



CARE Community Newsletter January 2012

Cat Adoption & Rescue Efforts, Inc.
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Happy New Year from all of us at CARE...

We hope you enjoy our January e-news and wish you and yours all the best in 2012.

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From the Scratching Post

Darryl then

Today is another day and another year! The sun is out, the air clear, the temperature brisk, and LIFE FOR ME IS GREAT! I have had 4 names (Winston, Norman, Larry, and now Darryl) in one day ever since I was rescued from certain death in a nearby pound. CARE came to get me on my 7th and last day there. I was not pretty. I was very dirty, matted, hungry, scared, wild, and needed lots of “CARE”. I went to the vet who suggested a professional named Bess shave me to rid me of the blanket of mats which were all over my skin. The very next day Bess made time for me. She shaved me to within ¼ inch of my skin and removed a true nasty blanket of fur all in one piece. Talk about nasty and ugly---my fur which was now gone. I got to see that I had a cute nose and sweet eyes and a precious “figure” for a boy dog. It felt so good to be clean for the first time in at least two years per my new vet. Bess said that when the fur came off, there were literally hundreds of ticks and fleas all over me under that matted fur. She spent a time pulling each tick off of me and she put me into some deep warm water and drowned all the fleas!



Darryl at the shelter

Next I went to a foster home. I was quite mischievous and took the food off the table and put it into my cat bed (remember I am only 11 pounds so dog beds are too large). I tore my new mom's mouth guard into 3 pieces, ruining it, took anything from where it belonged and dragged it somewhere else, and I was not about to learn to potty outside.

During my time in foster care, I have learned a lot about CARE.

I found out Janet headed CARE's Santa photo sessions at PetSmart and CARE made more than \$350.00! Other CARE volunteers wrapped purchases at Barnes and Noble earning around \$200.00 for CARE. This equates to being able to do 13 spays which I think is really great!



Santa at PetSmart

Sometimes people would call to see how Cole is doing. My foster mom went with a foster animal to the VEC on New Year's Eve and got the same young vet who treated poor Cole last summer.

When Dr. Apothaker asked about Cole and when he had died, my mom jumped up and said, “Cole is flourishing, doing great, looking shiny, eating everything in sight, and lying in the sun.”



Cole

My cat friend named Chloe has lived at this foster home for 2 years. She told me that when she arrived straight from the shelter, construction was happening on the kitty porch, a rustic non-obtrusive “cat walk/playground”. All the kitties were frightened of it at first. Frank was the first to start climbing and then Emily was second. I got all excited because I assumed a dog could go climbing, too. My heart was only broken but only temporarily because my foster mom gave me some dog treats (totally new experience for me) and took me for a WALK (another totally new experience).



kitty playground/porch



Well, gotta go so wish me luck. I have seen cats come and go during my time with CARE and I hope that I, too, will soon find a very patient person to take me home forever.

Yours truly,

Darryl



with his best friend Buddy

Darryl now



Darryl

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The Old Lady by Helen McIver



One winter day in January five years ago, CARE volunteers Janet and Helen made the trek to the rural Caroline County Shelter to rescue a couple of cats. When they arrived, the technician begged them to take an old tortoiseshell who had been at the shelter more than three months. They did, and so began the saga of Nancy Cat! Another volunteer named Joyce said she would be happy to foster Nancy forever if she did not get adopted, which turned out to be the fact.

One of the first things Joyce did was to change Nancy's name to THE OLD LADY. For three years, The Old Lady hung out with Joyce's other cats but the arrangement was not working well so Joyce gave The Old Lady the spare bedroom. After another year, Joyce felt so sorry for The Old Lady being confined to a small bedroom with a single window that she changed rooms with her. Joyce took the spare room without a bath for herself and gave The Old Lady the master bedroom and bath! In the summers the sun came through the skylight so strong that Joyce worried about The Old Lady's comfort level, so much so that Joyce paid \$800.00 to put up sunscreen fabric to protect The Old Lady. By this time, The Old Lady had stopped eating cat food altogether so Joyce struggled until she finally found a food this cat would eat- whole cooked Ukrops' chickens (without seasoning). So, once a week Joyce faithfully bought a Ukrops' chicken and picked the carcass clean so The Old Lady, who Joyce now referred to as "her cat" would have meals for the week. (No one ever inquired to adopt this lovable but old Lady.)

