



RIKKI'S REFLECTIONS

Happy Birthday Rikki's
page 6

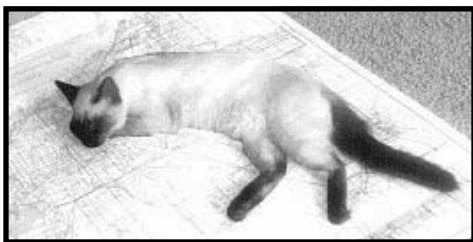
*Meet the People
Who Change the World*
page 7

Vincent Speaks
page 15

Vincent's Boot Camp
page 18

*Photograph Your Animals
Like A Pro*
page 22

IN MEMORY OF LOUISE and RIKKI



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



If you're reading this, you're probably caught up in the movement to make our planet a better place. A better home for our animal friends. A more loving, kind and compassionate place. Every year, more and more of you are jumping on board. We're gaining momentum. We ARE making a difference. When I started working in the rescue world about thirty years ago, the stats said 36 million unwanted cats and dogs were killed in the USA each and every year. The latest stats say 6 million. You know how fast these critters can breed - so if we weren't making a big difference the numbers would be gigantically hugely bigger. But it's 30 million less. Still 6 million too many, but if we could do that in 30 years, just you wait to see what we can do in the next thirty!

It takes lots of great people to make this happen. I'd like you to meet some of the best. Our staff. The people who have dedicated their lives to making life wonderful for the animals of Rikki's Refuge. They are pictured above in their Cats vs Dogs shirts. They had to choose which shirt to wear - but they love all their charges.

In the back row from left to right, meet Kristina Anderson, Darryl Adams, Andria Miley, Joe Fox and Bruce Johnson. And in the front row Duke Thomas Peabody, Joe Callahan, Tippy, Valerie Fast, Taco, Vincent, Buddy, Kerry Hilliard, Lena Stocks and Neko.

Lena Stocks, Joe Fox, Darryl Adams, Valerie Fast, Bruce Johnson and Andria Miley are full time staff members, serving the animals day in and day out. You'll read their stories in this issue of Reflections. Since the staff was interviewed for their stories, Paul Fetzer and Miranda Gray have joined us.

Kristina Anderson is a volunteer. We feel like she's one of us and we wanted her in our group photo! She began volunteering almost two years ago and works alternate Saturdays and special events right alongside the staff. Joe Callahan has been volunteering since 1998; you've met him or read about him in many issues of Reflections, and you'll read more about him in this issue. Paul Fetzer was working at a horse stable when he heard about Rikki's Refuge last fall. He joined Mary Walker's volunteer training and helped out when he could. When a staff position came open, he was the first to apply. He's a great asset to Rikki's Refuge and we hope he will be with us a very long time. Miranda Gray began volunteering two years ago and coming out on weekends to help and work alongside the staff. At 14 she was ready for her first summer job. She fits in beautifully with the adult staff and pulls her fair share of work.

The Dream Team featuring Vincent, Hemi and Gibson won the Cats vs Dogs contest paws down for another year. Vincent has been an undefeated champion since making his home at Rikki's Refuge. The cats pulled three times the votes that the dogs took in. The Canine Club headed up by Duke Thomas Peabody, Boomer and KiKi are plotting their strategy for next year. Duke says, "This nice guy finishing last thing is for the birds - not the dogs. We may need to change our policies. Think you could do so great on two legs, Vincent?"

May 31st was our Annual Sponsor Appreciation Day. It's always such fun with lots of reunions and meeting our new sponsors. Thank you, all of you, who came and made it such a wonderful day. With Jan Chetnik took charge of all the details and our wonderful volunteers worked hard: Mary Walker, Jane Whitmore, Candy and Paul Erhard, Deloris Quick, Larry Ramsey, Clota Gerhardt, Lorraine Gentile, Laurie Karnay, Crystal and Dennis Bane, Mariza and Angela Soliman (Mariza baked and made salads also), Lou and Sean Laurie, BJ and Jarrett Wroten, Fred Friedman, Tom Hartshorne, Kerri Williams, Ron Herfurth, Melanie Hansford, Carrol Morgan, Bob Wallace, Kristina Anderson, Ken Lickliter, Katie and Grant Fincham, Kathy McLaurin, Katarina Galvin and her niece and nephew (Brie Castillo and Abe Herrera) and Lloyd Dolan made it a great event. Rene Luther made sorbet and crafted many of the beautification projects. Alyce Smith made beautiful donation jars. Alex Hult headed up flyer creation. Dave Smalley, editor of The Free Lance-Star Weekender wrote a WONDERFUL editorial about Rikki's. Sarah and Rick McDonald of Virginia Best Friends website wrote about the open house. We had wonderful coverage from local and other newspapers, radio stations, etc.



We'll be doing it again at our 11th Birthday Party on August 16th from noon until 4 pm. Please join us. I so much enjoy seeing and getting to chat with those of you who've been supporting us and who have allowed us to make it to our 11th Birthday. Can you believe it's been that long? One animal at a time, we've gone on day after day. It still takes me by surprise when I step back and see all that we've accomplished together. If you haven't been out to visit for a few years - or if you're a new Rikki's Family Member - come on out - you'll be happy you did. And our animals will warm your heart.

I'd like you to help us win a contest. Please Vote for Rikki's on the Animal Rescue site - www.theanimalrescuesite.com. As I write this, we're 6th in Virginia. We have until July 29th to make it to number one! You all know Rikki's Refuge is Number One - now let's prove it to the world! You can vote once each day. If every one of you will do this every day until July 29th, you'll make Rikki's Refuge a winner.

Go to our web site - www.rikkisrefuge.org and click on the purple circle that says VOTE EVERY DAY. When prompted, enter Rikkis Refuge, VA, and Orange. In a moment it will come up with a VOTE button for you to click on. Then you get a page asking you to Confirm Your Vote. In order to do this you must identify the animal in a photo in one word. Cat, dog, frog, pig. Enter your animal and hit the CONFIRM VOTE button. Wait for the THANK YOU FOR VOTING and you're done. VOTE EVERY DAY! VOTE TO SAVE THE ANIMALS OF RIKKI'S REFUGE! On the second and subsequent days you go to vote, you will have the option of repeating your vote for Rikki's Refuge - you don't have to search again.

Tom Sabol was the chairman of our Second Annual Golf Tournament on May First. He reserved time at Cannon Ridge Golf Club in Stafford and lined up the major sponsors: Fredericksburg Distributing Company, Miller Lite, Coors Light, Xerox Corporation, Michael's Auto, WGRQ 95.9 and Thunder 104. Kerri Williams, Paul Erhard, Jan Chetnik, Melanie Hansford, Howiette, Candy Erhard, Deloris Quick, Cindy Wright, Fred Friedman, Debra Barrett, Donna Winans, Nancy Long, Mariza Soliman, Mary Walker, Kathy McLauren, Ryleighy McLauren, Vincent, Duke Thomas Peabody, Boomer, KiKi, Hushie and Gruffy all helped out, too. For a second year in a row the First Place Winner was Team Cowan (Buck Cowan, Jesse Skipeith, Pip Thomas, Bob Addison). Coming in a close second were Larry Hochman, Frank Bjoring, Rick Potts and Joe Petrucci of the Team Xerox North. Last year was so much fun we didn't think we could beat it - but we did - bigger and better prizes too!

Deloris Quick recently bought and donated more Rikki's Refuge logo shirts. Lots of new and fun colors. If you aren't stylishly dressed in Rikki's Wear you better get on down to a Tour or to an Open House and visit the Gift Shoppe and stock up! Sweats too.

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, your donations provide direct support. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs. Members: Combined Federal Campaign #77674, Combined Virginia Campaign #3163, PetsMart Charities #1377, iGive, paypal.com (mail@rikkisrefuge.org).

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.

Rikki's Reflections is published by Life Unlimited of Virginia, Inc.
 Executive Director: Kerry Hilliard
 Editor: Kerri Williams
 Associate Editor: Fred Friedman
 Printer: The Journal Press
 Mail House: Dominion Market Research

Unless otherwise stated, all written material is provided by Kerry Hilliard and Kerri Williams. All photographs provided by Kerry Hilliard, Kerri Williams and Paul Erhard. All material in Rikki's Reflections is copyrighted and cannot be used for any purpose other than to bring awareness of Rikki's Refuge and the plight of unwanted animals to the public. Any monetary gain attributed to this material must be donated to Rikki's Refuge.

And for more fun Rikki's Wear, check out our custom specialty shirt shop at www.cafepress.com/RikkisRefuge. This is where we got our Cats vs Dogs shirts. Don't miss some of the favorites - "My Other Job is in a Cat House", "I'm in the Dog House Again", "My Life Has Gone to the Dogs" and who knows what else I'll have designed by the time you're reading this!

Saving the animals is hard work. It's hard work that every one of you help with. You work hard and donate your money. You work hard volunteering. You work hard making the positive things happen. Sometimes it's hard to see what a positive force you have been in the world. Sometimes it seems like you're just one little soul trying so hard and it shows so little. But together we've made a big moving force in the universe. And this force is moving in the right direction.

My heart was recently warmed when I read an article about decommissioning oil rig platforms in the ocean. It was discussing the concern for toppling or destroying them with dynamite and the consequences of injuring the sea life that has taken up residence on these underwater structures. The scallops, mussels, sea anemones, brittle stars, fish who lay their eggs on the pillars and fish who dine on the animals living on the pillars. Years ago nobody would have cared. Or very few of us. The big companies would have gone about their business in the most economical manner possible and the animals would have died. A small consequence to pay, most of the people would have thought.

