

Rikki's  Refuge



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**IN MEMORY OF LOUISE and RIKKI**



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

# RIKKI'S REFLECTIONS

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays!

About the time you're pulling this newsletter out of your mailbox, I'll be arriving in Guatemala. Lena Stocks, Manager and Chief Medical Officer of Rikki's Refuge will be on vacation. In Guatemala. Volunteers Elizabeth Hamilton and April Nelson will be there too. So will Kerri Williams our Official Photographer and the Editor of this very newsletter. Our doctor Meredith Vargas of Culpeper Animal Hospital will be with us.

No, we haven't abandoned ship, and we're not scouting out new territory to move Rikki's to. We are Speuter Commuters and we are on the Pana Project. A very important mission to lessen the suffering of animals on our planet. For five days we will run a Speuter (spay/neuter) Clinic for the pets of the poor Mayan people of the Panajachel region and for the stray animals. We will be teaching pillars of the community how to affordably manage the health care of their animal population, so that they may teach others, who will teach others. Our short week in Guatemala will improve the lives of countless animals over the months and years to come.

Don't worry, Rikki's Refuge will be fine under the caring and watchful eye of Joe Fox, Crew Chief and Assistant Medical Officer. He'll be busy doing Lena's job and my job this week. But we know he'll be successful.

Kerri has written a lovely story telling you all about this anticipated trip. Next issue - we'll tell you about the adventures.



We're moving up in the world. Ten years ago, I was a silly kid with a dream to change the world. A dream I called Rikki's Refuge. With your loving help and support, Rikki's Refuge is a well known and respected no kill sanctuary and an authority on managing "herds" of animals. Especially feral cats.



## 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.

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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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Even though we house hundreds of feral cats who could not be returned to their rightful homes, please don't ever forget that we very firmly believe TNR (trap, neuter, return) or Ti-Si-PIB (TRAP it, SPEUTER it, PUT it BACK) to be the absolutely best possible option for feral cats. Feral cats have become WILDLIFE, perhaps not indigenous, but nonetheless, wildlife. They look like our domestic house cats but they do not want to live with you. Managed feral colonies is the way to go. You don't try to trap the coons and possums and take them home to tame; don't do that to poor feral cat either. For more information on feral cat colonies contact Alley Cat Allies [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org). They have the best info out there.

My office just moved up in the world. It used to be a corner in the 9th Life Retirement, Assisted Living and Psychiatric Center. Stop laughing, it was NOT in the latter section! Now I have a private office. And during my move we uncovered some old newsletters. I found the staff reading thru my December 1999 issue of Hairballs.

WOW!!! Have we moved up in the world. Thank you for being there with me every step of the way!!! It's been one heck of an adventure. Species after species, animal after animal. The dream stretches out as far as I can see. Together we did it, and we keep doing it every day, and we will keep doing it forever and ever.

The dream we share is still the same, a world where no one dies because they have no home, no place to go, no one to love them.

I still look forward to the day when I don't have to say, "I'm sorry, we're out of space or money." With your help that day will come!

Thank you, every one of you,

*Kerry Hilliard*

Executive Director  
Rikki's Refuge





# SPEUTER COMMUTERS

Rikki's 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.

One way we complete our mission is by 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.

Or sadly, in many place around the world, dead on the streets.

Here at Rikki's, our mission isn't restricted to our own back yard. Our mission spans the globe and on December 6th, we'll be taking our mission to Panajachel, Guatemala.

It started two years ago when Dr. Meredith Vargas, Rikki's very own vet to the animals, adopted two children from Guatemala. She has spent quite a bit of time in the area and has wanted to help the people and the animals of that region. The Mayan families of that area have very little helath care. The animals have none.



A group of volunteers from Rikki's Refuge will be joining Dr. Vargas to run a five day Speuter (spay/neuter) clinic in conjunction with Mayan Families, the hosting organization.

Mayan Families is a non-profit organization that works with the Maya indigenous communities of the Atitlan region of Guatemala. They provide "assistance and opportunities to people in need through nutrition, education, health, construction, and other valuable services."

Patricia Mort and Sharon Smart-Poage have been working with the communities for over 20 years. They formed, along with Sharon's husband Dwight, Mayan Families in 2005 after the devastation of Hurricane Stan.

As stated on their website:

"Our mission stems from our beliefs. And our beliefs are simple.

"We believe that impoverished and hard working people deserve a hand up. We believe that people helping people fosters a better world for everyone. We believe that help should be based on a holistic and sensible look at all of the needs of small family units. We believe that we can help communities and entire villages through this approach. We believe that people with kind hearts believe as we do and are willing to support the challenges of our mission. Through their support and our commitments, many impoverished and deserving children and families will never be hungry or uncared for again."

They take this approach into the animal world. According to their website, [mayanfamilies.org](http://mayanfamilies.org):

"The Lake Atitlan region of Guatemala's highlands is plagued with overpopulation of domestic animals. Many live in constant distress from neglect, abuse, abandonment and starvation. Traditional attempts to contain the problem

revolved around throwing strychnine-poisoned meat into the streets just before Christmas and Easter. Street animals and family pets died in prolonged agony in public areas and neighborhoods, de-sensitizing the local population and horrifying visitors.

"Through its integrated projects, the Healthy Pets Program is raising awareness with the locals, reducing overpopulation, addressing public health issues related to overpopulation, relieving the suffering of many domestic animals and doing its part to eliminate inhumane poisonings."

