



289 West Street, Milford, MA 01757
www.milfordhumane.org

Dear Friends,

As the holidays approach, we shelter volunteers want to share with you a few of our stories. Over the past year we have provided a safe haven for many cats and kittens. Some have spent a short time at the shelter before finding their forever homes and some will make the shelter home. Each cat/kitten is special in his/her own way, all receive medical care, a warm bed, food to nourish them and lots of love. As an all-volunteer, non-profit, no-kill facility our struggle to survive continues to be difficult. We depend upon you, our loyal supporters, to keep our doors open.

Heartfelt thanks and many purrs for caring...

Tiny Warrior



Being a foster mother for Milford Humane for seventeen years, I have been fortunate to share in the lives of many precious kittens. This time was different.

On a beautiful June day, I met a very tiny gray tortie kitten. She had just been found barely moving in a parking lot. Dirty, flea infested and malnourished, it was a miracle she was alive. On her first of many vet visits Bitsy was found to be dehydrated and weighed only eight ounces. She was given IV fluids and started on medication.

At home she was given her first flea bath. The warm water running over Bitsy helped her relax and comforted her. She loved it.

Unfortunately, her belly would bloat and she could not pass stool. Every other day she had to go back to the vet for enemas and IV fluids. In the beginning it seemed for every step forward she would take two steps back. Slowly she gained strength and showed interest in playing. Her favorite was a stuffed toy, her buddy, which she cuddled with when sleeping.

As time went on Bitsy stopped gaining and seemed to be in pain. Medications were changed, x-rays and an ultrasound failed to shed light on what more could be done to save her.

Exactly one month to the day she arrived, with me whispering in her ear how thankful and blessed I was to have loved her, Bitsy earned her angel wings. In her short life she proved to be a tiny warrior who left her footprints on everybody who had the pleasure of meeting and loving her. Yes, her life was too short, but full of meaning and purpose. There will be more babies like Bitsy who will arrive at Milford Humane needing extra care. Please help us give them a chance to survive.

Brenda

Scaredy-cats – socializing kittens a labor of love.....

Socializing kittens is one of the most gratifying jobs at the shelter. Many come in terrified of humans, cowering in the back of the cage. These kittens learn that hissing will cause most people to back off and stay away.

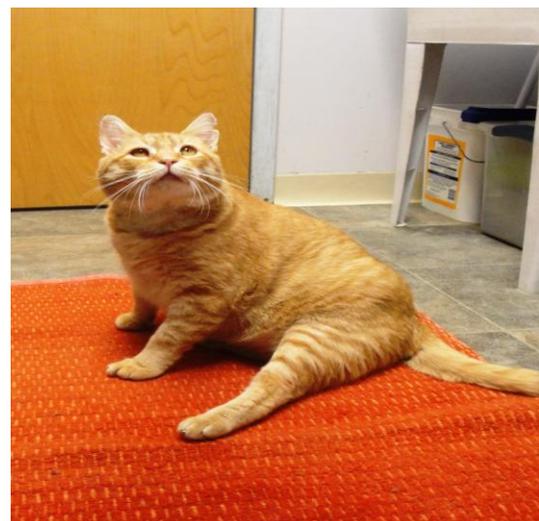


It's a winning strategy for the kittens but they aren't happy and can't be adopted. Sometimes it just takes a little bit of nerve, baby food and toy mice to make the kittens comfortable with people. The kittens also see the other cats playing and start moving to the front of the cage to watch the excitement. You can scruff the kitten and hold securely until the kitten begins to like and crave human touch. The transformation is complete when you walk in and open the cage and have a purring kitten flying in the air to land on your chest.

Susan

In the beginning there was fear and pain and six months later a loving home...

It was a typical day at the shelter when the call was received regarding an injured cat trying to get into a building at a dairy farm in the next town. Worried workers requested help as the injuries were severe and the cat was bleeding profusely.



Picked up and transported to our veterinarian's office, the cat had multiple cuts around his head and ears. He had been attacked by another animal (possibly a fisher cat) and was lucky to have survived. Left unattended, he most likely would have died from infection.

