



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue mewsletter

SPRING 2018, VOL. 18, NO.1



Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals



Making a Difference

February 25th was a happy day when Anne Arundel County Councilman John Grasso and Alley Cat Allies Founder Becky Robinson helped the Rude Ranch Animal Rescue and the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook celebrate the expansion of the clinic and the passing of Bill 96-17. The Community Cat Bill aka "The Chum Chum Bill" as councilman Grasso affectionately refers to community cats, redefines legal options for free roaming cats in Anne Arundel County. Councilman Grasso immediately supported the Bill once he learned that traditionally the only option for community cats was euthanasia. The Community Cat Bill marks the culmination of many years of hard work by Rude Ranch and many other animal advocates in Anne Arundel County. It is a major step in Anne Arundel County's efforts to become a no-kill county.

Alley Cat Allies generously funded the expansion of the Spay Spa and Neuter Nook to prepare for the anticipated increased demand for surgeries once the Bill passed. Not only did the Bill pass, but it passed with the full support of County Executive Steve Schuh and by a unanimous vote of the County Council.

This Bill will give the citizens of Anne Arundel County an alternative to euthanasia for community cats. For years communities with large colonies of homeless free roaming cats had only one choice, to euthanize the cats. Many people who cared about these

cats would not even consider this option and the cats were left to breed. Over time this led to severe problems for the communities, the environment and the cats. There has always been another option that works for the cats and the community, but until Councilman Grasso's Bill passed it wasn't allowed



Kathy and Bob Rude celebrate the passing of Bill 96-17

by County Code. It has been growing in popularity over the past 20 years. It has been happening in Anne Arundel County through rescue groups and individuals that have seen it successfully solve cat issues in their communities. It is called TNvR (Trap, Neuter, vaccinate and Return). Caregivers take the cats to a veterinarian to be spayed/neutered, rabies vaccinated, and remove the tip of the cat's left ear to indicate he or she has been fixed and vaccinated. The cats can then go back to their outdoor home

and live a much easier life without breeding and continually raising a family. Over time this will lead to a reduction in the number of cats in the community and will resolve many of the complaints related to these cats.

In an effort to help the community with this issue, Rude Ranch Animal Rescue in conjunction with the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook and the SPCA of Anne Arundel County have joined forces to develop a progressive new program called SAVECATs (Spay and Vaccinate Every Cat). The program is in it's infancy, but they anticipate it becoming a very

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A Note from our Executive Director

Welcome to our Spring Mewsletter!

I hope everyone had a happy and relaxing holiday season with your families and pets! At Rude Ranch the time flies by! So much has happened since I wrote this letter for our Fall 2017 Newsletter!

I am proud to announce that the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, our high quality, low cost surgery clinic, is continuing to provide life saving assistance to animals. We've crossed another milestone, providing over 30,000 spay/neuter surgeries in just over 5 years! (5 years, and 1 month!) More importantly, thanks to the efforts of the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook and many others, we are starting to see a noticeable drop in both the numbers of unwanted and homeless animals surrendered to local animal controls and euthanasia rates throughout the state!

We are also happy to announce that Anne Arundel County Bill 96-17, the Community Cat Bill passed on January 2nd. This bill has been a long time personal goal for me and I was proud to have been part of getting it passed. Animal Advocates in several other jurisdictions are using our bill as a template to start the legislative process in their areas. Once again, I want to send out a huge note of thanks to all who wrote letters, testified, or came out to show support for this effort.

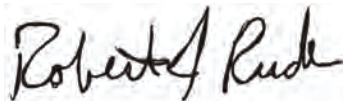
I am also happy to announce a new program, SAVECats, which will be a joint effort between Rude Ranch, the Spay Spa, the AAC SPCA, and several other county non-profits. The goal of this program will be to provide a one stop information portal to answer any and all questions and concerns about community cats in AA County. We plan to develop social media and brochures soon.

We had a great turn out for Photo's with Santa again this year. A big thanks to all our volunteers who helped at the event, all the people who brought their animals to pose with Santa and to Crunchies for allowing us to use their store to host the event. We had more than 200 animals visit Santa for their pictures this year!

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in our 7th Annual Basket Bingo and More! event, on April 15th. We also plan to attend several pet expos and spring fairs over the next few weeks to encourage everyone to have their pet spayed or neutered.