Based on the beliefs of their mission statement, Mayan Families looks at the entire picture when it comes to families. They view companion animals as family members. Their reason for the Healthy Pet Program is stated in the FAQ on their website:

"Mayan Families believes in taking a complete look at the needs of an individual or family. We view companion animals as family members and valued members of the community. Evaluating the complete needs of individuals and families without addressing the health concerns of their pets leaves a gaping hole in a holistic approach. Additionally, by controlling over-population through sterilization, there is no need for inhumane poisonings, a dehumanizing experience for the local population and visitors. In the past, strychnine-coated meat was indiscriminately thrown to any dog on the street. Many family animals sent out to forage for food were caught up in the act. Children witnessed the long hours of agonizing deaths. Then the bodies where thrown onto the backs of pick-up trucks and hauled to the dump. The lesson learned: Animal life has no worth. We believe compassion, empathy and kindness towards animals is a vital step in building a loving, nurturing community."

Rikki's is joining their effort to control the animal over-population in the region. For five days, our goal will be to do 25 surgeries a day. That's 125 Speuters. This will make a major difference towards reducing the number of unwanted puppies and kittens born next spring. We are currently raising funds for this project, as no funding is coming from Rikki's general budget. Only funds donated specifically for this project will be used. We hope, as you read this, to have raised enough money to Speuter 125 animals and have enough additional funds for de-worming; flea, tick, lice, mite and mange control; vaccinations for additional animals; antibiotics; antiseptic ointments; and banding and supplies to provide first aid to those in need that we meet.

What makes this all worthwhile is helping those in need, both animal and human, on a global scale. It's our commitment to make this world, this planet, a better place, and in so doing, to make us a better people.

We call it the Pana Project and we thank you, everyone, for supporting our efforts.



For further information on Mayan Families, and to learn how you can help, please visit their website at [mayanfamilies.org](http://mayanfamilies.org).



# THIS AND THAT

## THE SAGA OF SCARLETT AND LOTTIE

Scarlett was found with a litter of kittens in a basket on the side of road. Her previous litter, four beautiful, orange teenage babies wandered about nearby. Lottie was found in a duffel bag giving birth on someone's lawn. For the past few months, Scarlett and her kittens have been fostered by Kim Arrigo and Melissa Bagster. Lottie and her kittens have been in the care of Eleanor Kaufer and Paula Burns, Rikki's NOVA Cat Adoption Coordinators. Scarlett's four teenage children have made Rikki's their home. An afternoon at PetsMart in Alexandria with Eleanor, Paula, Kim and Melissa had kittens from both litters being adopted as if the Holiday Sale of the season were taking place. And all parties say the mommies are doing fine. The kittens were adorable, playful, affectionate and how could you say "No"?



## VOLUNTEER AT RIKKI'S

It's never too late to start your own volunteer efforts and Rikki's is here to help you help us. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. We require volunteers to first visit Rikki's to understand exactly what you're getting into. The best time to visit is during a tour or open house, where you can get a feel for the animals and life at Rikki's.
2. If after your visit you're interested in helping us out on site, you must attend an initial training session. From then on, you'll work with a volunteer coordinator until you're deemed self-sufficient. Then you can work on your own.
3. Training sessions will be offered the first Saturday of each month at 11am. If the first Saturday is a holiday, training sessions will be held on the second Saturday. 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 training. Please contact Mary Walker at [HorsesDCats@aol.com](mailto:HorsesDCats@aol.com) for more information.

To get the full scoop on volunteering at Rikki's, go to [RikkisRefuge.com](http://RikkisRefuge.com) and click on "volunteers" at the bottom of the home page.



We look forward to seeing you soon!





## FORE! PLAY GOLF!

That time of year is fast approaching. The hint of spring is in the air - cool mornings and sunny, breezy afternoons. You've decided you want to spend the day outside, rather than sit at your desk in the office. You want to breathe the fresh air and play in the dew covered grass.

Yes, the time of year is fast approaching for the Rikki's Refuge 2nd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament.

We'll be teeing off in 2009 at the beautiful Cannon Ridge Golf Club in Fredericksburg, where the greens are gorgeous and the sand traps are deadly (okay, well maybe not deadly - we're just trying to keep Vincent out of them this year).

So come join us on April 24, 2009 for a relaxing game of golf while supporting a great cause (Rikki's animals, in case you forgot).

Cosponsorships, Tee and Green Sponsors and Closest to the Pin Sponsors are available.

If you'd like more information or would like to participate or sponsor, contact tournament chairman Tom Sabol for information:

tsabol@dataintegrators.com  
540.850.2268



## animal mug shots

If it's been awhile since you've been to the Refuge, you'll see many new faces. We were able to keep their mug shots off the post office bulletin board, but there's no escape from Rikki's Reflections.



summer



lammie



mountain



petunia



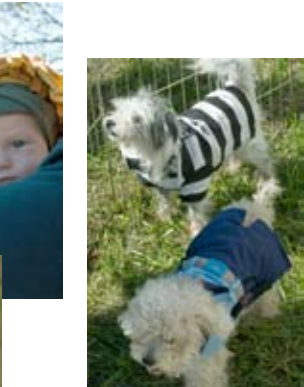
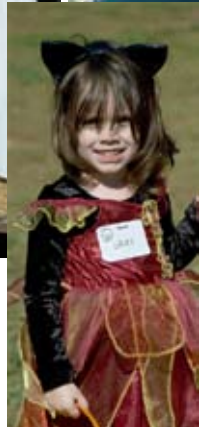
sally

