



MassPAWS Newsletter

MassPAWS.petfinder.org

S U M M E R 2 0 1 2

MASSPAWS MISSION:

MassPAWS responds to hundreds of calls from folks on the No. Shore on behalf of stray, abandoned or feral animals.

We provide medical attention, foster homes, and match animals with their forever homes.



www.massanimalcoalition.org/

The Massachusetts Animal Coalition urges all MA shelters, rescues and animal control programs to work towards the goal of a 100% pre-adoption sterilization rate.

One hundred percent pre-adoption sterilization is the only way to ensure that these entities that are working to end pet over-population and homelessness are not contributing to the very problem they seek to solve.

Stella D'oro; 'Star of Gold'

..... By Dee Dennis, Vice President

Many of you may remember, or still purchase and enjoy, the cookies and bread sticks that are the Stella D'oro brand. Many of you who don't speak Italian may not know that Stella D'oro translated means star of gold. The minute you meet this little biscuit you immediately conjure up a smile – even if you are having the most challenging day of your life. She is warm and sweet and happy to greet. A pat on the head and her little flag tail wags steady. But this was not always the case for our little Stella.

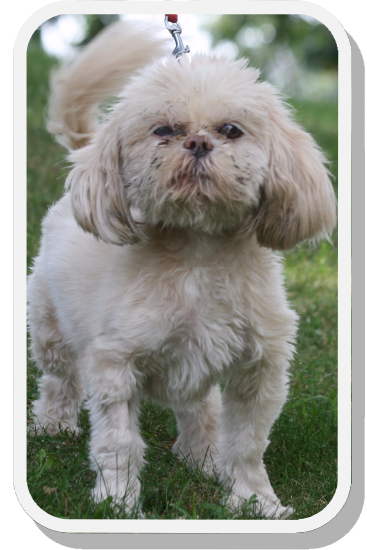
When we pulled Stella from the pound as an unclaimed stray, she was thought to be about 4 or 5 years old and Shih Tzu mix. Once we made the commitment to help Stella out of impoundment into foster and eventually a forever home, the problems surfaced. The medical staff at the hospital that was to do her spay surgery reported a mammary mass. When she was spayed, the mass was removed and sent to the lab. While awaiting the report Stella went to foster. We were thrilled to hear this was a benign tumor and Stella was cancer-free.

Her foster mother was concerned about the thinness and picky eating habits of this little waif. She seemed to only want people food. Chicken and rice were the faves, but she also vomited several times and this was not

going to help with fattening her up. So with doctor's orders the foster home proceeded to force feed with a syringe some high calorie veterinary diet that would help her to add more calories to her diet and eventually her girth. Well the horror of the matter was that instead of perking this little girl up, it put her into a comatose state. The foster mom was alarmed by this and rushed her into the hospital and prayed that they could help her.

The vet admitted Stella and put her on IV catheter immediately and once stabilized, fasted her so that a special blood test could be done the following morning. Lo and behold the test showed that this little dog was a liver shunt dog. Very perplexing as this is a condition that is genetic and so Stella was most likely dealing with this her whole life and self-regulating by eating very small and slow meals and not overloading her liver with high-protein and large intake.

So Stella was diagnosed and put on a special diet which has saved her life and added some weight to her. She is no longer a skeletal seven pounds. She has gained a pound which is great for her health and weight. She has pep in her step and she is a prancer when walking. She is happy and energetic and would love to find a foster home or



forever home so that her foster mom can take better care of her own dogs – one who is a senior and needs her mom's attention. . If you are interested in meeting Stella D'oro, please let us know.

The extensive veterinary care that Stella required in order to become healthy has taken a big bite out of MassPAWS funds. Won't you consider a tax-deductible donation to defer the costs and to help others make that giant step from the pound to the safe haven of MassPAWS' foster care and into permanent homes via our adoption program? You may not believe it but \$10.00 or \$25.00 or \$50.00 goes a long way. \$100.00 pays for a cat spay and vaccinations, \$200.00 pays for a dog spay and vaccinations. Thank you on behalf of the animals that we strive to advocate for and protect.

