



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CARE

March brings with it the winds of change and the blossoming of new life - that's right, kitten season is here!

While kitten season sounds like a fantastic flurry of cuddly furballs, the truth is that kitten season puts a strain on shelter resources - food, space, time, money - to handle the increase of unwanted animals. Adult cats face the possibility of being overlooked for adoption during this time. Kittens not adopted become "lifer" adult cats.

What can you do to help? Adopt. If you can't adopt, foster. If you can't foster, volunteer. If you can't volunteer, donate. If you can't donate, spread the word. Community cats need your help.

Thank you to all of our supporters. Your continued support allows us to help cats in the community each and every day. Should you decide to do so, you can easily unsubscribe at any time through the link found in the footer of the email. We hope, though, that you will enjoy these bimonthly updates and thank you for your continued support!

Showing Stella

In the comfort of her foster care, Stella shines. Confident and outgoing, Stella is a loving girl who likes to run the show.

And see those paws? Yes, she's got a few toes to spare. Stella is a polydactyl cat, which sailors from long ago saw as a sign of good luck.

So why has Stella been in foster care for over a year?

The truth is that some cats just do not show well in high-stress environments of pet stores. A former street cat like Stella knows this fact well.

To survive her harsh reality before life with CARE, Stella learned that growling would keep the majority of her predators away. Now, it's a habit that comes out when stressed - like when she leaves her foster to visit the pet store cages. It's also an effective method of communication to let you know what she likes and dislikes.



Stella needs a patient pet parent, one who is willing to earn her trust. With luck, you could be the one for her!

[Meet Stella](#)

Declawing Facts & Alternatives



Cats scratch. It's instinctual for them, but can be frustrating for pet parents who like their furniture unshredded. For some who are not aware of the side effects of declawing, it seems like a solution.

Claws gone, problem solved - right?

Declawing is actually an amputation of the toes - the Humane Society states that "[i]f performed on a human being, it would be like cutting off each finger at the last knuckle."

Declawing often brings a host of side effects: infection, pain, and nerve damage, among others. Pain of the feet can be exacerbated by litter, making cats eliminate elsewhere to avoid the pain. Cats may turn to biting as a defense to compensate for their lost claws.

Alternatives to declawing:

- Keep cats' claws trimmed - starting early as a kitten can ease this process, as can handling your cats' paws outside of trimming sessions
- Provide cats with plenty of acceptable scratching surfaces - posts, carpets, and wood provide variety
- Look into deterrent sprays and tape to ensure cats stay away from furniture

- Talk with your vet about temporary plastic caps to cover nails

(Humane Society, "Declawing Cats: Far Worse Than a Manicure," May 12, 2014)

Kitten Season is Here!

Kitten season runs from spring through the end of fall. This influx of new kittens means that CARE needs fosters to provide a safe environment to prepare each cat for adoption.

Want the fun of snuggling kittens and providing love and support for new life without the financial burdens? Consider fostering this year!

[Click here for more information on fostering with CARE.](#)



Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help care for our adoptable cats and kittens at our Short Pump Petsmart location. With kitten season here, experience all the furry cuteness by volunteering to help until each one finds a home!

Opportunities available every other Sunday AM. On-call volunteers needed for all shifts.

Contact Sandy at 804-288-9797 if interested!

Homemade Catnip Toy

We all know Martha Stewart as a queen of home decor - but did you know that she occasionally dabbles in the art of cat crafts? Kid-friendly homemade catnip sock fish provide a cheap and easy way to please your feline friends. Finally a use for those pairless socks!

To create your own catnip sock fish:

- Roll an 8 1/2-by-11-inch piece of paper into a cone for a funnel secure with tape
- Insert funnel into sock, and fill halfway with catnip
- Knot just above filling
- Cut out eyes and a mouth from a piece of felt
- Attach eyes and mouth to sock with nontoxic fabric glue



[Full Instructions](#)

Cars for Cats

Turn your old vehicle into medical care and a loving home for cats and kittens, just by donating your vehicle to CARE!

No hassle, tax deductible and no cost to you! Cars, trucks, motorcycles, and boats all welcome.

For more info, call 1-877-227-7487 toll free 24/7 or visit www.donationline.com

Cat Adoption and Rescue Efforts, Inc.

<http://care-cats.org>
PO BOX 2934
Henrico, VA 23228

Cat Adoption and Rescue Efforts, Inc. (C.A.R.E.) is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the rehabilitation, care and adoption of cats and kittens rescued

from euthanizing animal shelters in Richmond, VA and surrounding areas. And, accepts on a limited basis animals from alternative sources. We are committed to the highest principles of humane care and obtain professional medical treatment for all animals in our systems.



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