

# The Voice

Newsletter

Winter 2010/2011

## President's Message Caryl McIntire Edwards

Dear Friends,

Many good things have happened since our last newsletter and I will try to encapsulate some of them here. As you have seen, we have gone back to doing our Silent Auction. This year, thanks to member Cheryl Nicol, much of it was done on-line. Cheryl also maintains a facebook page for us. Please look there and on Pet Finder for our cats and kittens who are up for adoption.

We decided several years ago that once again our area of focus would be the Seacoast. And, as a result, we have witnessed the birth of a new animal organization in the Rumford-Mexico area of Maine called River Valley Animal Advocates. Our connections will remain and we will be cheering them on as they begin their advocacy for animals there.

VFA has talent! And you can see it right on these pages. Secretary, Rebecca Chasse, has designed and created, with the help of Photosmith in Dover, a new tee shirt, bumper stickers, and coffee mugs. Board member Sue Ellen Jewell has created catnip pillows large and small and some even have our logo on them. All are very professionally done and absolutely lovely. And finally, we have held our first spay/neuter clinic at Great Falls Veterinary Hospital in Somersworth, NH-owned and run by veterinarian Rob Wyand. We hope to do many more, bringing us closer to our dream of having our own spay/neuter facility or mobile unit.

(cont'd on pg 2)

## Never Turn Your Back on an Animal

*We ask you to please open your eyes and look around. You may see a helpless animal who needs your help. We would like to share some of our stories with you to show how rewarding it can be to step up and change the world for a deserving animal.*

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.....  
Chloe was an 8 year old black lab who had been bred for profit her entire life. The breeder finally gave her away to a relative who never really loved her. She was never given veterinary care and wasn't spayed. Chloe was often tied outside where she watched the family through the window. She was not a complainer but the sadness was evident in her demeanor, Chloe had never known love. Soon there was talk of having Chloe put to sleep because she was too big for the mobile home. A nearby neighbor watched the drama unfold and started trying to find a home for Chloe. She finally called Voice for Animals and asked if we could help. We immediately located a foster home for Chloe and picked her up the same day that we were called. We fell in love with this gentle, sweet dog. Chloe had an exam the following day and was found in good enough health to undergo surgery to be spayed. She was put up for adoption the next week. It only took two weeks to find Chloe a loving, forever home. We recently heard from Chloe's new family and they told us this about her:

*Chloe is a joy to live with. She is sweet, smart and eager to please. We have never fallen so hard and fast in love with such an incredible dog. Thank you so much for saving Chloe and entrusting her to us. She has brought life back into our home by bringing us both much happiness. She so deserves to spend the rest of her days being cherished for being such a good dog.*

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### President's message

Yes, many other groups are doing the same thing now, but the animals need us all.

However, for all our gains, there were still animals who needed help that we simply could not do anything for. The reason? Volunteers...foot soldiers, as one Board member wistfully referred to them. We have done a great deal for animals in the past and plan to do much more in the future, but with others working beside us, our abilities will increase dramatically. The pages of this newsletter offer many suggestions for ways people can help. As we said nearly twenty-three years ago when we first began,

***“Until they speak to everyone as clearly as we hear them through our hearts, there is a great and urgent need for you to join with us in becoming a Voice for Animals.”***

### GoodSearch

You Search We Give

Use GoodSearch.com to search the Internet. Every time you do, money goes to Voice for Animals. What is unique is that they have developed a way to direct money to VFA with every click. The more people who use this site, the more money will go to VFA. So please spread the word to your friends and family. Go to the website <http://www.goodsearch.com>. Enter Voice for Animals into the "Who do you Goodsearch for"? box (must be the whole name Voice for Animals). Think what could happen if we have all of our friends and family join us in this way to get FREE MONEY!!

The little things can make a big difference.

### Thank you

Voice for Animals would like to say a special thank you to our veterinarians at **Rochester Veterinary Clinic** and **Great Falls Veterinary Hospital** for their continued work with our feral and stray cats. Their support in spaying and neutering our cats at a reduced charge allows us to continue our rescue efforts.

