

Each animal in trouble matters.
Every one counts.
Caring For Creatures is helping,
One animal, one person at a time.



CARING FOR CREATURES
A No-Kill Animal Sanctuary

AUGUST 2024

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Babe Ruth

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Dear Friends & Supporters,

You are a lifeline for the animals. For 35 years you have been a lifeline to thousands of animals who came to Caring For Creatures for help. Your ongoing choice to invest in a positive future for these animals is what puts food in their bowls, provides medications and veterinary care for their bodies, helps to maintain safe and comfortable living areas, and supports a high-quality staff to care for them every day. **We are immensely grateful to you and thank you for all the lives you have touched and second chances you created.**

Caring For Creatures is pleased to present to you a \$45,000 Matching Gift Challenge! Now through October 10, 2024, your gift - in any amount - will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$45,000. This opportunity was made possible by a group of long-time donors/volunteers who joined together to create this 35th Anniversary challenge! (See Page 3)

Everything we do at Caring For Creatures happens because you choose to be a lifeline of help. Each animal who has graced the sanctuary was out of options. Many had been abandoned by their human, others never had a human family. Many animals were plucked off the euthanasia lists of high-kill shelters struggling to survive. **This special 35th Anniversary campaign would be the perfect time to continue your lifeline of assistance to animals still waiting for that second chance. Please help us meet this generous \$45,000 Matching Gift Challenge - our deadline is October 10th!**

Thirty-five years ago, cats testing positive for leukemia and/or FIV were routinely euthanized as there were zero options for them in the world of rescue. Thanks to your support, CFC has always provided safe refuge to these cats. Often these special populations are long-term residents as they are regularly overlooked for adoption. The good news is that over the years we have observed an increase in the adoption rates of these "positive" felines - a trend we hope will continue.

Because of your generosity we have been able to provide safety, medical care, food, and renewed hope to animals living in neglectful or hoarding situations. You've helped us treat countless dogs for heartworm disease and then shared in our celebration when they headed out to their forever homes. **Your support changes lives for the better.**

Thank you for being the best partners ever in this journey of love and compassion for our animal friends. There is still work to do and we hope you will continue to support our progress and evolving plans to provide a new and improved life to the animals who come to us for help. **Your gift before October 10th will help us meet our \$45,000 Matching Gift Challenge!**

I'm filled with gratitude for your gifts of time, dollars, and love. It is an honor for me to live my life in the company of so many wonderful animals. They never fail to inspire me, and each day brings a greater understanding of the gifts of love they bring to us. Thank you!

In gratitude,

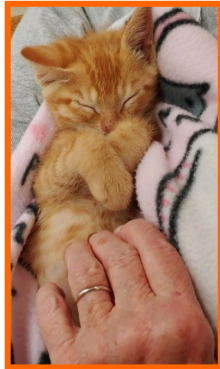
Mary

Mary K. Birkholz
Founder & President

See Page 8 for more info on our cover girl, Babe Ruth!

“Go Ahead, Make My Day”

For all of you Clint Eastwood fans, the above catchphrase from the 1983 film **Sudden Impact** is probably very familiar. Here at the sanctuary we think both the animals and the humans feel the other has “made their day” whenever they spend time together. Here are a few photos of staff, volunteers, and sanctuary animals making each other’s day. Enjoy!



Thank you to our \$45,000 Matching Gift Challenge Donors!!

We are so very grateful to the generous donors who came together to create this special 35th Anniversary \$45,000 Matching Gift Challenge. We honor their many years of support and volunteer service which has truly been a lifeline for so many animals. **They invite you to join them by giving a gift today - which they will happily match up to a total of \$45,000!!!** We have one Anonymous donor who approached us just prior to going to print wanting to help. The donor included this note: ***“I read online about Milo, a newer CFC cat that was in need and was inspired to help. He was abandoned by his family and you took him in. I’m grateful for all of my CFC pets and the continued support of so many other pets in need and without options. Thank you CFC for all of your amazing, lifesaving work.”***

Heartfelt appreciation and thanks to:

Anonymous, Donna Horan, Craig & Chery McGruder, Sandra Schmidt, Bill Sykes, and Susan White.

Magnolia Cove: Your Gift to Forgotten Cats

We are shining a light on the plight of cats who are living in what we call “unmanaged” cat colonies. These cats are victims of abandonment, lack of medical care and not enough food. They are “on guard” at all times in an effort to stay safe. We have been working with one of these colonies for two years and estimate that the colony had over 150 cats when we first learned of the situation.

We worked hard to squeeze in as many of the cats as possible, but it quickly became apparent we were merely treading water as we ran out of space in our existing cat areas. We began plans to create a small building at CFC to provide space for about 30-35 additional cats.

