



Kitty Angels

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

P. O. Box 638
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...A Newsletter for our Friends and Supporters

Issue #5

Saving "the invisible" ...some highlights from 2007 *by Joan Abbott*

Since founding Kitty Angels over 23 years ago I have had the pleasure, in addition to being a teacher, of following a lifelong passion of being involved with animals. I have watched a dream grow into a successful shelter that has changed the lives of thousands of cats, thanks to the many supporters, adopters & dedicated volunteers we have met along the way. Kitty Angels is a unique shelter, reaching out to rescue — as another shelter director said — "the invisible" cats that no one else will care for or collect.

As 2007 comes to a close, we have much we have accomplished and want to share with you.

We applied for and received a grant, from the sales of the "I'm Animal Friendly" MA License Plates, to expand spay and neuter services to feral populations and low-income cat owners. The plate program is run by the Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC), a statewide, not-for-profit organization of animal professionals. For more information, including how to order your plate, go to www.massanimalcoalition.org. With these funds we were able to expand our "Trap, Neuter, Return" Program. Over 200 cats have been TNR'ed at this writing and we have been able to assist many cat owners in getting their cats spayed and neutered. We have plans to create a weekly clinic called "Break The Cycle" where cats can be presented for this assistance. Stay tuned....

We networked with other shelters, developing strong working relationships — "purrs" to Mike Keiley at MSPCA Methuen, to Karen Bill at the Humane Society for Greater Nashua, and Kara Brown at Lowell Humane Society, which is under new management — just to name a few of our favorites.

Along with Lowell Humane, we arranged for a mobile spay/neuter unit from ARL of Boston to come to

Lowell every other month. The Spay Waggin' program is designed for people who require financial assistance to sterilize their pets. November was their first visit; it was fully booked and 14 cats were done that day. For more information contact us.

We mixed work with fun while raising some much needed monies at Treasures Antiques Annual Spring & Holiday events, and at Flatbreads Pizza in Bedford, MA- which we will do again in April 2008

We have also been blessed with the kindness of several children who have forfeited birthday presents to instead collect items for the homeless cats here at the shelter.

But on the downside — 2007 was the most difficult year we have ever had. We saw more cats and kittens entering our shelter than ever before. As I write this, in early November, we still have over 90 kittens and several hundred adult cats in our care. For most of the year I have felt like the proverbial child with a finger in the hole in the dike, afraid that at any moment the dike will burst. Indeed, shelters throughout New England have been flooded with cats in record numbers. Passionate volunteers, most of whom have been with KA for many years, fight the battle of abandoned, feral cats and unwanted litters of kittens with me every day. To rectify this problem we must all work harder to prevent unwanted litters from being born and assist in spaying and neutering. I have a vision that, together with education and assistance, we can change this tragic pattern. But, to be successful takes money — every gift can mean life or death.

As the founder and president of Kitty Angels I promise that all donations will be used wisely and resourcefully and that 100% of every dollar will continue to go directly to the animals.

In Friendship and in hope-

Beings Without an Angel

During a bitter cold December, Lesa, one of our volunteers, met a man who was feeding strays in Lawrence, MA. He liked to call himself Ari. With little to his name, he shared what food he had with the homeless cats. The terribly injured cat we took from his alley, we named after him. This is the poem that he sent in thanks.

**LOOK AT ME, I HAVE NO NAME,
NO MOTHER, NO FATHER...
BROTHERS, SISTERS!!
WHERE ARE YOU? MEOOWWW!!**

**WINTER'S HARD,
SPRING NO LONGER HAS COLORS;
SUMMER'S A WINTER ALLEY
BEFORE THE AUTUMN OF MY EYES.
MY EXISTENCE IS LONG, LONG, LONG,
LONG AND PROFOUND AS MY WOUND.**

**ALLEYS ARE THE STREETS I KNOW
WHEN I SEARCH FOR FOOD AND LOVE,
WHEN THUNDER, LIGHTNING OR SNOW
MAKE ME RUN, AS IF I AM
THEIR VICTIM OR A BAD FOE.**

**THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE AT THESE ALLEYS
WHO FEED ME AND GIVE ME WARMTH,
BUT THERE ARE ALSO OTHER PEOPLE
WHOM I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW
BECAUSE THEY THROW ROCKS AT MY EYES
FOR NO REASON, JUST FOR FUN,
AND THAT HAPPENS
BECAUSE I'M A CAT WITHOUT A HOME.**

**LOOK AT ME,
MY EYES ARE WINTER,
A SEASON THAT NEVER ENDS,
AND LIKE ME ARE MANY KITTENS,
WHO HAVE NO FAMILY OR FRIENDS;
LIKE ME ARE SO MANY KITTENS
WHO WRITE STORIES WITHOUT A PEN.**

**LESA, HEAVEN IS YOURS:
I PERCEIVE IT FROM ONE EYE,
FROM THAT EYE YOU'VE MULTIPLIED
BY TRILLIONS OF MOONS AND STARS.**

**THANKS, KITTY ANGELS AGAIN
FOR WRITING MY STORY
WITH YOUR LOVING, TENDER PEN.**

ARI

Microchipping

Kitty Angels has been microchipping for about 5 years now. We sometimes get a call requesting that we “activate the chip” on an adopted cat because the cat had escaped. But, microchips don’t need to be “activated” to do their job — we thought we would take a moment to explain how the chips really work.

