



December 2017

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, 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..***

Ellie, a scared kitten wandering the neighborhood



I was contacted by a former co-worker about a young kitten that found her way to their neighborhood. The family wanted to help out but was unable to keep the kitten. They allowed the kitten to stay in their garage, supplying fresh water and food. Because she was feral, she was afraid of humans and unsure about trusting them. They named her Ellie, after her niece's favorite stuffed elephant. I contacted Milford Humane

Society where I've been volunteering for several years and was told help could be provided. A fellow volunteer who is amazing at trapping and rescuing cats came with me to try and catch her. After several hours we safely caught her and headed to my house. I agreed to foster her for a short time before bringing her to the shelter. Life, however, had other plans. Ellie quickly found her way into my heart and had no plans to leave. I have only had Ellie for a few weeks now, but she is definitely home! She has opened up and has begun to trust me, showing me her sweet and spunky personality. It will be a long road to help her learn that she is safe, and humans are okay, but the result is an amazing and rewarding experience. I am looking forward to seeing her respond more as time goes by. It is funny how fate has things figured out before we do...I would like to introduce the newest member of my family, Ellie. Andrea

Quarantine Room

This room was added to the shelter to provide a service that not many shelters are able to offer. Cats are isolated from other cats for four months after an examination by a veterinarian and receiving a rabies shot. Many cats have graduated from our quarantine room and found loving homes. We are glad we were

able to play a part in their rescue. These cats have come to us from other shelters, from trapping in the local area, and from surrenders.

Midnight was transferred to Milford Humane from a shelter that does not have quarantine capability.



Months ago Midnight was transferred to our facility from a shelter that does not have quarantine capability. He is a large handsome cat that must have had a home at one time. Midnight is FIV+. While he likes people, he does nip at caregivers when he is free from cage time. This could just be a looking for attention - pet me reaction. All quarantine cats have time out of their cages separately during the day to stretch and look out the window or climb on a condo. In a home where he has space and a family to appreciate him, Midnight will most likely show his sweet side. Won't you give Midnight a chance to have a family of his own? He has been

waiting a long time to find his special person. Look at the sweet face and beautiful expressive eyes. How can you resist? Barbara

Cupid is my best friend at the shelter.

Cupid is my best friend at the shelter. She patiently waits for someone to come in the senior room in the morning. You will find her sitting up anticipating her kisses, and head butts. She has been known to lick your face too!

Cupid is 15 years old, but you would never know it. She has a beautiful, sleek black coat, and green eyes. She is happy, healthy and comfortable. In her younger years, she endured some difficult times. She was brought into the shelter with seven other kittens on a cold December day. The babies were only six months old, and very shy. They were all named after reindeer, being so close to Christmas.



The kittens were immediately given food, love, and shelter from the cold. As the months passed, most of her siblings found loving homes. Poor cupid was always too shy.

Cupid never minded the company of other cats though. She found herself a boyfriend. His name was Ringo, and he was older than her. The pair would deliberately go into the same cage at night. They loved each other very much. Unfortunately, Ringo passed over the rainbow bridge in 2011.

After Ringo passed, Cupid began to enjoy the company of people, blossoming into the sweet baby that we are blessed to be able to love. Chris

Lizbit



In last year's newsletter we introduced you to beautiful Lizbit. a kitten MHS had rescued in depleted condition. What made her rescue critical was a birth defect. Lizbit was missing bones in both front legs.

Lizbit celebrated her first birthday in June which was a joyous milestone, but her health continues to be a struggle. Because her front legs are deformed her spine is curving increasing her limping. Her veterinarian has prescribed daily pain medicine.

"Bits" is more than a survivor. She has a spirit and tenacity that shines brightly. She loves to watch the birds outside and tries her best to play with the other foster kittens in her home, but she is learning her limitations. When she curls up in a ball or lays around the table leg her

family recognizes the sign to give her medication.