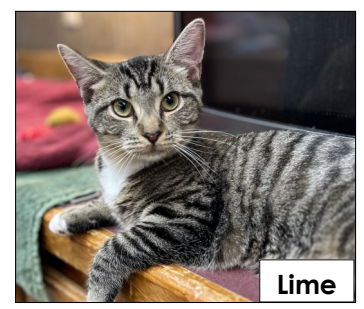
As a result of a generous bequest and your ongoing support, we began work on the new space for these cats. The building has been named **Magnolia Cove**. The name recognizes a large nearby magnolia tree, and one of the early mom cats we brought to the sanctuary with her young kittens, who we named Magnolia.



Other than the electrical work, concrete, installation of a mini-split heating/cooling unit, some drywall work and installation of two doors, CFC volunteers have come together to do the work! A huge thank you to: Ed, Kathy & Barry, Jennifer, Doug, John, and Jaleen for your dedicated and quality work. We are getting there little by little and feel confident we will be able to officially open the building to cats the end of September!

These cats are worthy of our time, resources and love. They deserve to receive quality food and have a safe and clean place to live. Our experience is that 90% of these cats enjoy the company of humans once they are given time to relax and orient themselves to an inside environment and all that entails. Thank you for helping them.

Here are photos of just a few of the colony cats who are now safe at the sanctuary...



Colony Stats

Thus far:

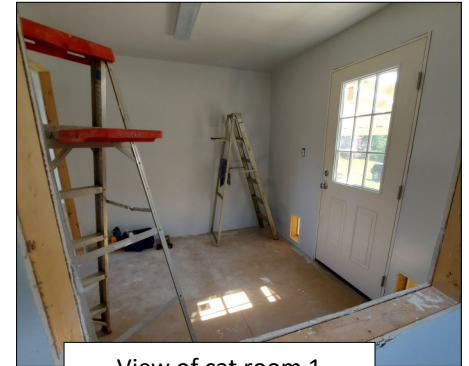
- * 94 cats trapped and moved to CFC
- * 26 of these cats have been adopted
- * 16 cats transferred to a rescue partner
- * 16 cats spayed/neutered and returned to the colony property until we have more space at the sanctuary
- * 10 kittens died or euthanized
- * Every week we provide 150 lbs. of food to the colony



Outside patios under construction



View of hallway - both rooms on the left



View of cat room 1



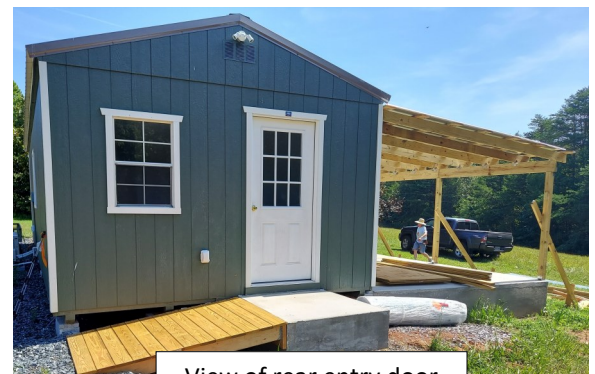
View of cat room 2



View of magnolia tree!



View toward Scratching Post



View of rear entry door

We still have expenses to cover as we complete the **Magnolia Cove** project and once cats begin moving in, we will need your help to support the day-to-day operating costs. Your help is needed and appreciated. **If you would like to help the cats and Magnolia Cove, your gift, in any amount, will be doubled if received by October 10th!**



There is no question that all of the CFC animals benefit from your generosity. But for those who are long-term residents or find themselves suddenly without a place to call home, your lifeline of support means everything. Winston and Pup Pup are two of those animals. Both are seniors. Winston, 14, has lived at the sanctuary since December of 2012, and Pup Pup, 13, arrived in February of this year. **Because of your precious and heartfelt gifts, we are able to offer Winston, Pup Pup, and others like them, a soft place to land for as long as needed. Thank you for making a difference.**



Winston was out of options at a high-kill shelter when we agreed to welcome him to the sanctuary. He was terrified of humans which made his chances for adoption less likely. It didn't take long before we realized just what a special gift we had received. Winston's shyness has remained with him, but with his group of trusted humans, he chose to reveal a heart filled with love.

Winston is a gentle soul. What's interesting is, over the years, Winston helped other frightened dogs gain confidence with his kindness, fun nature, and non-threatening presence. Puppies LOVED him, and he gave them a run for their money in the large play arena. He never failed to make us smile.

Winston's health is fading and we know his time for leaving will come far sooner than we want. Thank you Winston, for gracing the sanctuary with your presence. You're simply the best.

We became aware of Pup Pup's needs through our rescue partner, The HOWS Project. Pup Pup's home was destroyed in a fire. His human and all the animals survived, but were left homeless. Pup Pup's human could only take two dogs to her new living arrangement leaving him in need of a place to go. Caring For Creatures welcomed him to the sanctuary.

You can almost see the years of Pup Pup's life gently etched in his white muzzle. He's earned every gray hair, is grateful for all he has received, and proud of all he has given. Still, Pup Pup never hesitates to share his love with everyone he meets. We are honored to know him and provide for his needs here at Caring For Creatures.



