



Kitty Angels

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

P. O. Box 638
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978-649-4681

www.kittyangels.org



...A Newsletter for our Friends and Supporters

Issue #10

Waiting....

by Joan Abbott



On any given day there are cats waiting. They wait for different things: food, water, shelter, a chance to come in off the street...to be rescued. Some days are easier than others, but once the cold weather comes it becomes a struggle. For every cat we take in there are ten more waiting. We have so many in foster care, waiting for a home. We have so many that are out, waiting to come in. We find the friendly or frightened strays – abandoned, thrown away, forgotten felines that wait for their chance for vet care, for a warm lap, a new life, for their forever home.

And we have the ferals that have been trapped, neutered and returned. Dedicated KA volunteers travel to more than 34 different feral cat colonies every day, providing food and water and monitoring the health and well-being of the cats. And they do so despite inclement weather or holidays. The towns and locations vary: city projects, abandoned houses, vacant lots and behind local businesses. The cats have learned to distinguish the sounds of the feeders' cars and appear out of the shadows to come and eat...volunteers are sometimes greeted by cats sitting in front of empty bowls, waiting. The colony regulars are well known to their caretakers and any new interloper is trapped, spayed or neutered and assessed to determine if they too are feral, or if they are an abandoned friendly cat or stray. To protect them from the harsh winters, insulated shelters are built and provided as well. Some of these colonies have been in existence for over 10 years with the same feeders caring for them.








Every day of every season we gather the ferals, the strays, the injured up from the streets, from behind dumpsters, from the basements of burned-out buildings. When the weather turns cold we start to feel their desperation and we push ourselves harder...for them...because they're waiting.

This year the wait was longer – there was an increase in abandoned cats and kittens – too often waiting in deplorable situations. And there were more requests than in previous years for help with ferals. They need your help. And helping them takes money. We ask for your donations because they can't.

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 you 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

HOW YOU CAN HELP KITTY ANGELS

-  **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 4 house sale donations this year!!
Call 978-250-3900 X112, 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 *Purrfect Treasures*, ebay or Craigslist. 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.
-  **Consignment for Good in Milford, NH**, will accept donations for Kitty Angels for consignment – we are one of their charities. 603-249-9481 or www.consignmentforgood.com.
-  **Leftover medical supplies, prescription drugs and foods** are always needed: insulin, syringes, fluids and prescription cat foods for with 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



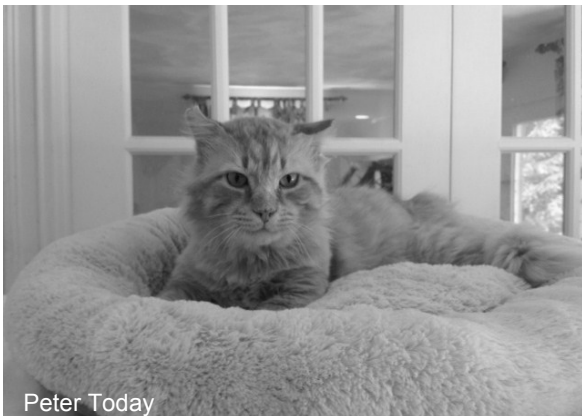
Kitty Angels is on Facebook!
Look for updates and events and join us there.

Peter

These stories all seem to start out the same way. In April we received a phone call from a gentleman who told us that he had a feral cat that lived under the floor boards in his barn, and that the cat had developed an abscess on his back. We loaned the man one of our traps and he brought the cat into our vet's office for treatment. Now, we have seen all sorts of abscesses, but what arrived in this trap was unlike any abscess we had seen before! This poor cat had a huge infected wound that formed a "T" all across his neck and down his back. We shudder to think about what had caused such a massive injury. The vets had the daunting task of trying to clean, debride and close the wounds. The staff named this beautiful, terrified boy Peter. While he was there, he was neutered, and treated to the whole gamut of treatments that are done for all of our newly admitted cats. Peter tested positive for FIV — not surprising, as so many of the adult males that we deal with, especially those that had been struggling on their own for some time, are FIV+. We would have to watch his wounds closely to make sure that his immune system was fighting the infection.



