



MEDFIELD ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

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FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Please join us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date on the new pets, adoptions and Happy Tails. Our social media followers are an important part of helping us spread the word about adoptable and lost pets.

SHELTER UPDATE

2016 was another busy year at the Shelter. A record of over 500 pets came into our care, with most of them being adopted within a few weeks of their arrival. Our donors make our mission possible, and they continue to show strong support for the Shelter. Our 2016 year-end Matching Challenge Fundraiser was a great success, and the Shelter received the full \$25,000 in matching funds! We are grateful to be part of such a generous community.



Our awesome volunteer team is the key to our success. Each and every day, volunteers give their time to care for the animals and provide much of the labor and talent necessary to make the Shelter an outstanding community resource. We can't thank them enough.

WELCOME OUR ASSISTANT MANAGER

Our former manager, Jackie Walters, is back to work at the Shelter, having returned to Massachusetts after a brief relocation to Oregon for her husband's job. We are grateful to have Jackie back as the assistant manager reporting to our manager, Marlene



Simmons. Jackie's primary responsibilities include: transporting animals to the Shelter and vet, keeping our website up-to-date with all the pets in our care, recruiting and training new volunteers, responding to emails, taking early evening calls and acting as the manager on Saturdays.

Marlene and Jackie make a strong team and having two employees is a big step for us. After placing over 500 pets last year, we realized we had maxed out our ability to help more animals unless we added another person. We were fortunate that our search for a second employee coincided with Jackie's move back to Massachusetts. Jackie is a great addition to the team and shares our goal of making the Shelter a

welcoming environment for all the animals, volunteers and visitors.

NORWOOD FOOD PANTRY CLINIC

There are many reasons pet owners bring pets to shelters, and one way to reduce the number of pets that enter shelter care is by offering owners in need assistance with pet food and veterinary care. We teamed up with Claudia Mackay, one of our long-time volunteers and also the Executive Director of the Norwood Food Pantry, to explore how we might help. We started by donating some surplus cat and dog food to be distributed weekly to pet owners in need. Meanwhile, we put together a plan for how we could provide some basic veterinary services.

Grace Episcopal church in Norwood generously offered the hall that the food pantry uses for distribution days for our first veterinary outreach clinic in late April. Claudia, with the help of volunteers from the food pantry, set up an examination room for Dr. Rosario Delgado, a compassionate veterinarian we work with on a regular basis. Seven clients came to the pet clinic with four dogs and four cats (a cold and rainy day meant that some of the clients who don't have their own transportation were unable to make it). Every pet had an exam and was given a rabies vaccine if needed. Two cats were referred to our low-cost spay/neuter clinic where we had reserved spots for them. One dog was referred to the Tufts at Tech clinic in Worcester for follow-up care, and two other dogs that needed to be spayed were referred to low-cost clinics in the area. There was one client who was scheduled to have her own surgery but had no one to care for her cat while she was hospitalized. We offered to find a temporary foster home for her cat, an offer that brought her to tears.



The feedback from the pet owners who came to the clinic was positive and heartwarming. Many said that they would not have been able to afford the services we provided and were grateful for the Shelter's

efforts. Pets provide love and comfort for many of the food pantry clients. The Pantry volunteers are very aware of how much their clients' pets mean to them and told us that many clients feed their pets before they feed themselves. A quote from the ASPCA's policy statement on keeping pets and people together sums up our thoughts: "Keeping pets and people together is often the best outcome for the pets, the people, and the community. Accomplishing this goal requires that we shift our thinking, especially when it comes to preconceived notions about a person's financial circumstances and his/her desire and ability to take good care of a pet."

FERAL CAT SPAY/NEUTER

In March, the Shelter held our Spring Free Feral Cat Clinic during which 19 feral cats were spayed or neutered. These cats were trapped from feral cat colonies by humane organizations and individuals working to reduce the population of free-roaming cats by keeping them from reproducing. The Medfield Animal Shelter supports their efforts by offering two free spay/neuter clinics each year. While feral cats are always returned to their colonies after spay/neuter surgery, two of the cats that were trapped turned out to be friendly—including Shandy who is pictured on the front page of this newsletter—and we were



able to place them in homes. Our feral program is subsidized by a grant from the Massachusetts Animal Coalition's License Plate Program. Sales of "I'm Animal Friendly" license plates fund the grants that MAC awards each year to benefit animals across the state. Find out how you can order a plate for your car by visiting the website: www.petplate.org The more license plates MAC sells, the more funds will be available to help cats, dogs and rabbits.

