

A Walk on the Wild Side

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**If you are feeding an
outside cat, please contact
FCR immediately!**

**We can help trap and
spay or neuter outdoor
cats.**

**Email FCR at
info@feralcatrescuemd.org**



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Seasons Greetings to All

We send this newsletter out to let people in the community know what we are doing and to beg for money. Hopefully it will inform and entertain. Please feel free to email to others and share on Facebook or other social media. Feral Cat Rescue has had our most productive year ever. As of November 14th, we have vetted 1109 cats total. We are a small group but we accomplish a lot because of our volunteers, our partners and your donations.

Thank you to our volunteers! Please donate or offer to volunteer. Some volunteers only volunteer once a month. Every hour helps. Our partnership has grown even more with Animal Control thanks to Hollis Lampe (director of the St Mary's Animal Adoption & Resource Center), the Staff and the Animal Control Officers. A shout out of thanks to all of them!

We have also expanded by partnering with the Meow Dyer Cat Café in Leonardtown thanks to the owner Shannon Myles Obedoza. Thank you Shannon & Staff for adopting out so many older cats and allowing us to supply the cats for the Café!!

Thank you to our vets and their staff!! I need to send out a giant thank you to Dr Kosich and the Staff at Calvert Well Pet. Thank you also to Paw Prints Animal Hospital for vetting so many feral cats for us. Thank you, Well Pet Clinic Lexington Park for vetting so many of our adopted cats. A big thank you to All Kinds for their continued support. They have always given us a break financially to vet sick and injured animals that need a full service vet.

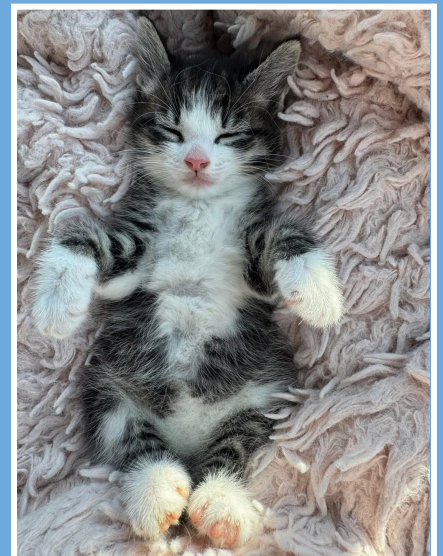
We also need to thank the Maryland Department of Agriculture for granting us \$24,000 this year to vet 300 feral cats in certain zip codes. This increased the numbers of feral cats spayed, vaccinated and returned to their outside homes.

We continued our Saturday and Sunday adoption events at the California Petco and have taken in roughly 350 cats so far this year. We have adopted out about 290 cats but at this time still have 134 cats in our foster system due to intake in prior years.

I hope all of you will consider sending a donation to us so that we can continue our mission to relieve the suffering of feral cats and their offspring. Our address is PO Box 623 Great Mills, Md 20634. We also have a PayPal button on our website where you can use your credit card to donate. The address is www.feralcatrescuemd.org

Thanks again everyone,

Diane Harris
Feral Cat Rescue President



MEOW DYER CAT CAFE

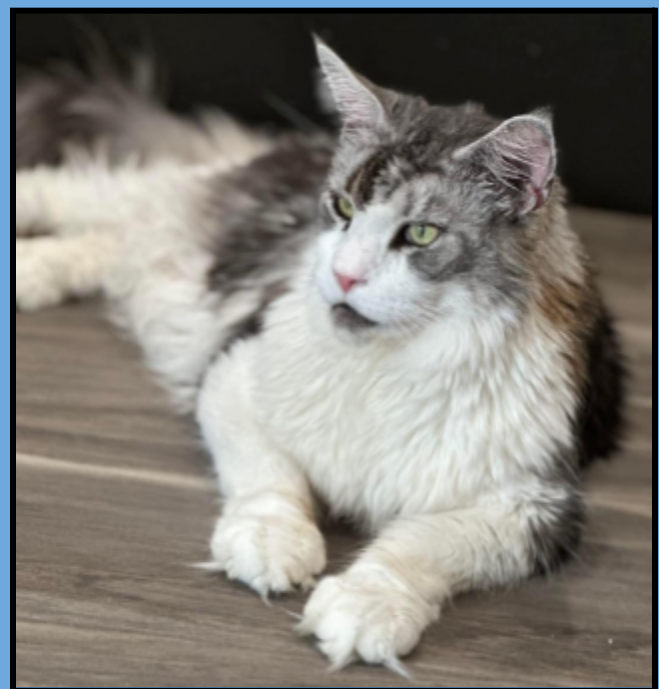
We are pleased to announce the opening of the Meow Dyer Cat Café in Leonardtown in January of 2025. Feral Cat Rescue has been supplying the cats for this endeavor, and we have been lucky enough to adopt out many, many cats from there this year!