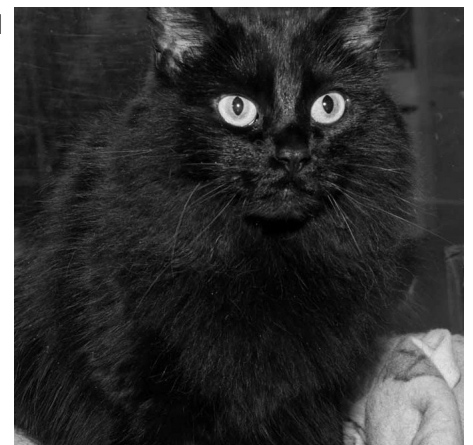
When Peter was discharged from the hospital, his foster mom had to soak his surgery area several times a day and apply medication to his incision area. As time passed, the inflammation and swelling receded, leaving big gaps between the staples and stitches that held his incisions together. Peter was admitted for a second surgery, to clean out the area and re-stitch and re-staple the wounds. During his recovery, we discovered that Peter wasn't a true feral, as we had believed. When we would gingerly touch his head, he began meeting our hand to head bump and rub his head on our hands and arms. He began to trust us and purred when he saw us coming with his warm soaks and medicine. He behaved like a perfect gentleman, never complaining during his treatments. After several weeks, he started to roll over for belly rubs. This was yet another cat that had suffered alone and deserved to spend the rest of his lives in the safety and warmth of a loving home.



Today, Peter's wounds are fully healed and fur has grown over most of his scars. Peter was posted on our Facebook page where his new mom took one look at his big lion-face and fell in love. Peter is living happily and comfortable in his very own forever home and loving every minute of it. It is because of your generosity that we were able to help Peter in his time of need. Thank you...

Fenway

Depression can affect cats as well as people. Fenway left our shelter 8 years ago when she was just a few months old. Due to circumstances in her adopted home the owners could no longer keep her so Fenway was returned to us. The change in her environment and the loss of her family was just too much for her. She mourned for her prior life and refused to eat. We tried every thing to get her to eat but nothing worked. Finally, her condition became critical and we hospitalized her. Bloodwork, x-rays, ultrasounds, and consults with specialists were done, but no medical reason was ever discovered for her condition. She was force fed several times a day and put on anti-depressants and appetite stimulants. Besides the supportive medical care she needed, the loving and dedicated staff at Amherst Animal Hospital spent countless extra hours visiting with her, comforting her, and encouraging her to find the will to live. After more than a MONTH she finally began to eat and she has continued to thrive! She is a lovely long haired black cat; she's very affectionate and eats very well now. But Fenway is still waiting for a real home... again.



Please help break the cycle of overpopulation...

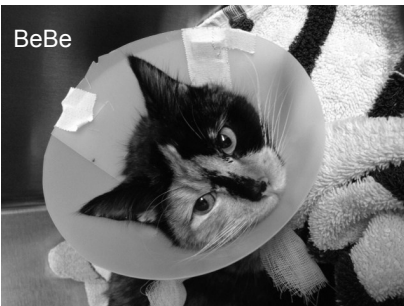
Kitty Angels offers a **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic** every month at Animal Rescue Veterinary Services in Londonderry, NH. Cats are spayed or neutered, receive distemper and rabies vaccinations, a physical exam, and are microchipped. Other treatment can be provided for an additional fee. Kittens must 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.

To make an appointment, email lindab@kittyangels.org or call (978) 649-4681 and someone will get back to you with a time and date. 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 three years ago to help people get their cats spayed/neutered. So far we have spayed/neutered 1713 cats at the clinic! But, requests far exceed our capacity and we always have a waiting list. We need to increase the frequency of our clinics and provide grants to more people, but to do so we need additional funding. 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.mrfers.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 952 stray and feral cats from Lowell since their inception in 2009. 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

The cost of spaying or neutering a pet is less than the cost of raising kittens or puppies for one year.

BeBe

BeBe was rushed to the nearest animal hospital by a Good Samaritan who had stopped her car when she saw her lying on the side of the road. The hospital contacted Kitty Angels. We agreed to take responsibility for this stray cat and the evaluation began.

