



MEDFIELD ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

MedfieldShelter.com

e-mail: info@MedfieldShelter.com

Tel: 508-359-8989

Join us on: Facebook.com/MedfieldAnimalShelter and Instagram.com/MedfieldShelter

Issue 49
Fall 2017

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.

YEAR IN REVIEW

We are very grateful to be part of a community that supports our mission, and for the donors who support us year after year. Our adoption rate has continued to increase, and 2017 is by far our best year ever with over 500 pets finding new homes. By streamlining our pet intake process, increasing the number of volunteer adoption counselors conducting adoption meetings, expanding our pool of foster families that can be called on at a moment's notice and adding one additional employee, we have been able to significantly increase the number of pets our small facility can help. We are also able to take in pets with expensive medical needs and restore them to good health. We work hard to make sure every pet that we place will enjoy a good life in a caring home.



HELP US MEET THE CHALLENGE!

It's the giving time of year and once again, a group of loyal and very generous donors have offered to match dollar for dollar every donation we receive up to a total of \$25,000 in matching funds!

To ensure your gift is matched, all you have to do is make your donation between November 21, 2017 and January 15, 2018. Checks can be mailed to Medfield Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 271, Medfield, MA 02052 or donate on your credit card through our website (medfieldshelter.com) by clicking the *Donate* button.



Looking for a great gift for an animal lover? If you make a donation in that person's honor, we will send a photo card to him or her acknowledging your gift.

Please help us fund our 2018 program with your support during this giving season and double your contribution through the Matching Challenge Grant. Thank you, and happy holidays!

MEDFIELD DAY

The Shelter was excited to participate in Medfield Day for the third year in a row this September. Having a booth at this wonderful community event allows us to meet many of our supporters and educate others about the work that we do. Our volunteer, Erin Whooley, organized our booth again this year and did a masterful job pulling it all together. She organized other volunteers to help staff the booth and made arrangements for a successful and busy day.

We sold beautiful jewelry made by volunteer Ann Charette and adorable bracelets made by another generous supporter, Gayle Ward. Our "famous"



crocheted catnip pumpkins were once again a huge hit and sold out before the day was over. We had many cute canine visitors that stopped by to say hello and grab a treat and drink of water. We were so excited to see some of our shelter alumni with their families.



This year we were fortunate to have two young supporters, Joey and Sophia, help at the booth. Joey and Sophia greeted visitors and helped to sell our “adoptable” stuffed animal dogs. They are both huge animal lovers and are looking forward to



volunteering at the Shelter when they turn 16. Thank you to Joey and Sophia, and to everyone who stopped by the booth to say hello and support the Shelter. We are lucky to be a part of such a great community and look forward to being back at Medfield Day again next year.

A TRIBUTE TO GIZMO AND MARISSA

For Marissa, it was love at first sight when she saw the picture of Gizmo as Pet of the Week in the Hometown Weekly in November of 2015. This 10-year-old senior cat had lived his life primarily in a basement, yet was still sweet and loveable. Marissa scooped him up and took him home and Gizmo thrived. Gizmo was well-fed, loved, snuggled and given plenty of treats. Marissa has no less than 900 pictures of him. He became quite a character—he “talked” back to Marissa when she asked him questions, he did a little dance in order to get treats, and he snuck food off people’s plates, especially if rotisserie chicken was on the menu.



Unfortunately, heart and kidney disease got the better of Gizmo in October of this year. After numerous trips to Tufts Veterinary Hospital, Marissa knew it

was time to say goodbye and let Gizmo take the journey across the Rainbow Bridge. The word heartbroken does not adequately describe how Marissa felt. She was with him until the end of his life. We want to pay tribute to the life that Gizmo led with Marissa. Even though she did not have him for long, she loved him dearly and cherished their time together.



It seems to us that rescue cats, especially the senior cats, truly feel grateful for being adopted and placed in a home they can call their own. Senior pets are often overlooked in shelters due to their age. But older cats are usually more calm and relaxed—they’ve been around the block a few times so they are not ruffled as easily as the younger ones.

