



December 2018

289 West Street, Milford, MA 01757

[www.milfordhumane.org](http://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, your help is needed to continue to provide care for these needy animals. You, our loyal supporters, make it happen. Heartfelt thanks and many purrs for caring...

### ***Rooney, a sweet senior cat no longer wanted by his family...***



Rooney was brought to the shelter as a stray. "Been hanging around our house for a couple weeks" the man said. Thinking this cat is older and must just be lost, Rooney was set up in a cage. Scanning for a microchip, we were surprised to find one and even more surprised to learn the cat was named Aldos and belonged to a member of the family who dropped him off. Rooney was being discarded at a time in his life when he should have been cherished and loved. A senior cat already in kidney failure but sweet and wanting attention from everybody, Rooney decided the top of the cages would be his domain and spent most days resting in a bed waiting for the next person to visit his room. He would quietly reach out to whomever stopped by with a look that said, hey, I'm over here, expecting a response. Quickly Room 2 became Rooney's room. Hard to imagine anybody not loving him. Rooney liked other cats and enjoyed the company of Buzz and Webster but mostly enjoyed the company of people. As the months passed, Rooney's kidney failure progressed, and he crossed the rainbow bridge in October leaving a hole in many hearts but during his time at Milford Humane he knew he

was loved.

**Barbara**

**Pets are family and deserve to be cherished and provided for throughout their whole lives and not just until it is inconvenient, or you are too busy. Be sure you are willing to make the commitment before you adopt. We welcome visitors to the shelter during our open adoption hours. Stop by to meet some wonderful animals. The cats enjoy spending time with new people and this helps them on the path to becoming social**

### ***How a foster became Foster...***



All cats are special, but some are more special because they are special needs cats. Midnight is one such cat and he had a lot going against his ever finding a forever home. As a four-month quarantine because of bite wounds, he came to the shelter from another rescue group. He had obviously had a hard life as a stray. Midnight is a handsome black FIV + cat. After quarantine a volunteer agreed to foster him. It wasn't long before he became Foster (sometimes Foster Grant), and she adopted him. She reports he is a love - affectionate, funny, smart often following her around the house. Foster loves attention and kisses. Being FIV+ is no problem. His mom says Foster is an exceptional cat. Lucky Foster has found his forever home. **Jeanne**

### ***Harriet and Hannah sweet babies in need...***

In addition to our own mission, Milford Humane also tries to help other shelters when space allows. On this particular occasion we agreed to take a group of kittens from an area shelter that had received a call about a hoarding situation but didn't have room for all the kittens involved.

When the rescuer got there and collected the kittens we were expecting, the woman insisted he go across the hall. She spoke broken English but was adamant that her neighbor had kittens that needed help.



The kittens surrendered by the woman were obviously loved and cared for to the best of her ability, but the neighbor's kittens were another story.

There he found a tiny gray emaciated kitten and a larger black and white one. Seeing the condition of the smaller one, the rescuer got the owner to agree to surrender them even though he had no idea whether we or another shelter would have the room or resources to help them.

When he got to Milford Humane and told us he had two more than planned, we scrambled around and figured out a spot for them. The tiny gray one, whom we called Harriet, was the immediate concern. She was so much smaller than her sister that it was hard to believe they were related. Harriet weighed less than a pound but had a ton

of love to give. Although she clearly didn't feel well, she would snuggle with the other kitten for company and was always happy to snuggle up with a volunteer and purr her heart out. She obviously needed better nutrition, but

we worried that too much damage had already been done to her body for her to make a full recovery.

Soon after assessing Harriet, we got a better look at the black and white kitten, now named Hannah. She tilted her head sideways and a gaping wound on her neck was suddenly revealed. It was a fairly fresh wound and the rescuer said he was told their dog had gotten one of the kittens. The injury, however, looked nothing like a fight wound. There were no tooth or claw marks, instead, it was a clean 2- to 3-inch slice that looked like it had been done with a blade. It was open and bleeding and pretty shocking when we saw it.



Harriet seemed to be improving. We syringe fed her and she would happily sit with us to eat. But after a week or so, her condition began to deteriorate. One morning we rushed her to the vet quite sure she wouldn't make it. But the vet brought her around and soon she was sitting up and eating again. The vet took her home overnight to monitor her and Harriet woke her up in the middle of the night wanting to eat. The signs were so hopeful that it was particularly crushing to learn she didn't make it through the rest of the night.

Her sister Hannah's wound began to heal but she was placed on a four-month quarantine, which is the law when an animal has a wound of unknown origin. She is still under quarantine but will soon be looking for the special home she deserves.

It's hard to know whether that woman knew how bad things were for the kittens across the hall. But, despite the outcome, if it wasn't for her, that rescuer, Milford Humane and a caring vet, Hannah and Harriet would have undoubtedly come to a much more horrible end. **Glenda**

### ***Chloe, diva of the cage room...***

Are you ready to meet our diva, Chloe? She lives in the main cage room at the shelter but would really prefer her own home as the only pet.



Chloe was adopted as a kitten and received lots of attention. Later when human children arrived, she was ok with one child, but the second child just was not acceptable in her eyes. So, at eight years of age Chloe found herself in a shelter with many other cats and no star billing.

