



# PawPrints

Newsletter of Giles County Animal Rescue, Inc.

February 2010



## GCAR Sponsors Pit Bull Spay/Neuter Month

Giles County Animal Rescue is leading an effort to reduce the number of pit bulls that end up being euthanized at the Giles Animal Shelter each year. Pit bulls are the most euthanized dog breed in all U.S. shelters. GCAR is arranging free or low

cost spay/neuter services during the month of February. There are still limited spots available, please don't delay. Call today 922-3958 to schedule. For Giles County residents only.

## 2010 GCAR Officers Elected

Officers were elected at the January annual meeting as follows:

President	Melanie Gevedon
Vice President	Kerry McGrath
Secretary	Brit Ritchey
Treasurer	Mary Ellen Jones

Meetings, usually held the second Wednesday of the month, are open to all people who agree with the GCAR philosophy: That all creatures, great and small, shall be treated fairly, and humanely. That we shall work towards eliminating irresponsible breeding, irresponsible ownership and therefore, animal suffering, through education and humane programs.

## Hunting with Hounds in Virginia

GCAR member Christine Link-Owens is helping the Humane Society of the United States document abused, abandoned or mistreated hounds in our area by sending in photos that clearly reveal mistreated hunting dogs. If you know of a hound whose photo would help document this ongoing sad story, please contact *Christine at [clink-owens@vti.vt.edu](mailto:clink-owens@vti.vt.edu)*.

## Is that just a limp or *Lyme Disease*?

Due to a significant increase in the local incidence of Lyme disease, the Animal Care Center has added a test for this disease to the routine test for heartworms. Lyme disease is a bacterium transmitted by the deer tick. The website [peteducation.com](http://peteducation.com) explains that symptoms may imitate arthritis such as lameness and swelling in the joints and lymph nodes and typically appear several months after being bitten. Exposure itself doesn't automatically manifest the disease – only 10% of exposed dogs actually show symptoms. A tick must be attached to the dog for 48 hours to transmit the disease. Less than that and transmission does not occur. Treatment is a course of antibiotics that may have to be repeated. Cats may also get Lyme disease but it occurs more rarely in them. Prevention, of course, is the best strategy to prevent Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. So if your faithful companion seems to be experiencing a bout of arthritis, it's time to make sure it's not Lyme disease.

## The Facts Behind the Figures of the GCAR Year-end Spay/Neuter Report

Nearly 100 cats and dogs were spayed or neutered with the help of GCAR in 2009. A total of 66 cats, 12 of them feral, and 30 dogs had the surgery. Responsible pet owners were able to pay about half of the cost, and GCAR paid the balance. Through special arrangements with local vets, average cost to GCAR was \$27 per pet and \$42 per feral cat. Statistics from the Humane Society of the United States say that one female cat and her offspring can produce up to 420,000 cats in 7 years and one female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 pups in 6 years. GCAR will help provide low cost spay or neuter for pet owners who care about their animals friends but need a little assistance to get the job done. The GCAR Spay/Neuter Hotline is 922-3958.

## Spotlight on Student Shelter Volunteers!

GCAR is very fortunate to have the energy and dedication of several student organizations from Virginia Tech to help at the Giles Animal Shelter.

In this issue we shine the spotlight on APO. Alpha Phi Omega is a service fraternity organization that was originally patterned using the service and leadership principles of the Boy Scouts. President Emily Dowell explained why APO became involved in the Shelter, "We selected the Giles Animal Shelter because of the need of volunteers by the shelter and the great opportunity to work with all the animals and hopefully benefit them in any



### Big Thank You for our Christmas Donations!

Some special people donated dog, cat, puppy and kitten food, beddings, collars, treats and toys to Giles County Animal Rescue. Some were friends of long standing and others came out for the first time. The pile of donations stacked up high under our Christmas tree. Thanks to all who shared their bounty with the innocent critters in the Shelter.

way possible. It is such a great project that the brothers truly enjoy and we are so glad that we can help!"

APO volunteers come out to the Shelter on a regular schedule throughout the school year. They help socialize the animals and make sure they get exercise and affection. When visitors show up the students escort them around to see the dogs and cats.

They come out in all kinds of weather and always show up in good spirits and ready to work. Thank you, APO!



**Look for these events this Spring...**  
**Volunteer Recruitment Drive**  
**GCAR Rabies Clinic**

More information will be posted on our website:  
[www.nrvanimalshelters.com/Giles/](http://www.nrvanimalshelters.com/Giles/)

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