



Kitty Angels

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

P. O. Box 638
Tyngsboro, MA 01879
978-649-4681
www.kittyangels.org



...A Newsletter for our Friends and Supporters

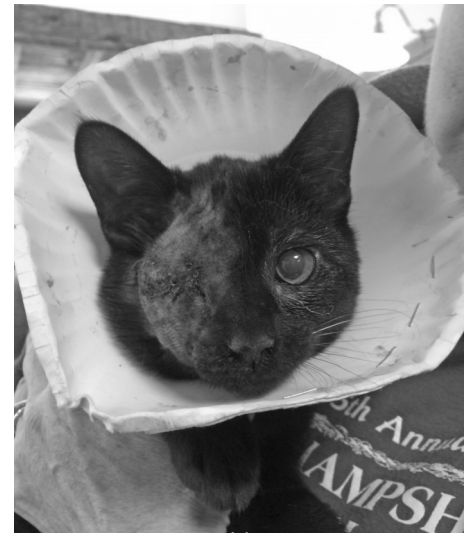
Issue #12

A Year of Medical Wonders

by Joan Abbott

It was unnerving to watch our vet bills pile up during the year. We had to find a way to pay for so many unanticipated, but necessary, life-saving procedures. We never said no...we always took a leap of faith and, through your generosity, raised the money we needed to pay for both the special emergencies and all of the other cases that arrived daily. Some needed only routine care: spay/neuter surgery, exam, parasite treatment, vaccines and microchip. Others came in needing more intensive intervention: bowel resection, eye removal, tail amputation, open chest surgery, orthopedic surgery, necessitating Board certified surgeons, x-rays, ultrasounds, and echocardiograms by veterinary cardiologists. We never say no. No matter how severe the injury or illness, if a cat can be returned to health and a good life, Kitty Angels' mission is to help them. They rely on us to help them. Here is the story of Brooklyn, just one of those special cats.










The young man could not sleep so he stepped outside for a walk. It was after dark as he walked his usual route along the railroad tracks, admiring the bright, moonlit night. Then he heard a sound he had never heard before along the tracks. It was faint at first, but as he followed the sounds he stumbled across a cardboard box left in the middle of the tracks. KITTENS!! The box was full of kittens, purposefully left there to be run over by the next train. No more than five weeks old, the six kittens were screaming in fright. He contacted Kitty Angels. All the kittens were OK except for the small black one. One of his eyes was bulging out of his head. We immediately took him to the veterinary hospital where he remained for many weeks. Caring staff members at Amherst Animal Hospital would take him home each night so that he could get his eye drops around the clock. Unfortunately the eye could not be saved, so he was given pain meds and antibiotics, and endured multiple pre-surgical procedures, until he was big enough to finally have the eye removed. Never one to let anything get him down, he was a little terror – his stitches had to be replaced several times because he would tear them out before his incisions had healed! Sadly, because the virus that destroyed his one eye had created an ulcer in his other eye, we are still battling, after all these months, to save his remaining eye. Yet, despite all that has happened to him, he remains a happy, playful soul, pouncing on the unsuspecting dogs and cats that live with him in his foster home. His favorite spot is curling up under his mom's chin, soaking up the love and comfort that he never imagined he could have.



It is you who save these lives. We do the work, but you pay the bills. We can't do what we do without you. Without your donations, so many of these cats and kittens would perish because they wouldn't receive the medical care, food or shelter that they desperately need. This was a year of medical wonders because you made those wonders possible. Thank you from us and from them.

*"No one has ever become poor by giving.."
Anne Frank*

HOW YOU CAN HELP KITTY ANGELS

-  **Money...**to pay for the daily care and medical bills of the cats.
-  **Shop amazon.com** at kittyangels.org/amazon to have a portion of your purchase price donated to Kitty Angels. (Using our Amazon link helps us much more than using Amazon Smile.) For more information on using *igive* to shop, see 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**

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



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



Like us on
Facebook

Kitty Angels is on Facebook!