The staff has had zero turnover since it opened, and the owner Shannon has told me that the staff really cares about the cats. They all make an effort to get to know the cats individually and to work with the shy cats. The knowledgeable staff can recommend who might be the best fit for your family. Cats need social activity while people are away at work and school, and the staff has promoted lots of pairs being adopted together. Any time you go there, you will be greeted with a smile by Shannon, Jo, or a staff member!

It is great because all the cats that go there are from about 5 months to any adult age. Kittens that are 5 months old usually weigh 5 lbs and look large. Many people want to adopt the tiny 8-week-old kittens, so it is more difficult to find homes for the older ones, and fortunately, we have been very successful this year because of the Café.

Besides enjoying kitties at the Café there is an incredible cat related boutique, drinks, and snacks. There are all kinds of cat clothing, etc., and it is hard to leave there without buying something cat related. You can also meet Apollo and Roman. They are the resident cats who welcome new cats to the Café. Apollo is a super friendly guy and loves everyone. Roman is a sight to behold, as he is a huge Maine Coon cat.

Please check out the Café and enjoy some kitty love. Even better, adopt someone or 2 someones!



A Walk on the Wild Side

OUR NEW DONATION BIN! CURRENTLY AT THE FOOD LION IN LEONARDTOWN



Rebecca Frazer and Lisa Emery showed amazing initiative by deciding that they would create a big donation bin to put in the Weis grocery store in Callaway. We love when people do things to help without us having to ask! Thank you, Rebecca and Lisa!

Also, a big shout out of thanks needs to go to Jamarie Bush of Cadillac Cartoonz for donating her time and artistic talent to create the artwork for the bin. We are moving the bin around to different grocery stores. Right now it is in the Food Lion in Leonardtown. People have been really generous. Thank you to the Community!

If you have connections at any grocery stores, please advocate for Feral Cat Rescue, and ask the manager if they might consider having the bin at their store for a while.

Welcome Baby Hera!

We have a new baby in the FCR family named Hera Lynd, born September 30, 2025! She was born to parents Jake and Morgan Lynd who are exceptional volunteers in Feral Cat Rescue. Pictured are Hera and a new furry friend, and Hera with her Mama.

Welcome Baby Hera! We are so excited to meet you! Your parents have wanted you so very badly. They are so happy to have you in their world.



A Walk on the Wild Side

HELP US SAVE HEALTHY CATS THAT COULD BE EUTHANIZED

Healthy feral cats can be euthanized at the St Mary's Animal Adoption & Resource Center. It is a government shelter. They have to take animals that people bring to them. The staff prefers to find homes.

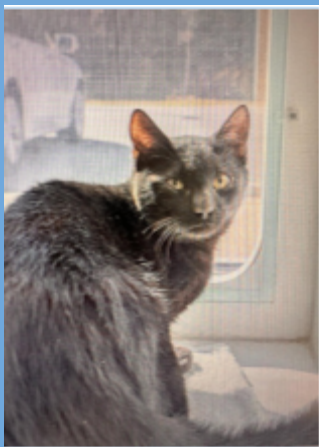
The first cats to be euthanized are the unadoptable ones – THE FERALS! In the past week, I have been able to find outdoor homes for 8 feral cats that were not welcome by property owners. Concerned citizens stepped up to provide those outdoor homes. Four of them who came from the shelter are pictured here. If homes had not been found, then they would have eventually been euthanized.

In many jurisdictions around the world, feral cats are Trapped, Neutered and Returned. In many of those jurisdictions, the government will provide a vet to do the surgeries or pay for the vetting.

