

# **MEDFIELD ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER**

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## **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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**

On September 25, 2024, the Medfield Animal Shelter celebrated our 20th anniversary! We have come such a long way from when Medfield Shelter was only a shack with no running water to house pets in need. We have steadily increased the number of pets we help each year, but our facility is small, so there are many we cannot help. Shelters nationwide are in a crisis, with many more pets surrendered than adopters looking to add a pet. Even kittens spend more time in our care before we find them homes. We usually place kittens once they are eight weeks old and have had a vet exam, but we have had some kittens spend a month or even two months in our care after they are ready for adoption before an adopter comes along. This wait means that our foster families have the kitties for longer and are unable to take in new ones.



With veterinary care costs increasing, 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.

It is hard to express how much we appreciate and depend on the support of our community. For example, our foster families increase our capacity by caring for

kittens, mom cats and their litters, guinea pigs, dogs that need more training, and senior pets. We are grateful to have so many longtime fosters who are always ready to help, and we are looking for more families willing to open their homes to foster pets. Much of our food is donated, allowing us to spend more money on veterinary care. We receive so many food donations that we can often share with shelters and rescues that are not as fortunate.

We couldn't do what we do without the efforts of our small staff, our fabulous volunteers, and our generous donors. Our manager, Adam DeParolesa, and Assistant Manager, Sophie Fountaine, keep things running smoothly with their hard work and dedication to animal welfare. Thank you to everyone involved in making the Shelter a success!



## **HOLIDAY MATCHING CHALLENGE**

These days, our attention is pulled in so many directions that it's easy to overlook even the things we have done for so long that they have become ritual. Fortunately for us, the group that has offered the Shelter's Matching Challenge each year has not forgotten its commitment to animals. Once again, it will match every dollar donated to the Shelter between November 15, 2024, and January 15, 2025—up to \$25,000!

We can't stress enough how important the fundraiser is for the Shelter and how grateful we are for the

Matching Challenge that doubles your gift! Donations pay for nearly two-thirds of our annual operating costs. Donor generosity makes it possible for us to provide food, shelter, and medical care for homeless pets. We're seeing steadily increasing costs in every area of our operations, but thanks to the unwavering support of our loyal supporters, we have been able to continue providing even costly services, such as dental care for pets that come to us with broken or rotten teeth and microchips for each dog and cat that we place.

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

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

You can make your contribution in honor of an animal-loving relative or friend. It's the perfect gift! We will send a photo card acknowledgment to honorees that they'll love to receive.



The Matching Challenge is our only fundraiser of the year, so please remember the animals this busy holiday season and make your gift now. Help us ensure that every pet that comes through our door receives all the services it needs to be placed in a loving home!

### FROM FOSTER TO SERVICE DOG

In early September, we took in Kiki and her five two-week-old puppies. Knowing Kiki was protective of her puppies, we sought an experienced foster home, and Christina Taddei, owner of Alpha Dog K9 Training in Medway, offered her assistance. Due to Christina's extensive background training service dogs, she began preparing the puppies as potential hearing assistance dogs trained to alert deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to important sounds.

Christina introduced the puppies to new people and environments daily to ensure they would grow into confident and resilient dogs—essential traits for service work. When they reached eight weeks old, a representative from America's VetDogs evaluated the puppies, and two were selected to begin training with

handlers. A third puppy remained with Christina and may also become a service dog. The other two were placed in homes as pets.





According to their website, "The service dog programs of America's VetDogs were created to provide enhanced mobility and renewed independence to veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders with disabilities, allowing them to once again live with pride." We're incredibly proud of these puppies and the important work they may go on to do.

### 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](https://www.MedfieldShelter.com), scroll down the home page to  *Donations/Wish List* and find links to both.

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

#### Kristina Gallant

Kristina Gallant has been volunteering at the Medfield Animal Shelter since 2016. However, her journey into the world of shelter animals started long before we met her. When they were newly married, Kristina and her husband began fostering orphaned kittens. In 2020, upon hearing our need for more foster families, she signed up and has since fostered many cats. She has become our resident "cat whisperer," always offering

to foster the shy, feral, or older cats who may need extra work or time. Kristina, who has two cats and four dogs of her own, says, "Not much fazes us."