But because you have cared over the years and you've expressed your opinions and you've put your money where your mouth is - the world is stopping and thinking about the consequences. Might we hurt somebody? Take their home? Destroy their environment? Every time someone stops and thinks, even for one second, we've moved a smidge forward.

I dream of the day when everyone stops to think - first, do no harm - before they act. A world where everybody considers the other guy, all the other guys (and gals), before they act. We're a long way off from a perfect world - but every day we take a step in the right direction, each act of kindness we bestow on somebody (and I don't discriminate on species when I use that word) puts us one step closer.

Each step you've made this year to help us overcome our economic difficulties, each time you've reached just a little bit deeper into your pocket, you've brought one more case of food, you've spent one more hour working here, has put us one step closer to success.



Yes, it's been hard, and yes, it's been frustrating, and yes we've been worried, mighty worried. Almost every week I'm talking to a sanctuary, shelter or rescue that just can't go on. They are tired, they are overwhelmed, they feel the economy has been the last straw and they've given up. I help when and where I can. My first responsibility must be to my current residents. I must ensure their safety for life before considering anything else. So often I wish I could help when I cannot.

Despite the hardships and the discouragement we feel when a fellow organization fails, we must trudge on. We know that it will turn around for us and that life will get easier. Every one of you has jumped in, and every little bit you've done and you can do, bit by bit, it all adds up. We won't stop fighting until we've won. Till we've saved every life we can. We push and we work harder and we work longer, we try something new, if it fails, we try something different. We've learned that what we thought was giving 100 percent wasn't, it wasn't even close.

We could spend our energy bemoaning our circumstances, cursing and crying. But no, our staff, our volunteers, our donors push on, one little bit more and find that they can spare one more hour, one more dollar, encourage one more friend to join the fight. We will push harder and we will work harder and will come up with new

inventive ideas to stretch that dollar even further and together WE WILL WIN!

We are not conformists who think the animals deserve less, have no feelings and don't deserve to live. We are the visionaries, ostracized because "saving the animals is impractical". We are the innovators who must work in unorthodox ways to change the world for our four-legged furry friends (and three legged friends, Vincent never lets me forget, and feathered friend, yes Rhonda I know), and all other creatures of the world.

We fight to change the views, ideas and opinions and most of all, the idea that our friend should die instead of being cared for, simply because he or she is "inconvenient" for us. We don't miss a chance to save somebody because it might be risky. We stretch our minds because thinking up new and exciting ways to save our friends is the best use of that mind. We will not join the ranks of those arrayed against our ideas of peace, the right to love and life to all creatures just because we look at all of the opposition and all the work and sacrifice we are facing and decide it's not worth it.

From 36 million to 6 million. And counting down! We stand up! We stand out! We are the voice for those who so few listen to! We are the winners! And that makes our animals the ultimate winners!

Thank you for giving them not just the life they deserve, but their very life.



Kerry Hilliard
Executive Director
Rikki's Refuge

**"This one step -- choosing a goal and sticking to it -- changes everything."
-Scott Reed**

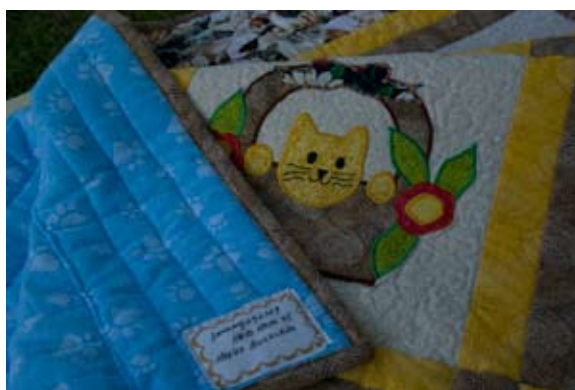
THIS AND THAT



DOGS VS CATS?

Here at Rikki's, we're big on quilts, as long as they have animals on them. We have two wonderful quilt donors who meticulously hand stitch these beautiful creations, and if we're not giving them as gifts, we're raffling them off.

Lena Stocks (left) accepted this beautiful dog quilt, made by Mariko Buckland, as a gift for her birthday, and Melanie Hansford (right) won the fabulous cat quilt, made by Melissa Felts, at Rikki's Refuge 2nd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament (and boy, did the tickets sell for that).



Now you have a chance to win the next available cat quilt, designed by Mariko Buckland. We'll be selling tickets for this quilt raffle through August 16, 2009, when we'll draw the lucky winner at the 11th Anniversary Party Open House. And no, you don't have to be present to win. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You can get your tickets, and see a full color version of the quilt, on our website. Or you can send a check for the appropriate amount, according to how many tickets you'd like, along with your name and contact information to Rikki's Refuge, PO Box 1357, Orange, VA 22960. Get your tickets now!



YEA, RENE!

Rene Luther, our ever present handy person and on call artist, has been wielding her paint brush all over Rikki's lately. She recently completed the Chicken City mural and spiced things up over at Doggie Downs. Most of the fun art work you see while strolling around the Refuge is courtesy of Rene. She's painted Garfield in honor of the cats living at Feline Fields and Snoopy to keep the pups company at Doggie Downs. Rene is responsible for Pana, the giant cat greeting you at the gate when you come visit. She's popped bird houses up along the driveway, fixed up the second hand wishing well, and created a beautiful donation box at the farmhouse. And when she's not fueling her creativity with a paintbrush, she dons her tool belt and fixes all those things that need fixing at Rikki's.



NEW FACES



Two new goats recently made Rikki's their new home. We welcome Jessy and Joey into the Rikki's family. They're currently staying over at Llama Lounge. Dancer is already making it known that he's the head goat (we honestly don't think he realizes he's a llama).



Melanie Hansford reassures Jessy on his first day at Rikki's that he will always be loved and that he has a forever home.



Cindy Wright with Navigator (left) and Toby (right). Both dogs have the energy of pups and keep Cindy busy with their doggy smiles and rambunctious bouts around Doggy Downs.

THE CATNIP SACK



Meet Howard and Tracy. They're two of our favorite people. Howard, aka Redskins' Hogette Howiette volunteers at our golf tournament, and Tracy, a reporter for the Stafford Sun, keeps the area up to date on Refuge events. Howard and Tracy met at Rikki's Benefit Golf Tournament, where Howard offered Tracy a Redskins Catnip Sack for her fur baby, Timmy.

You, too, can own your very own Catnip Sack (well, your cat can), made by our very own Candy Erhard. Candy uses primo organic catnip (and she won't tell us who her supplier is) that any cat will love. Cats go crazy for this stuff, and it lasts forever. Well, maybe not forever, but Kerri Williams says her cats still go silly over the stuff (and it's two years old).

If you'd like to be the owner of your own personal Catnip Sack (remember, it is for your cat, not for you), contact Rikki's at 540.854.0870 or email mail@rikkisrefuge.org. You can also pick up your Catnip Sacks while visiting Rikki's. All proceeds benefit Rikki's Refuge.

VOTE FOR RIKKI'S

When you're surfing around the World Wide Web today, stop by Rikki's website and vote for Rikki's at the Animal Rescue Site Shelter Challenge. It's simple, it's free, and you can vote every day until July 29, 2009.

Just click on the purple button on Rikki's main web page. It'll take you to the Animal Rescue Site where you'll type in Rikki's Refuge, Orange, VA, then click search, then vote, then answer the question and confirm your vote. when you visit the website the next day to vote again, it will remember that you voted for Rikki's the last time, and you can vote with just one click.

**Your vote for Rikki's is a vote for the lives of Rikki's animals.
VOTE TODAY! VOTE EVERY DAY!**

You can get up to the minute information about such contests when you sign up for Hairballs, Rikki's weekly e-newsletter filled with stories about the animals and upcoming events at the Refuge. Send an email to mail@rikkisrefuge.org requesting to receive Hairballs.

Check it out. You've seen the Dream Team shirts on our staff and volunteers, now you can own one too. Just head over to Cafe Press and order yours today. And we're not just talking about shirts. We're talking about pillows and mouse pads and clocks. Buy yours today and show how much you care for your furred and feathered friends who found their last hope of salvation at Rikki's Refuge.



<http://www.cafepress.com/RikkisRefuge>



A BIG THANK YOU TO THE RAINBOW GIRLS

The Rainbow Girls joined us recently for a day of work at Rikki's. They mowed and cleaned cat boxes and walked dogs. Thank you, Rainbow Girls, for making Rikki's your place to do a day of service!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RIKKI'S REFUGE!

On August 14, 1998, Rikki's Refuge was founded. Let me tell you the story.

Kerry and a friend, Patti, hosted Animal Update, a local Washington DC radio show. Kerry was talking about this wonderful 330 acre property with 260 acres of wildlife woods, three creeks, and 70 open acres that could be used for an animal sanctuary. It was a matter of raising the money.



The story goes that Rikki, the faithful Balinese cat who was a loyal companion to Louise Hilliard (Kerry's mom), and who had crossed over the Rainbow Bridge a year and a half earlier, came to Louise in a dream and told her to share her love for homeless animals. Louise donated the money to bring Rikki's Refuge to life. Louise, wanting the attention focused on the animals, not her donation, remained an anonymous donor until 2004 when she crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.



We thank Louise, and Rikki, for without their help, we would not have saved the thousands of animals who have come through our gates over the past 11 years. We've saved over 5,000 animals since 1998.

And a lot has happened over the past 11 years. We've grown from 330 acres to 367 acres. We currently house 21 species and over 1,200 animals.

We started with cats and dogs and now coexist with sheep, goats, llamas, cows, horses, chickens, geese, rabbits, guinea pigs, pot bellied pigs, emus, and many, many other critters.

We think all of this is worth celebrating. On August 16th, we'd like you to join us at our 11th Birthday Party Open House, from noon - 4pm, and be a part of this joyful life we call Rikki's Refuge. It's your chance to meet all the animals that call Rikki's home. Come play with them, feed them, and let them thank you for your support in their life.