She can be a little fresh at times. Being the diva, attention must be given on her terms. Chloe would blossom in the right home.

If you have room in your home and heart for a queen, please stop by to meet Chloe. Here she is posing by an empty jar of baby food. An occasional treat of a spoon full of Gerber's turkey gets top billing in Chloe's book. **Chris**

## **Buzz overcame great obstacles to survive...**



One chilly November day last year Milford Humane received a call regarding an injured black and white cat in Mendon.

Because of the cat's lack of socialization, trapping him was no easy task. He became officially known as Buzz.

During his veterinarian visit Buzz was found to have serious injuries: three pelvic fractures and a tail pull injury which could make him incontinent. He was also infested with parasites and worms. He had not been neutered and that procedure would have to wait. With this information a decision had to be made whether to humanely euthanize Buzz or go forward with treatment.

The decision was made to try to save Buzz and the search was on to find a foster home with a person knowledgeable about injured animals and their care. Once the foster home was found Buzz settled in for 8-12 weeks cage rest to heal the pelvis. Buzz would also have to have his paralyzed tail amputated to relieve the pressure on the nerves that control the bladder.

His care was difficult because of the heavy parasite/worm infestation and being on pain medication initially suppressed his appetite. Once off pain medication his appetite returned and his diarrhea cleared up.

After two months his fractures healed, and he was able to walk well. Next came his tail amputation and neuter. An E-collar was used to prevent him from chewing on his stitches but being the clever guy he is, he removed the collar and the stitches. This meant a trip back to the hospital to be sedated again and have the stitches replaced. This time a harness type collar was used to discourage removing the collar. Buzz also had to have an antibiotic. For six weeks while the tail healed, he worked at removing the E-collar. Free from pain and without the E-collar Buzz began to show his sweet personality to his foster mom. He began to play, loved to eat, and to be brushed.

In June Buzz returned to the shelter. He is shy with strangers but loves cats. He has many cat friends.

Buzz has one final medical condition to be remedied. He needs Entropion surgery on his left eye. His eyelid is turned up into his eye. Once completed this will be a permanent solution for his eye problem.

He can be incontinent but seems to be improving. Of course, there is no guarantee, after all he has been through. But then, life offers no guarantee to anybody.

Donations for his eye surgery are welcome. Buzz would eventually enjoy a real home with a family of his own and cat friends. If you would like to visit Buzz stop by the shelter during adoption hours. He can be found lounging in a condo or hanging out on top of the cages. Sometimes he spends time with his cat friends Webster and Leon. **Sandy**

### ***Stuart Little the tiny kitten with the big eyes outside alone needing help***

Stuart Little arrived at the shelter crying and hungry. The young orange and white tiger kitten weighed in at fourteen ounces. For days neighbors heard him wailing but could not find him. How does a baby survive? Desperate, he let himself be seen and a neighbor found him and brought him to the shelter. Placed in a foster home Stuart Little has difficulty digesting food. In time, with treatment, he should be able to eat more and gain weight. Time is crucial in rescuing kittens.



**Brenda**

**We have been receiving many calls regarding kittens that are outside this fall. While adult cats manage to find shelter in the winter, kittens are fragile, and it is difficult for them to survive. While we all love kittens, please be responsible and spay/neuter your pets.**

### ***Marvin-much loved little guy..***

When Marvin and his siblings came to Milford Humane, he was obviously the runt. Despite his size, he had a huge personality and quickly became a volunteer favorite. He would come to the front of the cage and squeak for somebody to visit him. He would often be carried around and offered anything and everything he could possibly want to eat in an effort to build him up.



It was clear that Marvin wasn't as strong as his siblings and that their play was too rough for him, so we gave him his own space, and he was even more pampered. Often it seemed like Marvin was breathing heavily and that something didn't feel right when we picked him up. Soon it was determined that Marvin's rib cage had not developed and that there was almost nothing protecting his lungs and other organs.

As we researched what we could do for him, our vets pointed us to a specialty surgeon who could correct his abnormality. It became a matter of waiting for him to be big enough and strong enough to undergo surgery.

While he waited for that surgery, his breathing became more difficult and he contracted pneumonia. Unfortunately, he wasn't strong enough to fight that off and succumbed to the combination of the illness and the birth defect. Although that broke our hearts, we are happy to have had the chance to dote on Marvin while we could. **Glenda**

As volunteers at a no-kill shelter, we have moments of laughter and excitement when a feral cat or kitten begins to trust people and moves on the path to finding a forever home. We also see the other end of the spectrum when a furry friend crosses the Rainbow Bridge. The hurt of loss is felt by all. These unwanted animals come to us from many different circumstances and all deserve a chance. If you love cats and would like to help them, please consider volunteering a few hours a week to become part of the team. The rewards are heartfelt. For more information call the shelter at 508-473-7008 or stop by for a tour and a chance to meet the cats.

***May your holidays be merry, and the warmth of sharing the gift of unconditional love be yours throughout the New Year. We can do what we do because of you!***

***Milford Humane Society Volunteers***

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*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\_\_\_\_\_*

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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.

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



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