

Just for You!

New Medical Director.. pg 3

Many Firsts.....pg 13

Happy Ending-----pg 16

The **SCRATCHING** Post

www.safehavenforcats.org

AUGUST 2016



TOGETHER we are making a
HUGE DIFFERENCE!

Check out our Annual Report on page 8.

Message from our Founder & President

We are saving lives!

After all these years, it still amazes me how much people in our community love the cats at SAFE Haven. Every day people from the Triangle take time out of their day to help stray cats. They might come to the shelter and clean up after the cats or bring a stray cat they found to our SAFE Care Clinic. They hold a pet food drive at their place of work or make a cash donation of a few dollars. They volunteer at events around the area to connect other cat-loving people to our work and services. They sew catnip mice to sell at area veterinarian's offices. They share our Facebook posts with their friends to help spread the word about our mission. They foster orphan kittens that have to be fed with a bottle every 3 hours for several weeks. Sometimes caring people purchase cat food at the store and donate it for our Pet Food Pantry so other people's pets can eat. Six foot tall construction workers bring us kittens they find on job sites. People stop in the middle of the highway to rescue little kittens. Every day is simply amazing at SAFE Haven because of you—our friends and supporters.



As I reflect back on our last 12 months I am filled with gratitude. Thanks to your help, we have saved many lives, helped reduce feline euthanasia, and advanced the cause of cats as the number one pet in America. Our shared accomplishments are outlined in the Annual Report portions of this newsletter.

Not everything is rosy in animal welfare in our community and there is controversy too. We continue to work towards permanent change in our ineffective local animal control ordinances to allow for the humane management of community and feral cats. We strive to provide free pet sterilization to everyone who needs it, which means more animal shelters in North Carolina need to be able to open high volume spay/neuter clinics. We will continue to try to understand the tragedy of animal hoarding and assist other quasi-rescues who get trapped in an endless cycle of ego, unprofessionalism, and bad decision making.

We still have a lot of work to do as we begin our 23rd year together and we will strive to always be business-like, transparent, trustworthy and to make good decisions for the cats we all love so much.

With great hope for the future . . .

Sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela Miller".

Pamela Miller
Founder & President

Every photo of a cat in this newsletter is an actual cat from **SAFE Haven**.
NO STOCK PHOTOS HERE!

SAFE Haven Welcomes New Medical Director

Dr. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix arrived at SAFE Haven in June, just in time for another wave of stray cats coming into our shelter. Dr. Jennifer was born and raised in East Tennessee and is a 2004 graduate from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. She has spent the last 12 years in private practice (full time) as well as working part time as a shelter surgeon.

She said, "I have always been a huge advocate for feline medicine. Over the past few years I became more and more involved with shelter medicine and feline rescue groups. I discovered that my "best days" each week were the ones when I worked the most with the shelter or dealt with the complicated rescue cases. I realized that while I love private practice and medicine, my heart was drawing me more and more into shelter and rescue medicine." Dr. Bledsoe-Nix and her husband have 8 indoor cats, 2 bloodhounds and 3 feral cats.

Dr. Jennifer is also a blogger and the creator of educational classes such as "Kitten Kindergarten", which helps new kitten owners learn good care and training together with their kittens. An Open House is planned at the Clinic this fall so everyone can have a chance to meet Jennifer in person.



Join SAFE Haven for Cats for the 4th Annual Run for Their Lives 5K to raise money for homeless pets on Saturday, October 1, 2016, 8:30 a.m. The race will start and finish at SAFE Haven for Cats and you will have an opportunity to visit with all the cats and kittens on Race Day!

The event includes a 5K race (competitive and recreational). Dogs can run/walk with their owners in the recreational 5K.

We will have lots of vendors, cats and kittens, and more! **This event is for competitive runners, recreational runners, walkers, families, and individuals. Join us and 300 of your closest animal lovers and help save a life!**

To register go to safehavenforcats.org and click on the Run for their Lives banner on the home page.





*Caster & Pollux
formerly Charlie and Snipes*



*Mr. Bingley
formerly Dice*



Raspberry now Kamili



*Hermione
now Nala on adoption day*

SAFE Haven Adopts 7,600th Cat!

What our Adopters are saying...