Tours leave the Gift Shop every half hour from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. There will be several raffles and Regional Artist Carrol Morgan will be joining us to sketch charcoal portraits for donations to Rikki's.



Larry Ramsey, Rikki's resident chef, will be grilling veggie burgers so tasty you'll be going back for seconds and thirds. And not only does he offer burgers, he may have french fries and sweet potato fries to tempt your taste buds.



Admission is a birthday gift of 2 (or more) cans of cat or dog food per person. The event is outdoors, so please dress for the weather and critters. For details, go to our website www.rikkisrefuge.org or call 540.854.0870 (ext 2).

We look forward to seeing you!



CATS VS DOGS



The count is in and once again, the cats won the election by a landslide. And the dogs are howling mad. We witnessed an altercation between Duke and Vinny shortly after Duke demanded a recount. Vinny would hear nothing of it. He insisted the count was accurate, then raised his paw in victory. Soon after, Vinny, Hemi, and Gibson huddled in the 9th Life Assisted Living area to begin planning next year's strategy -

"In 2010, We'll Win Again!" Duke, Boomer, and Kiki hid out in Duke's igloo, working on their own plan for 2010. They refused comment to the press and denied our reporters access to their headquarters.



Duke and Vinny sport their Dream Team T-shirts while waiting for the final tally.



MEET THE PEOPLE WHO CHANGE THE WORLD, ONE ANIMAL AT A TIME

Meet the outstanding staff of Rikki's Refuge, people devoting their lives to the challenge of changing the world one animal at a time. The complex difficulties of their jobs are astounding, read about these people, who give so much, to see the dream of saving the animals come alive. It's a heartwarming devotion, so rare in today's world, it will bring tears to your eyes. These are the very special people who make up the daily team at Rikki's Refuge.

LENA STOCKS



Lena Stocks had never heard of Rikki's Refuge four years ago when she called Orange County Animal Shelter about an animal issue and was referred here. She called and heard the message that we were interviewing for a job opening and left a message there before calling back about the critters. She got a call back on Friday and came in for her interview on Saturday.

"Joe Callahan trained me that day. He rolled up on his ATV and said, 'So you're my victim for the day?' Hop on. We took off and I figured it was going to be an exciting day...or I was in big trouble! He introduced me to the pigs and emus and goats and sheep, my first day on the farm. I was hooked!

"I had to give two weeks notice at my job and I know you didn't believe me when I said I'd work my days off and start full time in two weeks. I couldn't understand why you looked at me like, darn, that one got away. Now I do. Like one in 10 or 20 who come to interview really stay for even the first day and more than half the people offered a job, never come back. I don't

know, they must be scared of hard work, being dirty all day long, getting trampled, stomped and bit. I'll never understand those that run away!

"I'd had lots of experience with lots of animals. My husband and two daughters always loved being surrounded by critters, so we've had quite a few over the years and I know how much work goes into properly caring for them.

"I'm in charge of medicine and the Sanctuary Manager and I do whatever else needs to be done. My favorite part of the job is the days I get to work on the farm. Visiting the animals, feeding them, getting to hug and pat and snuggle while I feed and clean. I just love feeding the farm animals, especially the pigs. Little Rob and Petunia and Charlotte.



"My least favorite task? Gee, I don't know, I love working with all the animals. I guess it's when I have to discipline people. It makes me feel mean cuz I have to make them do the job, when I'd think they'd just want to do their best for the animals. I also really hate expressing anal glands! It's a nasty job, but somebody's got to do it!

"I think the hardest thing I've had to learn is how many unwanted and unloved animals there truly are in the world. I want to see this change. I want to see people getting animals spayed and neutered and thinking before purchasing a cute little puppy that it's a life they will be responsible for the rest of its life. I

want them to learn the responsibility and stop just thinking they can throw that responsibility on somebody else as soon as the going gets rough.

"The best part of my job is when we get somebody in really bad off (paralyzed or they've have a terrible accident) and nobody else is willing to try and they come here and we care and we love them and we save their life and make them happy. Also, every time we find somebody a home.

"Goliath has been a very special one for me. Animal Control called one day and said there was a goat that had been attacked by a dog and the owner couldn't care for him, could we take him. Kerry and I went to the location and found a poor, terrified goat laying on the ground, bleeding from his mouth and from wounds on his body. We got him in a carrier and rushed him back to the farm. His face and lips swole up and his tongue had been bitten through. It swole so badly he couldn't eat or drink. Every hour I'd go out and hold cool water up and pour it over his tongue. By the third day the swelling was down enough he was almost able to get his tongue back in his mouth. For a week we had to make mush and help him eat. Now he's fine and a happy goat, butting me whenever we play.



"The worst is when we can't save somebody and they die because we don't have enough money to take every animal people want us to. People don't understand that. They think we can just pull money and time out of our hats and take care of their problems. It's so horrible to know that somebody is going to kill an animal because we don't have enough money for the necessities we need to save another life.

"I've seen so much change over the years. We've added more staff. There were only three of us when I started. We've upgraded the animal facilities, added the Dog Clubhouses, the new barn in Cat House #1, we've just expanded everywhere. Our volunteers care more. More and more dedicated volunteers have come to help, like Deloris Quick who comes out once or twice a week and brings food for the animals, does yard sales to raise money, buys a lot of food for us (the animals I mean), and just helps us any way she can when she comes.



Lena takes time to play with one of the cats in the 9th Life Center



Lena with two of the eight dogs she takes home with her every night

"She doesn't care how far out of her way she has to go to help the animals. She never complains and she doesn't mind how dirty she gets if it helps us with the animals. I really respect that in her.

"I love our volunteers. They do the little things we don't have time to do, like playing with the animals, helping to build things for them, scrubbing litter boxes, opening cans and cans of cat food.

"I love the self service volunteers who come and do whatever we need without even having to ask: Mary Walker on Mondays and sometimes other days, Cindy Wright on Saturdays, Rene Luther several times a week, Dennis and Crystal Banes many afternoons, Candy Erhard who brings food and supplies 2 or 3 times a week, Bob Wallace who scrubs and builds on weekends and who gave me my computer so I can do the medical log, Ron Herfurth who never gets tired of all the little things I ask him to fix at cats, Kathy McLaurin who walks MY dogs once or twice a week, Bill Isen who's made the 9th Life Center so much better for us humans to work in, Kristina Anderson who joins in and works just like one of us every other Saturday. I love these people!

"Yes, I dream of the future! A real hospital with our vet permanently on site, more treatment space. I dream of a time when there is enough money be able to take in more animals, to build more dog runs, cats runs, aviaries, to take in more species, especially reptiles and monkeys."

When asked to tell her favorite animal story, Lena begins to tear up and says, "I don't know if I can do this. I'll never forget going to the Culpeper Shelter to pick up Lacey. She was an older poodle mix they'd asked if we could take for her last months or year or whatever (we still have her almost two years later). And they brought out another old, blind, deaf, legs bent with arthritis, horribly matted, white poodle they were calling Cotton because she looked like a wad of dirty cotton balls."

With tears now streaming down her face she remembers, "I knew she couldn't live long. But I couldn't bear the thought of her dying there when her stray period was over. After living a long life, to be lost, and to have nobody looking to find you, and to die alone and frightened, it Just broke my heart. I didn't want to leave here but I couldn't take her as she was on hold as a stray. I ran back Wednesday to rescue her and save her life knowing she'd only have a few months at most to live, but that we could give her the place to be loved and live out her life. Back at Rikki's Refuge, it took me two hours to shave mats and mess off her. And I named her Precious. She was such a sweet little dog, it still makes me cry when I think how someone could have let her wander away and never even try to find her, never called to see if she was still alive, and she would have been killed the next day because she was out of her stray period and nobody even thought anybody might want to give her a chance."

Precious lived with us at Rikki's Refuge, going home each night with Lena, for four months. Four very, very happy months. How do you explain the answer



Precious

when people ask, "Is it worth it? Is all that hard work, all your heartbreak, all the time, all the expense, really worth it?" To Precious and every other animal that's called Rikki's Refuge home, it meant the world, it meant life instead of death. How can it not be worth it?

"I am a positive change happening in the world because I am caring for the animals and I am getting the word out to spay and neuter and to be responsible for your pet for life. I want to tell everyone, don't dump at shelters or abandon or shoot or dump by the road - grow up and be responsible.

"Yes, I get tired, exhausted, frustrated, but I get up every day and get back to work because I know there are animals here needing to be taken care of and they can't do it themselves."

If you could take one animal home today? "What? Does that mean I can't take the eight dogs used to going home with me every night? I guess I'd take, Neko, Petunia, Goliath, Jessie and Joey the goats.... I know, math never was my strong point."

Your message to the world? "Animals are a big responsibility and they are yours for life - so stop and think.

"I have a special request to our readers. We need your help, financially, volunteers, even just being there for us with moral and spiritual help. You mean more than you'll ever know. Please help us so we can help the animals."

JOE FOX

Joe Fox was really happy to read a help wanted ad for an Animal Sanctuary. He'd never heard of one, but the thought thrilled him. He came out for a visit in 1999, when he was 19 years old. Rikki's Refuge was in its infancy and it was what he'd dreamed about. Cats here, dogs there, lamb laying down with the...well... pigs. He saw what a great opportunity it would be to help make it grow. It would be a couple of years before he joined the staff. He'd experiment with other fields of employment over the years. Currently he's been with us for just over 2 years. All together a bit less than four. He'd like to stay a long time to see Rikki's Refuge grow and expand more and to become a model to the world of how animals should be cared for.