BRIAN

Brian, just another no-name Pit Bull type dog unclaimed at the

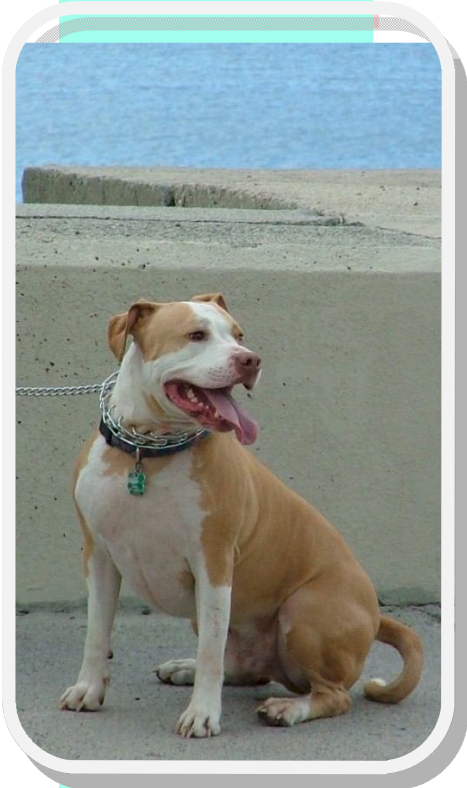
Pound . . . A good boy, needing basic manners and the usual decrease in hormones that neutering provides. An exuberant boy, once he realized that someone just might care about him.

A dog who loves to play, not so uncommon at all. A dog who loves to please "his person", who wants to be with "his person", whoever that was to be. A dog who was confused at where he found himself, and wasn't sure who to complain to. A dog who would stick up for himself and his person if he

had to. Brian stuck up for himself when confronted by another dog in his foster home, and ended up with months of medications, vet visits, X-rays and uncertainty as to whether his leg would heal at all. Enter Gerard, who fostered Brian, understood Brian, gave him all his pills, took him to the vet and slowly rehabilitated him.

To see Brian today is a joy to behold. He is a service dog, robust and shiny, happy and loved. He has a job and he knows it. He has someone who he can depend on, and who depends on him. It was a long journey. It was worth it.

A salute to Brian and Gerard. May you keep each other safe and happy for many years to come. We believed in you both.



BRIAN

Take this playful guy to the beach and have a catch with him!

MassPAWS is proud to have received grant monies from:

The Petco Foundation, PetSmart Charities and from the Massachusetts Animal Coalition License Plate Program.



<http://www.petsmartcharities.org/>



<http://www.petco.com/>



<http://www.massanimalcoalition.org/>

Help Homeless Pets in your Neighborhood;

By participating in the PETCO Foundation, PetSmart Charities and the Animal Friendly License Plate fundraising programs; *you help save the lives of countless needy animals.*

Just Another Stray Cat

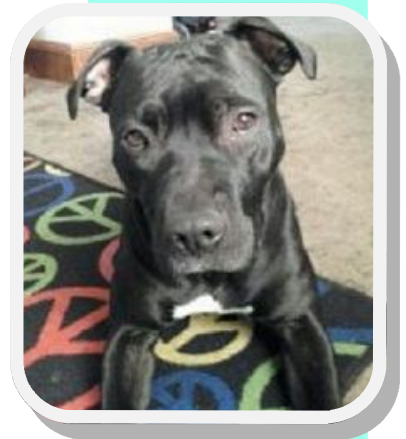
She was just one of the many stray cats in the city of Lynn that MassPAWS was called upon to help. The calls keep coming in from all the surrounding towns. Mother cat with kittens living under porch or inside shed or in wood pile, injured cat not able to walk on all four legs, cat that has an eye that looks infected, kittens that are now without mother because she was struck by car and now dead.

The pleas are heart wrenching and in the throes of a very busy time for MassPAWS rescuers battling an extremely hot June and yet another “kitten season”, there she was lying there with 2 dead kittens beside her. She was found by a kindly Lynn resident. Once taken off the street, she gave birth to yet another kitten that same day, but this kitten was also born dead. MassPAWS star trapper/rescuer, Carol, wisely took her along to the Petsmart Charities sponsored and MSPCA, Nevins Farm coordinated feral cat spay/neuter clinics held for the first time ever this June which Carol had already had been preparing for.

