

dedicated to helping homeless cats through adoption and health support
 www.HabitatforCats.org

#21 Spring/Summer 2008 P.O. Box 79571 N. Dartmouth, MA 02747



Tiny Tim



Grover



Contessa Amora

Success is Measured in Different Ways

In 2007, Habitat for Cats adopted out 260 cats, but sometimes the real successes of an adoption program can be measured best by the special cases – the ones where we’d almost given up hope that a home could be found.

During the summer, two 8 week old kittens were trapped. Lulu and Cindy came to us with upper respiratory infections and flea infestations. The kittens played, cuddled, and flourished. They won over the hearts of all the volunteers. Lulu continued to be chronically sick and was subsequently diagnosed with leukemia. The girls had to be separated and monitored for three months. Lulu remained leukemia positive while Cindy remained negative. Lulu developed a polyp in her throat, requiring two surgeries and many weeks of medicine. The poor little kitten was one the sweetest ever and so wanting of affection. Many people loved Lulu, but couldn’t adopt her because of the leukemia. By chance, Holly came to one of our adoption days and fell in love with Lulu. Lulu got a new home and a grand new name: “Amore Contessa”.

Tiny Tim, was found behind a laundromat by one of Habitat’s volunteers. He was barely seven weeks old with a serious injury – a leg broken in two places. The veterinarian reported that the breaks were in a bad location for pinning. We feared the leg would have to be amputated. Miraculously, after six weeks of cage rest,

the breaks healed themselves. Tiny Tim would probably have been euthanized at another shelter, but all he required was a safe place and time to heal. Tiny Tim was adopted after being with us for four months.

Grover, a Feline leukemia positive cat, who was featured in the previous newsletter, had been with Habitat for over a year waiting for someone to adopt him. A woman named Barbara finally came along. She had already cared for other leukemia cats and opened her heart to add Grover to the family. Barbara wrote this note shortly after adopting him: *“Grover is doing great. When we first got home he didn't really want to come out of the carrier. One of our two girls came up to him, put her nose to his, and climbed on into the carrier with him. I think he was a little surprised by that, and then she actually went in and out of the carrier a few times as if to show him what he's supposed to do. He did come out shortly thereafter. He happily ate some canned food with the two girls. He's a very loving guy and I think he's fitting in just fine. Thanks for the opportunity to be a part of his life.”*

Dorian, a beautiful all grey lover boy, came into our care with bleeding paws. Dorian was either lost or abandoned at Westport Point where he lived for many months on the porch of a lady who could