At the beginning of year four, the vet in charge of The Old Lady told Joyce that the cat would need fluids three times a week. Joyce learned quickly how to administer the fluids. The Old Lady must have known it was for her own good because she just lay there taking in the fluids from the bag through the needle. The Old Lady began to not eat well anymore, was very arthritic, and could not move around easily, but she and Joyce had a love pact. By the fall of 2011, The Old Lady had no good quality of life left. Joyce conferred with her vet who agreed The Old Lady was beginning to suffer and her time had come. Joyce held The Old Lady for one last time while the vet and his assistant peacefully "let her go." Joyce cried and took the rest of the day off work. Although she never officially adopted The Old Lady, Joyce considered her part of her family.

Joyce eventually moved back into the master bedroom and bath but will never forget the love she developed for The Old Lady and will treasure all the memories she has.

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Shop Online to Benefit CARE

CARE's new "[shop online](#)" page is live. Shop online at your favorite stores and earn money for C.A.R.E. Choose one of the online shopping links below, create an account & choose to donate to CARE, then shop. It's that easy. Shop online today!!



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Transport: Why I Do It

CARE volunteers help with dog transports on Saturdays, generally driving the legs from South Hill to Richmond or Richmond to Fredericksburg. Please consider becoming a transport driver. The dogs we transport are rescues from shelters in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. All were on euthanasia lists and scheduled to die right away but have found safe shelters or adoptive homes in the north and just need a ride to get there.

Transport drivers don't often get the opportunity to witness adoptions because usually we just pass the dogs along to the other drivers, but here is one transporter's recollection of that special experience:

“One (adoption) that really sticks in my mind happened over a year ago. When we got to the meeting place in Alexandria, VA, we met a family that had driven a considerable distance to adopt an ancient, emaciated, heart-worm positive boxer named General. The transport was running late and so I had a chance to talk with them for awhile. I was

stunned that they would take on such a dog, and then learned that they already had one boxer and the mother of the family is a vet tech. But what got to me was the little boy, probably about 6 or 7 years old. When General got out of the van, I was shocked at the poor condition of the dog. I'd seen a picture on the run sheet, but I was still stunned at how frail he was. I assumed that the family might have second thoughts when they saw him, too, but the little boy immediately approached him, gave General a gentle hug and quietly whispered to him, "You'll be ok now, General. We're going to take you home and fatten you up." I still get teary eyed thinking about it. Moments like this are what makes it all worthwhile."

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING dogs like General find their way home. To become a transport driver (or just try it once!), contact Dianne at 358-8224.



Transport dog headed to safety

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One Lucky Raccoon

In case you think CARE only helps cats and dogs, here is a story about a lucky raccoon's encounter with a CARE supporter.

Hi Helen,

Attached is a photo of a very lucky raccoon. As I relayed to you in our conversation, on the evening of Friday October 29th, my wife Annette and I were returning home on I-64 West towards Rockville, VA after a night out. It was dark and raining, so I was traveling at around 45mph rather than the posted 65mph. Just past the exit to 288 South, a young adult raccoon ran across the highway right into the path of my car, a 2012 Ford Fusion that I just purchased in August of this year. There was no way that I could stop, so when we heard and felt the thump, we imagined the worst. Since our encounter with this critter was unavoidable, the only thing we could do was to continue on, consoling ourselves that there was nothing that we could have done to avoid hitting the poor animal.