### WANTED FOR:

- SUMMER - HOWLING INTO THE NIGHT
- LAMMIE - RAMMING INNOCENT CHILDREN
- MOUNTAIN - HOWLING TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING
- PETUNIA - ROOTING UP FRESH GRASS
- SALLY - LAMMIE'S ACCOMPLICE

## HAPPY BELATED HALLOWEEN

If you missed the Halloween Open House, you missed a great time. We had strange breeds of animals roaming around the farm and had spooky good fun. While Elizabeth Hult painted faces and Carrol Morgan sketched portraits, Rikki's was haunted with hundreds of costume clad creatures - there was the bride in the boots and the fairy kitty and the lion (we've never before had a cat that big at Rikki's). There were treats for all, cookies and cakes and cider. Even the animals joined the fun as Mutt-Mutt came in the best costume as an inmate, black stripes and all, while Lacy marched around him as a prison guard. Smoochie came as a witch and Fletch dressed as a pig (or we should say someone dressed him and he spent the day trying to drag the costume off his body - how humiliating for a dog to be a pig).





# WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH CAT HOUSE #10?

Cat house #10, if you've ever noticed, really isn't a cat house. And if it is, those are some of the strangest cats you'll ever see.

Well, once upon a time, Cat Man Ron finished building Cat House #9. After stocking Cat House #9, much to our dismay, the waiting list kept right on growing...and growing...and growing. So Cat Man Ron built Cat House #10. Sixteen cats were living there, when some handicapped geese needed a place to live. First we tried them in Rabbit Rotunda, but that didn't work out. So we thought they could share Cat House #10. But alas, that didn't work out either.

The geese were perfectly happy. The cats were terrified. Sixteen feral cats terrified of flapping wings, honking geese and water being splashed from the pool. So as a temporary measure, the 16 cats moved into Cat House #8, right next door. And they were happy.

When we first built the cat houses, we really didn't know how many cats would comfortably cohabitate. They have their miniature barns and 2,000 square feet of playground space. Even more, consider that cats are multidimensional (i.e., they go up). Cats enjoy living layered. Bottom shelf of the cat tree, middle shelf, top shelf - you get the idea.

We discovered the 16 cats would integrate happily with the current residents of Cat House #8, and realized the other cats destined for Cat House #10 could be happily assimilated into other runs.

And it was only temporary as we would soon build an aviary.

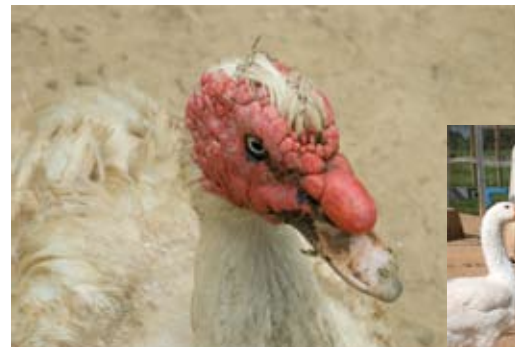
But before the aviary could even get started, more handicapped fowl came in. Geese, ducks, chickens, turkeys. These were birds that couldn't safely run around the farm. They had damaged legs, wings and birth defects. Some were even mentally challenged. If a predator came lurking, they would have no idea how to protect themselves. They would never be able to freely roam.

One day soon we'll build that aviary. It'll be next to Cat House #10, where there's a natural swale in the land with natural runoff that will feed the small pond we'll also build. It'll be 5,000 square feet - 50 feet wide and 100 feet long.

There's only one thing between us and our dream of a new aviary, well, maybe two things. Funding for materials and volunteers for labor. We need someone to be the Handicapped Aviary Chairperson and raise the funds (roughly \$12,000) for materials. And we need volunteers (two to three for many, many months or 20-30 for a couple of weekends) to build the aviary.

Here's where you come in. If you can't contribute time, how about a donation for materials for the new aviary. If you can't make a donation, how about some time to build the new aviary. Can we count on you? If so, please let us know. The birds will be forever grateful.

And so will the new cats who will finally be able to call Cat House #10 a cat house.





# DEAR SANTA,

We have all been very good animals this year, regardless of what you might have heard. We've played with everyone on the tours. We purred and gave kisses at all the events. We tried our best to make life easy for Kerry and everyone else at the Refuge. We're very excited about your visit on Christmas Eve. Vincent made cookies and India supplied a cup of milk. This is our Christmas list for this year and you don't have to wrap it or anything if you don't want to.

The cats need some canned food (you know, there are over 600 of us now - of course you know, you see us when we're sleeping and you know when we're awake) and our kittens who don't feel so good would like some meat baby food.

The dogs need some canned food (Duke loves the stuff) and some hot dogs for the puppies that are feeling kind of blah.

The farm animals want some salt blocks, and they'd really appreciate any kind of fresh produce and fruit. And bread is always a sure thing.

The goats, cows and sheep need feed. The emus and rabbits need pellets. There's been a request for hay, cracked corn and sunflower seed. The guinea pigs would like some food and the pigeons want some gravel.

The cats want more kitty litter (lots and lots of kitty litter - you know there are over 600 of us now) and a couple more cat beds. The dogs want to go for more walks and they some good collars and some 6' leashes. Some USA made chew bones and couple of small igloo dog houses would make them real happy.

