

MEDFIELD ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

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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.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR THE SHELTER

This year brought a new challenge as we planned and completed a much-needed renovation of several rooms in our 22-year-old building. Over the years, our shelter has evolved significantly, creating a need for workspace for two employees, additional storage, and an open area to host community groups. We also



needed to update our cat intake area to include a dedicated space for sick cats. We hoped the project would meet these needs while creating an attractive, welcoming environment for visitors, volunteers, and staff. Our partner, Mitchell Construction Group, delivered a thoughtful design that provided all that and more. The reconfigured spaces now provide far more storage than we ever imagined, and the lobby is gorgeous!

Because the building had to be completely empty during construction, our daily operations were significantly disrupted. We rented a construction trailer for adoption meetings, and our veterinarian even performed exams inside it, though we couldn't perform spay and neuter surgeries on-site. We were ecstatic to reopen our doors in September and have been exceptionally busy ever since.



Animal shelters nationwide continue to face a profound crisis, with more pets being surrendered than there are people ready to adopt. Shelter Animals Count, an ASPCA program, estimates that 5.8 million cats and dogs entered shelters and rescues across America. This is why we cannot overstate how much we appreciate and depend on our community's incredible support.

Community donations are vital to our daily operations.

Because we receive so many food donations, we rarely need to buy anything other than kitten food and cat litter. These generous food and supply donations allow us to direct our monetary contributions where they are needed most: critical veterinary care.



We couldn't do this without our small, dedicated staff, our wonderful volunteers, and our generous donors. Thank you to everyone who makes the Medfield Animal Shelter a continued success.

The Challenge is On!

We're pleased to announce that some longtime supporters are once again offering to match dollar-for-dollar all donations received during our fundraising period from November 15, 2026, through January 15, 2027, up to $25,000. This is your chance to make your donation go even farther in helping pets in need of a home find their forever family!



Your support has been vital to Medfield Animal Shelter's success for more than twenty years as we work to help animals, because adoption fees alone cannot cover costs. We rely on and value beyond words your steadfast dedication and generosity. Please help us again this year as we work to meet our budget.

To make a tax-deductible donation online, click on the *Donate* button on MedfieldShelter.com or mail your donation to:

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

A contribution in honor of an animal-loving relative or friend is the perfect holiday gift! Your special person will love to receive our photo card acknowledgment.

Make your gift today and help us ensure hundreds of pets will receive all the services they need to be placed in a loving home. Many thanks and happy holidays to all!

Renovation Update: A Fresh Look and Enhanced Spaces for Our Pets

This summer, the Shelter closed its doors for seven weeks for a much-needed transformation. Before work began, we safely transitioned the pets in our care into new or foster homes to clear the building completely for construction.

The renovations brought critical upgrades to our quarantine and cat intake areas, ensuring we fully meet updated state guidelines while optimizing care for incoming animals. Visitors will also notice a completely redesigned lobby—now a functional, welcoming space for guests, community groups, volunteers, and staff, complete with abundant new storage.



Thank You to Mitchell Construction Group

When we initially reached out to Mitchell Construction Group LLC in Medfield about our planned renovations, their team immediately elevated the project with inspired design concepts and layout solutions. They generously agreed to perform the work at cost, donating their design time and waiving their project commission. Inspired by this ripple of generosity, many of their trade partners and vendors also stepped up by donating or discounting materials, labor, and specialized services.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Mitchell Construction Group and all participating trade partners for their extraordinary support. It was a joy to welcome our volunteers back this September and resume our work connecting pets in need with loving homes.

Wish Lists for Donations

We depend on donations of food, cleaning supplies, and cat litter to care for the Shelter residents. Donations can be dropped off in our donation shed outside the front door anytime. Here are a few items we always need:



- Unscented scoopable cat litter
- Canned cat food (we accept any brand and flavor, but the cats prefer Fancy Feast turkey and chicken flavors)
- Greens for our bunnies and guinea pigs (lettuce, parsley, basil)
- Canned and dry kitten food
- Dog treats

We have wish lists on Amazon.com and Chewy.com that make it easy to donate items we need. To find them, go to MedfieldShelter.com, scroll down the home page to *Donations/Wish List* and find links to both.

Volunteer Spotlight
Celebrating Donna Harris: 21 Years of Dedication

Donna Harris has volunteered with the Medfield Animal Shelter for nearly 21 years. During her incredible tenure, she has filled many vital roles. In addition to managing her weekly Wednesday evening cat dinner shifts, Donna frequently served as an Adoption Counselor. If you have adopted a cat from us over the last twenty years, there is a strong chance you met with her during your adoption meeting.



Beyond her counseling work, Donna has captured countless photos of our adoptable pets to showcase online and in our lobby. When asked about her favorite part of volunteering, she shared, "I loved caring for and playing with the kitties. The thing I will miss the most is the people I met during my time volunteering."

Unfortunately for us, Donna and her family are moving soon to their dream home in North Carolina, bringing her remarkable time with us to a bittersweet end. We are deeply grateful to Donna for her boundless energy and thousands of hours of service over the last two decades. We will miss her dearly—and the shelter cats of North Carolina will be very lucky to have her!

Closed for Renovations, Open for Fostering

When we closed our doors for renovations on July 27th, we temporarily halted taking in new pets and transitioned our remaining pets into foster homes. Eager to keep saving lives while the building was closed, we continued taking in new animals whenever foster space opened up.

Our community stepped up in incredible ways. West Street Veterinary Clinic in Medfield generously housed a family of five guinea pigs—mama Ginny and her four daughters—in their busy surgery area, where the little group soaked up plenty of staff attention and daily fresh vegetables. Ginny and Hermione were adopted together after two weeks, and sisters Rita, Fleur, and Luna found their forever home together three weeks later.