Joe and Claire

"I'm Lena's assistant. Assistant in the hospital and assistant manager. By learning more and more of the chores I can take over from her, I'm able to free up her time so she can learn more and more from Kerry. I've learned so much about animal behavior. About medicine, what does what and basic remedies, anatomy and how things work and I've learned how to take care of all kinds of animals.



Buddy

"I love my job. The happiest thing about it is that I can take my dog of ten years, Buddy, with me to work every day. It really makes his day. And that makes my day. Buddy is my best friend.

"I think Rikki's Refuge is really important to the community. I know for a lot of people it's a new concept. I like to see people get involved in their community. It's important to make a place where the animals in your community can have a

home if they can't get adopted. It makes a better community to give them a chance to live, than if you just kill them. It's really good to see people coming together to help take care of the creatures that some humans don't think are important. We teach people what it means to be kind and to make commitments to their animals.



"I find it discouraging that some people don't care very much about the smallest of creatures. When people feel it's ok to trample on them without any consequences. They don't realize it, but there are consequences. Sometimes they don't have to pay right away, but others do. It's not right for people to leave a huge mess for us to clean up. We want to teach them to be responsible for their animals and for their planet.

"I think one of the biggest ways I've seen Rikki's Refuge grow is that a lot more people come now. A lot of new people. So many of the same people who've come over the years, and so many who are coming more often. I see people here now that I met here in 1999. People are really doing more and more. It's so encouraging to see how many more people are doing so much more.

"Especially our tour guide, Jan Chetnik, has made such a difference. The monthly tours are getting better and better. The PR brings more and more people. Rikki's Refuge is on the radio, in newspapers and on TV. The Open Houses are really big events and lots of people come and they have a lot of fun. There are more and more volunteers working on fundraising, sometimes big projects like the Golf Tournament. And lots of building projects. We say we need something and they come and build it. Lots of times they even buy the materials themselves because they know we can't afford it. All this couldn't be done without these dedicated people.



"I think the Open Houses and Tours are especially good for the kids. They are fascinated. We're able to plant ideas in them we want to see grow. They often want to get involved and then their parents come too. Some of the parents and scout leaders are the ones who really get a lot accomplished when they're out with the kids. Being at Rikki's Refuge teaches the kids respect, respect for other beings. We teach the consequences of letting animals go stray and not caring. They get to see the results of carelessness in the suffering of the animals. And it's good. Seeing it really makes them learn. Since what

we teach is not really mainstream, society needs to rely on us to spread the word.

"I have dreams of a better facility, more modern, bigger, so we can care for more animals in an up to date on site facility with a serious veterinary hospital filled with advanced equipment and a veterinarian on site full time. I want to be able to teach others what we've learned and what we've found to work in different situations. We're the only ones working with so many special cases like Feline Leukemia and FIV and things. Other people just kill these poor animals.

"The animal story that keeps coming to mind is very sad. It's about Ol' Geezer. He was a big old hound dog. When he got old he was living up at the 9th Life Center. He'd start barking about breakfast time, jumping up and down and getting really excited. He'd keep barking till you brought his breakfast out. He'd be so happy when he got his bowl. He was so happy, it'd make me happy.



Ol' Geezer

Then he'd be quiet most of the day. And then as it got to be dinner time he'd start barking and getting all excited again. Every day he did this. He always knew exactly what time it was. He'd had a lot of health problems and there were a few times we were sure he wouldn't make it. But then he'd get up and bark for breakfast and again for dinner.

"Then one morning he'd started barking and I'd given him his meds. He was barking and waiting for breakfast. Just like every day. I suddenly noticed it was quiet. Breakfast wasn't out yet and it was quiet. I ran back out and he was dead. Just like that. Gone. No more barking. I thought how sometimes his barking to hurry up was annoying, but it was always funny too and I'd loved hearing it. Loved sharing that part of his day where he was so excited. And now he was gone.

"That was terribly hard. Emotional. I just broke down. It hit me really hard. Every breakfast and dinner time for awhile I'd be really sad and emotional. I still am when I think about it.

"I try to do a good job, to treat all the animals right. I get tired at night but not until it's all done and everybody is taken care of do I get really tired. I still feel the energy to keep going to take care of every last one. Sometimes when it's even way past my hours.

"I really appreciate the people I work with, and the animals. It'd be nice to make every little thing perfect and natural for the animals. I want to see Rikki's Refuge strive for the best quality and utmost care and we need more staff and more volunteers and more money to make this happen."

If you could take one animal home today? "Java. He's a great big furry Himalayan with soft luscious fur, such pretty colors and pretty blue eyes, he's really big and snuggly. When he came in he had a terrible ear infection that made him head tilted. He was so scared and he'd run and hide. I'd pick him up and he'd snuggle in and just loved to have me pat him. I just loved that feeling of him tucking under my arm and snuggling up close and loving to have me loving him. His ear infection went away, but he stayed kind of head tilted, and I still love to snuggle him."

Your message to the world? "Learn to do what's right in your heart. Spread the word. Love each other and everyone, we're all part of the same planet."





Darryl Adams

Darryl Adams heard about Rikki's Refuge and the possibility of a job here from a friend who was employed at Rikki's. His first reaction, "It's too good to be true!" Once he started working at Rikki's Refuge he, "found it to be more than what I'd expected - much more hands on with the animals - great - fantastic - so much better than anything I expected." He's been with us two years now and plans to stay until Rikki's Refuge and all places like it can close down because nobody dumps their animals any more.

He's a member of the medical team, caring for the sick, mixing meds, distributing them. He also helps with the general cleaning, feeding, making sure every one has a clean bed, and that everyone is comfortable and has what they need and don't want for anything.

"I've learned so much, great things, most of all medical, general cleaning, feeding; the loving is natural for me. I've learned how the body responds to different things. I've loved learning it all and take home my knowledge for my animals and those of my family. We have cats, dogs, reptiles, fence lizards, frogs and newts and it will expand when I move into a house of my own - very soon!

"The most encouraging thing is to give life where others have said there is no use, or no reason to bother, to give life to the ones who've been condemned. It means giving them a chance. Holding them and helping them while they heal.

"It hurts the most when we try and even though we know we did our best we lose an animal."

Rikki's Refuge gets a lot of difficult cases that require hours and hours of nursing care and basic life support, maintaining body temp, force feeding, caring for them night and day, expressing bladders, helping with the most basic life functions. These animals usually come referred from other organizations who don't have the dedicated staff Rikki's Refuge does. How does it feel working with these animals, Darryl?

"It's sad, but it's a chance they now have that they wouldn't have had. They've been told they can't even have a chance and should just be killed. And we try, and even when we lose, we've loved them and



Bonding with Dancer

we've tried and we've given them a chance and we can feel good knowing that our save rate is so much higher than our losses. But even when we do lose, it's better to see someone die in the arms of someone who cares and who loves them, than to just be killed because nobody wants to bother."

As I talk to Darryl, he's busy changing a cage out for a feral cat and says, "Feral cats, we have a lot, most people won't have them, we deal with them the most." This cat is really snarling and hissing and slashing out and threatening to bite - are you bothered by his attitude? "No, he's more afraid of me than I am of him

and that's why he's acting this way." The whole time Darryl is soothingly talking to the "nice kitty" while trying to reach in and extricate a dirty litter box and change it out for a fresh one. Aren't you likely to get bit? He looks at me like I'm stupid and replies, "YES." How do you feel about that? "It's all in a day's work!"

"Since I've been here, I've witnessed with my own eyes more animals come and more people come to help them, more people coming to visit, wanting to learn and more buildings going up. It's a growing phenomenon. My dreams are to see it greatly expanded. More lives saved."



Darryl with Tippy

If you could take one animal home today? "Tippy, we've grown so close, he waits for me in the driveway every morning. When Tippy came to Rikki's, I had an elderly dog at Rikki's I was very close with, Rocky. Shortly before he passed, Tippy was in training to be a farm dog, and Rocky began to stay beside me all the time. It was weird because Rocky was used to running around a lot. I felt it was his way of telling us it was his time to go and he wanted Tippy to take over so I'd have someone.

"I am a positive change happening in the world because I am one of the ones here on the team who actually gives the animals hope and another chance.



We all have to start somewhere. We can't save the whole world overnight. Even though I'd like to! It's so encouraging to see a sad animal, uncared for, abused, to come to Rikki's Refuge and change into a whole new happy animal. I see that so much here. I do that. That feels good.

"Whenever I get discouraged, it's usually because we lost somebody, it's hard, but I have to look around and see all those faces we saved and know we have won!"

Your message to the world? "If you don't try - you know exactly what you get."

"My son Diamond Devon Adams will be one year old on June 25th, he's taught me that life is so beautiful, even the ugly things about life are beautiful, you just have to look.

"Keep your eyes open for Rikki's Refuge - we're going to expand and we might be near you!"





Valerie Fast

Valerie Fast has been at Rikki's Refuge a year and a half. Her parents saw the ad in the paper, called, and set up her interview. They knew it'd be perfect for their animal loving daughter. The family always had horses, cats and dogs. Valerie didn't know there would be this many kinds of animals or how many of each - especially cats! She's fallen in love with the pigs. She says she loves everybody except Jackie, the emu, who chases her. And you know we sometimes have visitors worried about being chased by chickens. Their much, much smaller cousins!

"I started working at Rikki's Refuge during emu mating season. Jack, our only male emu, really liked me. He'd follow me around and sometimes jump on me if I turned my back. Maybe this is why Jackie doesn't like me!

"I hope to work at Rikki's Refuge as long as I can. I do some of everything here. I do meds and I scoop litter boxes and I clean the 9th Life Center and I take care of the farm animals. It's nice to have so much variety. Every job is just as important to the animals and they all must be done every day. I've gained so much knowledge, especially working in the hospital and learning meds. It took me a month or two to gain confidence. I started with small things like giving sub q fluids, then things like pilling. It didn't take me much time to learn the animals and their names. I know everybody by name.