And it seems there's more going on here than just us animals (though we'd like to think it's all about us) and we overheard Kerry and Lena talking while we were making our list and they need some 100-watt light bulbs, duct tape (That's with a "T" not a "K". The ducks don't want tape), Latex gloves, 13 and 30 and 33 gallon trash bags, stamps, outside extension cords, C and D and 9 volt batteries, post card stock and paper.

Kerry want syringes and needles too, but we don't, so if you want to leave them at the workshop or give them to someone else, that's okay.

She said something about cleaning up after us and needing bleach, laundry detergent, dish washing detergent, Lysol cleaning wipes and brooms. Oh yeah, and please bring paper towels for her (well, they're really for Vincent, except they're for Kerry cause Vincent can't clean up after himself).

We know if we could get more donations to our account at the Culpeper Animal Hospital, we could get more meds (YUCK! YUCK!). But Kerry says they're important. She also says that speutering (that's spaying and neutering) is important and surgeries are important and general medical stuff is important. So a donation to our account at the Culpeper Animal Hospital is okay.

And if you don't have time to make all the presents we want, cash is okay. We can send Kerry or Lena to the store to buy the stuff we want and free up some time for the elves. We're sure they're excited about their after holiday vacation time. You can do this through PayPal or just send Kerry a check.

But please don't forget to do a fly over so we can say Merry Christmas to you and all the reindeer.

XXOOOXXOO  
VINNY, DUKE, NANNY  
& THE GANG AT RIKKI'S



# 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE...

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all through the house,  
Only Vincent was stirring,  
he was chasing a mouse.

Perched on the mantel,  
the mouse stopped to pause,  
If he jumped in a stocking,  
he could be saved by The Clause.

Vincent looked up and he studied his plight  
Knew he'd be at the hearth most of the night.  
While the other cats slept, Vincent settled to rest  
To get this mouse would be a personal best.

When out on the lawn there arose raucous sounds  
The goats and the sheep, the chickens, the hounds.  
Vince flew to the window and looked out the glass,  
A blur of red fur is what he saw pass.  
The shadow on the lawn  
where there should have been snow  
Brought memories of Christmas one year ago  
When The Clause came upon him  
with mouse in his paws,  
And Vincent was taught the Christmas time laws.

The big guy in red, so bold and so fat  
Shook his white bearded head, removed his hat.  
He reached down and took hold  
of the small, tiny mouse  
And whispered to Vincent, "Not in this house.  
Not in this place, where all creatures are free,  
Not on this night, you must let him be.  
All creatures are gifts sent to this Earth,  
No matter how small, they all have a worth."  
He turned in silence, put the mouse on the floor,  
Bypassed the chimney and left through the door.  
He climbed in the sleigh and took up the rein  
Vincent thought to himself, the man must be insane.

Christmas Eve now, Vince remembered that night  
As the shadow stood tall, Vince took in the sight.  
The geese and the ducks, the emus and pigs  
Vince vowed to give up one of his favorite gigs.

While The Clause moved about from pen to pen  
Vincent decided he'd have some fun.  
The mouse had jumped out from his hiding place  
And Vincent took off and started the race.  
The mouse, he was caught beneath the old chair  
As Vincent had given him quite a scare.

Vincent so gentle, took the mouse in his teeth  
Bypassed the hearth and the holiday wreath.  
He went to the cabinet where he could find lace  
Or ribbon or bows; something with taste.  
He knocked on the drawer with a bang of his butt.  
The mouse, he shivered, a small knot in his gut.  
Vincent, he clawed at the ribbon and strings  
'Til he found the stuff needed  
to make him some wings.  
He wrapped red ribbon  
'round the belly of the mouse  
And waited for Clause to come in the house.

He presented the creature all tiny and scared  
And The Clause acknowledged how Vincent cared.  
The Clause took the mouse, cradled in hand  
Vincent knew the big man would understand.  
The mouse was to fly this Christmas Eve,  
And The Clause and the mouse,  
they soon took their leave.

And Vincent, he heard,  
as Clause flew through the night,  
"Life to all creatures,  
it's their Earth borne right."





# HAPPY HOLIDAYS





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

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



How many of you live with cats? I see a lot of hands going up!

Can you imagine living with cats but without kitty litter? Can your cats imagine living without kitty litter? Where would they go?

But, you know what? People were talking on the telephone long before they had kitty litter. People were driving around town in cars long before they had kitty litter. People were flying across the country and the Atlantic (the Pacific, too) before they had kitty litter. People were listening to the radio long before they had kitty litter. But, no, they weren't watching television long before they had kitty litter. In fact, when kitty litter was invented (what? kitty litter is something that had to be invented?), there were fewer than a million television sets in the United States.

Yes, kitty litter had to be invented. Okay, so what did cats do before kitty litter was invented?

Cats lived outside. Remember the Flintstones always putting their cat out at night? Historically accurate! Or, those cats that lived inside had their boxes filled with ashes, dirt, or sand. (The cat box has been around a lot longer than kitty litter!) You would think that dirt, being as cheap as it is, would be the hands down choice for cat box filler. But, dirt has some nasty properties, too. Like, it's dirty.

