over 1,200 managed animals and countless wildlife live in our corner, a little like Noah's ark without the two count. Everything from cats and dogs to sheep and pigs to rabbits, guinea pigs, goats and llamas. Rikki's Refuge provides a forever home for 20 species of animals, most who would otherwise have been killed for slaughter, misbehavior, temperament or simply for not having a home. Our little corner of the world is happy and safe.



Rikki's knows that outside of our little corner, animals aren't quite so free from danger and harm. They're prone to disease, subject to abuse and frequently abandoned, likely to suffer an untimely death. Such is the case in Guatemala, where after hearing about the plight of the animals in that region, volunteers from Rikki's reached out with others and joined in an endeavor to help that little corner of the world.

LIVING LIFE ON THE EDGE

Little regard is given to the animal world in Guatemala. According to AWARE, an animal welfare organization operating out of Antigua, Guatemala, animals serve a purpose, ranging from food and work to prestige. Parrots and monkeys have their nests robbed so their babies can be sold to tourists in the markets. Small animals are hunted for food and sport. Horses and mules suffer inadequate diets and poor treatment while being expected to carry disproportionate loads.

Pets are seen as little more than status symbols or protection. And once their purpose is served, either as the result of boredom or the animals have become old



and useless, they're often left abandoned to fend for themselves in the streets. The same goes for the sick and disabled. Vet care is either unavailable or too expensive. Abandonment is an easier solution than finding a cure or comfort for the animal.

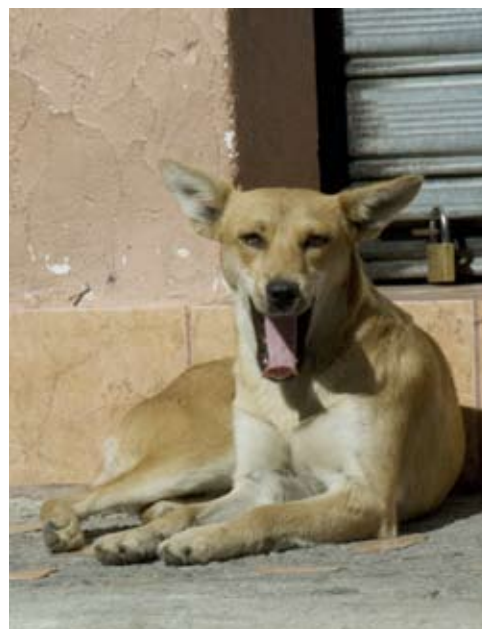


Dogs suffer a great deal of misfortune in Guatemala. Many are malnourished and often sent to the streets to scavenge for whatever food they can find. Others are left chained to cinder blocks for life. Some fall to the fate of village superstition.

Patti Mort, co-founder of Mayan Families, a non-profit organization that helps the indigenous people of Guatemala, says, "The Maya believe that if a dog gives birth in the house and a small child sees the puppies, the child can start vomiting and have diarrhea and possibly die." No one knows where this belief started;



possibly a child got sick while a female dog gave birth, possibly something completely unrelated to the event occurring, and it created a superstition that spread and held. Whatever the circumstances, it resulted in female dogs being left on the streets to survive.



Those left on the streets risk danger on a daily basis. They root through the trash for something to fill an empty stomach. They rely on the kindness of locals and tourists to feed them. They sit in the doorways of restaurants begging for scraps before the owner literally kicks them away. They suffer the scars of scalding oil being thrown on them by street vendors. And unfortunately, for those animals that cross the path of animal control, they suffer a horrible death with a last meal of strychnine laced meat, something no starving animal can resist.



AN IDEA COMES TOGETHER

In December, Rikki's little corner of the world converged on Panajachel, Guatemala to assist with the efforts of Mayan Families to help the animals that live there and in the surrounding villages. It started with a spark of an idea from Rikki's vet, Dr. Meredith Vargas, owner of Culpeper Animal Hospital, and spread a wildfire of hope and life for the animals living in that area.

Dr. Vargas and her husband Juan adopted two children from Guatemala, and through the process, spent



five months in the region. During that time, they became friends with other adoptive parents which resulted in their efforts to help the people of Guatemala through Mayan Families. The adoptive families formed a group called Helping Mayan Families and organized their first trip together to assist Mayan Families with tamale basket distribution, school programs, a medical clinic and a vet clinic.

Dr. Vargas shared the idea with Kerry who gathered together four volunteers from Rikki's Refuge to journey to the Lake Atitlan region and assist with the operation of a four day spouter (spay/neuter) clinic for the domestic and street animals of Panajachel and Solola.

Funding to equip and run the clinic came in through two yard sales held at Culpeper

Animal Hospital, with donations supplied by Rikki's volunteers and Dr. Vargas' clients. Rikki's also assisted with the fundraising, with donations designated specifically for this project. No funds came from Rikki's operating budget and all volunteers contributed to the cause by paying for their own travel expenses, food and lodging.

The Helping Mayan Families' spouter clinic was held in conjunction with Mayan Families' Healthy Pets Program. The Healthy Pets Program started around 15 years ago as a "back yard sort of operation", funded by Sharon Smart-Poage, her husband Dwight and Patti Mort, all co-founders of Mayan Families. Sharon's daughter, Zoe, played a big role in starting this branch of Mayan Families and posted the first photos on the website. The spouter clinic of the Healthy Pets Program has been ongoing for about four years with the help of a vet from Guatemala City who came to the area whenever possible.