Look for updates and events and join us there.

Success Stories

A LOVE STORY While trapping in Roxbury on a cold December day, we came across a yard with a dozen cats and kittens in it. The yard looked as if it had once been well cared for but it was now in a sad state. We knocked on the door and introduced ourselves to Bob, the elderly homeowner, who had lived in this house with his family most of his life but was now alone. He spent his days caring for his indoor cats and the outdoor strays as best he could. We arranged for his indoor cats to be checked by our vet and trapped the feral outdoor cats and kittens. After they were neutered, spayed and vaccinated we began socializing the kittens and returned the adults to Bob's yard, which they had always known as their home. A volunteer built a sturdy, insulated shelter and a team of volunteers took turns dropping in on Bob to bring him cat food.

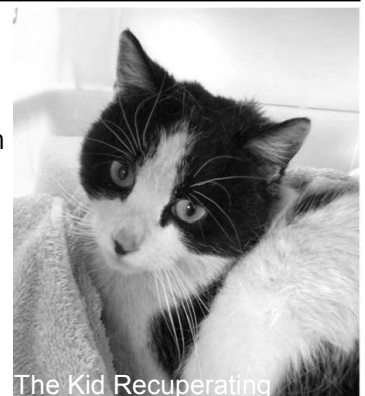
Three years later we were unable to contact Bob and learned that he had been hospitalized and passed away. Bob was truly one of the kindest people we had ever met. We took Bob's remaining indoor cats into our shelter and took over the daily feeding of Bob's beloved feral cats, including an inseparable pair named Hazel and Vincent. Every day, Hazel and Vincent would appear together waiting for their "meals on wheels" delivery. Walking with their tails intertwined or leaning on each other they would lead the way to the food bowls. As time went by, Hazel became more and more social with us, while Vincent resolutely stood guard over her. Over many more months they came ever closer to us as we washed their bowls and doled out meals. They were always together. Soon, we were able to pet them both and hear their quiet purrs. Surprisingly, these feral cats were becoming domesticated.



Hazel and Vincent

A plan soon formed to find these two lovers a home together. But, as we searched for a foster home Hazel disappeared, leaving Vincent peering out of his shelter stoically waiting. We agonized over her whereabouts, searching all over the neighborhood. Then, four long days later, Hazel appeared in Bob's yard for her meal. That was that – it was time for them to come inside! We caught Vincent right away but it took us several days to catch little Hazel and reunite her with her man. The reunion was heartwarming – as Hazel climbed into the cat bed next to Vincent he could hardly believe it was her. He was so excited he didn't know what to do first. He groomed her, purred and draped his entire body over hers. They are now in a temporary foster home, while their new adoptive "mom and dad" settle into their new home and ready a space for these lovebirds to move into. This is a love story that we are thrilled to have played a part in – we hope Hazel and Vincent share many, many wonderful years together. ♥

"The Kid" is a cat that Kitty Angel volunteers were feeding in Boston. He had lived outside from birth but became socialized through contact with neighborhood people that took pity on him and gave him occasional meals. Although The Kid was not feral, he was cautious and wary when on the streets. We tried unsuccessfully to catch him on numerous occasions. When we did finally catch him, we found that he had a serious wound on his abdomen – an open hole that was terribly infected. He was rushed to an emergency veterinary hospital where he underwent a life-saving operation to remove part of his intestines. The veterinarians believe he may have been born with an umbilical hernia that went untreated, progressively worsening with time. The hernia in his abdomen eventually became so large that a portion of his intestines pushed through and became strangulated and necrotic.



The Kid Recuperating

After weeks of hospitalization and multiple courses of medications and tests, interspersed with several medical scares, the Kid spent several months resting and recuperating in a foster home. He has now been given a clean bill of health and is expected to make a 100% recovery. We are overjoyed that this little fighter survived his near-death wounds. He was recently adopted into a home where he has a best buddy and is acclimating very well. He spends his days napping, eating, playing, and bird watching from the safety of his large bay window. The Kid is a reminder to us every day as to why Kitty Angels exists, and why we fight so hard for these poor forgotten, suffering and homeless cats.