Dubbed Garfield by the technician because of his orange tiger markings, Garfield required more than 20 stitches to close the wounds. Throughout the ordeal, he was a trooper. Being a quiet, laid back cat, he settled into the shelter Quarantine Room to wait out the required six months isolation period.

Cats that are rescued having wounds of unknown origin are required by the state to be quarantined under specific guidelines or euthanized. Milford Humane Society is a no-kill facility that provides quarantine services for a number of cats in an appropriate area in order to save their lives.

Medical care for Garfield was expensive but the alternative never was considered. He was a sweet cat that just needed help. Many cats have graduated from the Quarantine Room over the past two years and been adopted into forever homes. A number of these cats have required multiple vet visits to treat or monitor wounds.

On the first day of the fifth month of the quarantine period, the cat is required to receive a rabies vaccine. At this time, the veterinarian again checks the cat for any signs of disease. One month later the Animal Control Officer checks the cat and, if healthy, releases the cat to be shown for adoption. At that time the cat is deemed free of rabies.

As you can see, Garfield is a handsome cat who has found his forever home. I chose not to include the admission pictures showing his wounds but rather include a picture of a healthy cat about to enjoy his remaining years in a loving home.

The donations provided by supporters like you make it possible for Milford Humane to rescue cats like Garfield and provide them a chance to survive.

Barbara

Update from the Special Needs Room.....



This has been a wonderful year for the shelter's FIV positive cats. Traditionally, the FIV cats have had some of the best personalities in the building, yet have been the most overlooked for adoption. But not in 2015.

Cronies Belair, Rob Roy and Owlie Boy were able to go to a home together and are happily chasing each other around and availing themselves of their new screened-in porches. This was also good for Her Highness Tricia, who always felt those boys interfered with her ability to be queen.

Tricia

Although the room felt pretty empty, it didn't stay that way for long.

First we acquired Norman, who was found injured and stray as well as FIV positive. In keeping with the unofficial tradition, Norman also has a wonderful personality and is a BIG, easy-going brown tiger.

Soon, he was followed by Jimmy Dean and Ulysses. Again, both are 10s on the personality scale and came to us from other shelters that are unable to accommodate FIV cats. Although FIV cats are able to live long healthy lives, they are frequently put to sleep as space goes to "healthier" cats. Milford Humane is thrilled to be able to help these great cats and has always found them to be well worth the effort.

Glenda

Bastet and her kittens....



Clara

A beautiful pregnant grey and white female cat came through a vet clinic in mid-August. When no owner was found she was offered for adoption through the clinic with the stipulation she be spayed before placement. A shelter volunteer offered to put the cat in our foster program as she was just a week away from delivering her kittens. Mom cat was named Bastet, the Egyptian Goddess of cats and women.

Bastet's sweet personality and loveable attitude was infectious. She delivered eight kittens on August 20th. She was a good mother, nurturing and caring for all of her females-grey and white, grey, black and white and black. By rotating the kittens during feeding time, Bastet was able to produce enough milk to sustain all of her kittens with supplemental bottle feeding.

For four weeks Bastet nurtured her kittens lovingly. In late September the runt, now four weeks old, died. The same day the foster mom's mother-in-law passed away from cancer. Two days before her death she asked about the kittens and said she wanted to adopt one of them.

A week later Bastet was diagnosed with mastitis and had to be admitted to the hospital. The kittens had to be weaned as Bastet needed antibiotics. This process included bottle feeding and introduction to solid food.



