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# ◊ The Tattle Tails ◊

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*A publication for the friends of the Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA*

*Spring 2010*

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Thank you for your cards, notes, letters, calls and e-mails in support of the values of the Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA. Thank you for taking the time to do your own research before believing the vicious allegations made by this group. If you have not already done so, please read our 'Response to Allegations' on our home page at [www.rhspca.org](http://www.rhspca.org). As many of you already know, we are not the worse shelter in the State of Virginia as alleged by some in our community. Each comment of support has been encouraging and has made us more committed than ever to continue to operate an open admission shelter in our community.

Animal shelters such as the R-H SPCA were created more than 100 years ago to provide an accessible and available alternative to pet owners who were for one reason or another, getting rid of their pets. Owners were persuaded that rather than shooting, drowning or simply abandoning their pets, shelters such as ours would accept these animals with the hope for a more humane solution. That purpose or core value of the R-H SPCA has remained the same; every animal brought to us was accepted regardless of space, health, temperament or adoptability. We have worked very hard the past 35 years to receive and provide care for the 200,259 pets surrendered to our organization. It has taken a lot of time, effort and support from our community to reunite 11,053 pets with their owners and to find responsible, forever homes for 26,733 of them.

For most of our history, we have been the only organization to accept this challenging responsibility and we continue to be the only open admission organization serving Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg. Others in our community that have recently entered the animal welfare field have adopted the 'no kill' philosophy and deny admission when full or pick and choose those they accept. There is a distinct difference between those organizations which operate in full public view, subject to regulatory oversight and accountability to a wide ranging constituency and those who do not function with the same constraints of inspections, record keeping and public scrutiny. There are also deep operational differences between those who accept all animals presented to them (usually numbering in the thousands) and those who pick and choose animals they serve

(often numbering a few hundred or less) based upon adoptability, health status and other criteria.

Like most municipal shelters, we, as well as some private shelters across the State, see the limiting of animals received by others as an abandonment of our core responsibility and have chosen to endeavor to give every animal brought to our door compassionate care even if it ultimately means a humane death. As evidenced by our numbers in 2009, the need has not changed. To ignore the need without an infrastructure in place to address that need would result in a dismal future for our community's unwanted pets.

Other concerns addressed by this group have been our adoption practices and policies specifically, the verification of homeownership or landlord approval and the requirement of up to date vaccinations of pets currently residing in the household. In 2009, 25% of the pets surrendered by their owners were due to landlord disapproval. To not address and prevent re-occurrence would be remiss on our part. We respect the rights of property owners to determine if pets are permissible. Our goal with each and every adoption is a forever home not one that is precarious from the start. The verification of vaccinations of existing pets in the household is simply to ensure the health and well being of all pets, not just the newly acquired.

Another issue expressed by this group has been our resistance to embrace trap, neuter and release (TNR) as a method of controlling feral cat populations within our community. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (State Veterinarian) has stated in writing that the "R-H SPCA in its capacity as the animal impoundment facility for the localities is barred by the Code of Virginia from participating in TNR programs for feral cats. The Code of Virginia does not support and indeed explicitly bars animal pounds and shelters from conducting such a program and would be subject to civil penalty" if ignored. This is not a risk our organization is willing to undertake for the good of all. The only way by which a TNR program can legally function in Virginia under the current Code "is if an individual or organization claims ownership of the cats and has authority to keep cats on the premise where the colony is located." (continued on page 6)



# Memorials

In Memory of **Barbara Allen Plum**

- Yvonne F. Golladay
- Cris & Britney (Bailey) Dedmond
- Ronald & Lynne Stover
- Rosalind R. Kyger
- F/G and Stat Product Operations
- Margaret Whitmore
- Nannette Miller
- Vera M. Woodzell
- Dad & Vicki Fitzwater
- Susan & William Swimley
- Nathan Arrowsmith

In Honor of **Gus Mueller's** Birthday!

- From Hoagie, Bob, Don and all the creatures

In Memory of **Dorlan G. Smith**

- Pendleton Community Bank

In Memory of **John Mark Dent**

- Williams & Susan Woodill

In Memory of **Frances Louise Stroop Hill**

- Don Largent Roofing Inc.
- Charles & Suzanne Coppedge

In Honor of **Sarah Cheverton's** Birthday

- Bruce & Carol Brunton

In Memory of little "**Louis**" who taught the Owyar-Hosseini "big dog" family to love the little guys too.

