



Kitty Angels

An All-Volunteer, Non-Profit Shelter for Needy Cats

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www.kittyangels.org



...A Newsletter for our Friends and Supporters

Issue #11

It's Our 30 Year Anniversary !!

by Joan Abbott

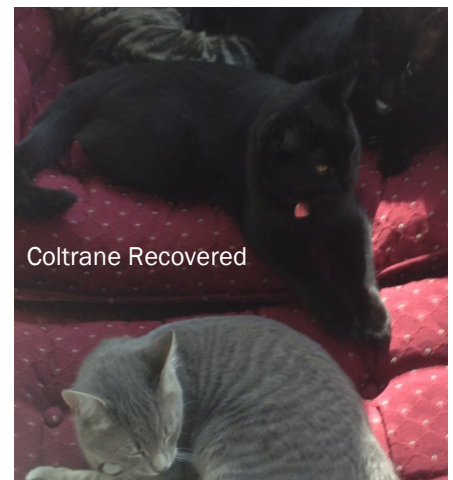
Kitty Angels was started thirty years ago. Our goal has always been to help the cats that wouldn't stand a chance elsewhere...the ferals, the shy and abandoned ones, the gravely injured cats that would routinely be put to sleep. As we reflect back on all those years – on the thousands of cats we have helped, the people we have met, the selfless volunteers who have stepped forward, and on our dedicated followers and supporters – we are humbled by all that we have collectively accomplished in working towards our common goal. Let us tell you about a very special cat that we rescued this year...



One frigid night, just after a blizzard, Coltrane dragged his tired little bones to a doorway in Dorchester, where his meowing caught the attention of the homeowner. When the home owner opened the door he saw a trail of blood in the snow leading up to a starved and injured cat on his doorstep. He picked up the freezing cat, who was barely able to walk, and laid him down on a warm blanket inside his home. He called a friend, a Kitty Angels volunteer, who rushed to pick the cat up and transport him to our vet. Our vets told us that they were very skeptical about him surviving. His feet were riddled with more than thirty pockets of infection that ran down to his bones. He also had a large abscess that ran up his leg. They feared that he would lose all four paws because he was so weakened from all he had endured. We had

to give this beautiful cat the chance that he deserved, so we asked the vets to do their best to help him recover. They began soaking and debriding his wounds and administering antibiotics and fluids. All four of his legs were covered in bandages and for several days it was touch and go. It took quite some time for Coltrane to recover completely, and he required an extended stay at the vet's office during his recovery. But this little fighter of a feline possessed an amazing will to live and his recovery was nothing short of remarkable! The vet who had initially seen Coltrane could only shake her head and say "If there's one thing I've learned from working with Kitty Angels and the cats they rescue, it is that you can NEVER count any of these cats out. They have resilience like I've never seen."

Coltrane's story captures exactly what we do and will continue to do. Our 30th year was an incredible year – we had a record number of incoming cats and we doubled the number of low cost spay/neuter clinics we run. But helping more cats also resulted in our highest vet bills ever. We ask for your donations to help us continue doing this important work as we enter our 31st year. As an all-volunteer organization, every penny donated goes directly to the care of the cats. We ask because they can not. With gratitude...



*"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."
Winston Churchill*

HOW YOU CAN HELP KITTY ANGELS

I'm Worth It



- 🐱 *Money...to pay for the daily care and medical bills of the cats.*
- 🐱 *Shop online at Amazon.com and other stores. A portion of the purchase price will benefit Kitty Angels and it costs you nothing! Details at www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html.*
- 🐱 *Specify that a portion of your eBay auction sales benefit Kitty Angels and get an eBay "Giving Works" icon for your listings. We think "Giving Works" listings bring in more bids!*
- 🐱 *Donate online through PayPal (best for Kitty Angels) or Network for Good (anonymous and/or recurring donations)...or donate a car, truck, RV or boat and get a tax deduction...see www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html for details.*
- 🐱 *Does your employer have a Matching Gift Program? Multiply your donation by using it.*
- 🐱 *Treasures Antiques & Collectibles, Amherst, NH, has generously donated a booth for the sale of items to benefit Kitty Angels. Visit them on Rte. 122, just 1/4 mile south of Rte. 101A.*
- 🐱 *Buying or Selling a Home? Gail Mosher of Sterling Stone Real Estate, in Chelmsford, MA, will donate 10% of her commission to Kitty Angels. Kitty Angels received four house sale donations this year!! Call 978-430-8055, or e-mail gailm@sterlingstonere.com.*
- 🐱 *Gail Mosher will place donated antiques, collectibles or other items in Treasures Antiques shop or will sell them online through PurrfectTreasures.com or ebay. 100% of the proceeds will go to Kitty Angels. Call her at 978-430-8055 or e-mail gailm@sterlingstonere.com.*
- 🐱 *Specify that your United Way payroll donation go to Kitty Angels. Ask your employer.*
- 🐱 *Gift Cards for gasoline, Walmart, PetSmart, Petco, Market Basket, etc.*
- 🐱 *Leftover medical supplies, prescription drugs and foods are always needed: insulin, syringes, fluids and prescription cat foods for thyroid, diabetes, heart and other problems.*
- 🐱 *Cat Food, Kitty Litter, Postage Stamps, Towels, Cleaning Supplies*