Dear SAFE Haven,

Xena the Warrior Princess (the resident cat) has found it difficult to transition from being the youngest, fastest cat in the house to being double-teamed by two kittens who are more agile than she is, but she is coming around. Castor continues to think that canned food is the greatest invention since the indoor litter pan. Castor is the "inspired" napper of the pair ... Right-side up, upside-down, whatever suits him at the moment. Margie

Thank you so much for taking the time to help us through the adoption process. Dice is doing awesome and he is just the most affectionate kitty ever! :) We all love him and it's like he has always been a member of the family. We decided to change his name to Bingley, after Mr. Bingley in Pride and Prejudice. Thank you again for helping bring this lovable kitty into our home and hearts. Maura

She (Raspberry) is doing wonderfully! We actually changed her name to Kamili, which is Native American for Spirit Guide. She loves to run around the house. There are some days when she will run all around nonstop! She also loves her toys, and to sleep on the bed and couch. Kamili wasn't a fan of the dogs at first, but now does her own thing and doesn't care about them. She also loves to play with our other kitty. We are very happy to have her as part of the family! Cassie

Leonard (formerly Purple Rain) loves his new home! Everyone he meets says he has a great personality, but you already knew that. Since we last spoke, he has developed a curiosity with water...he used to just drink from the faucet and bat the running water with his paw, but now he dips his head under occasionally! He is extremely inquisitive about baths & showers and I think he may fall in one day, haha. Thanks always for introducing me to my Leonard. Aimee

Nala (Formerly Hermione) has been such a delight in our home. When we call her name she will meow, almost like she's talking back to us, and she purrs all of the time! She has really settled in and she definitely runs our house now!! She loves to snuggle, always meets us at the door when we get home and really loves belly rubs. Our house would not be the same without her and she has been an amazing addition to our family! We have even talked about adopting a second cat later down the road-- and we would obviously use SAFE Haven again!! We are so happy we made the decision to adopt her. Amanda



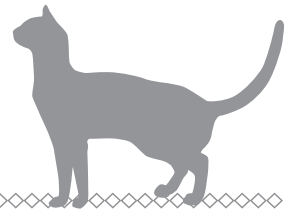
Thank You to our Amazing Team of Volunteer Adoption Counselors

They donated **2,700 HOURS** of volunteer time this past year.

Anita Neuhauser
 Audrey Cummings
 Beth Lindsey
 Cait Hawley
 Dianne LaPlante
 Doug Eader
 Elizabeth Nicholaides
 Elena Noble
 Ginger Rice
 Hannah Kienow

Heather Hensley
 Jayme Williams
 Jill Odom
 Kerry Holbrook
 Lisa Karner
 Lisa Loiselle
 Liz Moss Ohrberg
 Mary Carver
 Mary Nell Murphy
 Michelle Hansen

Pat McLaughlin
 Patricia Crowe
 Ray Dragon
 Rebecca Clowes
 Rosa Chrismon
 Ruth Covington
 Shalea Rhodes
 Susan Wallace



Thank You to our Fosters

They had **22 adult cats** and **140 kittens** in their homes preparing them for adoption this past year.

Karla Johnson
 Margaret Woodlief
 Dee Blake
 Sarah Nau
 Traci Highsmith
 Heather & Franklin
 Nanney
 Kristen & Patrick Elliott
 Anna Baird
 The Weidman Family

Nancy Fowler
 Julie Wood
 Charity Christensen
 Melissa & Andy Nowel
 Alison Myers
 Cyndi Pearce
 Sarah Green & Ana
 Garcia
 Jeni Sandburg
 Mary Money

Gennifer Stanley
 Sevanne Moushegian
 Isabella Hawkins
 Brittany Blais
 Brenda Scott
 Kristin Frew
 Lori & Keith Langreck
 Ali Schwartz
 Julianna Charpentier

Celebrating SAFE Haven's Incredible Volunteers

This year hundreds of volunteers selflessly donated over **7,500 hours** of their time to our animal shelter, **adding an incredible \$180,375*** to our bottom line.

(*One hour of volunteer time is valued at \$23.56 by the Points of Life Foundation.)

Here are some of the volunteer opportunities we have at SAFE Haven for Cats. You can learn about them at our next **Volunteer Open House on October 11, 2016.**

Board of Directors—On a top level, you can advance the long term goals and vision of SAFE Haven.

Cleaning Crew—Come to the shelter daily and scoop, tidy up, refill waters, do laundry, mop floors, etc.

Tabby Cabby—Transport cats to veterinary specialists for treatments or pick up cats at other euthanizing shelters (like the Wake County Shelter).

Special Events Ambassadors—Help connect people to our services and programs at street fairs, civic organizations and schools. Represent us at Cat Shows.

Mouse Makers—Help assemble catnip mice toys that are sold at area veterinarian's offices.

Pet Food Pantry Volunteer—Help distribute 11 tons of food to needy dogs and cats. Place and monitor food collection barrels at various locations.

Adoption Counselor—Work in one of eleven shifts available every week to connect excited adopters to their new family member.

Happy Cats—Are you the Cat Whisperer? Work with shy cats to help them gain their self-confidence.

Foster Home Provider—Take a SAFE Haven cat into your home for short periods of time.

Fill-A-Truck Volunteer—Distribute our "wish list" to shoppers on their way into Walmart. Fill-A-Truck when they come out with their incredible donations for the cats.

Special Events—Volunteer for a committee or to work at one of our 5 major events every year: "Cat"sino (July), Hepcat Bike Race (August), Run for their Lives 5k (October), Auction for the Cats (November) and the Tuxedo Cat Ball (April).