In closing, I want to extend a special thanks to our adoptive families, contributors, supporters and volunteers who are vital to our success saving abandoned and neglected animals and placing them in loving homes. Without you, we could not help the animals.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Rude
Executive Director

Moving? Trying to Cut Down on the Paper in Your Mail Box?

Planning on moving across the street/state or country soon? Don't forget to let us know so we can update our mailing list. Just send an email to info@ruderanch.org with your new address and we will take care of the rest.

Want to receive our Mewsletter online? Just send us an email at info@ruderanch.org and we will send you a link to our newsletter when its available online!

Saving Lives,
Four Paws At
A Time



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc.
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Harwood, MD 20776
Phone: 410.798.9559
Email: info@ruderanch.org
www.ruderanch.org

Please contact us if you would like to be added to or deleted from our mailing list or know others who would like to receive our mailings. Also, let us know if you are moving so we can update our mailing list. Email your new address to info@ruderanch.org.

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue is a volunteer based, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of homeless animals in the Maryland and DC area. Our goals are to find permanent loving homes for adoptable animals placed in our care; to provide a safe haven and rehabilitation to feral and neglected cats rescued from abusive situations; and to put an end to needless euthanasia because of pet overpopulation.

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc. Board of Directors

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Curiosity Got the Cat in Trouble!

The long held notion about cats and curiosity is still going strong! A little barn kitten who earned the name Mason found out the hard way!

Mason is a cute little guy that was born and lived in a barn not far from Rude Ranch. One day Mason was out exploring when he came across an old glass mason jar. We don't know what that jar once held, but it must've smelled pretty good, because Mason not only poked his nose into the jar, he stuck his whole head in the jar and couldn't get it back out.



Once he realized he was in trouble, Mason must've panicked. At some point he managed to break the glass, so his head was free and he could breathe. Although that solved one problem, he still had a ring of broken jagged glass around his neck, with an especially long jagged point very close to his jugular artery.

It didn't take long for his human caretaker to find him. She knew he needed help, but he would barely let her pet him, let alone hold him down and pull a glass ring off of his head. She called the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook for help. We went on standby to bring him in as soon as he was spotted and captured. The next morning, Mason came up for his breakfast. He knew he needed help... for the first time ever, he let her pick him up and "stuff" him in a carrier.

As soon as he got to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, we sprang into action. Mason was lightly sedated to keep him from freaking out and accidentally cutting himself on the jagged glass. Once he was asleep, we were able to compress the cartilage in his ears to get the glass completely off. Fortunately, he only had a couple of small cuts and abrasions from the broken glass.

Mason and his caretaker developed a bond after this adventure. When he came back to be neutered (along with his mom) a few days later, Mason's caretaker announced that he had moved into her house and she would try to find him a forever home!



Back by Popular Demand! Basket, Bags & More Bingo at Rude Ranch!

Back by popular demand with even more ways to win this year! Get your bingo daubers out! Rude Ranch will hold a Spring Basket, Bags, and More Bingo on April 15! If you've never "bingoed" at a Basket, Bags & More Bingo before, here's how it works: For the low admission price of \$25 you play 20 rounds of bingo, and are eligible for many door prizes. There are extra "special games" that feature additional prizes you can



Bingo!

choose to upgrade to during the bingo. The winner of each round of bingo will receive a beautiful Longaberger Basket, a Vera Bradley, Coach or Longaberger bag filled with all kinds of useful gadgets, or a gift card or even a great Pandora prize! The doors open at 11 am on April 15 and games begin at noon. Food and Bake Sale to benefit Rude Ranch!



The Basket, Bags & More Bingo will be held at the Roland Terrace Democratic Club, 619 Matthews Ave,

Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. For more info go to Rude Ranch's website, www.RudeRanch.org, or call Linda Resuta at 410-916-1449. To reserve tickets (held at the door), send a check or money order to: Rude Ranch Basket Bingo, C/O Linda Resuta, PO Box 222, Glen Burnie, MD 21060. Please make sure to mail your check on or before April 8.

Can't make it to the Bingo but want to help anyway? You can donate toward one of the prizes! Just send a check or money order (or use PayPal! Our account is donate@RudeRanch.org) to Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, 3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776, and write Basket Bingo Donation in the memo field.





Working Together!

Rallo was a working dog. His job was to guard the used car parts yard and look intimidating enough to scare intruders away. There was one problem: Rallo was bad at his job. He loved everyone and

instead of scaring people away, he welcomed them, dropping his toys at their feet and wagging his tail.

