



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 #9

A Leap of Faith - Trust in the Future

It's gonna be a good life, a good, good life...

This has certainly been a banner year. The phone has never stopped ringing, the e-mails have been a constant stream and the incoming cats have set a new record — not only for sheer numbers taken in, but, sadly, also for the number of severely injured arrivals.

We have experienced a roller coaster of emotions — joy, grief and frustration — as we have gone through the year. There is always so much to do, day in, day out, 365 days a year. Here are a few of the things that we do.

Some of our volunteers undertake the ongoing management of feral cat colonies. They practice the no-kill approach of TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return): each member of the colony is trapped, spayed or neutered, and provided with basic health care and vaccinations. Thereafter, they are released back into the colony to live out their lives in familiar surroundings, while being provided with fresh food and water on a regular basis. Managing these colonies takes a unique combination of empathy and dedication, but seeing the difference that it makes in the cats' lives, when we arrive at a colony with food and water in tow, is a rewarding experience.

Recognizing the great need in our communities, we started hosting Sunday low cost spay neuter clinics. These clinics enable us to help responsible owners who might otherwise not be able to afford this service, as well as address many dire situations that would almost certainly contribute to the already difficult problem of feline overpopulation. We have been consistently running two or three clinics per month, spaying and neutering 20 - 25 cats per clinic. Volunteers offer their time to transport cats to and from the clinics.

We are always responding to emergency calls for homeless and injured cats and kittens. We believe that Kitty Angels' core mission is to give the most needy cats, the ones that would be turned away by another shelter or euthanized, the chance for a safe and loving home. Most of our cats come right off the streets, often in deplorable condition, and many of them are injured — all are in desperate need of a second chance at life. The transformations we see in these grateful beings is amazing. They return the love shown to them tenfold, and nothing is more gratifying than saving a life and placing an otherwise lost creature into a lifelong home — a home where they can finally be loved and appreciated. After years of rescuing literally thousands of cats, we are always still overwhelmed when we are able to turn their lives around and make a difference, one cat at a time. We are proud of our accomplishments and feel as though we are making great strides in the cities, towns, and neighborhoods in which we work.



This time of year always finds us struggling to make ends meet. The funds that come in through this newsletter appeal provide us with the means to go into the next year and continue our many tasks and rescues. Among the cats we took in this year were more than fifty tragic creatures taken from a hoarding situation, some of which needed special medical workups and surgical care; a five week old kitten that may lose his eye; and Sprite, a sweet seven month old kitten that showed up with a collar embedded in her skin and who needed over one hundred stitches and many hours of surgery. We have been inundated with so many expensive emergency surgeries this year that our funds are at a record low. We ask for your help because they can't.

It's gonna be a good life, a good, good life...

That is what we promise each cat that we rescue. Can you please help us keep those promises?

"Who can believe that there is no soul behind those luminous eyes!"

Theophile Gauthier

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. 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.
-  **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



Like us on
Facebook

Kitty Angels is on Facebook!.

Look for updates and events and join us there.

“I wish I could write as mysterious as a cat”
Edgar Allan Poe

A Few of the Many Rescues from 2011

Some rescues are more dramatic than others, but each and every rescued cat is as important as the ones that came before and the ones that will come after. No living thing should suffer.

Sam

Few of us will ever forget the record snow storm of this past October. But along with the memories of the storm, we, at Kitty Angels, will also remember the rescue and remarkable survival of Sam.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm a kind woman saw a small kitten that had just been hit by a car in the fast lane of a four lane Interstate. Somehow, ongoing cars were able to dodge him as he lay there. The woman stopped on the edge of the highway and ran back for him. She scooped him up and deposited him in her car, not even sure if he was still alive. She was frantic to get help. A few calls and several connections later he made his way to Kitty Angels and was immediately transferred to our veterinarian. This tiny twelve week old kitten had injuries to his face and hind quarters and brain trauma. He would not eat on his own and trembled with fear in the back of his cage. He had to be hand fed, given pain medications and nurtured at the vets for over a week until he seemed to resurface and connect to the world around him. He then began to purr, eat on his own and interact with the hospital staff. His true loving personality became evident. His injuries are healing as he waits here for his forever home, where we know he will spend his eight remaining lives living happily ever after.



Ike



During one tragic week, in which we had already taken in Orion, one of our most seriously injured cats of the year; Sam, the kitten that had been hit by a car; and Ireland, a cat with such a badly broken femur that only a veterinary orthopedic specialist could repair it, we received a request to take in a stray kitten with a bad limp.

This was at a time when our bills exceeded our checkbook balance and our foster homes were overflowing. Agonizing over what to do, looking at the bills and worrying over what would happen to the kitten if we did not take him, we finally made a decision to trust that somehow it would all work out in the end. So in came Ike, a sweet and handsome five month old brown tiger kitten with a playful side. Probably hit by a car weeks ago, he has endured pain and suffering as he has been fending for himself on the streets. His thigh bone had been broken and shattered, creating pain and inflammation, and requiring that the top of his femur be removed at the hip. He has been at our vet for over a week, being treated for his pain and awaiting

his first round of specialist hip surgery. We trust that his surgeries will go well and that he will recover quickly and find the loving home he so deserves.