continued on page 2

Remembering Our Family and Friends

Donation Made By In Memory Of

Joan H Bernard.....	my brother, Barry C. Howland, a cat lover
Mary Beth Rodman	Mephestophales, a beautiful cat, loved and missed by Mr. Kevin Burns
Donna M Briggs	Annette Cleveland, Sunshine Club
Diane East.....	"Frisky" beloved cat of Diane Brisson and "Sarabelle" beloved cat of Susan Rodman.
The Sunshine Club	Annette Cleveland, Sunshine Club
Susan M Paris	"Turbo"
Marie Fabio	"Katie" my beloved Bichon Frise
Theresa Travers	my husband, Leonard
Olly Elias.....	"Jubilee"
Sandra & Ken Ettress	our beloved "Shadow"
Jodi C & Doug Gonzaga	Caz Zaslona
Maryann & Jack Kilgour.....	"Panther"
John & Kathy Lima	our beloved kitty, "Lily" Lima and "Stella", (for Christy & Wayne Lague)
Louis Lima	my dog, "Fred", a friend to all cats
Susan R Rodman	my beloved "Wendy"
Catherine Mee	my husband, Dr. Edward J Mee
Tom & Carole Anderson.....	Ruben
Betsy & Sonny Fuller	Stephen LaRochele & Letecia LaRochele
May Kougias	William Linkhorn
Susan Rooney	Jennifer Rooney, "Sweets for Jenn" Fund
Pamela & Wayne Anctil	Carlos Sousa
Mary M Galvin.....	"Katherine", "Iggy", "Fred" & Carlos Sousa
Rosalyn Brooks	Jennifer Rooney
Joan O'Leary	Annie Lowden
Carol Weiner.....	"Frisky" beloved cat of Diane Brisson and "Sarabelle" beloved cat of Susan Rodman.
Louise Kelly	Jenny Kelly, Tony Holbrook, Gracie Marean
Hillary Derby.....	my sweet little feral friend, "Coco Chanel"
Pauline Provencal	"Sweet Oreo"
Christy & Wayne Lague	"Lily" Lima (for Kathy & John Lima)
Debralee Abrantes	my Godmother, Doris Enos
Jack Nelson.....	my beloved cat, "Gabby"
Matthew Richard	Jack Nelson's beloved cat, "Gabby" and "Prissy", beloved cat of Karen Daniels & family
Janet Haggerty.....	Karen Belliveau
Deanne Brehaut.....	Karen Belliveau
Phillip Belliveau.....	Karen Belliveau
Raymond Rutkowski.....	Karen Belliveau
Melissa & Eric Perry.....	Karen Belliveau
Paul & Arlene Belliveau	Karen Belliveau
Robert & Bunny Mogilnicki	Karen Belliveau
Cape Cod Community College	Karen Belliveau
Employees of Lockheed Martin	Karen Belliveau
George & Carolyn Sutcliffe	Ginny Guptill
Alvin & Charlotte Norcross	Ginny Guptill
Mary Ellen Guptill	Ginny Guptill
Susan Milmo & James Bakalar	Ginny Guptill
Diane East	Ginny Guptill

Donation Made By In Honor Of

John & Lori Barrett	Marie Barrett-Harrison's Birthday, from cats, "April-May" & "Pete"
Bridget A Flynn	"Mia", adopted in Oct 07
Catherine Gelpke	Phyllis Sweeney for help with my feral cats
Susan Guiducci.....	Anthony Benja-Athon's cat, "Blankie"
Nancy & James Goulart.....	our cat, "Susha"
Lucy Buckley.....	Ellen Tripp
A.S. Deams.....	Eleanor Anne Hall
Barbara Pond	my daughter, Debra L Pond
Susan R Rodman	Uncle Merton Rodman

Barns for Feral Cats



Do you have a vacancy in your barn for a couple of cats? You can employ feral cats to live in your barn and help dispatch unwanted rodents. Although cats have been living a long time with humans, they still have predator instincts, just like their lion and tiger relatives. The hunting instinct is inborn. Even with regular feeding, cats will not pass up an opportunity to chase after any mouse that crosses its path. Mice and rats have also evolved a strong aversion to the smell of cats and other predators. So just the scent of a cat, even one that's a crummy mouser, should help keep mice away. Habitat for Cats will match you up with suitable cats, already spayed/neutered & vaccinated to work or play in your barn. These "barn cats" will tend to be semi-feral cats that need to be relocated because they can't be returned to their original "home". Often, we find that a cat can't be returned because their home is being torn down, the field they lived in is being cleared for new development or there is some threat of harm to the cats. We do require that the cats have a sheltered area to stay away from the winter cold and rain and that the cats are fed daily. If you or someone you know is interested in "barn cats", please call us at 508-961-2287 or email us at Habitatcat@aol.com




DARTMOUTH TIRE, INC.
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(508) 997-7047

BF Goodrich  MICHELIN

Habitat for Cats 2007 Annual Report

Habitat for Cats is a non-profit, all volunteer organization funded primarily through private donations. Donations provide care for the cats in our foster, adoption, Trap/Neuter/Return and sanctuary programs.

In 2007, the total number of cats spayed/neutered through Habitat for Cats' programs was 750. This is an average of 62 cats spayed/neutered per month. While that number is still impressive, it was lower than the last 3 years, due to the increase in vet prices and less grant money.