"To me the most encouraging part of my job is when a cat is really sick and I help make it better. That feels so good. The most discouraging is when we don't win and somebody dies, especially if I'm not there to be with them and to say goodbye. That's really sad.



Lena and Valerie stroll the Refuge

"So much has changed in the time I've been here. A lot of faces have changed, people and animals, they all come and go. I saw the Day Rooms built and the cats just loving to go outdoors to their space. They love to make us chase them in and out to catch them. Especially when it's time to give somebody meds, they run out the cat door, I go out back to the Day Room, they run back in the cat door. They love to tease us! They know when it's time for their meds. They know who's on the list before them. They might be sleeping and when Mr. White gets his meds, Mufasa vanishes!

"My dreams for the future? To save all the cats in the world. To save everybody or try anyway.

"I love to see how the cats sleep together. They lick each other and lay down together and put their arms around each other. It's so nice to see so many getting along together so well."

Valerie adopted a special needs kitty from Rikki's Refuge. "When Gizmo came in she was so cute, giant huge eyes and a tiny little body. She looked so alone all by herself in the great big hospital cages, so I took her home to foster. Just until she was well and could be adopted. She was very sick when she came in and had terrible eye infections. Her eyes were all swollen up. She ended up losing one eye.

"She had eye surgery and was spayed at the same time (to avoid two bouts with anesthesia). When she was waking up, she jumped on my lap and started purring like I was her mommy and I knew I had to keep her."

But Valerie's mom didn't want her to have a cat because they had an elderly dog who didn't like cats, so Valerie snuck her home and into her room in a pink lunch bag every day. "My dad knew cuz he loves cats too. When our elderly dog passed my Dad asked my Mom if I could have a cat. When my mom said yes, Gizmo got to come out of my room. Now my Mom loves her too!

"I am a positive change in the world because I help to save the cats and other animals that come here. So many come to us because they need a lot of nursing care, physical therapy, love to make them stop hating people. Some days it's hard, especially when I see what some people do to animals, or what they let happen to them, and then I see somebody sick or one I saved jumps on my shoulders and I know I have to come back the next day and save somebody else.

"I see animals that are given up like Gibson who start out mean and hissing and hating the world. And I talk calmly and love them and blow kisses and they end up nice and loving me back and it makes me feel good.

"I brought my niece out to visit the animals at Rikki's Refuge and she looked at Petunia and said, "Oh! Look a Pink Elephant!"

If you could take one animal home today? "Taco! I'm very fond of him, he's such a beautiful color, so playful. I just love to see him run free in the grass." Taco joined us after an accident that left him tail-less and with nerve damage affecting his bowels and bladder. He often needs help relieving himself. And other times it just leaks while he's sleeping.

Your message to the world? "Think twice before getting rid of an animal - don't adopt if you're not going to keep it for life."



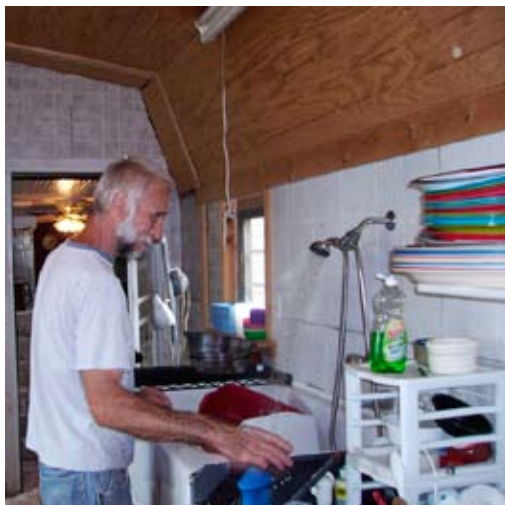
Valerie with Taco



Bruce Johnson

Bruce Johnson has been at Rikki's Refuge for almost a year. When he came for an interview, he was expecting to see wildlife and exotic animals. Instead he's spending his time with 21 species of domestic and farm animals. He really enjoys the different animals, meeting new types of animals. "They're always different than what you think from just seeing them on TV or reading about them. Each individual animal is unique, they have different attitudes, moods, activities, problems. Chickens may look alike, but they all have their differences. Handicapped animals have their issues and their needs are different. It isn't just a pen of rabbits, it's a group of individuals, like the three legged rabbit. I like helping the ones who are disadvantaged, shy or the underdog.

"Working at Rikki's Refuge is different than what I've done in the past, a new chapter in my life. I've always liked animals. There's a lot of responsibilities to each individual animal. I've learned different ways to take care of them - it's not just food and water and walking a dog. It's a lot more work than I ever imagined...when you have 40-50 litter boxes to clean...it's NOT like having one at home.



"One of the things I love about Rikki's Refuge is that all the animals get personal care, and everyone is allowed to live until it's their natural time to go. They're all special. They aren't just treated like things. It's taken time. When I came the animals were not used to me or me to them. But now we're so much more bonded. It's like having a bunch of kids, even if one doesn't like me, it still needs me to feed it and clean up its area.



"I'd love to see more upgrades and updates to make it better for the animals and the staff. I wish we could find a way to utilize all this rain to wash away the waste into a disposal system. I've seen a lot happen since I've been here and how much money goes into making every little thing better. We need to tell everybody, our friends, everybody, and get more people to help out. We need to use all the media to communicate to the public what we are doing and what we need. They'll listen. Just look what they've done so far! You may think people aren't interested in our work with the animals, but then when they see what we've done, when they see how much we care, they change their minds. And they want to help too.

"By being here, I make a difference in each animal's life. It's great exercise and makes me pay better attention to my own health. If I can't go out there and make a difference - why bother getting out of bed each morning?"

If you could take one animal home today? "It would be KiKi, she reminds me of my dog, friendly but fierce. I wish I had known of places like Rikki's Refuge when life changes made me give up my dog and I had to take him to the shelter instead."

Your message to the world? "Slow down and enjoy what you have. Don't look for more than you can chew."

Bruce's "want to take home" animal - Kiki



Andria Miley



Andria Miley has been at Rikki's Refuge for four months. She first saw the help wanted ad in the paper last summer and knew it was the job for her. Other things got in the way and it wasn't until January that she joined our team. "The day I came for my interview, there were three of us all trying out. I was the only one who made it past noon. I had the feeling God wanted me to do this." Andria started by learning to care for the

cats and has just started doing dogs and farm animals. "The farm is much easier, but it's more time-consuming, dirty and muddy, but easier. It's pretty cool working with the dogs, after working so much with the cats for the past several months."

What have you learned working at an animal sanctuary? "That the animals are fine, it is the people you have to worry about. Just when I think I know what to expect we get the unexpected!

"In the future I'd like to see better landscaping, filling in the mud holes!" Andria certainly has had a muddy introduction to life at the farm! Perhaps by the time you read this we'll be back in a drought - though as we work diligently on building a very large boat out here this spring with the plan of taking 600 of each creature, dry weather seems so far away.

"I love to watch the cats play, the younger spunky ones just tearing around playing tag. It always makes me feel happy, no matter what else has happened that day. I love seeing people care about the animals and Rikki's is a well founded place where they get such excellent care, it's enlightening and it makes my days bright, it's not just a shed in somebody's back yard.

"I love working at Rikki's Refuge because at other places I've worked people made fun of me for my OCD



and wanting everything perfect and taking the time to do it. But here they appreciate my attention to detail and say find your own way and do it! I take pride in my work. I like seeing the bowls match, every one in a comfy bed suited to them. It's worth the extra time to me."

If you could take one animal home today? "It'd be Neko the rottie. He bit me on my first day here. A day or two later he came and put his head under my hand and said I'm sorry, we've been bonded ever since.

"Rikki's Refuge is a movement to teach caring to the world. Just look around and see how many of our animals came because somebody threw them out like trash. It's knowing so many people care and help us with donations and funding, it's those people who care that really matter. Some have never even been here, but they know we're doing a good job taking care of the animals. I can look around and see how things are improving every day. Working here is very peaceful and soothing."

Andria has 3 girls, Autumn, Annabelle and Amelia. They call themselves the A-Team. The girls love to come and visit on mom's days off and when they can, to come to work with mom. They love to come out. They especially like visiting the rabbits and trying to catch the guinea pigs. They're always begging, "Please bring a guinea pig home, mom". At the last open house they sat in a cat run and had a blast playing with all the cats. "It's nice quality time, nice and quiet, and I can teach them how and what to do and not to do with animals. I'm able to teach control, learning how to read things and anticipating the next reaction. Teaching them to be in control of themselves and the situation."

Your message to the world? "Be positive, and don't ever be afraid to worship the Lord!"



Neko



Ron Darby

"I enjoy the camaraderie of spending my retirement with the retired animals. It feels good helping animals, especially when they become my friends after having a hard time or being mistreated by other people. Copper, our first horse, was a special one, he followed me around like a dog.

"It's like feeding two cats out of one bowl" - a saying Joe invented, since at Rikki's Refuge we'd never kill birds with a stone (or any other way for that matter). "I take care of the animals and the animals take care of me!"

What's your favorite animal story? "Not long ago I was riding my ATV and as I began to round a curve, right there in the middle of the trail stood a surprised skunk. I saw her about the same time she saw me. The tail went up just as I scooted off the path to miss her. I didn't even smell it for the first few minutes. But when I got back to the office and said, you'll never guess what happened to me, everybody said you got skunked! So I guess I smelt pretty bad.