One day he was a little too enthusiastic when he greeted a customer. He ran to the car before it was completely

stopped and the car hit him, badly mangling his left front leg. Rallo limped along for a few days afterward, dragging the now useless leg as he walked. Soon in addition to several fractures, the leg was badly infected and the infection was starting to spread throughout his body. Rallo's employer did not have the time or the finances to care for him and brought him to an emergency clinic to be euthanized.

Despite the painful broken leg and infection, Rallo was still wagging his tail and started licking the techs and the vet. Everyone at the emergency clinic felt Rallo deserved a chance to live. His owner signed him over to the clinic. Two of his new caretakers, Dr. Katie Gagliarado and Dr. Elizabeth Schinabel developed a plan. They could provide day to day care for Rallo at the emergency clinic. They volunteered with Virginia Paws for Pitts. They could find a home for him through this group. There was only one problem: Rallo's leg needed to be amputated. They could do the amputation at the emergency clinic, but even with employee discounts, the cost of the surgery was more than they could afford. They decided to ask Rude Ranch and the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook for help.

Fortunately, we were able to help work out a deal: Rallo would have his surgery at the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, and Dr. Gagliarado and Dr. Schinabel would help do spay/neuter surgeries that day. Rallo came through his surgery with absolutely no problems and even started wagging his tail



Rallo after surgery at the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook

while he was still in recovery. He went back to his area at the emergency clinic to finish his recovery and learn to run and play on three legs.

It wasn't long before this happy guy was running and playing (and wagging his tail) with everyone at the clinic. He soon moved on to find his forever home! Dr. Gagliarado also enjoyed working with the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook and has signed on to help out when she isn't saving lives at the emergency clinic!



30,000!

That's right 30,000! That's how many spay/neuter surgeries the Spay Spa & Neuter did between October 16, 2012 and December 20, 2017! (We've done over 1200 more since then!)

Rocky, a lynx point siamese from Davidsonville, MD was lucky number 30,000! While his surgery was routine, we've encountered a few unusual animals and surgeries. We've neutered two male opossums and did an emergency spay on a female opossum, and neutered a sugar glider (yes, he was mean!). While most of the animals we've helped are local (or at least from Maryland) we've spayed and neutered dogs from Turkey and cats from Kuwait.



Rocky, Spay Spa's 30,000 surgery, poses with Dr. Alison Mocko

Since the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook started offering spay/neuter, animal control agencies in Maryland have seen a noticeable drop in the numbers of homeless, unwanted, and accidental litters of puppies and kittens turned in. Likewise these agencies have had to euthanize less animals across the state. Last year was the first year that Anne Arundel Animal Control, our local animal control agency did not have to euthanize a healthy adoptable animal due to space limitations. We hope that with the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook's help, this trend will continue!



Out Of This World

Andromeda's world has drastically changed over the last few months. Andromeda was part of a colony of cats living in a barn on a dairy farm. The cats had an agreement with the farmer: the cats patrolled the barn and kept the mice and rats at bay and in exchange the farmer gave them food, water and warm nests to sleep in. Some of the cats and the cows became friends.

Although this agreement was working, the farmer didn't want any more cats on the farm and contacted Tip Me Frederick for help to spay, neuter and vaccinate the cats currently living there. Volunteers from Tip Me arrived to help round up the cats and prepare them for transport to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook. A little white kitty, Andromeda was one of the cats that was rounded up for the trip.



Andromeda suffered severe injuries on the farm.

We soon found out that it was a good thing that Andromeda came to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook... even though she was friends with the cows, one of them accidentally kicked her, and hurt her badly. The impact of the cow's hoof caused a tear in her diaphragm and pushed all the organs that were normally in her abdomen up into her chest cavity, crushing her lungs. The force of the kick even impacted her eyes, causing her retinas to detach.... she was badly injured.

We didn't know how badly she was injured until we were prepping her for surgery and realized that there were virtually no organs (stomach, spleen, liver or intestines) in her abdomen. She needed surgery immediately to pull her organs back through the hole in her diaphragm and re-inflate her lungs. Dr. Alison Mocko did the delicate surgery, even helping her breathe when her lungs almost stopped working.

