



Kitty Angels

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

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...A Newsletter for our Friends and Supporters

Issue #3

TNR: A Humane Solution To Feral Cat Overpopulation

by Lesa Hall

For more than twenty years, Kitty Angels' primary mission has been to improve the lives of an ever-increasing population of stray and abandoned cats. In many cases this involves finding homes for individual animals. However, not all cats can adapt to life in a home. One of the ways that we have been able to help a great many cats is through our TNR programs. TNR stands for Trap/Neuter/Return. It is the protocol by which feral cats are humanely trapped in safe, catch-alive traps, and are spayed/neutered and vaccinated by veterinarians. The feral cat is then returned back to its original environment where caretakers provide food, water and shelter as it lives out its natural life.

Typically, a ¼ inch tip of the left ear is removed while the cat is anesthetized during the spay/neuter operation. This "ear tipping" procedure, which heals very quickly, is invaluable in managing a feral cat colony because it allows a trapper to immediately recognize a cat that has already been TNRed. Kitty Angels is a strong advocate of TNR programs and hopes that this approach will make Trap and Euthanize a practice of the past.

To fully understand the TNR philosophy, it is important to distinguish between the terms "stray" and "feral". A stray cat is one who had at one point lived in a home and has become homeless, either because of abandonment or because he or she has for some reason become separated from its family. A feral cat is one who has been born in the wild to either a stray or to a feral mom. They have not known a kind human touch and are fearful of people, much like wild animals. They are descendants of our household pets,

who, through some great misfortune, have found themselves born outside, fending for themselves and fighting against the elements for their lives. When we trap a colony of cats, we assess each cat to try and find out if the cat is a stray or a true feral cat. The kittens in a feral colony are put into patient foster homes, so that they can be socialized and adopted into good, lifelong, homes. The strays are also taken

into foster care, so that they too can find a home. The true feral cats are then neutered or spayed, vaccinated, ear tipped and returned to their environment. This is what they believe to be their home. This is where they feel safe. We try and make their lives safer by vaccinating, spaying and providing shelter and a never ending supply of food and water.



There is much research done by feral cat advocates, such as Alley Cat Allies, who are the pioneers in the movement to promote TNR as the only humane solution to feral cat population control. TNR not only controls the feral cat population by preventing future litters being born and subjected to what can often be a hard cruel world,

but it helps to eliminate undesirable behaviors typically found in a non-sterilized cat colony, such as fighting, yowling, breeding, spraying and marking territories. A cat colony that has been spayed/neutered also prevents newcomer, non-spayed cats, from entering and re-populating an area. When a newcomer does join a feral colony, the caretakers will quickly Trap, Neuter, and Return the new cat, thereby maintaining the stability of the colony.

There are many myths concerning feral cats which,

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*"The smallest feline is a masterpiece"
Leonardo da Vinci*

through awareness and education, Kitty Angels hopes to dispel. One such myth is that stray and feral cats carry diseases. In fact, research shows that strays and feral cats carry no more diseases than owned house-cats that are allowed to roam outdoors. When a feral cat is brought in to be TNRed, the cat receives inoculations for both Rabies and Distemper. In fact, our TNRed colonies that receive food, water, and shelter look so wonderful and healthy that most people think that they are owned cats. There has been much controversy about feral cats killing the bird population. Although cats are hunters by nature, a well-fed and well-maintained TNR colony is less likely to kill birds than are cats that are starving on the streets and who de-

pend on hunting for sustenance. In addition, since TNR naturally reduces feral cat populations over time, it also naturally decreases predation of birds. Humans and land development destroy much more of the bird population than feral cats. As advocates of feral and stray cats, we find that one of the saddest myths is that feral cats are "vicious". These poor misunderstood animals are only frightened cats, who, through human neglect, have been allowed to reproduce outside and have never known the warmth and kindness of a human touch.

Kitty Angels has been diligently working, one colony at a time, to help reduce feral cat overpopulation. Donations to our dedicated TNR fund will directly support needy cats. We would very much appreciate your help.

