



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

LET'S BEAT THE HEAT IN 2024!

It's that time of year again: kitten season is just around the corner! Did you know that kittens can get pregnant around 6 months of age and potentially have up to 3 litters per year? Without alteration, the cat population can AND DOES explode!

We've helped facilitate around 3,000 spay/neuter surgeries over the past few years, but we have incredible news – because of your unwavering support, we reached the new record of 3,668 surgeries last year!! And 1,031 of those were TNR, which helps stabilize colony populations! How *a-meow-zing*!!!! **These types of results are only possible because of YOUR support!**

But it all comes at a cost. In 2022, we spent \$176,000 to help fund alterations. But in 2023, as costs continued to rise, AND as we helped to alter a record number of cats, that total spiked to \$205,361!!! The money is well spent because we're keeping the cat population low, but rising prices are bringing about a huge dent in the budget!

Jackie Zehring became the patron saint of our Beat the Heat campaign many years ago, offering matching money to help our just cause of saving lives. And more recently, the Rose Zafren (RZ) Foundation has also stepped up to be a matching funds sponsor. We cannot express how much their devotion to animal welfare has meant for our community. A thousand 'thank yous' to them!!

This year, Jackie Zehring is contributing \$20,000 in matching funds and the RZ Foundation is pledging at least \$10,000, meaning that we have *at least* \$30,000 in matching money on the table! Last year, YOU, our amazing spay/neuter champions, stepped up and contributed \$46,000 to Beat the Heat. But to make sure we can continue meeting the growing demands for spay/neuter services, we're hoping for an even stronger total this year!

Beat the Heat!

Spay/Neuter NOW - Before Kitten Season



- Cats have a 63- day (9 week) gestation period.
- Spring kittens are being conceived right now!
- Prevention is key with Trap-Neuter-Return and Spay/Neuter of cats you are feeding!

BEAT THE HEAT- CONTINUED

We're hoping that you will come through this year with \$50,000 in community support, which means that with matching money, **we'd come out of this with fundraiser with at least \$80,000.** This amount would go a *long* way to help stop the cat population from ballooning.

Spay/neuter assistance is the one of the most important programs we offer to make a long-term difference in shelter intake and euthanasia. *IT WORKS* - shelter directors tell us that! Please help us keep making a BIG DIFFERENCE by contributing to Beat the Heat from **February 15th to April 1st.** You can save lives by donating on our website or mailing us a check during that time. (Note: Donations must be above and beyond recurring or pledged donations to count for the Beat the Heat.)

From big donations to small ones, every dollar helps! Thank you so much for putting your compassion into action!



Jackie Zehring



Rose Zafren

Scan to make an online gift today!



Cat's Cradle Receives Pet Retention Grant

Cat's Cradle of the Shenandoah Valley is honored to receive a \$5,737.25 grant from the Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County (CFHR), made possible by the generosity of the Hildred Neff Memorial Fund of the Community Foundation! This grant will provide significant support to our pet retention program, which provides financial assistance to low-income and other vulnerable cat owners and caretakers to defray the costs of veterinary bills and help them keep their pets. In 2014, we helped twelve families in this way – in 2023, we were able to authorize help to nearly 200 families for their pets! Expenses for this program now approximate \$45,000 annually. All grant funds will be used to pay veterinary fees.



HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

2023 NUMBERS

- 3,668 spay/neuter surgeries facilitated
- 1,031 cats served in our Trap-Neuter-Return Program
- 689 cats and kittens rescued from partner shelters
- 697 cats and kittens adopted (highest rate on record!)
- We authorized medical assistance for nearly 200 families through this program, but not all needed/obtained treatment or have been billed as we go to print. Care was completed for 97 families.



Successes Galore!

2023 was an excellent year for Cat's Cradle - our programs just keep growing! The number of animals we rescued from partner shelters rose from 658 in 2022 to 689 in 2023. We also adopted out 72 more cats than last year, our highest adoption number ever! But the cat's meow of 2023's successes were in our spay/neuter totals.

As you saw previously, we reached an *all-time record* of helping facilitate 3,668 alterations – up from 3,130 from last year. That's a huge jump, and YOU'RE the reason we can continue making such life-changing impacts. But we're not simply going to rest on our laurels. Over the coming year, we're working to continue providing vital services to the community. We also hope to keep breaking records! We're so blessed to have you all as part of our community. We simply couldn't do it without you.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!

2023 Donations and Three-Year Impact Honor Circles

We are honored to recognize our supporters from 2023: Individual and business donors, foundation grantors (competitive grants and others), event sponsors, matching and rewards program donors, and our beloved recurring donors! Thanks to each of you for putting your compassion into action by donating to support our lifesaving work. We are so grateful to those donors in our Three-Year Honor Impact Circles. These donors have given at major gift levels for the past three consecutive years or more, making a sustained impact on our organization.