In fact, it was a nasty property of ashes used as cat box filler that led to the invention of kitty litter. The auspicious event happened in January of 1947, in Cassopolis, Michigan. (How's that for two trivia answers in one sentence?) It's cold in Michigan in January. It's really cold in Michigan in January. Even in Cassopolis, which happens to be in southern Michigan.

They say that behind every successful man, there is a woman. That's the subject of a different article, but there definitely was a woman behind the invention of kitty litter. She didn't invent it, but she was the catalyst. And provided yet another trivia answer. Kaye Draper had an indoor cat. Kaye Draper had a sand pile in her yard, from which she drew her cat box filler. But, Michigan being cold in January, her sand pile

was frozen. Back in those days, everybody burned wood, so Kaye Draper had lots of ashes to use as cat box filler instead.

This was 1947, before the ubiquitous Employees must wash hands signs. And cats were never really employees, nor necessarily obedient. So, after Kaye Draper's cat used the litter box, Kaye Draper's cat left sooty paw prints all over the house. Kaye Draper didn't like that. She asked her neighbor, Edward Lowe, if she could borrow a cup of sand from him.



Now, Edward Lowe was no slouch; he was the scion of a family that had a thriving industrial absorbent business. Things like sawdust and absorbent clay, then called Fuller's Earth. So, he gave Kaye Draper some Fuller's Earth to use in her cat box, suggesting that it would be better than sand. Or maybe his sand pile was frozen, too?

Kaye Draper loved it! She said that the clay was much more absorbent than sand or anything else, and it wasn't tracked all over the house. Well, maybe a little bit around the fringes of the box — I think we've all seen that, right?

Edward Lowe figured that if his clay was good enough to get his neighbor to trek over to his house day after day in the dead of Michigan's brutal winter, it would be good enough to extract money from the pockets of Americans who lived with cats. His first little test market was a local pet store. He put five pounds of clay in brown paper bags, labeled them Kitty Litter, and asked the owner of the store to sell them for 69¢ each.

Oh, yeah, Kitty Litter was actually the trademarked name of the product that Edward Lowe invented. Except, we have now seen that he didn't really invent the product; he invented the use and the name. So, our use of uncapitalized kitty litter in the first few paragraphs wasn't technically correct. But, we couldn't very well give you the correction without telling you the story, could we?







And you certainly understood the term kitty litter right from the git-go, didn't you? Because it's a brand name that became so common that it has entered everyday use as a generic term for the product. Just like Kleenex. Except that Kitty Litter is nothing to sneeze at. Way back in 1990, when Edward Lowe sold Edward Lowe Industries, Inc. to an investment group, the company was doing over \$200 million in annual sales.

But, we're skipping ahead. It's not that easy to make \$200 million. The pet store owner refused to sell Edward Lowe's five pound bags of Kitty Litter for 69¢ apiece, figuring that nobody would buy them. In 1947, you could probably get a lot more sand for 69¢. So, Edward Lowe told the pet store owner to give the bags away. That, the pet store owner was willing to do.

And those first lucky cat people who got their Kitty Litter for free loved the product, just as Kaye Draper had. Enough that they were willing to pay for it in the future. And pet stores everywhere were willing to sell it. And grocery stores and department stores and variety stores (then called five and dimes).

Some folks at Rikki's Refuge are even old enough to remember the term five and dime — from the days before Dollar Stores. This is off topic, but as a friendly public service to our readers, we're going to toss in a trivia answer that's not related to Kitty Litter: The first store opened by Sam Walton, founder of Wal\*Mart, was called Walton's Five and Dime. You can visit it in Bentonville, Arkansas. But don't expect to buy Kitty Litter there. It's a visitor center for people on the Wal\*Mart History Tour.

Oops. The guy with the hook is reaching out from behind the curtain. I was going to tell you about how cat litter has improved since those early days in 1947, how Edward Lowe Industries, Inc. wound up being a product group within Nestlé-Purina, and how the company has very generously donated large amounts of Tidy Cats (rebranded by Edward Lowe in 1964) litter to Rikki's Refuge. But, I guess I've filled up my space for this issue — how's about I wrap this up with Part II in the next issue of Rikki's Reflections?

Oh — you can put your hands down now.

And, if there's any subject you'd like Your Creature Chronicler to cover in a future issue, just write to me at [Igato@rikkisrefuge.org](mailto:Igato@rikkisrefuge.org).



Tidy Cats is a registered trademark of Société des Produits Nestlé S.A., Vevey, Switzerland. Kitty Litter was a registered trademark of Lowe's, Inc., Cassopolis, Michigan, no longer active, since the product is now marketed as Tidy Cats litter. All other brands mentioned are registered trademarks of their owners.

# SPECIES BIO

## THE EXOTIC SHORTHAIR

Meet Mariah. She posed for us (if you really want to call it posing) while we photographed the holiday card for Rikki's. Mariah is known as an Exotic Shorthair (though she might be a mix). Don't expect to see her on your holiday card. She wasn't too thrilled about the photo session. A temperamental model, you might say. Mariah is known as the lazy man's Persian, the Persian in her pajamas or, using the official term, an Exotic Shorthair.



