

## **MEDFIELD ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER**

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Issue 57

Fall/Winter 2023

### **FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM**

Please join us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date on our new pets, adoptions and Happy Tails, helping us spread the word about adoptable and lost pets.

### **SHELTER UPDATE**

2023 was another busy year at the Medfield Shelter. Shelters nationwide are challenged right now with many more pets being surrendered than adopted. We are experiencing that with dogs, which is highly unusual. Even the nicest dogs are spending more time in our care before we find them homes. Under normal circumstances, dogs only spend a week or two with us before finding a home. The

The slowdown in dog adoptions has led to an increase in the length of stay for our dogs, which means we can help fewer dogs overall. We have also seen a rise in the number of guinea pigs and rabbits we are asked to take in. Luckily, adoptions of cats and kittens are still going well.



There continues to be a tremendous demand for our low-cost monthly spay/neuter clinics for cats, which are booked out four months in advance.

We truly appreciate the support of our community. For example, our fabulous foster families increase our capacity by caring for kittens, mom cats and their litters, guinea pigs, and senior pets. We are grateful to

have so many longtime fosters always ready to help, and we are looking for more families willing to open their homes to a foster pet. Much of our food is donated, allowing us to spend more money on veterinary care. We receive so many food donations that we are often able to share with shelters and rescues that are not as fortunate. We couldn't do what we do without the efforts of our small staff, volunteers, and generous donors. Thank you to everyone involved in making the Shelter a success!



### **HOLIDAY MATCHING CHALLENGE**

The holiday season is a time for giving, and our year-end fundraiser is underway. We are very fortunate that, once again, a group of longtime shelter supporters has agreed to match every dollar donated to the Shelter between November 15, 2023, and January 15, 2024—up to \$25,000!

We rely on the generosity of donors to support our mission. Every dollar you donate will be used to provide food, shelter, and medical care for the animals until we find them loving homes. In 2022, nearly two-thirds of our operating costs were covered by donations, enabling us to find homes for 550 pets.

The Matching Challenge is our only fundraiser of the year. Please donate if you can and spread the word. To

make a tax-deductible donation online, click on the *Donate* button on [MedfieldShelter.com](http://MedfieldShelter.com) or mail your donation to:

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

You can make your donation to the Shelter in honor of an animal-loving relative or friend. It's the perfect gift! We send photo card acknowledgments to honorees that they'll love to receive. Please remember the animals in your year-end philanthropy!



## CARING FOR GIANT BREED PUPPIES A Remarkable Foster Journey

We welcomed Glacier, a lovely Great Pyrenees, into our care in early March. Mill Town Animal Control found her as a skinny stray and cared for her for a month, hoping her owner would reclaim her. Despite being fed eight cups of food daily, she wasn't gaining weight, prompting the request for our assistance.

To our astonishment, our vet discovered that Glacier was pregnant with eleven puppies. When our manager sought a foster home, volunteer Ann Humphrey stepped up. Despite Glacier's struggles with malnutrition, parasites, and Lyme disease, she was a great mom and did her best to nurse the puppies. Due to her poor condition it was too much for her, so her foster family dedicated themselves to round-the-clock bottle-feeding. While many volunteers helped during the day, the foster family handled most of the work. They provided Glacier and puppies with a spacious area in their home and even fenced their patio to give them outdoor time.



The journey had challenges, including several emergency vet visits for Glacier and some of her puppies. Sadly, one puppy was stillborn and three more died during the first three weeks, likely due to Glacier's poor condition. When Glacier became lethargic and stopped eating, the vet recommended early weaning for the puppies. Separating her from them allowed us to focus on treating her Lyme disease, resulting in a much-needed weight gain and return to health.



Glacier found the perfect home with a couple who had owned four Great Pyrenees. The puppies were adopted as soon as they were old enough. They are all thriving and have inherited their mom's sweet temperament. We love the fact that their new owners have stayed in touch, sharing pictures and updates.