Andromeda came through the surgery, but still had a long recovery ahead of her. Knowing that she could not go back to the barn, Spay Spa & Neuter Nook technician Andrea

took Andromeda home to recover. Luckily, Andromeda made an excellent recovery. Unfortunately, the damage from the detached retinas is permanent, so she is blind. However, that does not slow her down. She's made friends with several of Andrea's other pets and is always ready for dinner!



Trotting For Rude Ranch

Some families celebrate Thanksgiving by watching parades, or playing football before the big meal. The neighborhood of Eagles Passages celebrated the past Thanksgiving by holding a Turkey Trot fund raiser to benefit Rude Ranch Animal Rescue. Lots of families braved the cold with their dogs (most of the cats did decide to sleep in on this one) to walk/jog or run the 5k through the neighborhood. The first place runners were rewarded with trophies and first pick of the snacks and treats, including Coldstone Creamery Ice Cream!



Neighbors of Eagles Passages come out to help Rude Ranch.



Do You Shop At Amazon.com?

Did you know you can shop Amazon.com and help Rude Ranch at the same time? Amazon.com's new program, AmazonSmile will donate .5% of your purchases to Rude Ranch at no cost to you! It's simple to sign up and everything from your existing Amazon.com account will still be there! To get started just go to Smile.Amazon.com, sign up and start shopping!



In Loving Memory, Tommy Tomcat and Marilyn

Rude Ranch lost two long time residents with bigger than life personalities last fall. Tommy Tomcat, the original Rude Ranch Bad Boy and Marilyn, also known as Her Royal Highness.

Tommy came to Rude Ranch in July, 2000. He was already an adult cat with plenty of moxie. Prince Georges Feral Friends had just sprung him from a police situation at Andrews Air Force Base.



He'd been abandoned there the previous year, taken in and adopted out. Unbeknownst to PGFF, his adopter's line of work was a little outside of normal legal entities and the house was raided for drugs and prostitution. Tommy made an escape through a window during the raid.

Although his adopter made bail, PGFF felt that she could not provide an ideal environment for Tommy. He was smuggled out of PG county in a gym bag and brought to Rude Ranch. Upon arrival, Tommy had a plan for world domination. He didn't take long to figure out the schedule and workings of Rude Ranch.

He was already an expert at spraying and soon taught many of the younger cats the finer art of marking. He was also a connoisseur of catnip and had no qualms with any method of acquiring it. This included scaling human legs, breaking through window screens and climbing shelves. He developed quite a reputation as the Sanctuary Bad Boy, and was proud of his exploits: spraying a potential adopter as she filled out paperwork (she took it as a compliment), shorting out an electrical circuit while spraying a pheromone diffuser designed to eliminate spraying; and stealing a repairman's lunch while he was working on the Sanctuary's furnace. He was also caught on film spraying a cat condo while the host of "Must Love Cats" was singing his closeout song at the end of the show.

In addition to a catnip addiction Tommy was quite fond of dairy products. He insisted on having his own bowl of milk when anyone had a bowl of cereal (he preferred 2%), stole

entire sticks of butter, and fought for a tub of ice cream. (People once thought he had been in a terrible fight because he had the remains of red velvet ice cream all over his head and ears)

Although he was always healthy, Tommy was not immune to old age. His kidneys started to fail and he was on increasingly aggressive therapy to support them for the last few years. In the end his body wore out.

Marilyn was born in Arizona in October of 2000. She and her brother were both affected with cerebellar hypoplasia, a neurological disorder affecting the portion of the brain that controls fine motor skills. The kittens were wobbly but otherwise healthy.



The brother and sister were turned over to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary then adopted to a family in Chicago. Marilyn's brother was much wobblier than she was, and frequently fell and ended up on the bottom of the pile when the kitten's played. The family was concerned that Marilyn would hurt her brother and had her 4 paw de-clawed. Shortly afterwards, she stopped using her litterbox.

Marilyn's family was not happy that she wasn't using her litterbox and returned her to Best Friends. Marilyn settled into Benson's House at Best Friends and became quite well known for both her beautiful fur and her rather loud opinions. Eventually she was promoted out of a room and given the run of the main areas and lobby. She was quite the greeter!

Bob & Kathy first encountered Marilyn while visiting Best Friends in August, 2002. Marilyn felt it was imperative to settle into a lap and take a nap every afternoon when Bob & Kathy visited her area. Eventually several people suggested Marilyn pull up stakes and move to Maryland to Rude Ranch. The adoption was quickly approved.