A few years back, Panajachel acquired its first certified vet, Dr. Miguel, who calls his practice Zoo Mazcota. Dr. Miguel has a great love for animals and would come from Guatemala City with a friend to help the clinic in Panajachel. He saw the need for his services there, moved to the village, opened his own clinic and now works side by side with Mayan Families.

"The Healthy Pets Program clinic runs on a shoestring," says Patti. "Its main goal is spay/neuter and shots." The clinic offers emergency care when possible, but because of its limited funding, their capacity to help suffering animals is also limited. Many times the funding comes from the pockets of Mayan Families or "another caring soul."



To help lengthen the shoestring the clinic runs on, Dr. Vargas and her group collected enough donations from caring individuals and groups to leave supplies and medications with the Healthy Pet Program for future clinics.



WORKING IN A FOREIGN LAND

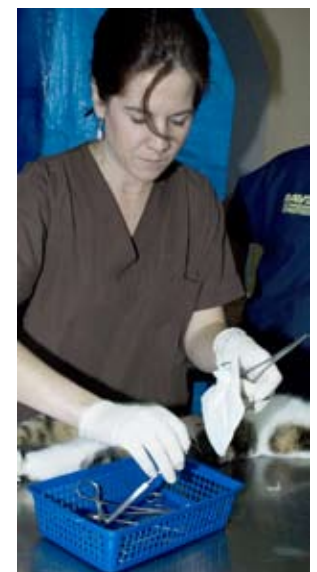
With three vets, Dr. Miguel's two vet assistants, seven vet students from Guatemala City and six volunteers, the work began on a steady stream of cats and dogs.

Dr. Vargas had to learn a new spay/neuter technique, due to the conditions in Panajachel. The animals also underwent a different anesthetic protocol that would have them anesthetized for only thirty minutes, a shorter time than that used in the States. The surgery differed with a smaller incision and the use of sterile zip ties for ligation rather than suturing. This procedure allowed for animals to be handed over to their owners within a few hours of surgery and kept the street dogs in the clinic overnight, rather than the normal 10 days required for antibiotics and observation, a practice they don't have the room or supplies for in Panajachel.

After surgery, the animals were placed in the care of volunteers and vet students. Rikki's volunteers Kerry Hilliard, Lena Stocks, Beth Hamilton and April Nelson, along with Francine Begli and Mike Brown gave necessary vaccines, monitored heart rates, applied bandages and turned patients to avoid fluid buildup. As the animals came out of anesthesia, they were crated until retrieved by their owner (with specific instructions on how to care for the healing animal); or, in the case of street dogs, until they could be released the next day. Volunteers also assisted with pre-op procedures.



In the end, 88 animals were spoutered and 45 given rabies vaccinations. De-worming and tick and flea treatment were given when possible.





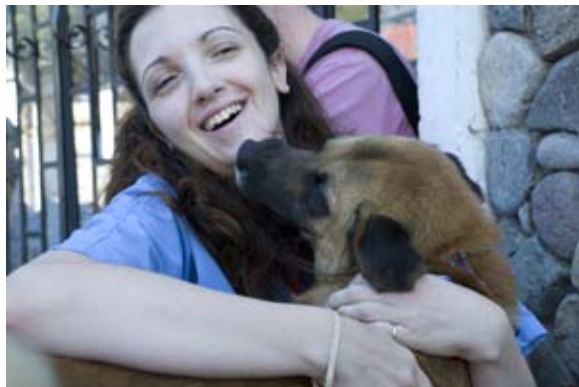
A GLIMMER OF HOPE

The hardest part of this work for Rikki's volunteers was seeing the condition of the animals, the suffering they endured; not just in the clinic, but also on the streets. At the Refuge, we know when an animal comes to us, no matter the condition upon its arrival, we do everything possible to bring that animal back to full health and wait patiently to see the life come back into its eyes. In Panajachel, our hands were tied. There was nothing we could do on a long term basis, something that lies within our being, to ensure the health and well being of these creatures.



We saw dogs who had birthed so many litters that their teats nearly dragged on the ground. We saw infections and parasites that we only hoped would be controlled by someone giving the proper medication to their animal. We saw every rib on street dogs who were too afraid of us to eat the food we offered. We saw dogs slink away in fear of other dogs as survival of the fittest was part of street life when scavenging for food. We saw animals kicked and stomped away. We saw them sleeping on the street and wandering by the lake - lost, it seemed, in a world they didn't quite understand.

But even under the harsh conditions where these animals live, there is hope. There was the puppy, only weeks old, who had been dumped in the river, found and brought to the clinic by a caring woman. The pup was so hungry it chewed the wires of the crate we put it in. After feeding it and giving it the care we could for its age, the same woman agreed to foster the pup. There were two other puppies who were found and brought to the clinic, both crawling with parasites, some sort of lice, and again, we treated, and someone stepped forward to foster these two, hoping to find them a forever home. There was the emaciated female dog brought to the clinic by three young boys to be spayed and who we educated regarding the proper care for this poor little lady.