Rosa Chrismon and Kitty



Cheeto Says **THANK YOU**
to the Happy Cats Crew

Happy Cats Crew

Jayne Williams

Cathy Biondi

Gail Bauer

Ray Dragon

Rebecca Stephen

Andrea Acevedo

Hannah Kienow

Susan Anderson

Susan Wallace

Pat McLaughlin

Catnip Mice

At least fifteen years ago, volunteer Liz Heward, “invented” the pattern/idea for our catnip mice. Since that time, groups of “Mouse Makers” as they are called, have created thousands of these cat toys and sold them.



Shhh...Here is the secret why your cat loves our mice so much- we use only premium catnip!

Thank you to these veterinarians for selling our mice in their hospitals:

- Cozy Cat Veterinary Hospital**—Lynn Road, Raleigh
- Quail Corners Animal Hospital**—Millbrook Road, Raleigh
- Crepe Myrtle Animal Hospital**—Angier
- Complete Pet Care Animal Hospital**—Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh
- The Cat Hospital of Durham & Chapel Hill**—Durham
- Meadowmont Animal Hospital**—Chapel Hill
- Morrisville Cat Hospital**—Morrisville

Thank You to the Mice Makers

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Gail Bauer, Head Cheese | Betty Harmon |
| Melanie Loury | Sue McVeigh |
| Cait Bauer | Gail Krywenko |
| Janet Hensel | Betty Harmon |
| Sue Minns | WRay Templeton |
| Phyllis Price | Betty and Floyd Pearce |



Thank You Volunteers

Rosa Chrismon, Connie Burns, Janet Hensel, Liz Moss Ohrberg, and Ginger Rice at the Volunteer Awards Ceremony



ReachOut Raleigh Volunteers



Cisco Volunteers



Pet Food Pantry Volunteers

Because of YOU...Together we are making a HUGE DIFFERENCE!

Many, many lives were saved this past year at SAFE Haven due entirely to your support. You are the only reason for our shared success. Below is our "annual report" infographic so you can see all the good we are accomplishing together. **We provided services to 4,636 animals this year at a cost of \$187.23 each.** The only way we that we are able to accomplish this is with the support of our unselfish volunteers who donate almost \$200,000 of their time each year. In addition, \$92,033 worth of food, towels, bedding and other in-kind goods or services were donated in 2015/2016.

Thank you to all our partners in the business of saving lives...

SAFE HAVEN'S AMAZING

ACHIEVEMENTS

2015

2016

PROVIDED TNR ASSISTANCE to our community for **365** feral cats

71 CATS
RESCUED FROM
HOARDING

185 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

HOME OF
OPERATION CATNIP
ADDITIONAL
STERILIZED **710**

392 NEW VOLUNTEERS

11 TONS OF FOOD GIVEN
FROM OUR PET PANTRY
Supported **97** families with
279 cats & **54** dogs

1,742 CATS & DOGS
STERILIZED
in the **SAFE Care Clinic**, 22% free



101 CATS
SAVED
FROM EUTHANIZING
SHELTERS

569 CATS
ADOPTED!

PROVIDED SERVICES FOR
4,636 CATS & DOGS
at a cost of **\$868,000**



16 NEW FOSTER
HOMES RECRUITED
22 adults, **140** kittens fostered

411 DOGS & CATS
VACCINATED **\$5!**




PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL
EXPERIENCES FOR **14**
GROUPS

Contributions: The Key to Success for the Cats

Thanks to the generosity of **7,344** people who donated, SAFE Haven met our financial goals this past fiscal year. Additionally, we aggressively managed our expenses, allowing us to **meet a \$125,000 matching** opportunity during October-December 2015. The Tuxedo Cat Ball, our largest fundraising event of the year, raised the most for the cats in the 12 year history of the event.

In addition to almost **\$200,000 of volunteer time**, SAFE Haven receives many needed supplies at every-other-month Fill-A-Truck events at a local Walmart. Through the generosity of shoppers, we were gifted with plenty of supplies last year.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS,
we did not have to purchase these items:

 **2,233** pounds
of cat and dog food

831 rolls
of paper towels 

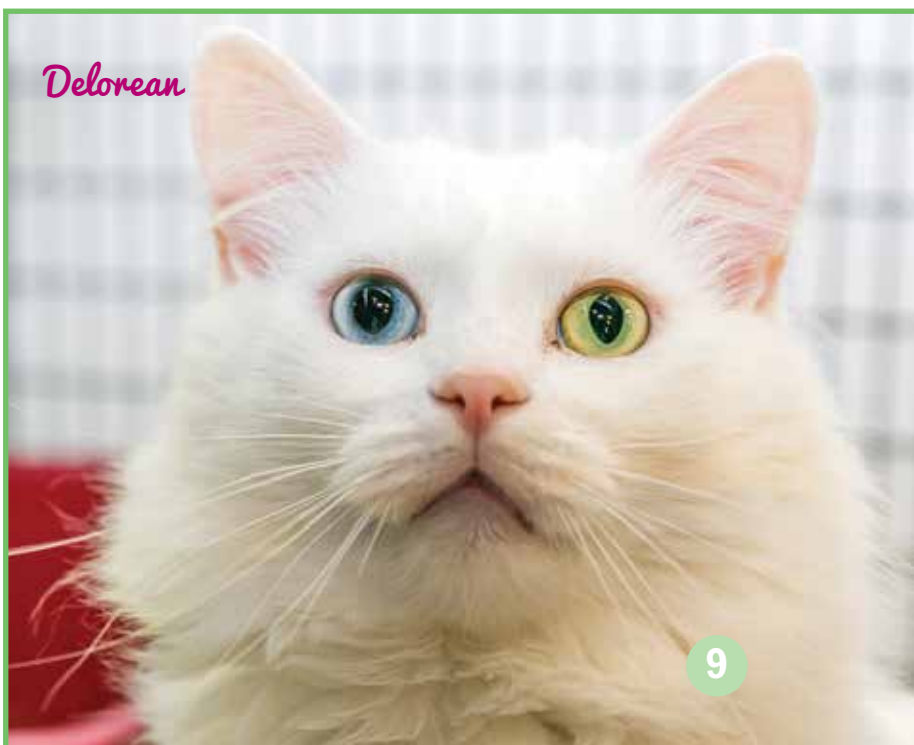
 **121** packages
of cat toys

Additionally, \$92,033 of other goods and services were donated to **SAFE Haven**, the majority of which is cat food.

As you can see by these photos, young people are doing a big part to help.



Delorean



Why We Need YOU

Donations are vital to our organization since adoption fees do not cover the basic medical care of the cats SAFE Haven takes into our shelter. And as a “No Kill” shelter, we believe in treating every medical condition we are able to – just like you do for your beloved pets.

You may not know it, but as a private non-profit animal shelter we do not get any funds from the City of Raleigh, Wake County or the State of North Carolina.

Because it is of the utmost importance that we continue to offer no-cost or low-cost sterilization services to every person/cat in our community who needs it, the support of our donors is vital to this mission. Several hundred cats who use the spay/neuter services of the clinic have never been to a veterinarian. Were it not for the availability of these services, many cats would go unneutered and hundreds of homeless kittens would be born.



More than 21,000 cats have been spayed at SAFE Care

If they would have produced even two kittens each they would have added 168,000 to stray cats in the Triangle in only two years. In ten years they would have added 672,000 cats. Animal control shelters in the Triangle are already euthanizing 10,000 cats a year now.

SAFE Haven is also aggressively seeking grant money, and in the past year we received grants from the Petco Foundation, Ahimsa Foundation, The Buster Foundation, The Bissell Pet Foundation, and The John William Pope Foundation. Grants, while appreciated and helpful, ultimately provide a very small part of our income. As you might imagine, unlike human causes there are very limited grants available for animals.

Note: Many people ask us why we are not on rated on Charity Navigator. It is because Charity Navigator only includes non-profits whose organizational budget is over a million dollars. SAFE Haven’s budget is less than a million dollars. SAFE Haven is however, a Silver Rated Charity on Guidestar. You can access our most recent (year end June 30, 2015) tax return (990) at safehavenforcats.com, click on the “Donate” button.

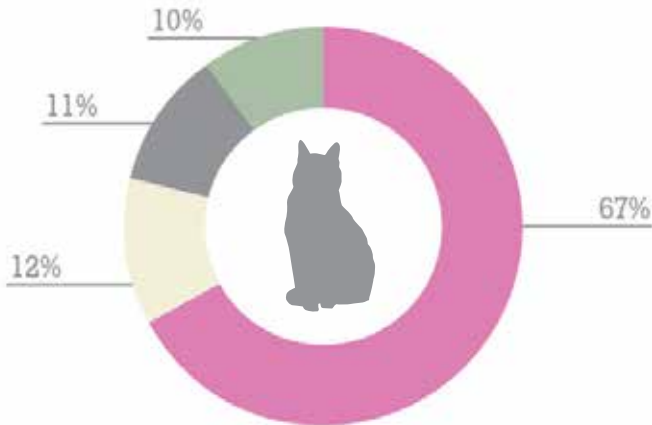
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

SAFE Haven—the numbers at a glance

The following charts show you (our supporters) how your dollars are spent and what the major expenses of the organization are.

