



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 #7

The Little Shelter That Could...

by Joan Abbott

I think I can...I think I can...I think we can...I think we can...

That is what ran through my head all this year.... It was another challenging year- what with the economy, decreased adoptions and an unending flow of incoming cats.

We saw many more dire situations than in past years – people reaching out who could no longer afford to care for their pets, emergency calls that seemed endless, hoarders, and so many more strays and ferals. In just one nine day period we dealt with:

Blossom - a cat so emaciated and starving that she flung herself into a vat of cooking oil that smelled like food to her. Luckily the oil was not hot and she was fished out and taken to our vet. She was so close to dying that she had to have very small amounts of food given to her around the clock so that her body could get used to food again. She also had to have several baths to remove the oil from her long fur.



Blossom



Mr. Mitten

Mr. Mitten - Left behind when his owners moved, he was hit by a car and had been seen dragging his useless front leg around for weeks. By the time he came to us he had lost so much blood that he was anemic and the leg was twisted, useless and infected. After several days of antibiotics, pain meds and food, he had the leg removed.



Mr. Gray

Mr. Gray - a feral cat who had wedged his head thru a plastic lid and had been

that way for over a week. One of our volunteers managed to trap him on the evening of the day that we received a call about him. These were all emergencies- cats who had no one else to turn to. This past year it seemed that many of our weeks were like this one.

To get to the root of the pet overpopulation problem we wrote grants for spay/neuter funds and established low cost spay/neuter clinics for owned animals. We held our annual fundraisers at Treasures Antiques in Amherst, NH and at Flatbreads in Bedford, MA and attended other events – all aimed at educating the public.

We tackled these and many more challenges this year, continuing our mission of helping the least fortunate cats in our communities. Our dedicated volunteers are the backbone of the organization, giving tirelessly to the animals. We have no building, no paid staff and no funding from any agencies.

Thanks to the volunteers and to you — our supporters — we were able to help many animals this year. I am proud of what we, a small shelter with just a handful of incredibly dedicated volunteers, accomplished under such circumstances.

I dream of better days to come.

100% of your donation always goes towards their rescue and care. The vision that created Kitty Angels twenty-seven years ago lives on. Please help us continue our work and keep the mission going.

Many "THANKS" from all of us and them.

"What greater gift than the love of a cat?"

Charles Dickens

Free Kittens...

This article is dedicated to those kittens that have perished or suffered as a result of being handed out for “free.”

Her name was Matilda...

The sign that often appeared at this particular house said “Free Kittens.” Three unspayed cats had produced thirteen more kittens and they were becoming a nuisance. It was time for them to go...people driving or walking by stopped and impulsively picked out a kitten and took it home. Undoubtedly, some lucky ones must have found good homes – I have to believe that in order to go on with my rescue work – but I came in contact with two of them who did not.

A woman told me that her daughter had gotten one of the thirteen kittens and named her Matilda. She also told me that her daughter did not have any money and asked if I could help out. I told her that Kitty Angels would assist with low cost spay/neuter and vaccinations when the kitten was a few weeks older. The daughter’s roommate, not wanting to miss out on the free kittens, brought home another one of the thirteen kittens. Days went by and I received an urgent message saying that Matilda had been sick for several days; she could no longer walk and was crying horribly in pain. I immediately went to get the kitten. It was a sad sight...my heart broke when I saw her. As I drove to our vet on a late night emergency visit she was so small and sick that she didn’t even attempt to crawl out of the cardboard box I had placed her in. Despite all of our efforts Matilda died. Blood tests showed that she had gotten into and ingested antifreeze. The second kitten was handed off to another home before I could have it neutered – the woman did not even know the name of, or how to contact, the person she had given it to. It had never seen a vet and was caught up in the sad cycle. I think of it often.... wherever it is out there.

It is a common announcement that we all see – in newspapers, posted on Craig’s List, crudely made signs taped on doors, stuck in lawns or, even worse, the sign that is brought out several times a year, year after year, each time a cat has a new litter. The phrase repeated from person to person.

Kittens seem to hold the promise of all things sweet and innocent. They are entertaining precious things, handed out to anyone who passes and inquires, the owners proclaiming that they all went to good homes.

Many do not stay in their first home. They fall victim to abandonment, disease and acts of cruelty, and too many of them end up producing even more kittens. Because of the overabundance of cats and kittens, they are too often seen as having little value in our society.

Please help break the cycle...

- Be responsible – have a plan before you acquire a kitten or a cat. Make sure you can provide for basic veterinary care and food for the life of your pet.
- Adopt from a shelter and adopt a pet that has already been spayed or neutered; look into low cost spay/neuter programs. There are too many homeless animals without adding to the problem.
- ***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. Help us help them by sponsoring a cat to be spayed/neutered through Kitty Angels. Please help fund our low cost spay/neuter clinic by making a donation. Funds for this program are desperately needed.***



Break the Cycle Sundays

Kitty Angels is offering a **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic** for people needing assistance getting their cats altered. The clinic is held on the second Sunday of every month at Salem Animal Rescue League in Salem, NH. All surgeries are performed by a licensed veterinarian and are by appointment only. All cats run through this program are spayed (or neutered), receive a distemper and rabies vaccination, as well as a physical exam, a microchip and a nail trim. If your cat requires treatment for infections, earmites, fleas or worms, these medications are dispensed for an additional small fee. Kittens must weigh a minimum of 2 pounds in order to be spayed through this clinic. The cost to the pet owner is based on a sliding scale.