What Caring For Creatures Means To Me

By Yvonne Watkins

As a long-time volunteer, I was invited to write about what the Sanctuary has meant to me over these 20+ years. A better way to begin is to explain why I have kept coming and devoting volunteer time to this place. For me, it's a number of reasons. I was raised to have the value of giving to the community via volunteering, and started doing so as a teen. It's my way of feeling connected to humanity. I'm also a devoted animal lover. I got my first cat at age five and learned how much a companion animal can enrich one's life.

However, the primary reason I have spent these years volunteering at the sanctuary is simple: I found a place that treats animals the way I believe they should be treated. Even before it became more widespread in animal shelters, CFC, from its inception, has been a no-kill facility. That's important to me.

At CFC, every animal is allowed, as health permits, opportunities to engage meaningfully with visitors, and all are patiently cared for by staff. All have names and quickly their personalities become known. Many animals come to CFC as a place of last resort – they are in desperate need of safety, comfort and healing. I am grateful to continually see animals brought to the sanctuary - sometimes in terrible condition - nurtured back to life and vibrancy through medical care, holistic treatments and love.

Some animals get adopted rather quickly, for others, it can take longer; and some may find a home for life at the sanctuary in comfort and peace. Each one has a story to tell, and they come to a place that listens. Don't we all wish for that in our lives?

I spend a chunk of my time at The Scratching Post doing laundry – which gives me easy access to cats throughout my day! I have found that the sanctuary is not only a respite for many dogs and cats, but also for humans as well. It can be a very

therapeutic environment as some folks appreciate the non-judgmental and very present-oriented presence that animals bring.

I sense a strong spirituality to the setting, a feeling I have each time I come through the gate. I became aware of this from the beginning, and I still experience it when I visit now. I have learned and received so much more than I have given. Some of you may have lived with a companion animal who was a wise teacher. I have learned so much from many animals who seem to carry a wisdom I strive to achieve.



Above all, what CFC means to me includes my longstanding, and truly valued relationship with a person for whom I have tremendous respect and admiration. Mary remains as she was when I first met her, unwaveringly committed to caring for the creatures who happen her way. She is inspiring, ever resourceful and present for animals and sometimes people in need as well (funny how that works). I know she has created here a place of great safety, comfort, and healing.

So, let us celebrate this phenomenal anniversary. A non-profit facility such as CFC operates on contributions of time, money and supplies. I am excited to be able to show my support during this very special matching gift event. If you love animals and value all that CFC stands for, your show of support is greatly appreciated. Giving is my way of paying it forward. I'm forever grateful for all Caring For Creatures has accomplished thus far, and I'm really excited about improvements on the horizon. We need to show our support now more than ever so the work of this treasured sanctuary can be sustained. Any and all gifts are greatly appreciated.

Here's to many more years, Caring for Creatures...

Happy 35th Anniversary!

Our Cover Girl - Babe Ruth!

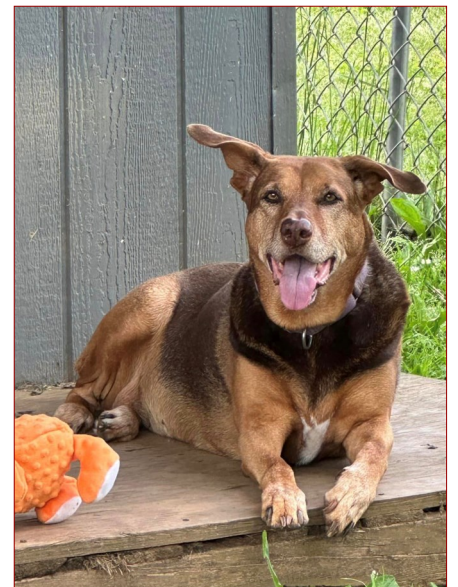
Babe Ruth is yet another sanctuary resident who thanks her lucky stars every day that your lifeline of support was extended her way. Babe was 3 years old when we pulled her from a high-kill facility in March 2014. This beauty, with awesome ears, adores human companionship and has not lost hope that her special human is out there waiting for her.

At 13 years of age, Babe has retired from her high-energy athletics to more slower paced forms of exercise. But she still has pep to her step and enjoys a vigorous walk to take in the aromas of nature and share time with her special human. Babe will do best being the only animal her human showers with love. But we can guarantee that she will return your love tenfold and be the best snuggling couch potato you've ever met!

We sense that Babe **really, really, really** is dreaming of being in a home of her own so we reserved this space to share her with all of you. If you enjoy a brisk walk but are not into marathons, then Babe is for you. If you relish quiet evenings at home binge watching your favorite Netflix shows, Babe will happily join you. If you're animal-free at the moment and your home feels way too empty, then Babe would love the opportunity to bring some canine love back into your life. Her inside home skills are excellent and she comes with her extensive stuffie toy collection. Babe's quite fond of her stuffies!

If our Babe Ruth seems like a match made in heaven for you, don't hesitate - give us a call and arrange a time to meet her in person.

Babe's keeping her toes crossed!



**"We Love,
because that's what Love does."**

- unknown