Expenses by Category

(As a percentage of total budget)

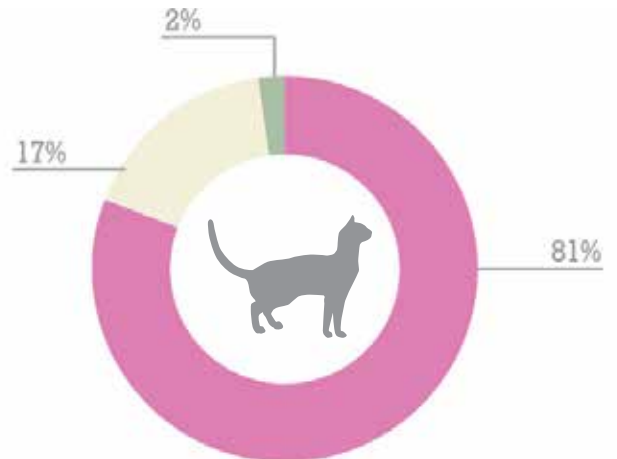


- Adoption, Spay/Neuter & Education Programs
- Administration - Insurance, Office Supplies, etc.
- Resource Development (Fundraising)
- Building Fund/Reserve



Income by Category

(As a percentage of total budget)



- Contributions
- Fees for Services—Adoption, Spay/Neuter, Retail
- Grants



THANK YOU TO OUR PAW PALS* MONTHLY DONORS

*Join our Paw Pals at safehavenforcats.org



Andrea and Javier Acevedo
Susan E. Anderson
Jim Ash
Antonia Astor
Cassandra Atherton
Misty Ayers
Janelle and Charles J. Babington
Christy Bagwell
Laura Ann Bailey
D. M. Baker
Richard and Jane Baker
Sue Bathgate
Jenny and Lee Bennett
Catherine Biondi
Susan Howlett and Lawrence C. Bradbury, Jr.
Brian Brock
Jennifer Brooks
Dennis Brown
Bruna Brylawski
Ann Buddenhagen
Carrie Burch
Susan K. Byrd
Jennifer Calvo
Evelyn G. Carrick
Elizabeth Carson
Rosalind M. Chapman
Gloria Charles
Rosa Chrismon
Willis Edwin Cobb IV
Scottie Cone
Georgia Cowan
Tammy Cox
Jan and Jay Crawford
Anne Marie and William Crosmun
Pamela J. Curtis
Lisa Daley
Sidney and Carla Dalis

John Davis
Mike Dawson and Ken Peters
Annick de Framond
Ashley Delph
Sandra Des Roche
Betsy and Ray Diorio
Loralee Elliott
Corri Faquin
Penny Rhodes Farnell
Linda and George Fenton
Becky Finley
Kira Forster
Joe Fostek
Cheryl T. Foster
Nelson and Karen Foster
Juan L. and Jacqueline L. Granados
Marcia Hagin
Josie Haile
Stacey Hamilton and Joel Burt
Adam Harridance
Bob Harrison
Trisha Hasch
Adam C. and Anna Hayes
Patti Godin Healey and Darron Healey
Donna Heffring
Bonnie Glaze-Hester and Rick Hester
Enid Hickingbotham
Margaret Hinton
Renee Hoehne
David Hopp
Nancy Arnold House
Deirdre Schumann Hurteau
Kathryn Johnson
Donna and Tim Keener
Heather Kent
William Kerr
Ashley Kick

Bev and Vic Kirkman
Leslie and Alex Knuth
Bruce Kovar
Gordon Kramon
Matthew Kreuter
Amber Landis
Kevin and Nicole Langton
Cathy R. Lawrence
Kathy and Mark Leibl
Karen Lenz
Elizabeth Lindsey
Margaret Lockard
Kimberly E. Logan
Richard and Katie Loveless
Charlene Lowell
Maggie Mackenzie
Jeanne and Austin R. Maher
Susan K. Mason
Beatrice May
Dr. Kelly McAvoy
Jani McCreary
Lany McDonald
Jennifer McDonough
Patricia and Jim McLaughlin
Pamela and Chowsky Miller
Vicki Lynn Mills
M. Sue Minns
Jeff Moore
Gabrielle Morrow
Sue Neuman
Shannon O'Berry
Jill Odom
Patrice Kim Pandick
Becky Lea and Andrew Parliman
Martha and Stuart Pattison
Cyndi and Gary Pearce
Mark Christopher Persian

Blake Pittman
Betty Poole
Becka Laughter Powers
Barbara Prillaman
Kristy Pruitt
George Quartell
Patricia M. and Michael R. Crowe
Gina Register
Dick and Judy Richardson
Elizabeth Ryan
Philip Sabino
John Salgado
Paula Salmon
Gail E. and Dan Scheck
Tina and Brian Shoaf
Tommy and Jeannette Smith
Debby Spencer
JoAnna and Art Stange
Linda Stanley
Julie L. Stone
Angelika Teuber
Nadine Tope
Lynn Zedek Torosyan
Tony T. Tschopp
Kate Turner
Pamela Turner
Kathy S. Underhill
Pauline Valestin
Jennifer Waters
Gabby and Daniel White
Debbie Woodall
Linda Yarnell
Mary H. Bottinga Zadeits
Margaret Zwald



SAFE HAVEN FOR CATS LEGACY SOCIETY

The Society celebrates members who have included SAFE Haven for Cats in their Estate Plans. For more information about **The Legacy Society** or to make changes or additions to the list, please contact Pam Miller at 919 582-7834 or pam@safehavenforcats.org.

