

One Volunteer's Story Mary Walker

I first learned of Rikki's Refuge through the Combined Federal Campaign. Subsequently, I went to an Open House there and decided that this was a place where I might volunteer.

While I am in awe of the folks who volunteer while still employed, I didn't start until after I retired, in 2007. In the past 3 years I have seen new buildings go up, seen animals come and go, made friends, and have come to realize how vitally important volunteers are to this place.

Currently I am at Rikki's two days a week, but we have many different types of volunteer needs, so one doesn't have to make a major time commitment. To give you an idea of what's needed, following are descriptions of my volunteer experience at Rikki's, roughly in the order in which I took them on-

Cat Feeder –

Fed canned cat food to the outdoor runs, which involved opening about 100 cans of cat food. I am so glad most cans had the pop and pull lids, as can openers tend to have a short life at Rikki's. However, because we must feed what's donated, there was a spell of feeding the individual packets and that was tedious. Rip the top off (and of course they didn't want to rip straight across), smoosh the sides to loosen the contents and dump. Since the packets were only half the size of the cans, there were twice as many to open. My dogs were delighted when I came home as I usually had cat food all over me and smelled really good – at least to them!



Washer Woman –


There are a lot of dirty things which need washing. Rikki's uses the black contractor mixing trays as litter boxes. So spread them out in a row, splash in soap and bleach, spay with hose to loosen the stuck on parts, fill with water, scrub with brush, rinse and lean up against something to air dry. There were also plenty of totes (we use them for feed storage) to wash, and a never ending (bath)tub of feed bowls to wash. It isn't unusual to spend 2 hours just doing dishes. Since I'm an "energetic" washer, I'm usually sodden by the time I leave.



Volunteer Director –

In July of 2008, several of us got together to try to improve the volunteer program. As a result of that meeting, I took on this position, as no one else wanted to do it. I worked on updating a volunteer handbook and volunteer application, set a training schedule and led monthly training programs, organized work parties for specific one time chores and put together a volunteer awards party earlier this year. I was always handicapped in this regard as I didn't want to come on weekends as my husband was still working and I wanted to be able to do things with him on weekends. Fortunately another volunteer subsequently took on this position and is doing a bang-up job.



 *Give from the Heart in 2010*
Commonwealth of
Virginia Campaign
#3163

Rikki's Refuge
&
Wild and Feral
are divisions of
Life Unlimited of Virginia, Inc


Combined Federal
Campaign #77674

Board Member –

I was honored to be asked to join the Board of Directors, so I try to make the monthly meetings and give my input on what we can do to keep Rikki's motoring along.



Event Person –

We have fund raisers in many forms and need bodies for lots of different jobs when we do, so I help as often as I can.



Office Staff –

Currently I am helping record data and doing the bank deposits. I had no idea how much paperwork there was in running an animal sanctuary and am doing my small bit to free up the CEO to attend to other things.



If you are at all interested in volunteering, give it a try. I hope your experience will be as rewarding as mine has been.

----- Mary



Tupperware®

Amy has set up a wonderful fundraiser for Rikki's to receive 40% of sales, and a place you can get fabulous gifts for everybody. Hey, even I could use some!! Maybe the goats wouldn't get all my food!

Check out the selection at: <http://bit.ly/RikkisTupperware> or from www.RikkisRefuge.org Questions? Amy amysommer126@yahoo.com

Did you know that Rikki's is an ebay approved charity?

Anyone can sell an item on e-bay, and have a percentage of the sale price donated to Rikki's! Not only will your item have better visibility, due to the "charity item" icon, but you will also receive a credit, based on the donation percentage, on your final selling fees. So, if you donate 10% of the selling price to Rikki's, you will receive a credit of 10% from your final selling fee. Donate 100%, and you will not pay any selling fees! It's that simple. E-bay will make sure that the

money gets to Rikki's (via PayPal). Have a better chance of selling your item, and help the animals at Rikki's at the same time!

Melissa dogslife24@comcast.net
(if you need help setting this up)



I bid a bazillion kibbles for a good home!

