

MEDFIELD ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

MedfieldShelter.com

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WELCOME OUR NEW TREASURER AND BOARD MEMBERS

Jan Tarlow, a steady supporter of the Shelter for many years, has volunteered her skills to handle our accounting and serve as our Treasurer. She happened to see our request for accounting help in the local paper. Jan is married to Art, and has two sons and a ten-year-old Cockapoo named Abby. Jan is also an avid dressage rider and owns a thoroughbred, Jackson. Jan is enjoying her work at the Shelter and said she is amazed by all the behind-the-scenes effort it takes to make the Shelter a success.

Lisa Biagetti, no stranger to our Shelter, has agreed to serve as a member of our Board of Directors. Starting in 1998, she coordinated a Dale Street School student volunteer program, *The Beacon Project*, which included weekly visits to the old shelter. Lisa also worked on the capital campaign committee to build our current shelter. She has remained a steady, weekly animal care volunteer at the Shelter. Lisa and her husband Peter have three children in college and four furry ones at home providing endless hours of “empty nest” entertainment. Lisa enjoys woodworking and gardening when she isn't providing Reiki at the Holistic Wellness Center in Medfield.

Keith Mozer, a longtime supporter of our Shelter, has agreed to serve as a member of our Board of Directors. Keith was instrumental in the design and construction of our current

shelter. Mozer Construction, the company Keith and his wife Debbie operate together, donated all of the custom, highly durable cabinetry in our Shelter. Keith's significant small business experience will provide valuable insight to our Board. Keith and Debbie have 3 children, two dogs (including one from our Shelter), and two cats. If you hadn't already guessed, they are also empty nesters.

Welcome to Jan, Lisa and Keith!

THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING

One sure sign of spring is kittens. We have already taken in a few litters of kittens and expect many more to come our way (see our story about becoming a foster family).



Another sure sign of spring is our annual low-cost rabies vaccination clinic. We had a beautiful day for the clinic on April 9th this year, and Heather D. Cochran, DVM, vaccinated 90 cats and dogs. We owe a big thank you to Dr. Cochran and to volunteers Deborah Merriam, Karen Kerr and Allyson Livingstone for filling out the certificates and selling dog licenses. Many thanks, too, to Tom and Karen Kerr for

making the awesome wooden signs that were placed around town to advertise the clinic.

THANKS TO OUR VETERINARIANS

We would truly be lost without the kind and generous expertise of our partnering veterinarians. Thank you very much to:

- Heather D. Cochran, DVM, House Calls, Medfield
- Main Street Veterinary Hospital, Millis
- Medfield Veterinary Clinic, Medfield
- The Luke & Lily Lerner Clinic at Tufts Vet School

LONGTERM SHELTER RESIDENT READY FOR A FOSTER HOME

Sycamore is a strikingly beautiful, 4-year-old, long-haired orange and white kitty. She has been at the Shelter since October of 2007. She is still painfully shy with people, especially children, and will only let the volunteers she knows touch her on the head. She looks forward to the treats our volunteers bring her and will join in during playtime with the other cats. At this point we feel she has made as much progress as she can at the Shelter, and would like to get her into a home environment to see if she can adapt. She will need a very patient foster family who is willing to give her time to settle in. She's very nice to the other cats, especially her best friend, Missy, and would make a great kitty companion for a lonely cat. If you are interested in fostering or adopting Sycamore, please contact us.



SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

Each and every volunteer brings their own talents to the Shelter and makes it a better place for the animals. If you are interested in becoming a Shelter volunteer, perhaps you could find your special niche. We would love to have you!

Volunteer Danee Denton, has been personally taking care of Scamp, a very sweet cat at the Shelter, with a parasitic disease called



Toxoplasmosis.

This disease is most dangerous to pregnant women and people who are immunocompromised, so Danee volunteered to be in charge of Scamp's care. She has been coming to care for him every single day, morning *and* evening. She feeds him, gives him his medicine and cleans his cage. She also lavishes him with attention. Danee has not missed a day in over six weeks. We applaud her dedication and are very grateful for her commitment.

We have many volunteer openings for adults right now. Here are just a few of the areas where we are looking for help:

- photographing pets for the website
- writing pet descriptions
- helping to keep the website, blog and Facebook page up to date
- fundraising
- caring for the landscaping and garden (we grow greens for the bunnies)
- spring clean-up around the exterior of the Shelter

We are always looking for responsible, adult volunteers able to feed and care for the pets. We do ask that you commit to volunteering at least twice a month at regularly scheduled times. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call

the Shelter at 508-359-8989, or send an email to medfieldshelter@gmail.com .

EVER THOUGHT OF FOSTERING SOME KITTENS?