Bonnie C. Andrews
Peter Emil Campbell*
Nell Coletta
Clyde M. and Eunice I. Crider
Alice Dulaney
Michael & Joy Ferrell
Kay M. Flynn*
Diane Hardy
Trisha L. Hasch
Bernice Holshouser

Jan Maher*
Eileen McGrath and Thomas Tiemann
Pat and Jim McLaughlin
Jill M. Odom
Doug Rickert
Christine and David Sabio
Mark and Katie Selph
Irena and James Smith
Deanna Springall and Sally Wilgig
Ron and Ana Tuckman

*Deceased

Who Are These Stray Cats?

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

SAFE Haven—the numbers at a glance

Lots of times people ask us: Where do all these cats come from? Well, here is the answer! They were all former stray, abandoned, injured or orphaned cats and kittens.

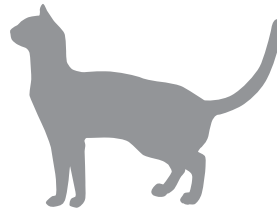
Check out this breakdown below.



Ginger Dusk

587 cats

came to SAFE Haven this year



180
DIRECTLY FROM THE
COMMUNITY

109
FROM EUTHANIZING
SHELTERS

61
FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY
**STAFF, VOLUNTEERS
AND FRIENDS**

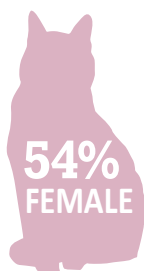
43
ABANDONED AT THE
SHELTER

43
**FORMER CATS
OF SAFE HAVEN**
WHO CAN NO LONGER STAY IN
THEIR PRESENT HOMES*

**With almost 8,000 SAFE Haven adoptees to date, we expect around an 8% return rate per year which is normal.*

71 IMMEDIATE
**LIFE-THREATENING
SITUATIONS**

71 FROM
HOARDERS



68
ORPHANS
1d-4wks

165
KITTENS
5wks-5mos

85
TEENS
6mos-11mos

232
ADULTS
1yr-7yrs

37*
MATURE
8+ years

Did you know SAFE Haven "sweetens the pot" for every cat 8 years and older? To help them get adopted their new owners are gifted with a **Mature Companions Certificate. This provides them with free vaccines at our Clinic for life, food and medications at cost, free telephone consults with our staff veterinarian and a \$50 cash payment for dental services.*

The average time it takes to get a cat adopted at SAFE Haven is 6 weeks. (after a mandatory one-week isolation period)

And because of YOU we found homes for them ALL.

Please check out our license. Did you know that every rescue group and shelter in North Carolina is required by the NC Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Division to be licensed? Here is a link to our most recent inspection from February 9, 2016. www.ncagr.gov/vet/aws/Inspections/Wake_County/index.htm

Many Firsts for SAFE Haven this Year

In October, SAFE Haven was the only cat-only organization invited to a special adoption event on the grounds of the **Governor's Mansion**.



Governor Pat McCrory and SAFE Haven Adopters

Internet-breaking cat sensation **Lil BUB** was at the shelter in October and met her many fans and admirers.



Mike and Lil BUB

ANIMAL HOARDING

Unfortunately, the two largest animal hoarding seizures in the United States happened in North Carolina this year. SAFE Haven was called on to take 34 cats from the first and 6 cats from the second in partnership with the Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA, respectively.

SAFE Haven and Media

Whether social or traditional, SAFE Haven was in the news 39 times this past year. Local media such as WRAL, WTVD, WNCN, UNC-TV and the News & Observer turned to SAFE Haven for expert help in explaining the cat issues of our day.

In August 2015, **we took 34 cats from a large animal hoarder** in Chatham County and were called on to help viewers/readers understand this mental illness.

On the social media front, SAFE Haven increased our **Facebook family** from 7,597 to almost 10,000—a **25% growth**. Our **#4everSAFE** campaign (which encouraged people to post pictures of the cats they adopted from SAFE Haven) has **191 posts to Instagram** and **400+ people have shared** photos or comments about their **#4everSAFE** cat on Facebook.



www.facebook.com/safehavenforcats

A new website, launched in October, has been used by 61,202 people and is a key tool in educating the public about over population and connecting our community to our services. Visit us at www.safehavenforcats.org, and tell a friend about SAFE Haven!