When we arrived home, I parked the car in our garage, and told my wife that I should inspect the front bumper for damage, particularly since the car was brand new. From my viewpoint the driver side of the bumper was undamaged. However, my wife indicated that the passenger side bumper area had some damage to the molding surrounding the Fusion's open grill. She also stated that the license plate was bent. Just then, she jumped back, because as you can see in the photo, the raccoon popped its head out from the open grill. I told her to get the camera because no one would believe this without a photograph.

While she was getting the camera, I knelt down and spoke softly to the little critter and without touching him (because of the fact that these animals are carriers of rabies and other viruses, such as parvo virus, and can be dangerous even when not injured), I cautiously examined it for overt signs of trauma and pain. To my surprise, he appeared to be quite alert, without any obvious symptoms of head or neurological injury, and exhibited no visible contusions or bleeding. In fact, he appeared to be in pretty good shape considering the ordeal of having to "car surf" for another 8-to-10 miles further after initially being struck.

At this point, we contacted several agencies for assistance, but because of the lateness of the hour, were told that nothing could be done until the next day. So we decided that because the raccoon was not in any apparent stress or pain, that for its safety, we would leave the animal as is within a closed garage, and deal with the situation early the next day (Saturday, October 30th).

At around 6:00 am the next morning I entered the garage to see how the raccoon was doing. To my pleasant surprise, the critter freed itself from the car and was just sitting next to the passenger side front car door.

During the night, it had knocked over some cat carriers that we were storing in the garage, and defecated on the garage floor. The fact that its stool was normal and not bloodied was another good sign that the animal was in OK shape.

It looked at me for a moment, just enough time to get another photo and then scurried under the car. Just then a Hanover Animal Control Agent called me on my cell phone and I updated him on the situation. He suggested that I open the garage door and then try to prod the animal with a broom or rake handle, but when I tried this the animal just crouched down like a "scared cat" and did not move. I then decided to start the car and when I turned on the ignition, the raccoon ran as quickly as it could out of the garage and into the woods that surround our house. We have not seen the little critter since, although the way that he took off was very encouraging that he would survive.

For obvious reasons, we gave the raccoon the name of "Lucky, The Car Surfing Raccoon". Both my wife and I now would like to think that this charmed little critter goes on to live a long, healthy and fruitful life somewhere on our property, telling its future offspring to stay away from the interstates and roads.

The car did not fare as well, sustaining approximately \$2,000 worth of damage. However, because of a very understanding and efficient insurance company and agent, as well as an outstanding collision repair service at Richmond Ford, the car again looks like new.

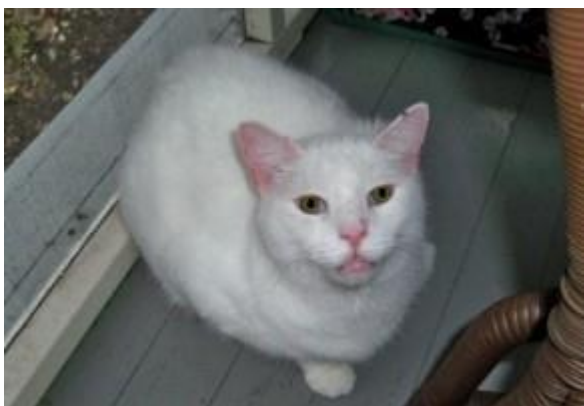
I hope you enjoy this true and amazing tale of animal survival and good fortune (both for the raccoon and us).

Best Regards, Al



Adoption Spotlight:

PetSmart's recent press release announced 16,000+ adoptions during their nationwide adoption event in November 11-13, 2011. CARE participated in the event and was successful in finding 12 CARE cats forever homes. The next PetSmart Adoption Event will take place the weekend of February 10-12, 2012. Check out the [CARE Website event page](#) for more details. In the meantime, CARE has an adoption stand every Saturday at the Short Pump PetSmart. Here are a few of the wonderful cats looking for forever homes. Please visit [our website](#) to read more about these and other wonderful pets and to complete an [online adoption form](#).



