



## Newsletter

What's New, Pussycat?

October 2022



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Are you looking to help out cute kitties and join the vibrant Cat's Cradle volunteer community? Then Cat's Cradle is looking for your help! Volunteering with Cat's Cradle is a highly rewarding experience, and through the many opportunities detailed below, we're sure to find the right fit for you! We are looking for:

**Volunteers at Waynesboro and Harrisonburg PetSmart locations for adoption events.** Watch cat parents' eyes light up as you help them adopt their new best friend.



Emma Burkholder & Jenna Skelton, PetSmart Volunteers

**Volunteers to help with Harrisonburg PetSmart cats and their habitat upkeep.** You'll help keep the kitties' cubbies comfortable as they await adoption, *and* you get to love on our adorable adoptees.



Bobby & Foster Buster

**Transportation volunteers.** If you like hitting the road, we need assistance with taking client cats to appointments for owners without other options, and we also have occasional long-distance transport drives to other states. It's a great way to cure that wanderlust!

**Trap-Neuter-Return volunteers.** There are many feral cat colonies around our area, and our trappers would love some assistance with stabilizing these populations!

**Foster parents.** For those wanting to help kitties find their furrever homes, you will provide a loving and safe space for them to stay before they're adopted.

**Downtown Center volunteers.** By volunteering with the DC crew, you'll converse with visitors and share information about our programs and field calls from people looking for spay/neuter or other assistance. It's the purrfect way to further Cat's Cradle's mission.

(Continued on next page)

(Calling All Volunteers - Continued from cover)

**Coffee & Cats assistants.** Coffee & Cats has been a huge hit and lets us share our mission while promoting our adoptable cats and kittens. You can help keep the kitties safe during this experience and share in café-goers' joy by taking pictures they'll cherish for a lifetime.

**Special event volunteers.** Throughout the year, we put on several special events. For instance, have you heard of our famous Kitten Bowl?! It takes a lot of hands to run events like these, and we'd love for you to help us promote our organization and raise money for all the great work we do.

As you can see, there are many ways you can become involved, and volunteering is a great way to meet

our incredible and passionate community of people. And the kicker: you get to help so many deserving kitties in our area who are crying out for help! If you're interested in volunteering with Cat's Cradle, please visit [www.catscradleva.org/volunteer](http://www.catscradleva.org/volunteer) to apply.

Thank you for your help!



Amy & Foster Skeeter



Suzanne, Foster & Adoption Event Volunteer



Kelli & Betsy PetSmart Volunteers



Suzanne G & Foster Stingray



Carla, PetSmart Volunteer & Foster Blue

JOIN THE FUN!



Scan here to sign up for monthly giving!



## Monthly Giving Program

When you become a Cat's Cradle Pet Pal (by signing up to make recurring monthly donations), you're providing gifts that can be used by cats and kittens in their hours of need. Pet Pals are special members of Cat's Cradle, because their gifts are continuous and steady. Help cats and kittens all year round by making a monthly gift today!

As a Pet Pal "members only" benefit, you will receive a Cat's Cradle signature umbrella just for joining!



\$10/Month

Helps one low-income family pay for veterinary care to help them keep their cat.



\$25/Month

Will spay or neuter four cats, helping prevent unwanted litters!



\$50/Month

Covers extraordinary vet care for special needs cats.



\$100/Month

Can help spay or neuter an entire colony of cats!

Visit [www.catscradleva.org](http://www.catscradleva.org) to make your recurring gift today!

## How You Are Making a Lifesaving Difference in 2021!



- Adoptions (through August): 345 local and 41 via transport to no-kill partners
- Cats/Kittens Rescued (through August): 466
- Spay/Neuter Surgeries (through July): 1,630
- Medical Assistance Clients Helped (through July): 125  
Medical assistance is up 45% over 2021!

# The Great A-MEOW-ICAN SONGBOOK 2022 PURRFECT HARMONY!

SUMMERTIME CHALLENGE

2022

HELPS CATS THRIVE IN THE  
DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!



Thanks to our amazing, music-loving supporters! You have done it yet again - - you came through, and we met our goal to secure \$50,000 in matching funds from our generous, anonymous donor. Your Challenge contributions reached \$51,413.25! We are so grateful to all of you - - you have an unbroken record of helping us achieve our matching funds goal in this single largest annual fundraiser to keep our doors open and our programs afloat. This year, it's more challenging than ever, with prices for everything sky high!! (But we don't have to tell *you* that, right?)

We can't do it without you, folks, and we are humbled that you have never let us down - - you put your compassion into action to help us save the lives of the animals who can't help themselves. No matter what you donated this year, we are grateful *for every single contribution*, and each dollar will help to support our crucial programs.