## 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 most often. We tried to choose items that would ship for free if your order is over \$35.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Ann Humphrey

Ann Humphrey has been a volunteer at the shelter for two years. She wanted to find a way to give back to her community after her two children went to college, and volunteering with homeless dogs seemed the perfect fit. Dogs have always been an important part of her life, and she has many fond memories of her childhood Shetland Sheepdog, Rebel, who lived to be 21 years old. Ann and her husband, Douglas, have owned three Golden Retrievers. Their current dog, Angus, often

accompanies Ann when she hikes with the shelter dogs.

This spring, Ann and her family offered to foster Glacier, a sweet and very large Great Pyrenees, through the remainder of her pregnancy and while she tended her puppies. Ann met Glacier during her volunteer shift, and her heart was touched by Glacier's soulful eyes and starved condition. When Ann heard that Glacier was pregnant, she knew that fostering her was what she needed to do, and her family readily agreed. They said they would be honored to be there when Glacier gave birth and to help her with her pups.



Glacier's poor health made raising her puppies much more than a full-time job, and we could not have found a more compassionate person or better home for them. Ann has stayed in touch with all of the adopters and is planning a reunion for Glacier and her puppies on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

When Ann isn't volunteering at the shelter, she loves hiking in the beautiful parks in our area. She spends her summers in Chatham, where she enjoys walking the beach, swimming, and boating with Angus. Ann drives back to Medfield every week to cover her volunteer shift.

When asked what she wishes for the animals she meets, Ann said that she hopes they will find their person, someone who will love them, pay attention to them, and give them a good life. We are grateful for her ongoing commitment to the Shelter and her extraordinary effort this spring.

## SHELTER TALES: HOW DID THEY GET HERE?

### Athena

Athena came into our care in early February after being found in the middle of the road in Dover on a freezing night. She was emaciated and covered in infected sores that our vet believed were caused by being kept in a too-small crate. We were heartbroken to think she had been subjected to cruelty and neglect. She was so malnourished that she was put on a special refeeding diet to help her slowly and safely gain weight.



It took some time, but she became a happy and healthy dog who enjoyed snuggling up in her cozy bed, playing fetch with her rope toys, hanging out in our fenced area, and chewing on her favorite orange ball.

She had a wardrobe of warm coats to wear on cold days and quite a fan club among Shelter staff and volunteers. Unfortunately, she has cropped ears that make her appear less friendly, and she was uncomfortable around other dogs. Finding her the right home took several months. We rejoiced when we placed her in a home that loved her, only to



have her regretfully returned after two months when she became uncomfortable around their six-year-old child. We started the search for the perfect home again, and after a few more months, she caught the eye of the lovely family that adopted her. She is doing very well there, and they love her.

### Loki

Loki had a tough start in life. He was initially purchased to hunt bears but failed at that job, so his first owner gave him away. His second owner chained him up and starved him. Luckily, he was rescued by Athol Animal Control in November 2021. They treated

him for heartworm and got him back to a healthy weight. Despite their best efforts, they could not find him a home. In late August of this year, Loki was transferred to the Medfield Shelter in hopes that a venue



change would help him catch an adopter's eye. Loki blossomed into a happy, playful dog who enjoyed hikes, playtime, and attention. It was so rewarding to



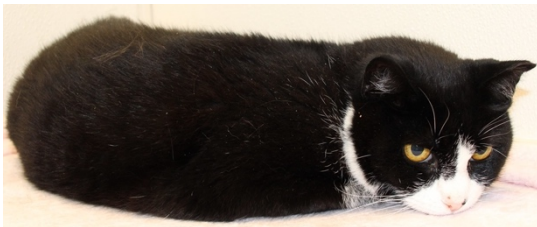
see him become silly and affectionate. After posting many pictures and videos on our social media and having him featured on Boston25's new Furever Friday segment, we finally received some applications for him. After six weeks at the Shelter and almost two years in a kennel, Loki found his forever home

with a loving family. They feel fortunate to have found him, and Loki is delighted to finally have a place and family to call his own.