Monroe



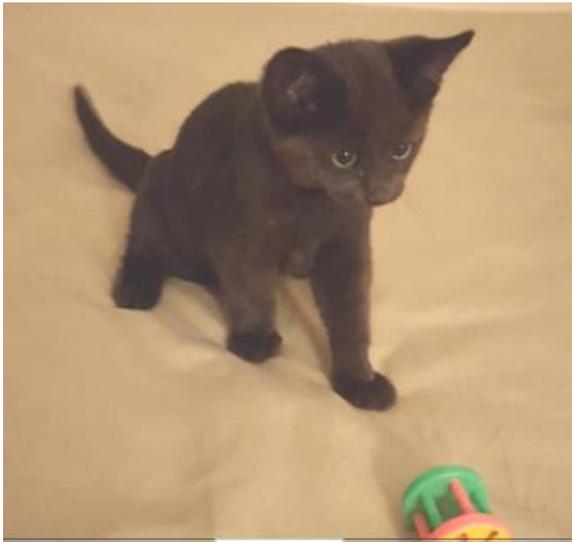
Amy

Once the kittens were six weeks old and eating solid food, they were transferred to another foster home. Growing, playing, and being loved, they continue to thrive and will be available for adoption in January 2016. Donations in memory of Cleopatra, the kitten who made us smile during her four short weeks of life, to help defray medical expenses would be appreciated

Sandy



Harrison



Maggie



Samuel



Brutus

Meet Brutus, an eight year old Himalayan-type cat that resides in the Quarantine Room. Brutus had been a stray for a number of years being fed by people in the neighborhood. When he showed up with a wound on his head, the town animal control officer picked him up. As nobody in the neighborhood was able to quarantine him, he was surrendered to the shelter. Brutus had at one time been a pet. His owner moved and left him behind. Brutus is a sweet, lovable cat. We are happy to be able to shelter him for the time required by the state.

A number of cats will make the shelter their home. They are warm and fed and their medical needs are met. These cats learn to trust their caregivers but shy away from strangers, so do not show well during adoption hours. Visitors to the open rooms will see the cats relaxing in beds or on condos. Some welcome attention from people, while others do not. Bonds are formed among the cats and they create families of their choosing. It is not unusual to see cats cuddled together in a bed or on a condo. New cats to the open rooms are caged temporarily to allow the current residents to get used to the new arrivals and for the new cats to feel at home.

We are thankful for the shelter founder who opened her home to take in stray cats in 1989. Milford Humane Society has come a long way over the years. The first few years were spent in a drafty garage without running water. Then we were without a home for a few years. The handful of dedicated volunteers who believed in the cause and had vision to see the outcome struggled to raise the necessary funds to build a shelter. With help from the town and many of you, we dedicated our permanent home in October 2002. Over the ensuing years we have tried to rescue as many cats and kittens as possible. The number of needy cats/kittens is mind boggling. Juggling the needs of the animals and how to stretch funds to provide medical care and food for them keeps us busy. We appreciate your help.

Over the years numerous cats have passed through the shelter. We even had a cat knocking on the door to come in a few years ago. When the door was opened he walked in meowing down the hall. We are sure he had quite a story to tell if only we could have understood what he was saying, as his microchip was inserted in Okinawa.

Our stories are about real rescues in the local area and mention only a few of the many cats/kittens that have benefited from your generosity. We thank you, our loyal supporters. You make it happen.

New volunteers to help with the care of the cats are always welcome. There are caregiver shifts twice each day. We also welcome people to help with our special events such as the

*Chocolate Fest held in March or the monthly yard sales held in the spring through fall (except July) and the Cat's Meow Auction held in November. All of these events require people to organize and staff to help at the event. **For more information call 508-473-7008.***

When you are planning your holiday festivities, please include MHS. Every donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated. As a volunteer organization, all monies raised directly benefits the animals. We have no paid staff.

May your holidays be merry and the warmth of sharing the gift of unconditional love with those unable to speak for themselves be yours.

Milford Humane Society Volunteers

December

2015

Dear Milford Humane Society,

I want to offer my support for the work you are doing in help ease the suffering of cats and kittens in our local area. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____ to help you continue this worthwhile endeavor.

Name _____ Address _____

If you are looking for a gift for an animal lover on your holiday list, please consider our adopt-a-cage program. This program offers support for cats that make the shelter their home. A story about a shelter cat will be sent for as little as \$10 per month or a larger amount if you choose. Payment can be monthly or on an annual basis.

If choosing adopt-a-cage as a gift, please provide information so the picture and story can be sent to the appropriate person.

Milford Humane Society, P. O. Box 171 Medway, MA 02053 (508) 473-7008

December 2015



Rescue cats are the best breed! The perfect one is just waiting for its "forever home".



*Milford Humane Society
289 West Street
Milford, MA 01757*

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