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Medfield Animal Shelter every time you shop, and at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as on Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations. Once

you choose a charity, every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

WISH LIST ON AMAZON.COM

We have a wish list on Amazon.com to make it simple to donate items we need. You can go to Amazon, click on Wish List, search for Medfield Animal Shelter and you will find a list of the items we use the most often. We tried to choose items that would ship for free if your order is over \$35.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our volunteer spotlight is shining on Martha Lamb. Martha started volunteering with us in November of 2013 because a young friend of her son wanted to help the shelter pets since his family didn't have any of their own. However, the young man ended up getting a job before completing his volunteer training. Martha decided to stay with us anyway. We are so happy she did!

Martha grew up in Charleston, West Virginia and went to Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina before moving to Boston to attend graduate school at Boston University for Psychology. She worked for 35 years as the Director of the Counseling Center at Wheaton College in Norton. She also worked part-time doing home studies for the Alliance for Children, an international adoption agency.



Martha is a single parent of three children who are all in their 30's, and she has four grandchildren. She is mostly retired now and also volunteers for the Congregational Church in Needham.

Martha volunteers two days per week at the Shelter helping with cat care. She can also be counted on—at a moment's notice—to transport our pets to and from their vet appointments or to pick up new pets who need to come to our shelter. She has a calm, soothing presence that comforts the animals during these stressful trips.

Martha says that she finds it very satisfying when animals are rescued from difficult situations and then find good homes. She says it amazes her when the “right family comes along at the right time” to adopt some of our more difficult-to-place pets. And she says it is also wonderful to hear that our shelter has a great reputation with our local veterinary clinics and other shelters. When she drives our pets to their appointments, she is often complimented on the Shelter. Martha says, “It’s good to be part of the good work that’s going on.” Thank you, Martha, for being a big part of our good work!

RABIES CLINIC

The Shelter hosted the annual rabies clinic for the Town of Medfield on April 1st. This year was particularly challenging with a forecast of snow that limited participation. Pet owners and their cats and dogs ended up only dealing with rain, and our veterinarian Dr. Rosario Delgado arrived in her raincoat ready for everyone who showed up. Again this year, we offered free vaccines for pets owned by seniors, and the recipients were very grateful. Medfield Animal Control Officer Jenny Cronin assisted Dr. Delgado with the pets, and volunteers Debbie Merriam, Danielle Estrella and Jill Van Brocklin kept things running smoothly as they filled out the rabies certificates. There was plenty of time for dog kisses and cat treats, and we were all happy to see several Shelter alumni in attendance. Despite the terrible weather, we managed to vaccinate 69 pets.

YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY GRANT

The Foundation for MetroWest's *Youth in Philanthropy* program offers a unique opportunity for local youth to gain leadership experience in philanthropy. Through the program, they learn to research and analyze local nonprofit organizations, and then choose a select few to be the recipients of actual monetary grants provided by the Foundation for MetroWest.



This year, a group of students from the Fenn School in Concord, MA researched many nonprofit organizations and liked what they learned about the Medfield Animal Shelter. In January, they came for a site visit with their instructor during which they asked lots of great

questions about how the Shelter operates. We were honored to be one of the three grant recipients the students selected, and we are grateful for the \$2,500 we were awarded at a ceremony in early March. We were so impressed by the students that, in their honor, we even named a cat that came into the Shelter's care that day *Fenn*. Thanks to both the Fenn School students and the Foundation for MetroWest.

PEOPLE & BUSINESSES TO THANK

- **Beginning Years Child Development Center** for collecting donations
- **Mutt Waggin'** in Medfield for the donation of high-quality cat food
- **The Hometown Weekly** newspapers for running our *Pet of the Week* column every week
- **Karen Sweeney**, board member and longtime volunteer, for designing and donating the reusable shopping bags we gave out as a volunteer gift
- **Rocky's Ace Hardware** in both Millis and Walpole held holiday food drives for the Shelter
- **Framingham Animal Control** for regularly donating cat litter and food
- **General Dynamics** Westwood office for collecting donations at their recent blood drive
- **SWAER, Inc.** for donating a carload full of items from our wish list
- **Dave Luongo of Bay State Envelope** and **Bill Miller of New England Professional Systems (NEPS)** for providing the printing and mailing services, respectively, for our newsletters
- **Roche Bros.** for donating a portion of the food and beverages for our volunteer appreciation party
- **Especially for Pets** for making us part of their postcard program
- **Ken Clark and Catherine Flynn** who once again donated Red Sox tickets in honor of their dog, Nora, whom they adopted eleven years ago
- **The Lion's Club** which donated part of the proceeds from their Christmas tree sale
- **Poodle Rescue of New England** for their generous donation of supplies
- **Express Business Center (Medfield)** for collecting donations