About the size of a grain of rice, the microchip is injected under the skin, between the shoulder blades, and should last the life of the animal. Each chip has it’s own unique identification code; when a cat is adopted it is enrolled in a recovery system along with the owner’s information. It doesn’t need to be “turned on” after insertion — it can be read anytime by means of a tag scanner. When a lost pet is found, a shelter or veterinarian can scan the animal, read the number, and call the recovery service to get the owners’ information and reunite them with the lost pet. The recovery service operates 24 hours a day. Each year, during a yearly checkup it is recommended that the animal be scanned to make sure that the chip is still functional.

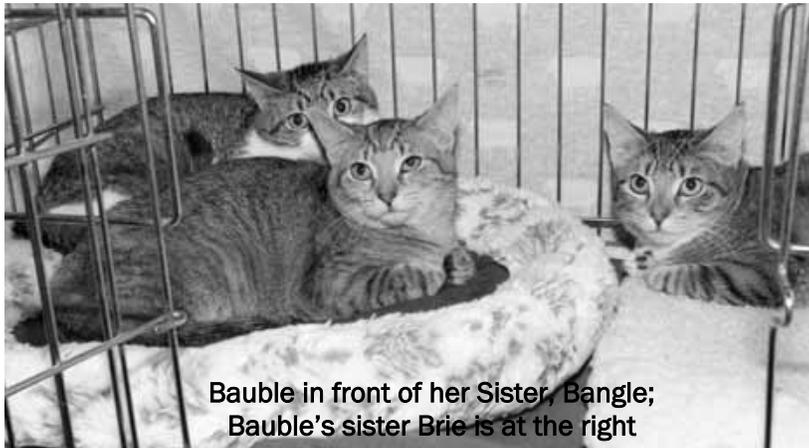
We encourage all pet owners to microchip their pets. Microchips, when combined with visible ID tags on a cat’s collar, are the most reliable way to recover your lost cat. Only 4% of cats who end up in shelters are returned to their owners — a microchip can mean the difference between life and death. A combination of microchipping and visible ID tags will usually result in a lost Kitty Angels cat being reunited with its owner. Please do remember to contact us if your cat gets out. We can help. Please also notify us and your microchip recovery service, so they can update your cat’s registration information, if you move. If you have lost your tags, a new microchip tag can be ordered from the microchip company. If you want a new collar and Kitty Angels tag for your cat — stop by any of our adoption days and ask for them.

A Success Story – A Problem Solved after Many Years

Hard work, patience and education all played a key role in this large project.

Reminiscent of the old children's story, "Millions of Cats", this was one of our biggest challenges ever...

Last spring, we were contacted by several residents at a local mobile home neighborhood...there were literally cats and kittens everywhere! Some residents, sympathetic to the cats' plight, had been caring for them for years and were happy that some resolution was being offered – others, frustrated with the ever growing population and the issues associated with it, wanted the cats removed, even if it meant euthanasia.



**Bauble in front of her Sister, Bangle;
Bauble's sister Brie is at the right**

Over the following few months, we trapped 45 kittens and 30 adults. All of the kittens were put into foster homes. Only a handful of the adults were adoptable strays; the remaining were feral and were returned to what they knew as their home after having been spayed or neutered, vaccinated for rabies and distemper, ear-tipped, and treated for parasites. Most of the kittens were in very bad condition –they were thin and infested with fleas to the point of being anemic. Some kittens died from this before we could even trap them. One day we found four kittens, all so gravely anemic that they required emergency blood transfusions. Thanks to your donations, and to the expertise of our vets, all

four of these beautiful babies made miraculous recoveries! Baby Bauble is one of these four kittens. Her case was complicated by the fact that she was born with a neurological condition that affects her balance and motor skills. Her head bounces up and down like a little bobble toy. Bauble had to be syringe fed for many weeks because she didn't have the strength to keep up with her sisters. Now, Bauble, a healthy adult, has learned to compensate for her disability and has been adopted into a wonderful home, where she is truly cherished. Her sisters, Bangle and Brie, are still waiting to find their forever homes. Please visit their page on our website, www.kittyangels.org.

To date we have dealt with 97 cats and kittens from just this one mobile home park. We have made some lifelong friends and the residents are involved in the day-to-day care of the cats that we returned. Their continued help is invaluable to us, as they notify us immediately of any and all new cats that appear on the scene. Working together in this way, we're hopeful that history will not repeat itself.

This project was a huge financial strain, but we had no choice – saving cats is what we do. If you appreciate our efforts, please consider making a contribution to our shelter so that we may continue to help the cats on your behalf. We all thank you!!



