



Valerie has a 3 year anniversary coming up. Assistant Manager & Senior Medical Officer, she's Lena's right hand person. Together they make an awesome team. Valerie is a fast learner, dedicated to the animals and our Cat Whisperer, absolutely fearless with the ferals. Never one to shirk hard work, she's right there when a pig or emu needs to be caught. Thank you Valerie, you're fabulous!



Paul our Senior Cat Specialist has been with us 2 years, the most recent 18 wonderful months as an employee; he volunteered before that. He loves the kitties and enjoys working to make their lives happy, comfortable and clean. Feline Fields is his domain and I'm sure you've seen lovely improvements since he took over. Thank you Paul, from me and the kitties who love you!



Lunch break with friends

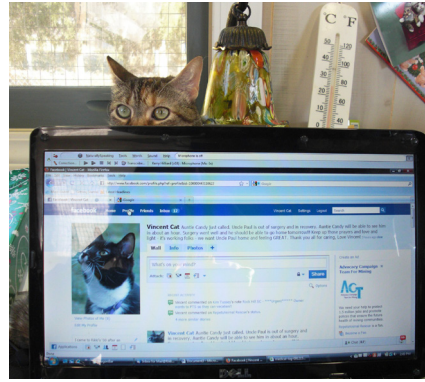
James joined our staff 9 months ago as a Medical Officer. A certified Acupressurist, horse enthusiast and with veterinary office experience he's certainly an asset to our team. We're very pleased to add the healing touch of acupressure to the daily regime for all the animals. Thank you James, for being a part of the Rikki's team!



Billy signed on at the end of summer as an Animal Caretaker and quickly learned the intricacies of "The Farm", caring for all animal neighborhoods except Feline Fields. This puts Doggy Downs, Piggy Paradise, Emu Estates, Ducky Digs, Goosey Gardens, Chicken City, Guinea Fowl Grounds, Rabbit Rotunda, Cavy Castle, Pheasant Phacility, Pigeon Palace, Bovine Boulevard, Capri Corners, Horsey Haven, Ramsey Residence, Peacock Prowls, Turkey Terrace and more under his care! And in his spare time he takes care of various maintenance issues! Thank you Billy, for a job very well done!



Rikki's Refuge was voted number one in the state of Virginia! Would you like to see YOUR Rikki's Refuge number one on the planet? The number one shelter will be decided on December 19th. We're pretty close, sixth place right now. **You can help us move closer to number one nationwide by voting every day.** It's very simple, go to our website www.RikkisRefuge.org and click on the \$100,000, this will take you to the Shelter Challenge, enter Rikkis Refuge in VA in the USA and follow the directions to cast your vote. It's quick, it's simple and it's free! Please **vote every day** through December 19th.



Social Media



They say behind every successful on-line cat is a cat?

Vincent met his beloved Polly, who lives in England, thru Facebook.

Vincent D. Cat entered the world of social media and took the world by storm. He's taken over public appearances, newsletter writing, and all kinds of my tasks! Thank you, Vincent!

Many of you who receive Reflections also get our weekly e-mail newsletter Hairballs so You Know What's Coming up at Rikki's Refuge. Some of you get our new mini daily newsletter, written by Vincent D. Cat, the perennial optimist. **Good Morning Good News** is intended to bring a smile to your face and give you a laugh, all pawstitive all the time! Let him know if you'd like a **free subscription for 2011**. Vincent@RikkisRefuge.org

What Vincent hasn't taken over in the office Mary has! Working in the office two days a week and handling phone calls from home, she processes the mail, keeps track of everything and tidies up the loose ends. Thank you Mary!

Volunteers who treat their work like a job and who can be counted on to be there when you need them are a huge cornerstone keeping Rikki's standing. When the going got rough and we felt the pinch of the economy, Cindy stepped up to take care of Doggy Downs, and many other chores, every Saturday. She and Alumni Spokes Dog Walker come out to give a day of service making sure everybody is fed and cleaned and taken care of. And she always comes with her jeep overflowing with goodies, paper towels, food, laundry detergent and all the good stuff! Thank you Cindy!



Dog Training Tip

When training your dog, use a treat that won't cause crumbs. Hotdogs make great training treats, because the dog will eat it quickly and give his attention right back to you! Crumbs can be distracting, since they will want to eat every morsel before giving their attention back to you. Also, keep in mind the size of the dog -- if one hotdog will fill your tummy, compare your size to your dog's size. One hotdog will make about 30 treats for a medium to large-sized dog, or 60 treats for a small dog. The rewards don't have to be big -- just tasty!

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