



Kitty Angels

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

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...A Newsletter for our Friends and Supporters

Issue #8

Hope

by Joan Abbott

How can we ease the suffering? In the world of rescue that is a thought that presents itself each and every day — and even more so this year as so many more cats needed to be rescued. But, we did what we always do: fixed them, loved them, and found them a place to spend a safe and happy life, wherever that might be.

RESCUE...the very word is hopeful. Hearing it elicits an almost visceral response. It suggests action, solutions, drama, salvation — a rousing cheer from the stands perhaps? But in reality, rescue work can be hard and painful as well as rewarding.

For almost 30 years I have engaged in what, for me, as well as for many of our volunteers, has been a spiritual journey, a calling, an education. I have seen acts of cruelty, but have also witnessed such incredible acts of greatness and kindness that I have genuinely come to believe that most people, if given the opportunity, will help ease the suffering of animals in need.



Street cats in the Medina, Fes, Morocco



Street Cat and Kittens Being Fed Sardines

I have been inspired by the people I have met throughout my life, in this country and others. I have had the good fortune to travel to many places and have been humbled as I watched impoverished Hmong villagers in Vietnam share their meager food with their cats and dogs; bus drivers stopping in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco to feed the pack of stray dogs they know are there, waiting and hungry. Here in America I have also witnessed many people who, despite having so very little themselves, provide food and shelter to the stray cats that congregate in their neighborhoods. People who care for homeless animals in the best ways they can. The plight of homeless animals is worldwide. There are many ways of caring for these animals and I am encouraged by what I've seen in foreign lands and by the progress we have made here in our own little corner of the world in New England.

We have strived to make Kitty Angels a beacon of hope for homeless and stray cats for these many years. Here are a few of things that inspire us to continue: finding the last tiny feral kitten in your trap and reuniting it with its siblings and mother; watching a cat finally able to relax and sleep soundly without having to be afraid of what might hurt him if he had closed his eyes out on the street; the sight and sound of a cat enjoying a much overdue meal; getting an update on an adopted cat; a dollar dropped into our donation box and a smile from a stranger as we stand and hope for an adoption on adoption days; hearing a feral kitten purr for the first time; someone — *anyone* — understanding and recognizing what we do; *a kind word*.

And then there are the wonderful people. The kindness of our volunteers is overwhelming. If you wanted a group of people to come to your rescue, this would be it. Not only are they kind to animals, they're kind in general. I will always remember a volunteer bending over a forlorn homeless figure on a city sidewalk, as we were checking a trap in the chill of an early morning, and then watching her bring back a cup of coffee and place it next to him.

As we approach the thirty year mark we continue to be inspired by you, the wonderful people who help us continue in our quest to ease the suffering. Hope and kindness — it's what keeps us going. Thank you to all of you, from all of us and on behalf of all of them.



Moroccan Bus Driver Feeding Stray Dogs

"One cat just leads to another"
Ernest Hemingway

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 Hearth N Home Realty, in Chelmsford, MA, will donate 10% of her commission to Kitty Angels. Call 978-250-1200 or e-mail gail@hnhre.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 Gail at 978-430-8055 or e-mail gail@hnhre.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 now on Facebook!

Look for updates and events and join us there.

A Few of the Many Rescues from 2010

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.

Ivy

It was a routine summer afternoon. I was heading home early from work and as I passed by the local University I spotted a friend of mine, an Animal Control Officer, and decided to pull over to say hello. As I approached him and called out a greeting he turned and said, "Oh Joan, you don't want to see this." Despite his warning we approached a van parked by the side of the busy road. He told me that a cat had been hit by a car and that it was bad. He took a blanket and crouched on the road side, preventing escape in that direction, while I went to the other side, lay down on the ground, and crawled under the van. I was so shocked by what I saw that I needed a moment to compose myself. There, instead of a fully grown cat, was a tiny six-week-old calico kitten, injured and slowly dragging herself by her front feet, her hind end collapsed and useless. When we pulled her out and held her in the blanket she



was suffering terribly and appeared to be dying. It was awful to see. As the Officer prepared to take the kitten to a vet, I told him that if she lived Kitty Angels would take her and provide whatever care she needed. I continued home, sad that such a thing had happened and hoping that her suffering had been eased. Where had such a tiny kitten come from? Were there others in the area? Where was her mother? Although I never expected a call from the vet, a call did come an hour later and she was still unbelievably alive...alive but badly broken. Could I come and get her? Would I be responsible for her? I was on my way in an instant to pick her up and take her to our vet for emergency care. She had a fractured hind leg, was severely bruised internally, in shock from being hit by a car and in terrible pain. What was even stranger was she had two older fractures. What had happened to this tiny kitten in the few weeks she had been alive? Had she been abused prior to ending up in the busy street? We will never know. Miraculously she has made a full recovery and has no lifelong issues. She is now looking for her forever home.