We especially want to recognize our Challenge Sponsors in the giving categories below:

## **Naps Are A Many Splendid Thing (\$1000 and up)**

Twyla Austin  
Christy Cacciapaglia  
Janet Doerr  
Donor Requesting Anonymity  
John & Terri Haddick  
Harrisonburg Animal Hospital  
Nancy & Dan Herney  
Kenneth & Sandy Keller  
Mary Long  
Maria Malerba  
Sharon & Whit Menefee  
Judith & Mike Salvino  
Carolyn Snow  
Roxanna Spencer  
Christina & Phillip Updike  
Thomas Wetsel  
Jacquelyn Zehring

## **I Won't Move My Feet if You Ain't Got That Treat (\$500-999)**

Lee Beam  
Diana & Dave Black  
Carter Myers Automotive (CMA) Valley  
Subaru  
Larry & JoAnn Diehl  
Harold Eskey  
Dixie Gainer  
F&M Bank  
Gayle Alderfer Fisher  
Deborah Hedberg  
LD&B Insurance and Financial Services  
Judith & Zack Perdue  
Suzanne Rogerson  
United Bank  
Veterinary Emergency Services  
Virginia Veterinary Specialists, P.C  
Vision Technology Group  
Grace Watt  
Donna Whitley-Smith & Shirley Whitley

## **When You Wish Upon a Tuna (\$250-499)**

Jane Dinsmore  
Terry Elia  
Susan & Wilson Fisher  
Michael Hickman  
Paula Kahaner  
Linda & Ken Kline  
Michelle Lutz  
Patrick McConnell  
Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC  
Guy & Valerie Stephens  
Zachary Stewart  
Rosemary Wagner

## **The Tabbies Who Lunch (\$150-249)**

William Anderson  
Barbara Cable  
June Clarke  
Allen (Chip) Coffman  
Carolyn Dull & Salome Baugher  
Sharon & Jay Foley  
Angela Henderson-Boylan

## Cat's Cradle Treating Every Cat With Dignity and Compassion

Cat's Cradle adopts out hundreds of cats a year, and each of them go through a thorough vetting process by our veterinary partners before we help them find furrever homes. While many of our cats don't need extraordinary care, some do, and it's only with our community's support that we're can help these hard-up kitties find the peace and love they deserve.

Miss Stingray is one of those special cats that need extra care before they can be adopted. After Stingray's owner passed away, she was left abandoned. Thankfully, some selfless and compassionate neighbors kept Stingray fed and gave her water.

They soon realized Stingray wasn't keen on making new friends as she swatted and hissed at these new caretakers. And quickly enough, they found the cause of Stingray's hostile attitude: she was hurt and in pain.

To get Stingray medical attention, these Good Samaritans took her to the local shelter, where her cute round face and chubby body stole their hearts. They discovered Stingray had eye issues and other medical concerns, and the stress of being in the shelter intensified her anxiety and aggressive behavior.



Stingray needed help the shelter couldn't offer at that moment, so they asked Cat's Cradle to step in and get this feisty girl a medical exam and then into our incredible foster care network where she could be in a calm environment and get on the road to recovery.

Once in our care, Stingray's visited a vet who discovered she suffered from missing and decaying teeth as well as ulcerated, infected gums. Poor Stingray's eyes also caused major stress. She was diagnosed with the condition entropion, which is a rolling inward of the eyelids. It's extremely unnerving and painful because the hair around Stingray's eyes constantly rubbed against her cornea. With all those health problems, no wonder she lashed out at everyone!

Stingray's conditions required immediate attention to restore her quality of life, the Cat's Cradle community rushed into action. Because the vet bills for these procedures were high, we initiated a fundraiser to cover costs. Stingray thanks you so much for helping her find relief!!!



After her procedures, she began to relax and became more sociable, but unfortunately, Stingray soon started regularly biting her tail which the vet deduced was from lingering anxiety issues. The vet prescribed some kitty Prozac which relaxed her and helped her develop an even stronger bond with her foster mom.

As of today, "Miss Ray" is still feisty, but in a healthy way! Because we were able to facilitate these surgeries, she's doing very well and is looking for her furrever home!

