



THE ANIMAL UMBRELLA MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2009 Dedicated to the Rescue, Welfare and Adoption of Even the Most Unadoptable Homeless Cats Number 61

Published Quarterly by Animal Umbrella

P.O. Box 2675, Acton, MA 01720-6675

Tel. 617-731-7267

www.animalumbrella.org

PRAYER OF AN ABANDONED CAT

Dear Lord,

I am all alone in the world and nobody cares for me nor wants me.

Most of the time I am hungry and thirsty. I am hot in the summer and cold in the bitter winter.

I am lost and wander in the streets hopelessly.

I am scared and need protection and care.

My heart is longing for love and affection and I will return them in any way I can to a kind-hearted person who will give me a home again.

Dear Lord, please touch somebody's heart so that they will pity me and rescue me from this misery especially during this special time of the year.

The night has come again, I am shivering myself to sleep to forget my pain. In my sleep, I will be dreaming that somebody tomorrow will save me and will start giving me love and care again. *Lord, I*

plead with you to not disappoint me again and make my dream come true. Amen.



A Prayer Answered - Lucky's Rescue

Lucky must have been praying extremely hard for his rescue and hoping to be placed somewhere safe and warm. His plea has finally been answered after being abandoned for several months in the streets of Lynn. He survived only because of the kindness of an animal lover who fed him every day. We heard the story and decided to take him in and save him from the harshness of the winter. Because he has a wound, he has been placed on a six month quarantine and will be caged alone during that period. We will provide all the care and attention. **At least he will be safe from danger and fear.**





Animal Umbrella

Mission

Founded in 1985, Animal Umbrella is a strictly no-kill volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of abandoned cats and kittens. We believe in rehabilitation not destruction and make a special effort to find special homes even for highly unadoptable animals because of handicap, injury, age, behavior, feral status (after being socialized) and FIV or FELV positive.

THE ANIMAL UMBRELLA MESSENGER, the official newsletter of Animal Umbrella, Inc. is published quarterly.

Managing Editor: Annamarie Taylor
Contributors: Names vary from issue to issue
Typesetter: Hope Lagoy
Printer: Copyland, Acton, MA

MAIL ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 2675
Acton, MA 01720-6675
Tel: (617) 731-7267

WEB:
www.animalumbrella.org

ANIMAL UMBRELLA STREET CATS SHELTER ADOPTIONS Every Saturday 3 to 5 p.m.

Please call to set up special appointments.

We have relocated to 320B Charger Street, Revere.

We are located on the second floor of Paws Here. Call for directions.

A MILLION THANKS!

We are very grateful to Cristina Viselli and her associates of the James Joseph Salon for donating their work and proceeds for a number of haircuts on Sunday, November 8th at the Salon. Thank you again for your generosity!

cristina viselli

JAMES JOSEPH SALON
30 Newbury Street
Boston, Massachusetts
617.266.7222
www.jamesjosephsalon.com

We would also like to thank the following businesses for donating products, art or services for this event. We really appreciate it!

BEAN & LEAF CAFE

617-261-4727

www.beanandleafcafe.com

ANNA IGO ORIGINAL PRIMITIVES

781-258-6418

<http://annaigo.blogspot.com>

MAX'S DELI CAFE

617-330-9790

20% OFF a \$200 Catering Order

www.maxsdelicafe.com

SOLAR ECLIPSE TANNING

978-531-1117 • 978-744-8853 • 978-740-8867

www.SolarEclipseTan.com

TRACY NELSON DESIGNS

www.tracynelsondesigns.com

We would also like to express our appreciation to Margaret Kuzma whose ideas and hard work made this event possible and Bebe Wunderlich for her promotional work.

FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENT

DECEMBER ~ On Thursday, December 3, 2009, Donna Michaud from Paw\$ is hosting a comedy fundraiser to benefit Animal Umbrella and two other non profit humane organizations at Giggles Comedy Club in Saugus, MA. Doors open at 6:30pm. The show begins at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and include unlimited pizza. Please visit our website (www.animalumbrella.org) and Facebook page for updates. For more information or to order tickets contact Animal Umbrella volunteer Margaret Kuzma at 978-531-0409 or email us at animalumbrella@gmail.com

The Barking Basket

Pet Gift Baskets for all Occasions

Treat the pets in your life with a special basket filled with toys, treats and accessories.

Each basket is made with tender loving care and is a Barking Basket original - no two are exactly alike!

Call Jeannie at 978-688-5491

Please support this business which is helping our shelter remain open. Thank you.



Private Reiki Sessions/Reiki Cert. Classes♥Reflexology♥Fitness/Nutri.Counseling♥Intuitive Readings

Please support this business which is helping our shelter remain open. Thank you.

Beth Anderson

Certified Reflexologist
Cert. Reiki Master/Teacher
Cert. Fitness Motivator for Plus-Size Women

228 Central St. #1
Saugus, MA 01906

By Appointment Only, No Walk-ins, please

781-367-1519

Talkin2Beth@aol.com

WHERE WOULD WE BE NOW?

Unfortunately, most animal lovers have heard of cats being abandoned because of evictions, people with allergies, loss of jobs and relocations to new places which do not accept animals. Many of these animals are either being surrendered to kill shelters (because most no-kill are full) or are abandoned to fend for themselves in the streets.

One type of abandonment is most of the type unreported and it impacts animals whose owners died or are very ill at the hospital and will not return to their homes. . Many of these people have no family so typically, the local animal control Officer picks them up and turns them over to a large kill shelter. Since many of these animals are old, they are the first to be euthanized. Occasionally, some people have relatives but without respect for the deceased, they decide to surrender them as quickly as possible.

Animal Umbrella is very sensitive to the plight of these animals and has saved many over the years. Here are some recent stories . . .

Brownie and her son Rainbow were loved by a man. Unfortunately, one day he passed away. His son did not share the same love for them and took Brownie to a large kill shelter. Being an older cat, she would have been destroyed because she was deemed unadoptable. Rainbow escaped from the house and was not seen for days. Fortunately, an elderly neighbor of the man found out about Brownie's fate and went back to the shelter and managed to get her released. She was brought to our strictly no kill shelter. Rainbow, returned to the house a few days later, He was wounded and we took him as well but he remains feral. He is safe at shelter



After quite a while from this terrible ordeal, Brownie has found a wonderful home with three other AU cats. Her new owners (Janet and Dave) are great supporters of Animal Umbrella and are members of the Calvary Methodist Church in Arlington. The Church has been very kind to us over the years by allowing us to use free space for adoption and fund raising events. THANK YOU!

Mighty Mite lived alone with an old man who used to go to a diner for lunch and dinner every day. He talked about his cat all the time. The diner staff became worried when he did not show up for a week. They called the Police. They broke in and found that the poor man had been dead for several days.



The diner's staff was also concerned about his cat. The man loved Mighty Mite. When the Police got into the house they did not find him. Animal Control was finally called and found the poor frightened cat hiding in the basement. He knew something terrible had happened to his owner. No one wanted this poor old cat but we did and are still searching for a family for him after this horrific ordeal. **Please give him a home for the holidays!**

Muffy's owner also passed away and was fed and cared for by a friend of the deceased. He remained in the house while the house was on the market. The man's son did not want this poor cat. One day, once the house had been sold, the man came with the poor scared cat and told us the cat been evicted. He had nowhere to go except to a kill shelter where he would be euthanized because he was fairly old. We took him and a few months later, our volunteer Diane took him home and adopted him. He now lives a pampered and loved life. **Thank you Diane!**

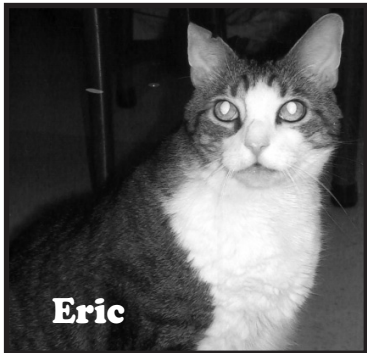


If you know of someone who has been moved to a nursing home or has died, please consider adopting their cat and rescue them from a terrible fate. Cats are extremely intelligent and sensitive creatures and are terribly traumatized by these sad experiences. Love and care in a new home however, can erase these memories!