The Railroad Group

The call came in the blazing heat of the summer, when there was "no room at the inn" so to speak and when our funds were at an all time low. But when we received a call from a property manager describing the condition of the cats and kittens, we knew we needed to look things over. When we arrived cats and kittens were everywhere... the dry food on the ground was covered with flies and kittens scattered like leaves in the wind. This was not going to be a simple problem. As we drove around the neighborhood, business owner after business owner told us about more groups of cats that they fed or had seen. It was like unraveling a ball of yarn. We followed a trail and discovered that we had many overlapping colonies of cats covering a larger area. We also discovered a part of town that we didn't even know existed and met a group of decent, kind hearted men, down on their luck, who were living year round in unheated campers. Yet, despite their meager resources, they fed the strays and cared for them as best they could, even trying to find homes for the endless stream of kittens born each year. The cats and kittens we caught that first day were anemic from fleas, underweight, and had upper respiratory infections. We realized that unless we acted immediately to round up the rest of them, the younger and weaker of them would not survive. Within a few days we had mobilized a group of volunteers to trap and help assist at an emergency spay/neuter clinic. Cats that were feral were Trapped Neutered and Returned (TNR'd) and all kittens and friendly strays were kept and placed for adoption. We now have a dedicated volunteer who, each morning, feeds the few that were returned to the colonies. She also keeps on the lookout for any new cats so that the problem will never repeat itself. Kitty Angels also supplies food to the men so that they can continue to feed their separate colony as well. It was a rewarding group effort with so many community members working together to solve this problem — letting us trap on their properties, allowing the ferals to be returned after being sterilized — it truly was a pleasure to make so many new friends. All in all we spayed/neutered over 50 cats and ended a vicious cycle of reproduction and suffering.

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 a year ago to help people get their cats spayed/neutered. So far we have spayed/neutered 488 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” 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.

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. When sterilized animals are returned to their site of capture they deny shelter and resources to other, fertile, cats.

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. 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

“No matter how much the cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens.”
Abraham Lincoln

Albert

Most of the cats we take in are strays and ferals. Most have struggled terribly to survive, suffering abuse, neglect, disease and injury: There are so many in need, and the requests for help are so often overwhelming to our volunteers. We try to make room in our homes, where room can be made. Our foster homes no longer have spare bedrooms or spare bathrooms. Our homes are filled with convalescing cats; cats that have been recently spayed or neutered; cats that have had emergency surgery; cats that come through our homes on their journey to their forever home. Sadly, some never leave our homes, because they are too shy to shine at adoption days or because they have chronic medical issues. Those stay with us and we love them.

Just this past weekend, after volunteering all day at a low cost spay/neuter clinic, one of our volunteers was on her way home when she saw something in the middle of the road. It was a thin grey-and-white cat, hunched up in the middle of the road with his bloodied feet tucked under him. He had fresh blood dripping from his face and he was clearly in shock. People stood on the sides of the road, not sure what to do. The Kitty Angels volunteer quickly scooped him up, gently placed him in a carrier and rushed him directly to a 24 hour emergency veterinary hospital.

The vets at the emergency hospital examined Albert and he had an obvious broken jaw. They thought he may need to have an eye removed. At first they thought he was a feral cat, but he was apparently just frightened and disoriented, and in quite a bit of pain. They were able to manage his pain throughout the night, and the next morning, we transported Albert from the emergency hospital to our veterinary hospital. At our vet's office, they took x-rays and found that trauma to his lungs had caused air to leak from the lungs into the chest cavity. The leaking air was causing Albert's lungs to partially

collapse, and he was having labored breathing. The vet that was on duty Sunday knew just what to do and she quickly sedated him and drew the air from the chest cavity, immediately giving his lungs room to expand and making Albert more comfortable. Because this unusual procedure requires ongoing medical supervision, we had to transport poor, tired, little Albert back to the emergency hospital where someone could keep a close watch on him throughout Sunday night. On Monday morning, Albert was again resting at our veterinary hospital where they performed surgery later in the week to realign and wire his jaw. He also had a painful broken tooth removed and, while under anesthesia for his other procedures, was neutered. The good news is that Albert, while still recuperating, is expected to make a complete recovery. All of his attending veterinarians and hospital technicians have told us over and over "He is such a sweet cat! Despite all he's been through, he is purring to us and attempting to rub his bruised little head on us!"

Please visit Albert's page on our website, www.kittyangels.org (and on our Facebook page!!). We cannot walk away from this cat. We need your help to not only help Albert, but to also help so many others in need. The cats that we rescue, spay, neuter, and care for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, as we have done for the past 20 years. We have no vacations from rescue, but we also have no regrets. If you support and 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!!

All of work done by Kitty Angels is accomplished by a network of dedicated and unpaid volunteers. Every penny of every donation is used in caring for cats. Please consider sending a donation today?

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!!



Albert on Arrival

Kitty Angels 978-649-4681

PO Box 638 www.kittyangels.org

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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 ...People to staff tables, represent us and hand out information at public events. We can also use help cleaning and caring for the cats housed at PetSmart at Exit one in Nashua. Help is needed trapping feral cats in several towns in the area. 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 Londonderry, NH. Call us at 978-649-4681 or send us an e-mail at info@kittyangels.org.

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