Rikki's volunteers did what they could. There was Romeo and Juliet, two street dogs that stayed together. Lena named them, searched for them one morning while waiting for the ride to the clinic, leashed them and brought them to the clinic to be spayed. There was Shaggy who had a 15 minute reunion on the street with Lena a few days after his surgery. There was Lena checking a dog's spay (from the previous day) one morning by the lake. There was Beth buying a loaf of bread for a starving dog she found one



evening on the street and feeding it until it was scared away by another animal. Beth who so gracefully placed a leash over a street dog's head that it didn't even know what was happening. There was Kerri and Patti who released Chico (named by Mike) who, while not too crazy about the truck ride, moved straight to the trash can for his breakfast after jumping out of the vehicle. There was April, crawling into a crate to make a terrified street dog as comfortable as possible. April, holding tight a recovering mutt. April, translating every word for us.



And then there was Kerry. Kerry, whose heart lives in the animal world, methodically prepping meds; comforting dogs and cats of every size no matter their condition; keeping order as a cat lost it coming out of anesthesia, scruffing it and getting it safely to a crate. There was Kerry feeding the dogs on the street and looking for cats and catching video of everything in sight. There was Kerry full of compassion for every creature who crossed her path, wanting each and every one of them to have a decent home, food in their belly and lifelong care.

For every little thing we could give these creatures, we were pointed at and laughed at, but we didn't care. While these animals may have little value to the people of the region, to us, they were the most valued creatures in the land.



ONGOING EFFORTS



Mayan Families' Healthy Pets Program was created to raise awareness, reduce overpopulation and address public health issues with the goal of relieving the suffering of domestic animals in the area. They continue to offer spay and vaccination clinics for the pets of the region as well as the dogs that roam the streets. Their school education program teaches humane treatment of animals and they have partnered with San Carlos University in Guatemala City to provide practical experience to undergraduate students working with the vet clinic.

Education is the main focus of their program. In the schools, they provide animal movies for the children to watch and learn how to treat an animal. They also feel the spay clinics serve as an education for adults, teaching them that they don't need "five dogs in their yard." According to Patti, "They learn by example that population control improves their quality of life."

As for the strychnine poisonings, Patti tells us that it no longer happens in Panajachel. Unfortunately, it does still occur in other villages. In Panajachel, the government does see the benefits of the Healthy Pets Program and assists with advertising upcoming clinics. Mayan Families has also been approached by other areas to run clinics. The clinic in Solola was the first off location clinic run by Mayan Families and garnered more attention to the program with the help of Guatevision, a national television station, who came out to interview Dr. Miguel and the vet students.

Mayan Families also offers shoes, a much appreciated commodity in the region, in exchange for spay. "The indigenous have no value for the pets," says Patti, "So we lure them with a promise of shoes." For each animal spayed, the family receives a voucher for a free pair of shoes from Mayan Families. The shoes come from folks who help collect them in the States.



Mayan Families partners with AWARE, operating in Antigua, Guatemala. AWARE's principal activity is the rescue and rehabilitation of domestic animals. They have a permanent on-site spay clinic and run a no-kill shelter where all animals not adopted are kept and provided for. Their educational provisions include school visits, and occasionally, home visits.

Both groups feel the solution to the animal problem in the region is proper education for the humane treatment of animals and spay to control overpopulation.

As for Dr. Vargas, she would like to run more spay clinics in the area and has focused her efforts on raising enough money for Dr. Miguel to run a one day clinic each month. The cost of a monthly clinic is \$500 and would allow 25 animals to be spayed. If you'd like to donate to this cause, you can make a donation to Rikki's Refuge Pana Project by sending a note on your PayPal or other donation that it's for the Pana Spay Clinic.



To learn more about Mayan Families, visit them at www.mayanfamilies.org. To learn more about AWARE, visit them at www.animalaware.org.

PANA '09

While those in Guatemala are doing all they can to move forward in their efforts of animal welfare, Dr. Vargas is planning her next trip to Panajachel. She says her focus there will be "on teaching to promote efficient, safe and humane processes and to stimulate the field of veterinary medicine in Guatemala."

And most likely, a team from Rikki's will join her again. For every animal that came into the clinic, and for every animal met on the street, they left with a friend from the United States that would remember them for a lifetime. A friend from Rikki's Refuge. And while Rikki's keeps the animals comfortable and safe in our own little corner of the world, there will always be another corner for Rikki's Refuge to reach out and help.



Contributed by Kerri Williams. Kerri journeyed to Guatemala to photo-document the vet clinic project, and as many homeless dogs as possible, with the hope of bringing awareness to the situation regarding these animals and all animals who suffer in this world.



Tidy Cats Helps Rikki's Cats Think Inside the Box - Part 2

Special to Rikki's Reflections by Lou Gato, Your Creature Chronicler

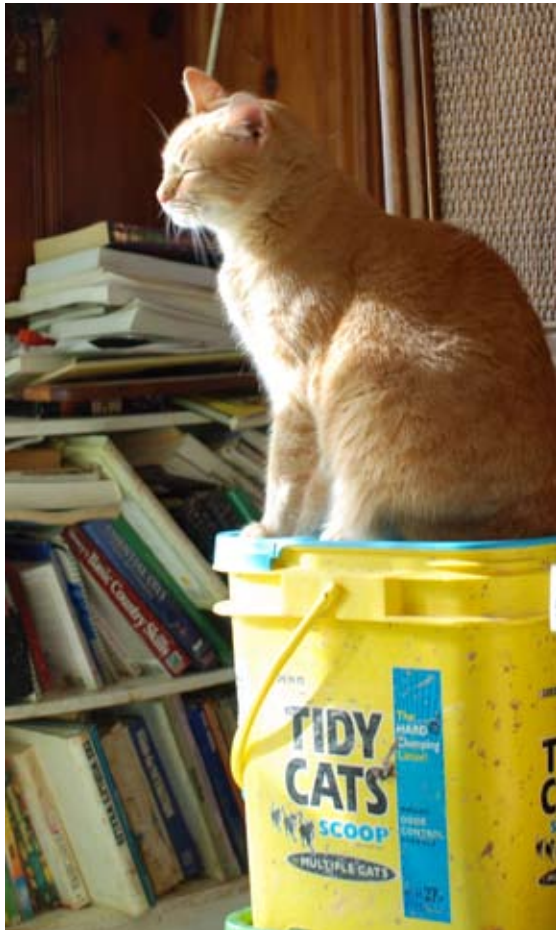
If you remember from Part I, we discovered that Edward Lowe invented Kitty Litter in 1947, and he was selling \$200 million of it by 1990.