BeBe seemed in good spirits but a closer look disclosed that she was severely injured. Her back end was horribly mangled and full of infection. She had lost half of her tail and most of the skin on her back end and legs. An X-Ray revealed that she had broken the remaining part of her tail in two places and that she had a broken pelvis. She must have suffered for weeks in this dreadful condition. And she was only a kitten!

BeBe's caretakers cleaned her up and bathed her, but she was left with many open sores. Too compromised for anesthesia, and with not enough healthy tissue to suture the sores closed, there were not a lot of options. She also could not urinate or defecate on her own, most likely due to nerve damage caused by her trauma. Most stories would end here but, luckily for BeBe, Bonnie the vet tech was on duty that day. Bonnie had been with her during her intensive first few hours and had seen BeBe's amazing will to live. Bonnie called us with an update on this sad case and told us she would be willing to take BeBe home each evening from the hospital and would care for her if we would continue to cover her medical expenses. Of course we said yes.

Bonnie had the necessary medical training needed to treat BeBe's severe medical issues, so she took her home and continued to bathe her, debride the dead tissue and apply medication daily. She also had to express her bladder 4

times a day. Once she was on the path to healing, what was left of her tail was removed down to healthy bone, she was spayed and the open wounds on her legs were sutured closed. Her skin is now almost completely healed. She has some nerve growth, but is still unable to urinate and defecate on her own.

Bonnie writes "In this short time that I have had her, BeBe has never once complained and has always allowed any treatment to be done to her. She has gained a full pound and will remain tiny, around six pounds, even full grown. She now runs, attacks, and plays like a young cat should. She even does this wearing a diaper! She is full of life and demands to be involved in everything you do. She is a fighter and a little miracle in her own right, and I will continue to give her time to heal in hopes that one day she will gain all her feeling back and find an amazing home. Kitty Angels is willing to give her a chance at alternative treatments as well if time does not heal all of her. BeBe wouldn't have been given a chance without Kitty Angels!"

BeBe will continue to need medical care...not to mention diapers.

It always seems that just when we think that our bills couldn't be any worse, another dire emergency comes through our doors and we start the whole process with another homeless little cat - perhaps someone's forgotten friend. If you would consider helping with BeBe's veterinary costs, and the many others, equally special to us as she is, we promise to you that every penny of your donation will go directly to the care of the cats we rescue. Please consider helping us to help them. Thanks.

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: _____

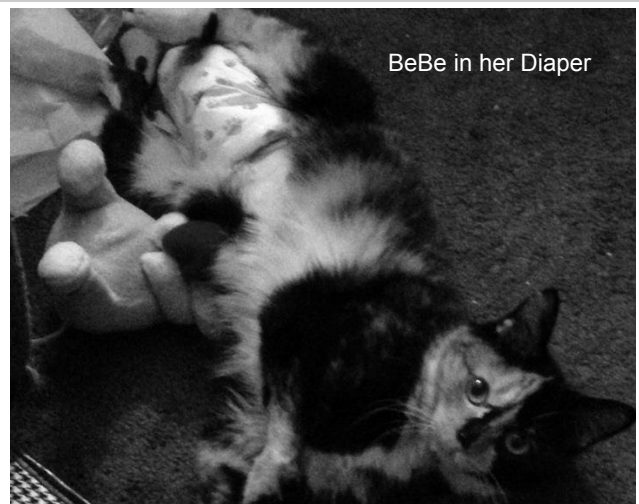
City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

We NEVER provide your personal information to ANYONE!!



BeBe in her Diaper

Kitty Angels

978-649-4681

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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 ...Kitty Angels is looking for volunteers to help clean its adoption center at Petsmart, at Exit 1 in Nashua. General duties include cleaning cages, washing dishes, socializing and feeding the cats. You can help the cats look their very best and be ready for adoption! We need volunteers who can commit to a regular schedule, as well as occasional cleaners to help fill gaps in the schedule. Even if you don't have much time to give, you can still be a great help! We can also use help with cat laundry from the store. We also need people to help with Saturday adoptions, to trap cats, transport cats to and from clinics, and feed our Nashua, Hudson and Lowell feral colonies. Call us at 978-649-4681 or send us an e-mail at info@kittyangels.org . Thanks!!

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