



Kitty Angels

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

P. O. Box 638
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www.kittyangels.org



...A Newsletter for our Friends and Supporters

Issue #6

Saving the "Throwaways" ...some highlights from 2008 *by Joan*

Each year brings joys and challenges and this year was no exception. Kitty Angels was started almost 25 years ago to help the less fortunate cats in our communities; cats that would otherwise not stand a chance – the ferals, the strays, the sick and injured.

We helped a record number of animals and people this year. We took in a third more cats than we did last year and had a huge increase in the number of requests for help. We continued to expand our TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) programs for ferals. We monitored two large feral colonies in Nashua that each had over a 100 cats, TNRing and removing adoptable kittens and cats. We also dealt with several tragic hoarding situations.

This was, sadly, a year with a lower number of adoptions, primarily due to the state of the economy. With an overpopulation of cats in New England, the worsening economy makes our job in the rescue field even harder. While we expect that things will get worse before they get better, we are nevertheless continuing our plans for low cost spay/neuter programs. We wrote & received a grant from Petsmart Charities to assist low income pet owners with the costs of spaying and neutering. We contracted with a spay/neuter van to come to Lowell in 2008; and we have plans to have a spay/neuter van come to the Tyngsborough/Nashua area beginning in January of 2009. We attended conferences and meetings to educate ourselves and to network with other agencies.

We had many enjoyable fundraisers — at Treasures Antiques in Amherst, NH, at Flatbreads in Bedford, MA, and at Margaritas in Nashua. We enjoyed the opportunity of mingling with many of our supporters at these events and making new friends as well.

Our volunteers continued to follow their hearts, working weekends, days and evenings to put an end to animal neglect and suffering. They trapped and transported ferals to clinics, fed and maintained feral colonies, staffed adoption days, worked fundraisers, attended events to educate the public, answered e-mails and phone calls, designed and updated our web pages, fostered animals, cleaned cages, picked up supplies, built and checked donation boxes, went to the streets and homes to pick up the cats that no one else would, and drove back and forth to countless vet appointments. None of these dedicated volunteers get paid or receive reimbursement for what they do.

We are a unique rescue group. We stand at the front lines and respond to calls for animals that have no other options. We deal with the invisible cats that few other rescue organizations can, or know how to, deal with. We respond to situations at all hours when there is no one else willing or able to transport a suffering animal to a shelter or a vet. We find them lying in pain in the street, in empty houses, or in backyards, just waiting to be helped. They are not the cute or fluffy ones — in many cases they are in deplorable condition — but they are the neediest and are certainly the most appreciative.

As people struggle in these tough economic times, the animals that are perceived as the least valued will endure even more hardships than ever — the homeless, strays, and ferals, the "throwaways" of society, will surely increase in numbers and suffering.

100% of your donation always goes towards their rescue and care — Please help us ensure that a safety net for them will continue to exist

In Friendship and in Hope-

Kitty Angels and the Humane Society of the United States Urge Cat Owners to Keep Their Pets Inside

Reprinted with permission of the Humane Society of the United States

Cats are America's most popular pets, with nearly 78 million cats living in homes in the United States, yet an estimated one-third are allowed to roam outdoors. They are also the pets most likely to die prematurely from diseases, poisons, attacks by other animals, abuse by humans, or speeding vehicles. The reason is simple: Owners often don't realize that allowing their cat to roam outdoors can be a one-way ticket to trouble.

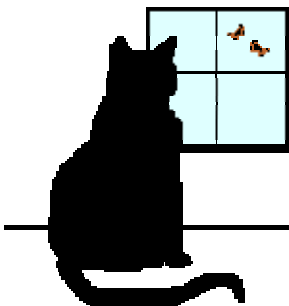
Millions of cats suffer and die because their owners give them free reign to roam the neighborhood. The vast majority of these owners aren't cruel or thoughtless; many love their animals as much as the rest of us. They just believe that cats are happiest outdoors. In fact, many cat caregivers acquired their felines by "taking in" or caring for someone's cat who was allowed to stray. Many cat owners don't realize that their cat will be safer, healthier, and perfectly happy when they are safely confined.

