

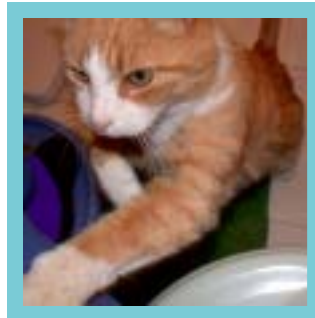


Tails from CARA

Companion Animal Rescue Alliance (301) 422-3677

In this issue:

- Computer Kittens 2
- Second Hand Cat 2
- With a Little Help 3
- Mamma Mia 4
- What is a Feral Cat 5
- Rosie's Story 6
- CARA's Wish List 7
- About CARA 8



Donations poured in to help our first rescue, Sal, with his medical needs.

Our First Rescue - by Elise Shurie

While we were still trying to get the CARA rescue group up and running, we received the following email:

"When we moved to the area temporarily, we found a stray cat here 'hanging around' on a permanent basis. At first I thought she belonged to someone close, she has obviously been a pet, is sweet and friendly, my daughter calls her Sally (but to be really honest I'm not even sure of gender.) Through this past winter I have come to the conclusion that someone has just

thrown her out or abandoned her. I have been feeding her and my neighbor and I have left the cellar open so she could get out of the weather (it's warm down there as furnaces are there).

In two weeks we will be returning to our permanent home. I really want to do something with and for 'Sally' however I am very very very reluctant to take her to a shelter.

...cont'd see *Our First Rescue* pg. 3

The Birth of CARA - by DorothyBelle Poli

Companion Animal Rescue Alliance was born out of Love...

Many of CARA's volunteers have all been involved with rescue efforts for many years and we know each other from different places. We are friends at work, school, and we are neighbors. We have been in the same church groups, volleyball teams, societies, and other rescue groups. We are all animal lovers!

When politics arose in one rescue group, as they do so often, we decided to "break away" and form another. We

wanted to continue to do the same type of work but thought there were better ways to do it. Many hours of research, web design, marketing, and literature development were needed to get things started. The more we did, the more there was to be done. This was not an easy task! One of the most difficult steps in this long process was coming up with a name; finally one volunteer came up with Companion Animal Rescue Alliance while another developed our motto, "opening doors for homeless

cont'd see *Birth of CARA* pg. 4

Be a CARA Sponsor!

Circle the amount you wish to donate below and mail this form along with a check payable to CARA

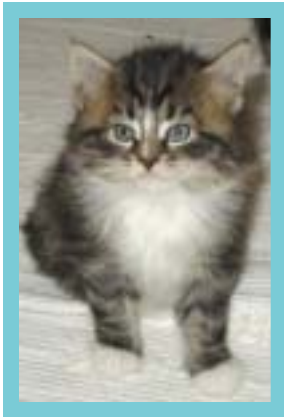
7305 Hopkins Avenue
College Park, MD
20740

\$25 Feed a stray

\$50 Fix Fluffy or Fido

\$100 Sponsor a whole litter!

\$____ other



Cute little Macintosh



"through some trees and across the street, the kids were playing, and the kittens just made a beeline toward them."

The Computer Kittens - by Margot Osborne

I had just arrived home from the adoption show in Laurel, dead tired and with an aching back, when I got a telephone call from the man across the street, asking if I had lost some kittens. I said "Noooooo.... what do you mean?". He said that his kids had seen some kittens walk across the street and did I know anything about them. I said I would be right out. His kids and his next door neighbor's kids were playing with the kittens and of course wanted to keep them but the adults won the day and I got them.

The kittens were well socialized and in good health because being manhandled by 6 kids did not seem to bother them in the slightest. I think what happened is that the kittens were dropped off in the parking lot of the medical building on route 197 in Bowie. Shy does not describe these kittens. By the third day they were bouncing out of the master bath and through the bedroom and into the living room where the action was. The plan to keep them away from my cats for a few days went out the window. I was relieved that they were in good health. Good health, good socialization, good looks, good everything ... makes one wonder why they were dumped. I am sorry to say momma cat was not found, which is why I think they were dumped. I hope she is OK.