If you remember from Part I, you're doing better than old Lou here, who doesn't even remember what he had for breakfast today. But, let's move ahead, and see what happened to Kitty Litter after 1990.

It was in 1990 that Edward Lowe realized that he was getting older, and he decided that the best way to assure the successful continuation of his company was to sell it to venture capitalists with proven management expertise. The venture capitalists did okay for themselves, because they sold Golden Cat Corporation (the renamed Edward Lowe Industries, Inc.) to Ralston Purina Company in 1995, just five years later.

Ralston Purina was then acquired by Nestlé S.A. in 2001, which merged Purina's pet food and cat litter products with their own Friskies and Alpo brands to create the Nestlé Purina PetCare division.

Sounds like big corporate business. But not so big that Ralston Purina couldn't come visit us here in l'il ole Virginy. In 1997, based on their experience with cat litter, they decided to invest some scratch right here in King William County, VA. \$20.1 million, in fact! For a spiffy, new 150,000 square foot factory, producing nothing but cat litter, and employing about 80 people. The site was chosen because of the presence of high-quality clay deposits, the raw material used in cat litter. The factory mines its own clay, processes it, packages it, and ships it all over the mid-Atlantic region, to the tune of about 175,000 tons per year. And these are the very guys that so wonderfully donate "factory seconds" to Rikki's, so that our cats can potty with Purina.



But, wait! What Nestlé Purina manufactures here in Virginia is Tidy Cats litter. What happened to Kitty Litter? It's gone. The brand name has been retired. Perhaps because people used it generically to refer to the product of any manufacturer. Yes, Tidy Cats does have competition, although they do have about 30% market share.

Edward Lowe started the Tidy Cats brand (actually, it was called Tidy Cat back then, but who has only one cat?) in 1964. So, for a while, Tidy Cats competed with Kitty Litter, even though they were both manufactured and marketed by the same company. Why not? Whether you buy an Oldsmobile or a Chevrolet, you're still giving your bucks to General Motors.

And whether you use Tidy Cats or another brand, you're still tossing out a lot of cat litter. Over 2 million tons per year (well, maybe not you personally, that's the USA total), which is about 100,000 truck loads heading off to the landfill. No wonder it's so hard to find a break in traffic to pull out of your driveway!



It's kind of a shame to toss out all this perfectly good (albeit used) cat litter, because it keeps getting better year after year. Yup, cat litter's come a long way since being just plain old clay in 1947.

Way back in 1977, Kitty Litter added a microencapsulated deodorant. Did you know there was such high tech back in 1977? Did people even know what "microencapsulated" meant back then? Do people have any idea what it means today? Where can I get the stuff for some of my co-workers?

Scooping, or clumping, cat litter entered the market about 1990. Instead of having that smelly, gray blotch in your old-style litter, you can have a nice, hard ball of urine-created cement in your litter box, a ball that you can just scoop out and toss away. Tidy Cats even advertised, in 1999, that their Scoop (brand) formula enhanced clump hardness over time. Sounds like something we need to help rebuild our crumbling bridges and other infrastructure; if anybody has an in with the government, I'm now taking offers on my extensive collection of used cat litter.

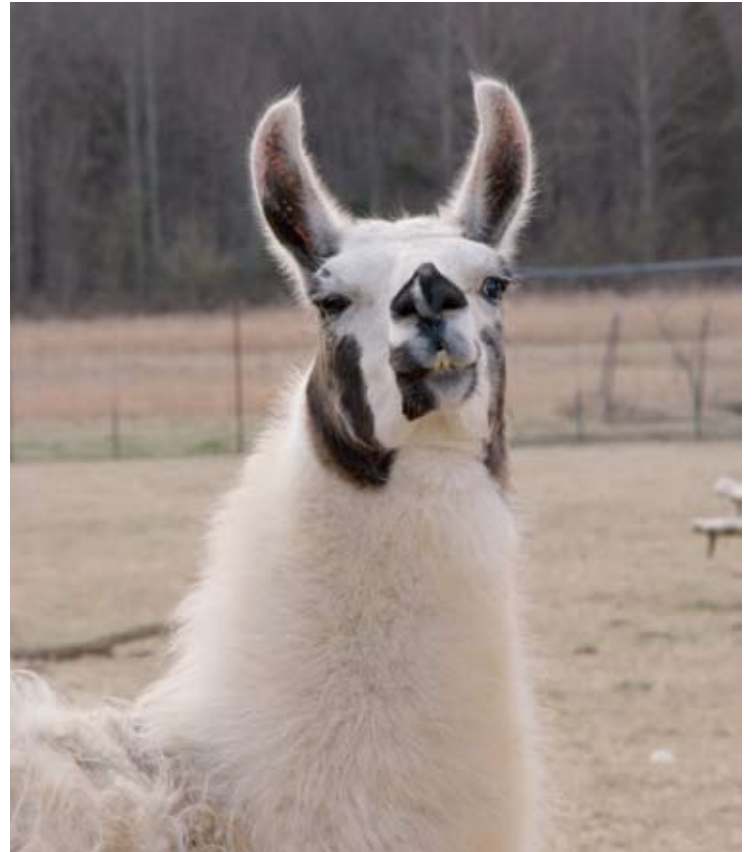
Tidy Cats has always been an innovator. In 1998, they introduced their High Performance Formula for Multiple Cats. Gentlemen, start your engines! In 2000, they introduced a Disposable Box — buy one product, let your cat use it, throw it out when you're done. As much of a throw-away society as we are, I guess that wasn't a best seller, because I don't see it on their web site now. I understand that it was a big hit among New Coke drinkers, though.