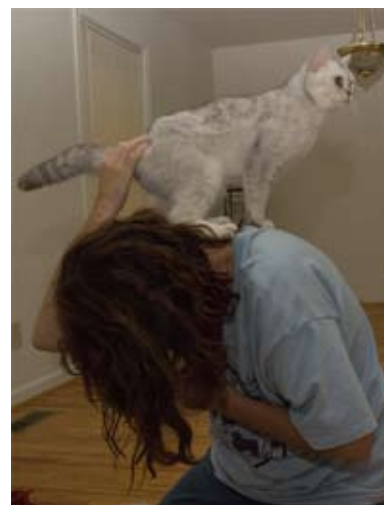
The Exotic came to be somewhere in the 1950s when breeders began breeding Persians with American Shorthairs. The breeding occurred to give the Persian's color to the shorthair, which resulted in the shorthair taking on Persian characteristics: rounder and broader faces, shorter noses, smaller ears and a boxy, compact body. The breeding also resulted in the shorthair developing longer, softer and denser hair.

As bloodlines became longer and longer, the shorthair took on the temperament of the Persian. Exotics are quiet, sweet and loyal. Not much seems to bother them. Males, in general, are more affectionate than females, and Exotics remain playful as adults.

In the beginning, Persian breeders opposed the new breed and few allowed their cats to be part of the program. Had it not been for Jane Martinke, a CFA judge and an American Shorthair breeder, the Exotic would have disappeared. In 1966 she proposed to the CFA board that the cat be recognized as a new breed, and was accepted as such the following year.

Most Exotics carry one copy of the longhair recessive gene and one copy of the dominant shorthair gene. Therefore, a Shorthair Exotic can pass the longhair gene to its offspring. It can take generations before the gene shows itself in the offspring's physical appearance, though on average, litters include one longhaired kitten, two kittens carrying both genes, and one carrying two copies of the shorthair gene.

As for Mariah, we don't care where she comes from or what genes she carries. We just adore the playful affection that makes her simply - a cat.





# 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.



**DEC 6 - FELINE FOUNDATION BAZAAR** in ARLINGTON.

**DEC 7 - CHRISTMAS PHOTO DAY** - Get your Christmas photo with the animal of your choice. Bring your own camera or \$5 gets you a color 8x10 from our digital camera and printer; \$10 buys you five photos on a disk to print with your own computer.

**SINGLES DAY** - 10am - 4pm - Join us the first Saturday of each month and do a day of service at the Refuge. 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. You can join us for Singles Day on:



**DEC 7 - WINTER FOOD ROUND UP** - Spend the week begging everybody you know for donations of food for the critters, or the money to buy food, then come and do a day of service at the Refuge and meet like minded souls. The person who raises

the most food wins one of those famous Rikki's T-shirts.

**JAN 3 - BE A HANDY PERSON** - Do all the little chores that need doing. Fix this and that. Straighten up here or there. Something for everybody. The leader who puts together the biggest work party wins one of those famous Rikki's T-shirts.

**FEB 7 - WINTER WARM UP** - Help pile up the warm bedding for the last days of winter. The leader who puts together the biggest work party wins one of those famous Rikki's T-shirts.

**DEC 13 - 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 through the woods? Listen to the woodland critters singing and chirping and.... Bring your tent and sleeping bag and stay over. While waiting for the full moon to rise, join us for a BON FIRE and VEGAN BAR-B-QUE POT LUCK. *If you missed this FULL MOON WALK AND BON FIRE, join us on JAN 10th or FEB 7th.*

**DEC 14 - WINTER WONDER PHOTO CONTEST** - Come with your camera and see who can get the best winter shots of Rikki's critters or the wildlife. The critters in the snow are photo ops just waiting for you.

**DEC 14 - WRIGHT BROTHERS PIGEON DAY** - On December 17th in 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright made their first airplane flight at Kitty Hawk NC. Today we celebrate the birthdays of our pigeons. Bring yummy seeds and comfy birdbaths. Paint their nesting boxes.

**DEC 21 - WILDLIFE DAY** - It's the Winter Solstice and the shortest day of the year, a hard cold time to fend for yourself out in the woods. Bring bird feeders, birdbaths,

feeding stations, seed, grain, fruits, veggies and other goodies and install them for our outdoor friends. Bring or build bird housing and housing for other critters.

**DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE WITH THE ANIMALS** - Bring gifts of treats, warm bedding and toys. Spend some peaceful times with the animals you love contemplating the meaning of Christmas and the love it's meant to spread.

**DEC 25 - CHRISTMAS TOUR and WILDLIFE NATURE WALK** - 12pm - Join us for our annual **CHRISTMAS WITH THE ANIMALS TOUR** where you can meet all the animals that call Rikki's Refuge home. You'll see what day-to-day life is like at the Refuge and you'll 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, etc. Dress for the weather as it's all outdoors and you'll get wet, muddy and slobbered on. 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. After the tour, stay for the **WILDLIFE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION NATURE WALK** at 2pm and take a walk through the beautiful woodlands of Rikki's Refuge and distribute fruit and nuts for the wildlife. Dress for the weather. Remember this is pristine wilderness and not an established park.



**DEC 27 - 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. *If you missed this month's SPIRITUAL GROWTH NIGHT, join us on JAN 24 or FEB 28th.*

**DEC 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE ANIMALS** - Start the evening with the biggest Bon Fire of the year. As it dies down and the evening cools off, we'll move to Rikki's Retreat for a Vegan Pot Luck Dinner and party. Plan to stay over at the Retreat and avoid driving. Bring a sleeping bag and stay in the conference area or get a special \$10 off your room for the night.

