

Compassion education is vitally important in forming the values of our children. The world will never be kinder to animals until it has learned to be kinder to humans. Statistics show that violent adults often started as a child with violent tendencies towards animals. We believe a compassionate adult can be made by teaching a child to act compassionately. We travel to as many schools, scouts, clubs and locations as possible to provide education.



- We provide *Kind News*, a publication about humane education, to over 30 classrooms, including some US military schools for dependants overseas, every month. The teachers receive a guide and the children receive a fun filled and educational magazine every month. There are exercises which the teacher does with children and lots of fun things we find that children take home to their families. Often one classroom at a school requests participation in this program, and the second year several teachers it in their classroom. Nationwide it's a very successful program which has been in operation for many years. We are able to expand the number of classrooms we sponsor every year.
- We frequently speak at schools and with other groups of children, teaching compassion. Our spokes animals are very good teachers, too. They are handicapped, crippled, blind, deaf, and elderly. Children are able to relate to animals and in many cases it makes them see people in a new and compassionate light.



- So much education is done in group environments but it is always very beneficial to children who have little positive to contact in their life to be paired with one of our volunteers for training. It becomes training not only in skills and compassion and ethics and often gives them a role model for the many months or years they are working together. So many children have such difficult family backgrounds these days, we can give them the stability of an extended family, and hopefully watch them grow in the right direction.
- We visited dozens of schools and other locations in 2010, giving educational talks and taking spokes animals to demonstrate not only animal care but also compassion for less fortunate humans.
- Our handicapped spokes cat and our blind spokes dog are in high demand to teach children to be kind to children with handicaps; our spokes animals are rarely able to travel more than a 150 mile radius from our sanctuary.
- Our network of volunteers stretches nationwide allowing us to run programs just about anywhere.
- A smaller network of volunteers is beginning to stretch planet wide allowing similar educational programs to be run in other countries.

RIKKI'S REFUGE ANIMAL RESCUE EFFORTS TEACH COMPASSION, THE VALUE OF LIFE AND HOW TO GIVE BACK by Cindy Wright

Animal rescue organizations serve a great benefit to neighborhoods and communities, by managing and reducing problems associated with dangerous, diseased, and abandoned animals in addition to providing viable options to families who are looking for pets and companions. Many rescued animals have gone on to become therapy and animal assistants for disabled veterans and handicapped citizens. These rescued companion animals often have a profound impact on those who adopt them, providing unconditional love and affection, even after they themselves had suffered at the hands of mean-spirited human beings. Such is the story of Pollyanna.



Pollyanna is a beautiful, grey domestic shorthair cat that had a difficult early life. She was dumped into a feral cat community in Central Virginia, perhaps while she was still a kitten. A kind local woman would regularly feed this feral colony, causing some discontent among the neighboring teenagers. One day, the kind woman found a portion of a grey cat tail in a paper bag on her doorstep. In a panic, she asked a local animal rescue group for help to locate the cat who had so cruelly suffered in the hands of local hooligans. It took several days to finally trap the cat with the mangled, badly infected stub of a tail, and she was taken to a local Veterinary Hospital. The hospital was able to save the beautiful grey cat's life, but had to remove the remainder of her diseased tail to prevent the risk



of further bone damage. This cat was going to need longer term medical care, so she was brought to Rikki's Refuge, as Rikki's has a reputation of being able to save even the most hopeless and damaged animals of all species. Months of care, tail soakings and antibiotics enabled the beautiful grey cat to regain her health, but her trust in humans was still a bit shaken. She was named Pollyanna by the Rikki's Refuge staff, since she had a very sweet temperament even while undergoing painful soaking sessions. This was a cat that was meant for a higher purpose.

Once the story of the beautiful grey cat with the sweet disposition and the malicious injury was spread throughout the Rikki's Refuge community, many people wanted to help Pollyanna in some way. A volunteer who came to see the sweet cat fell in love at first sight. And Pollyanna responded in kind. An immediate bond was formed between volunteer and feline, and Pollyanna had a new forever home in short order. Pollyanna began to trust again in her new, safe, loving environment. And a remarkable thing happened; Pollyanna began to perform as a therapy pet for the volunteer! A year earlier, the volunteer had contracted a chronic, degenerative disease that limited her mobility and caused joint pain, sometimes so badly that it was difficult to walk. Pollyanna always seemed to know when the volunteer was in pain, and she sat on her legs or lay on her shoulders when she needed it the most. Once Pollyanna sat and warmed her joints, the volunteer was able to walk again. The beautiful grey cat also had the softest fur imaginable, so the volunteer always calmed down when she pet her velveteen feline. Pollyanna, like so many countless companion



animals, was giving back so much more to the person who adopted her than could ever have been imagined. The animal - human connection is important to all of us, and the positive impacts are just beginning to be understood by medical science. Animal sanctuaries like Rikki's Refuge allow these types of symbiotic relationships to develop and thrive for volunteers, families and communities throughout the state of Virginia.