"We've been rescued - hooray!" That's what they said when they went to their new foster home. They made their trip to the vet for tests and shots ("Boo!") and are healthy, happy, playful little kittens.

Now if we can just tell them all apart. Gateway is black with a touch of smoke. Sun and Hewlett look alike, both tabbies with white bibs and feet. Macintosh has fluffy medium-length hair, also a tabby with white. These four are all boys. A'dell is the only girl, a cute tabby gal.

All the Computer Kittens have found forever homes. But we have many more kittens like them waiting to be adopted. Please contact us at cara_adopt@yahoo.com or call 301-422-3677.



Second Hand Cat

Give us a chance who are not brand new, who would love a home with someone like you.

We may have been around a bit, received many a blow and many a kick, Starved and neglected most of our days, yet we are forgiving anyway.

But now's our chance to start anew, a home with love that we never knew.

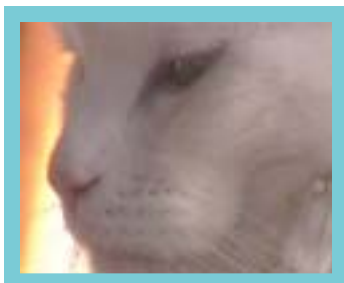
So, before a kitten you're tempted to pick, give us a look, but not too quick.

Look at the character in our face, and our bodies, still full of grace.

Just think of us, day after day, watching people look and walk away.

But say the word 'yes' and we will know, our bags are packed and we're ready to go.

--anonymous





Our First Rescue *(cont'd from pg. 1)*

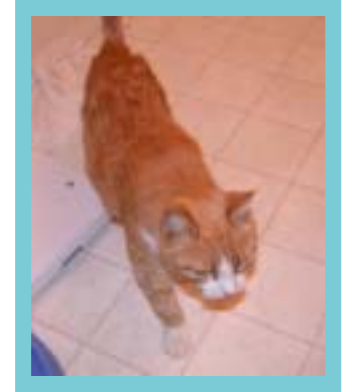
She's an older cat, her faced is scarred, her tail is flat and as of this week has a 'bald' patch on her back, (no blood, scabs or infection though) - although in general her health seems pretty good under the circumstances. Although her personality is sweet her looks and age are such I just feel sure she will end up euthanized at a shelter.

Can you please tell me if your organization can help me with this stray? This is a sweet old cat, but even if she wasn't I just don't feel I can just leave Sally to 'whatever' since it appears that's what someone already did to her."

Well, how could we refuse?

We quickly jumped in and took Sally to the vet for an evaluation and shots. Well, Sally is really Salvatore :) and HE is fine and healthy. His hair loss seems to have been due to flea-bite allergy, and now that he's been treated for fleas and is on a good and consistent diet, his fur is coming back in. He is quite the handsome boy and loves being held and petted. What a sweetie to have been dumped!! Sal is certain to greatly reward the human who adopts him and gives him a good and permanent home!

If you are interested in Sal, please contact us at cara_adopt@yahoo.com or call 301-422-3677.



Sal shortly after his rescue.

With A Little Help From Our Friends



About our friend, Dr. Ruth

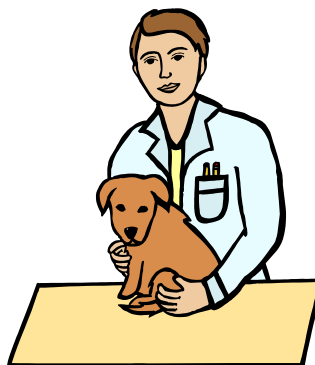
When you are involved in rescue work it is very important to trust your vets. Money is limited but so is your time. Not all vets are willing to give a discount to rescue groups or even willing to work with them. Some vets even limit the times a rescue group can schedule appointments. Through word of mouth CARA found Dr. Nancy Ruth and her practice, All Paws Veterinary Center, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

All Paws is a small, privately owned practice tucked away in the back of the shopping center it calls home. For some of us, Upper Marlboro is a drive, but none of us complain. You see, Dr. Ruth has given her time and efforts to help

CARA get off on the right foot by helping with the obvious care of our animals. However, it's the guidance in educating our foster parents on common medical problems, offering to help with fundraising efforts, and continually looking out for our cause (to find good homes for our foster animals) that sets this vet apart from the rest.