## 2010 Legislative Recap

New Hampshire...

The 2010 NH legislative session saw the passage of a historic measure to protect dogs--The Greyhound Protection Act. The new law bans greyhound racing in the Granite State, shutting this inherently cruel industry out of New England for good. Legislators were appalled to learn that between 2005 and 2008, nearly 1,200 greyhounds were injured while racing in New Hampshire. Reported injuries include greyhounds that suffered broken legs, paralysis and death from cardiac arrest. Only 14% of the reported injuries were minor. This so-called "sport" is an inhumane and unjustifiable exploitation of animals. Greyhounds endure lives of terrible confinement and many suffer serious injuries.

A bill to require the pre-sterilization of animals before they are adopted narrowly failed, along with a bill that would have required a bittering agent be added to antifreeze in order to make it unpalatable to pets and children. Most antifreeze contains 90-95 percent ethylene glycol, a substance that is attractive to children and pets because it has a sweet smell and taste.

The Northeast Poison Control Center reports there were 108 New Hampshire residents exposed to antifreeze over the past 4 years. Of those, 17 were children under the age of 12. Death was the result in 3 of these cases. In addition, 10 dogs and 1 cat were exposed to the poison. A third bill to enact stronger regulations for backyard breeders failed in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee.

All three of the failed measures will likely be re-introduced in the 2011/2012 session, so stay tuned on actions you can take to help with these important public policy reforms!

Joanne Bourbeau (HSUS NH & VT)

Maine...

2010 brought a mix of results for animals here in Maine. With a steadily declining economy, animal shelters and rescues across the state have been stretched thin, dealing with increased surrenders and decreased donations. However, the network of organizations has risen to the challenge and is still finding wonderful adoptive homes for many of the animals in need. To assist with this, Governor Baldacci has proclaimed November 2010 to be Adopt a Shelter Pet Month.

On the legislative front, 2010's short session allowed only one animal welfare related bill to be introduced. That bill proposed to make it a felony crime to abuse

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(Cont'd from page 1)  
Never Turn Your Back

Rocco was an apricot tabby kitten, almost a year old. He lived with a family who had many rambunctious children. Rocco was tormented since he was a kitten. Finally, this young cat made his break and struck out to find himself a better home. Rocco started eating on a porch a couple of streets over at the home of an elderly woman who was feeding another outside cat. Rocco immediately felt her kindness and decided he wanted to live there. He started trying to come into her house each time she opened the door. She already had a cat but saw that she had to help Rocco. She called Voice for Animals. One of our volunteers picked Rocco up the next day and took him home to be fostered. Rocco was neutered and put up for adoption. It didn't take long to find Rocco a wonderful adult home with a responsible couple who couldn't believe their luck of finding such a beautiful and precious cat. Rocco is thriving with his new forever family.

.....  
Winston was a 5 year old Vietnamese potbellied pig who was given away on Craig's List to an animal fancier who had no experience with potbellied pigs. Winston took up residence in an outside shed with the chickens. As the temperatures dropped, Winston was trapped in a situation that was difficult for him to endure. Potbellied pigs should not be housed in temperatures below 50 degrees F. He was cold and damp and not fed proper food nor given clean water. This once indoor, sociable pig was starting to fail. He was dirty, lost weight and became depressed, rarely leaving the shed. Voice for Animals heard about Winston's plight and acted quickly to find him a suitable place. Winston was taken from these deplorable conditions and is now warm and content in a heated barn where he will live a safe and happy life and be lovingly rehabilitated so that he can trust again.

**Foster Homes Needed**

The cats rescued by Voice for Animals depend greatly on foster homes. The more foster homes available, the more cats we can help on a timely basis. Please consider opening your home to foster cats waiting for a forever home. Voice for Animals will provide supplies if you will provide time and love. Please contact us for more information.

**Farmed Animals Need Advocates Too!**

Advocates for Farmed Animals are excited to announce the formation of a new group called Maine Farm Animal Advocates based in Orland, Maine. As the founder and president of the new group, I want to take this opportunity to introduce the new group.

