

IRHS and 4 Paws News

Serving King William, King &
Queen and Essex Counties

June 2017



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This is my last message as President of Indian Rivers Humane Society. With elections slated for June 20th, a new President will be elected. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President for the last 4 years. I will continue to be an integral part of the organization and willing participant in the transition.

I have learned a lot over the last four years about making decisions in the best interest of the animals, our community, and our organization. I've learned how to delegate and trust that others also have these stakeholders at heart. We have accomplished a lot, and we continue to accomplish a lot. There is no shortage of animals and people who need our help.

Connie Prince will be our next President when elections are finished. She is very capable on continuing with our work. Not only is she dedicated to helping every animal and person possible, but she is a fanatic when it comes to fund-raising. I have no worries.



I hope you will join me in supporting Connie and the new leadership of Indian Rivers Humane Society. If you can increase your participation, whether through your time, your talents, or your treasure, we can certainly use it. Not only is there an endless supply of needy animals, but we have many needs in our efforts to help.



See y'all on June 17th at our first annual golf tournament and/or our annual wine and cheese event. Both will be held at the Country Club of West Point. The golf tournament tees off at 8am, and the wine and cheese is from 1pm-4pm. Look for more information on both in this newsletter.

Anne

Visit Us At Our Upcoming Events

Transfer to Spay/Neuter –
Wednesday, June 14th,
RAS to Barron's

Tappahannock Farmers
Market – Saturday, June
17th (we will not be there this
month)

Wine and Cheese/Golf
Tournament – Saturday,
June 17th, West Point
Country Club

IRHS Monthly Meeting –
Tuesday, June 20th,
6:30pm-8:00pm Tony &
George's Restaurant

Indian Rivers Humane Society
PO Box 264
Aylett, VA 23009
(804) 885-3109
www.indianrivershumane.org



4 Paws Thrift
801 Main Street
West Point, VA 23181
(804) 843-2902

Thurs & Fridays
10:00am - 5:00pm
Saturdays
10:00am – 3:00pm

ALL THINGS DOG

Crate Training Your Dog

Crate training is a very useful tool that benefits you and your dog. It is not cruel or sad; it is actually a comfort and convenience to both of you.

The crate becomes their happy place. The crate should not be looked at as punishment, but as a place of refuge. Be sure to make it inviting with a bed or blanket, toys and treats.

It is an amazing housebreaking tool. Because the crate is his den, your dog will not want to use it as his bathroom. But you must take him outside immediately upon coming out of the crate so there are no accidents.

Crate training provides peace of mind when you are out. You need not worry about destructive behavior, accidents in the house, getting into food or harmful substances. It can also lessen his anxiety of being left alone in the house if he is nestled in his cozy den.

It makes it less chaotic when guests arrive. If your dog is in his crate when friends come over, he won't be able to jump on anyone. It is easier and calmer to introduce your dog to guests once they are in the same room and he has had a chance to hear them before greeting them.

It makes traveling easier. Whether on vacation or a trip to the vet, having your dog confined in his crate will be less stressful to him (it's his happy place!), and less stressful to you knowing he is safe. You don't have to worry about him roaming around the car and interfering with your driving. Even a small fender bender can send your dog flying into the dashboard if he is not confined to his crate. He also won't be able to slip out of the car if you stop for gas.

It makes boarding and healing easier. Because your dog is comfortable in his crate, he will be less stressed if he's at a boarding facility. It is even more beneficial if your dog has had surgery or treatment and requires crate rest for several days. He won't be anxious when confined, thus running the risk of re-injury, and can heal quickly.



It prevents food aggression behaviors. Unfortunately, shelter and rescue dogs often have food aggression issues due to their "survival" instincts. If you have multiple dogs, you can avoid any fights if you feed them in their crates. This is also beneficial if your single dog shows any protective behavior of his food towards you.



Your dog can sleep easily in his crate. As opposed to sleeping in your bed, if your dog sleeps in his cozy den he can't walk around, dig in the sheets, lick your face or try to play with you. You both get better rest.

It might take a little time to get your dog accustomed to the crate, but you both appreciate it in the long run.



ALL THINGS CATS

How To Help Homeless Cats When You Can't Adopt One

June is **Adopt-a-Cat Month** and **Adopt-A-Shelter Cat Month**, and the cats are out in full swing. Spring is kitten season, which means that in June, rescues and shelters are full of adorable, adoptable kittens, in addition to their pre-existing adult cats.

Not all of us are in a position to adopt a cat, but June is a great month to think about ways to help our feline friends. Here are 6 ways to help homeless cats if you can't adopt one.

Donate Money

There are scores of organizations devoted to housing homeless cats. You can donate to large, nationwide efforts like the American Humane Society, or you can look for smaller organizations in your neighborhood, like us, Indian Rivers Humane Society. We are staffed by volunteers, and need your money for basics like cat food and spaying and neutering.