Frank

I had a rough start with an owner who only cared about me a week or two after she got me. She even tried to end my life but the vets refused and asked CARE to rescue me. Now that I'm safe, I know life is going to be great for me soon. I am a large young cat, full of love and personality. I have clear blue Siamese type eyes and am probably totally deaf. If I were to be the only pet, I would not be unhappy at all but I am fine with all other animals after an initial meeting.



Ralphie, Declan & Bunny

Ralphie is a neutered black male with some white on his chest. He's very playful and loves other cats. He's very affectionate with any cat – loves to lie against them and bathe

them. He is frightened of humans, but never ever hisses or spits, has never tried to bite or scratch, even when he's been covered with a towel to get into carrier.

Declan is a medium-haired white male with a small grey smudge on top of head and blue eyes. When he was brought home, he was pretty anti-social. He has since come around a lot. He lays on the couch/bed next to his foster mom, eats treats from her hand, and plays with string toys. He still won't let her touch or pet him. He is very playful with his two other foster siblings.

Bunny is a mostly white calico spayed female. Same as Ralphie in that she doesn't let foster mom close to her. She shows no aggression whatsoever. She is very playful with the other fosters, and loves to sleep against one of the adult male cats.

These kitties should not be the only cat in any household/barn. Ralphie and Declan play together the most. Declan and Bunny would also make a good pair. Since they haven't made a connection with any human, it's important for them to live with other cats and not be alone.



Flower

The lady who took me in when I was pregnant moved to Florida and didn't take me with her, which is very fortunate for some lucky adopter since I am available to become part of your family. I have the purest white plush fur with colorful patches on my face and tail. Only two years old, I am a real sweetheart and very easy going. My favorite things in life are to lay on the bed with my foster mom and be rubbed and caressed. I have not been able to establish a relationship with my mom's own cats and, because they like to sleep with mom, I am banished to the bathroom at night. Being the obedient and willing to please lady that I am, I trot into that room at bedtime. Truth be told though, I would much rather be in bed with my person as I am a very loving and kindly soul.



Clyde

I'm Clyde, a mostly white, tabby patched, and somewhat rotund sugar bear. I am just five years old and my absolute most favorite pastime is to be with people- I just can't stay away from them. I will trail you about the house like some dogs do, hoping for some Clyde time with my person and of course wanting to be involved with the day's activities. My litter box etiquette is perfect, but my strange stance when I potty may make you laugh. But my aim is true and I never miss. I am just the most warm hearted and devoted being under the sun and if you need such a companion to make your life complete, I'm your guy.



Opie

I suffered a trauma and my caretakers came to the conclusion that I would no longer be able to enjoy a normal life. Balderdash! Blessedly they brought me to Quiocasin Veterinary Hospital where a kind-hearted veterinarian examined me and gave me hope. With my former family's permission, the folks at the hospital took me under their wing; with their help I have recovered and expect to live a long, happy, healthy life. My name is Opie and I am a sweet tender-hearted three-year-old cat who has lived a harried past. I only hope to one day be adopted and make someone, and me too, very happy. I am up-to-date on all my vaccinations, neutered, and indoors only is where I like to play. I would love to be the king of the household and bask in all the love (no other furry friends in my house please). I love to have my belly rubbed, am very active, and definitely am an attention hog. I will do whatever I can to get someone to pet me and I love showering them with kisses. My eye and leg injuries are healing nicely without taking any medication, and the good doctors at Quiocasin Veterinary Hospital do not think I will have any long term complications whatsoever. Please contact Quiocasin Veterinary Hospital at (804) 741-3200 if you have any questions or to schedule an appointment to come play with me. You'll be glad that you did!

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CARE Recommends the Following...