Feral Cat Rescue and many concerned citizens want the ordinance to say feral and community cats will be spayed/neutered, vaccinated for rabies, and returned to their outdoor homes. We want the County to provide the surgeries and the vaccines at the new shelter. Fairfax and Montgomery County do this. We can, also. The Linda Kelley Animal Shelter in Calvert has a full time vet and has been providing surgeries for feral cats, so they can be returned to their outdoor homes.

You can help by writing to our Commissioners and asking for this. You can help by providing an outdoor home for a pair of feral cats. Please email me at diane@feralcatrescuemd.org if you would be willing to provide an outdoor home.

PICTURED ARE 4 WHO WERE SAVED THIS WEEK THANKS TO CONCERNED CITIZENS



A Walk on the Wild Side

A SUCCESS STORY: Grant

Grant came to us as a kitten and was always getting eye infections. It was really terrible. Our vet at Calvert Well Pet suggested I take him to a specialist, so I took him up to the doctor at Bowie Cats and Dogs. He had no eyelids, and he needed them to be reconstructed. The doctor had hoped that one surgery would do the trick, but he wound up having 3 surgeries! She didn't charge her fee for one or two of them. They were very kind to us, and eventually, Grant's eyes became as good as they will get. Grant was one of the sweetest, lap cats I ever fostered.

When he became old enough, he was set to the Meow Dyer Cat Café in the hopes he would be adopted. It took a while, but sure enough, Grant was adopted along with one of his Café buddies!



OLIVER & NESSA: A Love Story

Hey everyone loves a love story, and this is one for the ages!

Both had hardships prior to meeting. Nessa and her sister Mel were rescued from the harsh environment, being born outside, and placed into our foster program. They were adopted together as kittens. When their adopter had a baby, it was decided that the pair would be returned to Feral Cat Rescue. It was a hard adjustment at first but the pair did settle into their foster home. Nessa wasn't as shy as Mel, so eventually Nessa was placed in the Meow Dyer Cat Café.

Oliver had it rougher. He was friendly, so someone loved him, but he was found outside, starving at age 2 and still intact. He was found at an apartment complex in North Carolina by Carrie Monaghan's niece. She started feeding him, and of course, called Carrie. Carrie promptly drove down to North Carolina to rescue this boy. She figured if he was feral, she would find a barn home, and if he was tame, she would find an inside-only home. He turned out to be a sweetheart, and she brought him back to her foster home in Maryland. Carrie is what you would call a SUPER VOLUNTEER!

Oliver enjoyed his new foster home and being fed regularly instead of starving, of course. Eventually Oliver was placed in the Cat Café where, guess what happened? You guessed correctly. He met and fell in love with Nessa! One of them received an application to be adopted out separately, but we held out for a home for both of them where the rest is history.

Pictured are the pair in the café!



A Walk on the Wild Side

ROCK: SADLY, WE LOST HIM

Rock was adopted along with his 2 brothers roughly 9 years ago. His family had to move to Malta because of a job, and they needed us to take Rock and his brother Lopin, along with a magnificent Maine Coon they had also adopted named Roman. Fortunately, the family was able to



find a home for Rock and Lopin's other brother Moolie.

Lopin and Roman have been adopted. Roman is a permanent resident of the Meow Dyer Cat Cafe, so you can meet him any time. He is huge!

Rock took to his foster family quickly. He especially loved his human foster sister Astrid. For a while, she worked on teaching him a few words in sign language. Rock never went up for adoption because he became sick soon after he was returned to Feral Cat Rescue. After many vet visits and an ultrasound, it was discovered that he had lymphoma. He had not been eating and was losing weight. The kindest thing we could do for him was to have him euthanized.

Pictured here is Rock with his foster sister Astrid. He lived a good life and will be missed.

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TNR PROGRAM GRANT

Thanks to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Feral Cat Rescue is happy to announce we will have a grant of \$14,400 to spay and vaccinate feral cats in certain zip codes in St Mary's County in 2026!

We will continue using our donated funds for all St. Mary's zip codes for the rest of 2025, and for other zip codes not included in the grant in 2026, as long as we have the money to do so. If you have the resources available to help our mission, please donate. Email info@feralcatrescuemd.org or visit our website www.feralcatrescuemd.org/ for more information.



A Walk on the Wild Side

RESCUED FROM DEATH: THE FLOWER KITTENS



We received a plea for us to take 4 kittens. They all would have died, so that evening Carrie (Super Volunteer) took on the task! Boy what a task it has been!