Last year, 260 cats were adopted from Habitat for Cats. The vast majority of these cats were either strays wandering the streets and tame cats that were living in a feral cat colony. Habitat continued with mobile adoptions outside the local area, reaching into Hyannis and surrounding towns. This year, we're expanding our mobile adoptions into Plymouth.

Habitat's collaboration with other no-kill shelters also proved invaluable in rescuing cats and kittens from the streets. Over 300 cats, mostly kittens or young cats, were transferred to other shelters.

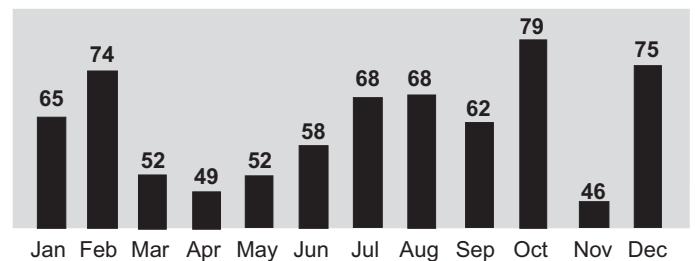
The majority of funds Habitat for Cats raised was used on vet services for spay/neuter and medical care; followed by food and supplies for the cats. A small percentage of funds is used for basic operating costs. Since Habitat for Cats is an all volunteer organization, no funds are used to pay for employees. Our Adoption Center, Sanctuary, Post Care Clinic, and all programs are staffed and run by volunteers.

Every donation, large and small, allows Habitat for Cats to continue its important work in the community.

Income 2007	
Individual Donations	\$ 52,826
Fundraising, Events & Sales	\$ 34,665
Adoption Fees	\$ 22,008
Endowment Donation	\$ 22,000
Grants	\$ 8,000
Coporate Sponsorships	\$ 7,135
Cat Sponsorships	\$ 1,160
Total	\$ 147,794

Expenses 2007	
Vet, Spay/Neuter, and Medical	\$ 65,934
Food and Litter	\$ 16,686
Adoption Center - Administrative	\$ 14,654
General Operations	\$ 10,399
Fundraising	\$ 6,346
Sanctuary - Administrative	\$ 2,310
Total	\$ 116,329

Spay/Neuter Per Month - 2007



Harley says "Sponsor a Cat Buddy"



Hi, my name is Harley and I live at the Sanctuary. When I arrived in 1998, I was so small I went right through the chain link fence of the kennel they put me in, so they had to re-trap me. I love it here at the Sanctuary. I can run around free, climb trees, bask in the sunshine and play with my buddies (of which there are many). Most of us are strays or feral cats whose feeders either died or moved away or the place where we lived was torn down or became too dangerous for us to stay. Some of us have handicaps or behavioral problems, which makes us un-adoptable, but we don't mind, because the sanctuary is our home, and we have lots of wonderful people taking care of us for the rest of our lives.

Lately, there have been some very nice people who have been "sponsoring" us. One of these people is Margery. She sponsors Marmalade and

has come to visit him. Marmalade has the loudest purr of any cat I know. Linda is sponsoring Peach, and Karen sponsors Lizzie. There's more, but I can't remember their names. You can sponsor one of my cat buddies too. Just \$20 a month will do it and you'll receive a photo of the cat you pick. One of my volunteers will send you email and let you know about your buddy cat. After 6 months of sponsoring, you can come visit your buddy at the sanctuary. If you can't adopt a cat because of allergies, nasty landlords, or cat phobic husbands/wives, this is the next best thing! By doing this, you'll help put food in our bowls and help pay our vet bills (we occasionally get sick). So, if you're interested in sponsoring a cat here's how you do it. Go to our website www.HabitatforCats.org and click on link to Sponsor a Cat. There'll be photos of cats for you to choose from. Or you can send a check for \$20.00, with a note letting us know which cat you've picked.

