



PawPrints

Newsletter of Giles County Animal Rescue, Inc.

www.nrvanimalshelters.com/Giles/

Summer 2010



A GCAR Exclusive

This one-of-a-kind t-shirt can't be purchased at any store in the world.



There's only one way to get this trendy addition to your wardrobe:
Be a volunteer! You'll get one free!

The Kindness of Donors

A big thanks goes to the kind supporters of GCAR programs in 2010 to spay and neuter dogs and cats in Giles County, control the feral cat population and educate people about responsible pet ownership.

Bernie Cosell
Phyllis Garnett-Deakin
Frances Heck
Cynthia S. Johnston and
Steve Schilling
Billie Kelley
Rick Lofton, Mgr. Dollar General
Dr. Erma McGuire
Drema McMahan
Phyllis Puckett
Laurie Steele
Texas Steakhouse - Princeton

Dog Training in Giles

Do Giles County dogs have worse manners than Blacksburg dogs? One thing is for sure, Blacksburg has far more dog training classes. Right now there is only one class being offered in Giles, starting April 29 at 6:30 pm at the Animal Care Center in Pearisburg. Veterinarian Dr. Victoria Graham, who is also a certified dog trainer, will teach the class which is \$80 for 8 weeks. She said she will add classes during the year if there were requests for training.

Making a Rescue Run – How to Save a Life

GCAR volunteers network with a good number of other rescue organizations throughout the state. This involves making countless calls and arranging for the spay/neuter and rabies vaccination, a requirement before an animal can be released from the Giles shelter and before another rescue will receive the animal. And somehow arranging to transport the animals. Some rescue groups that GCAR works with are located in southwest Virginia, but the largest receiver of Giles animals is Lost Dog and Cat Rescue located on 61 acres in Sumerduck, VA, in the north part of the state. One GCAR volunteer, Elaine Musick, has been the principal organizer and driver of rescue runs to Lost Dog for the past five years, and by the end of this year estimates that she'll have delivered nearly 1000 animals to Lost Dog. A constant challenge is that runs to Lost Dog cannot be routinely scheduled. Runs depend on many factors – the population at the shelter, whether Lost Dog will accept certain animals, can volunteers get the animals to and from the vet in time, will volunteers show up to help copy the paperwork and load animal crates in the rental van before her 7:30 am departure, and to unload and clean the crates and van when she returns, and of course is there still enough budget for one more van rental and gasoline. Experience has taught Elaine to line the floor of the van with a heavy tarp to catch all the cat and dog hair and various animal indiscretions. When enough volunteers show up, things go smoothly. When there aren't enough, the work still has to get done. She hopes other volunteers will begin to make the run to Lost Dog because, as she notes, her health isn't what it was five years ago. "I have



Elaine Musick



GCAR volunteers rescued Buckshot from the Giles shelter and sent him to Lost Dog – this big boy got adopted!

more than once slid on the interstate in snow and my heart would jump. Two trips ago, we had a large cargo van with no A/C. We were stopped in traffic for 45 minutes on I-81 in Rockingham County. On this trip, we had the four large pyranees, and I was getting frantic with the heat rising mid-day." Elaine knows she can't save *every* animal, but in no way is that going to stop her from trying!



Chance's name proved prophetic. He got a second chance to live after GCAR transported him to Lost Dog. This cutie pie also got a adopted!

Volunteer Spotlight on the VT Biochem Club



The Virginia Tech Biochem Club is one of the largest groups of student volunteers who work at the shelter and GCAR shelter volunteers really count on their help during the school year. From the moment they arrive, always a little early, they are in motion, exercising and socializing the animals, cleaning cages, giving needed baths to scruffy dogs, brushing tangles and mats out of dog and cat hair until their coats are shiny again. And passing out treats to one and all whether they deserve it or not. Our only problem with the Biochem Club is getting them to leave at closing time! They can always find one more task that needs to be done and one more nose that needs to be rubbed. GCAR is very fortunate that these students who live on campus in Blacksburg and don't have cars, always scramble to come up with a driver and make the trek to Pearisburg in all kinds of weather. We are thankful for our friends in the Biochem Club.



Office and Kennel – The two jobs of Giles Animal Rescue shelter volunteers

The Giles County Animal Shelter is only open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm to 4 pm and only when Giles County Animal Rescue volunteers arrive to staff the shelter. There are always two volunteers for each day. In general, there are office tasks and kennel tasks. Some volunteers are not robust enough to work in the kennels and prefer to stay in the office, answering the phone, greeting the public, doing paperwork to accept an animal that was turned in to the shelter, or one that was adopted out! The kennel volunteer can work with the dogs and cats inside the building and dogs can also be put on a leash and walked outside for some fresh air and exercise, and given a turn in one of the outside kennels.

Whatever your preference, we need you! For more information call GCAR at 922-3958.