Meanwhile, a pregnant cat named Miracle welcomed a litter of six kittens in a dedicated foster home with our long-time volunteer Karen Zelevinsky, who has fostered for us since 2015. When Miracle fell ill shortly after delivery, Karen acted quickly to secure vital medical care. Today, everyone is thriving, and the kittens are six weeks old.

Thanks to our amazing foster network, we took in nearly 50 pets while our building was closed!

HAPPY TAILS

Briggs

It truly took a village, but after 140 days in our care, Briggs has finally found his family.

We spent months resolving medical issues that caused him to be very thin before sending him to work with two area trainers. Huge thanks go to Jenn from Stonewall Canine in Bellingham and Amber from Pawlite Best Friends in Sturbridge, who tag-teamed to train him and help him work through his anxiety. We also thank Ray Villeda and the Boston 25 team for featuring Briggs on their Furever Friday segment, where his new family first spotted him.



We also want to thank Notturno Home Service for sponsoring his adoption fee—a wonderful gesture they make every month to help our dogs find homes.

Reggie: Working Cat Becomes Local Celebrity

We placed Reggie as a working cat at Lovell's Florist and Nursery in Medfield in January 2025 after he made it clear that, despite being friendly, he wasn't meant to be a house cat. He quickly adapted to living in the greenhouse and following the employees around. Now, Reggie has free rein of their beautiful property and is so well known to Lovell's customers that when we posted a picture of him lying between some plants while our director was shopping there, we received dozens of comments from people who not only knew him but also looked forward to seeing him when they were shopping. Everyone mentioned how friendly he is and posted funny comments about seeing him wandering through the catnip plants or hanging out among the dahlias. He has found his calling and made his presence felt in the best possible way. Go, Reggie, and thank you, Lovell's!



Sweetie: A Happy Reunion!

Sweetie and his owner had a very happy reunion many weeks after he went missing. A kind person fed him for a month and reported him to Dover Animal Control as a stray, hoping his owner was looking for him. She tried to catch him, but he was too skittish, so the ACO used a humane trap.

When Sweetie arrived at the Shelter, he was in rough shape and very shut down. We posted him on social media and lost pet sites, but we weren't hopeful an owner was looking for him. Luckily, twelve days later, the owner's friend saw one of the social media posts, leading to a quick reunion.



His owner told us Sweetie is 17 years old and went missing 10 weeks ago after getting out of the house and becoming too scared to go back inside. He recognized his owner immediately and joyfully nuzzled her in her arms.

THANK YOU ADOPTERS!

Thank you to every adopter for giving our pets their forever homes. Every adoption saves a life and makes space for another pet in need to come into our care. Your continued support and recommendation of our shelter to others looking to adopt a pet is invaluable. We love to receive photos and updates on the pets adopted from us and share them in an album on our Facebook page for all to enjoy.

PEOPLE & BUSINESSES TO THANK

- **Mitchell Construction Group LLC, Medfield** for their excellent and deeply discounted work on our shelter renovation project
- **The Medfield Foundation** for a $10,000 grant toward the cost of our shelter renovation
- **Medfield Lions Club** for their donation
- **Medfield New 'N Towne** for their donation toward our microchip program

- **Andy Costello's violin/viola students, Medfield** for their "Pennies for Pets" fundraiser
- **Express Business Center, Medfield** for collecting Shelter donations
- **Life's a Pooch, Medfield** for donating overflow food from their Needham Food Bank Drive
- **Rocky's Ace Hardware** for their Annual Round Up Campaign
- **Randy's Automotive, Medfield** for their fundraiser
- **Futzy Farm, Plainville** for their donation of dog and cat food
- **McKesson Corp., Northborough** for their pet food and supplies drive
- **Norfolk County Veterinary Service, Walpole** for their Photo with Santa fundraiser



- **Jack Timperio of BFCC Public School, Franklin** for donating food and supplies from his Capstone Project
- **Declan Pettit of BFCC Public School, Franklin** for donating food and supplies from his Capstone Project
- **Alice Oliviera of BFCC Public School, Franklin** for her cash donation from her Capstone Project
- **Blake Middle School Ms. McClelland's social studies class,** for their donation
- **Dover-Sherborn Middle School Help Club** for their donation
- **Walpole High School Humane Society** for their donation
- **Missing Dogs Massachusetts** for a grant to fund the purchase of martingale collars for shelter dogs
- **ASPCA "Shelter Animals Count" Program** for a $5,000 Impact Award
- **Plant Factory (young entrepreneurs), Walpole** for their donation of proceeds from their plant sale on Walpole Day



- **APC Pest Control, Medfield** for their donation of pest control services
- **Notturno Home Services, Bellingham** for sponsoring the adoption fee for a dog every month
- **Town Fair Tire Foundation** for their grant
- **Basil Restaurant, Blue Moon Bagel and The Village Griddle, Medfield** for their donations of food and gift certificates for our volunteer appreciation party
- **Lash Revival, Medway** for their year-end donation drive
- **Rehab Physical Therapy PLLC, Medfield** for their year-end donation drive
- **Polkadog, Dedham** for their pet treats donation



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
- **Medway Animal Hospital,** Medway
- **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
- **Acorn Animal Hospital**, Franklin
- **Swift River Veterinary Services**, Erving

SOME OF OUR MANY SUPPORTERS



Donations



Crafts sale at Medfield 375th to benefit the Shelter



Donating proceeds from sales


Collected donations for the Shelter



National Honors Society pet supplies drive


Donations from
"Acts of Kindness" project



Donation drive


Plant Factory Entrepreneurs

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, 2026 and January 15, 2027 — 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 2027!

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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, by clicking on the Donate link. Or go directly to 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? E-mail medfieldshelter@gmail.com to learn more.

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