Annamarie Taylor



HAPPY ENDINGS



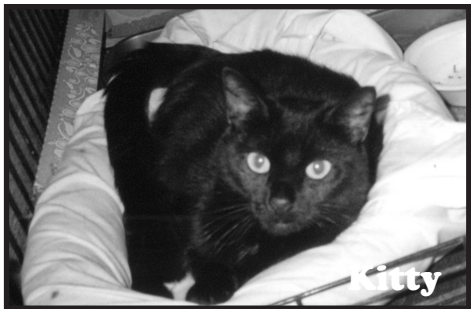
Eric

Eric and Baba

Both cats were surrendered separately and found in carriers outside the shelter. Our long time supporter Bebe felt sorry for Eric and Baba as she has a special place in her heart for older cats and opened her home to them. They are doing great and are very happy now. **Thank you!**



Baba



Kitty

Kitty

A family in the military found her as a stray and took her in from the cold. Some time later, unfortunately, they had to move to another base out of state and Kitty was homeless again. **We took her and finally have found another loving home for her in Arlington.**

Emma

Her owners did not want her any longer. They actually paid someone to drop Emma off to our shelter that day. She was mortified and got very depressed and stopped eating. She was heartbroken and had to be rescued by one of our volunteers who took her home. For over a month, Emma was force-fed several times every day until she finally started to eat on her own again. Once rehabilitated, she was adopted but the new owner returned her because she said she could not connect with her emotionally. Emma was devastated again back at the shelter. This time Diane, one of our volunteers decided to adopt her and she is flourishing as you can see in this photo.

We appreciate your kindness, Diane!



Emma

Pawsitively Pets
 Day Care-Overnights • Vacations • Grooming
We are a Family Owned Business!
978-779-9977
 418 Wattaquodock Hill Rd.
 Bolton, MA 01740
 Linda@pawsitivelypets.net



Please support this business which is helping our shelter remain open. Thank you.

BUILDING WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS
 THROUGH TENNIS



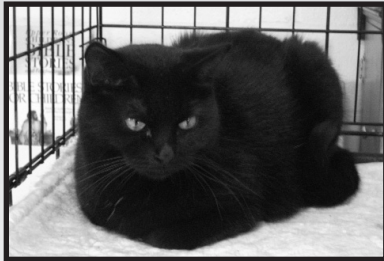
NETT
 NEW ENGLAND
 TEAM TENNIS

Please support this business which is helping our shelter remain open. Thank you.

Eric Meyer/Director
 99 Squire Shaler Lane
 Lancaster, MA 01523-2059
 508.498.9956
 nettmeyer@hotmail.com
 www.newenglandteamtennis.com

PLEASE ADOPT US AND TAKE US TO YOUR LOVING HOME...

for the Holidays! For more pictures of adorable cats available for adoption, please access our website animalumbrella.org and click on cats for adoption. THANK YOU!



Prima



Roy



Sandy



Sarabi



Simon



Smudge & Sam



Tyson, Jack & Whitaker

Come to the Special "A Home for the Holidays Cat Adoption/Pet Photos with Santa" Event on Saturday, December 12th from 1-4pm at the Calvary Methodist Church, 300 Mass Avenue, Arlington. Enjoy Holiday music and refreshments will be served.