They Rely on Your Generosity

Each year brings increasing numbers of cats into our shelter, requiring that we supply more veterinary services, food, litter and shelter space – and that we care for a growing number of “unplaceable” cats in foster homes and TNR colonies. *We're so grateful for your donations* – without them so many of the cats that we have been able to save would have simply been added to the grim statistics of animal suffering. Thank you so very much for your help – but please understand that our task never ends and that we need your continued support to continue our work!! There are so many ways to help – some are listed below and you can find more information on our website at www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html

For these and other ways you can help, please visit the How to Help page on our web site at www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html



Like us on
Facebook

Kitty Angels is on Facebook!

Look for updates and events and join us there.

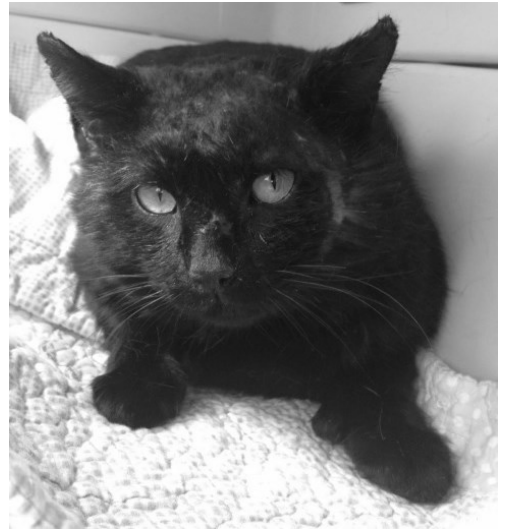
“It is much easier to show compassion to animals. They are never wicked.”

Haile Selassie

Did you know that black cats are the least likely to be adopted?

Sadly, the myth that they bring bad luck, and the fact that there are a lot of black cats, means that black cats wait much longer to be adopted. At one point this past year we had almost 20 of them waiting for homes, being overlooked time after time on adoption days. Some have been waiting for over a year, just because of their color. Here are two of our favorite black cats from 2013.

FIASCO A kind woman was desperately searching for help for a feral cat she had been seeing in her Lowell neighborhood for some time. The cat had disappeared a few days prior and when he showed back up, it was clear that something was terribly wrong. His entire head was swollen and draining blood. His wounds looked like he had been grabbed and bitten by a larger animal. The wounds were grossly infected; he was lethargic and unsteady on his feet. Using a humane trap, we got him to our vet to be seen and examined. They were very concerned about his prognosis, but began treating with rounds of antibiotics and fluids to hydrate him and bring his fever down. The cat patiently accepted help during his hospitalization, never acting aggressively. He would flinch when touched, as if human contact caused some sort of electrical shock to his body. His hospitalization and treatments lasted for over a week until he was stable enough to be put in a foster home, where he would continue to be nursed back to health. We discovered in time that this poor injured cat was actually not feral, but another abandoned, forgotten feline, that had been tossed out by his owner. His reactions were that of a cat that had either been abused or had been outside for much of his life. In his foster home, weeks became months, and Fiasco began to trust and blossom more and more each day. By the time he made his adoption debut, Fiasco didn't at all resemble the pathetic medical nightmare that we had taken in months earlier. He was now self-assured, seeking out attention, and returning affection with head butts and kisses. He had even begun to play with toys and catnip. Fiasco became a favorite during his time with us. When he was adopted into his forever home, as difficult as it was to say goodbye, we celebrated the victory of this one little hero of a man, and his resolve to recover and learn to love and trust again. These victories are what keep us going when we start to feel the burnout that rescue work so often brings. Cheers to Fiasco! May you live long and prosper!