Kitty Angels Received a MAC Grant in 2005

The Massachusetts Animal Coalition ("MAC") is a not-for-profit organization that was formed to promote collaboration among animal care professionals. Using funds collected through the Massachusetts "Animal Friendly" license plate program, MAC provided grants during 2005 to qualifying non-profit humane organizations for a statewide spay/neuter program. Kitty Angels was fortunate to receive one of these grants to enhance our TNR Effort and to create awareness and compassion for the feral cat population. A special thanks to MAC for helping us continue this important work.

HOW YOU CAN HELP KITTY ANGELS — LET ME COUNT THE WAYS....

by Steve Lionel

Most people donate to Kitty Angels by writing a check. Without these donations we couldn't exist — they're our lifeblood and are so very much appreciated! But, did you know that there are other ways that you can contribute and that some of them won't cost you anything?



-  **Does your employer have a matching gift program?** Multiply your donation by taking advantage of it.
-  **Shop at your favorite online stores** and have a portion of the purchase price benefit Kitty Angels. Start your shopping at iGive at <http://www.igive.com/KittyAngels> It costs you nothing extra.
-  **Donate online with a credit card through Network For Good.** You can donate anonymously and dedicate your donation. <http://www.guidestar.org/partners/networkforgood/donate.jsp?ein=04-3270369>
-  **Like to buy or sell on eBay?** Visit http://www.missionfish.org/NPMMF/nhomepage.jsp?NP_ID=9145 to see a list of current auctions where the seller has pledged a portion of the proceeds to Kitty Angels and to find out how to list your own.
-  **Got ink?** Bring your used inkjet and laser printer cartridges to PetSmart in Nashua or drop them in any of our donation boxes. Many of these can be recycled and Kitty Angels gets money for each one.
-  **You can donate a used car** through AutosForAnimals. Kitty Angels will receive a portion of the proceeds and you may be eligible for a tax deduction. For more information, visit <http://www.autos4animals.net/>
-  **Do you have leftover medical supplies, prescription drugs, prescription foods or cat foods???** We have many cats on medicines for thyroid, diabetes, heart disease, etc., and many cats that require special diets...supplies of insulin, syringes, fluids and both regular and prescription cat foods are always needed.
-  **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 <http://www.kittyangels.org/howtohelp.html>

Adopt a Shy or Needy Cat

By Joan Abbott

Many of our cats and kittens are collected off the city streets. They have been born to stray, abandoned, or feral cats and did not have the advantage of human kindness at key times in their life. Hence, many of these cats are timid. Adjusted to life in their foster homes, they do not travel well. When uprooted from their safe and known environment and taken to adoption days, they quiver and hide and do not show well.

Many of these cats are languishing in our foster homes and have been patiently waiting for years for a kind heart to recognize their potential. But they do not get seen by anyone. These cats have what is called a "feral" background. Many people think that feral cats are wild or dangerous, but they are wrong.

Once acclimated, they make great companions to

other cats and if you saw them in their foster homes you would see how engaging they can be. It is a very rewarding experience to gain a feral cat's trust once they know you.

Do you have a cat that would enjoy a companion? Do you have a kind heart and want to do a good deed? Are you a previous adopter and have room for just one more? Let us introduce you to some of our favorite cats that we can't bring to our adoption events. Email or call us to set up an appointment. Adoption fees will be waived for some of our shy and needy cats.

We have many of these wonderful cats in our care -- here are just a few of them....



Rafiki is a one year old male Maine Coon mix. He has an enormous, fluffy tail, and is full of energy -- he loves to climb things and run around the house. Rafiki is looking for a playful friend, or would like to go home with his best friend Chewie.



Little Sister is one of our volunteers' favorites. She will sit with her two little white paws together, awaiting her special treat of canned food. She will watch you until she is "served". Little Sister is a pretty tortie-tiger female who has been with us for seven years.