The MSPCA veterinarian discovered that this little cat was suffering from a life-threatening uterine infection. Had she not been spayed that day, she likely would have died on the street. Her life was saved thanks to the Lynn resident who initially found her, MassPAWS volunteers who picked her up and transported her to the clinic, the veterinarian and techs who performed the surgery, and finally the staff at MSPCA who took a shine to her and held her for aftercare as she needed medication and monitoring to be sure the infection was eradicated. We are deeply grateful to Mike Keiley and the staff at MSPCA for inviting MassPAWS to participate in the June clinics. We were able to help 50+ cats that we may not have gotten to quickly enough if not for this program.

“Just another stray cat” now has a name – Phoebe. Her future was in our hands that day, and we could not have assisted Phoebe or any of the other cats helped by MassPAWS without the help we receive from you, our supporters.

Phoebe is currently in a foster home for a little fattening up as she was quite thin. She will be ready for adoption in late July and if you would like to meet this sweetie who is affectionate, talkative and social with other cats, please give us a call.



COAL

Coal is a rock star. She is housebroken, crate trained, and gets along well with children, adults and other dogs. She is 1 yr. 8 months old and 40 pounds. Check out those cute white front paws! Coal needs a forever home!

Please call Ocean View Kennel to meet Coal:
781-284-7800

oceanviewkennel.com

Bringing Home A New Cat



Elizabeth Teal, Former ASPCA Animal Behavior Counselor; Whether your new cat is coming from a shelter, a home, an urban street or a country barn, the first twenty-four hours in your home are special and critical. Before you bring a new cat into your life, it helps to understand a little bit about how cats relate to their world.

For the cat, territory is of paramount importance. A cat views his territory the way most of us view our clothes; without them, we feel naked and vulnerable. Place us naked in a room filled with strangers and most of us would try to hide! It is common for cats, regardless of whether they come from homes or streets, to hide in a new territory. Very sensitive or under-socialized cats often hide for a week or more! You know that this cat is now a member of the family, but the cat doesn't.



You can help make the transition to a new home smoother and easier by providing some privacy for your new cat. If possible, start by preparing your home before you bring in the cat. Choose a room for the litter box; a bathroom works well. Set up the litter box with one to two inches of litter, and place it in a corner, if possible.

Now create a safe haven for the cat to hide in. You can buy a covered cat bed but a cardboard box turned upside down with two "doors" cut in it will work nicely. Why two "doors?" Many cats seem to feel more secure if they have a second "escape" route. Get a box big enough for the cat to stand up, turn around, stretch out and lie down in -- but keep it cozy! Place the box next to the wall or in a corner where the cat can see the door to the room. You don't want the cat to feel trapped. Place a sisal, cork or corrugated cardboard scratching post next to it. Finally, clear off a shelf for the cat to perch on to view his new world.

After you have prepared the bathroom, cat-proof every other room of your home. Are there raised surfaces for the cat? If the answer is "no," make some! Cats need to be able to jump up and survey their territory.

Do you have valuable mementos that are easily broken? Put them away until your cat is happily moved in. Check out all the nooks and crannies. Are there places that could be dangerous for the cat to explore or hide in? If so, block them off. Finally, put a scratching post or pad in every room.

If circumstances require that you bring in the cat before your home is ready, keep him in his carrier until you have his room set up! He will be fine in there for a while longer. Opposite the litter box, place a bowl of fresh water. After the room is set up, place the carrier next to the "safe haven." Close the bathroom door before opening the carrier. Do not pull the cat out. Allow him to come out on his own and begin to explore his new home. Now, leave the room. Yes, leave...remember you are giving him time to acclimate. Go and prepare a small amount of a premium quality cat food. Quietly place it next to the water bowl.

Do not reach for the cat! Let the cat come to you. If he doesn't approach, come back in fifteen minutes. Do not be surprised if he doesn't eat. It is common for re-homed cats to show no interest in eating, often for several days. Pick up the leftovers and leave. Come back in a couple of hours with a fresh meal of the same high-quality food. If the cat is openly soliciting affection, eating and not hiding, you can open the door and give him one more room. Do this slowly until you have introduced the cat to all the rooms in his new home.

