

**We opened our division Wild and Feral in 2009 for the purpose of studying and correcting the over population of feral cats. Thru Wild and Feral great strides were made in 2010.**



- We continued to reduce and manage feral cat populations through TNR (trap, neuter, return), education, information, training and other resources. Pulaski, Virginia is our Wild and Feral model, working with local government as well as private citizens, numerous feral colonies are now being properly managed, and the county is seeing a reduction in shelter intake. Wild and Feral has given many private individuals now have an affordable avenue for spay and neuter services.
- We offer TNR (trap, neuter, return), education, information, training and other resources.
- Wild and Feral has given many Pulaski area private individuals now have an affordable avenue for spay and neuter services.
- Wild and Feral assisted 61 Pulaski area families, 58 of whom live below the poverty level.
- Wild and Feral provided sterilization surgeries to over 300 cats.
- Wild and Feral hosted Photo with Santa for Pulaski area families so their children had the opportunity to visit with Santa. This was the only Santa for 40 miles around for the kids in this poor rural area to interact with.
- We offer information, training and other resources related to feral cat management to government agencies and private individuals from all over the world.
- Programs have proved that TNR (trap, neuter, return), when done properly, is the most effective and cheapest means of feral cat control, and when this is taken into the hands of private citizens and organizations like us, it reduces the strain on county budgets.



2010 End of Year Report

**Wild and Feral**

by Judith Peele, Division Head

The **Rikki's Refuge** program, **Wild and Feral**, has helped 61 families with spay/neuter of over 300 cats since it's inception. 58 of these families lived at or below poverty level, and were otherwise unable to gain control of the population of strays that had appeared at their door. All these people were loving, kind individuals who could not bear to see an animal suffer, and were doing what they could to provide food and housing for these strays.

**Wild and Feral** provided point of contact for these individuals, setting up appointments at the local Humane Society's clinic, as well as providing trapping assistance, transport, recovery and release services. Transport was provided to 6 families who had no vehicle, including one elderly shut-in. In addition, **Wild and Feral** provided funds for veterinary care for a woman who had a stray show up with severe skin infection, and provided direct funding assistance for several people who could not use the clinic due to location restrictions.

**Wild and Feral** also assisted families with it's yearly Photos With Santa fundraiser. This fundraiser has become a benefit not only to the animals for whom the money is raised, but the families involved. They were able to get pictures with Santa and their children that they otherwise would not have been able to get. Since the photos are paid for by donation, this allowed families who could not afford the professional fees to pay as little as \$5. In addition, the nearest Santa was 40 miles away from the rural area served by **Wild and Feral**, allowing those with limited means to benefit from a more local Santa.