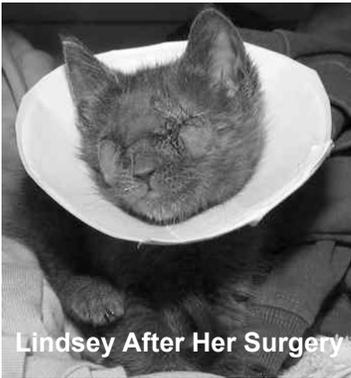
Spitz is a quiet little black and white female who came to us seven years ago. She loves everyone at the shelter and always finds someone to share a bed with. Her name comes from the little white dribble on her chin.



Daisy is a pretty calico female, about ten years old. She came to us as a kitten with her brother Fred. Fred found a home, but Daisy is still looking for hers. She is good friends with Lee, but will snuggle with everyone else.

HEAVENLY HOMES

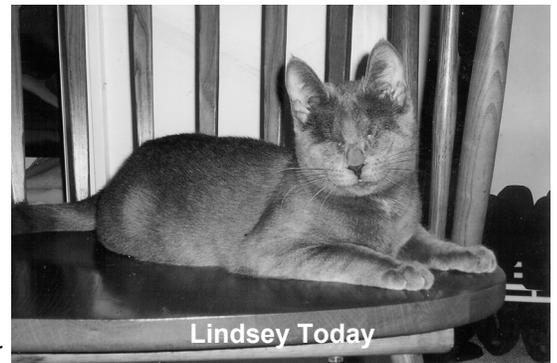
Kitty Angels primary mission is to save those poor hopeless cats that live in the shadows of every city and town — outside, on the streets, beside the highway, in fields and woods, struggling to survive. Tragically, without intervention and help, many of these cats will die a lonely and painful death, 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. Below are just a few of the happy endings made possible by your willingness to offer lifelong, loving, homes to these wonderful cats, and for your support and donations. Thank you!!!!



Lindsey After Her Surgery

Lindsey is a very special kitten with an amazing zest for life! Living in a squalid home with twelve other sick cats, Lindsey's eyes became so infected by an untreated virus and secondary infection that they ruptured. When we rescued her, she was only five weeks old and blind. Sadly, despite our vet's best efforts, both eyes were beyond saving and our options were to euthanize Lindsey or to proceed with major surgery to remove the eyes.

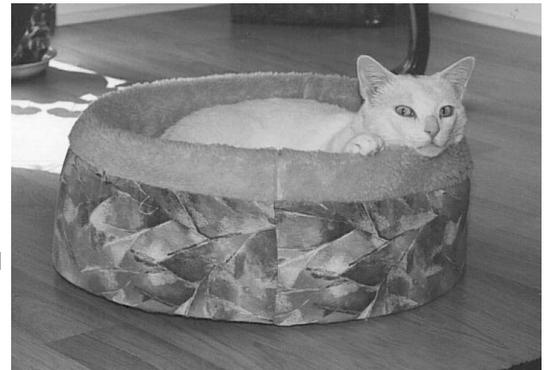
We cried while driving this tiny, pathetic, playful and beautiful kitten to our vet's office and we cried again when we picked her up. Despite being blind, Lindsey was hopping around in the carrier, playing and wrestling with her blankie and sporting her new purple stitches!!!



Lindsey Today

Stacey and Nicole, the wonderful people who adopted Lindsey and her sister Sissy, say that they are "A true gift and we thank you for giving us the wonderful opportunity to share our lives with them." Thank you, Stacey and Nicole for your kindness, love and generosity.

Duddits was a stray on the waterfront in Boston. Either abandoned or lost, he joined up with a group of feral cats who were being fed by a couple of compassionate women. When rescued from his life on the streets, Duddits did not look like a white cat, but rather a mix of a dingy yellow and ash grey. He did however arrive with the most "perfect 10" personality and a healthy appetite!! He has since cleaned up nicely, received complete medical care and been adopted into a heavenly home. Duddits' family continues to send us updated pictures of Duddits and says "He is a great and very talkative cat! Sadly our 17 year old cat passed away... Duddits seemed a bit depressed for a few weeks but he has now bonded even more with our (house) rabbit. I loved your newsletter and hope to adopt in the coming year!" Thanks!!!!!!