We will feature our Three-Year Honor Impact donors in this newsletter. In the interest of reducing paper and postage costs, a complete list of all our donors can be viewed on our website. Please visit www.catscradle.org/latest-news to see all of our amazing supporters!

Platinum Circle \$10,000 and up

Jackie Zehring
Lynn Reams
John and Terri Haddick
Donor requesting anonymity
RZ Foundation
The Lynne Cooper Harvey
Foundation, Inc.

Gold Circle \$5,000 - \$9,999

PetSmart Charities
The Community Foundation,
Harrisonburg & Rockingham
Janet Doerr

Silver Circle \$1,000 - \$4,999

Amazon Smile Foundation
William Anderson
Twyla Austin
Lee Beam
The Benevity Community
Impact Fund
Christy Cappiapaglia
The Community Foundation
of the Central Blue Ridge
Mary Crosier
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Courtney Fairchild
Faye and Gayle Fisher
Nancy and Don Herney
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Kenneth and Sandy Keller
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Maria Malerba
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Network for Good
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Robert S. Ryder
Judi and Mike Salvino
Carolyn Snow
Roxanna Spencer
Christina and Phillip Updike
Donna Whitley-Smith
Richard and Pamela Wilkins
John and Crystal Yates
Donors requesting
anonymity

2023 Events

Green Valley Book Fair
White Oak Lavender Farm

2023 Matching Programs/Rewards Programs

City of Harrisonburg (License Plate Proceeds)
Kroger Rewards Program
Network for Good
PetSmart Charities
The Merck Foundation
Benevity Community Impact Fund



2023 Grantors

The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham
The David Feline Medical Assistance Fund of the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
The Hildred Neff Memorial Fund of the Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham
The Lynne Cooper Harvey Foundation, Inc.
Petco Love Foundation
RZ Foundation
Virginia Federation of Humane Societies
Donors requesting anonymity



2023 Gifts and Grants

\$10,000 and up

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Beverley and Jeffrey S. Evans
 Betty Boop Rascal Rescue Fund
John and Terri Haddick
Vivian Hevener
The Lynne Cooper Harvey Foundation, Inc.
PetSmart Charities
Lynn Reams
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 Homeless Animal Fund
Robert Ryder
RZ Foundation
Mary Sandy
Roxanna Spencer
Rachel Street
Talcott Resolution
Jackie Zehring



\$5,000 - \$9,999

The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and
 Rockingham County
The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
Mary Crosier
Janet Doerr
Courtney Fairchild
Carol Ann Rhoads
Christina and Phillip Updike
Hodges Survivors Fund

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous Cat Cafe donor
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Gwen David
Amy and Michael Derrick
Bruno and Hazel Giraldi
Kenneth and Sandy Keller
Maria Malerba
Network for Good
Carolyn Snow

\$1000 - \$2,499

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John and Crystal Yates
Donors requesting anonymity

\$500 - \$999

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Evan Obligin
The Page SPCA
Janet and Russel Parrish



\$500 - \$999 Continued

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Veterinary Emergency Services
Vision Technology Group
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Deborah Walker
Grace Watt & Karen Yang
Jessica Wenger
Laura Yordy
Donors requesting anonymity

\$250 - \$499

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\$250 - \$499 Continued

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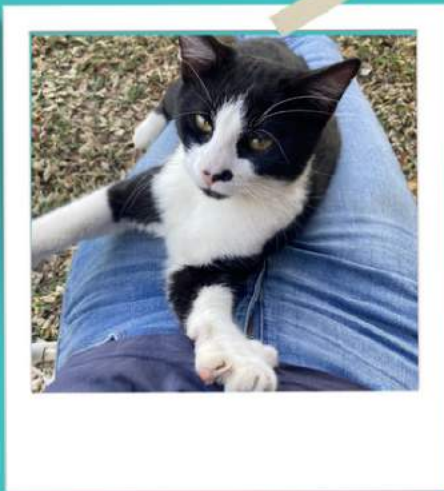
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Julie and James Young
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Melinda Zongor
Donors requesting anonymity





We love hearing from our medical assistance recipients. Here are some of their updates!

Hercules is Healed!