Kitten season is upon us and we are looking for families willing to foster kittens and mom cats. Our foster families play an important role in socializing kittens and getting them used to living in a home environment so they grow up



to be well-adjusted family pets. Our foster families care for the kittens until they are old enough to be placed in

homes, which can be for as little as a week or two up to several months, depending on the age of the kittens when they come into the Shelter's care. Kittens come into foster care from many circumstances. It's the love and interaction with our foster families that help them to grow up to be healthy loving pets. Fostering is a rewarding way to help the kittens, who perhaps didn't start life in the best situation, get ready to go to a loving home. If you are interested in joining our foster care network, call the Medfield Animal Shelter at 508-359-8989.

REUNITING PETS WITH THEIR OWNERS

When the Animal Control Officers from Medfield and Dover bring a stray dog or cat to the Shelter, our volunteers jump into action to try to reunite the pet with its owner as quickly as possible. We start by making calls to the Animal Control Officers in all the surrounding towns to see if anyone has reported a missing pet. Then we post photos and a description of the pet on all of the online lost and found sites, our own website, and our Facebook page. We ask our Facebook followers to post the pet on their own

page in order to spread the word. If the pet isn't claimed after 48 hours, we have a SABER alert (similar to an Amber alert) issued. SABER alerts go to every Animal Control Officer in Massachusetts. We also send a photo and description to the Hometown Weekly newspaper as well as to local online sites such as the Medfield and Dover Patch sites. If the pet is still not claimed we post flyers at local businesses and vets, and often ask our volunteers to forward an e-mail with the pet's photo to everyone they know. We work hard to reunite pets and their owners, and leave no stone unturned in the process.

ROCHE BROS. MAKES WEEKLY DONATIONS TO HELP OUR CRITTERS!

Many thanks to John and James at Roche Bros in Millis for their generous weekly donation of salad greens, herbs and carrots for the rabbits and guinea pigs in our care. Most people do not know that small animals such as these need fresh greens as part of their daily diet. This



donation is saving the Shelter a considerable amount of money each week. Thank you Roche Bros! Long-time Shelter volunteer Ginny Olsen picks up the greens for us every week.

THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING

In every newsletter we thank our adopters because without all of you giving our pets their forever homes, the Shelter would not function. It is true that every adoption saves a very precious life! Your continued support and recommending of our Shelter to others looking

for pets is invaluable to us. **ADOPTERS ARE OUR HEROES!**

CHILDREN HELPING PETS

On April 8th, a group called Friends Helping Friends, comprised of ten 5th grade girls from Medfield, came for a visit and to drop off



donations. They held a coin drive at the Dale Street School and raised \$200! Thank you Friends Helping Friends!

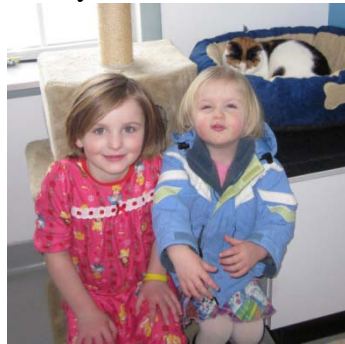
Instead of gifts for his 9th birthday, Westwood resident Dylan Perkins asked his friends to donate money to the Shelter to help feed the guinea pigs, cats, bunnies and dogs. Dylan has been volunteering on Sunday nights with his mother for over two years. Through the generosity of his friends, their parents, and Dylan's own family, he raised over \$500 which, through a series of "matches" resulted in the Shelter receiving over \$2,000! Way to go Dylan!



Instead of birthday gifts, Megan and Kaitlyn Whelan of Medfield asked their friends for donations for the Shelter. They collected \$370 and donated items for the animals. The girls are twins and just turned 9 years old. We are so happy to have kids like these generous girls supporting the Medfield Animal Shelter!



These adorable girls are Quinn and Payton Maley of Medfield. The girls each received \$5 as Valentine's gifts and generously decided to donate it to the Medfield Animal Shelter to help homeless pets!



For her 10th birthday, Sara Schildwachter of Millis had a birthday party and asked for her friends to bring donations for the Shelter instead of gifts. She also told her school class what she was doing and her class donated an additional \$120! She is pictured here with her sister, some of the donations she brought, and longtime Shelter resident, Missy.



SHELTER BUSINESS

We want to thank all of you who have supported our efforts so far this year. The Medfield Animal Shelter is a no-kill shelter. We are also trying to do our part to stop the pet overpopulation problem in our area. Every cat, dog and rabbit adopted from the Medfield Animal Shelter is spayed or neutered. Because the cat overpopulation problem is so severe, we have focused an enormous effort on helping cats. Earlier this year, we continued to host low-cost spay/neuter clinics for cats at our Shelter using a mobile vet service. To enhance our capabilities, we are in the planning stages of creating our own in-shelter spay/neuter clinic which will increase our impact, further lower our costs, and possibly enable us to provide low-cost canine spay/neuter services. We're very excited about our opportunity to increase our impact with an in-house clinic. Over 300 cats were spayed/neutered last year at our clinics. Thank you for supporting the Medfield Shelter and spay/neuter as the only humane method of companion animal population control.