As our name suggests, our mission is to be a voice for farmed animals nationally, but especially here in Maine. Farm Animals have virtually no protection under federal law and very little under Maine law. They often live in horrible conditions and die painful, unnecessary deaths. Yet, those of us who know and have lived with cows, goats, sheep, horses, pigs, chickens, turkeys, and ducks know that they feel, suffer, and have personalities just like dogs and cats who, thankfully, have been transitioning from "things" to members of the American family. We feel it's time to extend that family membership status to other non human animals.

It is our goal to raise awareness that farmed animals do suffer pain, have feelings, species specific needs, have preferences deserving of protection, and just because they are classified in a different category than dogs and cats, should not be considered food. We advocate for a vegan lifestyle (i.e. plant based food) for ethical, environmental and health reasons and strive to work towards ending the misguided claim by industry, government and others financially interested in continuing all forms of animal

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**Board of Directors**

- President: Caryl McIntire Edwards Harrison, ME
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- Webmaster: Seth Mercier Waterville, ME
- Printing: Photosmith Dover, NH

(cont'd from pg2) **Legislative recap**

and neglect large numbers of animals (over 25), for example, a hoarding case with 50 cats. Rather than charging 50 misdemeanor counts, the District Attorney could choose to go for one felony charge. This section of the bill did not pass, but the second section did pass and is now law. This change has reinstated probation as a sentencing option for animal cruelty crimes. We consider this to be a great success and a wonderful tool for law enforcement to have when dealing with convicted animal abusers.

Another positive step for animals has been the formation of the Maine Equine Welfare Alliance. This group formed out of a study group established by the 2009 Legislative session, to examine the problem of equine cruelty and neglect in Maine. The group found many cases of neglect that resulted from lack of education or lack of resources to provide adequately for the horses. Recommendations to form a safety net group led to MEWA's formation. The Alliance intends to create a hay and feed bank, vet and farrier assistance programs, assistance for people looking to re-home their horses and much more. If you are a horse advocate in Maine, please consider getting involved! The horses need our help!

Maine has also made some good progress on forming and growing the County Animal Response Team network. Many of the state's counties have active teams and a few new ones have been added in 2010. The commitment to providing for animals during disasters extends all the way to the Maine Emergency Management Agency. They have formed a Pet Sheltering Working Group designed to provide guidance and standardization/networking for all of the different CARTs. We hope that 2011 will bring an increase in the number of training exercises with animal components.

As of its one year anniversary, Maine's Adopt Specialty License Plate has over 7,000 plates on cars across the state. This is a huge success, considering we started out with 2,000 in October of 2009. These plates have been providing a financial boost to both cruelty investigations and the Help Fix ME program. It is rare these days to travel around any part of Maine and not see at least one Adopt plate. We hope that sales continue to grow and spread to every corner of the state.

It is my hope that 2011 will bring about even more positive changes for animals. With a new Governor and change in leadership in both the House and Senate, I call on animal advocates across Maine to speak up for animals and to join me in making Maine a state that says no to animal cruelty in all of its forms.  
**Katie Lisnik, Maine State Director of HSUS**

## Keep in Touch

### Address Change:

We are still the same **Voice for Animals** but because of our York contact moving to another town in Maine we have changed our PO Box.

Our new address is:

**Voice for Animals  
PO Box 127  
Berwick, ME 03901**

### Also

please send us your email address at [Voice.for.animals@comcast.net](mailto:Voice.for.animals@comcast.net). So that we can keep you up to date on current Voice for Animals events and news.

Be our friend on Facebook!!!! Some of our current pets for adoption are featured on our Facebook page and also on Petfinder!

### Websites to visit:

Yes, you can go to [www.voiceforanimals.net](http://www.voiceforanimals.net) to make a donation and buy some cool VFA merchandise but don't stop there...

**Two local, talented vendors are donating a portion of their profits to Voice for Animals when you purchase products off of their websites. Please visit:**

<http://www.etsy.com/people/catotonic> and check out the wide array of products for cats made with homegrown organic catnip.