Dr. Ruth and her associate Dr. Holestein have always made room for a CARA animal to be seen, even on the most busy days. When a foster parent has to say good-bye to an animal, it is always hard but the pain is eased a little when you know the vet cares almost as deeply as you do. The same thing goes when you pull a tiny kitten or an old dog from the grips of death. At All Paws, the vets are caring individuals that are truly in it for the greater good.

CARA is honored to work with Dr. Ruth and the All Paws Staff and would like to take this time to say THANK YOU!! Purrs and Licks!



If you are searching for a veterinarian in the Upper Marlboro area, the volunteers of CARA recommend Dr. Ruth and the All Paws Staff. They can be contacted at 301-599-7000.



Birth of CARA *(cont'd from page 1)*



Gretel - see our web page for details



"CARA stands together out of love - love of animals and for one another."

animals." Our legal paperwork, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, had to be drafted and filed with the State while insurance was obtained. We used our talents and those of our friends and contacts to try to pull it all together. Our personal bank accounts became depleted while we established CARA. Just to file with the State cost us about \$1000 when all was said and done. We had to design a website and draft applications, contracts, guidelines, and educational literature. It did not stop there. Our next set of tasks involved coming up with feral support and to establish our Feral Referral section. For a bunch of animal lovers we were tired and only dealing with lawyers, accountants, web support, bankers, and paperwork -- but we kept it up. Eventually it all began to take shape and CARA was born when Sal was brought to our attention (see the article entitled "Our First Rescue" on Page 1).

You may ask why? Why go through the time and efforts when other groups are out there? Why not just join a different

group? Well, the answer is easy. CARA is a family of people who have witnessed many companion animals come from dire situations and through all of us, go on to become well adjusted and join their own families. We support each other as well as supporting those animals that cross our paths. CARA stands together out of love - love of animals and for one another!

We learned many things over the years, for example, how to give our hearts completely to a cause, how to educate the general public, and how to teach trust to those animals once unwanted. More importantly, we learned how to keep our friends close to our hearts and that with those friendships anything can be accomplished.

CARA continues to grow because of you!

Please consider volunteering your special talents with CARA. Contact us at cara_adopt@yahoo.com, or at 301-422-3677 (mailbox #2). We would love for you to join our family!

Mamma Mia and Her Babies - by Jennifer Zinker



Momma Mia's life on the streets is over thanks to "Tony the Cab Driver" and "Emily the Nightowl". A very pregnant

and skinny Mia, originally "Tootsie", was caught by Tony and put in his cab. Tony planned to bring Mia to his friend Emily, who has been an animal rescuer for over 50 years. Unfortunately, Mia escaped when Tony and Emily tried to get her out of the cab. With help from CARA friends, Emily set up a humane trap in hopes of catching Mia before she had her babies (Emily had already scheduled a spay appointment for Mia the next day).

In the early hours of Mia's spay day, Emily successfully trapped Mia. But Emily had to cancel that spay appointment because within hours Mia delivered 6 kittens. We also snuck a poor orphaned kitten in with the bunch that had been rejected by her first surrogate momma cat. Mia didn't seem to mind the additional mouth to feed despite having 6 of her own.

Emily worked very hard to get Mia healthy and nourished so that she could properly care for all these tiny babies.

...cont'd see *Mamma Mia* on page 7



What is a Feral Cat? - by Elise Shurie and Neva Davis

It's late at night and you notice a cat slinking down an alleyway. Immediately you're in rescue-mode, determined to help this kitty. But how can you best help her? The answer depends in part on whether this cat is a tame stray or is completely feral.