"One of my happiest days was when I brought home little Fran, my dog, in 2002. She was so tiny I could hold her in one hand. She grew up playing with baby ducks with her adopted mom Molly, an old beagle. She grew to be a very gentle dobie. Girl scouts were camping out one night and she was curious about them. She was always a bit timid. She stuck her head in a tent and startled a girl and turned howling and ran back home.



Little Fran



Joe Callahan

Joe Callahan joined Rikki's Refuge on the day of the very first work party in 1998. A regular volunteer at the Fauquier Animal Shelter he'd heard about a sanctuary being started in Orange County. When he arrived, he said he was, "here to help build the cat farm." The term Cat Farm is synonymous with Rikki's Refuge in Orange County today. Joe is a volunteer, seven days a week, rain or

Joe and Boogz

shine - but hates snowy and cold days! Joe says, "The only good thing about a snow was it brought Rob out."

Sure enough, if it was a bitter day and the snow was falling, you could count on looking out the window and seeing Rob flying up on his ATV. Rob Darby was Joe's dear friend of many years. Together they blazed many a trails in the woods, built a log cabin, patrolled during hunting season, built the red barn and worked on many other projects. Rob, much too young, and very unexpectedly crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Today all of us who knew him see his face in the snowflakes.



Fran and Molly

"The day she died from bone cancer in 2007, only 5 years old, was probably the worst I can remember.

"I spend a lot of time on the tractor mowing the fields. I do the burials at our Rainbow Bridge Cemetery. It's not fun, but it's hard work and somebody has to do it. Security is my job. Nobody is going to hurt my animals. The refuge animals or the wild animals in my woods. Night Patrols. Perimeter patrols. And especially patrolling for poachers and trespassers during hunting season.

"Out here some people still hunt with dogs. Seeing some of these poor dogs just makes me sick. It's convinced me we should outlaw hunting with dogs in

Virginia. The dogs don't seem well cared for. The ones that end up lost on our property anyway, they are starving, ribs sticking out. It makes me so angry to see an animal treated like that. I figure if you're not smart enough to shoot a deer without a dog helping you, then you deserve to starve. And if you don't need food (and these days most people don't, it's cheaper to go to the grocery store than to buy all that fancy equipment they use, radio collars, ATVs, outfits and all the accessories), it's just the joy of killing. And it isn't right. It's just not right.

"I like animals. It's very peaceful to be with the animals. Seeing all that we see here makes me believe laws about animal cruelty should be strengthened. We need to tighten up the laws about spaying and neutering. Start taking these issues seriously and making some serious changes."

Rikki's staff makes the difference in the world. They love and they care for the animals that come to Rikki's, not because they have to, not because it's their job, but because they want to. These people know this is more than just a job, it's a chance to change the world, one day at a time, and every day they come through the gate and make that change happen.



Joe - Feeding two cats out of one bowl, or in this case, fixing two engines with one wrench



VINCENT SPEAKS



Four cats and seven cans of tuna ago when there was first talk about starting an Animal Sanctuary rumors were it would be for cats only. It was even called The Cat Farm. The people who stepped forward to buy the land said, "how about just cats?" And what more deserving species could there be? Kerry kept saying 330 acres of cats? 330 acres just for cats? What about the dogs and the sheep and the horses and...



In the beginning, the sharing wasn't so bad. But as the number of species increased...it's really gotten out of hand.



So Mufasa and I have decided we need to do something special for us cats. Just us cats. Nobody else gets to share. All year round we have to share with everybody else. So now we want something special just for us cats. Kerry even made me share my winnings in the Cats vs. Dogs contest. And not just with the cats, but with ALL of them.



So here's the plan. We're celebrating Kitty Christmas in July. Doesn't that sound yummy? We're begging you to load up on great stuff. I'm saying Fancy Feast and Tuna and.... Yeah, Yeah, I know, Kerry's going to say quantity is better than quality since it's hard enough to get enough to feed the cats these days. And she'll tell you I need paper towels too.

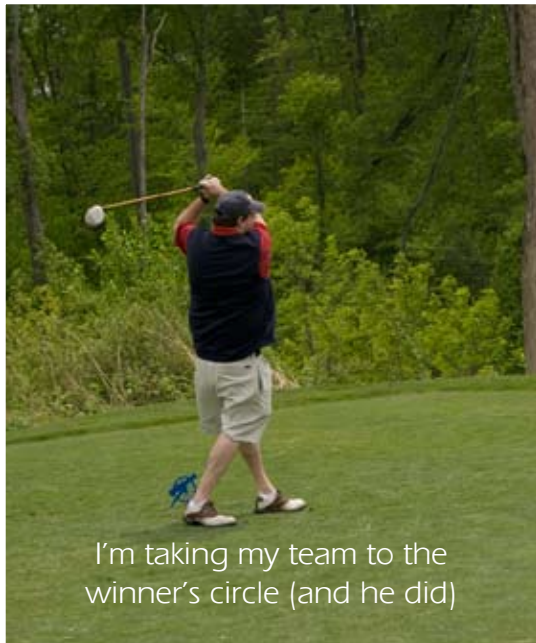
But this time it's just for us and just what we want - so bring on the feast for the kitties.

Love, Vincent

PS - See how skinny Mufasa and I are getting? Please help fatten us up before winter gets here!



RIKKI'S REFUGE 2ND ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT PHOTO ALBUM



I'm taking my team to the winner's circle (and he did)



Eagle? Birdie? Did I at least make it to the green?



Rikkis volunteers



Checking In



Is this like the classic golf stance, or what?



I have more fun riding around in the golf cart than I do playing the course



Kiki & Deloris



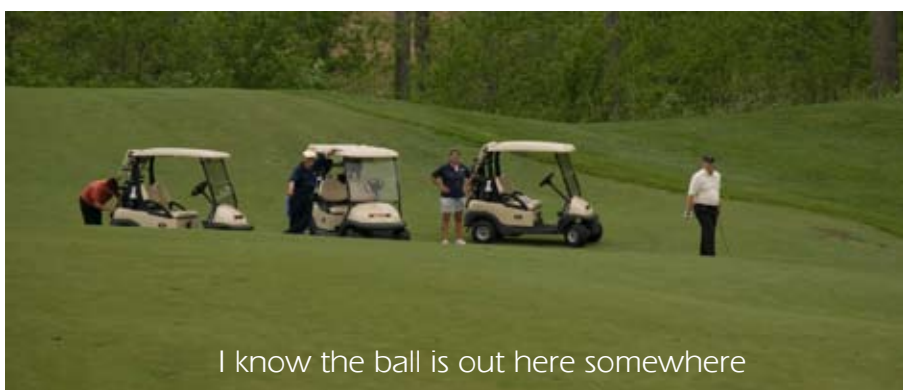
Jan, Kerry & Gruffy



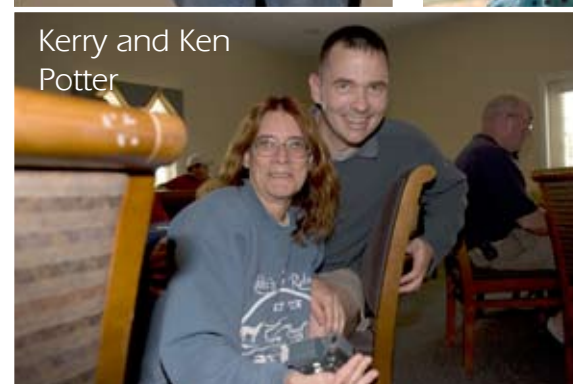
Kerry handing out the big prize



Howiette & Ryleigh



I know the ball is out here somewhere



Kerry and Ken Potter

Ken Potter won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to Rikki's



Just because it made it to the green doesn't mean it made it in the hole



Dinner at the clubhouse

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS

1st Place: Buck Cowan, Bob Addison, Jesse Skipwith, Pip Thomas
 2nd Place: Larry Hochman, Frank Bjoring, Rick Potts, Joe Petrucci



1ST PLACE



2ND PLACE

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE GOLFERS WHO MADE THIS YEARS TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

- Team #1A - Miller Lite (Tom Sabol, Jay Nobles)
- Team #1B - Coors Light
- Team 15A - Tony Williams, Feldman Lane, Tom Bennett, Garry Martindale
- Team #15B - Curt Floyd, Roger Young, Mike Cowgill, Chris Armfield
- Team #16A - Larry Hochman, Frank Bjoring, Rick Potts, Joe Petrucci
- Team #16B - Buck Cowan, Jesse Skipwith, Pip Thomas, Bob Addison
- Team #17A - Robin Sutton, Rick Albrecht, Dave Varrelman, Scott Gallacher
- Team #17B - Stephen Terrell, Kenneth Potter, Christopher Jay, Jay Coutu
- Team #18A - Dave Brady, Dan Amidon, Tony Krehbiel, David Godinez
- Team #18B - Tim Riley, Ned Hilldrup

Our apologies if we missed anyone or misspelled a name.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE AND MEDIA SPONSORS



RIKKI'S ALSO WANTS TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

Hilldrup Properties, Jan Chetnik, Col. Richard A. Anderson, Kent Graham, Alan F. Witter DVM, Century Electric, Alyce Smith, National Mailing Systems