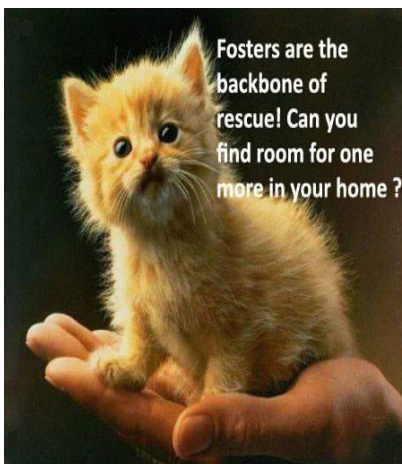
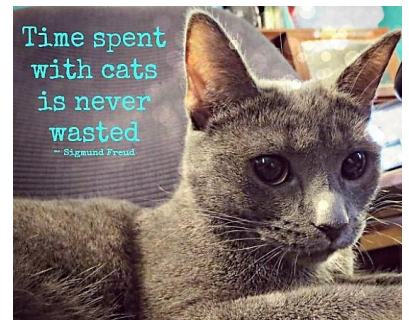
Donate Time

The same organizations that need your money also need your time! Volunteering with IRHS is a great way to help kitties in need. Plus, it means spending lots of quality time with cats and meeting fellow cat lovers. Contact us, even if you aren't sure exactly what you could do to help. We almost always have a task that matches your skill set, whether it's washing cat beds or writing email newsletters.



Spread the word

Social media and word of mouth go a long way toward helping cats find homes! Tell fellow cat lovers about kitties that need a place to stay. You might not be able to house every cat, but housing just one cat literally means saving a life.



Foster

If you can't commit to taking on a cat permanently, fostering a cat is a great option. Fostering means the cat stays with you on a temporary basis, and you introduce it to people who could potentially give it a "forever home." Fostering is incredibly helpful for cats who are in need and is a huge relief as we often have more cats than humans willing to take them in.

Build cat shelters for strays

There's a great YouTube tutorial on building a feral cat shelter using just a storage container, a styrofoam cooler, and some straw. It's super easy and cheap to do, and it makes a big difference for our feline friends living on the street, especially in bad weather!

Get involved with a Trap-Neuter-Return program

Trap-Neuter-Return programs, or TNRs, are geared toward humanely catching cats, neutering or spaying them, vaccinating them, and then returning them to where they came from. These programs greatly help reduce the number of unplanned cat pregnancies. We have several colonies our volunteers are working on and could always use extra help.



Happy Adopt-a-Cat Month and Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month!

Kathy H

We are still taking applications for our First Annual Golf Tournament on June 17th. Tee time is 8am at the Country Club of West Point. We've got room for about 3-4 more teams.

\$180 for Captain's Choice 4 person team.

Includes green fees, cart and lunch.

For more details contact Connie Prince at 804-824-8640 or johnny.clark@cox.net



Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 17th, for our annual Wine & Cheese Fund-Raiser

Join us for wine and appetizers, music, a silent auction, raffles, vendors and more! All proceeds benefit our spay/neuter efforts.



**Set Your
DVR!!**



On Friday, June 16th, our own Connie Prince, Jean Wightman and Tony Ashikkis (of Tony & George's Restaurant) will be on Virginia This Morning on CBS 6!! The show runs from 9:00am – 10:00am and our segment will air sometime during that time slot!! Connie, Jean and Tony will be promoting IRHS and our Golf Tournament/Wine & Cheese scheduled for the next day. Assisting them in the promotion, will be "Charlie", a corgi just recently adopted by Anne and Jean.

What an exciting time for Indian Rivers Humane Society!!!

Tappahannock Farmers Market

IRHS was at the Tappahannock Farmers Market on May 20th. Pictured is our President, Anne Mason, selling raffle tickets for the 20-quart Yeti Cooler and 30" MasterBuilt Smoker. Tickets are still available on contacting Anne @ irvalene12@yahoo.com; Jean @ empressellen@aol.com; or Connie Prince @ johnny.clark@cox.net. Tickets are also available in the 4 Paws Thrift Store in West Point and will be available all-day June 17th at the Golf Tournament/Wine & Cheese Fundraising Event at the West Point Country Club. Drawing will be at 4:00pm on the 17th. Winner does NOT have to be present to win!!



Thank you Horn's ACE Hardware for your support!!



** RAFFLE **

Horn's Ace Hardware, 611 14th Street, West Point, VA 23181 and Northern Neck Ace Hardware, 96 School Street, Kilmarnock, VA 22482 are raffling a Large Big Green Egg, Egg Nest and Egg Handler to benefit Indian River: Humane Society and the Northern Neck Food Bank. Total value of the package is \$1,100.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at either Ace Hardware location. Only 250 tickets are available at each location (500 total). Tickets will be sold May 15th through June 3rd. One grand prize winner will be notified on June 5th.