They were so tiny and would not eat at first. This means she had to syringe feed them every few hours. They had ringworm, upper respiratory infections, diarrhea, and so many fleas causing anemia. Pictured are two of the kittens when we first got them and the blood from pulling the fleas off of them. They looked absolutely wretched.



After being under Carrie's extraordinary care and several trips to the vet, the kittens' condition is much improved! You can see the results. All four are now ready for adoption. Their names are Daisy, Aster, Poppy, and Goldenrod. We are hoping to find homes for them in pairs. They are healthy and look beautiful now.

Do you want some pretty kittens?



A Walk on the Wild Side

KINDNESS IS BUILDING A \$35 SHELTER

Winter is upon us, and it is cold. The kitties are not all snuggled in their beds. They are freezing, and they get wet, and they are uncomfortable. You can help! First, you buy 2 Rubbermaid brand storage containers. One has to fit inside the other. Then, you use a utility knife and cut a small archway in each container which is just enough for a cat to fit inside the box through both containers. Next, you insulate between the two with straw and finish up by placing straw inside the smaller container.

Voila! You have made a shelter!



BLANKETS SHOULD NOT BE USED. USE STRAW PLEASE. Blankets collect the dew and can freeze to fur or at the very least be damp and cold.

A Walk on the Wild Side

A RESCUE PLUS TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN (TNR)

Mindy, Sparky, and Gracie were found living outside with their mom.

When we have a situation like this, the first step is to get everyone trapped before surgery day. If we have room, babies go to a foster home to be tamed and put up for adoption. Mom is taken to the vet for spay and vaccinations. After surgery, she recovers and then is returned to her outdoor home where someone continues to feed her and provide a warm shelter. In this case, that is exactly what happened.

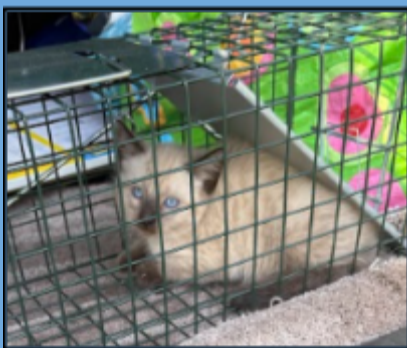
Mindy and Sparky are in the process of being adopted, and Gracie, along with her friend Ellie, will go to her new home when she has been socialized more. This is a success story.



Some rescues will take in kittens but not make efforts to trap the mother to be spayed. This helps the kittens, but it doesn't solve the real problem. The mother will have 3 to 4 litters a year unless she is spayed. The kittens will be able to start reproducing at age 5 months.

Feral Cat Rescue makes every effort to spay and neuter the parents. We receive no adoption fees for the parents because they are vetted and returned to their colonies. We rely on donations to do this work.

Pictured are momma cat and her babies, trapped kittens, and the babies in foster care. This is the process. This is our work.



A Walk on the Wild Side

PARTNERING WITH ANIMAL CONTROL

We are so happy to have a great working relationship with Animal Control and the St. Mary's Animal Adoption And Resource Center. The most important thing to know is that thanks to the new director Hollis Lampe, the Trap/Neuter/Return program has accelerated! This year, so far, Animal Control has done TNR on 325 cats. This is fantastic news! The cats receive the feral package at Paw Prints Animal Hospital, and this package includes spay/neuter, rabies and distemper vaccines, and Bravecto for parasites. Females cost \$85 and males cost \$75; therefore, the average cost is \$80. That means Feral Cat Rescue has spent approximately \$26,000 on cats trapped by Animal Control. In all, we have spent \$119,779.93 on vet care for the 1109 cats we have vetted this year as of 10/31/25. This includes ferals we trapped, their offspring, others we took into our foster program and the ferals trapped by Animal Control.

This is a huge undertaking! Because cat overpopulation is a county problem, we hope in the future, the County Commissioners will budget some money for TNR. We will keep helping as long as we have money. This endeavor takes a lot of time, and we do get overwhelmed at times. We really need your support to continue. We are all volunteers. Some of us work 30 plus hours doing this a week with no pay. We need help. We appreciate your support.



Thank You
for your
support!

In November, our FCR President Diane was recognized by the St. Mary's County Government Animal Control Advisory Board for her years of work and dedication.

She has lead efforts which have saved hundreds and hundreds of lives.