And

<http://www.venetiancat.com/CATS.html> for a beautiful selection of personalized pet bowls.

Cont'd from pg 3  
**Farmed Animals**

exploration that we must, can and should exploit animals, especially those species deemed by society to be food.

Please find us on Facebook and maybe visit in person to meet our cows and other residents and see for yourselves that they are more than food!

Christina Perkins



Left to right: Christopher, his mom Tess, and Cookie. All rescued from horrible conditions and from slaughter

### **DO YOU HAVE A BARN A FERAL CAT COULD CALL HOME?**

On occasion, Voice for Animals will trap a cat that cannot be returned to its place of origin. These cats, who are more at home outdoors, have a difficult time acclimating to life inside. The best and safest area to relocate them is in working barns. Barns provide a safe environment for feral cats and enables them to continue their life outdoors where they are "at home." If you are willing to open your barn to a feral cat in need of a home please contact us.

***Relocation protocol must be followed to provide a safe transition.***

***Many factory-raised animals live in horrific conditions and are killed in inhumane ways. Their meat is filled with negative vibrations, fear, sadness, depression. Please consider the vegetarian way of life...for your spirit and your health!***

### **Vegan Corner**

#### **Vegetable Chowder**

3 cups corn kernels  
4 cups vegetable broth, or water  
2 cups soy milk  
1 large potato, *diced*  
1 large onion, *chopped*  
1 medium pepper, *diced*  
2 Tbsp. natural peanut (*almond or cashew*) butter with no added oil or sugar  
½ lb. sliced fresh mushrooms  
½ tsp. dried dill weed  
2 tsp. dried parsley  
Tamari, garlic powder, salt to taste  
Whole-Grain Croutons  
3 slices whole-grain bread  
Soy margarine (*optional*)  
Small amount mixed oregano, basil, parsley, garlic salt

Preheat oven to 300. Spread bread slices lightly with soy margarine. Cut into cubes and mix together with spices in a small bowl or container. Place on baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes or until cubes are crisp, turning once. For a lower fat version, delete soy margarine.

From Barbara Bonsignore's *Cooking with Compassion*, a gourmet, vegan cookbook. \$20.00 postpaid. All proceeds go to *NH Spaying & Altering Service* 8 Hutchins Street Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3208

## *Lily*

She appeared one rainy afternoon from the woods - a white cat, emaciated and weak, yet intuitive enough to pick the porch of a cat lover to lie down on. Once she was discovered, the cat lover called Voice for Animals. Fortunately, we were able to respond to her right away. What we found was heartbreaking.

This cat had been barely surviving on her own, struggling to stay alive. She was infested with fleas and was dehydrated. We gave her subcutaneous fluids immediately and a can of cat food and bowl of water. She dove into the food until it was all over her face. We let her eat and drink and then we sat with her on the sunny porch. She purred gratefully, louder than we had ever heard.

The cat lover already smitten, offered to be her foster mom under Voice for Animals care. The next line of business was giving her a gentle bath in the sink to remove most of the fleas. She cooperated, sitting calmly as the warm water wet her down. At that point, like magic she changed color. There was so much flea dirt being washed away that the blood stained her dirty fur, changing it from white to pink. After being thoroughly washed and rinsed, she sat patiently as she was gently towel-dried. We then applied Advantage on her for the fleas. Her foster mom called her Lily. The next business day Lily was examined by a veterinarian where it was determined that she was about 10 years old, totally deaf and had very few teeth. It was clear to everyone who met her that she was a survivor. Lily enjoyed all of the new-found attention she was getting.

Today Lily is still content in her forever home with her foster mom who couldn't part with her once she saw what a beautiful spirit she was. Lily has some health issues now but is comfortable, warm and loved. We came together as a team to make a difference in Lily's life. Small miracles happen every day when we open our hearts and hold hands together for each individual animal that needs us. One at a time, we make these small acts of kindness turn into life-changing events.

