

Just for You!

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The **SCRATCHING** Post

www.safehavenforcats.org

www.safecareclinic.org

SPRING 2021



Frodo by Artist, Amber Tripodi

CAT ART PROJECT

from the **PURR CUP CAFÉ**

MORE on pg. 4

Message from Pam Miller, Founder & President

Dear SAFE Haven family,

I am so pleased to come to you this beautiful spring with an update on “all things SAFE Haven!”

Of course, no one could have predicted these very changeable times over a year ago when this all started. Some things *have* changed at SAFE Haven and some of the changes have made our programs and services stronger. Here are some of the highlights:

- Formerly stray cats are still finding amazing homes in great numbers by in-person appointment only. For now, we are not able to have walk-ins at the shelter but are looking forward to the time when we can again give tours – especially to children!
- While our SAFE Care Clinic is in transition (looking for a new full-time vet who is super passionate about our nonprofit mission) we have three very experienced and dedicated part-time vets. They are helping us spay/neuter unowned feral cats, all the SAFE Haven cats, and cats from other rescues.
- Our partners at the Purr Cup Café opened Raleigh’s only cat café in October. They are adopting scores of our cats every month! Read about this amazing, lifesaving success story on page 4.



On a more serious note, we are increasingly being contacted by people who 1) cannot keep their cats due to job loss, 2) do not have a place to live with their cats because of eviction or 3) by relatives of loved ones who have passed away. This is happening multiple times a week. We are doing everything we can and thanks to your support, we have been able to take cats from each of these situations. We will continue to respond to these heart-wrenching situations and make them a priority.

As one of the few resources in the Triangle to provide food to needy dogs and cats, our Pet Food Pantry had doubled our capacity since July. Today, we are currently supporting 76 dogs and 202 cats from 66 families.

So, challenges aside, with your help, we will continue to focus on everything we CAN do right now to save lives.

With gratitude,



Pamela Miller
Founder & President



Allen



Muffins



Stacia

July 1, 2020 – February, 2021

Eight months into our fiscal year—

What YOU have made possible!



6,666

VOLUNTEER HOURS
DONATED BY
215 PEOPLE



AVERAGE
LENGTH
OF STAY
25
days



52
ADOPTIONS AT
PURR CUP CAFÉ

86 cats
IN FOSTER
CARE



1,169 CATS
(139 FERAL CATS)
sterilized in the SAFE Care Clinic



PET FOOD PANTRY
Supported **66** families with
202 cats & **76** dogs



232
cats saved
from euthanizing
shelters



Mr. Peeps



3

Grimes



Gilligan

Purr Cup Café

Sarah Newton and Arthur Hailey recount the Purr Cup Journey and their partnership with SAFE Haven for Cats in a Q&A.

How many years ago did you start working on plans to open Raleigh's first Cat Café?

After visiting and experiencing the magic of Kawaii Kitty Cafe in Philadelphia, we knew Raleigh needed a cat cafe. We did some thinking, decided we were the ones for the job, and got to work pursuing our dream. Happily, we just celebrated our four-year anniversary of our first cat cafe visit.

What has the journey been like?

The journey has been HARD. At certain points we thought "good thing we didn't know how hard this would be, otherwise we might not have pursued it!" We knew opening a business would not be easy, but we ran into tons of challenges and delays. It ended up being even more difficult than we expected. Especially when we ended up having to open during a global pandemic. It was tons of work, but it made it even more rewarding to be so involved in transforming the space into a cat haven. So many people comment on how cute and nice the space is and that is super gratifying!



Now that you are open, and 52 cats have been adopted (so far) what does that feel like?

Amazing! Seeing how excited people are to take their new kitty friend to their forever home is so much fun, especially when it is a cat that has been here for a while, or is one that is especially shy. We are so lucky to be a part of helping these kitties get what all cats deserve, a safe and loving forever home. All the cats who end up here have been through something. Seeing them blossom and having someone fall in love with them is the best feeling.

Who are some of the cats you have had at the café who are really memorable?

Definitely Capri, as our longest resident (about two months). We loved her but she was a little misunderstood because she was assertive about her boundaries. Many people liked her a lot but didn't have room for her in their homes. We, and all our social media followers, were so excited when her perfect person finally came along. Now she wears a little bow on her collar and it's so cute! Another memorable kitty was Marty (one group had young kids that proclaimed him "the best cat in the world"). He was super laid back and just the sweetest guy.

What are some of the weirdest things that have happened at the Café so far?