A Dangerous Tradeoff

When cats are left outside unsupervised, their freedom to roam comes at a cost because they have a vastly increased chance of being injured, becoming ill, or even dying. The estimated average life span of a free-roaming cat is less than three years—compared to 15–18 years for the average indoor-only cat. Even the cat who only occasionally ventures outdoors unsupervised can fall victim to automobiles, predators, disease, and other hazards. In fact, two out of three veterinarians recommend keeping cats indoors, most often citing dangers from vehicles and disease.

Even cats in "safe" suburban neighborhoods can meet untimely fates and never return home. Fewer than 5% of "found" cats taken in by animal shelters are reunited with their families. That's why many shelters now require potential adopters to commit to keeping their cats safely confined and strongly recommend that cats wear collars and ID tags, and even be implanted with an identifying microchip. Some communities are adopting ordinances aimed at encouraging owners to confine their cats—just as they do their dogs.

For more information and for tips on how to keep your cat happy and safe by making the great indoors both interesting and comfortable please visit the Humane Society of the United States web page at www.humanesociety.org or contact Kitty Angels at www.kittyangels.org.



Want to Buy or Donate Antiques or Collectibles??

Treasures Antiques & Collectibles, Amherst, NH, has generously donated a booth for the sale of items to benefit Kitty Angels. Please visit them on Rte. 122, just 1/4 mile south of Rte 101A.

Purrfect Treasures, purrfecttreasures.com, sells quality antiques and collectibles and artisan jewelry on-line. Some of their items are being sold for the benefit of Kitty Angels.

If you have any small items, antiques or collectibles you wish to donate to Kitty Angels, they will be placed in the *Treasures Antiques* shop or sold online through *Purrfect Treasures*, whichever is more appropriate. 100% of the proceeds from donated items will go to Kitty Angels. Contact Gail Mosher by e-mail at gail@hnhre.com or at 978-430-8055, for details. Thanks!!!!

Our Thanks to Susan Carson

Susan Carson, who was with Kitty Angels in the Natick area for many years, and two of her long time volunteers have started their own organization called **Guardian Angels Cat Rescue**. They can still be reached at 508 651-1205 or at Guardianangelscatrescue@gmail.com.

Good luck, Susan and thanks for your dedication, support and help in rescuing so many cats.

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 of which are listed on our website at www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html

"There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats."

Albert Schweitzer

An Ounce of Prevention....

We spend countless hours dealing with the tragic results of cat overpopulation. Sadly, much of the suffering that we see might have been prevented if pets were spayed or neutered before they had a chance to reproduce.

2008 was the first year that we were able to arrange for a spay/neuter van to come to our local community on a regular basis. Starting in January 2009 we have arranged for the **Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society "Catmobile"** to come to the Nashua—Tyngsboro area on a monthly schedule.

For one low fee, the Catmobile provides a comprehensive package of services that combines spaying/neutering, an exam, vaccinations, microchipping, deworming and flea treatment. Kittens weighing 2 pounds can be done. Grant money may be available for those who may not be able to afford the nominal fee – contact Kitty Angels for information.

Starting on January 15, 2009 the Catmobile will be in the parking lot at the **TJ Maxx Plaza**, located directly across from the Pheasant Lane Mall on the Nashua—Tyngsboro line. Check the Kitty Angels website www.kittyangels.org for scheduled dates and times. To get to TJ Maxx Plaza, take Route 3 north to exit 36 and bear right to the Plaza.

The Catmobile is also in Lowell on Mondays, Methuen on Wednesdays, Danvers on Thursdays and Salisbury, MA on Fridays. Check the MRFRS website www.mrfrs.org for specific schedule dates and times.

