



*December 2019*

**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...

**Charlie, Charlene and Charlotte**



We adopted three sibling cats that came from a feral colony and are very shy. I was drawn to them since we have a quiet home ideal for timid cats and I also wanted them to be adopted together.

We've had them now for over two months. During that time they've gone from hiding when we were around to being cats that play, eat and sleep in the same rooms we are in. No petting yet but we expect to get there because at the shelter they allowed us to pet them if a social cat approached us first.

Charlie is a gentle giant and makes subtle whale sounds when he talks. He patiently puts up with the occasional swatting abuse

from his sisters. Charlene is overflowing with life, sometimes irritating her siblings with her playful enthusiasm but usually Charlie can be counted on to join in with the fun. Charlotte is the old soul that loves to eat. She doesn't engage in play with the other cats since her passion is her stomach. She has rested her front paws on my knees to curiously check out the food on my plate.

It's been a joy having them around and that feeling will only increase as we grow close over time. Kevin

### **For the love of Fred**



Sometimes a cat comes along that really pulls at your heart strings. Although all of the cats at Milford Humane are loved, Fred is a special boy. Fred arrived at the shelter as a young stray. He is the sweetest, most gentle cat and happiest when receiving attention from volunteers. He likes to sit on volunteers' laps and offers head butts and kisses.

Fred is FIV+. That does not slow him down as he loves to play. Being a young adult, he has a lot of kitten qualities. FIV is an immunodeficiency virus. FIV cats can live long happy lives. He would be a great addition to many homes.

PS. Since this was written Fred has found his forever home with a family to love him. Chris

### **Giorgio Armani loves his toys**

Giorgio Armani is a young cat that came to the shelter from another facility needing quarantine time. As a stray with a wound of unknown origin, the law requires a four month quarantine period. As he was held at the other facility for two months his quarantine time was reduced.

When he arrived, we found Giorgio to be a little stinker. He could be perfectly fine one day and then an absolute terror the next day. He looked so cute that volunteers thought they could just pick him up. Giorgio often did not take kindly to this indignity and would lash out and latch on. Cats in quarantine get free from cage time separately to exercise and Giorgio became adept at escaping into the hall or office. The unfortunate volunteer who had to catch him sometime paid the price.

He had the same reaction to other cats he came in contact with, after his quarantine time was up. The only cats he could stand were kittens so Giorgio moved into a room with just kittens. As the kittens in that room were adopted this became Giorgio's private suite.

Unfortunately, we will never know what Giorgio Armani endured before he came to Milford Humane that made him so untrusting. With time and patience, Giorgio has become more predictable and more interested in people. The volunteers who have committed to his rehabilitation have found him to be playful and affectionate. He is extremely interested in hunting his toys and likes to rub against volunteers' legs. When volunteers sit on the floor, he will climb in their laps, but he never settles down. He clearly still has his limits and is obviously nervous. Giorgio may never be an easy-going cat that wants to be



picked up and cuddled. He could, however, become a wonderful companion to an understanding adopter. Until that match is made, we will continue to work with this silly, complicated, tuxedo cat in the hopes that his perfect person comes along. Tina

Milford Humane is a no-kill facility. We do our best to provide the appropriate level of care to every cat that comes our way. Some arrive cute, cuddly and ready to move on, some arrive snarly and hissy and demand their space be respected. Finding the key is often a challenge. Volunteers at Milford Humane are always up for the challenge.

### **Baby Binks**



Outside it was a cold, rainy night. Inside the shelter it was time to close when a last-minute call came. A lost kitten had been found, frantically crying for help. A Milford Humane volunteer stayed until the small, wet black kitten arrived. A foster home had anxiously been waiting for a kitten to foster.

Love is all he wanted, always purring appreciative of his new life. As time passed, he battled tummy upsets, respiratory infections, all the usual ups and down abandoned kittens battle. His favorite toys were the pom poms he would chase for hours and he was very proud to fetch.

Three months passed quickly, and he was neutered and ready for adoption. His new family was not found. Looking back, we believe it was meant to be. Suddenly "Binks" started with high fevers. Blood tests, IV therapy, or antibiotics didn't lower his temperature. Through it all this special kitten fought with purrs and cuddles. Symptoms began to show that Baby Binks had a fatal virus that was incurable. The time came to say good-bye and let

him cross the Rainbow Bridge.

To love him was a special gift. Saying good-bye was heartbreaking but knowing he could be chasing pom poms, healthy and happy, gave us peace. Binks latched on to our hearts and souls. He was perfect. A special kitten that needed a home and left love and memories forever. Brenda

### **Shiny, a sweet gentle cat**

Shiny is a sweet little kitty, about one and a half years old now, very petite with glossy, shiny black fur, hence her name. She came to the shelter with her three kittens from a home with too many cats. With good food and care, all four have thrived. One kitten has been adopted and the other two are a lively pair looking for a home together. Shiny was somewhat shy when she first arrived, but has become more confident and outgoing. She does not object to be picked up and cuddled, and only wiggles a



little bit now. She originally would hide, hunkered down in her big round bed. Now she is out and about, often on one of the high spots in the room. As her health improved, so did her appetite and she is especially fond of fish.

Shiny has a congenital heart condition called a ventricular septal defect. This condition is stable and probably will not change. She is not on any medication, but should have an echocardiogram occasionally. She needs a quiet home and special people to love her, with sufficient means to regularly monitor her condition. In return, she will shower them with affection and the love of a very special kitty. Harel.