So far, everything has been going relatively smoothly but we can think of one strange and memorable event. Less than a week after we opened—a car accident happened at our intersection and resulted with a car flying into and demolishing our porch. Luckily, it happened on a day we are closed, and no one was seriously injured. The cats barely even woke up from their naps, and the damage was covered by insurance, so it all worked out just fine, but it



was definitely not how we wanted to spend our first day off after opening. We now have concrete pillars installed to prevent anything like that from happening in the future.

You started a weekly SAFE Haven kitty art activity through Facebook. This features a kitty every week that people create art around. When did this start? What mediums are people using to create this art and how many entries have you had so far?

We started the art activity back in May. We took a couple months off to get our bearings after we opened, but we brought it back a couple weeks ago! We were inspired by the Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge's Fan Art Friday series and thought it would be a fun quarantine activity for people. We have had 136 submissions so



far! We have several “regulars” and we love seeing their work every week. Lots of people have said seeing the art posted each Friday makes their day. We have had all sorts of different styles and mediums, but I would say the most popular ones are paint, and digital art/photo editing. This is such a fun way to honor the kitties of SAFE Haven!

You have a new rewards program, what is that about?

Yes! We wanted a way to reward our frequent visitors and entice new visitors. You can collect points for any food or beverage purchase and redeem them for free snacks or drinks.



How has COVID impacted your original plans and what is your COVID protocol now?

In a way we are lucky we had to open during COVID. Instead of adapting our business model and how we do things we were able to establish protocols from the beginning. The main change was doing away with our little indoor seating area on the cafe side. For now, it is dedicated to merchandise and we were able to expand our gift shop into that space which was great for the holiday season. Another big change is instead of booking spots in the cat room, you have to book the whole room for yourself or your group for the hour. We suggest \$10/ person but definitely appreciate whatever people can give so we can continue to operate in a COVID safe manner and continue to keep this an accessible experience!

What additional partners, other than SAFE Haven, are you working with that you would like to recognize?

We are also working with Unleashed, a local pet store. They are generously providing our litter, food, and cat toys! They also provided the cool cat specific furniture we have in the cat lounge.

continued on next page



Purr Cup Café continued

Anything else you would like to say?

We are just so grateful to be working with SAFE Haven and spending every day caring for the kitties and connecting them with their families. SAFE Haven does such wonderful work; we are proud to be part of what they do for cats in this area. We have been having such a great time hanging out with the kitties and connecting with fellow cat lovers. Being able to do this for a living is a dream come true.



Purr Cup Café

210 Prospect Avenue, Raleigh

To book a visit with the cats call 919 322-4003 or visit Purrcupcafe.com

Hours:

Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday: CLOSED

Wednesday: 9 am-7 pm

Thursday: 9 am-7 pm

Friday: 9 am-8:30 pm

Saturday: 9 am-8:30 pm

Sunday: 9 am-6 pm



LEGACY SOCIETY AND SERENITY SURVIVING CAT PROGRAM

Your love of cats is part of who you are. Let that love of cats be part of your legacy. By adding SAFE Haven for Cats in your will or joining our Serenity Surviving Cat Program (that guarantees we can take and find homes for your cat if the need arises) you can ensure your compassion lives on after you. Thank you to the following members of the Legacy Society. If you have questions, please contact Pam Miller at pam@safehavenforcats.org or 919 582-7834.

Sharon and John Adamo
Bonnie C. Andrews
Peter Emil Campbell *
Nell Coletta
Clyde M. and Eunice I. Crider
Sidney and Carla Dalis
Annick deFramond
Leah L. Dey
Alice Dulaney
Michael and Joy Ferrell
Kay M. Flynn *
Tracy Gieger and Michael Durkin
Diane Hardy

Trisha L. Hasch
Bernice Holshouser
Paul F. King and JD Brickhouse
John and Nancy Lambert
Lisa and Dave Loiselle
Jan Maher *
Eileen McGrath & Thomas Tiemann
Pat and Jim McLaughlin
Jill M. Odom
Carole Ogan
Dave Overdier and Janice Stewart
Angela Rice-Warren
Doug Rickert

Christine & David Sabio
Mark and Katie Selph
Janet Sokol
Linda Spikes
Irena Caf and James Smith
Sandy Weinstein
Deanna Springall and Sally Wilging
Angela Tedesco
Jennifer Thorne
Ron and Ana Tuckman
Sherra Tysinger
Nineteen Anonymous Donors
**Deceased*

UPDATES

Volunteering at the Shelter

SAFE Haven was recently voted (in a WRAL poll) as the best place to volunteer in the Triangle! Our volunteers are the best, and for them to think that *WE'RE* the best is humbling. In fact, since July they have donated 6,666 hours of time to taking care of the cats. We have COVID protocols in place to ensure the comfort and safety of the people who help clean, socialize, and find homes for our cats. If you would like to help, simply visit our website and click on volunteer.