*Nature does nothing uselessly. ~ Aristotle*



# COME JOIN THE FUN



**JAN 1 - RIKKI'S ANNUAL NATURE WALK** will leave the housing area at noon. Please call to let us know you're coming so we won't take off without you. This is a pristine nature walk. This means it is not on a cut path, there are no bridges over Beaver Creek. This means wear heavy clothes as you'll wiggle past the briars; wear waterproof shoes as you'll jump the creek on stones and old logs and maybe ice; and dress warm because there's no heat out there! The goal is to get to the top of the ridge over Beaver

Pond and look down at the spectacular views which should (a heat wave excepted) include the frozen pond and creek. Very pretty. Bring your camera.

**JAN 10 - ANIMAL ATTENTION DAY** - Give some extra hugs to the homeless - take a dog for a walk, scratch a pig's belly, pat a cat. Afterward, join us for a **BON FIRE AND VEGAN BAR-B-QUE and POT LUCK** as we wait for the full moon to rise. Then come along on a **FULL MOON WALK**, 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.

**JAN 13 - RIKKI'S BIRTHDAY** - 2pm - On January 13, 1981, Rikki became part of the family. Party in honor of the birthday of Rikki, the cat who made it all possible.

**JAN 18 - HOUND DOG DAY** - In honor of the birth of Elvis Presley on January 8, 1935 we celebrate all Rikki's Dogs' Birthdays today. Come and honor Rikki's Hound Dogs, bring them treats, take them on walks and maybe even adopt one.

**JAN 18 - SANDWICH DAY** - 12pm - On January 18, 1778, Capt James Cook stumbles over Hawaiian Sandwich Islands. Today you'll bring your most creative **VEGAN** sandwiches to the Refuge for judging.



Photo Courtesy/Jessica Brow

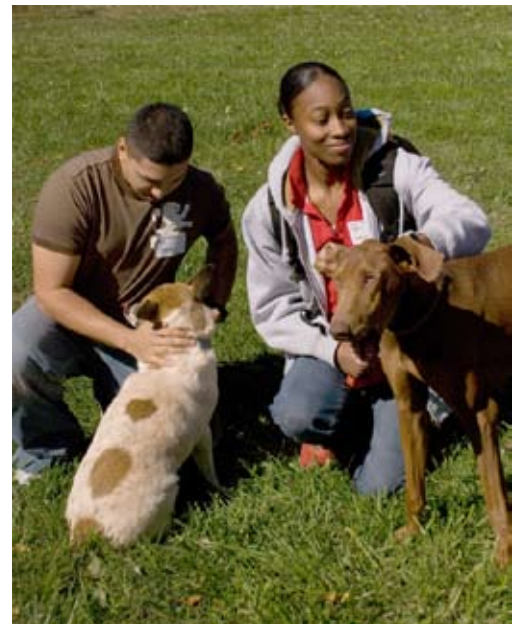
**JAN 25 - TOUR THE REFUGE** - 1pm - On a tour, you can meet all the animals that call Rikki's Refuge home. You'll see what day-to-day life is like at the Refuge and you'll also be invited to join in our volunteer efforts to build new housing for new animals. Tours run about two hours and you should wear waterproof shoes, old clothes, long pants, etc. Dress for the weather as it's all outdoors and you'll get wet, muddy and slobbered on. 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. After the tour, hang out and help with **RABBIT and PIG MUCK OUT DAY** where we rake out the old straw and bedding and give them fresh. It's a chance to socialize and feel their appreciation for a clean home. *If you missed this month's tour, join us on FEB 22nd at 1pm to meet the animals.*

## **FEB 1 - ADOPT A REFUGE DAY**

- Help clean up the refuge like others clean up the highways. Sign in and get your garbage bags. Whoever can fill the most from debris that's been blown about and has migrated from the woods wins a Rikki's T-shirt.

## **FEB 8 - WINTER WARM UP**

- Make sure all the animals have plenty of warm bedding for the cold nights ahead.



**FEB 13 - BLACK CAT DAY** - In honor of all the black cats come and help with cat chores.

**FEB 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY** - 2pm - Join us for Valentine's Cake and bring special treats to all the animals to show your undying love.

**FEB 15 - DOG MUCK OUT DAY** - Rake out the old ground covering in the individual pens and give them new. You'll get a chance to socialize with them and feel their appreciation for a clean home.

**FEB 16 - BIRDHOUSES AND MORE** - Join us on President's Day and build birdhouses and other habitats for wildlife.

**FEB 21 - POPCORN DAY** - On February 22 back in 1630, the Indians introduced the Pilgrims to popcorn. Today we honor the natives of Rikki's by offering them popcorn, fruits and nuts. Bring yummies for the wild ones. We'll take a walk and scatter them for the birds, squirrels, chipmunks, possums, raccoons and all the small forest animals.



# THE FIVE P'S OF POTTY TRAINING

Housebreaking the dog. It's not something any of us look forward to. A necessary evil that must be done. But it can be done, and if you follow the FIVE P's, the process can be done with ease.

## PATIENCE



Never, ever, ever forget this key factor. If you are one of those humans blessed with children beyond the age of three, think back to that time when you potty trained your little one. Even though you wanted it to, it didn't happen overnight. It took months. Often many, many months to move from diapers to big kid pants, to the real thing -

Spiderman or Dora underwear. Your dog doesn't have the advantage of diapers (though they are available), so your carpet, your furniture, your bedding - nothing is safe. And remember, it is *your* responsibility to make sure your pup gets out in the grass or the dirt to do its thing, just like it was your responsibility to make sure your little one got to the big potty to do his or her thing. Eventually, just like your little one learned, your pup will also tell you when it's time to go. But you must watch for the signals. He doesn't speak human. He may bark, he may scratch at the door, he may run in circles, but he will let you know.