You can make a **Catmobile** appointment by calling **888-495-7729**.

We strongly encourage everyone to have their pets spayed or neutered and to keep their pet vaccinations up to date.



THE CATMOBILE

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic



SpayMASS
A Program of the
Merrimack River
Feline Rescue Society
www.mrfrs.org

Spay/Neuter Packages: \$75.00

Package Includes:

- Exam
- Spay/Neuter
- Microchip
- Flea Treatment
- Vaccines
- Deworming

Credit Cards accepted by phone in advance. Cash only day of.

Appointments and Information
888-495-SPAY (7729)



HEAVENLY HOMES

Kitty Angels primary mission is to save those poor hopeless cats that live in the shadows of every city and town — outside, on the streets, beside the highway, in fields and woods — struggling to survive. Tragically, without intervention and help, many of these cats will die a lonely and painful death, unable to endure their daily exposure to the elements, traffic, predators, disease and cruel and abusive people. Yet, with prompt medical care, a proper diet and a caring hand, many of these animals become loving household pets, grateful for having been rescued from the burden of their former wretched lives. Thanks to you, we've seen this story repeated thousands of times. Here are cats whose happy endings were made possible by your support and donations and by your willingness to offer lifelong, loving, homes to wonderful cats. Thank you!!!!

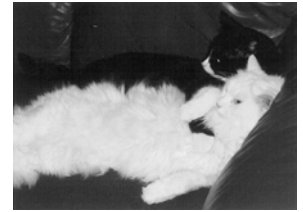


Golden (aka Mikey, Muffin, Fatso....)

Golden was found scrounging food at a feral colony. Although dirty and hungry, he obviously was not feral. He behaved more like a friendly Golden Retriever dog than a cat, rolling on his back and following us around, hence the nickname "Golden." Alan & Ruth, who adopted him, wrote: "Remember Golden? We adopted him in August, 2006. We renamed him Mikey, Muffin, Fatso, Vinny. He is the sweetest kitty we've had. He's a love and we give him hugs every day. He rolls all the time and follows us all over."


Oreo and Boo

Barry and Bridget wrote: "Our love affair with our kitties continues to grow each day. Our adopted sweethearts Oreo, Boo, Bonita, Blizzard, and Friday have joined our older kitty Sasquatch in giving our baby boy Leo a warm welcome to our family early this year. During these holidays we want you to know how much we appreciate the kind and tireless work you are doing for our dear furry friends! We have enclosed a gift which we are sure you can put to good use."



HOW YOU CAN HELP KITTY ANGELS



 **Money...**to pay for the daily care and medical bills of the cats.


NEW! **Shop** online at *Amazon.com* and many other online stores and a portion of the purchase price will benefit Kitty Angels. It costs you nothing! Visit www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html for details. **NEW!**

▶ You can specify that a portion of your *eBay* auction sales benefit Kitty Angels and get an *eBay* "Giving Works" icon for your listings. Our experience is that "Giving Works" listings bring in more bids.


 **Donate online** through *PayPal* (best for Kitty Angels) or *Network for Good* (anonymous and/or recurring donations)...See www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html for details.

 Does your employer have a **Matching Gift Program**? Multiply your donation by taking advantage of it.


▶ **Have Something to Donate?** Contact Gail Mosher at 978-430-8055 or e-mail her at gail@hnhre.com. She will auction your item on eBay or Craigslist...100% of the proceeds will go to Kitty Angels.

 **Buying or Selling a House?** Call Gail Mosher *Hearth N Home Realty*, in Chelmsford, MA, at 978-250-1200, or by e-mail at gail@hnhre.com. She will donate 10% of her commission to Kitty Angels.

 Drop your **Used Printer Cartridges** at PetSmart in Nashua at Royal Ridge Mall, or in any of our donation boxes.