Remember to let the cat set the pace. Be patient. It may take weeks for the cat to comprehend that this foreign turf is his new territory.

A Tribute to Caesar

He was one of the 2 grandfathers of a huge hoarding case in Chelsea in 2003. We covered our faces and skin when we went in to trap and feed.

It was the middle of the winter with broken windows and no heat or water in the house. There were piles of feces 4 feet high, and cats and kittens in the ceilings, behind the walls, in every room and under the house. Four humane organizations helped at just this one house, which made the front page of the newspaper.

Caesar ran in and out, a blue and white tough looking Tom Cat who ruled his roost; we had to call him Caesar. We trapped him, neutered, tested, wormed, defleaded and vaccinated him along with at least 40 others, guessed his age to be about 6, and were determined to find him a better place to live.

When Caesar arrived at the Petsmart Everett adoption room, the volunteers called me. He tried to kill them, lunging at the front of the cage, claws out and teeth ready. I cornered him in a smaller cage and brought him home. He tried to kill me for 3 weeks. And then, he decided in his own time over several months that I was OK; he liked the regular meals and his own warm bed. His coat turned white where it

was supposed to be white, and he liked to be combed.

Caesar and I came to an agreement that he could stay until he found a home. He let me pet him. He rubbed against me. Enter Petfinder, and Trish who was certain that this chunky, self-assured curmudgeon was just the handsome cat for her. He lived with Trish until this past fall, when Caesar died of old age related disease. He was a legend.

He taught us a lot. Above all, Caesar and his pals reaffirmed our guiding principle that every animal is worthy and deserves our support. Sincere thanks to all those volunteers and groups who helped "just one houseful". Sincere thanks to Trish, who spoke up for Caesar and gave him the life of love he never knew before. I know he was grateful. I won't forget him.



Saving just one dog won't change the world; but surely it will change the world for that one dog!



An Indoor Cat is a Safe Cat

MassPAWS

P.O. Box 520136 - Winthrop, MA 02151 - Phone: 617.846.5586
E-mail: MassPAWS@aol.com - Web: MassPAWS.petfinder.org

These websites may be of interest to you!

<http://www.malegislature.gov/>

Find Your Senator or Representative

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/WebCams/>

See Live Animal Cams

<http://www.massmoments.org/>

An almanac of Massachusetts history



The Massachusetts Progressive Animal Watchdog Society, Inc.
MassPAWS.Petfinder.com

Spay / Neuter Information

Thousands of kittens, cats and dogs are stray, abandoned, homeless and unclaimed every year in Massachusetts; sadly, many are destroyed. Please have your pet spayed or neutered, show your love and keep them safe!

- Find upcoming low cost **CATMOBILE** Spay/Neuter clinics at MRFRS.org or call (978) 465-1940 or email Catmobile@MRFS.org
- The **S.T.O.P. Clinic**; this mobile unit drives to many cities performing low cost Spay/Neuter (cats only, fee includes initial vaccinations) www.TheStopClinic.com
Call the S.T.O.P. clinic at (617) 571-7151
- Low cost Spay/Neuter certificates at **Friends of Animals** www.FriendsOfAnimals.org or call (800) 321-7387
- **Animal Rescue League SPAY Waggin'** (877) 590-7729, a mobile unit that provides low cost spay and neuter for cats and dogs under 60 pounds, fee includes initial vaccines. www.arlboston.org
- **Alliance For Animals** offers low cost Spay/Neuter services 232 Silver St., South Boston, (617) 268- 7800 www.afaboston.org
- **MSPCA SNAP** (617) 541-5005 & **Shalit-Glazer** (617) 541-5007 programs, assisting low-income households with Spay/Neuter needs; go to: www.mspca.org and search SNAP or Shalit-Glazer
- **Merwin Animal Clinic** 542 Cambridge St. Allston (617) 782-5420
Walk-in clinic open 12-3 Mon-Sat (cash only). Low cost spay and neuter by appointment.

NOTE: will spay/neuter Pit Bulls for FREE.