TUXEDO CAT BALL

2021

Join us on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 7pm. Keep your fingers crossed that we might be able to be back at North Ridge Country Club for a huge night of fun and celebration!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Pet Food Pantry

The need to feed pets in the Triangle continues to grow. We are currently **supporting 66 families** with food for their dogs and cats. At our last Pet Food Pantry food collection event, 3,500 pounds of dry food and almost 3,000 cans were donated by generous folks.

Shout out to the PFP volunteer crew: Melanie Loury-lead, Kristen Elliott, Inez Leyden, Rob Loury, Sue Minns and Mari Cargle.

Everyone loves the pet food pantry-the volunteers, the recipients, even the people that donate! We give away more than food, though. There is a "sidewalk giveaway" with donations from beds, blankets, towels to bowls, brushes, toys, and feeders. The recipients get so excited to give their pet a "new" present. **If you need help, call Gina Jennings at 919 872-7730.**



Drive Thru Kitten Shower

Be on the lookout for a week-long event in May. Since July we have taken in 411 kittens between the ages of one week and six months old. They require a LOT OF STUFF! Everything from canned food, natural litter, small fleece blankets and digital scales to soft mice and small ball toys. We will be able to accept supplies in person as well as through our Amazon Wish List.

Shout out to our Friends at Operation Catnip

Since 2012 OC has had a home in the SAFE Care Clinic at SAFE Haven. OC is the oldest high-volume TNVR program in the Triangle.

Operation Catnip is a nonprofit organization that operates a high-volume, no-charge clinic (funded through grants and donations) where feral and free-roaming unowned cats are spayed/neutered and vaccinated against rabies and distemper. The clinics are run entirely by volunteers (veterinarians, vet technicians, and trained lay people) and are capable of sterilizing dozens of cats in a matter of hours.

In total in 2020, they spayed/neutered 593 feral cats at their one-Sunday-a-month clinics.

Congratulations to Angela Riedel, (Board President), Colleen Wallace, DVM (Medical Director) and Linda Chadwick, RVT (Clinic Director) for all their lifesaving work.





8431-137 Garvey Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616



SAFE Haven for Cats

8431-137 Garvey Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
919.872.SAFE (7233)
safehavenforcats.org

Photos:

Photos in this publication are courtesy of
Mary Ka Powers and the Purr Cup Café.

About SAFE Haven for Cats

SAFE Haven's mission is to use no-kill principles and education
to save cats' lives through rescue, adoption, spay/neuter
services, and community programs.

SAFE Haven for Cats Board of Directors

Jill Odum, Chair
Mary Ka Powers, Vice Chair
Leslie Karlsson, Treasurer
Janet Hensel
Tom O'Larnic
Elizabeth Moss Ohrberg
Shelby Kinsey
R. Lynn Coleman
Becky Loyd
Lori Taylor
Pam Miller
Doug Eader

SAFE Haven for Cats Staff

Founder and President

Pam Miller
pam@safehavenforcats.org
919.582.7834

Senior Director

Patti Godin
patti@safehavenforcats.org
919.341.6287

Shelter Manager

Brittaney Keene
brittaney@safehavenforcats.org
919.341.4128

SAFE Care Clinic Coordinator

Gina Jennings
gina@safehavenforcats.org
919.872.7730

Volunteer Coordinator

Ginger Rice
ginger@safehavenforcats.org
919.341.4103

Registered Veterinary Technician

Tracy Vester, RVT

Veterinary Technical Assistants

Ivy Rodal
Katherine Anderson

Cat Care Associate

Tonja Limburg
Lisa Bachelder
Jason Bowman

Veterinary Assistant/Cat Care

Julie Tallitsch

Development & Administrative Assistant

Brittany Richard

Customer Service Reps

Vicky DeGroote
Elizabeth Rhodes

Foster Coordinator

Dawne Pittman

Veterinarians

Dr. Terry Blankenship-Paris
Dr. Renee Carter
Dr. Jenny Estes

Bookkeeper

Judy Paulakuhn

Quinn says **THANK YOU!**