"What greater gift than the love of a cat."
Charles Dickens

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 five years ago. Last year we doubled the number of clinics to twice a month, this year we're doing three clinics almost every month!! Despite the additional clinics, the request for assistance has grown and we still have a waiting list. So far this year we have spayed/neutered 625 cats at the clinic; over the past five years the clinic has done a total of 2871!! 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 MRFERS 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 501(c)3 certified non-profit organization, is to spay and neuter all feral and stray cats in Lowell through TNR. They have TNR'd over 1,500 stray

and feral cats from Lowell since their inception in 2009. Add in the number of kitten placements and the total is 2,000! 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



*"May all that have life be delivered from suffering."
Gautama Buddha*

If not us, then who???

Sometimes fate works in wonderful ways. A few months ago, a friend of Kitty Angels was driving down a city street when she saw an oncoming car intentionally aim at a cat sitting in the middle of the road. She honked her horn and the cat ran to the side of the road. She grabbed a carrier from her car and coaxed the cat into it. Looking more closely, it appeared that the cat was missing one eye and the second eye seemed ulcerated and infected. We made arrangements for her to drop this poor kitty off at our vets' office.

Pablo, as we named him, was blind in both eyes. He was very thin, and seemed quite detached. The hospital staff determined that Pablo was blind and suffering from significant eye infections, but was otherwise in good health. He was very thin from being unable to fend for himself outdoors. It was determined that it was in Pablo's best interest to have both eyes removed — his vision could not be saved and leaving his eyes as they were would only have caused him pain and other issues in the future.

The "after surgery" photos were shocking, even to us, but we knew that Pablo's life could only get better. The staff at our veterinary hospital showered him with love and attention, which boosted his confidence and self-esteem. Within a short time, Pablo was rolling around to get belly rubs, rubbing his purple-stitched face on our hands, and purring like a little motor. The staff would sometimes let him sit in a kitty bed at the front desk, where he became quite a little celebrity.

In the weeks following his surgery, Pablo recovered in a foster home, where he was tended to by several Kitty Angels volunteers. A friend of one of the volunteers was very interested in meeting Pablo. It was pretty much love at first sight (or first greet) and this wonderful woman took Pablo home, where he is now living a dream life in his forever home. Needless to say, we are all thrilled about Pablo's storybook ending. Fate definitely stepped in on the day that Pablo planted himself in the middle of the street for his rescuer to see him. Thankfully, Pablo is living out his happily ever after.

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!!



Pablo after Surgery

Kitty Angels 978-649-4681

PO Box 638 www.kittyangels.org

Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Kitty Angels, Inc. is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. Your donation is fully tax-deductible

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.

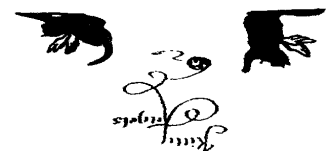
Thanks to **PETsmART** for providing us with first class space in their store in the Royal Ridge Mall in Nashua, NH. You can see some of our adoptable cats in the cages at the front of the store and you can see us there on weekend adoption days.

ENDURING SUPPORT In the 31 years since our founding, Kitty Angels has been fortunate to have many long-term supporters. In recent years, an increasing amount of our funding has come from bequests from the estates of these committed benefactors. The enduring impact of these bequests, both large and small, has helped Kitty Angels expand its life saving programs and find loving homes for the neediest of animals. By naming Kitty Angels as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan, you can support Kitty Angels' future efforts as well as gain financial and tax benefits for you and your family. Your estate planner can explain the different ways you can make a bequest to Kitty Angels or you can contact us. **We thank all our supporters for their wonderful generosity!!**

Issue #12



P. O. Box 638
Tyngsboro, MA 01879



U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit
Permit #134
Tyngsborough, MA
01879