Hospice — Can You Help?

We often have cats that have come to us at the end of their lives — through misfortune, neglect or tragedy — and who need a place of comfort for the remainder of their days. We currently have a cat that has been diagnosed with cancer that has never had a home. When we found her, she was struggling to care for her newborn kittens, as well as caring for her bigger kittens from an earlier litter. She was literally starving and completely run down, but persevered in being the best mother she could be for the sake of her kittens. We are looking for special caregivers who may have a quiet and comfortable room and who would consider giving love, kindness, and comfort to a cat that deserves to be cherished for its remaining days. It takes a special heart to be a hospice caregiver, and although it isn't always easy, it is the most beautiful and rewarding gift you can give to a cat in need. She and others like her are waiting. Please contact us for more information.

“Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through the snow.”

Jeff Valdez

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 two years ago to help people get their cats spayed/neutered. So far we have spayed/neutered 1052 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 MRFRS website www.mrfrs.org for dates and times. For appointments and information call 978-465-1940.

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 700 stray and feral cats from Lowell since their inception in 2009. Coalition volunteers plan and execute monthly TNR events in Lowell.

Some of the participants of the Coalition include the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society, Lowell Humane Society, Kitty Angels, Billerica Cat Care Coalition, and the Lowell Animal Control Officer.

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

*"When I play with my cat, how do I know that she is not passing time with me rather than I with her?"
Montaigne*

Orion

Every evening, after work, I make my way to a parking lot in Roxbury to feed a feral colony that we trapped and spayed years ago. It was pitch black out this particular evening and raining heavily, but as I pulled my car into the parking lot, I saw a reflection that caught my eye. There in front of my headlights was a skinny black cat, wearing a collar with a dangling silver star. As my eyes focused on him I saw that he was shockingly disfigured with severe head trauma. As I called softly to him, he began frantically crying out, desperate for help. I scooped him up and rushed directly to an animal emergency hospital that I knew would be open. As I drove, I thought of the star on his collar and the bright constellation Orion, and so his name was chosen.

Orion had suffered a dislocated and broken jaw and his left eye was damaged beyond saving. One of his canine teeth had broken off during the trauma, and his gums on the left side had been pulled away from the bone. He suffered damage to his soft palate, and he also had facial paralysis. The presumption was that he had been hit by a car - days earlier.

The unique spirit of this broken little five pound boy amazed everyone at the emergency hospital. Although he had to be in terrible pain, he just purred, kneaded, and rubbed his swollen and broken face against us as we held and consoled him. There is no doubt that he was thankful to be rescued at last.

The next morning we transferred him to Amherst Animal Hospital. After stabilizing him for two days, Orion underwent his first round of surgery to wire his jaw. Two days after that, he was seen for a consultation with a board certified orthopedic surgeon. Additional surgery reset his jaw and adjusted the wires so he could finally close his mouth. He

was neutered, had his injured left eye and broken tooth removed. Stitches reattached the detached gums to his jawbone.

Two weeks later Orion is still hospitalized, receiving lots of TLC from his new best friends at the animal hospital. Although we can't elicit a blink response, he will blink his left eye occasionally. We hope that his other eye, which is being treated for a severe corneal ulcer, can be saved. There is not one person who has met or treated Orion that hasn't commented about what an amazing cat he is. One of the vets has remarked, on several occasions, that she has never met a more resilient cat. He is never grumpy, but sweet and affectionate, always greeting them with purrs and hugs.

I was asked by a friend "Why didn't you just put him down?" First, that's not what we do. If we can save them, we save them — it's a big part of our mission. Orion showed a remarkable zest and appreciation for life, despite his grave injuries. This little guy needed his second chance. Sadly, it is a bitter pill to swallow to know that we don't always have the funds needed to help every cat that needs our help. But, we can and do save some incredible cats, each day, every day, one cat at a time, with help from you, our friends and believers.

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 - someone's forgotten friend. If you would consider helping with Orion's veterinary costs, and the many others, equally special to us as he 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!!



Orion

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.

KA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS ...Kitty Angels is looking for volunteers to help clean its adoption center at Petsmart in Nashua, especially on Saturday and Sunday mornings. General duties include cleaning cages, washing dishes, and feeding the cats. In just a few hours, you can help the cats look their very best and be ready for the adoption day! We need regular cleaners who can commit to a schedule, as well as occasional cleaners to help fill gaps in the schedule, so even if you don't have much time to give, you can still be a great help! We also need people to trap cats, transport cats to and from clinics, and feed our Lowell feral colonies. Call us at 978-649-4681 or send us an e-mail at info@kittyangels.org.

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