



Reporting in just after our first Fundraising Speuter Clinic at Culpeper Animal Hospital -- drum roll please -- 51 kitties will live happily ever after without populating the planet with more unwanted babies!!! Great big huge thanks to doctors Meredith Vargas, Susan Jacobson, Andrea Kellum and Lisa Marsico. And to everyone who volunteered the day to make it possible: Barbara White, April Nelson, Mary Burns, Michele Seale, Courtney Rosenberger, Sarah Peyton, Julie Peyton, Becca Hitt, Lisa Havilland, Maddie Heneghan and Quaid Coxey. And Jenny, who kept trying to sneak about and get in carriers! She's the office kitty!

"Sorry I didn't get back to you sooner, been running around returning the carriers and trap I borrowed. Mom and all the kids are doing real good so far. I've been keeping them all in doors to monitor their stitches and general after operations behavior. There's no swelling on any of them nor are they licking the wounds, which is good. Their appetites are back to normal as well as their playful kitten romps. The Culpeper Animal Hospital staff and Kerry Hilliard of Rikki's Refuge were awesome, very professional and well organized. We checked in right at 7:AM and I picked the kids up at 12 noon. They slept quietly during the hour and a half ride home. I am so grateful to you and Kerry for helping me get this organized and for the financial assistance Spay Inc. helped me with here. Thank You So Much," Duane

Thank you Dr. Meredith Vargas, Dr. Andrea Kellum, Dr. Susan Jacobson and everyone else at Culpeper Animal Hospital for loving and caring for all our animals again this year. No matter what kinds of special needs or unusual problems my animals present to you, you make the time and take the effort to give them the best quality of life possible.

THIRD ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

--- Donna Edwards

If you missed the Tournament on July 16, 2010 at Cannon Ridge Golf Club, you missed one awesome time! Beautiful weather, great golf, delicious food, fabulous prizes. Guest appearances by the Washington Redskins' Hogettes and Autumn-Skye Port, Ms. Virginia East Coast USA. All to raise funds for the animals of Rikki's Refuge. And thanks to the generosity of so many wonderful folks and businesses, we did just that.

Holding an event such as a golf tournament is not an easy task! It requires a tremendous amount of effort by all those involved in putting the event together. So a big thank you to Tournament Chairperson Donna Edwards, Jan Chetnik, Deloris Quick, Candy and Paul Erhard, Tom Sabol, Donna Winans, Debra Barrett, Mary Walker, Helen and Adam Hauser, Nancy Long, Katarina Galvin, Mariza Soliman, Cindy Wright, Melanie Hansford, Judith Peele, Fred Friedman, and Kerry Hilliard. We could not have done it without the efforts of each of these folks.

We also couldn't have done it without the generous support of our sponsors. So, a great big thank you goes out to the following:

Co-Sponsors: Fredericksburg Distributing Company, TSM Corporation, Xerox, and The Mark Foss Brown Team (Keller Williams Realty, Richmond);

Luncheon Sponsor: Classic Car Center of Fredericksburg;

Contest Sponsors: PermaTreat, Hilddrup Properties, The Bigger The Better Canine Camp, TSM Corp., Confederate Ridge Animal Hospital & Jan Chetnik;

Hole Sponsors: Eagle River Construction and Jan Chetnik;

Goody Bag Sponsor: Flagship Wealth Management Group LLC

And the door prizes! So many to choose from. Thanks to the following businesses for providing all the wonderful prizes: FDC; Giant; Dulles Executive Pet Center; Mango Mike's; Olde Towne Pet Resort; Joe Theismann's; Famous Dave's; Hard Times Café; Outback Steakhouse; Red Lobster; Romano's Macaroni Grill; Safeway; Top Golf USA; Felix and Oscar; Olive Garden; Sam's Subs and Pizzas; Wings to Go; Massage Matters; 610 Car Wash; Amy's Café; Two Sisters Boutique; Pup 'N Iron; The Cat's Closet; Cheeseburger in Paradise; Red Robin; The Silver Spider; Irish Eyes of Virginia; TGI Friday's; Chick-Fil-A; Home Depot; Pancho Villa; Starbucks; Pulliam's Auto Center; Real Food; Ted's Montana Grill; Mario's; Inn on Poplar Hill; Bonefish Grill; Moe's Southwest Grill; Papa John's; Lone Star Steakhouse; Tempo Restaurant; Lee's Hill Golf Course; Fawn Lake Golf.

This year's tournament included an auction, hosted by guest auctioneer Autumn-Skye Port, Ms. Virginia East Coast USA. We had a wide assortment of items, from original artwork and prints to vintage jewelry to a wine rack and accent table. We wish to thank the following for their generosity in donating items specifically for the auction: Powell's Furniture; Woodcrafts by Miller; Pup 'N Iron Canine Fitness and Learning Center; Eddy Sheffield; Melissa Felts; Arooo Studios; Cakes by Terry; Helen Hauser; Barbara Lowe; Lee Juslin; Viktor Reinhardt; Institute for Performance and Potential; Joe Callahan; Donna Edwards; & Kerry Hilliard.

Thanks also go out to our host, Cannon Ridge Golf Club in Fredericksburg. The folks there did a fantastic job in preparing for our tournament and making sure that everything ran smoothly.

Finally, a huge thank you goes out to all the players who came out to play and show their support for Rikki's Refuge. We hope to see you again next year!



SPEUTER COMMUTER - PANAJACHEL, GUATEMALA

--- Courtney Rosenberger

In December, Dr. Meredith Vargas and her husband, Juan, will be returning to Guatemala for the 3rd annual spay and neuter clinic.

Meredith and Juan spent 5 months in Guatemala 4 years ago while adopting their first 2 children, Nicolas and Rubi. They became close to a lot of other adoptive families. They wanted to stay close to them and the native people. During that stay they met Sharon Smart, one of the founders of Mayan Families. Mayan Families, a non-profit organization, helps families in the Lake Atitlan region with many programs from animal welfare to medical clinics to building schools. They organize sponsorship for over 1000 children so they can attend school. Their programs are aimed to empower the people to help themselves.

While Meredith runs the spay and neuter clinic each year, another adoptive mom is runs a medical clinic for Mayan Families. During that week over 1,000 tamale baskets and Christmas presents for the children are packed and distributed to families. It's a busy time for the organization, but somehow it all gets done. The timing of the spay and neuter clinic before the holiday is important, as that is the time the towns poison the street animals. Mayan Families works very hard with local governments to minimize this thru monthly spay and neuter clinics. They also work with the community, especially the children, teaching humane education and animal welfare. The Guatemala vet school has been an integral part of the program. Each year 5-10 students come to help out. They help during the year with monthly clinics run by the local veterinarian, Dr Miguel De Leon Regil.

Each year the clinic has been able to help more and more animals with the help and support of our wonderful community and clients. In 2008, they spayed and neutered 88 animals during the week. Last year, with lots of fundraising, they were able to do 166 cats and dogs! Becca, one of Culpeper Animal Hospital's technicians, was lucky enough to go and work for the week. She says that it was definitely a life changing experience and plans to return next year also.

Meredith feels very blessed that she is able to do something so important for people who are not able to afford care for their animals. Without these clinics, they never would get needed care. For more information on Mayan Families or to make a donation, visit www.MayanFamilies.org. To learn more about the December spay and neuter clinics visit Dr. Meredith Vargas' website at www.CulpeperVet.com. Mention this article and get a free nail trim with a wellness exam.

For an appointment call Culpeper Animal Hospital at 540-829-9085.