- **Preston Kristall** for donating \$500 he earned by making and selling magnets
- **Bright Horizons (Franklin)** for holding a supplies drive to benefit the Shelter
- **Walpole High School Student Humane Society** for raising funds to support the Shelter
- The students from the **Charles River School** for holding a supplies drive

THANKS TO OUR VETERINARIANS

We want to acknowledge our appreciation of our partnering veterinarians for their kindness, generosity and expertise. Thank you very much to:

- **Medfield Veterinary Clinic**, Medfield
- **Rosario Delgado-Lecaroz, DVM**, Upton
- **Commonwealth Veterinary Hospital**, Newton
- **Tufts Luke & Lily Lerner Spay/Neuter Clinic**, Grafton
- **Holmes Family Veterinary Clinic**, Walpole
- **Westwood Veterinary Clinic**, Westwood
- **Tufts Veterinary Emergency Treatment & Specialties**, Walpole

LUNA

Luna was found in late October 2016, abandoned in the woods in Palmer, MA. She was emaciated and had many sores and significant hair loss. After an extensive investigation, it was determined her original owners left her behind when they moved. Squatters moved into the house and not only locked Luna in the basement for six months, but also bred her to their dog. With lots of great care from the Palmer animal control officer, Palmer's shelter volunteers and Palmer's vet, Luna went from being a terrified dog to a happy and playful girl, although she was still wary of strangers. She arrived at the Medfield Shelter on December 13, 2016 in hopes that she would have a better chance at finding a home.



We don't take in many pit bulls because there are not a lot of adopters in our area interested in adopting them, so Luna was at the Shelter charming our volunteers for months with only a few inquiries about her. During her long stay, Luna was lucky to have two outstanding dog trainers working with her: Christina Rossetti, owner of Alpha Dog K9 training, and Kate Brady, a trainer who spends many hours volunteering at the Shelter every week. In February, one of our volunteers offered to foster Luna. This

gave her the chance she needed to know what it was like to have a loving home with lots of snuggles, attention and walks. During the months she was in foster care, Luna attended a weekly obedience class at Alpha Dog K9 and then she graduated to nose work classes which she loved. All of this built her confidence and allowed her to become much



more trusting of new people. On May 6, 2017, Luna finally found her forever home and is settling in well. Her story is a perfect example of how it sometimes takes a village to help.

HAPPY TAILS



Jango & Jon Snow



Gizmo and her girls

SOME OF OUR SUPPORTERS



Girl Scout Troop 88192 donations from their father/daughter dance



Daisy Troop 62991 made dog toys from reused materials



Hoopfest Tournament—including crafts sale—
raised over \$500 for the Shelter



Birthday Donations



Emptied his piggy bank
to help the shelter pets
stay safe and warm over
the winter



Sold apples to raise
donations



Fleece blanket donation



Daisy Troop 62388 from Walpole



Westwood
school-wide
donation drive

THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT THE ANIMALS!

This year the Medfield Animal Shelter will take in over 400 animals that have nowhere else to go. We rely on the generosity of donors to fund the Shelter's operations and to make sure every dog, cat and rabbit adopted from us is spayed or neutered prior to being placed in a new home. We are grateful for donations of any size.

Donor's Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Would you like to make a donation as a gift, in honor of a friend, or in memory of an animal lover?

My gift is in honor of My gift is in memory of

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Occasion: (birthday, gift, etc.) _____

PREFER TO DONATE ONLINE? You can make a donation from our website, MedfieldShelter.com, by clicking on the Donate link.

DOES YOUR COMPANY MATCH CHARITABLE GIFTS? Many companies will match charitable contributions made by their employees. If your company has a qualifying program, request a matching gift form from your employer and your donation can help even more pets.

CARE TO DONATE STOCK? Donations of stock are tax deductible at their full market value and eliminate the need to pay capital gains tax. E-mail medfieldshelter@gmail.com to learn more.

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