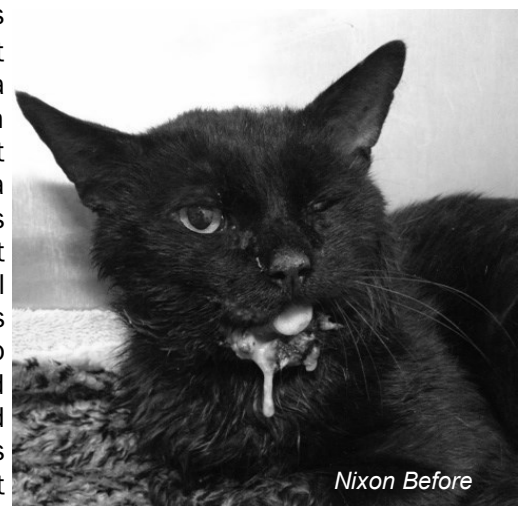


NIXON The heat had been relentless for weeks and the homeless black cat had been wandering the city looking for food when he was hit by a car. No one stopped to help him. Suffering horrific injuries — a broken jaw, head trauma, bruising and abrasions from being dragged on the pavement — he was barely able to crawl. Days passed. Unable to eat



or drink, he finally found a quiet place to rest for his final hours. But this was not going to be his end. An angel intervened. A Kitty Angels volunteer, who happened to hear about him and abandoned all else to go and get him. The smell of his infection was so bad that she almost passed out. Our

vet's first priority was to relieve his immense level of pain. He always remained a gentleman as they cleaned the infection, stabilized him, and then began the first of several surgeries to wire his broken jaw, reattach the gums that had been separated from his jawbone, and remove the remains of the teeth that had been broken upon impact with the car. Now look at him; in a loving home, enjoying the life that every black cat deserves!



“The question is not Can they reason? Nor Can they talk? But Can they suffer?”

Jeremy Bentham

Please help break the cycle of overpopulation...



Kitty Angels offers a **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic** twice a month (on Sundays) at Animal Rescue Veterinary Services in Londonderry, NH.

Cats are spayed or neutered, receive distemper and rabies vaccinations, a physical exam, and are microchipped.

Other treatment can be provided for an additional fee. Kittens must weigh a minimum of 2 pounds. A suggested donation of \$85 per cat is requested and grant money may be available for those who cannot afford the fee.

The **BEST WAY** to make an appointment is to email lindab@kittyangels.org. If you don't have internet access, call the shelter and someone will get back to you. Cats are dropped off in the morning and picked up later the same day.

We spend countless hours dealing with the tragic results of cat overpopulation. Our low cost spay/neuter clinic was established four years ago to help people get their cats spayed/neutered. This year we doubled the number of clinics to twice a month instead of once a month due to demand but we still have a waiting list. With the additional clinics, the request for assistance has grown as well. So far we have spayed/neutered 2246 cats at the clinic!! Can you help us continue to save lives and spay /neuter cats that would otherwise not be done? Any donation amount will help! Please help break the cycle of pet overpopulation!

The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society also offers low cost spay/neuter packages on their "Catmobile." The Catmobile is in Lowell once a week, as well as other towns throughout MA. Check the MRFRS website @ www.mrfrs.org for dates and times. For appointments and information call 978-465-1940.



Foster Care...Can You Help?

Kitty Angels does not have a physical shelter so we are looking for new foster homes for some of our special cats. They might be shy abandoned cats that simply need some nurturing and time to feel safe again. Or, they might be feral kittens that need socialization — perhaps a one-on-one situation where they can learn to trust and experience what the life of a kitten is supposed to be like. Sometimes we have medical cases that need recovery time for bones or stitches to heal. If you have a comfortable room and would consider giving love, kindness and comfort to a cat or kitten, please contact us for more information.

Lowell Trap-Neuter-Return Coalition

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a humane alternative to euthanasia for managing and reducing feral and stray cat populations. Cats are trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, humanely marked by ear-tipping so that they can be identified, and returned to the site of capture. Caretakers provide food, water and shelter for the cats while they live out their natural lives in familiar surroundings.

The **Lowell TNR Coalition** was formed in 2009 in response to the growing problem of feral cat overpopulation in Lowell, Massachusetts. The ultimate mission of the Coalition, which is a collaborative group of individual volunteers and non-profit organizations, is to spay and neuter all feral and stray cats in Lowell through TNR. They

have TNR'd over 1,100 stray and feral cats from Lowell since their inception in 2009. Add in the number of kitten placements and the total is 1,500! Coalition volunteers plan and execute monthly TNR events in Lowell.