Kristina is the Director of the Sherborn Council on Aging. She is passionate about working with older adults. When she's not volunteering at the Shelter, you'll often find her hiking in the woods with her dogs or cross-country running. She's out walking the trail behind her house every single day. Most recently, Kristina and her family fostered two shy cats, Crystal and Angel. She made a great decision to introduce them in hopes they would bond, and they did, making their stay with her happier for both cats. They found a wonderful home after six months of hard work and dedication. Shy cats benefit greatly from being out of the shelter environment, and Kristina is always happy and willing to offer her home. When asked what her favorite thing is about fostering, she says:



"What makes me happiest is when they find their forever family. So many adopting families stay in touch, and I love receiving their updates and photos. I feel honored to be a part of the journey of our foster cats and dogs as they find their forever homes." We are so grateful to have Kristina as a Shelter volunteer and foster!

### 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.



## GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD PROJECT

In February 2024, Medfield Girl Scout Troop 74900 members approached us about collaborating on their Silver Award Project. They were eager to create a long-term benefit for the Shelter animals. We were thrilled to have young members of our community so invested in improving the lives of the animals in our care.

Vivian, Claire, and Maddie came to the Shelter to brainstorm ideas. Their proposed project ideas were impressive, and we agreed to create a "dog playground" in our dog exercise yard. This would provide the dogs with mental and physical exercise and some fun.



The Silver Award requires extensive planning and a specific number of hours to achieve recognition. The scouts meticulously planned each structure for the project. After a few months, they presented us with a detailed PowerPoint presentation. We approved three structures to be built in our dog yard: a ramp, a tunnel, and hurdles. On August 24th, Vivian, Claire, Maddie, and their parents came to the Shelter and installed the new structures. Once everything was completed, we were excited to let the dogs outside to test their agility skills. The dogs particularly enjoyed running up and down the ramp! The dog playground is a wonderful addition and greatly enhanced our dog yard.



### HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PROJECTS

Every spring, we have the pleasure of hosting two high school students working on their senior projects. This year, we hosted Mikayla Malmquist of Medfield and Robin Delva of Dover. Both students deeply love

animals and were eager to help however they could. We receive many inquiries from students interested in completing their senior projects at the Shelter, and we always look forward to the extra hands.

During their time here, Mikayla and Robin shadowed our manager and assistant manager, taking on various tasks such as walking dogs, socializing with the cats, doing laundry, feeding and cleaning up after the animals, and organizing donations. No matter the job, they showed up every morning with big smiles, ready to care for our furry friends.

It was heartwarming to watch the bond they developed while working together. Robin’s parents, who are also volunteers at the Shelter, were very thankful she had the opportunity. They reported that she came home every day talking about all the animals she worked with. They never heard her talk this much in one sitting!

At the end of their project, both students created donation programs at their schools to collect much-needed items for the Shelter. A big thank you to Mikayla and Robin for making a difference.

### MORE ADOPTERS



### PEOPLE & BUSINESSES TO THANK

- **Life’s a Pooch, Medfield** for their Medfield Day fundraiser



- **Express Business Center, Medfield** for collecting Shelter donations
- **Medfield Lions Club** for their donation
- **Andy Costello’s violin/viola students** for their “Pennies for Pets” fundraiser
- **Rocky’s Ace Hardware** for their holiday pet drive to benefit the Shelter
- **Benjamin Daniels** for recommending the Shelter for a generous grant through Cummings Community Giving
- **The Earth Squad, Westwood** for their bake sale fundraiser
- **Franklin Elks No. 2136** for their donation
- **The Sisters of Marrillac Residences** for their gift of dog scarves and bagged treats
- **Girl Scout Troop 70675, Boston** for their homemade cat toys fundraiser
- **Perez Martial Arts Black Belt Group, Medfield** for their fundraiser
- **Meera Sorensen** for making and selling bracelets to benefit the Shelter
- **CarMax, Norwood** for their collection drive and for cleaning up our grounds



- **Kilmer Elementary School First Graders, West Roxbury** for their fundraiser
- **Girl Scout Troop 64025, Needham** for their fundraiser
- **Randy’s Automotive, Medfield** for their “Randy’s Rally for Rescues” collection drive
- **NatureWorks Landscape, Walpole** for their 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
- **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

## HAPPY TAILS



Mr. Jinx and Miss Lucy



Shelby (formerly Apple)



Ziggy (formerly Ozzie)



Charlie & Murphy



Nash (formerly Trix)



Ringo



Pip (formerly O'Malley)



Soleil



Meowy

Crosby (one of Java's puppies)



## MORE HAPPY TAILS



Taylor & Swift



Maggie



Holliston High Honor Society donations



Skye enjoying the sun



Millis High Senior Project

## SOME OF OUR MANY SUPPORTERS



Earth Squad bake sale to benefit the Shelter



Two donations from lemonade stands



## 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, 2024 and January 15, 2025 — 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 2025!

\*\*\*\*\*

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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