

MassPAWS Newsletter



Since its inception in 2001, MassPAWS has assisted thousands of animals.

www.MassPAWS.org MassPAWS.PetFinder.org www.facebook.com.MassPAWShumane



Please keep your cat indoors!

Top Reasons to Keep YOUR Cat Indoors

- Outdoor cats are killed & maimed by cars each year
 - Cats are killed & tortured by humans for fun.
 - Dogs maim; fisher cats & coyotes eat cats
 - Feline leukemia, FIV and Feline Infectious Peritonitis are diseases outdoor cats are more vulnerable too; they get into fights with other cats
 - Fleas, ticks & parasites are picked up outside the home
 - Extreme temperatures like heat or cold kill thousands of cats a year
 - Traps and snares set outdoors can maim and kill your cat.
 - Toxins like antifreeze and poisons kill cats
- Cats that are kept indoors live at least 50% longer than cats that are allowed outdoors! Your vet bills will be much lower as your cat is less likely to be injured or attacked in a safe indoor environment.**

Contact Us: MassPAWS

PO Box 520136,
Winthrop, MA 02152
617-846-5586

www.MassPAWS.org

MassPAWS.PetFinder.org

We spay/neuter cats & dogs preventing pets from becoming homeless or ending up (themselves or their offspring) in over-burdened shelters.

We also provide s/n and support to caretakers of feral cat colonies and provide assistance to caretakers trying to keep their pets.

Charlie Washington

... By Dee Dennis, Vice President

Charlie was brought to our attention by a friend of MassPAWS who knew of a



woman that was feeding him in Chelsea. She reported that he had an injury and was in need of our help. Although

Chelsea is not one of our service areas, when we know of an injured animal that is in pain and need of medical assistance, MP volunteers jump to attention.

It didn't take long for Carol our Feline Field manager to trap poor Charlie who was in obvious pain and distress. He was not a great patient. At vets office he positively panicked – unsure of what was going on around him. He was neutered first and then our fabulous Dr. David Dunn assessed his badly damaged leg and reported to us that he had to

amputate the shattered leg at the shoulder.

After surgery he went to recover in a foster home where he gained strength and confidence daily, learning to be a tripod. He also warmed up to his foster mom and gradually became a loving cat who sought the attention of his caretaker with soft meows and head-butts.

He was a friendly cat who presented feral

to some who read all his signals incorrectly. A cat that is taken out of his environment, who is also in discomfort or pain can be a challenge. But when allowed to be treated and settle into a routine of care and feeding in a warm and friendly environment, they can be your new best friend.

CW was eventually taken into Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society shelter for placement (as MP does not have a shelter or adoption venue). He was placed in a loving home and we could not be happier for him.



Like us on FB @ www.facebook.com/masspawshumane

Eight Reasons You Can Foster a Pet — Even If You Think You Can't

----- by Petfinder

I encourage everyone I know to foster even if they're dead set on adopting.

Not only does fostering provide an invaluable service to rescue groups and the shelters who depend on them (not to mention the pets themselves), it's a great way to learn about your own needs as a pet owner. (You can't know if you've got what it takes to walk a young puppy at 1, 3 and 6 a.m. until you've done it!)

But I've heard a lot of excuses — er, reasons — why people can't or don't want to foster. So I was delighted to get the article below in a newsletter from the [Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society](#), which answers just about every possible excuse. (It was written by Liz Pease, the shelter's director of operations.)

With shelters overflowing and many people needing temporary care for their pets while they find new housing or weather a crisis, fostering is even more important these days. So print out this list and give it to everyone you know who thinks they just "can't" foster.

"I DON'T HAVE THE SPACE" — I used to think this too. Then a cat came along that really, really needed me . . . and I made the space! All it takes is a small spare bedroom or office, a bathroom, or even a corner where you can set up a playpen cage, which you can borrow from us! While we do need foster cats to stay separate from your own cats, it doesn't take much space to do that. And remember, whatever space you have at home is probably more than the kitty has

here at the shelter now! *[Editor's note: This is also what I tell people who think they can't adopt a big dog because they live in an apartment--Emily]*

"I MIGHT GET ATTACHED" — OK, yes, you might. But no matter how difficult it is to bring your kitty back to the shelter, just knowing that you're helping to save a life should ease any short-term pain. When you take in a foster cat, it gives us room to help other cats that might otherwise be brought to shelters that euthanize for time and space. It also lets us learn more about a cat's personality than we ever could in a shelter environment, which, in turn, makes the cat much easier to adopt out. Yes, some cats are harder to bring back than others, but be strong! You can do it! (And yes, I've kept one foster cat, but not the 60 that followed that first one!)

"MY OWN CATS WON'T TOLERATE A FOSTER CAT, ESPECIALLY AN ADULT" — If you have a separate room, this shouldn't be much of a problem. Yes, your cat(s) will know there is another cat in the house, and they may be a little upset about it at first. But chances are they'll get over it pretty quickly, especially if you make sure you wash your hands after visiting with the foster cat and keep the cats from seeing each other if possible. Feliway Comfort Zone diffusers or Rescue Remedy flower essence can also help. Tell your cats they need to help do their part too! Eventually, they will be totally nonchalant about the whole idea of fostering. My cats no longer even bat an eyelash when a foster cat comes into the house.