### Stacie

Stacie is an older kitty found as a stray in Palmer, MA, so we don't know anything about her former life. She was so scared at the Shelter that we asked one of our longtime fosters to take her home to see if she would be more comfortable there. She has been in foster care since early August and has made some progress, but she is a quiet cat who doesn't actively seek attention, so she doesn't have the type of personality most adopters desire. We are trying

to find her a home with a cozy place to chill out and someone who will give her plenty of time



and space to get comfortable. She does not seem to mind her foster's own cats and dogs so she could join a home with other animals. She may benefit from having a confident friend to help get her out of her shell and allow

her to blossom. Like Stacie, many of the cats we take in make great progress in their potential adoptability if they spend time in a home setting. Our foster families play a critical role in helping these pets be successfully rehomed. We are hoping Stacie will catch the eye of a potential adopter soon.

### HAPPY TAILS



Bella and Penny



Cider



Bingo and her Big Brother



Howie



Casper and Bayly



Lyra

## MORE HAPPY TAILS



Kitty and his golden retriever



Midge



Franklin



Luke and Philly

## PEOPLE & BUSINESSES TO THANK

- New 'N Towne Club of Medfield for their donation

- **Express Business Center, Medfield** for collecting Shelter donations
- **Medfield Lions Club** for their donation
- **Andy Costello's violin students** for their "Pennies for Pets" fundraiser
- **Rocky's Ace Hardware** for their holiday pet drive
- **Malachi Chansky** for his senior project to benefit the Shelter
- **Sisters of Charity, Norfolk** for handmade dog biscuits and toys in honor of MLK Day
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students from the Joyce Kilmer School, West Roxbury** for their donation from their community resources project
- **Cassandra Torres of Open Doors Yoga Studio and her students, Canton** for raising funds for the Shelter
- **Roche Bros.** for their gift card donation for our Volunteer Appreciation Party
- **Serena Marciniszyn** for her fundraiser to benefit the Shelter
- **Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley** for their donation in honor of Deb Beck for her work in furthering justice and equity for all
- **Barr Advisory** employees for volunteering on their annual day of giving
- **Logan Sherry** for his Capstone project to benefit the Shelter
- **Franklin High Taste Buds** for baking and donating dog treats
- **People to People** service group, Medfield for helping with our spring clean up
- **Randy's Automotive, Medfield** for their Randy's Rally for Rescues collection 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:

- **West Street Veterinary Clinic, Medfield**
- **Millis Animal Hospital, Millis**
- **Rosario Delgado-Lecaroz, DVM, Upton**
- **Commonwealth Veterinary Hospital, Newton**
- **Tufts Luke & Lily Lerner Spay/Neuter Clinic, Grafton**
- **Holmes Family Veterinary Clinic, Walpole**
- **Tufts Veterinary Emergency & Specialties, Walpole**
- **Sleepy Dog Veterinary, Arlington**

**SOME OF OUR MANY SUPPORTERS**



Lemonade Stand Donation



Lemonade Stand Donation



Donation of shelter supplies purchased with birthday money



Donations Inspired by Athena



Reading to his guinea pig



Lemonade Stand Donation



A boy and his bunny



Franklin High Taste Buds dog cookies



Logan's Capstone Project Donation



Kids with their guinea pig



Malachi's Senior Project



Cash Donation

## 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 15, 2023 and January 15, 2024 — 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 2024!

\*\*\*\*\*

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

(We will only use your email address to send donation receipts by email in order to reduce our donation processing labor. We will not use or share your email address for any other purpose.)

Check here if you would prefer a printed donation receipt instead of an email donation receipt

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 acknowledgment to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion: (birthday, gift, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**PREFER TO DONATE ONLINE?** You can make a donation from our website, [MedfieldShelter.com](http://MedfieldShelter.com), by clicking on the Donate link. Or go directly to [MedfieldShelter.com/donate](http://MedfieldShelter.com/donate)

**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](mailto:medfieldshelter@gmail.com) to learn more.

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