



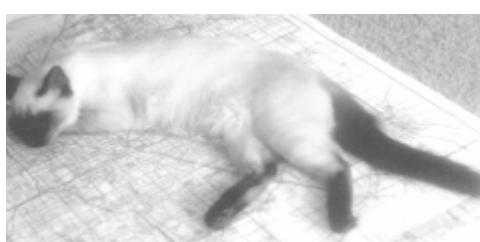
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 www.rikkisrefuge.org mail@rikkisrefuge.org Volume 2.12

### OUR MISSION

Rikki's Refuge is a 330 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:

- 1) 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;
- 2) 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;
- 3) 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;
- 4) providing a site for safe release and the future home of rehabilitated native Virginia wildlife;
- 5) maintaining 260 acres of pristine natural woodlands and wetlands where native Virginia wildlife may always roam free of human intervention.

### IN MEMORY OF LOUISE and RIKKI



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

Rikki's Refuge is owned & operated by Life Unlimited of Virginia, Inc, an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Va Corporation. Federal Tax-ID 54-1911042. Members: Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area #7347, Commonwealth of Va Campaign #3163, PetsMart Charities #1377, paypal.com (mail@rikkisrefuge.org), your donations provide direct support. A financial statement is available upon written request from the State Office of Consumer Affairs. *All material in this newsletter 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.*

## YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED AT RIKKI'S REFUGE

That's right. YOU. YOU the Sponsor. YOU the Donor. YOU the Volunteer. YOU DID IT.

You have allowed the dream of Rikki's Refuge to build and grow for six years. You have given your money. You have given your time. But do you have any idea what you have really accomplished? 3,066 different animals have come thru Rikki's front gate, granted asylum from an uncaring outside world. 57 species of domestics, farms and wildlife. This includes 1,166 domestic animals, chinchillas, guinea pigs, hamsters, pigeons, rabbits, sugar gliders, 888 cats, and 204 dogs from chihuahuas to great danes. 557 farm animals; including chickens (hens and roosters), cows, ducks, emus, guinea fowl, geese, goats, horses, peacocks, pigs, sheep and turkeys. 1,343 wildlife critters, from ants to deer, took up permanent residence in Wildlife Woods & Waters; ants, beetles, birds, black snakes, blue jays, box turtles, bugs, bullfrogs, butterflies, cardinals, chipmunks, crayfish, deer, finches, flying squirrels, frogs, garden snakes, geese, grasshoppers, groundhogs, mice, mockingbirds, moles, opossums, owls, pigeons, quails, rabbits, raccoons, ravens, red sliders, salamanders, snakes, song birds, sparrows, spiders, squirrels, tadpoles, toads, tree frogs, turkey vultures, and turtles.

In honor and appreciation of YOU, on April 23rd, Rikki's Refuge will host our First Annual Sponsor Appreciation Day. Please come out and join us for fun all afternoon and into the night. VIP Tour, Vegan Bar-B-Que, Full Moon Walk. Check out all the details on page 11 and get your RSVP in today. All funds and food for this special event will be provided by special Sponsors. Come and have fun, knowing you are not taking anything out of the mouth of our animals. But don't be surprised if they try to take something out of your mouth! Bring treats and goodies for them too!

Did you know that we actually manage to operate Rikki's Refuge on less than ONE DOLLAR PER DAY PER ANIMAL? I think that's an amazing number. One dollar to feed, bed, medicate and care for somebody for a whole day. But sometimes it gets tough. Sometimes they need something extra, something expensive. Like Soloman who is recovering very well from extensive surgery and thanks you for his new chance at life. Like extra straw for bedding and hay for food all winter long.

I am asking you to participate in our First Annual Spring Clean Up Fundraiser. Help us pay off the winter debt and start spring with a zero balance. I'm not asking for cash in the bank - just no more bills hanging over our heads! And just think, what if we could even raise a bit of extra money for more clean up, improvement and new projects? Wouldn't it be wonderful?

I'm asking that each of you reach into your pocket and find \$100 you can spare for the animals. To Rikki's \$100 is a lot of money. That cares for 100 animals for a day. Or makes a dent in one major surgery. To some of you \$100 doesn't seem like such a large donation; please give more if it's comfortable for you. For others of you, \$100 is more than you can manage; please give just what you comfortably can. If the First Annual Spring Clean Up Fundraiser averages \$100 from each of you, Rikki's will be set to roll into summer! Please join in and keep the dream alive.

Volunteers are as needed as cash. So if clean up, muck out or build up is more your style, then join us to help with routine chores, spring clean up and new construction projects.

We're all in this together, making the world a better place for all the animals. I wish the job could be done in a day, on a global scale. But it can't. We have to do it one animal at a time. We have to set an example, to teach others. And the example of Rikki's is a powerful tool for so many. School groups come, scouts, people of all ages, from all walks of life and they look at the happy animals and they hear their stories and they say, "why?" And the answer they hear over and over is, "Because of hundreds of supporters, volunteers, donors, people who care, these animals have been given the chance to live. Because so many humans cared about the animals." And it makes them think. And it makes them look at animals just a little bit differently. And for some, when the opportunity comes, they, too, reach into their wallets or into their busy schedules and share life.

We know how many animals we have directly touched and saved. 3,066 in six years. But how many have indirectly been touched by someone who was moved by what they saw Rikki's Sponsors make possible?



Through your actions of supporting the animals at Rikki's Refuge, you indirectly touch the hearts of thousands of humans, a few who will be just a little bit kinder. And one soul at a time, you make the world a better place for all animals.

And YOU are responsible for that!

THANK YOU RIKKI'S SPONSORS,  
 without you, the animals would not be safe

*Kerry Hilliard*

Executive Director of Rikki's Refuge

A big thank you to the hard working, dedicated members of Rikki's Refuge's Board of Directors: Dawn Whitlow, Fred Friedman, Jacob Williams, Jan Chetnik, Jason Ehlers, Joe Callahan, Judy Link, Kathy Gallagher, Kerry Hilliard, Kurt Link, Larry Ramsey, Linda Schultz-Wikul, Mariza Soliman, Mary Ellen McWilliams, Mike Gallagher, Peter Wikul, Ron Herfurth.