- Susan W. Palocsay

In Memory of "**Buffy**," beloved pet of the Sammy Early Family

- Dennis & Patricia Early

In Memory of "**Sam**"

- John & Alice Minnis
- Joe & Ginger Carico
- Stan & Judy Gray

In Memory of "**Ginger**" Mulder

- Matt Mulder & Bernadette Fernandez
- Jeffrey W. Peters
- Bernard Burns III

In Memory of **Vera Bowman Reeley**

- Emily L. Hood

In Memory of **Lisa Lynn Heatwole**

- Catherine & Patricia Frischmann
- Catherine Phillips
- Randolph & Brenda Moyers
- Gina KC-Early
- Terri & Beverly Eye
- Mary Eye
- Donna & Daniel Walker

In Memory of **Colleen Holmes**

- Phyllis Fidler

In Memory of "**Albert**", wonderful kitty of Robin Teski

- Carole Yetzer

In Honor of **Michael D. Arehart**, a lover of animals, a supporter of the shelter, and a wonderful neighbor

- Sandi & Bo Rose

In Honor of **Rich & Joan Eberly**

- Nancy "Mitzi" L. Macallister

In Memory of **Theresa Barb** & her Dalmatian "**Princess**"

- Nancy L. Barb

In Memory of **Maggie "Magpie" Zimmerman**, adopted from the R-H SPCA February 1993 – she was 19 years old

- Jim & Traci Zimmerman

In Memory of "**Miss Bridgett**"

- Laura Evy

In Memory of "**Bud**," our beloved cat of 14 years

- Jan & Darryl "Moose" Miller

In Honor of the **Harrisonburg Animal Hospital's great staff and doctors** that helped us care for "**Bud**"

- Jan & Darryl "Moose" Miller

In Memory of "**Sampson**," precious dog of Mary Sue McDonald

- Jan & Darryl "Moose" Miller

In Memory of "**Ike**," devoted companion and beloved dog of Denise Self for 14 years

- Jan & Darryl "Moose" Miller

In Honor of **Janet & Beverly Kline**

- Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

# Memorials Cont...

In Honor of **Irene Coombs**  
- Cub Run Elementary School  
- Lacey Spring Elementary School

In Memory of my chocolate lab, "**Andy**," who passed away 4/1/2010  
- Denise A. Whitman

In Memory of **Harriette "Hat" Shank**  
- Eileen S. Nelson  
- Robert Whitehurst Jr.  
- Betty Hedrick  
- John & Ruth Dod  
- Joan H. Trobaugh  
- Charles & Jo Ann Bilbrey  
- Kenneth & Linda (Richards) Berry  
- Endless Horizons, Inc.  
- Mary H. Alexander  
- Donald & Mary H. Shank  
- Susan L. Cralin  
- Linda & Ken Kline  
- John & Mary Broaddus  
- Edward & Carolyn Budd  
- Pat & Joe Hutt  
- Sally M. Lance  
- Mary Ann Steinpres  
- Nancy P. Harrison  
- Carol Yetzer  
- Pat Loomis & Charles Funkhouser  
- Elaine N. Joecks  
- Rebecca L. Wilson  
- Margaret B. Wilson  
- Randall W. Nutter  
- George and Lo Aldhizer  
- Maplehurst Extended Family  
- Jo and Bill Sullivan

In Memory of "**Tia**," beloved dog of Charles & May Scott  
- Polly Geil Scott

In Honor of "**Reno**," canine companion of Ron & Celia Browne who passed away on 3/31/10  
- Pamela K. Shirey

In Memory of "**Muffin**," "**Misty**," & "**Mandy**"  
- Kay Gooden

In Memory of **Margie M. Tusing**  
- Jesse & Gina Fitzwater  
- Rosemary Reedy  
- Deborah H. Price  
- Rockingham County Sheriff's Office Court Security/Transportation Unit  
- Pleasant Valley Elementary School

In Memory of **James H. Gangwer**, a great boss!  
- Pat Loomis

In Memory of **James H. Wheatley**, a super person.  
- Pat Loomis & Charles Funkhouser

In Honor of our good hard working **SPCA staff** for our friends the animals that are frightened, hungry and deserted. We ask for kind hands, compassion and mercy if they have to be put to sleep.  
- Pat Loomis & Charles Funkhouser

In Memory of **Mrs. Charlene Thayer**  
- Eileen S. Nelson

In Memory of "**Andy**," precious and loyal pet of Denise Whitman and the late Dick Whitman.  
- Genny Kline

In Memory of "**Buster**," "**Chester**" & "**Danboy**"  
- Kenneth & Linda Randall

In Memory of **Louise Nicholson**  
- Kathryn A. Bennett

In Loving Memory of **Rachel C. Blosser**  
- Joe & Crystal Hayden  
- Wendall & Anna Steele  
- Marylee Ford Huffman  
- Vivian E. Hevener

In Memory of my dear, dear friend "**Benson**," who enriched my life in immeasurable ways.  
- Charlotte V. McNulty

In Honor of **Drs. May, Whitman & Simmons and the Ashby Animal Clinic staff**  
- Denise A. Whitman & "Andy"