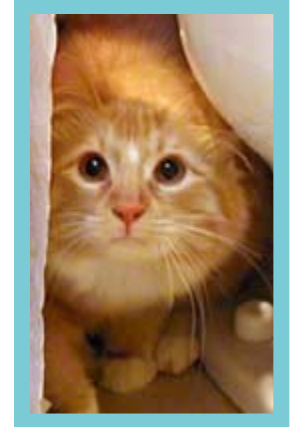
A feral cat is the semi-wild offspring of stray and abandoned cats. Feral cats grow up without significant human interaction. While people may feed these cats they are not accustomed to close human contact. When people approach them, feral cats will generally retreat or run away.

Feral cats can live practically anywhere, but they typically will congregate around a food source. These groups of feral cats are called colonies. The food source can be anything from a kind person feeding them, to a dumpster full of food scraps, to

a thriving rodent population.

Sometimes rescuers will discover feral cats in unlikely places. Animal collectors who let cats breed uncontrollably within their homes often will have unsocialized, feral cats inside suburban houses. Barn cats can be quite feral if they haven't ever been touched or handled by people. But mostly you will find feral cats living in colonies in apartment complexes, parks, alleyways, college campuses, even seasonal vacation spots where they are fed by people who are there only temporarily.

Where do feral cats come from? One colony that comes to mind started with only three cats being dumped in an industrial park. But being that they were intact, fertile cats - two females and one male - within a few years there were approximately 60 cats living there, all



Sometimes rescuers will discover feral cats in unlikely places

"A little food goes a long way. Contact us today to help give some homeless animals a better chance. Donate a bag of food!"

Dog Fosters Needed



CARA is in desperate need for dog fosters. Can you help care for a homeless hound for a few weeks - or even a few days? Fostering is a great way for animal lovers to volunteer when they are unable to make a lifetime commitment. If you can help out, please email us at cara_adopt@yahoo.com or call 301-422-3677.

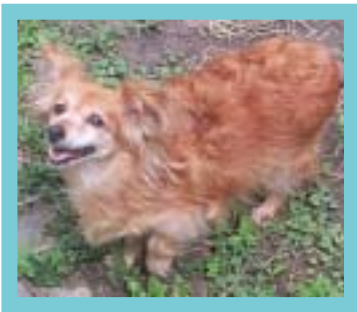
feral. Every year there was a new crop of kittens.

Sympathetic feeders may actually be creating or expanding colonies of this type when they feed the cats but don't get them spayed and neutered. Although they think they are doing good they are actually adding to the already-over-population of stray and feral cats.

This is the situation facing us, and the counties' humane societies are mostly not equipped and/or educated in working with feral cats or dealing with these colonies and the people feeding them. Often we rescue groups are called by well-meaning residents who have been feeding cats in their backyard or on their porch, and the number of cats has grown and is out of control. Or they think they are nice cats and should be placed, could we come get them? In either case, unfortunately, the number of cats needing homes is so large compared to the limited number of people willing to foster them that there is nowhere for these cats to actually go! Shelters are full and volunteers are stretched; indoor cats, give-ups and other tame cats are euthanized all the time. So we can't just go there and remove the cats. What we CAN do, is help and teach the community so that those who are dealing with these



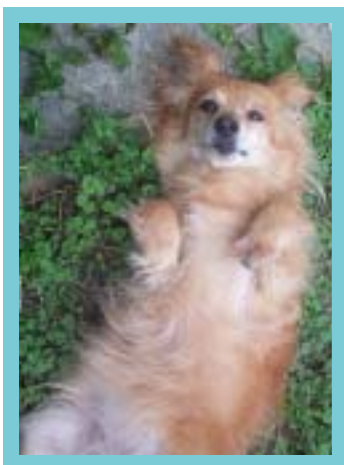
situations can at least keep the number from growing in their yard, neighborhood, or colony. We can direct you to low-cost spay/neuter clinics and vets who work with feral cats in the area; help you obtain humane traps and teach you how to trap the cats. Later we hope to help with funding this type of work, but we need donations and we need the community to help. This is vital. If you would like assistance in dealing with a feral colony, go to our web site or send us an email. But most of all, pass the word on to others of the nature of this problem and the need for community involvement.



