

JUST FOR YOU!

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The SCRATCHING Post

www.safehavenforcats.org www.safecareclinic.org

MARCH 2024



**TUXEDO
CAT BALL
2024**

Come celebrate with us!

North Ridge Country Club
Friday, April 12,
7:00 pm to 10:30 pm



Message from Patti Godin, Interim Executive Director

Dear SAFE Haven Champions and Cat Lovers:

It would be an understatement to say that this has been a great year in many ways for life-saving. While kitten season keeps getting longer and there are more and more requests for our organization to take in homeless cats and kittens, we are able to welcome so many helpless animals into our adoption program and find them forever homes, thanks to **YOU** and your generous support of our mission.



In the first six months of our current fiscal year:

- Adoptions:** 694 cats and kittens adopted to forever homes
- Surgeries:** 3898 spays and neuters
- Pet Food Pantry:** 9,241 lbs. distributed to 166 families
- Admissions:** 662 cats taken in
- Volunteers:** 865 volunteers contributed 161,957 hours in the shelter and the clinic

These big numbers are impressive but what is more important is the one individual who was helped by our amazing team—whether it was to provide a bag of cat food so they would not have to decide between feeding their beloved pet or going hungry; to welcome a stray cat or kitten into our adoption program who might have otherwise been harmed; or to find that forever companion for a lonely person who might have spent the holidays by themselves, those are the most important statistics of all.

SAFE Haven is about LOVE, and you express your love to us in so many ways. We are so grateful for all of you!

With thankfulness,

Patti Godin

Patti Godin
Interim Executive Director

Every photo of a cat in this newsletter is a cat who was saved and adopted by SAFE Haven – **Thanks to YOU.**

PATCHES

COVER CAT & OFFICIAL SPOKESCAT
FOR THE BAD CAT COFFEE COMPANY

Bad Cat Coffee Company, located in the Morgan Street Food Hall, has been a long-time champion of SAFE Haven for Cats. Traci Davis, owner and Patches' human, recently sat down with our Executive Director, Patti, to talk about life in the spotlight and understand the world from a calico's point of view.

- Q:** Thanks for meeting with me today, Patches. When Traci, your human, told you that you would be on the cover of our newsletter, what was your first reaction?
- A:** Actually this is all quite the surprise. I may be the FACE of the company, and a glorious face it is—but you'd think this lady who handles my affairs would have told me about something as cool as this!
- Q:** A lot of people think calicos are sassy. Do you think humans really appreciate what it means to be a calico?
- A:** We calicos are certainly misunderstood. We don't sugar coat, we take care of cat business and get things done promptly, as we are masters of time management. We have to be in order to get a solid 21 hours of sleep a day, wake up the furless folk at 4 am, and show them where the food dish is.
- Q:** If you and your human were on a desert island by yourselves, what three things would you want with you?
- A:** I'm guessing if a food supply, fresh water and a nice soft cat bed were already there, I'd bring along a box of snacks, a rug on which to expel hairballs, and nice upholstered chair to sharpen my claws on. The human can take care of herself, I'm hoping.
- Q:** Where is the most precarious place you've ever slept? Hidden? Jumped?
- A:** A neighborhood husky chased me up a 30-foot tree once—it was heaven, I would have stayed up there forever or at least until dinner time. Another time I hid out with a possum in the recycling bin—good people, he was.




- Q:** Tuna or catnip?
- A:** Yes.
- Q:** Water from the tub spout or filtered water in a clean bowl?
- A:** I have a luxury brand cat fountain. I've requested chilled Perrier be supplied but the lady absolutely refuses me.
- Q:** What makes you most endearing to your human?
- A:** When it's cold I'll sit with her to keep me warm, and I let her pet me. If she's eating, I'll tap her leg or arm until she gives me a bite. It's how I show I care.
- Q:** What do you do to annoy your human?
- A:** The folks in my house don't understand that most furniture has to be altered in order to be rendered useful. I add my feline flair—they do not appreciate it.
- Q:** Anything you'd like to tell our audience about how to give their cat the purrfect life?
- A:** I'm like most cats, give me plenty to eat (it has to be good food) and lots of attention. Plus take me to the vet to make sure I'm healthy. And keep me forever—even if you don't agree with my lifestyle. The longer you know me the more you'll come around to respecting my ways.