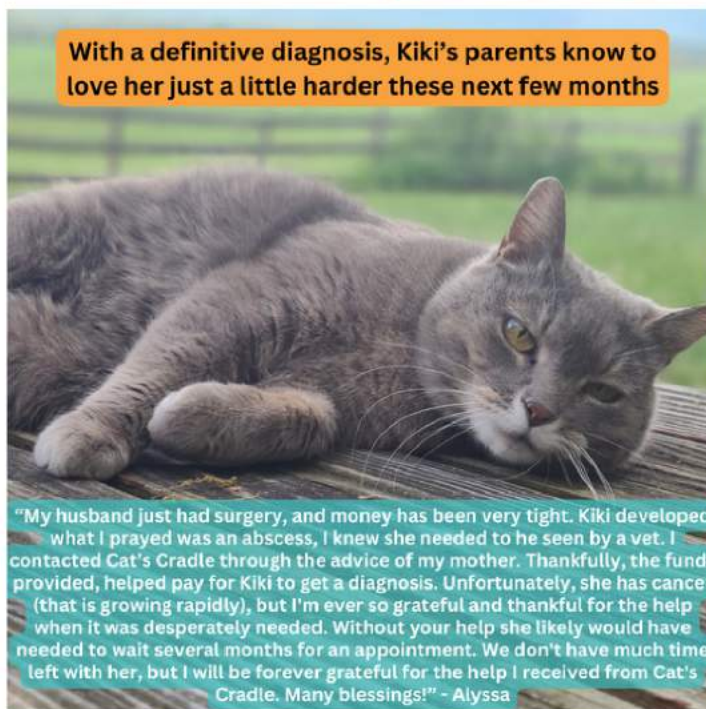
"Hercules is doing amazing, you can't even tell that he had hurt his foot back in August! Thank you so much for helping us with the vet bill, we couldn't have done it without you! Thank you,"
Birte

Laya is safe, healthy and warm!



"I cannot thank you enough for your financial support for removal of bladder stones from Laya. We rescued her as a kitten 7 years ago from someone who did not want her. At any point, I have between 5 and 7 stray cats that I have rescued to become my own. It can get expensive particularly with medical problems. It is such a blessing to have Cat's Cradle in the area and to know they support cat owners like myself. Thank you so much!" - Colleen

With a definitive diagnosis, Kiki's parents know to love her just a little harder these next few months



"My husband just had surgery, and money has been very tight. Kiki developed what I prayed was an abscess, I knew she needed to be seen by a vet. I contacted Cat's Cradle through the advice of my mother. Thankfully, the funds provided, helped pay for Kiki to get a diagnosis. Unfortunately, she has cancer (that is growing rapidly), but I'm ever so grateful and thankful for the help when it was desperately needed. Without your help she likely would have needed to wait several months for an appointment. We don't have much time left with her, but I will be forever grateful for the help I received from Cat's Cradle. Many blessings!" - Alyssa





Monthly Giving Program

When you become a Cat's Cradle Pet Pal, by signing up to make recurring monthly donations, you're providing gifts that can be used by cats and kittens in their hours of need. Pet Pals are special members of Cat's Cradle, because their gifts are continuous and steady. Help cats and kittens all year round by making a monthly gift today!

As a *Pet Pal™ members only benefit, you will receive a Cat's Cradle signature umbrella just for joining!



\$10/Month

Will vaccinate & spay or neuter one cat, helping prevent unwanted litters!



\$25/Month

Helps two low-income families pay for veterinary care to help them keep their cats.



\$50/Month

Covers extraordinary vet care for special needs cats.



\$100/Month

Can help spay or neuter an entire colony of cats!

2023 Pet Pal Monthly Recurring Donors

William and Linda Abshire
Twyla Austin
Nicole Baker
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Megan Brown
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Olimpia Dorries
Elizabeth Dudley
Robert Duncan
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Emily Tait
Amy Taylor
Maureen Walsh
David Weintraub
Pamela J. West
Whitmore Household
Dijana Winch
Julie & James Young

Girls Who Trap

We are forming a club for gals who are interested in learning about Trap-Neuter-Return! You will receive training on:

- The do's and don'ts of TNR
- Targeted TNR and why it works
- Why you don't "rescue" cats from colonies
- How you can be a part of the Cat's Cradle TNR Team



Want more info? Call 540-433-1135, and our phone counselors will get you on the list!

(Guys, there are also opportunities for you to learn to TNR - reach out to us!)



Cat Cafe Gets a Refresh!

With a 131% increase in visits to the Cat Cafe, we thought it was time for a little refresh. Room 2 now features a wall with octagonal boxes for perching and cat walks for exploring. The room also features a beautiful wooden bench just perfect for visitors to relax while playing with the kitties! If you have never been to visit our Cat Cafe, you are missing out on a treat! After your 30 minute visit, you can enjoy a cup of coffee and a snack. All of this is included for only \$20 for groups up to three people, ages 7 and up! Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferred so that you can get a spot! With over 1,130 visits last year, we have to build in some rest time for our kitties. Scan the QR code to sign up today! All proceeds go to fund our spay/neuter program.





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FOUND A KITTEN?

LEARN WHAT TO DO:
www.catscradleva.org/resources

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catscradleva.org



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to local nonprofit organizations



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1. Visit KrogerCommunityRewards.com
2. Locate your state and click "Enroll Now"
3. Sign in to your online account or create an account
4. Find and select your organization, and click "Save"

You can choose Cat's Cradle from the drop down list or enter the NPO# GG043

Thank you for helping Kroger support local nonprofit organizations through Community Rewards!