Gizmo was truly a gift for Marissa and she has no regrets because he rewarded her in spades! Hats off to Marissa and to Gizmo, who is most likely still a character on the other side.

MAC GRANT AWARDED FOR FERAL CAT SPAY/NEUTER

Each year The Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC) awards grants from the *I’m Animal Friendly License Plate Program* to spay/neuter programs serving cats, dogs and rabbits throughout the state. In 2017, the Shelter received a \$2,000 MAC grant toward our feral cat



spay/neuter program. Our fall free feral cat spay/neuter clinic took place on October 24th. Trappers and humane organizations brought in nineteen feral cats to be spayed or neutered. Normally the cats are all released back to their colonies no longer able to reproduce. However, at the October clinic, six of the cats that were trapped behind a restaurant in Walpole by volunteers from Bay State Animal Cooperative were kittens young enough to be tamed and put up for adoption.



We are grateful to the Massachusetts Animal Coalition pet plates

program for providing us with a grant to help fund the feral clinic. Please visit MAC's website at www.petplate.org and order your *I'm Animal Friendly* license plate! The more license plates MAC sells, the more funds will be available to help cats, dogs and rabbits in Massachusetts.

WISH LIST ON AMAZON.COM

We have a wish list on Amazon.com that makes it easy 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

Atul Gupta started volunteering a little over four years ago and is part of our Friday dinner crew caring for the cats. He told us he had been meaning to volunteer for many years but never could find the time. Then in the summer of 2013, one of his cats died and he came to the



Shelter to be with the animals, looking for solace. He loved the visit and signed up as a volunteer.

Atul is a Professor of Finance at Bentley University, doing both teaching and research. He also enjoys reading, playing bridge and has been practicing Kundalini Yoga for many years.

Atul's favorite part about volunteering is playing with the kitties, especially when we have kittens. He has a special way with the cats and has won over even the shyest ones with his quiet and patient manner. A month or two after he started volunteering he took home one of his cats, Mookie. Mookie is the perfect example of the kind of cat that was lucky to be adopted by a guy like Atul. As he jokingly said, "Mookie is a bad cat, bites, shreds everything in sight and has huge wrestling bouts with the little man (my other cat) but I love them both to bits." When we asked him if he had a favorite memory of his time at the Shelter, he said, "Probably the day Mookie chose me. He was in the cage by the far wall and I was sitting on the floor playing with one of the other kitties. He was looking at me and would do a little meow when I looked toward him. When I finally opened the door to his cage he trucked right out, cuddled up in my lap and started purring. I took him home."

Atul is a gentle man who gets along with everyone. He is soft-spoken and a great story teller. When he is at the Shelter he cares more about gentle communion with each cat than socializing. He can be seen leaning into the cages with his hand resting on a foot or back telling every cat they are special. He loves to rough up the kittens or cuddle them depending on if they are bold or shy. We are so lucky to have Atul both because of who he is and because having men volunteering with the animals helps the animals learn that both men and women are kind. We wish we had more men volunteering. As Atul once said to our manager, "It's just wonderful, this whole cycle of little critters coming in, getting lots of love and then going off to new homes."

SHELTER TALES: HOW DID THEY END UP HERE?

One cat was locked in a carrier and put in a dumpster; three cats were in a shelter in St. Thomas that had been badly damaged by a hurricane with another hurricane bearing down; and one tiny kitten was found on the tire of a car that had just been transported to Massachusetts. All of these cats were in dire circumstances and came into the Shelter's care through the efforts of the network of rescuers we work with regularly. Here are just a few stories from the last few months:

In September, a plane full of pets was rescued from the St. Thomas shelter the day before a second hurricane was about to



hit the island. That second storm, Hurricane Maria, destroyed the building. We wanted to help some of the



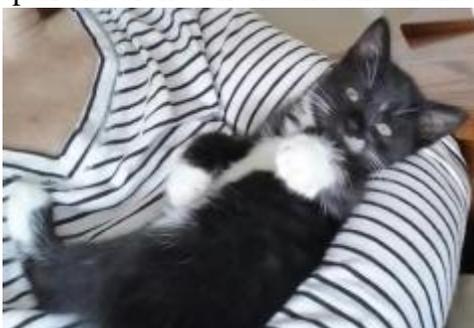
rescued cats but we lack the quarantine facilities required by the MA Department of Agriculture for cats coming from out of state. Fortunately, one of the rescuers stepped up and took in three cats

in her state-approved quarantine room and cared for them until after they were checked by a vet and ready to be transferred. We quickly found homes for Pebbles, Tova and Maria.