GREAT KITTIES, GREAT STORIES

SNOW ANGEL

Snow Angel came to us from an elderly owner who had to leave her assisted living facility and go into full-time nursing care. The family was sad to surrender her, but none of them could take her. She was diagnosed with hypothyroidism and we at first attempted to manage it through diet, but Snow Angel ultimately had to go on medication. She is a very loving gentle girl and we are excited for her to find a place to live out her senior years.






COUNTRY CLUB

In June of 2023, a man walked into SAFE Haven's lobby with a small, malnourished cat in his arms. He had been golfing at a country club nearby when the cat leapt into his golf cart and made herself at home. He told us, "I've only known her for an hour, but I love her." That sentence is the perfect summary of Country Club's charm! She initially had a great appetite, but then stopped eating and began losing the weight she had gained. After running some tests, the SAFE Haven team found that she likely did not have long to live- but SAFE Haven never backs down from a fight for a cat's life. The Cat Care team spent twelve weeks treating her and researching the best way to help our girl. Country Club turned it around and today is a happy, healthy girl in foster care!

EVERIST

Everist came in with two other kitties that had been in a home of a hoarder. Not a hoarder of cats, thankfully, but of stuff. Everist came in flea ridden and very underweight. She is a petite girl and is the size of the average teenage cat, but is over 2 years old. The owner called her Everist because she was a little more cold and stand-offish than the other cats that she lived with, but she has been very friendly at SAFE Haven. She is super sweet and loves pets. She seems to know that she is in better circumstances.





POP

A trusted volunteer in Granville County noticed that one of the community cats she was caring for seemed to be unwell. He was previously standoffish but had recently been very friendly toward her, and she could see he was drooling. She brought ten-year-old Pop to SAFE Haven, where it was discovered, he needed to have a few teeth removed, and he later contracted an Upper Respiratory Infection. The URI was a stubborn one, requiring five rounds of antibiotics before it cleared up. Poor Pop couldn't catch a break, and recently developed an inflammation in his mouth, receiving new medication and a mouthwash routine, and we are seeing improvements! Despite all his health issues, Pop remains an affectionate and talkative cat, and is prone to drooling when he's happy. The SAFE Haven team is dedicated to getting Pop to a full recovery and will be providing him with all the love and care he needs to get him there.



We're celebrating 30 years of life saving in the Triangle!

Come join us for an evening of fun, food, and felines at North Ridge Country Club on April 12. **Tickets and sponsorships are available NOW!**

Our goal is to raise as much money as we can to increase our shelter capacity and find forever homes for cats and kittens who come to us in some type of danger - as strays, as cats who have been abandoned, or who are at risk of being euthanized or harmed.

Thank you to our Tuxedo Cat Ball Sponsors

SILVER SPONSORS

Friend of Cats

CHAMPION SPONSORS

Rosa Chrismon & Beth Lindsey
Rep. Cynthia Ball & Dave Aspnes



Cathy Easop,
Financial Advisor



BRONZE SPONSORS



Pat McLaughlin

ADVOCATES

Mary Ka & Mark Powers
Patti Godin & Darron Healey



Crystal Vroman – Senior Loan Officer



ORGANIZATION NEWS

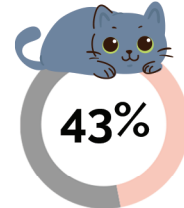
JULY 2023 TO JANUARY 2024



694
Adoptions

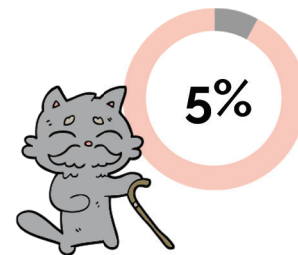
AVERAGE
LENGTH OF STAY
AT THE SHELTER

22



The percent of adopted kittens who were 7 years of age or older.