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATED DOOR PRIZES

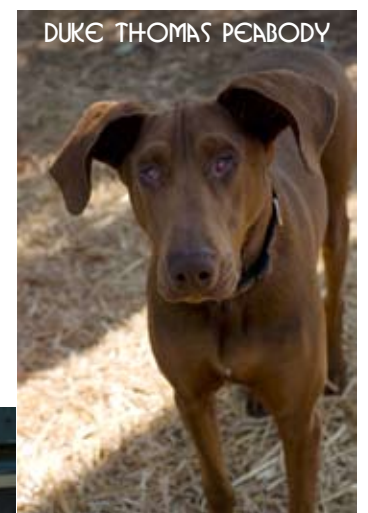
610 Car Wash, Anita's, Applebee's, Bloom, Bob Evans, Bonefish Grill, Cannon Ridge, Carlos O'Kellys, Cheeseburger in Paradise, Chevy Chase Bank, Chick-Fil-A, Cracker Barrel, Deb Barrett, Dulles Executive Pet Center, Edible Arrangements, Elizabeth Barrett, Famous Dave's BBQ, Fredericksburg Distributing Company, Firnin & Bulldog, Five Guys, Fuddrucker's, General Store Restaurant, Giant, Hard Times Cafe, Harris Teeter, Holiday Inn Select, Home Depot, IHOP, Jan Chetnik, Joe Theismann's, Judy Saviola, Magpi Studios, Mango Mike's, Mario's Pizza, Massage Envy, Massage Matters, Melissa Felts, Michael & Deloris Quick, Moes Southwest Grill, Noodles & Co., Outback Steakhouse, Olive Garden, Pancho Villa, Papa John's Pizza, Petsmart, Pot Belly Deli, Red Lobster, Rita's, Rock Paper Scissors, Safeway, Salsarita's, Sammy T's, Shoppers Food Warehouse, Smokey Bones, Sonic, Staples, Sunset Thai, Tempo Restaurant, Top Golf, Uno's Chicago Grill, Virginia Outdoor Center, Wal*Mart, Wegman's, Wings to Go, Cici's Pizza, Northside Automotive

AND FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU

Tom Sabol, Kerri Williams, Paul Erhard, Jan Chetnik, Melanie Hansford, Howard Howiette Churchill, Candy Erhard, Deloris Quick, Cindy Wright, Fred Friedman, Debra Barrett, Donna Winans, Nancy Long, Mariza Soliman, Mary Walker, Kathy McLauren, Ryleigh McLauren

Thanks to Data Integrators and CSL Media for donating signs.

HUGS AND KISSES FOR OUR MASCOTS (THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO ATTEND AND THOSE WHO WEREN'T)





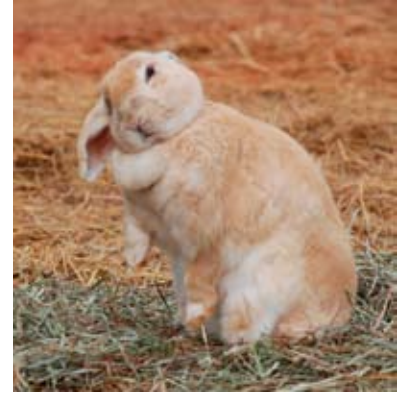
STRETCH 2 - 3 - 4

Since you all voted Vincent into power for another year, he decided that the animals at Rikki's were getting a bit too pudgy around the midsection and began a mandatory morning exercise class. No one was exempt. No matter how big or small, no matter two legs or four, no matter fur or feathers, Rikki's animals were going to get in shape. Duke and Boomer refused to attend, he's a cat, what can he do. Kiki went into hiding, stating she'd have nothing to do with this madness.

Vincent allowed reporters into the Refuge on the first day of this special class, and we believe he won't allow us in again. It wasn't long after the class began that Vincent realized many of the animals had no intention of following his lead, though Vincent didn't lead, he paced and gave orders, with Hemi and Gibson prowling the perimeter of the exercise field. We're surprised there wasn't a stampede that day and word had it that three days later Vincent was still hiding out somewhere in the 9th Life Center.

Vincent allowed us to mingle with the animals as they began their new routine. While we heard lots of grunts and groans, we also heard a lot of complaints about this new program (and a few threats).

I CAN'T...
BEND OVER...
ANY FURTHER...



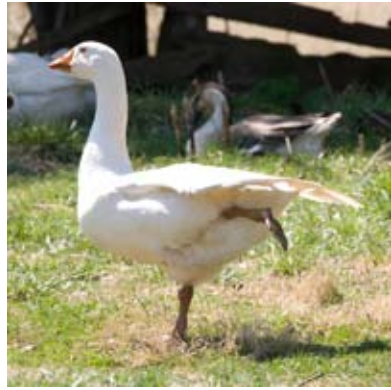
I DIDN'T HAVE BREAKFAST THIS MORNING, SO I MAY AS WELL EAT IF I HAVE TO DO THIS.



YEAH...WE CALL THIS THE EMU STRUT.



YOU KNOW, I GET THE WHOLE STRETCHING THING. DO IT SEVERAL TIMES A DAY. WHEN I WAKE UP, AFTER MY MORNING NAP. AFTER MY MID MORNING NAP. AFTER LUNCH. YOU GET THE PICTURE. BUT TELL ME, WHY IS THIS MANIAC INSISTING WE DO SOMETHING CALLED DOWNWARD FACING DOG? SOME DIGNITY HERE, PLEASE. I'M A CAT! HE'S A CAT!



ALRIGHT!
GOOSEY YOGA.

FEEL THE BURN!
FEEL THE BURN!

I BET YOU FOUR LEGS
CAN'T DO THIS!



HE HAS GOT TO BE OUT OF HIS FURRY LITTLE MIND. I'M GOING BACK TO THE ROTUNDA WHERE I GET PLENTY OF EXERCISE HOPPING AROUND AND MUNCHING ON LETTUCE.

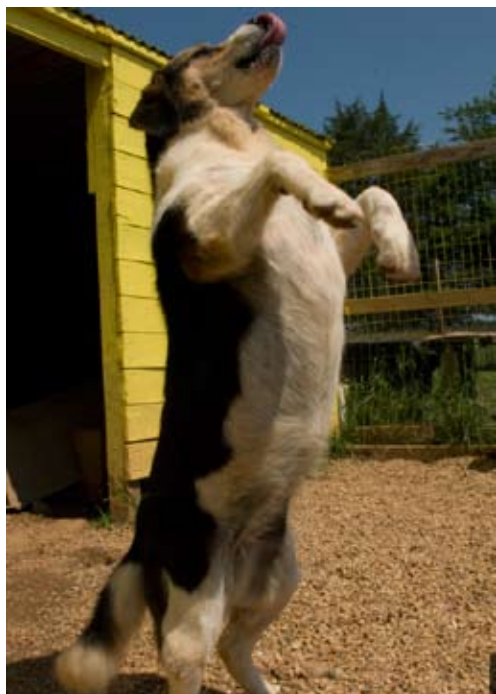


YEA! MORE GOOSEY YOGA! FEEL THE BURN! FEEL THE BURN!



HE WANTS ME TO DO WHAT? OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. I'M GONNA GO HIDE IN MY IGLOO.

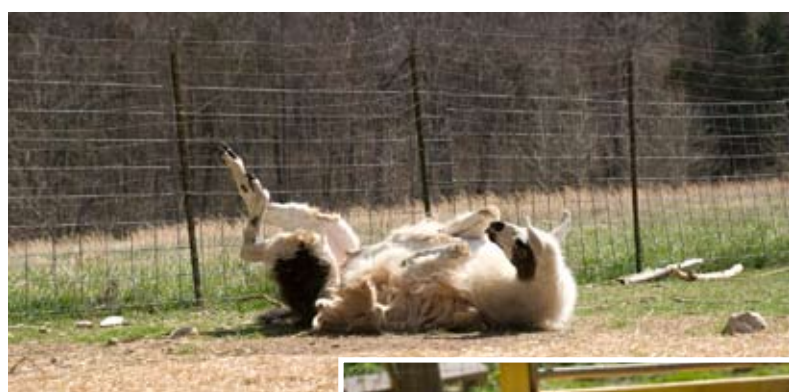
GYMNASTICS!
COOL!
LOOK, MA, I FINALLY MASTERED THE BALANCE BEAM. AND YOU SAID I COULDN'T DO IT 'CAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE OPPOSABLE THUMBS.



IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY GOT TO THE DANCE CLASS PORTION OF THIS THING. WE'VE GOT TO PRACTICE IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO MAKE IT ON "DANCING WITH THE ANIMAL STARS".



IDIOTS! ALL OF 'EM! IDIOTS!



SERIOUSLY. DOES IT LOOK LIKE WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING?

WE'RE JUST HUMORING HIM. DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT CAT'S GOING TO MAKE US DO WHAT HE WANTS? THINK AGAIN! WE'RE LIKE 20 BILLION TIMES BIGGER THAN HE IS.



WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE PIG PEN. LET HIM COME OVER AND SAY A WORD. ONE WORD. WE'LL ROLL HIM IN THE MUD, THEN LET THE EMUS PLAY WITH HIM FOR A WHILE. HOW'S THAT FOR AN EXERCISE CLASS?

IS THAT CRAZY CAT STILL OUT THERE?



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.



JOIN US ON JULY 4th - INDEPENDENCE DAY AND STAY UNTIL THE STARS COME OUT

We'll start with a **TOUR OF THE REFUGE** at 11 am. 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 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. For the safety of our animals, we must limit the number of people on a tour. And 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.

Later in the day, join us at the **BONFIRE & VEGAN BAR-B-QUE POT LUCK** while we watch the sunset and wait for the stars to come out. Then be part of the **FULL MOON WALK**, probably the most fabulous 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 overnight.



MONTHLY EVENTS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH NIGHT - Come and join us at Rikki's Retreat 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. **Join us the last Saturday of each month - JUL 25; AUG 29; SEPT 26**

BON FIRE AND VEGAN BAR-B-QUE POT LUCK - While waiting for the full moon to rise. **Join us JUL 4; AUG 8; SEPT 5**

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 overnight. **Join us JUL 4; AUG 8; SEPT 5**

SINGLES DAY - Come and do a day of service at the Refuge 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. They can meet the animals and meet each other. Invite that guy or gal you've been too shy to ask out for dinner.