Candy Burrell



*Beautiful Lily*

## **The Lily Fund**

**In honor of Lily, we have started The Lily Fund to allow caring donors like you to help us continue with these small but valiant efforts. If you choose to help an unfortunate animal like Lily please let us know and your donation will be earmarked for the Lily Fund, aiding helpless animals in Lily's name long after she is gone.**

## Voice for Animals holds first Spay Neuter Clinic

While soliciting volunteers and vet services for spay neuter clinics, one local veterinarian along with his staff stepped up and sponsored an entire clinic.

In November, 2010 Voice for Animals held its first Spay Neuter Clinic at Great Falls Veterinary Hospital on Route 108 in Somersworth, NH at which 20 cats were spayed and neutered and vaccinated against rabies at no charge.

Dr Wyand, along with vet techs, Kerri Griffin, Christine Breakfield, and Carol Main generously donated their services to make a difference in the world of feral and stray cats. The cats were brought in by volunteers of Voice for Animals and were spayed, neutered, vaccinated against rabies and treated for fleas if necessary.

After recovery, the feral cats were returned to the barn from which they were trapped and where they will continue to take shelter and be fed. The friendly cats were put up for adoption by Voice for Animals..

The cat overpopulation problem is overwhelming. The only solution is to spay and neuter. If left unaltered, the cats cared for at this clinic would have prolifically reproduced and by spring hundreds of other homeless kittens would have been born.

The overpopulation problem is not going to miraculously stop; we need to battle it now. We urge other veterinarians to step forward and help organizations such as Voice for Animals by donating services to better the lives of animals.

We also urge the public to take responsibility with their own pets so they are not adding to the overpopulation problem.

Voice for Animals will continue to solicit funds, and veterinary services to do our part in preventing the pain and suffering caused by kittens born to stray and feral cats.

***Thank you Dr. Wyand and staff for recognizing the importance of spaying and neutering cats and doing your share to make a difference.***

Rebecca Chasse



## Future Clinics

Two local businesses have already made generous donations toward future spay neuter clinics. Thank you to **Wit-Way** of Rochester



And the Rochester Walmart for sponsoring upcoming clinics!!



***Voice for Animals is continuing to seek donations of time, services and money for future Spay Neuter Clinics. Please contact Voice for Animals for more information.***

## Silent Auction

Voice for Animals, once again held its silent auction. Thank you to the many local businesses which helped to make this event a success. Items for auction were displayed at two locations: Photography by Rebecca & Taryn in Rochester, NH and Petco in Dover, NH. Items were also available for viewing on line which is where most of the bidding took place. Thank you to board member, Cheryl Nicol for spearheading this new "on-line" endeavor.

## Nutrition for Healthy Cats

Thanks to advances in veterinary medicine and the conscious decision by many guardians to keep them safely inside, cats are living longer than ever before. Unfortunately they are also developing illnesses, many of which can be helped, if not prevented entirely, by feeding a diet the cat is designed to eat.

Cats are obligate carnivores, meaning they require meat protein. They have no need for and derive little nutritional benefit from grains. Most commercial dry cat foods contain very little meat but lots of grain carbohydrates (35 - 50%). Cats do not process carbs very well and only need about 5 -10% in their diet, yet some form of grain, usually corn, is often the very first ingredient.

In addition, cats were designed to get moisture **with** their food. The moisture content of natural prey is about 75%, similar to canned foods. Therefore, cats fed only dry food must drink a huge amount of water to compensate but because they have a relatively low thirst drive to begin with, still don't consume as much moisture as cats fed canned food, leaving them in a chronic state of low-level dehydration. When these cats do get sick, most will require fluids as the first step in treatment.

Most of us have heard that dry food is better for the cat's teeth, but no evidence exists to support the idea that cats fed dry food have fewer dental problems than those fed canned food. In fact the opposite may be true. Some facts:

- Cats' teeth are designed to tear and swallow their prey - think big cat.
- Cats lack the ability to chew (grind) so many swallow dry food whole - no dental benefit there.
- If they do 'crunch' the kibble, some particles get stuck in the teeth and because most dry foods are high in carbs (sugar), can actually cause dental decay.
- Dry food makes them thirsty; water makes the food swell; result - vomit!
- Cats wouldn't even eat dry food if it wasn't sprayed with fat.