A suggested donation of \$85 per cat is requested; however, grant money may be available for those who are not able to afford the nominal fee. Contact Kitty Angels for information.

How 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.

Once your appointment is confirmed, you will be notified to drop your cat off between the hours of 9:00 to 10:00 A.M. and pick up will be late in the afternoon that same day. Payment is to be made when you pick up your cat in the form of either cash or a money order.

Please be part of the solution to break the cycle of pet overpopulation - Make an appointment for your cat today!

The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society also offers low cost spay/neuter packages on their "Catmobile" which comes to the Nashua-Tyngsboro area on a monthly schedule. For appointments and information call 888-495-7729. The Catmobile is also in Lowell once a week, as well as other towns throughout MA. Check the MRFRS website www.mrfrs.org for dates and times.

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

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 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.*
- *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.*
- ▶ *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 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, Gail Mosher will place them in Treasures Antiques shop or will sell them online through Purrfect Treasures, ebay or Craigslist, whichever is more appropriate. 100% of the proceeds from donated items will go to Kitty Angels. Contact Gail at 978-430-8055 or by e-mail at gail@hnhre.com*
- *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.*
- ▶ *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

Stuart Littler

Unfortunately we never run out of needy cats that need our help. You've heard us say it before: most of the cats and kittens that we happen upon are the most needy cats on the streets, struggling to survive. Giving these forgotten throw-aways the chance for a new life in a loving home is always our goal, and we struggle to keep up with their exorbitant medical bills. To say that this year has been the toughest in our 27 year history of rescue just doesn't express what "toughest" means. Adoptions are at an all time low...donations are decreasing due to the state of the economy...veterinary, food, and litter prices are rising...and more and more cats are being abandoned in much greater numbers than shelters have or can make room for. We have worked hard to help as many cats and kittens in desperate need that we can – so many come to us in crisis. Such is the case with Stuart Littler.

We really don't know how Stuart Littler ended up in an industrial parking lot on that cold rainy day in June 2009. A shelter friend called from work, frantic because someone in her company told her of a cat lying on the ground in front of a car. She ran outside and what she found was a baby kitten, about seven weeks old, laying motionless in the rain on the pavement. She scooped him up, wrapped him in paper towels and held him on her lap in front of a space heater. His eyes were fully dilated. Ticks had attached themselves to his eyelids. He was just skin, bones, and cold wet fur. He was unable to lift his head, swallow, blink, or purr. He was however still breathing. We asked a local veterinary office if they would see him on an emergency visit and they agreed.

Baby Stuart was dying of starvation, dehydration, and a stunningly low blood sugar. The vets worked to dry him off, keep him warm, and get his blood sugar up. After having glucose injections and fluid therapy, Stuart began to swallow his formula and started lifting his head up. Within minutes, he

could sit up and actually wobbled over to his food dish. An hour later he was sitting up, purring, and kneading in the vet's office. He was grateful to be alive. The vets and staff were stunned that this little kitten made this remarkable comeback!!

That evening we went straight from our "paying jobs" to the industrial park to check and see if there might be other kittens and a mom. When we listened we could hear kittens screaming loudly, yet they were to afraid to approach us or be seen. It was heart wrenching! Deciding to stay overnight we set the traps and waited in the rain, taking small naps in our cars. We monitored the traps that we had set all over the industrial area and, one by one, we trapped three kittens by the time the sun rose. We returned day after day, just to be sure there were no more kittens. On one of these days we met a security officer that told us that the mom had been hit and killed in the road two weeks prior to our learning of the kittens. We shed tears for her and for her kittens. How they survived (and they barely did) was a miracle. None were in quite as bad shape as Stuart Littler, but all were malnourished and severely under weight.

Stuart and his three siblings were placed in a wonderful foster home that worked hard to love and nurture them. They are all now having the healthy, happy and carefree kittenhood they deserve. Their Mom would be proud. Stuart's siblings have since been adopted into loving homes, but Stuart Littler is still ready and waiting for his forever family to fall in love and adopt him!!

Won't you please consider sending a donation to help us to continue to rescue wonderful and deserving cats like Stuart Littler? We are an all-volunteer organization – every penny of every donation goes entirely to their care. They depend entirely on your generosity.

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!!



Stuart Littler on Arrival

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 PETS MART 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 ...People to staff tables, represent us and hand out information at public events like the "Pet Rock" fair. We can also use help on Sundays to clean and care for the cats housed at PetSmart at Exit one in Nashua. Help is needed for trapping feral cats in several towns in the Southern NH and Eastern MA areas. We need help in Tewksbury, MA, this winter to feed an older feral cat whose elderly caretaker will not be able to get out and care for her until Spring. We also need volunteers to assist people who have lost a cat: this includes showing them how to use a catch-alive trap and coaching them on steps to recover their lost pet. And last, but not least, we can use help driving owned or feral cats to spay/neuter clinics in Methuen, MA and Salem, NH. Call us at 978-649-4681 or send us an e-mail at info@kittyangels.org.

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