Send check made out to HFC to: Habitat for Cats, Cat Sponsorship Program, PO Box 79571, N. Dartmouth, MA. 02747



"Marmalade" visits with his sponsor, Margery

Habitat for Cats' Trap-Neuter-Release Effort Helped by Equipment Donations



Donated hospital baskets, shown above, will hold cats during recovery from spay/neuter surgery.

Habitat For Cats' Trap Neuter Release (TNR) program for feral cat colonies got a helping hand by the generosity of individuals and other groups. Last year, an empty office space was made available to Habitat by a generous patron of animals. The space, referred to as the Post Care Clinic, is primarily used to provide a staging and recovery space for cats being spayed/neutered. It is being used daily for this purpose and monthly on a larger scale. Habitat was also fortunate to receive six surgery recovery cages, called hospital baskets, and 6 traps donated by the Coalition for Animals of Greater New Bedford to help us in our trapping efforts.

As our TNR efforts expanded, Kris Costa, one of Habitat's volunteers, and her boyfriend, Jimmy also saw the need for more equipment and generously donated 6 hospital baskets and 6 traps. The equipment is used by volunteers and loaned out to people who are able to trap one or two cats on their own or need to care for a sick cat.

Habitat for Cats was able to participate in two spay/neuter clinics offered by Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society. Habitat volunteers traveled to Methuen, MA. with 25 cats on each trip to be spayed/neutered.

This contribution of equipment and the use of a facility, along with volunteer's

efforts, come together when Habitat conducts a monthly Spay Day. On these Spay Days, 25 or more cats from colonies in the local area are trapped. Trapping a large colony needs to start days prior to the surgery date. Previously, we had no place to holdover this large quantity of cats and we didn't have enough traps and surgery recovery cages to meet the TNR and foster care needs. This past February we trapped 34 cats from two colonies, one in Fairhaven and the other in New Bedford, within a week. It was wall-to-wall cats at the Post Care Clinic, which temporarily housed these cats. The majority of cats were returned to their "home" and some of the cats were tame enough to be placed for adoption. The collaboration of many people put your donations to work and the result is less cats populating and less cats needing to find homes. Thank you for your continued support.

Video About HFC Volunteers & Trapping

Visit www.sheltermeinc.org to view videos of Habitat for Cats volunteers during a recent trapping for a spay day. The videos were taken and prepared by Shelter Me, Inc. Thank you to Sandy Bodner for taking the time to feature Habitat for Cats.

DRIVERS WANTED



Habitat for Cats rescues hundreds of kittens from the streets each year. In order to find homes for all of them, we transfer many of the kittens to other no-kill shelters.

This year we are in desperate need of volunteer drivers for trips to the Northeast Animal Shelter in Salem, Ma. All gas & toll expenses are reimbursed. The trip takes approximately 4-5 hours (1-1/2 hours each way and check in time) and is done between the hours of 9AM and 2 PM.

Two to three trips are done per month during May to September. If you like to drive and want to help out, even for one trip, please contact us at 508-961-2287 or by email to Habitatcat@aol.com

Foster Homes Needed

Given time most every cat can get adopted, but they need a place to stay until that special home is found. Habitat for Cats is asking individuals or families who love animals to foster care a kitty to give him or her a chance for a new life. Foster families are reimbursed for vet care and cat food if necessary. For more information, call 508-961-2287 or send email to: info@HabitatforCats.org



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“Dear Habitat”- Letters from Adopters



EDGAR

Things are going great with Edgar. He is a very lovey and affectionate boy He has his favorite fuzzy ball & likes to look for birds or watch the bushes move in the window. As far as Edgar & Moss go, he LOVES his sister sooooo much. Follows her around every chance he gets. I can't say that she returns the feelings! She will chase him & kind of play, but he "loves" her to a fault! Wherever she is, that is where he ends up. I joke that I don't know if it is love, jealousy, or if he is trying to be the alpha cat! Sometimes she defends herself & gives him a few bops in the head, & other times just turns away & leaves. It is working out fine though. Just this past week I'm realizing that he is getting to be a big boy because he has finally been able to jump up to things that he couldn't before. Not at all gracefull I might add, but he makes it just the same. Can't say Moss is too happy about that either! She has only one secret spot that he cannot get to, yet. Anyway, we can't be happier that we have him. When I saw him, I just knew that he was my boy.