 **Getting rid of an old car, truck, RV or boat?** Donate it to Kitty Angels and get a tax deduction! To get started, visit www.kittyangels.org/donatecar.html

▶ If you donate to **United Way** through payroll deductions, you can specify that your donation go to Kitty Angels. Contact your employer for information.

 **Leftover medical supplies, prescription drugs and foods...**for cats on special diets and with thyroid, diabetes, heart problems, etc., insulin, syringes, fluids and prescription cat foods are always needed.

 **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

"Like a graceful vase, a cat, even when motionless, seems to flow."

George F. Will

Years of Tragedy...an end may finally be in sight

After a long day at my "other job," I impulsively decided to drive by and take a quick look at a house where I had been told by a town official that "there might be a cat problem." Happily zipping by a small lakeside community, I was listening to the radio and enjoying the warm summer day. I had no idea that what was just around the corner would take me years to deal with. I parked and stepped out of the car to take a look. As I did so I glimpsed perhaps twenty cats crouched under the debris in the yard. Another look and it began to seem like a bad episode on one of the Animal Planet rescue shows.

The cats were clearly in deplorable condition. Seeing no evidence of any food or water, and remembering that I had a box of dry food in the car, I dumped most of the box of food on a dirt path near the road where I had parked. Cats poured forth from beneath all the rubbish! And before I could even say "holy cow" all the food was gone and I watched in horror as they ate the dirt that now smelled like the food that had miraculously appeared before their eyes. Some of the cats were in such bad shape they were having trouble standing. What I thought was going to be a quick stop had suddenly turned into an emergency situation. High heels sinking into the dirt, and my heart sinking along with them, I crossed the yard for a better look. There were many, many more than the twenty that I first estimated to be there. There were cat skeletons in some places and the horror of what they must have gone through as their lives came to an end broke my heart.

Like any experienced rescuer, I always had a trap and a carrier in my car. These cats were skittish and untrusting of strangers, but several were sure to die unless I got my hands on them and got them to a vet right away. By placing a small amount of dry food on the ground and standing still, I coaxed some of the famished, wobbly kittens out of hiding and was able to quickly scruff them one by one. Holding them close to me I got them into my car and into the one carrier that I had with me. When I had 7 or 8 in the carrier and could squeeze no more into it, I set the trap out. Using only dry food as bait, a group of starving cats crowded into the one trap as the door slammed shut behind them in a record catch. As I set off to my vet's office with this batch of battered cats I vowed to the waiting, hopeful eyes that I would return that evening with more food.

Thus began a battle to save a colony of cats that has continued for several years. The owners of the cats were not cooperative and were reluctant to spay or neuter. After gaining the owners trust a little at a time, we have rescued all but 3 of the cats and are working on the final step of spaying and neutering those. Many of you reading this might actually own kittens from this colony. Kitty Angels does many rescues like this a year and in most of these cases we are the last hope of rescue for these animals – many animal welfare organizations simply do not go out into the streets and neighborhoods like we do.

Your donations over the years have saved so many, many cats like the ones in this story. Your continued support will save many, many more.

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!!



A kitten blinded as a result of neglect

Kitty Angels 978-649-4681

PO Box 638 www.kittyangels.org

Tyngsboro, MA 01879

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 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.

Thanks also to **Dr. David J. Rousseau**, medical director at Wakefield Animal Hospital, which hosts the **Radiocat** Center for the Treatment of Feline Hyperthyroidism in the Boston area (781 245-0045), Vet-Tech Elaine and the rest of his staff, for generously donating their skills, time and facilities to cure Pickles and Ted Bear, who were very, very sick with thyroid disease and are now cured!!!

KA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS ...People to staff tables, represent us and hand out information at public events like the "Pet Rock" fair, etc. We can also use help at our adoption days on Saturdays. Feral feeders are desperately needed in Lowell, MA and Nashua, NH to put out food and water, two or three times a week, at established feral colonies.

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