It is very difficult watching her little body struggle, especially when her future is more guarded. Lizbit gives her foster family so much love and happiness. No one knows what is in her future, for this special kitty, but Milford Humane will always be there providing medical care, comfort and anything else necessary for an extended life. Brenda

CODY is one of our success stories!!

Cody is a big beautiful brown tiger long-haired cat about seven years old who looks like a "Maine Coon". He has the softest fur you have ever felt, and a magnificent fluffy tail that he carries erect like a plume. He has a wonderful personality even though he is declawed, and loves to be picked up and cuddled.

Cody was surrendered to the shelter because his previous owner could not deal with his medical problems anymore. He has a tendency to form crystals in his bladder which then lead to a blockage in his urethra. This is a fairly common problem in male cats, but requires immediate treatment. He has had several blockages, including one while he was with us. He was switched to Hill's C/D prescription canned food only. This appears to have resolved the problem, avoiding the need for surgery.



Throughout all this, Cody maintained his friendly, loving personality. Cody just loves people and gets along fine with most other cats. He would stand on his hind legs and reach up to us with his front paws, as if to say "Pick me! Pick me!" And look at that beautiful face, and those eyes that will melt your heart!

Cody has recently been adopted by a lady who is a vet tech. She is showering him with love, feeding him his special diet, and watching for any medical issues. We think that he has hit the jackpot. We think Cody agrees. Harel

Kitten Season

I love kittens but this year I have discovered how little I know about them.

Josephine was our first mother to go into labor this year.



She is a beautiful sweet black cat. I spent most of a Sunday afternoon telling every other volunteer that she was in labor. Everyone would come in and look and tell me that there was nothing going on. I stayed an extra hour after adoptions watching her and was finally convinced that everyone else was right. Less than 5 minutes after leaving, her first kitten was born.

A few weeks later, I got an email saying that Mag had 3 kittens. I made it to the shelter in 45 minutes and found that there were 5. I got to watch the 6th kitten being born!

Mag was very thin when she came in and didn't have enough milk for her kittens. They needed to be syringe fed. I found it overwhelming in the beginning as getting the syringe into open mouths proved more difficult than I had anticipated. What made it easier was that she had 2 black kittens, 2 grey and 2 tabbies. At least I knew that I managed to feed them all. Luckily within 2 weeks, the kittens knew they were about to be fed and crowded to the front of the cage. They were more than happy to keep their mouths open.



Remus is another of our beautiful mothers, and when I left one Saturday she had 2 newborns. When I returned on Sunday, there was a third kitten. The best part is that they were born in our shelter. They weren't out on their own with no protection, no home, no food and no care. We were able to give them the best we could for them to thrive. Susan C

Petunia - Adventures of my Tri-Pod Cat

When Petunia first arrived at Milford Humane Society, she was recovering from a recent surgery and was required to spend the next 4 months in the shelter's Quarantine Room. She had been attacked by a dog and sustained injuries severe enough that it was necessary to amputate her right front leg at the shoulder.



It would have been understandable if Petunia's personality caused her to be shy or fearful. After all, she had been through a horrible experience. But much to everyone's surprise, she was not afraid of her caregivers or the shelter environment. She was outgoing, curious and very sweet; perhaps this was the reason she was aptly named Petunia.

As a shelter volunteer, I have had the opportunity to get to know personalities, likes/dislikes and see the individual growth of many of the cats first hand throughout the year. Some of the cats are at the shelter just for a short time while for others, the shelter remains their home for many years. Initially I thought this would be the scenario for Petunia. Although she had an ideal personality, she also had a handicap. Would this handicap affect her ability to socialize with other cats? Would potential adopters pass her by because of future medical issues? Would she be able to navigate stairs in a home?