The percent of adopted kittens who were 6 months and younger



MOST POPULAR

BLACK
BROWN TABBIES
TUXEDOS

This year's **Clear the Shelter** event in August enabled 27 of the 28 cats on the adoption floor to go home!

WHERE DID ALL THESE CATS COME FROM?



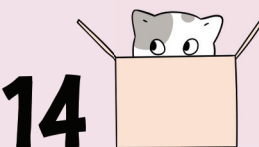
255
stray cats

192

cats came from euthanizing shelters



14



abandoned at SAFE Haven



SAFE Haven assisted the ASPCA in placing **11** cats from hoarding or other disaster situations outside of NC.

274 admitted cats were kittens less than 6 months old.
36 cats were seven years and older.

PURRFECT PUTT

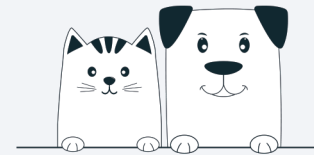


For the first time in its history, SAFE Haven is hosting a golf tournament to benefit the shelter and clinic. This flagship event is called the Purrfect Putt Tournament and will be held on June 3 at North Ridge Country Club. **Sponsorships and tickets are available NOW!** It will be a beautiful day for building a community of cat lovers on the links!

SAFE CARE CLINIC

2,279

owned cats and dogs served



16

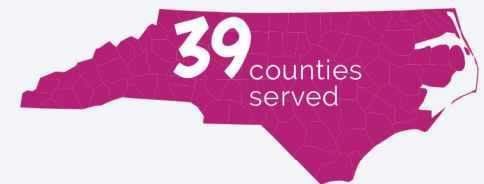
rescue partners served

42 average
spays and neuters
each surgical day



9 DVM students from NC State participated in a two-week spay/neuter externship at SAFE Care in October.

Additional externships are being offered in February 2024, October 2024, and March 2025



39 counties served

VOLUNTEERS

DONATED THE EQUIVALENT OF NEARLY **\$162,000** IN LABOR



247 new volunteers welcomed

They engaged in shelter **cleaning**, clinic **administration** and **maintenance**, adoption **counseling**, and even **kitty cuddling**!



TNVR



We are producing training and documentation to get the public excited about colony caregiving.

Workshops are being offered in using humane traps, making feral cat shelters out of styrofoam coolers and other receptacles, and developing plans to manage colonies and help stabilize them.

PET FOOD PANTRY

distributes **1,500** pounds of food to 28 families each month on average.



DID YOU KNOW?

Families with unaltered cats and dogs can receive fee-waived services at SAFE Care.

When possible, the PFP also assists colony caregivers with cat food for community cats.



8431-137 Garvey Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616



BOARD OFFICERS

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Vice Chair - Shelby Kinsey
Secretary - Jill Odom
Board Members
Lauren Absher
Debbie Carrara
Miranda Day
Cathy Easop
Susan Forbes
Lindsay Humbert
Ashley Johns
Rebecca McLane
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SAFE HAVEN LEADERSHIP

Interim Executive Director - Patti Godin
Medical Director & Shelter Veterinarian -
Dr. Tiffany Kutner
Director of Development - Maddie Majerus
Shelter Manager - Beth Mancini

SENIOR STAFF

Clinic Services Manager - Devyn Wade
Community Engagement & Volunteerism
Manager - Jamie Hazard
Surgical Support Services Manager -
Julie Tallitsch
Care Team Services Lead - Cat Wursta

SUPPORT STAFF

Operations Associate - Brittany Richard
Development Associate - Alexandria Webb
Bookkeeper - Jessica Friedman
Veterinary Assistant - Lauren Key
Veterinary Assistant - Stacie Sutton
Veterinary Assistant - Allison Akiyama
Care Team - Jack Battey
Care Team - Maeve Bowers
Care Team - Hanna Johnston
Care Team - Morgan Truman
Care Team - Robert Spencer
Care Team - Melissa Haselman
Adoption Services - Kristen Peterson
Adoption Services - Deana Harley
Adoption Services - Kandice Scarberry
Foster Coordination - Dawne Pittman
TNR Coordinator - Avery Gunther

Neena says **THANK YOU!**