SAFE Haven is also active on Twitter and Instagram and publishes a monthly E-News (the Cat Chronicle) that is seen by over 10,000 people. Three times a year, The Scratching Post, SAFE Haven's Newsletter is mailed to 7,000 people and is seen by an additional 8,000 people on-line.



IF WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR E-Mail you are definitely missing out. There is an envelope in this newsletter. Simply fill out your name and e-mail and drop it in the mail to us. **OR** on the bottom of our **website home page** there is a huge box to **"sign up for our newsletter!"** safehavenforcats.org

Largest Animal Hoarding Busts in the USA this year

SAFE Haven took cats from both these busts in the past year. They were, unfortunately, sensational cases that garnered national attention. In July of 2015 a private rescuer in Chatham County was raided by animal control in partnership with the Humane Society of the US. She was charged with 17 counts of felony and 10 misdemeanor animal cruelty. Incredibly, 163 animals were removed from that location and **SAFE Haven took 34**. (See photos of before & after).

Happily, 31 of these cats were in their new homes by this past January.



Kepler before



Kepler after



Dione—day of arrival



Dione—Adopted!



Gwillana

In January 2016, in Hoke County, a rescue group, The Haven Friends for Life, was also raided and animal control, in conjunction with the ASPCA, **removed 700 animals**. After a very successful adoption event in Sanford, SAFE Haven took 6 of the 10 cats who remained and brought them to Raleigh. Of these six, one is in hospice care with severe heart disease (her quality of life is very good, at this point). Thanks to YOU - they are all adopted!

(Continued on page 16)



Agatha

Hoarding Busts *continued* from page 15

According to a recent report by the ASPCA's forensic sciences and anticruelty division, **25% of the new animal hoarding cases in the United States today involve "rescue groups"**. While some of these organizations are legal charities, a slick website and cute pictures don't tell anything about the conditions the cats are kept in. Cat breeders and individuals can also become hoarders, and we have seen both. **This is a sobering statistic.**

SAFE Haven was in existence for 13 years before we were called upon to help with our first animal hoarding case, when during the period between November 2007 and March 2008 we removed 68 animals from one property.

Sadly, the number of these cases escalates every year. In November of 2013 we helped local animal control with **92 cats living in one house** and in March of 2014 we worked with the Humane Society of the US so that **48 cats** could be removed from another home. Painfully, both of these homes were the "headquarters" of non-profit rescue organizations. Rescuers who become hoarders are well-meaning, but can't say no and have no idea they are in way over their heads.

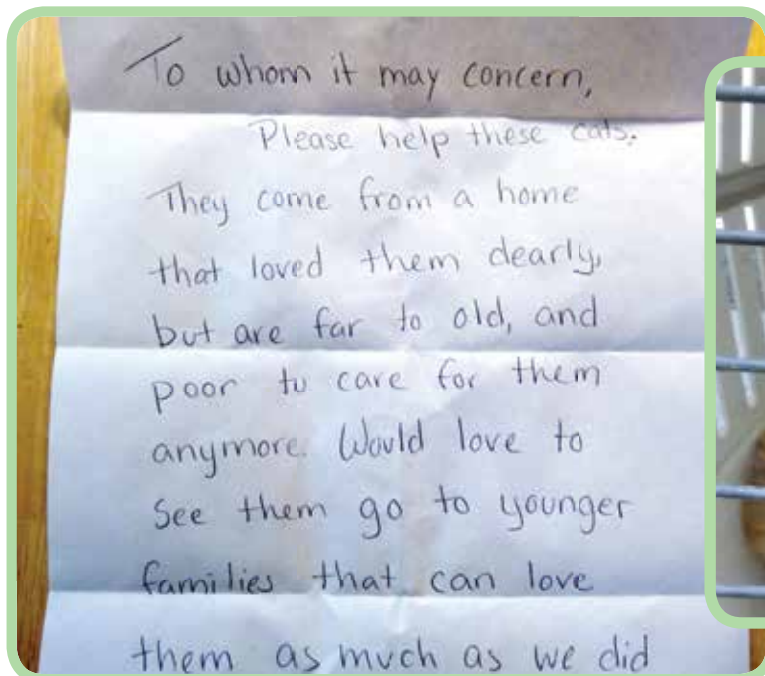
So the question I am asked all the time is, "What can I do?" First, if you suspect someone of hoarding animals, alert animal control or a trusted community resource such as SAFE Haven. Second, do your research when you take a cat to a rescue organization, adopt from them or donate to them. Ask the following questions:

- **How many cats are you caring for right now? Where are they? Can I see them?**
- **What is the average length of stay for your animals?**
- **How do you get them adopted? How many per year?**
- **Are you licensed?**

*Sadly, hoarders don't stop when they are discovered, and almost 100% will begin to hoard animals again **UNLESS** they get the help they need to rebuild their lives.*

Thanks to YOU—A Happy Ending *continued* on page 17

Almost a year ago 5 cats were abandoned at SAFE Haven with this note...