HAPPY TAILS

Cisco

Cisco came to the Medfield Animal Shelter from a hoarding situation, but is now happily in his

forever home. He was quite skittish at first, but quickly settled in with his new family. He enjoys going for walks, catching small



objects that are airborne, twirling, playing with anything that is soft and squeaky, and loves to snuggle. Cisco is a smart boy who knows exactly how to earn treats. As soon as he's told to sit, he immediately holds out his paw. Thankfully, Cisco is now living the life he deserves.

Cheezit/Achilles

A few months ago we agreed to take in a cat from a kind woman and cat rescuer, Susan, who along with her neighbors had been caring for a stray cat for over a year. The cat had been seen around the neighborhood, but was too skittish to let anyone near him. After investing a lot of time and energy, he began to trust her enough to let her feed and care for him. Susan fed him every day, and set up a house under her deck so that he would have shelter, especially on cold snowy days. It seemed obvious to Susan that he had once been someone's special cat and she was determined to find him a home. Because he was a big orange-colored cat, Susan's niece named him Cheezit.

Upon arrival at the Shelter, Cheezit was checked by our vet and put on medicine to address some of the health issues he had from living outside for so long. Since he wasn't yet adoptable, we didn't post him on our website.

Several days after Cheezit's arrival, a woman called looking for her son's big orange cat, Achilles, that had been missing for two years. Normally we wouldn't have even thought that a cat gone for that long could still be alive, but the woman who brought in Cheezit and the caller looking for her cat live in the same town about seven miles apart. Even though we thought the likelihood was low that Cheezit was actually Achilles, we agreed to have the family come right over to take a look to see if the cat in our care could possibly be Achilles. Suzanne, the mom, and her son, Vincent, came to the Shelter and took one look at him and knew that he was their cat! They brought photos of Achilles from when he was a kitten and explained that Vincent

had rescued him when he was a college student and had named him Achilles because he had an injured foot. Cheezit also had an injured foot! The rest, as they say, is history.

Since returning home, Achilles has settled right in and is enjoying being pampered by his family. His rescuer was stunned to hear the story and thrilled to find Achilles was back with the family that loved him. A happy tail and great reunion!



Lady with her new owners.



THANK YOU

The Medfield Animal Shelter would like to thank Judy Ambrose for the compassion and dedication she gave to the Shelter and its residents for more than six years. Judy generously shared her time and talent to ensure that all of our animals were very well cared for and went to homes that were appropriate for their needs. Judy was responsible for starting our low-cost feline spay/neuter clinic program, and three years ago she initiated our annual Puppy Mill Awareness Day to educate people about the cruelties of mass-producing puppies. Judy has moved on to pursue other avenues of animal rescue and we will miss her very much. We will continue the great programs she began at our Shelter, and we wish Judy success in her future endeavors.



Olive & Marlowe (formerly Cher & Midnight)

OUR WISH LIST FOR DONATED ITEMS

We depend on donations of food, cleaning supplies and cat litter to care for the Shelter residents. Donations can be dropped off at the Shelter. Here are a few items we need:

- Scoopable cat litter
- plush dog toys
- cozy cat beds
- canned cat food (9 Lives Super Supper and Fancy Feast Fish & Shrimp seem to be the favorite flavors, but we accept any brand and flavor)
- martingale dog collars



Super Cat Sundae takes over her Mom's gift basket.

A FEW MORE OF OUR SUPPORTERS



Girl Scout Troop 7476 from Walpole donated shelter supplies and \$73 in donations. Thank you, Troop 7476!

Second-graders from the Charles River School in Dover came by on April 27th for a visit and brought lots of donations including laundry detergent, cat food, pillows, dog toys, dog beds and trash bags! They had an exciting visit and were lucky to be visited by Fancy the Puggle who joined them outside to enjoy the sunny spring day. Needless to say, Fancy loved the attention!



THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT THE ANIMALS!

Each year the Medfield Animal Shelter takes in over 300 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. Most of the money we raise each year is used to pay for vet care. We are grateful for donations of any size.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Would you like to make a donation as a gift, in honor of a friend, or in memory of an animal lover? We would be happy to send a card letting the person know a gift has been made in their honor.

Please provide us with the following information:

This donation is a:

_____ Gift

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ In memory of: _____

Please send an acknowledgement card to this address:

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