## PERSISTENCE

The most important part of potty training - setting a schedule. First thing every morning when you get up, right after you do your potty, and assuming you are working with a crate, immediately take your pup out of the crate. At the beginning you may want to carry her to her potty - don't even give her a chance to sniff the carpet or floors. Set her in the grass and wait. Yes, wait. She may not go right away, she may be more interested in the amazing smells that happened in her territory the night before, but she will go. And then repeat the process several hours later. Again and again and again. And always after she eats. She may not think she has to use the potty, but you know she does and you'll have to wait until she goes. A walk after mealtime is a good training tip, but don't forget to take your poo-poo bag for clean up from the neighbor's yard. They'll appreciate your courtesy. Some pups learn faster than others, just like with children, so don't expect your dog to go at the same pace as your friend's dog. Just make sure she gets out several times a day. And please take note that a puppy has a small bladder and can't hold it the 8-12 hours you may be at work. Find a friend who is willing to stop by and give your little pal some relief throughout the day. Same with an older dog. Her bladder may not have the staying power of a healthy, young dog and he may need to relieve himself every few hours.



## PUDDLES



Oh, the joy of puddles. You jumped in them as a kid and splashed all over the place. Unfortunately, these particular puddles are not for splashing and sometimes you may not even be aware of their presence until you step in one. Don't fret. Put your pup outside. Do NOT rub his nose in it. It does no good. He has no idea what he did. Unless you actually catch him in the act, scolding him

does no good. He has no idea what he did. After your pup is safely outside, go clean off your foot, then grab some rags, a bucket of water and your favorite enzyme cleaner (many are available in your local pet store). Then go to it. Soak as much of your pup's gift, that would be the urine, from the area as possible. Carpets will take more time than hardwood, linoleum or tile. Soak, soak, soak. Then saturate the area with fresh water and soak that up. Repeat as necessary. Soak, soak, soak. Don't use hot water as it will set a stain. Finally, follow the directions on your bottle of cleaner. The key here is to pull up all of the odor your pup left behind. Because even though you can't smell it, he can. And he will. And he will tell himself that he made that smell and it's his special place to potty no matter what you say. Oh yeah, and remember the first two P's.

## POO-POO

A lot easier to clean up than puddles, but still not the gift of giving from your pup you want decorating your house. Sometimes easier to catch your dog doing than sprinkling puddles around the house, and the second you see her in the act, tell her "NO!" But the same rules apply with poo-poo as with puddles. Do NOT rub her nose in it. It will do no good. It will only make her mad or scared and you don't want either from your pup. You want a happy little pup who will give you the love and affection she knows you deserve. So what to do when she leaves this little present? Scoop it up and take it outside. Make sure she comes out with you. Place her special gift in the grass that you consider her potty. Let her sniff it and check it out. Eventually, she will understand that the grass, not your carpet, is the place where she needs to go. But you must clean up where she left her mark. Treat any stain that remains, then follow the directions on your bottle of enzyme cleaner (most are stain and odor removers). Enzyme cleaner will become your best friend. Oh yeah, and remember the first two P's of potty training.



## PRAISE

The most...no, the very most important key in potty training. As with the first two P's, never, ever, ever forget this P. It worked with your little human when he was learning, and it will work with your pup. After your dog finishes his business in the grass, scratch his head, smile and hug him and tell him he is a wonderful, good, loving boy, the best dog in the whole wide world, and he's a big boy and he went potty in the big potty. You want to make him feel like he just won the Westminster Dog Show. Yeah, you'll look like a fool, but in the end, it's all worth it. You'll love him for his accomplishments and he'll love you for whatever it is he did that made you sing his praises.

And that's it folks, the FIVE P's OF POTTY TRAINING. Follow these simple tips and your little guy will be using the big boy potty in no time.





# 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

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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



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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

**'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

Kerri's centerfold story is about what happened to Office Mouse when he encountered Vincent. No, don't cringe, nothing bad ever happens at Rikki's Refuge!

Office Mouse must have been particularly hungry this morning when he snuck up on my desk in broad daylight with me sitting right there to lick my oatmeal bowl clean. The 9th Life Retirement, Assisted Living and Psychiatric Center residents sure weren't sitting still for this one. They were lined up against my cage door salivating and totally ignoring their own breakfast.



**PRETENDING TO BE AN ANCIENT CAT**

Tippy is a perfectly healthy mascot. The rules - promise not to eat any other residents and not to leave the property and you earn free range running rights. For a border collie the job comes easy, protect your family at night, round them up during the day. Tippy's one bad habit is a craving for cat food. Here she's pretending to be an ancient cat in the 9th Life Center hoping we won't notice her!



**THE INN IS FULL**

That's standard operating procedure at a no-kill sanctuary like Rikki's Refuge. Build the space and the animals will come to fill it. Since adoptions are rare amongst the Psychos, Handicapped and Retirees of the 9th Life Retirement, Assisted Living and

Psychiatric Center most are at home for life. This is just a favorite piece of furniture in one of the large rooms of the center. Each room has outdoor access to a protected area for fresh air and sunshine. And moonshine for those who prefer.

