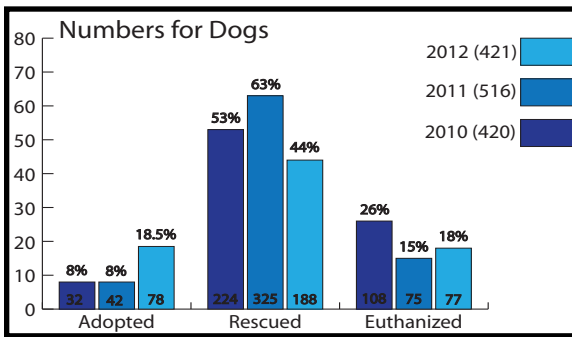




Pawprints

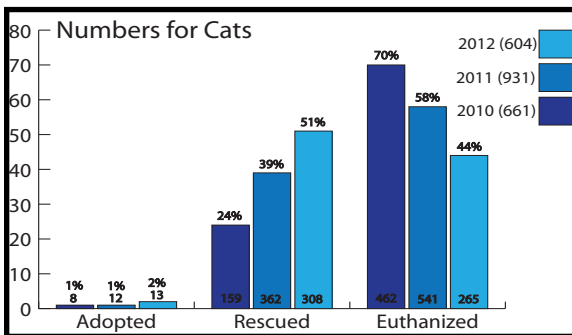
Spring 2013

Numbers Tell the Story of Lives Being Saved



Have you ever wondered how many dogs and cats are reclaimed, adopted, or rescued from the Giles County Animal Shelter on an annual basis?

Recent numbers show that the number of dogs and cats adopted or rescued from the facility went up significantly last year from the 2010-11 period. During 2011, for example, only about 8% (42) of the 516 dogs who found their way to the shelter were adopted. Last year, though, that number more than doubled to an all-time high of 18.5%! That's 78 dogs who found new and loving homes! The numbers for cats are also impressive: while adoptions remain consistent, in 2010, only 24% of 661 cats were rescued; in 2012, that number rose to more than half (51%, or 308 out of 604).



What's promising is that during the same time period, euthanizations of dogs at the shelter have decreased from 108 in 2010 to just 77 in 2012. For cats, due to rescues, that number has decreased from a high of 70% in 2010 to a low of 44% in 2012.

The funding that comes to GCAR through donations and activities such as yard sales and rabies clinics, among others, helps provide for such vital services as the rental of vans used to transport dogs and cats from Giles County to no-kill rescue facilities. These rescue missions occur every month.

In the shelter (below left), this girl was nervous and scared. All it took to help her blossom was a forever home.



Gracie

GCAR President Christine Link-Owens believes that the rescue organization's recent success increasing adoptions has a lot to do with social media. "Since we began our own web site in 2011 and now have a Facebook page, we have changed the numbers significantly," she said.

Help save a life by donating to or by volunteering with Giles County Animal Rescue. Then visit our web site at <http://www.gilescountyanimalrescue.org> and "Like" us on Facebook!

A Rescue in Photos

On April 5, GCAR volunteer Marley Campos drove a van filled with dogs to a rescue facility in Northern Virginia. Once there, the dogs were registered, as well as given new collars and an application of Frontline. They will stay at the ranch until they are adopted.



Volunteers Needed

- Trap/Neuter/Release Coordinator to help people in community t/n/r cats. Will train.
- Rescue Coordinator to coordinate rescues, arrange vet appointments & transports. Will train.

For information or to apply, write gilescountyanimalrescue@gmail.com



Drive-Thru Rabies Clinic a Success

Although Whiskers the Cat didn't seem too pleased to be receiving his rabies shot, his owner Phyllis Newbill was one of many pet lovers who expressed appreciation for the drive-through rabies clinic held by GCAR and Holistic Veterinary Consultant Dr. Marjorie Lewter on Saturday, April 20, at the Newport Recreation Center.



The weather was unseasonably cool for April, but that didn't stop the flow of owners who brought their dogs and cats to get vaccinated. Hunting dogs like blue ticks, redbones, and black-and-tans often came four to a truck during the busy morning, which saw 67 dogs and cats receive their rabies shots.

Dr. Lewter volunteers her services for the day, and part of the proceeds of the event support the group's adoption and rescue efforts.

PHOTOS: Whiskers receives his rabies vaccination from Dr. Lewter as he is held by his Mom, Phyllis Newbill. Andrea Pulliam brought her two pups to the clinic as well: Turbo gets a shot, while Diesel waits in the truck.

GCAR Connects with Tractor Supply

Adoption events held in public spaces increase the chance that a former shelter animal will find a loving home, but willing community partners also play a great role in their success. GCAR has found such a partner in the new Tractor Supply store in Pearisburg, where two adoption events were held in March and April.

During the events, animals were available for adoption, and educational information was distributed. The events would not have been possible, GCAR President Christine Link-Owens said, without the kindness of Tractor Supply management, who moved their own inventory around to make room for the GCAR tables and animal's crates on both occasions. "Three cheers to Tractor Supply for supporting animal rescue groups such as ours," Link-Owens added.

She also extended her thanks to the volunteers who took shifts throughout the events. "It shows what a great team we have right now," she said.

PHOTOS: Black-and-tan Patsy settles down for a snooze during the March adoption event. She was one of several hounds up for adoption. GCAR volunteers manned tables and distributed educational info.



Paws for a Cause, Please!

Rain couldn't dampen the spirits of walkers, runners, and their devoted companions on April 28 as the Virginia Tech student organization Helping Animals Learn to Trust (HALT) held its third annual fundraiser walk/run.

GCAR was one of the local rescue organizations to have a table at the event and to benefit from the dedication of VT students and community members. *Photos by Marley Campos and Amanda Shrader.*

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 6/16

- Father's Day Bash in Eggleston
- Hosted by Palisades Restaurant
- Outdoor festival with live music, children's activities, and tons of fun!
- We'll be there with information and pets for adoption.
- 11 am - 6 pm

Saturday, 7/13

- Low-Cost Vaccination Clinic (with Bold Springs Vet Service)
- Rich Creek Community Center, Rich Creek
- 8:30 am - noon