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Our Backyard/Jeanne Chetnik (Board of Directors, Rikki's Refuge)

All Creatures Great and Small: Making a difference at Rikki's Refuge

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

The words of Margaret Mead run true at Rikki's Refuge. The Refuge has changed the world for over 3,000 animals since August 1998 and has inspired so many dedicated, committed volunteers to continue making Rikki's Refuge a haven and heaven for the beloved animals. At Rikki's you will see compassion, unselfishness, and watch the animals bring out the very best traits that we as human beings sometimes have hidden deep down inside. It is so awesome to see how a brand, spanking new baby piglet, who was rejected by this mother, can bring out unbelievable gentleness and caring from people. I have watched volunteers work miracles with animals that have been so traumatized and abused that it has made me rejoice and cry at the same time. Rikki's Refuge is a 367-acre, no-kill, all species sanctuary, supported solely by donations from kind and loving individuals. Currently we have over 1,200 critters-21 species!



Our mission: 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, elderly, unsocial, those displaced due to the death, incapacitation or displacement of their human companions) providing permanent shelter, care, love, and compassion.

- Maintaining 297-acres of pristine natural woodlands and wetlands where native Virginia wildlife may always roam free.

- Providing a site for safe release and future home of rehabilitated native Virginia wildlife.

- Promoting awareness of the animal kingdom through educational newsletter/programs that teach compassion and kindness in over 29 classrooms.

- Promoting the reduction of the number of homeless animals through education and low-cost or free spay/neutering.

We have 10 tours and two open houses a year so that everyone can meet our wonderful



critters. We have an adult and youth volunteer program with so many things yet to accomplish. We invite you and your friends to visit Rikki's Refuge and see this wonderful refuge that is not only a sanctuary for animals but human beings also.

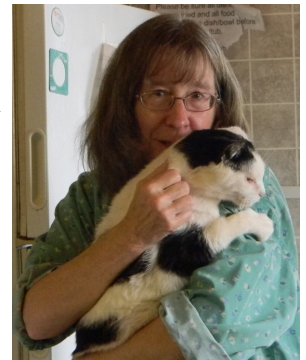
RIKKI'S REFUGE TEACHES THE COMMUNITY THE IMPORTANCE OF ELDER CARE THROUGH TOURS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS by Cindy Wright

Albert Schweitzer, the famous 19th century German theologian and humanitarian once said that "any religion or philosophy which is not based on a respect for all living things is not a true religion or philosophy". For more than 12 years now, Rikki's Refuge has emphasized the value of life for all living things via educational programs and public outreach at community events. One of the key messages that this 367 acre animal sanctuary is that everyone deserves a chance to live life to it's natural conclusion. That means elder care and help for the weak and sick animals that are lucky enough to make it through the Rikki's gate.



Every month, Rikki's Refuge hosts tours of the facility, which allows the general public a chance to learn about elder care for different species. Right now, a visitor can see the physical therapy given to a very old sheep named Ivory, who is having difficulty with her hind legs due to arthritis. Ivory lives with her lifetime companion, Ebony, a black sheep who keeps her inspired and has helped her gain strength and mobility through the sheer power of love.

Another case study is a 14 year old Belgian Malinois dog named Lucky that was a decorated DEA veteran. Lucky's partner passed away before he did, and his life had an uncertain future until he arrived at Rikki's Refuge. A recent tour had a chance to interact with Lucky, learning his story of heroism and how he was neglected in his sunset years to the point of near death. His example of courage was inspirational to the group, and tears came to the eyes of several young people who had not thought about what happens to companion animals after their caretaker dies.



And another visitor favorite is Nanny Goat, an ancient, 18+ year old Norwegian goat that inspires all who meet her and interact with her. So many animals at Rikki's live well beyond their normal life span, due to the love and care and personal attention that is given to them by compassionate volunteers. After all, as Albert Schweitzer once said "compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain it's full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind".