They Rely on Your Generosity.....Each year brings an increasing number of cats into our shelter. While this provides more opportunities to place needy cats into lifelong loving homes, it also means that we need to supply more veterinary services, food, litter and shelter space – and 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 of which are listed on our website at:

www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html

“Until he extends the circle of compassion to living things, Man will not himself find peace.”
Albert Schweitzer

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 is a cat whose happy ending was made possible by your support and donations and by your willingness to offer lifelong, loving, homes to wonderful cats. Thank you!!!!



Smokey Joe

I adopted "Smokey Joe" from Kitty Angels when he was 2 1/2 years old. He's seven now and is the love of my life. He's extremely affectionate and gentle and kind and is as beautiful on the inside as he is on the outside. He chirps and "talks" and will start purring just from when our eyes meet. I can't imagine life without him and I will be forever grateful to Helen and the rest of Kitty Angels for giving me the greatest gift, my boy Smokey Joe. I love him more than words can express. Thank you so much! Sincerely, Millie O.

Alan (aka Harry Houdini)

Alan settled in very well. Much faster than we expected. We did change his name to Harry (Houdini) because when we first brought him home we kept him in our computer room where he would find places to hide that a cat half his size would have trouble getting into and out of. But, like the famous magician, our little Harry Houdini performed disappearing acts with ease. When he started exploring the rest of the house I was kept busy kitty-proofing places that our other cats had never dreamed of going. Harry is a wonderful addition to our family and we thank Kitty Angels for all they are doing to help rescue cats in need. Sincerely, Dick & Johnette G.



HOW YOU CAN HELP KITTY ANGELS



-  **Money...**to pay for the daily care and medical bills of the cats.
- ▶ You can now donate to Kitty Angels through **PayPal** using a credit card. To make your donation, go to www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html and click on the **PayPal** button.
-  **Donate online** with a credit card through **Network For Good**. You can donate anonymously and dedicate your donation...www.networkforgood.org/donation/MakeDonation.aspx?ORGID2=043270369
-  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 Tyngsboro, MA, at 978-430-8055, or by e-mail at gail@hnhre. She will donate 10% of her commission to Kitty Angels.
-  **Donate Stock, Securities or other Assets.** Contact us for information.
- ▶ Consider making a **Bequest** to Kitty Angels, by will or by trust. Contact us for information.
-  **Shop** at your favorite online stores and have a portion of the purchase price benefit Kitty Angels. Start your shopping at **iGive** at www.igive.com/KittyAngels it costs you **nothing** extra!
-  Drop your **Used Printer Cartridges** at PetSmart in Nashua at Royal Ridge Mall, or in any of our donation boxes.
- ▶ 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

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."
Jeff Valdez

Forest's Story...a true story by a KA volunteer

This was no ordinary "cat in a tree" situation. No one will ever know how many days the homeless cat had been wedged between the tree trunks, unable to free himself, suffering with massive, painful injuries. The cat must have fallen a great distance to have become so firmly wedged. Some young boys playing nearby heard a repeated crying sound and investigated; they called the animal control officer; she called a Kitty Angels volunteer.

Our attempts to free the cat using a lever and a house jack failed. We needed professional help, and within fifteen minutes of our call a team of professionals from the Danville NH Fire Department arrived. As they worked with their Jaws of Life equipment they took turns holding the cat's head; talking softly to him; reassuring him that he would be okay. After several attempts "Danville's finest" were successful in separating the trees and the cat was freed.

Suffering and dehydrated, the cat received pain medication and fluids at a nearby Emergency Veterinary Hospital. This nameless little stray was then brought to Amherst Animal Hospital, where a team worked late into the evening to save his life. One of the techs named him "Forest." Poor, gentle, Forest had a high fever; multiple deep wounds along his spine, abdomen, and legs, which were severely swollen from lack of blood flow; blood in his abdomen from severe bruising; and lesions

and swelling in the corners and inside the mouth. It was initially predicted that one of his legs would have to be removed. Forest spent almost two weeks in the hospital, enduring multiple surgeries and hydrotherapy to restore blood flow to his lower body. There were so many wounds that there was not enough skin to close them; special surgical techniques were required to relieve the tension.



Forest recuperated in a foster home for many months and has been adopted into a lifelong, loving, home.

Our thanks to the wonderful rescue squad from Danville's Fire Department - without their prompt, professional and caring response, Forest wouldn't be alive today...our thanks to all the other "Angels" - professional and volunteer - who pulled together to save Forest's life...and thanks to all those who have helped Kitty Angels - it is through your generosity and goodwill that animals like Forest are rescued, survive and find a peaceful new life.

Your donations saved Forest's life...there are so many more injured, needy and homeless animals...please help!!!

Yes, I want to 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, and providing rabies, distemper and other necessary vaccinations. 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.

And, 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 **Especialty for Pets** for allowing us to show adoptable cats and have adoption information days at their stores. And, thanks to the management and staff of both stores for being so very kind and supportive for so many years.

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, to put out food and water, two or three times a week, at established feral colonies off of Broadway St, near Church and Andover Streets, and in the High Street area.

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