Here's what they looked like...



Thanks to YOU—A Happy Ending

The cats and the carriers were filthy, the cats were in horrible physical condition and terrified. One of our veterinary staff said she had never seen so many fleas on cats before in her career. They all had to be sedated and bathed the day they came. They also had terrible ear mites and damaged ears from untreated ear infections. One of the cats, Scorsese, had a wound down one side of his face from digging at his ears so much.

After their initial medical care and providing them with warm comfy beds and food, they settled into their enclosures. The grey guy, named Fernandez, was the most social of the group—but also had runny eyes that he kept closed a lot of the time. Of the four orange boys, only Scorsese would interact at all with us. Well, Giorgio would interact, but he would mostly try to smack your hand if you tried to pet him. The other two boys—PePe and Salazar—were almost completely catatonic. They were in their beds or behind their beds and would not move. You could pet them but there was no recognition that you were doing anything. We were so concerned about these guys. As individuals who have been in animal welfare for a lot of years, we had truthfully never seen anything like these boys. And they were breaking our hearts.

Scorsese required the most vet care—due to all the issues with his ears, he had to have surgery on both of his ears, as well as a dental with several extractions. Giorgio also required a dental with multiple extractions. Fernandez required surgery for his eyes.

These guys were definitely diamonds in the rough!!

But they have made a remarkable recovery—**because of YOU!** Fernandez, Giorgio, PePe, and Scorsese have been adopted. Salazar is still in a foster home and look for him soon.



Giorgio in his new home!



Scorsese with all new ears and clean teeth!



PePe!

SAFE Haven for Cats BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OUR MISSION:

To use no-kill principles and education to save cats' lives through rescue, adoption, spay/neuter services and community programs.

OUR VISION:

To be the industry leader in ending euthanasia to control animal population and eliminate pet homelessness.

OUR CORE VALUES:

SAFE Haven for Cats believes that:

- Every animal and human at SAFE Haven is an individual being with a personality, feelings, intrinsic worth and value. As such, they will be treated with respect and care in a non-judgmental, safe environment.
- We will always exist as a 501(c)(3) no-kill organization and strive to find homes for every adoptable, treatable and recoverable cat we accept.
- Community volunteers are a vital part of our success and we acknowledge and celebrate their contributions.
- Affordable sterilization, community education and trap/neuter/return are proven methods to stop euthanasia as a means of population control for companion animals.
- No animal will ever be adopted before sterilization.
- No animal will be euthanized except in the case of illness, injury or other condition from which they cannot recover, and only by lethal injection.
- Partnering, collaborating and advocating with other organizations and government agencies increases our ability to benefit these animals and save lives.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tuesday, August 30	6 p.m.—8 p.m.	At the shelter	Protecting your Cat – Estate Planning for your Pets
Sunday, August 28	12 p.m.—5 p.m.	Oak City Cycling, downtown Raleigh	Fifth Annual Hepcat Bike Race
Saturday, September 10	10 a.m.—12 p.m.	At the shelter	\$5 Rabies and \$15 Microchip Clinic
Tuesday, September 13	6 p.m.—8 p.m.	At the shelter	The basics of Trap/Neuter/Return
Saturday, September 17	12 p.m.—5 p.m.	Trophy Brewing & Taproom on Maywood Ave	Pop Up Raleigh
September 24-25	9 a.m.—4 p.m.	Joyner Park, Wake Forest	Dirty Dogs Extravaganza
Saturday, October 1	7 a.m.—12 p.m.	At the Shelter	Run for their Lives 5K
Tuesday, October 11	6:30 p.m.—8 p.m.	At the Shelter	Volunteer Open House
Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16		Nash Square/McKimmon Center	2016 Triangle VegFest
Saturday, November 5	5 p.m.—9 p.m.	Raleigh Auction & Estate Sales	Annual Auction for the Cats



Frosch

SAFE Haven sets one day adoption record—64 CATS!

Wow! What a day for stray cats in our community. As you can see from the empty cages, cats were “flying out the door” at this national event sponsored by NBC and the Humane Society of the United States. WRAL-TV worked hard for several weeks before this event organizing reporters, publicity, live Facebook feeds and coordinating this entire event. Enjoy these photos of this incredible day. Now we can take 64 cats from our waiting list and start over again!

Thanks to WRAL, the HSUS, our volunteers and especially our wonderful adopters.



Before...



After...



Mounds of laundry after the event



Working hard! #shelfie





8431-137 Garvey Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616



The Scratching Post is published by SAFE Haven for Cats and is sent to SAFE Haven volunteers, supporters and donors. We hope that you all will continue to distribute it to your family, friends and other animal loving locations.

SAFE Haven for Cats

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Photos:

Photos in this publication are courtesy of contributor, Karen Reynolds.

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.

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Megan says **THANK YOU**

Read all about last year in our Annual Report Newsletter