News Flash: Shiny found her family recently. We miss her but are glad she has a forever home with a family to love her.

### **Orca, a little cat with a big voice**



Orca is a senior cat that resides in the cage room. He is the official visitor greeter bringing with him some of his friends. Orca, like many of the residents of Milford Humane, came from outside - a shy cat, not really people friendly. He is a small cat, blind in one eye, but knows how to get noticed. Orca has a number of cat friends that follow him around the room. His favorites are Beauty and the two Joes. He has helped socialize new shy admissions by seeking attention, allowing other cats to see people are not scary. The little guy with the big voice is a special much-loved cat. Barbara

### **BFF Shelter Style - Regina and Judy**

Perhaps it is human nature to gauge the value of our friendships as we make our way through life. We say we have lots of friends and quite a few acquaintances, of course. Then there are those friends who we would define as our "best friends". For one pair at Milford Humane there is no doubt in my mind or in theirs, that they consider each other as best friends.

Judy is an eleven year old calico who has been at the shelter since the summer of 2010. She is shy, but pleasant. She knows what she wants - a quiet spot where she can settle into a nice, long nap. She isn't a lap cat. She won't be picked up. She will tolerate people, but you aren't going to get much love back.



Regina is a seven year old ginger/orange cat that also has been at the shelter for several years. She started out very scared, shy and spent most of her time in the back of her cage. Again, volunteers and visitors could not pet her or even approach her because she would hide or run to another spot in the room.

But then something wonderful happened, almost without anyone noticing, Judy met Regina. Over the past year or so, their friendship has blossomed into what can be defined as "best friends...forever".

Judy made the first move. She invited herself into Regina's cage. Often times, the volunteers didn't want to disturb her when it was time for each cat to return to their own cage. It was obvious that she and Regina wanted to be together. Then Regina began to explore life outside her cage, most likely seeking out Judy and following her to her favorite spot on the climber in the corner. Volunteers would often comment how cute the pair looked as they were snuggled up together to take up "prime real estate" space in the center of the room where they could stretch out, take long baths, snuggle and soak up the sun as it shined in.

Regina and Judy, best friends and pals, paws intertwined and totally oblivious to every other cat around them...and living the good life. Sue

### **Cupid and Belisha**



Those of you who follow Milford Humane Society know that the last couple of weeks have been tough. Now, sadly, we're adding the loss of two of our longest residents, Cupid and Belisha.

Cupid had become like a mascot. When we moved to this building, she was one of the first cats in. Theoretically, she was a feral and trapped near an apartment complex where people continuously threw their cats out when they moved. Our shelter was still under construction, but because management was threatening to harm the colony, we accelerated our plans and got a room ready for their arrival.

Cupid was clearly not very feral and got friendlier and friendlier as time went on. Everyone noticed her gorgeous green eyes and for many years they also noticed her "husband," Ringo. She picked him out when he came to the shelter and soon moved in with him. For many years, they shared a cage by choice. He was several years older and when he died, we expected her to eventually find another beau, but she never did. She stuck with her circle of girlfriends instead.

A few years ago, Cupid and her BFFs moved to the Senior Room where they could live out their golden years doing what they pleased. It's really no exaggeration when I say everybody loved Cupid. She had kisses for everyone and was unfailingly

affectionate. I often gave her a little lecture about licking my makeup and telling her it would make her sick. She cheerfully ignored me every time.

At some point, we noticed she was finally declining, having spent 17 years with us, and I made it a point to never miss a visit with Cupid when I made the rounds. On Sunday night, I had someplace to be so I almost forgot to visit with Cupid. But I turned around and I gave her the usual lecture about my makeup and she cheerfully ignored it.

But by Monday morning, something had changed dramatically. We rushed her to the vet and found she had had an undetected mass for quite some time, and we had to let her go.

And while Cupid was known for being sweet, Belisha was known for being opinionated and we loved her for that. Belisha came to us as part of a litter of kittens but didn't get adopted - maybe because she was so feisty.

Belisha was very particular about her humans and she made that clear. She was essentially my girl. The other volunteers knew when I was there by Belisha's behavior. In her younger days, when her hearing was better, she knew my car and began to meow and pace when I pulled in the driveway. Once there, she would carry on until I came to see her... and she would not stop the performance until I came in and visited with her. We had a routine. She got on the top perch of "our condo" and I got the lower one. That made us head-to-head and she would prance around and talk to me and rub heads. If another cat tried to interrupt her quality time, she decked 'em. I often referred to her as the President of my fan club.



So, when Belisha was actually quiet when I got there, I knew it was a bad sign. By the time she died a couple of weeks ago, she was 14 and was showing signs of kidney failure. When I checked on her for the last time, she obviously wasn't going to be with us long, but she miraculously perked up for moment, looked me right in the eye and meowed at me.

Sometimes when people visit the shelter, they tell me volunteering would be too sad for them - too many cats without homes. But I tell them, I consider it a happy place. We're a no-kill shelter. The ones that make it here are the lucky ones. It's the cats that are still out there that they should worry about. The cats that make it to Milford Humane become family. I hope you all can forgive the long post, but I thought my girls were worth the tribute. For the last 17 years, they made every day I volunteered worthwhile.  
Glenda

**It is impossible to volunteer without bonding with the cats. Some are happy to see volunteers and some just want to be left alone - at least when they first arrive at the shelter. The challenge is to find the secret which allows the real personality to shine through. We have seen some amazing changes from snarly to come pet me. Takes time and willingness to persevere.**

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.***



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

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