We're glad Diane and her work are appreciated and recognized!

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

Steve Tuttle, Chairperson

Cesar Afanador, Vice Chairperson

Rebecca Ironmonger, Secretary



Commissioners of St. Mary's County

James R. Guy, President

Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner

Eric Colvin, Commissioner

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

Commendation Letter

Dated, November 5, 2025

This is in recognition of Ms. Diane Harris advocacy and commitment to the voiceless feral cats of St. Mary's County. Ms. Harris is currently the President of Feral Cat Rescue, Inc., and member of the St. Mary's County Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB). These are the venues thru which Ms. Harris has been making a difference in our community.

For many years, Ms. Harris has been the voice of the county feral cat communities, and has also supported Charles County and Calvert County in their Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts. Her continued advocacy and networking created opportunities to safeguard, control and reduce the feral cat population. This has been achieved by the implementation of TNR initiatives. This year alone, Feral Cat Rescue, Inc., has vetted 934 feral cats, including fostering and TNR.

A partnership was created between Feral Cat Rescue and St Mary's County Animal Adoption and Resource Center since the Center opened in 2022. The collaboration allows Feral Cat Rescue to provide funds for the vetting and TNR process of feral cats through the Animal Adoption and Resource Center. The Center has already vetted and TNR approximately 210 feral cats that would have otherwise been euthanasia candidates or left outdoors to continue breeding. Furthermore, Feral Cat Rescue is funded by grants, fund raisers and the generosity of St Mary's County residents.

Therefore, on behalf of the St Mary's County Animal Control Advisory Board, we "commend" Ms. Diane Harris for her extraordinary achievements.

Chairperson:

Vice Chairperson:

Secretary:

A Walk on the Wild Side

Looking for FurEver Homes



RAJAH HAS BEEN IN OUR SYSTEM SINCE APRIL 2024
WON'T YOU CONSIDER A TRIAL ADOPTION?

Hi! My name is Rajah. I was born in 2018. I am very friendly, but I hate Petco, so I am grumpy at our adoption events there. This means it is hard for anyone to know my personality. Please ask Diane to see the home video of me. Please do a trial adoption with me.

I need to live in a quiet household. I come when my foster Mom calls me, and I love to get in bed with her at night and get lots of love. I love to be petted. I spend the majority of my day sitting in my cat tower, watching the birds and the squirrels. My foster Mom has a cat bed in a sunny window for me, so I can look out the window, feel warm and cozy, then snooze and dream about hunting. I would love to find my forever person. Could that be you? I would love you always.

Yours truly,
Rajah

Rajah's adoption fee has been sponsored by Malvina Shimanov.

RAJAH IS ONLY \$50

Meet Anna & Elsa!

Elsa is the brown tabby, and Anna is her solid black sister. These girls come as a bonded pair. They are shy with strangers, but they will warm up quickly given time. Once you become their person, they will lavish attention on you. Your two furry friends will follow you around the house, just interested in what you're up to. Ready to cuddle up for a nap? That's their favorite activity! Give these girls a chance to open up to you. You won't be disappointed!



A Walk on the Wild Side

CHEDDA & MEL - BONDED PAIR \$125 FOR BOTH



Chedda is a very friendly big orange guy who was trapped in Lexington Park. Although he does have a microchip, it is not registered to an owner. We filed a found report, but he was not claimed. Mel was adopted as a kitten and dropped off at a shelter after 3 years. She was very hurt and scared after her shelter experience and wasn't open to another friendship with a human.

Chedda has been very good for Mel. She has learned from him that it's okay to trust people again, and she's now affectionate with her foster mom. Chedda loves people, but he is very shy and submissive with other cats. He could be bullied very easily, which is why it's so nice that he's found a best friend in Mel! He does not like dogs.

Chedda likes to be with his people and will talk to you. He's shy, so he will talk to you and give you the option to come see him if you want. He doesn't like to push himself on people at first. Mel is similar. She doesn't talk as much, but she does enjoy pets. They are almost always found piled on top of each other napping. When not napping, they enjoy pets and both are big foodie fans.

Chedda and Mel would do best in a quiet household. A trial adoption is also available so their future family can be sure they are an excellent fit.



"We are Animal Rescuers, our work is never done, our homes are never quiet,
our wallets are always empty, but our hearts are always full."



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