-- Katie & Brian

Just wanted to let you know Rose is doing just fine. You were right she meowed all the way home! She loves her new home and became the "Queen". My mother adores her. Rose was a little timid at first and hid which we expected. But it only took her one day to realize that she was getting a lot of attention and now is playing and today for the first time she actually was laying across my mother's lap. She loves to look out the window and is now playing with her toys. You've made my mother a very happy woman. She has her companion Rose and absolutely treasures her. Many Thanks -- Donna Walker



ROSE



DAKOTA

Thought you'd like some new pictures of Dakota. He's doing just fine. You weren't kidding when you said he had a big mouth. Any ideas on how to keep him quiet past 6:30AM? -- The Alves Family



TYSON & TOPSY

I just wanted to let you know how the kitties are doing. They are adjusting well. They both really enjoy playing with the kids and are having a great time exploring their new digs. We really are in love with them already! They are so sweet and friendly and really enjoy all the attention being showered on them. They've been purring very loudly! Thanks so much! -- Betsy Eyre

The Story of the Little Cat "Muffin"

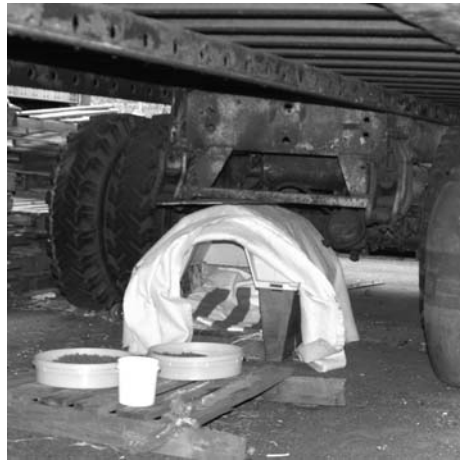
By Nelson Hockert-Lotz



Muffin, lounging at her new home.

Along the industrial waterfront of New Bedford harbor, among the fish houses, and near the vacant building that once housed the Animal Rescue League of New Bedford, are a handful of places that seem to attract those who dump their pets along roadways dominated by lumbering trucks. A handful of intrepid Habitat for Cats volunteers work among the often desolate docks to feed, trap and sterilize the homeless cats who end up there. A number of colonies of cats live under old storage trailers in this area. While most of these cats are feral, one HFC feeder noticed a particularly small female cat that seemed as though she might have been more recently abandoned. Volunteers tried trapping her, but she proved too wary.

As the weather cooled that fall, the little cat got thinner. Volunteers working with the colony, nicknamed the waif-like female "Muffin." They would call out her new name softly, to try to gain the little cat's trust. Muffin became ever more scrawny, her matted hair scarcely covering her ribs as the weather turned increasingly harsh. Her eyes were almost closed and it was feared she might be blind. Volunteers grew concerned for her survival. Frequently braving sub-freezing weather, two HFC volunteers, Stephanie DeMello and Susan Goldsmith visited Muffin's colony on a regular basis. They insulated a dog carrier, and left it for shelter, but also as a means to catch Muffin or any of the other cats not yet trapped and sterilized. They often found her sleeping in there along with the others. Whenever they approached, however, the cats would quickly scatter. On a day approaching the coldest of winter, with temperatures dropping to the single digits, volunteers became desperate to



Muffin's old home under a trailer truck.

catch the little cat fearing she might not survive the night. Once again they drove to the site, hoping to find Muffin huddled inside the carrier. At the site, Susan tiptoed toward the carrier, dropped to her knees, and quickly closed the door. She and Stephanie saw, thankfully, the little cat inside. Months of effort had finally paid off. Tears of relief came to their eyes; finally Muffin was safe.