SPECIES BIO

DANCING WITH DANCER

How does one become the guardian of a llama? It goes something like this. An elderly lady, due to circumstances beyond her control, moved in with her daughter who didn't have room for the woman's beloved animal family. Call after call after call, the only reason anyone wanted her pets was for slaughter. Until she called Rikki's. We were more than happy to open Llama Lounge and invite Dancer as its first resident.



And with that, we'd like to introduce you to the world of llamas. Llamas are curious animals, but they do have a bit of a spitting problem. Not so much toward humans, more toward each other as a form of disciplining lower-ranked llamas.

Llamas are part of the camelid family, camelids originating 40 million years ago on the central plains of North America. A llama's life span is about 20 years. Llamas weigh between 280-450 pounds and reach a height of five to six feet. As pack animals, they can carry 25-35% of their body weight.

Intelligent animals, llamas can pick up a skill within one to five repetitions; things such as being led, pulling a cart or carrying a pack.

They have two-toed feet with a leathery bottom pad that allows for sure-footedness.

Llamas are social animals and need companionship. While Dancer is our only llama in residence, he isn't alone. He brought with him his extended family of goats who stay close to him in the field by Piggy Paradise.

We happily welcome Dancer and his goat family to Rikki's Refuge.



But there are still amazing things happening in the cat litter biz. Also in 2000, Tidy Cats introduced their Crystals. These are made from silica gel, and are designed to go 30 days between changes (less if more than one cat uses the litter box). They can go this long because of their super absorbency for urine; you still have to remove solid matter from the box daily.

And the latest and the greatest from Tidy Cats is Breeze — a complete litter box system that separates urine from solid matter, making the entire shootin' match easier to clean and less likely to smell. Of course, which type and which brand of cat litter you choose is a very personal decision (made with your cats' input, naturally), but what a great country we live in where the number of options is so enormous! I wonder if I should have said "made with your cats' output, naturally."

It doesn't stop there! You've probably all seen the automatic litter box cleaner (sounds like something Ronco would sell — maybe I should do an article on Ron Popeil some day), that senses when your cat leaps out of the litter box (and out of the way), and brings a rake across the top of the litter to clean things up.

Or, for those of you who would just as soon forget about the litter box altogether, there's the Kitty Transfer System, that teaches your cat to use the toilet. Unfortunately, it's a bit more difficult to teach the cat to quit that incessant flushing, as your water bill approaches the gross national product of a small European nation.

Nor does the latest in cat litter technology ignore the modern green movement. Nestlé Purina didn't call it Tidy Cats, but they do offer a cat litter made from recycled newspapers, called Yesterday's News. For the more adventurous among you, you can even make your own recycled newspaper cat litter. Just do a web search for "Make your own cat litter from old newspapers".

And be prepared to spend about 45 minutes getting you, your utensils, your clothes, and everything you touch smeared with wet newsprint. But, you and your cat should be able to have intelligent discussions about current events when you're done.

Well, time for me, your old Creature Chronicler, Lou Gato, to have a serious chat about current events with my cat. I just wish he weren't such a know-it-all! Remember; if there's anything you'd like to see me write about in a future Rikki's Reflections, let me know immediately at lgato@rkkisrefuge.org.

Until next time!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT RIKKI'S

All events are subject to change or may be cancelled without notice if we have an animal emergency or a lack of volunteer support for the day. Tours are given only on specified dates and at open houses. Please call and check before the scheduled event (540) 854-0870 x2.

MAR 1 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Join us at 2 pm for a prayer and meditation for all of the worlds creatures. Speakers welcome. RSVP early.

MAR 1 - ANIMAL ATTENTION DAY - Give some extra hugs to the homeless - take a dog for a walk, scratch a pig's belly, pat a cat.