Dry food may be convenient for us but it's really not so good for kitty. Recent studies have linked a primarily dry food diet to the development of conditions including diabetes, kidney disease, recurring urinary tract problems, inflammatory bowel disease, food allergies, obesity and dental disease.

Certainly cats who have kidney or bladder problems should be fed canned food only. Feeding dry food (including prescription) to a cat with renal failure and then treating them with sub-q fluids several times a week to maintain hydration really makes no sense. The same is true for cats prone to urinary tract infections or crystals/stones. The more moisture you can get into them with their food, the better the organs can function. Most prescription foods are meant to be fed short term or as a supplement to treat a specific problem as stated on the label. The ingredients are often poor quality and cats fed such a diet long term may develop other conditions. For example, a cat with early renal insufficiency who is immediately put on an Rx diet for life-long maintenance will have muscle wasting due to deprivation of necessary protein nutrition. Even cats with confirmed renal conditions need some protein, but it must be low in phosphorus. The addition of cooked egg whites a few times a week is an excellent way to provide high-quality protein without taxing weakened kidneys. Dried egg whites can easily be stirred into canned cat food.

When buying cat food, get the best quality you can afford; meat should be the first ingredient listed. If you must feed some dry food, check the label to be sure that meat, not corn, is listed first. By feeding our cats a more species-appropriate diet we can often prevent, or at least forestall, many health problems and the costs necessary to treat them. For more information, please visit [www.catinform.org](http://www.catinform.org).

Debbie Fobes

## ***For Adoption***



**Oakley (right) is a sweet young female cat. She is very people-friendly. She was abandoned near a local golf course and had a litter of kittens while on her own. Only one of the kittens survived the busy parking lot and adjacent woods. Timothy (left) didn't have any human contact until he was 5 months old so he is very timid. He is close to his mom and we would LOVE for them to be placed together. We will work with anyone interested to integrate Timothy in his new home. However, if Oakley has a chance at a loving forever home herself we will not stand in the way.**

# Memorials and Tributes

## Zoey

How do you begin to thank the one who filled the spaces and places with so much love and asked so little in return? How do you fill the spaces she left behind? We got Zoey when she was eight weeks old. She was beautiful, a little blond ball of fluff, smelling sweet like babies do. Full of vitality, and smart too. She knew all of her stuffies by name and the ball, any ball was always her favorite, could not walk by one without picking it up and giving it to you to throw for her. She grew even more beautiful with the years and remained spry until the end. She loved like you, re supposed to love, she gave hugs when you asked for one and kissies were never in short supply. She was always ready for a ride, did not matter to where as long as she could be with you. A long day in the car was better than a short day home alone. She was my husband's best friend and our only child. Shaky paw, high five, kissy kissy kissy, was our morning routine before work every day for 15 years. Mornings just are not the same any more. She loved the snow, and would make snow angels when she went out, and would come in with snow on her nose. Did I mention that she was beautiful? When we would awake in the morning she always pounced on top of us in bed with kissies and would flop over belly up for a rubbing. It is very difficult to sum up all her greatness in a simple paragraph, but this is my best effort to give a glimpse into a beautiful soul that loved endlessly and filled our hearts to the top. We love her and miss her and our home will never be the same. In loving memory of our Zoey, Jan.8, 1996-Jan 27, 2011. We ask anyone who can, to make a donation of food or cleaning supplies to their local shelter in her honor.

Deb & Roger Nute

Janice Wildes Fawcett of York, a long time friend of Voice for Animals, passed away on December 31, 2010. She was 84. I have picture in my mind of Jan reaching the Rainbow Bridge and seeing again all those animals she knew and loved and those animals she never knew but cared about anyway-

Caryl McIntire Edwards

Given by Virginia K. Schweitzer in memory of her friend, Sophia Lombara, who dearly loved her cat, *Onyx*.

