

Visiting Rikki's Refuge

Imelda Samaniego
(dear and close friend of Vincent)

Anyone living the fast paced city life understands the need for a sanctuary from the constant onslaught of the mind and emotions. That slice of heaven is just a couple of hours from our nation's capital in Orange, Virginia at Rikki's Refuge. It is the place where the human, furry, feathery and even scaly can go for fresh air and open lands filled with peace, love and all the nurturing care God intended for us. Animals from various desperate situations converge on this



Eden to find their salvation. It is run by a genuine queen of stewardship, her staff and kind volunteers. Holding court among this menagerie is the Spokes Cat Vincent who entertains visitors with purring kisses and shows how even a three legged kitty found a place to call home when nobody else wanted him.

On this vast farm there are neighborhoods for each species, while some lucky healthy dogs, cats and even fowl are allowed to run free. As you stroll about the property a gregarious sans tail Havana named Taco will be your guide as he lives up to his reputation as the knave of hearts. If you are more



of a dog person, the huge white dogs Beauty and KiKi will do their part to win you over.

Watch out for the goats, who all look perpetually pregnant thanks in part to a great diet and their not so fussy palate as they nudge you to feed them and scratch between their horns. During your tour among the delighted residents the explanation for their contentment is found in the exquisite medical care and daily upkeep for special need animals as well as the general population.

The inhabitants of Rikki's Refuge rely on donations from the public to keep their home running smoothly. Cost of medicine alone is astronomical and there are so many in need of extra veterinary assistance. Vincent is a prime example as a hit and run survivor who required surgery and now constant maintenance of other physical issues which stemmed from the initial trauma. There are the chronically ill with leukemia, FIV, diabetes, heart disease and cancers, whose needs are not cheap either, but in order to give them the quality life they deserve and receive must be met. These babies who would have received the needle if not for Rikki's Refuge get to live out their remaining days in a happy, clean environment where the humans tend to them with unconditional love.

Right now there is a financial crisis at this idealistic farm. Criminals took credit cards, tapped into bank accounts and stole mail box keys to get access to money sent via post. Local law enforcement and the post office are working towards exacting justice. This means that all the funding used to look after the animals is lost or frozen. Grounds keeping, administration of medicine and daily care are being forcibly stretched thin due to this selfish act of robbery. Rikki's Refuge is in great need of assistance from the public and any kind of donation or volunteer labor would be greatly appreciated. So please help out Vincent and his buddies living at one of the few strongholds of altruism on this earth!

RIKKI's GLOBAL IMPACT

One thing a lot of people don't know is how much Rikki's takes the strain off of other rescues. Pets such as Brutus and Maggie May who were unable to be cared for as well long term by Winging Cat Rescue, and countless other FIV and Feluk cats and old dogs and cats who funnel in from other shelters unprepared to deal with their special needs. Having such a wonderful working relationship with Winging Cat Rescue out of Georgia, and so many other shelters up and down the east coast, is such a wonderful and vitally important part of Rikki's work.

I want to remind people of that, that our work takes on a more global, much bigger than just Virginia, approach. No matter where you live, it's likely that Rikki's is helping the animals in your area somehow. Supporting Rikki's is like helping animals all over, especially on the east coast, as we are in some way, also likely connected to the animals wherever you are.

--- Autumn-Skye Port

I'd like to add that it's very important when organizations like Winging Cat Rescue understand the impact of life care for an animal. Every animal costs money to care for every day. Many of our life care patients have special needs which make them cost even more. There just aren't enough donations to care for everybody. We greatly appreciate this understanding from our sister shelters, such as Winging Cat Rescue, Siamese Cat Rescue Center, and others who help us with ongoing costs. These organizations understand that we each have our niche and working together is the only way no kill can work.



Vincent's Vittles

Help make it a success! Feed the Cat House of your choice on the day of your choice for \$25 a month. See page 17 for details of this new program. Then sponsor your favorite Cat House. I think we need t-shirts for this program, Candy!

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RIKKI'S ?