Rosie has a beautiful reddish-brown coat



“the thing everyone who meets Rosie learns right away is that she loves belly rubs”



IF YOU KNEW ROSIE, LIKE I KNOW ROSIE...OH..OH..OH, WHAT A GIRL!! - by Susan Flashman

Rosie, a small fluffy female dog entered CARA's history book as its first foster dog and no less important...that she came to us via the Internet! (Not by a tearful phone call, or a friend of a friend of a friend - with which we are all so very familiar).

We decided to name her Rosie, because her coat has a reddish-brown color. It is a short name for a small dog. Rosie only weighs 13 pounds (maybe 14 soaking wet). She was very lucky to have been out strolling (no collar, no tags, no tattoo, or implanted microchip), when a veterinarian tech happened to spot her, while driving with a friend. Perhaps there was a millisecond of hesitation, but when you meet Rosie, you know why that hesitation disappeared.

Well, after contacting the area shelters without avail, she brought Rosie to CARA. The rest is a true story of goodness, which we rarely read about on the front page of the Washington Post! The woman who rescued Rosie in, also took ROSIE to the clinic where she works, and gave her a thorough going over. Treated her fleas, checked for Heartworm and Lyme and then gave her all her shots, at her own expense. And to top that off...she could not keep the dog, because her family had acquired a puppy in December, so they had their hands full with an Italian Greyhound.

Rosie's first temperament test came with the puppy. The pup climbed all over her, kissed (licked) her face, and Rosie remained calm. Occasionally Rosie would growl a little, but never snapped at the puppy. Truly miraculous, considering she had been out on her own on the street - we have no idea for how long. Her fur had a few matted spots, but even combing her out was a cake walk.

Of course the thing everyone who meets Rosie learns right away is that she loves belly rubs, and rolls on her back to facilitate those rubs. The next thing Rosie does, is want to be close...on your lap, or sitting right beside you. And then come the licks on the face, when you get close enough for her to reach.

We estimate Rosie to be about 10 years young, and spayed. We plan to have her teeth cleaned to give her the only thing she lacks now - a brilliant smile! So, we hope to find her a suitable home, full of love, companionship, and comfort for the rest of her days.

So, if you fit that profile...email us at cara_adopt@yahoo.com.

And may every dog we rescue after Rosie be as lucky as she. . and have a human friend contact CARA.



CARA's Wish List

The items on this list are to help CARA care for our rescue animals. If you can donate any of the items, please email or telephone us.

- animal beds and toys
- baby gates
- food dishes and water bowls
- collars (break-away only for cats)
- leashes and harnesses (cat and dog sizes needed)
- cat and dog food
- litter boxes and cat litter
- groom an animal or pay to have an animal groomed
- grooming supplies
- post flyers at the vets or pet related businesses
- long distance calling cards
- use of a photocopier
- gift certificate to a pet store
- pay for boarding fees
- clip coupons for animal food and treats
- postage stamps
- printer paper or envelopes
- link our site to your site
- donate time to take good photos of our animals
- cages for our shows
- card tables
- animal carriers
- cat traps
- cat trees/climbers
- have a yard sale/car wash and donate the proceeds
- foster one of our rescued animals
- vet services (spay/neuters, feline leukemia tests, FIV tests, shots)
- talk to friends about rescue, adopting, and fostering
- help organize a fundraiser
- cleaning products
- items to be used for a fundraiser event
- loan a carpet steam cleaner
- contact a local news station and ask for an interview



- write an article for your paper
- first aid kit
- heartworm preventative pills
- a bottle of Nature's Miracle
- office supplies

Mamma Mia *(cont'd from pg. 4)*

CARA also arranged for another foster mom for Mia and her babies. After a week with Emily, the family moved in with foster Mom Jen Zinker after a quick trip to the vet for vaccinations, worming medication, and a much needed bath.