## *Rosemary and Mammakitty*

In memory of two beautiful, brave souls, *Rosemary and Mammakitty*. We, the volunteers of Voice for Animals, will continue our work in your memory. Our plight to stop the pain and suffering of cats without a home will move forward keeping your spirit with us. In vain, your life was not lost.

*Rest in Peace*

Voice for Animals volunteers

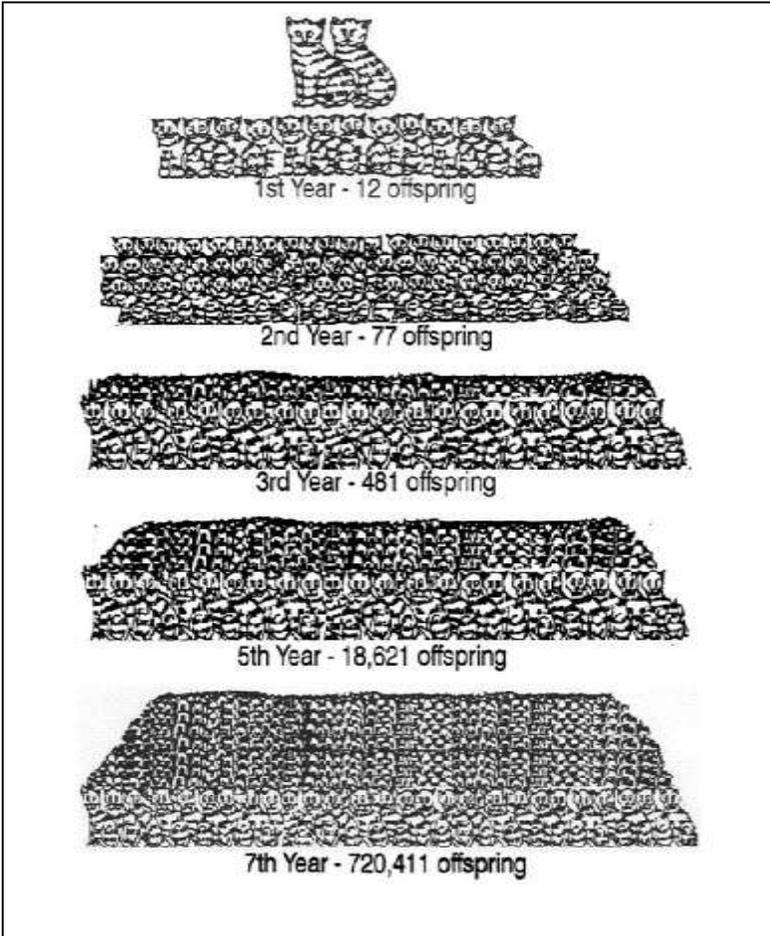
Given by Sharon & Bob Latture in memory of Cocoa

*Given by Paula & Joe Dougherty  
in memory of Tony & Blaze*

Given by Rebecca, Geoff, Noah and Luke In loving memory of Buff and Littleface. Best Buddies on earth and now together again.



To make a contribution to Voice for Animals in memory of or to pay tribute to a special animal or person, please mail check to : Voice for Animals PO Box 127 Berwick, ME 03901 or contribute through paypal on our website: [www.voiceforanimals.net](http://www.voiceforanimals.net). A written notification will be sent to the person of your choice to tell them of your donation.



In 2010, 85% of Voice for Animals' income went to spay and neuter, medical care, and shelter and food for stray and feral cats. The majority of that 85% went toward spay and neuter costs. Voice for animals is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that is run by volunteers. There are no paid staff members. Any donation made to Voice for Animals is tax-deductible.

**Voice for Animals Tee Shirts and Travel Mugs** can be purchased on line through our web site. Visit [www.voiceforanimals.net](http://www.voiceforanimals.net) for more information. (Fudge (a VFA rescue) thinks they're awesome)



Tee Back  
10.5" x 6"  
Voice for Animals  
"collage logo"

(sleeve: "I raise my voice for animals", logo and website address. Breast Plate: logo with mother cat carrying kitten)



Stainless steel travel mug. Collage logo on front. Back has VFA quote: "Until they speak to everyone as clearly as we hear them through our hearts, there is a great and urgent need for you to join with us in becoming a "Voice for Animals."