JUL 11 - SINGLES DAY - DOG vs CAT - 10am - 4pm - Lend a hand to work on dog projects or cat projects. The team, Dog Workers or Cat Workers, with the most volunteers wins famous Rikki's T-shirts.

AUG 1 - SINGLES DAY - SINGLE WITH KIDS - 10am - 4pm - Or if you'd like to meet someone who is. Bring the kids and lend a hand to work. The leader who brings the most volunteers wins one of those famous Rikki's T-shirts.

SEPT 12 - SINGLES DAY - REUNION TIME - 10am - 4pm - September is Reunion Planning Month. Who do you miss from your past? Invite them out for the day. Lend a hand to help a paw. The volunteer who brings the longest lost friend wins one of those famous Rikki's T-shirts.

COME JOIN THE FUN

JUL 18 - LAZY SUMMER DAYZ PHOTO CONTEST - Come with your camera and see who can get the best summer shots of the critters snoozing in the shade.

JUL 25 - EMU ESCAPADES - Come for a run with the emus. Meet "big bird" in person and see who wins the race!

AUG 1 - HORSES' BIRTHDAY & APPRECIATION DAY - All horses the world over celebrate August first as their birthday. Bring treats, apples, carrots, pears. And bring your rake. They can't clean their own stalls and they need your help. Muck out while communing with the horses.

AUG 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.

AUG 8 - DOG GROOMING - Bathe, brush, and clip nails. Rikki's dogs like to feel special, too.



AUG 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.

AUG 15 - CAT MUCK OUT DAY - Rake out the old ground covering in the cat houses and give them new. You'll get a chance to socialize with them and feel their appreciation for a clean home.

AUG 16 - BIRTHDAY PARTY OPEN HOUSE - noon - 4pm - On August 14, 1998 Rikki's Refuge was founded when the land was given to us. Join us in a celebration of creation and life. Visit any or all of that time. Tours leave the Gift Shop every half hour.

Join us for a VEGAN Bar-B-Que 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 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). 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.

AUG 22 - CHICKEN CHASE DAY - Similar to a greased pig contest - lather yourself in sun lotion and get chased by our vicious attack chickens and see what happens when they catch you. This is the day we honor all chickens and celebrate their collective birthdays. Learn to interact with them; you'll find there's a lot more to a birdbrain than you thought!

AUG 23 - WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY - 2pm - In honor of all the women who made Rikki's possible, you're invited to come and spend a day with the animals, relax, have fun, pat, walk and scratch. Bring Your Own VEGAN Picnic.

While there's life, there's hope. ~Cicero



SEPT 6 - ANIMAL ATTENTION DAY - Give some extra hugs to the homeless - take a dog for a walk, scratch a pig's belly, pat a cat.

SEPT 7 - LABOR DAY TOUR OF THE REFUGE - Noon - On a tour, you'll meet all the critters that call Rikki's Refuge home. 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. For the safety of our animals we must limit the number of people on a tour. And 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. Admission: 2 (or more) cans of cat or dog food per person.

SEPT 7 - LABOR DAY PHOTO CONTEST in honor of George Eastman patenting the roll film camera on September 4, 1888. Come and get your best shot of the best critter - winner's photo on the web.

SEPT 7 - LABOR DAY POT LUCK BAR-B-Q & BON FIRE - 4 pm - Bring your favorite VEGAN dish and the recipe. Gas grill and microwave available for your use. We'll vote and pick the Blue Ribbon.

SEPT 13 - 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.

SEPT 13 - SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY - In honor of Grandparent's Day, come and give special attention to the elderly residents of Rikki's. Take a nice slow walk with a senior dog, belly rub a senior pig, sit with a senior cat. Or do something kind and fun for a senior you know and bring them on a visit to Rikki's.

SEPT 19 - PHOTOGRAPH YOUR ANIMALS LIKE A PRO - 9 am - noon - Rikki's Refuge - Learn the basics of taking fantastic animal portraits. A hands on learning experience taking photos of Rikki's animals. \$100 donation; all proceeds benefit the Refuge. For more info, see page 14.

SEPT 20 - A FOWL DAY AT THE REFUGE - With the Autumnal Equinox we'll celebrate the many varieties of fowl who make Rikki's their home - the guinea fowl, the geese, the ducks, the chickens and the peacocks. Bring seed, corn, and parsley.

SEPT 26 - BUILD CAT TOYS - Today we celebrate the birthdays of all the cats at Rikki's. What can you find in and around your home that will make a neat cat toy? Something to climb on? Something to climb in? Kids playground toys are great. We'll have spools, dowels, and carpet scraps on hand so you can engineer the neatest toy yet!

SEPT 26 - VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL in Charlottesville. Join us to help with the animals up for adoption. Bake for the bake sale. Help man tables.

SEPT 27 - FANTASTIC FALL PHOTO CONTEST - Come with your camera and see who can get the best fall shots of the changing colors with the critters, the residents, or the wildlife. Spectacular coloring offsets your subjects.

PHOTOGRAPHING ANIMALS LIKE A PRO

by Kerri Williams

Back in May, Rikki's Refuge hosted "How To Photograph Your Animals Like A Pro" presented by Magpi Studios. As many of you know, I'm one of Rikki's official photographers. And a quick note on that, there are now two of us and I'd like to welcome Paul Erhard as Official Photographer to Rikki's. His photos have often been part of the newsletter and will continue to do so. I was honored to have him in the class.

Our class started early in the morning with a discussion on camera basics, the how and why of the camera doing what it does. We talked about lighting and settings, then went over the aspects of photographing animals versus people and landscapes and everything else. Afterwards, we toured the Refuge and took photos of the cats, both feral and friendly; stopped by to let the rabbits and guinea pigs model for us; then took a stroll over to Doggy Downs and faced the unexpected challenge of trying to photograph Toby. Nichole Brunk actually got a great shot of him and she has posted her photos from that day on Flickr for all to see. Please stop by and check out her shots - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/38299583@N04/sets/>

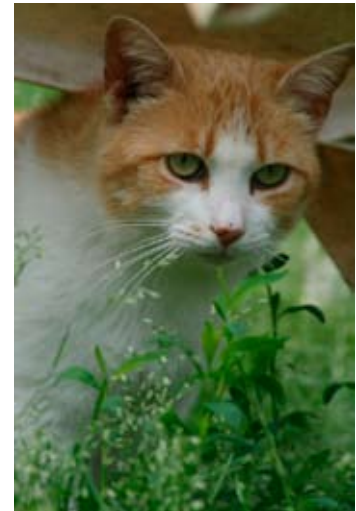
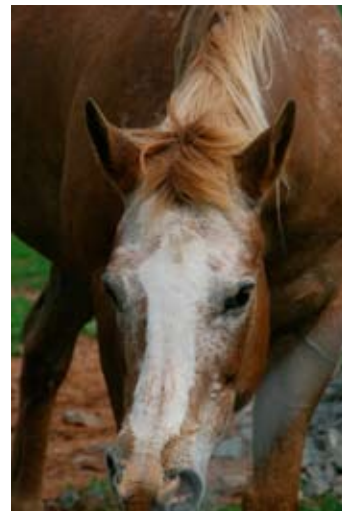
We all had a great time, despite the mud at the Refuge that day from what seemed like weeks of rain. Dody Kundreskas wasn't afraid to get dirty, getting as close to the ground and the animals as she could to get the perfect shot.



We will be offering the class again on September 19, 2009. Class size is limited to six participants. Please see Rikki's website for information - www.rikkisrefuge.org or check out Magpi Studios - www.magpi.com. Cost is \$100 (paid in advance) and please register by September 1, 2009. All proceeds benefit the animals of Rikki's Refuge. Hope to see you there.



CLASS PHOTOS



Dody Kundreskas

Thanks again for a most enjoyable morning. I have recommended your fall class to several people. ~Dody



Joanie Millward

This was an amazing class and I appreciate your time and your knowledge that you shared with us Kerri. I would recommend it to anyone. ~Joanie

Nichole Brunk



I had a wonderful time and I felt as though I was able to use a more critical eye when going through my photos. ~Nichole



Paul Erhard



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

Please remember, even the smallest gifts are welcome - 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 4.03
 ___ \$200 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$45 ___ \$100 ___ **\$150** ___ \$75 ___ \$10 ___ Other \$ _____

Rikki's Refuge is owned and operated by Life Unlimited of Virginia, Inc., an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Virginia Corporation. Federal Tax-ID 54-1911042. Your donations provide direct support. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs.

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)

Method of Payment:

- Check
- Visa Discover
- MasterCard American Express

Date _____ In Honor Of (optional) _____

Billing Information:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Card # _____

Address _____

Card Verification Number _____ Exp. Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Email _____

what the cat taught me...



STAY LIMBER

IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF THE HAMMOCK

As quoted by Ambrosia, who discovered this truth after napping one Saturday afternoon.



We do not kill !!!

4.03

**Life Unlimited of Virginia, Inc.
Rikki's Refuge
PO Box 1357, Orange, VA 22960
www.rikkisrefuge.org mail@rikkisrefuge.org
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

LIMITED EDITION RIKKI'S WEAR

The Canine Club



The Dream Team



Vincent



Hemi



Gibson

Proclaim your loyalty! Are you a Dog person or a Cat person? Let the world know whose side you are on.
Lots of styles and colors available. Critters on the front - words on the back. <http://www.cafepress.com/RikkisRefuge>
Pick your critter, your style, your color! Enough choices so you can wear a different one each day of the week.
Check our store frequently, we'll have new limited edition Rikki's Wear available just for you, our Rikki's Family Members!
Wear the faces of your friends with pride.
Mouse Pads, Pillows, Clocks and Doggy Ts also available! Don't miss the ever changing current selection.