MAR 7 - BON FIRE AND VEGAN BBQ & POT LUCK - While waiting for the full moon to rise, followed by a **FULL MOON WALK** - Join us as the sun sets and the moon rises and come on the most fabulous moonlit walk of your life. How far we go will depend on how brave you are - just around the animal areas or over the river and thru the woods? Listen to the woodland critters singing and chirping and Bring your tent and sleeping bag and stay over. *Can't make this one? Join us on APR 11 or MAY 9.*



SINGLES DAY - Come and do a day of service at Rikki's and meet like minded souls. What a great way to learn more about somebody in a safe and friendly environment. If you're an animal lover you'll want to make friends with other animal lovers. What a good chance to observe someone doing what they love and interacting with the creatures you love. You'll learn more about their true nature working side by side than over a candlelit dinner or in a dark movie theater. This is one of those "Feed two cats out of one bowl" opportunities. You know what they say about two birds and one stone? Such talk is improper at a no-kill animal sanctuary. So here we "Feed two cats out of one bowl". And that's just what you can do. Benefit yourself, meet new friends. Benefit the animals, make their lives better, make your life better. Put together a group of people to come for a work party on Singles Day. Join us on:

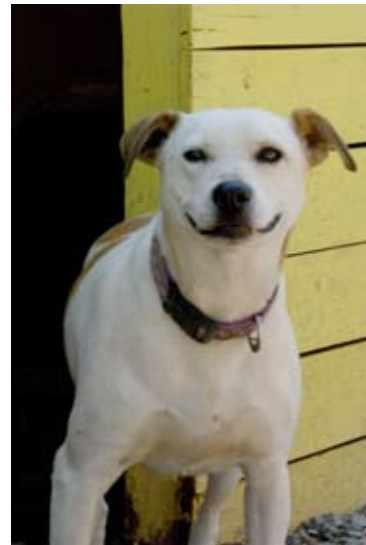
MAR 7 - CLOWN DAY - 10am - 4pm - In honor of World Clown Week, dress up like a clown and lend a hand to help a paw. The leader who puts together the biggest work party wins one of those famous Rikki's T-shirts.

APR 4 - STRAW HAT DAY - 10am - 4pm - April is National Straw Hat Month. Wear the best one you can find and come lend a hand to help a paw. The best Straw Hat wins one of those famous Rikki's T-shirts

MAY 2 - DOG vs CAT - 10am - 4pm - The team, Dog Workers or Cat Workers, with the most volunteers wins famous Rikki's T-shirts.

MAR 7 - VOLUNTEER TRAINING - 11am-1pm - RSVP a must. Volunteer Training will prepare you to work with a Volunteer Coordinator, but does not earn you a Self-Service Volunteer Badge. *Can't make this one? Join us on APR 4 or MAY 2.*

MAR 8 - SPRING CLEANUP - You name it, we have it and it needs a spring-cleaning! From hauling trash to the dump, to picking up things that have blown around and just general clean up. We're constantly working at beautifying the Refuge. So grab a mop or a rake or a trash bag and let's go!



MAR 14 - BLACK CAT DAY, FRIDAY the 13th OBSERVED - In honor of all the black cats, come and help with cat chores.

MAR 15 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS FOR GREEN - Come and help make the Refuge green again. Everything is so muddy after all the rain and snow this winter! Bring a bag of grass seed and help spread it. It will grow year after year and give lots of your friends something to chew on, to roll on, to scratch on, and to p.....p on !

MAR 21 - JOIN THE PEACOCKS - Celebrate the Vernal Equinox, and watch as Mr. Peacock's fancy turns to ... Mrs. Peacock, hens, roosters, dogs, sheep, lawn mowers. Watch him fan his magnificent tail feathers and shake them at any potential mate.

MAR 28 - CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING - On March 28, 1999 the first building starts at Rikki's Refuge - Feral Cat House #1 and Doggie Downs. All volunteers who have helped to make Rikki's what it is, join us in a day of awe as we look over all we've accomplished. VEGAN Pot Luck at 2 pm, Bon Fire at dark.

MAR 28 - SPIRITUAL GROWTH NIGHT - At Rikki's Retreat. Come and join us in a discussion/study of whatever feels right tonight, as we reach for our highest spiritual goal, who knows where these discussions may take us. Bring something for a Vegan Pot Luck Dinner. *Can't make this one? Join us on APR 25 or MAY 30.*

MAR 29 - TOUR THE REFUGE - 1 pm - On a tour you can meet the Cats of Feline Fields and the 9th Life Retirement, Assisted Living and Psychiatric Center, the Dogs of Doggy Downs, the Pigs of Piggy Paradise, the Rabbits of Rabbit Rotunda, the Guinea Pigs of Cavy Castle, the Emus of Emu Estates, the Horses of Horsey Haven, the Chickens and Roosters of Chicken City, the Guinea Fowl of Guinea Fowl Grounds, the Peacocks of Peacock Prowls, the Pigeons of Pigeon Palace, the Geese of Goosey Gardens, the Ducks of Ducky Digs, the Sheep of Ramsey Residence, the Goats of Capri Corners, the Cows of Bovine Boulevard, the Turkeys of Turkey Terrace, the llamas of Llama Lounge and whoever else is staying with us at the time. You will get to interact with the friendly cats and dogs, feed the pigs (bring apples) and sheep and goats and rabbits (bring carrots) and learn the story of why Rikki's is here and where we are going. You will see what day-to-day life is like at the Refuge and you will also be invited to join in our volunteer efforts to build new housing for new animals. Tours run about two hours and you should wear waterproof shoes, old clothes, long pants, sun lotion, hats, etc; dress for the weather as it's all outdoors and you will get wet, muddy and slobbered on! Warning - lots of prickles and hooves so sandals and shorts aren't recommended. Visit our gift shop. Buy a T-shirt. Bring your camera; you'll get great shots of the excited animals thrilled by your attention. So we can continue to provide our animals with the care they need we have to schedule tours around their needs, medical appointments, etc. Please remember animals don't run on a schedule and a tour date may be canceled if an animal needs our immediate attention. Gates open 30 minutes prior to listed time, and close 30 minutes after. You may spend any or all of our open time with us. *Can't make this one? Join us on APR 26.*



COME JOIN THE FUN

APR 5 - PICK A PET DAY - If you aren't ready to adopt another one yet, then pick one and help them get adopted and into their own new home. Become the adoption sponsor of a cat or dog, make posters, tell everyone about this one special animal. There's a home for everyone, we just need to find it. Come and meet the wonderful animals waiting to meet you.