Making a Difference *Continued from page 1*

robust program over the next 12 months to help people in the county solve their community cat problems. They will be joined by two other non profit animal rescues: CatsRus and Sunshine's Friends Cat Rescue to help make this program a huge success.

The SAVECATs program will focus on large projects targeting neighborhoods who have community cat problems and want a humane solution. Additional parts of the program will include supplies needed for conducting TNvR; maintaining community cat colonies; training for individuals and groups who want to volunteer; and a barn/working cat program to relocate community cats that cannot go back to where they are living due to safety issues.

Until the program is launched the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook will offer advice and assistance. Please email (savecats@spay-spa.org) for more information on how you can take advantage of the low cost clinics in Anne Arundel County to help you help the animals. The SPCA of Anne Arundel County and Animal Birth Control are also available to provide low cost spay & neuter services in the County.



In Loving Memory *Continued from page 6*

Once back at Rude Ranch, Marilyn settled into her role as special needs mascot. She riveled Tommy for spraying in the most places, and taught many kittens to pee in front of the litter box and scoop the litter out of the box on top of the pee spot. She always made her desires known and her ego grew a little more each time someone admired her. (Addressing Marilyn as Her Royal Highness suited her just fine)

As the years went on her kidneys started to fail, and twice weekly fluid treatments became necessary. In typical Marilyn style she was quite vocal in her opinions about the fluids and if anyone was on the phone we had to explain that we in fact were not killing a cat, but giving Her Royal Highness her meds.

Unfortunately, Marilyn's kidneys and thyroid problems became worse and finally her kidney disease progressed to a point where her kidneys shut down.

Marilyn was a trail blazer in that through her many people learned that cats with cerebellar hypoplasia can live long lives and are not limited because they are wobbly. If people were concerned, we just said that she got into the liquor cabinet a little too often. She also proved that cats can be total divas and drama queens!



YES, I would like to help the animals . . .

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue relies on donations and volunteers to carry out our mission to save the animals. We receive no federal funding. Your donation of a few dollars* or a few hours of your time can go a long way toward helping our cause.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email** _____

Please check one: () \$250 () \$100 () \$50 () \$25 () Other \$_____ () I would like to volunteer

Our Mailing address is: Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, 3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776

New! Donate online with your Mastercard, Visa, or American Express! Go to www.RudeRanch.org and click on the Visa logo. Donate online with Paypal.com. Our account name is "donate@ruderanch.org"

Does your employer have a matching donation program? If so, your donation will be doubled! Please send any matching donation documentation requirements to Rude Ranch and we will gladly process them. Thank you!

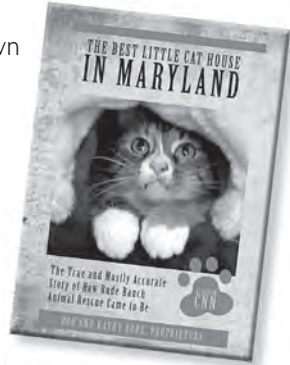
*All donations are tax deductible. ** Help us devote more of your donation toward the animals by receiving your receipt by email.



The Best Little Cat House In Maryland: The Purrfect Gift for the Animal Lover in Your Life!

It's Official! *The Best Little Cat House in Maryland* is one of the funniest, most touching books you will ever read! It's the official story of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue. It is now available in hardcover, softcover, ebook and Kindle editions!

The book explains many little known facts such as how Rude Ranch got its name, what the sanctuary was originally used for and even explains what to do in unusual situations such as floating down a river in a Chevrolet Suburban or what to do with a runaway goat in a thunderstorm.



Available through the Rude Ranch website www.RudeRanch.org/shop (it really is our sales page!) and Amazon.com. It makes a great gift for any animal lover. The proceeds of each purchase go right back to the furry residents of Rude Ranch.

Special Thanks to:

Drs. Harrison, Roller and staff at Belair Animal Hospital
Our Adoptive Families
Our Volunteers
Our many contributors
Alley Cat Allies
PetSmart Charities
The Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation
Suzanne Goll
Putts Fore Mutts Foundation
PetCo Foundation

Immediate Needs/Wish List

- Copy/Xerox paper
- Bleach & liquid laundry detergent
- Canned cat food
- Canned dog food
- Paper towels & plates
- Monetary donations

United Way # 9664



MCC #52-2312763



CFC #45379



www.spa.org
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Rude Ranch Animal Rescue