Have Ferals in Lowell? Are you feeding stray or feral cats in Lowell? Do you know the location of a feral cat colony in Lowell? Let the Lowell TNR Coalition know — they can help!

Phone: 978-349-6143

Email: info@lowelltnr.org

URL: www.lowellTNR.org



One female cat and her offspring can produce 20,736 in four years.
Humane Society of the United States

If not us, then who???

Kitty Angels' mission and niche is to give cats that have run out of options the chance for a loving, safe, and happy forever home. Most of the cats we rescue are pulled off the streets, many in deplorable shape, all of them in desperate need of a second chance in life. Snowball is just one of the many cats that we rescued this year.

Snowball had surgery to remove a polyp in his ear that had been causing recurring infections, but it was not successful. For months afterwards he continued to suffer and required daily medications and antibiotics. Treating his condition ultimately required the services of a board certified veterinary surgeon with special skills and equipment. Snowball recently had his second surgery and it was successful. Now we just have to find a way to pay for it!!

Snowball's surgery comes at the worst time of year for us. This past month alone we paid a record high total of veterinary bills of over \$16,000. Yet, just

within days of Snowball's surgery, we rescued another cat that needed the attention of a board-certified specialist to perform an even more complex ear surgery. These surgeries are life-saving for the cats, but are crippling to us financially.

We are in a bit of a crisis. We have had an unusually high number of needy cats these past few months and it is straining our finances to the point where we may have to do what we never want to do – turn away a cat that is suffering and in need because we can't afford to pay for its care.

There are so many cats like Snowball that need special care, but that care comes at great cost. Any amount you can give will help change the lives of these unfortunate cats. There are so many cats out there that are in need of rescue. We cannot make it happen for them without your help. Thank you for helping us to help cats like Snowball.

You can donate by mail using the coupon below, or you can donate securely and easily online by visiting our website at www.kittyangels.org and clicking on the **How to Help** link. You can make your online donation through **Network for Good** or **PayPal** (no PayPal account required). For other ways to help, please see page 2 of this newsletter.

There are so many more injured, needy and homeless animals...please help!!!

Yes, I'll help with a tax-deductible donation to Kitty Angels:

\$150 _____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____
\$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____

Every Donation Makes a Difference!!!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

We NEVER provide your personal information to ANYONE!!



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ABOUT KITTY ANGELS

Kitty Angels is a no-kill shelter dedicated to rescuing stray and abandoned cats, furnishing them with treatment for injuries or other health problems, and placing them into life-long, loving, indoor homes with compatible owners. We take all necessary steps to ensure the well being of our cats, including emergency and routine medical care, screening for infectious diseases, spaying and neutering, microchipping and providing rabies, distemper and other necessary medical care. We take in, and place or foster, hundreds of cats each year and deal with many feral cat populations. Kitty Angels is an all-volunteer organization. **We have no paid staff – every cent of every donation goes to caring for needy cats!** Because the cost of caring for our cats greatly exceeds our adoption fees, we depend on the generosity of individuals and businesses to make up the difference. **Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today...and, please be sure to send us a Matching Gifts Form if your employer offers one...we, and especially the cats, would very much appreciate it!!**

THANK YOU !! A very special thanks to all of you who have opened your hearts and homes to animals; to those who have donated in some way to help us or others who act in concert with our cause; and to our team of dedicated volunteers and foster home caregivers. You are the ones whose compassion, kindness and generosity makes the difference. We couldn't do what we do without your continued support.

Thanks to **PETsMART** for providing us with first class space in their store in the Royal Ridge Mall in Nashua, NH. You can see some of our adoptable cats in the cages at the front of the store and you can see us there on weekend adoption days.

CALLING ALL CAT LOVERS ...Volunteer opportunities ☺ Kitty Angels is looking for volunteers to assist on our busy Saturday adoption days at Petsmart at Exit 1 in Nashua, NH. It would involve a **“one Saturday per month”** commitment. We are also looking for volunteers to help clean **our Petsmart** adoption center. Duties include cleaning cages, washing dishes, socializing and feeding cats. We need volunteers who can commit to a regular schedule, as well as occasional cleaners. Even if you don't have much time to give, you can still be a great help! We also need people to help trap cats, transport cats to and from clinics, and feed our Tyngsboro, Lowell, and especially our **Roxbury** feral colonies. Call us at 978-649-4681 or send us an e-mail at info@kittyangels.org . Thanks!!

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