APR 11 - RABBIT & GUINEA PIG BIRTHDAY PARTY - Celebrate for all the rabbits and guinea pigs; help beautify Rabbit Rotunda and Cavy Castle. Paint the rabbit house; bring a small can of your favorite color and a brush. Donate or transplant a bush or a tree. Build shade areas. Donate and plant ivy or grape vines for natural shade cover. Use your imagination and do something great for the rabbits.



*"Where there is love there is life."
- Mahatma Gandhi*



APR 19 - EARTH DAY GARDENING - Pick a garden spot you can call your own and cultivate it into everlasting beauty. Grow a beautiful display of flowers, maybe one aimed at attracting butterflies or bees or birds. How about a rock garden? Veggies for the critters? We need to plant trees and ivy and grape arbors for future shade. Whatever you like to grow would like to grow at Rikki's! How about stopping by your favorite nursery and asking them to donate a plant or tree or shrub or some flowers or seeds for the Refuge?

MAY 1 - RIKKI'S REFUGE 2nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT at Cannon Ridge Golf Club. For more info, see page 14.

MAY 2 - PET FIESTA in Reston

MAY 2 - RABBIT & PIG MUCK OUT DAY - Rake out the old straw and bedding and give them fresh. A chance to socialize and feel their appreciation for a new clean home.

MAY 3 - DOG PICNIC - Bring lunch for you and snack with the dogs and others who consider their best friend their best lunch companion.

MAY 3 - FRUIT TREE DAY - Fruit trees are on sale everywhere now! Donating a fruit tree to the Refuge is a gift that will go on giving year after year after year. Imagine the happy smile on the pigs' faces when they hog all 467 apples off one tree! Mary says how about some strawberries and Elvis wants grapes. (I didn't have the heart to tell them they aren't trees.) The rabbits would love somebody to plant spinach and carrots for them.



MAY 9 - PHOTOGRAPH YOUR ANIMALS LIKE A PRO - 9 am - 12 pm - Rikki's Refuge - Learn the basics of taking fantastic animal portraits. A hands on learning experience taking photos of Rikki's animals. For more info, see page 4.

MAY 10 - MOTHER & CHILD DAY - Mother and Child teams, no matter how old you are. Come and spend the day with mothers and children of other species and have your photo taken with your favorite animal

MAY 16 - DOG DAY CHANGING OF SEASON - Clean out the winter bedding and prepare for the warm weather.

MAY 16 - WINE & CRAFT FESTIVAL in Front Royal 10-6.

MAY 17 - CAT DAY CHANGING OF SEASON - Clean out the winter bedding and prepare for the warm weather.

MAY 25 - ANNUAL PET MEMORIAL DAY - 2 pm - Bring a photo or other memento of your loved ones to hang on Rikki's Memorial Board at the cemetery; you'll have the chance to include them in a talk or prayer. Rainbow Bridge Service at the cemetery at 2 pm. Can't be there? Send the photo and/or name of your loved one with a \$5 donation and we'll include them in the service and send you a photo of the board. This tradition began in 2001 with the building of the Rainbow Bridge.

MAY 31 - OPEN HOUSE - SPONSOR APPRECIATION DAY - 11th ANNIVERSARY PARTY & SPRING INTO ANIMALS OPEN HOUSE - 12 noon - 4 pm - Visit any or all of that time. In appreciation for all of Rikki's Donors and Volunteers. Please come out and join us for fun all afternoon. Tours leave the Gift Shop every half hour. Join us for refreshments and have a likeness of yourself sketched by regional artist Carrol Morgan. Meet the Cats of Feline Fields and the 9th Life Retirement, Assisted Living and Psychiatric Center, the Dogs of Doggy Downs, the Pigs of Piggy Paradise, the Rabbits of Rabbit Rotunda, the Guinea Pigs of Cavy Castle, the Emus of Emu Estates, the Horses of Horsey Haven, the Chickens and Roosters of Chicken City, the Guinea Fowl of Guinea Fowl Grounds, the Peacocks of Peacock Prowls, the Pigeons of Pigeon Palace, the Geese of Goosey Gardens, the Ducks of Ducky Digs, the Sheep of Ramsey Residence, the Goats of Capri Corners, the Cows of Bovine Boulevard, the Turkeys of Turkey Terrace, the Llama of Llama Lounge and whoever else is staying with us at the time. You will get to interact with the friendly cats and dogs, feed the pigs (bring apples) and sheep and goats and rabbits (bring carrots). Wear waterproof shoes, old clothes, long pants, sun lotion, hats, etc; dress for the weather, it's all outdoors and you will get wet, muddy and slobbered on! Warning - lots of prickles and hooves so sandals and shorts aren't recommended. Visit our gift shop. Buy a Rikki's Wear T-shirt. Bring your camera and get great shots of the critters. Admission is 2 or more cans of cat or dog food per person.