Big Green Egg



Egg Nest



Egg Handler

The Large EGG can cook: 20-pound turkeys, 12 burgers, 6 chickens vertically, 8 steaks, or 7 racks of ribs vertically.

NEWS ON TRAPPING

The colony I am currently trapping had an attack. One of the females with kittens was attacked by a larger animal. We believe she was defending her young. She made it back to her kittens and died shortly afterwards. The colony owner took the four kittens. They were determined to be no more than 2 weeks old, and placed them in a box with bedding.

She texted me and begged for help. I started making phone calls and sending messages to find a bottle feeder foster to care for the kittens. We went to the colony owner and met the kittens, their eyes were still closed. We started feeding them while we waited to hear back from my messages. A foster was found!! I have worked with this person previously. Her group is a 501C organization. She agreed to care for the kittens. We fed the kittens one more time and then headed to the foster.

The kittens are doing as well as can be expected and the foster is performing duties a momma cat would do. Since they survived the night, we have hopes they will survive the trauma of losing momma cat.

It is a tough world for a kitten in a colony but with the dedication of our volunteers, these four kittens have a fighting chance to grow into adults and find fur-ever homes. TNR will continue at that colony.

Donna C

PS The closing of the Jessica Beath Clinic has put a cog into my trap neuter release activities. It was convenient as Jon and I could trap, then I would deliver and pick up the cats on my travels to and from work without assistance from others in the group. With a small group, it is essential to optimize resources and people to achieve as much as we can. Now we will have to find another method to achieve the goals of TNR within the three counties. And the need for TNR is as great as ever. If you can assist, PLEASE contact IRHS.

Roof Cat

Roof Cat has been a member of a feral cat colony cared for by volunteers from Indian Rivers Humane Society for over six years. She arrived with her sister, who has since disappeared, but Roof Cat was always a loner. While the other cats in the colony made their homes in and around the building where the colony was located, Roof Cat took up residence on the flat roof of the building. Each morning when our long time feeder, Grey, arrived to feed the colony, Roof Cat would be peering down from her perch on the roof. Only after the other cats were engrossed in their breakfast and the human visitor had withdrawn a safe distance would Roof Cat begin the difficult process of descending from the roof.



In her younger days, descent posed little difficulty but with age, bounding down from 12 feet in the air began to require a more cautious approach. Roof Cat learned to climb down the vines that were beginning to overwhelm the building. Always shy and cautious, Roof Cat would wait, hanging in the vines, until calm had fallen on the breakfast (or dinner) setting and would only then most carefully find her place.

When Roof Cat developed a limp, it became necessary to trap her so she could be treated. But, by the time Roof Cat was ready to feed, the food in the trap was long gone. Roof Cat, however, provided her own solution: Roof Cat was the first to feed from a trap that Joan, our old town trapper, placed on the roof!

After she was rehabilitated, Roof Cat returned to the colony and assumed her place on the roof. But

Roof Cat seemed unable to descent for the daily feeding. Indeed, surveillances by a game camera indicated that Roof Cat was not eating at all. While Roof Cat was happy to eat on the roof, climbing 12 feet to the roof on an old ladder was not popular with the volunteers!



Fortunately for Roof Cat, Denise, our in-house carpenter created a solution tailored to Roof Cat. She built a platform on the side of the building high enough that it could be reached by Roof Cat but low enough that it could be reached by the volunteers. It took her a while but now Roof Cat has learned to descend to her private verandah when dinner is served!

Joan

A Sweet Story!

Pictured is Twix who was rescued from the shelter, along with his brother, Snickers, as babies, weighing less than 1.5 pounds each, one year ago in May. They were available for adoption in August of '16; however, they did not find their "forever" home until this past January. They were adopted together and as this picture of Twix shows, are very happy and content!! Thank you to the Scott family for adopting these sweet boys!!



JUNE HOLIDAYS

June is Adopt a Cat Month



June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month!

And, with kitten season upon us, there are more cats in need than ever.

June 4th – 10th



June is National Pet Preparedness Month



Pets and Disasters

Make a Plan

June 11th is World Pet Memorial Day

In Honor Of
All Our Pets
In Heaven

all-greatquotes.com

Thank You For
Spending The
Precious Years
Of Your Life
With Us



Hug Your Cat Day!



June 4

ZingerBug.com

June 21st



June 22nd

TAKE YOUR CAT TO WORK
DAY



June 23rd

TAKE YOUR
DOG
to work day



June 25th – July 1



Animal
Rights
Awareness