It didn't take long for me to realize that all these questions and concerns for Petunia were a non-issue. I was amazed at her ability to climb the cat towers with just her hind legs and one very strong front leg. She was both courageous and seemingly reckless. Her constant purring and distinctive whirling chirp she made while rubbing her head all over my hands were irresistible. As anyone who has fallen under the charm of a cat can attest, the cat chooses you, not the other way around. Admittedly I was in love and there was no other way to explain it.

But then, what was going to happen when I brought her into a home with three other cats and a reluctant husband? I imagined the potential problems - the "boys" (7 and 11 year old siblings) who had the run of the house might be unwelcoming; and my husband kept asking why we "needed another cat". Then there was the long flight of stairs to the second floor of the house. How would Petunia manage all of this?

Quite easily, in fact. As it turns out, having only three legs isn't a handicap at all, according to Petunia. She runs just as fast as the big boys and has enough energy to tire them out. Those stairs? Not a problem or even a deterrent. And that reluctant husband - she turned his lap into her favorite place for an evening nap! I've yet to hear a complaint out of him.

It's been a year since we welcomed Petunia into our home. She has shown us that she can do anything that her "big brothers", Mort, Gilby and Sully can do. Life is an adventure and certainly wouldn't be complete without my "tri-pod" kitty.

Sue R

Fostering Orphan Kittens

Late in August I was entering Milford Humane for my caregiver shift as a man was getting out of his truck with a box. I held the door for him and saw six tiny kittens. He had found them at the construction site he was working at in Milford. He said the mother cat had been killed. Luckily for the kittens, he found them and brought them to the shelter. Nothing is as adorable as newborn kittens. There were a few of caregivers present and we got right to work syringe feeding the hungry kittens.

Their eyes had not yet opened and they still had their umbilical cords on their little bellies. Kittens open their eyes between 7 to 10 days of age. There were three ginger kittens and three tortie kittens. Six motherless kittens that would need feeding every two to three hours for weeks.



Because the kittens needed constant feeding I was asked to foster three of them for a short time. Initially, I felt scared. I had never cared for such young kittens. What if something happened to them while they were with me? I would feel so responsible for whatever happened to them. I have such a small apartment, where would I put them? What about my two adult cats at home? How would they react to the kittens?

Agreeing to foster for the night, the three ginger kittens went home with me and the three tortie kittens went to another foster home.

Twelve weeks later the kittens were still with me and ready for their forever home. A couple stepped up showing their interest in adopting all three male kittens very early on. They saw a video my son had posted of the newborns. The interested couple contacted me, and I invited them to my home to visit the babies.

The kittens are very playful and love playing together, and they were going to be able to stay together. Even though all 3 were boys, there wasn't an alpha which made being together a good thing. The adopting couple truly love cats and have taken in many cats over the years. They already had 3 adult cats at home. They set up a room just for the kittens when they went home with them, so the adult cats would have time to adjust to new members of the household. They have been with their adoptive family for a few weeks now, and the adult cats have accepted them as members of the family. Awesome! Nothing like a happy ending for the orphaned babies.



Fostering the kittens was an amazing, learning, fulfilling, and wonderful experience. I am so glad that I had the opportunity. I truly hope that other volunteers will step forward and offer their services to foster kittens when needed. You will be very glad if you do so. Sue E

Rescued from an abandoned house.....



Fifi was rescued from an empty house apparently abandoned by previous tenants. She was very thin, dehydrated and obviously sick. She spent days at the veterinary clinic before being relocated to the home of a volunteer for weeks of intensive care. Recovering from liver issues Fifi is now ready for a home of her own. A sweet dainty black and white tuxedo, Fifi is estimated to be five years old. She has a good appetite and is gaining weight. Fifi likes to hide in a cubbyhole in a cat condo and peek out to see if anybody notices her. Friendly, mellow and laid-back, Fifi would do well with older children and is ok with another cat. She like to cuddle -

winter is coming - nothing like a warm, furry body to cuddle. Mary

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

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



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289 West Street
Milford, MA 01757

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