Stephanie and Susan brought Muffin back to Habitat's Adoption Center, where the emaciated little cat was pulled from the crate and put next to the radiator. Muffin allowed herself to be handled right away. She was cleaned, fed, evaluated for illness, treated for parasites and an upper respiratory infection. Something was still clearly wrong with Muffin's eyes. They had closed to slits. A diagnosis led to the discovery she had an eye condition that would need surgery on her eyelids to correct. Dr. Ravinder Singh from Animal Associates performed the surgery and the little cat, her eyes fully open, could see clearly for the first time. As Muffin regained her strength, volunteers grew increasingly attached to her. "She stole the hearts of all the volunteers," said Susan.

One Sunday, on an Adoption Day, the Everett family arrived looking to share their home with a young cat. They saw Muffin and fell in love with her. Within weeks, she warmed to her new home, soaking up both the sunshine in the windows and the affections of her new family. She had come a long way from huddling in the weeds and just in time, but for the dedication of her rescuers, Muffin might have frozen on the docks, never to warm the hearts of HFC volunteers or her new family.

Massachusetts Animal Friendly License Plate



Tell your community you care about animals! By purchasing this license plate, you will be contributing to a statewide program that will directly benefit Massachusetts animals.

The initial cost of this Animal Friendly license plate is \$40, \$28 of which will be used to help fund this statewide program. The remaining \$12 is a one time only cost to cover the manufacturing of the plate.

Upon renewal, the entire \$40 will go to this spay/neuter program. (The standard registration fee is due every two years upon renewal in addition to the Animal Friendly license plate fee).

Funds received from the sale of these special license plates will be dispersed annually by the Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC) through a grant process. These funds will be awarded to non-profit humane organizations, like Habitat for Cats, and municipal animal control agencies in the Commonwealth that provide spaying and neutering services to cats and dogs. To purchase an Animal Friendly license plate go to:

www.mass.gov/rmv

In 2007, Habitat for Cats received \$8000 in grant money from the MAC, which allowed us to spay/neuter 160 cats.

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Can You Resist This Face?



Aphriel is a beautiful, sweet girl with tortoiseshell fur and big double paws. She raised a litter of kittens as a "teenage" mom. She was shy of people at first, but now that she has been with us a long time, she has blossomed! She gets along well with other cats. Aphriel has seen other kitties come and go at the Adoption Center. It needs to be her turn to find a home. To adopt please email Habitatcat@aol.com or phone 508-961-2287.

Save Your Sales Receipts Lees and Shaws Supermarkets

Lees Supermarket in Westport and all Shaws Markets will donate 1% of collected sales receipts to Habitat for Cats. Bring your receipts to Bradshaw's Insurance Company, Main Rd. Westport or on Faunce Corner Rd in N. Dartmouth or mail to HFC, PO Box 79571, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747.

Shop on-line and help Habitat for Cats

Habitat for Cats is registered with www.iGive.com/HFC an on-line shopping mall. Anywhere from 1 to 26% of each on-line purchase you make at stores like the Gap, PetCo, PetsMart, Macy's, Best Buy, Barnes and Noble, L.L. Bean, and many more, may be donated to Habitat for Cats. You shop and the retailer will donate a portion of your purchase to Habitat for Cats. Participating is easy.

Habitat for Cats Cocktail Party

Sep 26th
The Back Nine Club
Lakeville, MA

Habitat for Cats' Cocktail Party fundraiser is a casual event where you can relax with a drink, eat hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and mingle with friends.

Please join your friends for a night out and an opportunity to support a good cause. All proceeds raised will go directly to Habitat for

Cats' spay/neuter and adoption programs. The Cocktail Party is being planned for September 26th, at the Back Nine Club in Lakeville. Tickets are \$20 and will be on sale in August. Hope to see you there!