In Memory of **Ethan Wagner**  
- Denise K. Bierly  
- David & Susan Wolf  
- Terri J. Tucker

In Memory of "**Posum**"  
- Evelyn Campbell

In Honor of **Sarah Cheverton**  
- Jennifer A. Keach & David J. Scott

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 \* **Memorials Cont...** \*  
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Thank you to: **The Koch Family – “Andrew”**  
 - Joelle Terry

In Memory of **“Reno”**  
 - Norman & Joyce Bradburn

In Honor of the marriage of **Diane Harris and Bob Guzzi**  
 -George and Lo Aldhizer

In Honor of **Sharon Newman**  
 -Shirley and Loyd Newman

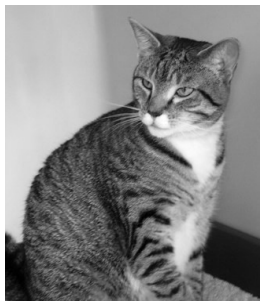
In Honor of **Barbara W. Scott**, Happy Mother’s Day!  
 - Kendra W. Scott

In Memory of **“Badger”** Alexander, feline daughter of  
 Jack & Pam Alexander and Martha Burlington  
 - Martha Burlington

In Memory of **“Kodiak”**  
 - Douglas and Linda Hardesty

In Memory of **Faye Weaver**  
 - Sandra P. Patterson  
 - Mathias Senior Citizens Inc.

**TIGER LILY**



Tiger Lily arrived at the shelter on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 after being left behind in an apartment by her previous owner. Why she was abandoned baffled all of us that knew her, as she was ever so gentle, playful and affectionate. Tiger Lily enjoyed her stay at the SPCA by choosing to spend most of her ‘spare’ time in the adoption room windows or playing ‘hide & seek’

with volunteers and caretakers at closing. Seasons came and went but Tiger Lily never gave up on her dream to find her forever home and neither did we! Concerned that another kitten season would be too stressful; Tiger Lily was placed in a quiet, loving foster home where she would be the only pet! , On May 15<sup>th</sup>, her ‘foster’ guardians decided to make their home Tiger Lily’s forever home!!! Many thanks to Brandy and Danny Hales for opening their home and hearts to this special gal!

To read more success stories, check out our website at <http://www.rhspca.org/success.html>! We post as many stories as we can, and your emails and pictures warm our hearts! If you would like your story included, please email [info@rhspca.org](mailto:info@rhspca.org).

**Join us for the 2010....**



**Saturday, July 3rd, 2010**  
**Massanutten Resort**  
**Gates open at 4:30 pm**

Advance Tickets available at the shelter  
 (through July 2nd) ~ \$15; at the Gate: \$20

**Bands:**  
**“Mike Davis and the Unit”**  
**“Mirage”**  
**“The Real Geniuses”**

**Schedule:**

- Bands play 4:30 ~ 9:45
- Fireworks start around 9:45 pm

*All proceeds benefit the R-H SPCA*

**Enjoy the music and tasty new food offerings:**  
 Grilled shish-kabobs, fresh crab cakes, sweet & sour chicken, pulled pork, Texas pit beef, cheese steaks, burgers & hotdogs, fresh deli sandwiches, pizza, funnel cakes, shrimp & veggie skewers, and much more!

**Beer Garden ~ Beer tickets: \$3 a piece ~ Provided by**  
**Blue Ridge Beverage**



Rockingham/Harrisonburg

**SPCA**

respect • education • compassion

**2170 Old Furnace Road  
PO Box 413  
Harrisonburg, VA 22803**

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In order to do so, considerable resources would have to be invested, resources the R-H SPCA doesn't have and is unwilling to ask the taxpayers to support. Imagine what our financial needs would be if we had spayed/neutered, vaccinated and released just the 21,802 cats euthanized in the past 10 years! At a minimum, the figure would be \$1,417,130.00 excluding property, food, shelter and maintenance! As the **custodian**, we would also be responsible for on-going veterinary care and revaccination for rabies every three years minimally. There is also the tremendous impact on the environment, public safety, wildlife and most importantly, the health and safety of these felines. Just last year, the R-H SPCA witnessed the brutal death by poisoning of a feral cat colony administered by members of our community. Is this right, is this fair? Absolutely not, but it is happening...unfortunately, more often than we are even aware of. It was very difficult for the Board of Directors to develop the existing feral cat policy (euthanize at the end of the holding period), but, until the laws change, and resources become available, and the community supports the initiative it is truly the most compassionate and humane option.

The Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA will not forsake, abandon nor compromise its mission to promote respect, compassion, education and advocacy resulting in a humane and sustainable environment for all animals.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and positive recognition of the good that our organization has done for those we have pledged to serve and protect.