Oscar was rescued after someone called the Spay Worcester hotline saying a cat had been abandoned outside a vet clinic. The cat carrier was no longer outside the clinic when a volunteer arrived, but after searching the area she found the poor guy still locked in the carrier and left in a dumpster. He was covered in urine and feces and had clearly been in the carrier for a while. He recovered from his ordeal quickly and after his neuter surgery, we found Oscar a great home.



When a one of our volunteer's cousins moved to Massachusetts from Pennsylvania recently, he had his car shipped here on a car transport. When the transport truck arrived several days later, they found a tiny kitten, Marco Polo, on top of one of the wheels underneath the car. He was filthy, covered in fleas, had infected ears and was very thin. The car owner called his cousin and within days our assistant manager was fostering the unfortunate kitten. She had to bottle feed him for the first few days and then transition him to high-quality (and expensive) Wellness kitten food to build him back up. After three weeks of



round-the-clock care, we placed him, too, in a loving home.

These accounts may sound like extreme cases but they are not uncommon for many of the pets that come through our door. Our skilled and caring staff, wonderful volunteers and generous supporters made sure Oscar, Pebbles, Tova, Maria and Marco Polo's stories had happy endings, and we will continue to offer the same for countless other animals!

PEOPLE & BUSINESSES TO THANK

- **Clay Subaru of Norwood** for collecting donations during the month of October



- **Rolls Royce Marine of Walpole** for donating the proceeds of their ice cream social
- **Canine Company** for grooming four dogs to make them more adoptable
- **Ashley Stein** for recommending the Shelter to receive a *Harvard Pilgrim Community Spirit 9/11 Mini-Grant*
- **Noon Hill Grill** for donating and matching proceeds from the *2016 Christmas Tree Lighting* event
- **Old Post Road School of Walpole Student Council** for hosting a used book sale
- **Ellan Suder**, a Newton High School student, for donating proceeds raised by his non-profit, *Pawprinter Inc.*, established to raise money for animal shelters
- **Express Business Center of Medfield** for collecting donations for the Shelter
- **St. Joseph's Middle School Youth Group** for collecting donations for the Shelter
- **Meadowbrook School of Weston** for donating handmade pet toys
- **Ashley Braren** for donating the proceeds from vegetables she grew and sold
- **Carter Chambers** for collecting donations for the Shelter for a school project



- **General Dynamics (Westwood)** for collecting donations for the Shelter in conjunction with their blood drive
- **Fisher School of Walpole 5th Grade Student Council** for conducting a Shelter fundraiser
- **Merry Green and The King Phillip Leo Club** for organizing a pet supply drive
- **Hanna Rothstein** for her creative bat mitzvah project to benefit the Shelter
- **Walpole High School Humane Society** for raising funds for the Shelter

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



Chulo and Nena



Nicky's New Haircut



Zeus and his mom

HAPPY TAILS



Barney on his boat



Charlie



Vivian (formerly Edna)



Jeremy



Luna



Mac and Colby Jack

SOME OF OUR MANY SUPPORTERS



Donated proceeds from selling hand-painted cards



Donated lemonade stand proceeds



Many Birthday Donations in lieu of Gifts



THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT THE ANIMALS!

The Medfield Animal Shelter has once again been given a very special opportunity. A **small group of kind and generous donors have offered to match all donations made between November 21, 2017 and January 15, 2018 — up to \$25,000.** Please take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to help us raise the funds needed to continue our mission to save animals in 2018!

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 appreciated 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.

Medfield Animal Shelter
P.O. Box 271
Medfield MA 02052