



Pawprints

Giles County Animal Rescue, Inc.
Autumn 2008

GCAR Activity Summary

Summertime is kitten season and this past summer was no exception. Many cats and kittens were either picked up as strays or surrendered by their owners and ended up at the county shelter. This is quite often a death sentence for felines. There are simply not enough homes for all the kittens that are born. Fortunately, GCAR was able to work with other rescue organizations to save over 75 cats/kittens this summer. It is very difficult to choose which ones to save: should we take the super-cute ones, the super-sweet ones, the precious playful two-year olds who are wondering what in the world they are doing at the shelter, or do we take the older ones who's only crime was growing older? Only by focusing on our success stories can we continue to do this work.

Many thanks are due to our volunteers who foster the animals, transport them to and from the vet, and who deal with the (always) last minute arrangements for transport to their forever homes.

In other news, April Lowry has stepped down as our long-term President in order to focus all of her attention on the spay/neuter assistance program. Thank you, April, for your years of dedication to this organization! Melanie Gevedon will act as Interim President until elections are held in January.

GCAR is critically low on volunteers. This and the high fuel prices have made it difficult for us to keep the shelter open on the weekends this summer. Before you drive out to the shelter be sure to call the dispatch office to make sure it is open. Their number is (540) 921-3842.

Visit Our Website

To learn more about GCAR and maybe find a new furry friend, visit us at: www.nrvanimalshelters.com/Giles

Please keep in mind that the animals at the shelter change daily, making it very difficult to keep the website pictures current.

Contact by E-Mail

Melanie Gevedon, Interim President—
(briarhopperz@hotmail.com)
Brit Ritchey, Secretary— (brit@i-plus.net)
Marilyn Hollie, Treasurer
(marilyn1@i-plus.net)
MaryEllen Jones, Volunteer Coordinator
(darwinemmajones@yahoo.com)
April Lowry, Spay/Neuter Assistance
(gilescountyanimalrescue@yahoo.com)

Contact by Mail

Giles County Animal Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 354
Pearisburg, VA 24134

Contact by Phone

(540) 922-3958

Most people are just like cats in that if you rub them the right way, they will purr.
~ William Ross

Volunteer Opportunities

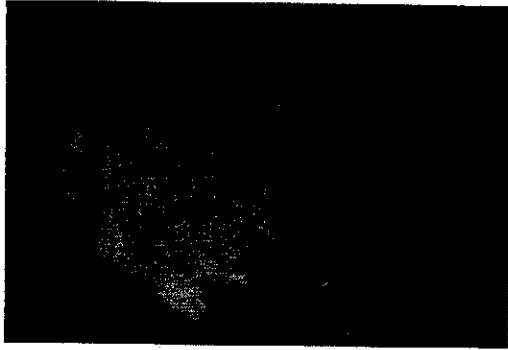
Giles County Animal Rescue currently is looking for assistance in the following areas for volunteers:

- Printer Cartridges Program
- Shelter Staffing (Critical Shortage)
- Newsletter Publishing
- Local Transport to and from Vet Office
- One time Transport to No. Virginia
- Organizational Skills
- Many other skills needed-make an offer!

Unfortunately, we are so short of volunteers that we are not always able to follow up on phone calls and emails in a timely manner. If you have tried to contact us, don't give up! We want and need your help!

Contact: MaryEllen Jones, Volunteer Coordinator
(darwinemmajones@yahoo.com)

Success Story!!!!



Pictured above are Lady Bug and her new best bud, Elwood. Lady had a litter of puppies at a young age, and the physical demands of it drained her to the point of exhaustion. GCAR was called to help with spaying costs, but ended up taking Lady and her pups so that they could receive the veterinary care they needed.

Two of her puppies were left with her and the others were taken to foster homes to be bottle fed. Eventually, all the pups were returned to Lady, and they all thrived!

Once the pups went to their new homes, Lady was adopted by Elwood and his family. Lady was uncertain about the humans, but Elwood patiently taught her that people can be nice! He has also taught her how to play and have the kind of fun that dogs are supposed to have. They've developed their own version of hide and seek where Lady hides under the bed and bats at Elwood as he trots by. Lady is one lucky dog.

Thank you to Lady's new human family!!

Thoughts on Adopting a Senior Pet

Most dogs in shelters are not there because they are bad dogs with many issues; they are usually there because of the issues the person surrendering them had. There are many reasons people get dogs and sometimes they are not prepared for the level of responsibility or care this new member of their family will need. Puppies require a lot of attention to keep them out of trouble. If the decision to get a puppy is based on status or a whim without thinking it through, then there will undoubtedly be a surprise factor for the new owner.

Senior dogs are exceptional in that they will quietly accept with gratitude any and all of the benefits bestowed upon them - love, companionship, warmth, camaraderie and even good food. Senior dogs have much to offer the families that open their hearts and homes to them.

They teach us many important lessons in life ... care, compassion and contentedness, to mention just a few. They also teach their human 'soul mates' how to accept life with its ups and down, how to persist amid some of life's disappointments and how to accept one another for who they are while enjoying one another's companionship.

Please consider adopting a senior dog or cat. You won't be sorry. No chewing, already housetrained, mellow and sweet. Your decision to adopt a senior pet will be rewarded with unconditional love and devotion.

**"Blessed is the person who has earned the love of an old dog."
- Sydney Jeanne Seward**

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