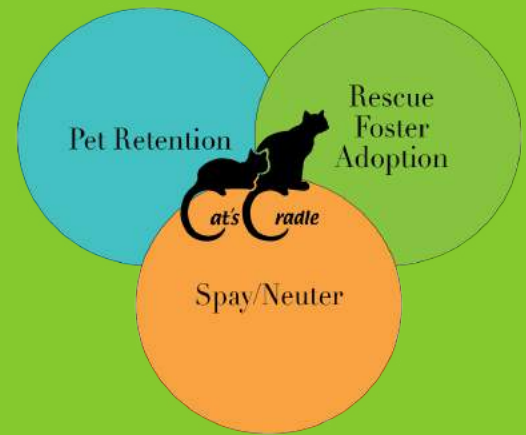
Cat's Cradle is committed to helping every cat overcome the odds, even if there are some hisses, scratches, and growls along the way. But the cost of vetting every cat we adopt – from those who need minimal help to ones who need surgeries and extra care – has gone way up, so it's important to realize just how much we rely on your support to make these miracles happen. Without you, kitties like Stingray would suffer lives of pain and neglect, and in some cases, they might even face euthanasia.

So, on behalf of Stingray and all the others you've helped save, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

# Cat's Cradle's Medical Assistance Program Helps Keep Pets and Their Families Together

Think of Cat's Cradle's lifesaving programs as three-legged stool:

- Spay/neuter (reduces overpopulation so unwanted cats are not taken into shelters)
- Pet retention (keeps pets with their families/caretakers and out of shelters)
- Rescue/foster/adoption (rescues those most at risk - the cats in shelters - and helps them find permanent homes)



This story is about the critical medical assistance project of the pet retention program - helping animals get the veterinary care they need so that they can stay with their families.

Veterinary care prices, just as prices for all other goods and services, are increasing. And some vulnerable members of our community, those who are financially distressed, unemployed, disabled, elderly, or experiencing various personal or medical emergencies themselves, cannot afford to get their



feline family members needed treatment. But they don't want to have to make the heartbreaking choice to surrender their pet to a shelter. That's where Cat's Cradle's Medical Assistance program steps in, thanks to local community foundation grants and generous donors like Gwen David and several other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

This program helps families get their cats care for a wide range of issues, from upper respiratory infections all the way up to major surgeries for such emergencies as urinary blockages. Cat's Cradle does not cover the full cost of care. Most clients pay a copay up front or pay the balance after our authorized assistance is exhausted and/or other resources are applied.

On page seven are just a few of the wonderful kitties and thank you notes from their families. This program is quite literally a lifesaver, and we are grateful to the grants and donations that allow us to help our community. But we need more donations targeted for this program in order to keep it growing. Won't you help vulnerable members of our community keep their treasured pets in good health and at home?

## Notes from our Medical Assistance Families

Oliver was seen for issues that were causing him to be lethargic and not moving or eating. Here's Oliver happily sleeping. Feeling 100% better. Thank you for helping. Without you and your generous donors, I would not have been able to take him to Harrisonburg Animal Hospital. Which by the way, they are wonderful. Thank you again.



Oliver



Nala

Thank you so much for the financial assistance you so graciously extended to me to assist with my sweet Nala. She was a miserable little girl with ongoing skin issues. Your assistance greatly helped to alleviate the financial stress and burden of caring for a very sick, but very loved kitty. I am happy to report Nala is on the path to recovery.

Thanks to your generosity I was able to have this dear kitty (named Scared) spayed and also was able to have two teeth extracted that were broken. Cannot express my thanks and appreciation enough for the expenses your organization has helped pay for. May God continue to bless you all.



Scared

I do appreciate the help you gave us. My son's other cat had died, then Midnight got sick, so that's why I took him to the vet. You all did really great and it helped us out and my son is really happy. our organization does wonderful work - there are so many pets that need help and you all are there to help. You are awesome for what you all do.



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2022 COMMONWEALTH OF  
VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN (CVC)



Calling all state employees! Now's your chance to help Cat's Cradle by signing up to make your donation through payroll deduction. The campaign starts in October and runs through December. You can check it out at [www.cvcgives.org](http://www.cvcgives.org). Cat's Cradle's charity code is 200079, but you can also search us by name—Cat's Cradle of the Shenandoah Valley.



@catscradleva



540-433-1135

[www.catscradleva.org](http://www.catscradleva.org)

## Things are heating up at our Downtown Center!

Yes, it has been a hot summer for us at Cat's Cradle! We experienced significant problems with cooling our cat rooms for our Coffee & Cats café, leading us to have to cancel for several weeks to protect the health of our kitties. And most recently, the A/C condensation pump died and had to be ordered....you know the rest of the story... Delays in product availability caused us to have to completely close our Downtown Center for a few weeks which means we lost a lot of donations from foot traffic! Between tinting our windows to keep the sun out, needing to reconfigure air ducts, and replacing the pump, we had to cough up a lot of money this summer. Sometimes you can't catch a break! If you would like to help out to defray expenses for this crazy debacle, please give now! Good news, we are back in business and cool as a cucumber.