Petsitters (Cats and Kittens Exclusively):

My Precious Kitty (www.mypreciouskitty.com), Donna Savory. Owner

Tree Climbing Service for Wayward Cats:

True Timber (www.truetimber.net)

Beaver Tree and Lawn (www.healthy-lawn-tree.com/tree-service-richmond-va/)

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Thank You

Thank you to Bryan Harvey, Michael Sharp, and all who helped make our Santa project at PetSmart a huge success.



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Volunteer Corner

We Need Fosters for Dogs and Cats!!!

A foster home provides temporary respite for a rescued dog or cat, a safe haven where they can recover from the trauma of their past, learn new social skills, and prepare for life with their adoptive families. Fostering is a big responsibility but nothing is more gratifying than watching a once homeless animal blossom under your loving care. When you take a rescued animal into your home, you make the difference between life and death. You become a hero. To learn more about becoming a CARE foster mom or dad, contact Sandy Schneider at 262-5575, Helen at 355-1357, or Andrea at 262-8541.



Foster kitty Grace working on her computer skills

We need help at PetSmart on Saturdays

We need help tearing down the cages at the end of the day (3:00pm). This is a great job for those who are not fostering but would like to help. Taking down the tables, cages, cleaning, sweeping, etc... is not a glamorous job, nor is it exciting, but it is really important since the cages draw people over to look and possibly adopt. With 2-3 people, it takes around 30-45 minutes to get it all broken down and put away. Please consider helping out if you can.



CARE cat Bing on his adoption day

We need barn homes or other suitable outdoor homes

Barn homes with caring, responsible owners are ideal for many cats with temperament and behavioral traits that cannot adjust to life inside a human home. In return for a comfortable environment and good nutrition, these cats make great mousers and all-around wonderful companions. If you know of a good barn home or other outdoor home, please call CARE at 288-9797.

Meet Deborah, feral cat adopted into a private home when her farm was bulldozed for a subdivision. After six years she decided to become friendly and after 8 years she is a total lap cat pet. Ferals often "turn around" but no matter, they need food, water, shelter, safe conditions, and a life.



Deborah

This lucky barn cat named Noelle got a great farm to call her own. Her new forever family raises alpaca for the fur.



Noelle

Mark Your Calendar

Grant committee meeting:

Date: January 18, 2012

Location: 5300 Hickory Park Drive, Glen Allen 23060 (2nd Floor Media Room)

Time: 6:00 pm

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Grants are vital for CARE and allow us to continue our mission of rescuing cats from Metro Richmond shelters & providing help throughout our community.

Donation Jars

Please consider putting a CARE donation jar at your office or business. Every little bit helps. Also, one of our volunteers collects cat and dog foods at her place of business and we take it by the carload to the food bank for the underprivileged people's pets. You can bring the food any Saturday to Short Pump PetSmart from 11 am to 3 pm and we will deliver it to the food bank.

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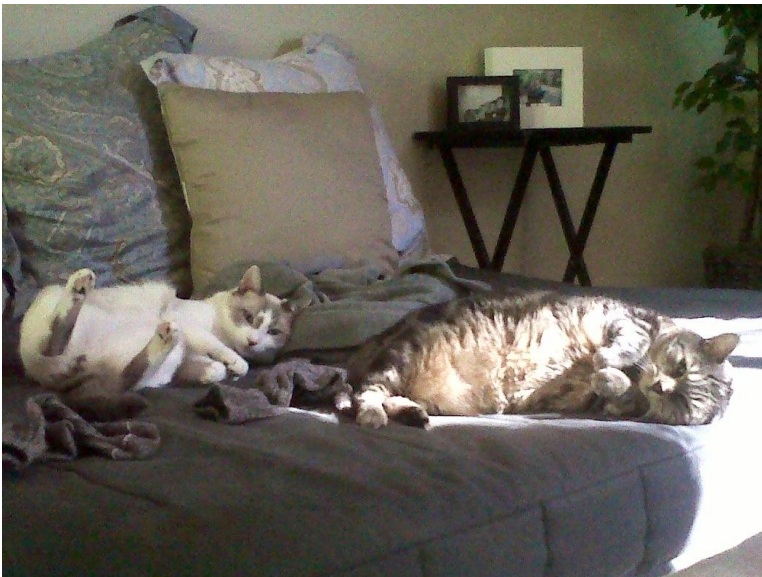