SPEND A DAY ON THE COURSE FOR A CAUSE

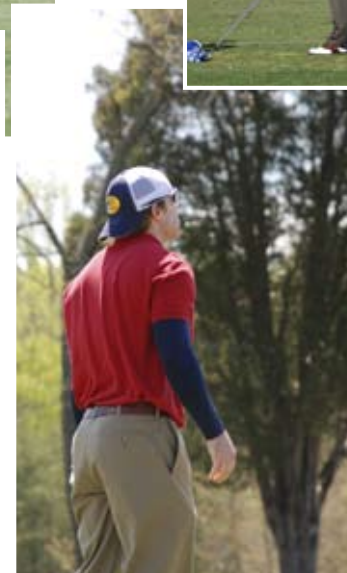
RIKKI'S REFUGE 2ND ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Who can forget last year when Vinny, Duke and Gruffy learned all about the game of golf. Duke made new friends, Gruffy stared longingly at all that luscious, green grass and Vinny fell in love with the gigantic cat box (we didn't have the heart to tell him it was a sand trap).

This year, we're doing it again. A beautiful day of golf and fun. An opportunity to learn what Rikki's is all about and to contribute to our cause. And yes, you can meet some of the mascots who work day in and day out to bring attention to the plight of homeless animals.

There will be the annual Cats vs Dogs campaign where you can vote for your favorite. There will be goody bags and raffles. There will be a BBQ following the day's play.

The tournament is open to foursomes and individuals. Prizes will be awarded. Sponsorships are available.



THIS YEAR'S EVENT TAKES PLACE AT:

CANNON RIDGE GOLF CLUB
9000 CELEBRATE VIRGINIA PARKWAY
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22406

ON
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009
9AM SHOTGUN
(REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8AM)
AN 18 HOLE CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

PRICE INCLUDES: GOLF W/CART, RANGE
BALLS, A GOODY BAG AND BBQ AT THE
CANNON RIDGE CLUBHOUSE

If you'd like to help with the event or donate prizes, contact Rikki's Refuge.

If you're interested in tournament cost, a sponsorship or to sign up to play, you can email or phone tournament chairman Tom Sabol:

tsabol@dataintegrators.com
540.850.2268.

We look forward to seeing you!

YES! YES! YES! I WANT TO JOIN RIKKI'S FAMILY!!!

Please remember, even the smallest gifts are welcome - just One Dollar feeds four hungry creatures a good meal today.

Here's my donation, please feed a hungry soul for me. With donations of \$45 or more you will continue to receive Rikki's exciting newsletter, so you, too, can keep up to date on what's coming up at Rikki's!

Rikki's Family Members make a \$50 donation towards the support of all the animals at Rikki's and receive an Official Rikki's Family Member Card and special Family Benefits; special events, coupons, discounts, etc. Don't delay - Join the Family Today!!

THANKS FOR



DINNER!!!

A donation in this amount will help us meet our goals! Thank you for your support, Kerry 4.02

\$200
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 \$50
 \$45
 \$100
 \$150
 \$75
 \$10
 Other \$ _____

Remember, Rikki's is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) charity and your contributions are tax deductible.

YOU CAN NOW MAKE A DONATION, JOIN THE FAMILY, AND ORDER OUR OFFICIAL SHIRTS **ONLINE**
 JUST GO TO **PAYPAL.COM** AND YOU CAN PAY BY CREDIT CARD, CHECK OR DEBIT CARD, using mail@rikkisrefuge.org
 OR
 TO DIRECTLY PAY ONLINE BY CREDIT CARD, PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BELOW AND EMAIL TO mail@rikkisrefuge.org
 OR

MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO: RIKKI'S REFUGE; PO BOX 1357; ORANGE, VA 22960

(Thank you in advance for your donation of an envelope and a stamp)

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what the cat taught me...



Facing the world from
a different angle alters
your point of view.



**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS ISSUE,
PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO
AN ANIMAL LOVING FRIEND!!!**

We do not kill !!!

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Orange, VA

Spring is in the Air



DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS

Two things we could not live - well, our animals could not live - without. Food, litter, lumber, vinyl siding - so many important things and so many nice people and companies giving them to us. And the nice volunteers who drive for hours to get it to us. And all the nice people who come out and help us unload. You wonderful volunteers also help us clean and groom and mow and build and write newsletters and run tours. Without you we'd all still be chained to a dog house or in the pound!!!

MY ANIMALS - Vincent you ham! No matter how difficult a day I may be having, if I commune with my animals, sooner or later, after a few butts and bites, somebody is going to make me laugh and smile. You just can't visit 1,200 animals without at least one doing something funny or extra loving. They seem to have a sixth sense too and they know when you need an extra snuggle, purr or lick. When the going gets tough I just look around and they warm my heart and I know that I'll go on forever keeping these guys (and gals) happy, healthy and alive.



WHEN YOU VISIT

Sponsor Appreciation Day is so much fun and it makes me so happy when you come out to see what we've done. You trust us with your money, you buy us supplies and you come to help with our labor of love. All because you believe in my dream of no more homeless animals. I feel like all year long I'm begging you to give me just one more bag of food, just one more dollar, help me pay for this or that, help me save this critter and that one. This is the day that's set aside to say thank you, the day I get to visit with so many of you face to face. Please come to Sponsor Appreciation Day, May 31st. See you there!