***If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking***  
-Emily Dickenson'  
If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain.

***Thank you to all the wonderful people who have adopted cats and kittens from Voice for Animals. Placing a rescued animal into a loving home is our ultimate goal. We celebrate all of you who have helped us achieve this.***

Minnie and Luna Starr  
In their new home,  
tuckered out  
after a big day of  
adventure  
and mischief..

# Feral Cats 101

## What is a feral cat?

A feral cat is a domestic cat who has reverted to wild instincts due to a lack of human interaction. A feral cat typically cannot be tamed and is more comfortable living life outdoors opposed to being brought into a house and forced to live with people. Feral cats may live alone but are often found in groups or “feral colonies.” Kittens born to either a feral cat or a lost house cat will be feral if human interaction is absent. If socialization begins at or before 8 weeks old, feral kittens can typically be tamed by any willing person to where they enjoy human contact. Kittens older than 8 weeks need more time and skill to get to that point. If no human contact has been experienced by four months old, attempting to tame the kitten is not recommended.

## Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

Voice for animals believes and participates in Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). TNR is a humane and effective approach to managing feral cats. TNR programs trap feral cats, get them spayed/neutered and vaccinated and releases them back to their original location. Typically colonies form in an area where there is a food source and shelter. Voice for Animals ensures these are available to the cats before their return. At times, it is necessary to provide a more appropriate shelter and feeding station for the cats and to arrange for volunteers to provide regular feedings. A colony receiving support from TNR is referred to as a managed colony.

## The life of a feral cat.

Cats from managed colonies live longer, healthier lives. They gain weight after being altered making them less vulnerable to the elements. Cats that are spayed and neutered tend to roam less and are less aggressive and actually more affectionate toward other cats in their colony. Cats from managed colonies are better tolerated by humans because they roam less, do not fight as much, do not howl during mating season and will not get into the trash as much as cats that are not receiving support from TNR.

It is commonly thought by animal lovers that it is inhumane to return a feral cat to its outside home. This is far from the truth. These cats are comfortable and content in their outdoor home. This is what they know and have adapted to. With TNR support we make their life more comfortable instead of forcing them into a situation that is frightening and foreign such as living in a house with people.

## Never bring a feral cat to a shelter

A feral cat should never be brought to a shelter. This is a sure way to end the cat's life. Shelters are inundated with friendly “adoptable” cats; feral cats will be killed to make room for these tame cats. The fate of the feral is still poor even when brought to a no-kill shelter. A feral cat is not an adoptable animal and will likely spend the rest of its life confused and confined to a cage. Trap neuter return is the only solution when trying to help a feral cat. Contact Voice for Animals or another organization that participates in TNR when a feral cat is seen.

Rebecca Chasse

## Feral Cat Myths

### Catch and kill will rid a location of feral cats:

If a colony of feral cats is killed, eventually another will move in. Managing a colony is the best way to decrease annoying behavior.

### Feral cats are endangering the bird population:

The major cause of bird species loss is habitat destruction. Habitat modification, fragmentation and loss is caused by human activities not feral cats.

### Feral cats spread disease:

Feral cats don't spread disease or get sick any more often than pet cats.

**For more information** on Feral cats and TNR please visit:  
<http://www.alleycat.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=434>



Pictured above is a feeding station and shelter located at an industrial park where a managed colony resides. The cats in this colony have all been spayed, neutered, ear tipped and vaccinated. Volunteers feed the cats daily.

Voice for Animals  
PO Box 127  
Berwick, Maine 03901  
[www.voiceforanimals.net](http://www.voiceforanimals.net)

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Yes! I want to become a member of Voice for Animals

My Check, Payable to  
Voice for Animals is enclosed

My gift will be matched by  
employer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not wish to be a member, but would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to offer my services to Voice for Animals  
My skills include: \_\_\_\_\_ Working with animals (live trapping, fostering, working with sick animals, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising/Special events

**THANK YOU!**

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.