In Memory: Cray

It is hard to put into words how much we loved Cray - she created our family. Whether it be walks on her harness, kissing her brother, snuggling with mommy or daddy, drives from Washington D.C. to Richmond she was always the center of our world. She was our daughter and the loss of her will always leave a void in our lives. ~Melissa D.



Cray sleeping with her daddy, Nohn



Cray snuggling with her brother, Ty

In Memory: Stephanie

Stephanie, age 13, finally lost her battle with diabetes even though she was closely monitored by her vet and received insulin shots twice a day. This is the first Christmas in many years that Stephanie has not enjoyed using the Christmas decorations and ornaments as her toys. Her mom misses her daily, but prolonging her life a few more days or months would have been very cruel. This is a tribute to wonderful Stephanie who started life in a feral colony. ~Helen M.



Stephanie

In Memory: Thelma

Two summers ago, I took in for CARE two old cats whose owner was marrying someone who didn't want them. I agreed to take them both knowing I would probably end up keeping them, which is what happened. One died of natural causes at age 23 a year after she arrived and Thelma just died before Christmas at age 24 ½. She suddenly lost her zest for life, ability to climb and jump. Then she stopped eating cat food and would only eat baby food meat, especially ham; then she would no longer eat those and drank water all the time. It was obvious her life was about to end. I called the vet to come to my home and let her go on my bed which she loved. She drifted off, and a hole still remains in my heart where she lives still.~*Helen M.*



Thelma



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Happy Tales

Hi, Helen,

Attached are pictures of our boy, Lucky, doing what he does best -resting.

Hope you have a great holiday!

Best regards,
Jean and Bob H



Lucky



Hi,

Just want to give you a follow up on Sugar- adopted just over 4 years ago. Her name is now "P". Don't ask me why, it just sort of became that! She was adopted as a barn cat and as you can see by the photo she is now officially an indoor kitty. Part of that is because of a vision loss of unknown origin and she is no longer safe outside. The other part is she just enjoys being in the house!!

Hope you all are able to continue the good work you do.

Gail Smith



Sugar



Former CARE cat Elvis waits for Santa in his forever home



COLE is still rocking on with no signs of sickness or slowing down. (Remember, he was to die before the end of July.) This is Cole now-fat, silky fur, happy, enjoying 6 meals a day of canned food, and lounging in the sun. He has defied all the odds by living past July 2010! The doctor at the VEC who did his surgeries asked me last week to send him a photo because he could not believe Cole is still with us. Cole was Dr. Apotheker's first emergency surgery since graduation.~*Helen*



Cole rocks on!

If you have adopted a CARE cat and have a Happy Tale or any other contribution for this newsletter, please forward it to info@care-cats.org.



ANYTIME IS A GOOD TIME TO DONATE TO CARE! JUST GO TO <http://care-cats.org/donate>

CARE - Cat Adoption & Rescue Efforts www.care-cats.org 804-288-9797

CARE is a 501(c)(3) organization. A copy of CARE's most recent financial statement is on file with the Virginia Division of Consumer Affairs. All monetary donations are tax-deductible. 100% of your tax-deductible donation will go directly to spay/neuter operations, medical treatments, and daily care & feeding costs for the cats (and occasional dog, bunny, etc. that makes it into our rescue). Please mail your donation to the address below or go to our website: www.care-cats.org. Every penny makes a difference in the life of a CARE animal.

				
	Donate to CARE	Donate to CARE	Donate to CARE	
\$25		\$50		\$75
				
	Donate to CARE	Donate to CARE	Donate to CARE	
100		\$150		\$250

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