"I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANOTHER CAT" — This one is



Ask us about Micah!



easy! You can get all your food and litter from MRFRS if you like, and MRFRS covers all medical expenses associated with foster cats! If you buy your own supplies for fosters, save the receipts so you can take a tax deduction!

"A SHELTER CAT MIGHT GET MY OWN CATS SICK" — If you follow basic health protocols, such as washing your hands between handling cats and wearing an over-shirt when handling the foster cat, you shouldn't have any problems. A sick cat should be kept in a separate room, and bedding/clothing should be washed with bleach after use. We are also happy to provide you with a bottle of heavy-duty kennel disinfectant for cleaning if you like!

"SOMEONE ELSE WILL SAY YES. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER FOSTER HOMES" — They won't and there aren't. It's that simple. We have lots of folks who will take kittens, but very few who will take adults, and even fewer who will take sick, feral, and/or rabies-quarantine cats. Please help us! Kittens are easy for us to place. But our poor adults need help too. **"I ALREADY HAVE A FOSTER CAT"** — All right. Well, this gets you partly off the hook. But wouldn't your foster kitty like a friend?



MassPAWS FUNDRAISER

Our Next fundraiser at Orient Heights Yacht Club in Winthrop will be held in March 2014. Please send your email address to MassPaws@aol.com; we will notify you of important information, upcoming events and we'll send you our newsletter electronically! Please see our websites for current information on Events, Adopting, & Fostering!

As what is projected to be another potentially record-breaking winter approaches, doctors from Various Veterinary clinics recommend taking certain precautions to ensure your pet doesn't suffer from cold-temperature related injuries.

"Weather related injuries are among the easiest to prevent," said this Vet, a board-certified critical care specialist . "By following these tips, people can help ensure their furry friends will remain a little safer this winter."

- ◆ Similar to when it is hot outside, never leave your pet alone in a car during cold weather either. In the winter, a car holds in the cold like a refrigerator and your pet could potentially freeze to death.
- ◆ Dogs and cats get frostbite! Any dog or cat who is exposed to very cold temperatures for more than brief periods of time can develop frostbite. If pets begin to shiver or their ears, tail, and feet show signs of frostbite such as redness in the early stages and pale, white or patches in more advanced cases of frostbite, bring them inside immediately.
- ◆ Antifreeze is [highly toxic](#) to people and animals. Cats and dogs are attracted to its sweet smell and taste, and will often sample some if left out in a container or spilled on the garage floor. If you suspect that your pet has come into contact with antifreeze, contact your veterinarian immediately. The success of treatment to antifreeze exposure depends on quick action. **If you think your dog or cat ate antifreeze, please take action . . . call your veterinarian or call Animal Poison Control Hotline at 1-888-426-4435 24 hours a day.**
- ◆ Much like humans, damp and cold weather can aggravate symptoms associated with arthritis in dogs and cats. If your pet is having trouble getting up or laying down, walking the stairs, or has started to cry when being picked up, a visit to the veterinarian is in order. Never medicate your dog or cat with human prescriptions or over-the-counter medications without consulting your veterinarian first. Most of them are toxic for pets; numerous arthritis treatments are available for them. Also, your dog or cat deserves a comfortable bed. Several pet and feed stores carry safe heated floor mats or non-electric warm bedding.
- ◆ Pets need to have fresh water at all times. If you leave water outside for your pets, be sure it does not freeze.
- ◆ Outdoors on cold days, animals may seek shelter near something warm like a car engine. If an animal is near the engine when the car is started, serious injury can occur.
- ◆ Starting a car to warm it up in a garage will trap carbon monoxide. It can only take a few minutes for a small pet to die in a sealed garage with a car running.
- ◆ During winter months, rodents are often attracted to the warmth of homes. Make sure poisons and rodenticides are out of reach of pets.

MassPAWS is proud to have received grant monies from: The Petco Foundation, PetSmart Charities and from the Massachusetts Animal Coalition License Plate Program.



Help Homeless Pets in your Neighborhood;

We endorse the PETCO Foundation and PetSmart Charities fundraising programs; they work!



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
(enter your zip code) 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
NOTE: will spay/neuter Pit Bulls for FREE.

- **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 Free Animal Clinic**
542 Cambridge St. Allston
(617) 782-5420 merwinclinic.org
Walk-in clinic open 12-3 Mon-Wed, also Wed 5-7p.m., Thurs noon-7p.m., Fri 11-3p.m., Sat noon-3p.m. (cash only) Free office visits and some medicines. The clinic does not accept appointments. Visitors are helped on a first-come, first-served basis.

MassPAWS

MassPAWS is an all volunteer organization ion dedicated to providing help to unwanted cats and dogs on Boston's North Shore !

Address

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We're on the Web!

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Order MA Spay Neuter stamps and support Spay/Neuter programs in MA



Go to www.Zazzle.com and search **Mass Animal Stamps**



Looking to adopt a cat or two? You can find MassPAWS cats at Petsmart Salem with our friends from PALS members.petfinder.com/~MA199 and with our friends from Melrose Humane Society www.melrosehumanesociety.org. Please Call (978) 745-2112 for dates & times!