Gus was an adult cat when found by Kitty Angels. He was one of many such cats that end up here — abandoned by his family; never having seen a vet; roaming the neighborhood searching for food and a kind touch. When his family moved, Gus simply became a disposable item, thrown out with the rest of the trash. They would get another cat in their new apartment.

Gus became a favorite at the shelter and was one of many cats taken to an adoption weekend many years ago. Unbeknownst to Gus, his luck was about to change. If not love at first sight, there was certainly a connection and Hank has taken great care of Gus all these many years, seeing him through all the joys and the hardships of pet ownership. Here's to Hank and the many other fantastic folks who have adopted and taken such great care of so many thousands of needy cats.



We love to receive updates and photos from our adopters. We have a great "alumni section" on our website and are looking for future candidates for future newsletters. Please drop us a note and a photo and look for it on-line or in print!!!



"I love cats because I enjoy my home; and little by little, they become its visible soul"
Jean Cocteau

Chevy's own Kitty Angels

...a true story by a KA volunteer

As longtime volunteers of Kitty Angels, we sometimes deal with incredible victories and heartbreaking losses. Such was the case one evening this fall when I made a final trip to our vet with two long-term hospice care cats. Freeway, who we found on the side of a highway, lived in our care for several years while battling lymphoma. Fairway, who we found living alongside a golf course, came to us as a gravely injured, painfully shy cat whose left hind leg had to be amputated. The two became friends and lived happily together for several years until Freeway no longer wanted to eat and Fairway was at the end of a long struggle with liver failure. A fellow volunteer and I made the painfully long journey to the vets where the two friends were gently put to sleep. We cried as we drove home.

Halfway home from the vet's office, we watched in horror as a stray kitten ran into the road and was struck by oncoming traffic! We leapt from our car and sobbed as the kitten thrashed in the road and dragged itself into a nearby field. Quickly catching up to the wounded animal, I wrapped my sweater around the kitten and immediately headed back to the vet's office, feeling absolutely despondent and preparing for the worst. Our vet quickly assessed the situation and admitted that the five-month old kitten's prognosis looked grim. If he lived through the night, his chance for survival would be

greatly improved, but only time would tell. After many x-rays, pain medications, tests and blood-work, we were notified that the kitten had a badly broken pelvis and the top of his femur had been sheared off. An orthopedic specialist was called in to piece together the young cat's pelvis with screws and other assorted hardware. Thankfully, the kitten, who the vet techs named Chevy, survived his brush with death. During every day of his long hospital stay, Chevy never failed to charm the staff with his constant purring, head-butts and kneading. He's now recovered fully from his several surgeries and is able to run, jump, and play like any normal eight-month old kitten. He is what we would call a "Perfect 10" cat!

I cannot help but wonder why this tragedy-turned-success story happened right before our eyes that night. It makes me wonder about fate and whether our friends Freeway and Fairway might have played a part in the matter. We struggle with the death of a beloved pet, and wonder why some have just been dealt a tough hand. We wonder and hope that when they pass on that they get their wings and become our very own Kitty Angels, watching over the less fortunate animals on earth. If you ask me, I am pretty sure that Freeway and Fairway became Chevy's own Kitty Angels that fateful night in September.

Your donations saved Chevy'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!!



Chevy...happy and healthy in his new home, thanks to the generosity of kind and caring donors like you

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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 !!

First, a very special thanks to all of you who have opened your hearts and homes to animals and to those who have donated in some way to help us or others who act in concert with our cause. You are the ones who's caring, kindness and generosity makes the difference. We couldn't do what we do without your continued support.

Thanks to our team of dedicated ***volunteers and foster home caregivers***. These are the people on the front lines, whose dedication and tireless efforts have brought so many needy animals back from the brink – without any remuneration of any kind.

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.



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