Once the family arrived in their new home and settled into the bathtub nursery, Jen realized that Mia seemed more than just tired and became worried. She was breathing rapidly and was not grooming herself or the kittens. Jen also discovered only a couple teeth in Mia's mouth and one of her front canines was broken off at the gum. It was clear that Mia was in pain so Jen called DorothyBelle Poli, one of CARA's founding members and guardian angel of all animals. On Dorothy's advice, Jen

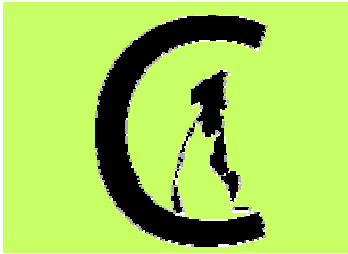
rushed the family to AAVEC in Annapolis. Mia was likely suffering from a uterine infection and was prescribed antibiotics and would have to be spayed as soon as possible. The AAVEC vet also estimated Mia's age at approx. 10 years old. Wow! In human years that is 70!

Mia and her babies were brought home in the wee hours of that Tuesday morning. Mia was given the first dose of her prescribed medication and began to feel better after an hour or so. She even began purring for the first time!

After days of trying to think of names for the kittens, Jen settled on classic film stars: Humphrey Bogart (white with orange spots), Ingrid Bergman (all white), Audrey Hepburn (all white), Cary Grant (orange tiger tabby), Lauren



Cary Grant-handsome little boy



CARA

7305 Hopkins Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Phone:

(301) 422-3677

Fax:

301-277-2163

E-Mail:

cara_adopt@yahoo.com

*Opening doors for
homeless animals.*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cara-adopt.org

Bacall (all white), Katherine Hepburn (orange and white), and Grace Kelly (white with gray - the orphan). Jen was happy because each kitten seemed to fit his/her name well and for the next week things progressed smoothly with the new family. All the babies began to open their eyes and move around more.

On a follow-up appointment with the vet to check on Mia's uterine infection and the babies, we discovered that three of the girls were actually boys. Oops! Okay, so after hours of

searching, Jen found three new appropriate names for the boys, Marlon Brando (previously Ingrid Bergman), Jimmy Stewart (previously Katherine Hepburn), and James Dean (previously Audrey Hepburn). The names worked and the crisis averted!

More photos and detailed descriptions of the whole family can be found at <http://www.cara-adopt.org>.

About Our Organization...

- CARA's objectives are to facilitate the rescue and adoption of companion animals into responsible and stable homes; and
- To help the plight of feral cats and to reduce the number of homeless, relinquished, abandoned, and destroyed companion animals through spay-neuter campaigns and through public education.

We are a network of over two dozen animal-loving humans who are dedicated to rescuing cats and dogs, making sure they receive the care they need, and finding them caring homes. Most of us are very experienced in animal rescue and have been involved in other rescue groups. Several of us have experience in trapping and neutering feral cats; we support this method for population control. We also support efforts to educate the public about animal care and related issues.

Contact Us

All of our contact information is listed to the left. Please contact us if you wish to make a donation or volunteer in any way. Volunteering for CARA is a fun way for students to meet their Community Service requirements.



Get our Newsletter by Snail Mail!

Okay, maybe an actual snail won't deliver our newsletter, but if you would prefer to receive our newsletter by regular mail instead of email, please give us your mailing address. Also, give us the addresses of your animal loving friends and we'll send them a newsletter too! You can either email us, call us, or fill out the address form below and mail it to CARA, 7305 Hopkins Avenue, College Park, MD 20740.

Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
City:	<input type="text"/>	State	Zip
<hr/>			
Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
City:	<input type="text"/>	State	Zip