This 367 acres of heaven for all living things lies just east of the town of Orange, in the rolling piedmont of Central Virginia. For easy to click links simply go to www.RikkisRefuge.org/FindUs

Web: www.RikkisRefuge.org
eMail: mail@RikkisRefuge.org
Phone: 540-854-0870, x2 volunteer/visit, x3 events
Address: PO Box 1357, Orange VA 22960
Map: rikkisrefuge.org/facebook/SummaryPage/Map.html
Calendar: www.localendar.com/public/rikkisrefuge (rss available)
Donate: <http://bit.ly/SaveLivesNow> (recurring monthly donations are awesome)
<http://bit.ly/GivingSite>
<http://rikkisrefuge.chipin.com/rikkis-refuge>
paypal.com mail@rikkisrefuge.org
CFC 77674 Combined Federal Campaign
CVC 3163 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign
PetSmart Charities 1377
Shop: www.rikkisrefuge.org/Rikkis/ShopAndSave.html
including iGive, Amazon, GoodSearch, PetSmart, Krogers, SaveAPetMall
www.rikkisrefuge.org/Rikkis/kroger.html
www.cafepress.com/RikkisRefuge
www.zazzle.com/rikkis_refuge10
<http://bit.ly/RikkisRefuge> enter Rikkis Refuge VA USA
<http://bit.ly/RikkiEbay>
Vote: www.rikkisrefuge.org/Rikkis/Help.html
eBay: www.rikkisrefuge.org/Rikkis/Help.html
How to Help: www.rikkisrefuge.org/Rikkis/Their%20Stories.html
Residents: rikkisrefuge
Twitter: www.rikkisrefuge.blogspot.com
Blog: www.flickr.com/photos/rikkis_refuge
Flickr: www.youtube.com/user/rikkisrefuge
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/rikkisrefuge
Stickam: vincentdcat
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Vincent.D.Cat
www.facebook.com/pages/Rikkis-Refuge/169651012390
Adopt: www.petfinder.com/shelters/VA97.html
[www.adoptapet.com/ search "22960" "Rikki's Refuge"](http://www.adoptapet.com/search/22960)
Volunteer: www.volunteermatch.org/search/org14024.jsp
Razoo: www.razoo.com/giving_catalog?kw=Rikki%27s+Refuge
Guidestar: [www2.guidestar.org/organizations/54-1911042/](http://www2.guidestar.org/organizations/54-1911042/life-unlimited-virginia.aspx)
life-unlimited-virginia.aspx
Gossip: <http://greatnonprofits.org/reviews/life-unlimited-of-virginia-inc>
Press: network.bestfriends.org search for "Rikki's Refuge"
fredericksburg.com/sitemap search for "Rikki's Refuge"
www2.staffordcountysun.com search for "Rikki's Refuge"
www2.orangenews.com search for "Rikki's Refuge"
www2.starexponent.com search for "Rikki's Refuge"
www.co.caroline.va.us/rikkisrefuge.html
www.nbc29.com search for "Rikki's Refuge"
www.virginia.org search for "Rikki's Refuge"
www2.newsvirginian.com search for "Rikki's Refuge"
Publications: Reflections, printed quarterly \$45 family membership
Hariballs free weekly e-scription Kerry@RikkisRefuge.org
Good Morning Good News: free daily e-scription
Vincent@RikkisRefuge.org
Donation Locations: where to drop donations if you can't make it to Rikki's
Booth Feed, Rt 3 Spotsylvania & Rt 17 Stafford
5037 Plank Rd 1186 Warrenton Rd
Confederate Ridge Animal Hospital,
2301 1/2 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Fredericksburg
La Rue Hair Saloon, 243 E Church St, Orange
Culpeper Animal Hospital, 441 Aspen St, Culpeper
Northern Virginia, contact Fred 703-568-7205 or fred@z9a.com

We survive only on donations. Your donations always provide direct support. Only 4% of our income is spent on fundraising and management, 96% is spent directly on the animals you love. A financial statement is available upon written request from the State Office of Consumer Affairs.