College of William and Mary colleagues Richard Proper and Olga Trofimova, based in the Applied Research Center heard persistent mewing on Sept. 30 by the first floor restrooms. They informed Amy Wilkerson, W&M lab and research manager. So they headed down the hall to find the source of the plaintive cry. They kept hearing the mewing and identified the source of the persistent cry as coming from the vending machine. Amy laid down on the floor and looked under the machine, but saw nothing.

"Richard offered me a dollar to try and get it out," Amy said. "Needless to say, I declined the offer. We looked all around the machine, but couldn't see where the crying was coming from. I called over to Facilities Management to see if they could contact the vendor. There was a kitty stuck in the machine."

Olga got some ham out from a lunch sandwich to try to coax the kitten out. "We kept calling and calling," Amy continued. "Natalie Brock (W&M) and Jim Boyce (JLab Tech Transfer manager) came along at that point and offered to help. Olga (the tiniest member of our group) managed to slide around the side of the machine and held out the ham. Maybe the kitten smelled it. Anyway, to make a long story short: She climbed out of the machine at that point and Jim and Natalie cornered and caught her. After eating the ham, she decided she wanted me."

"Nat and I made a quick trip to Pet Smart so we could take care of her at work during the day. Everyone stopped by to see her. I took the kitten to the vet yesterday afternoon. After determining she was a she, and about 7 weeks old, she got her first distemper shot, got tested for everything under the sun and the vet told me she was totally healthy. Amy decided to keep the kitten and has named her CC – short for Coca Cola."

"I did take CC home and she is now getting acquainted with my two 14 year old cats. That is a totally different story," Amy added.

Edited by Deborah Magaldi, Jefferson Lab