PLEASE SUPPORT A HOME FOR TWO PROGRAM

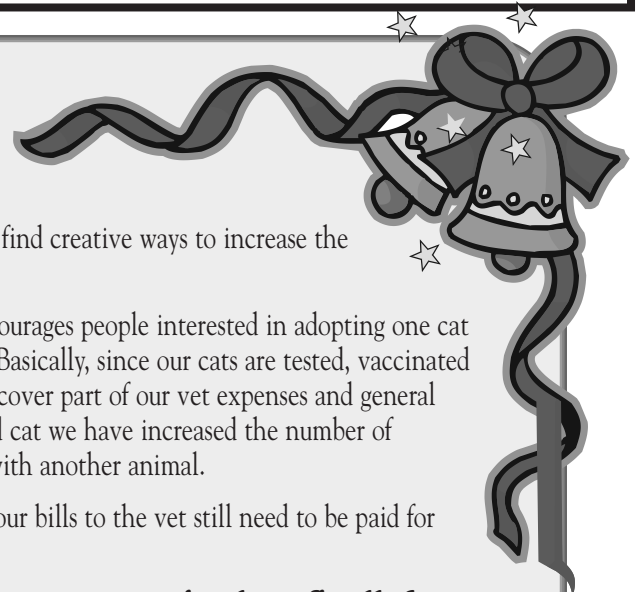
During these hard financial times, fewer people are adopting cats and most shelters are experiencing a drop in the adoption rate.

Animal Umbrella, as everyone else has been impacted by this and is trying to find creative ways to increase the number of cats adopted to good, loving and reliable homes.

Earlier this year, we started the A Home for Two program which basically encourages people interested in adopting one cat to have a second cat (personality compatible with the first cat) at no charge. Basically, since our cats are tested, vaccinated and spayed/neutered we charge a non profit adoption fee of \$135 per cat to recover part of our vet expenses and general shelter maintenance (food, rent, electricity) etc.. By not charging for a second cat we have increased the number of adoptions and improved an adopted cat's quality of life with companionship with another animal.

Unfortunately however, we are experiencing a severe financial drain because our bills to the vet still need to be paid for all those extra cats adopted at no charge.

Please sponsor this program and increase the chances of many more animals to finally have a home of their own! Your \$135 donation will help us continue this effort. Thank you !



HOW YOU CAN HELP HOMELESS CATS AND KITTENS SURVIVE THE WINTER *by Annamarie Taylor*

Unfortunately, no humane organization including Animal Umbrella despite everyone's best efforts will be able to rescue all the cats and kittens left to fend for themselves during the bitter cold months throughout the state. There are simply too many homeless cats and insufficient space to shelter them.

But you can make a life and death difference by helping the strays in your neighborhood or anywhere else where there are abandoned animals! Without your care many homeless cats will experience great hardships and may not survive. The following suggestions will help you alleviate their suffering:

- Attract animals to use garages, basements sheds, barns, dog houses, porches, other specially built structures, which offer repair from the elements. Make sure each place is as insulated warm and dry as possible. Make bedding in enclosed sturdy boxes, with heavy woolen or flannel blankets. Place food and water nearby.
- Feed as abundantly and as often as possible as food and water tend to freeze. Double the amount of food you usually give because extra food will help the animal fight the cold and keep healthier. Use better cat food brands, use dry as well as wet food.
- If there are kittens in the area, try to capture them and find a foster home for them. If all fails, call Animal Umbrella and we will try to help.
- Keep special attention for older or weaker animals. If they look sick they may need to be taken to a vet for medical care. Never release a sick cat after treatment back outdoors because the likelihood is it will not make it.
- If you have a special room or space in your house try using it to foster an animal. It may mean life or death until Spring arrives.
- If a female appears pregnant, she should be spayed as soon as possible to avoid the birth of kittens in the cold months (February, March and even April as they would never survive). Use Animal Umbrella's low cost spay/neuter program. Never

release an animal right after surgery as they may freeze to death. They need a few days to recover especially females.

- If you know of an area with strays please find a number of people who will work with you on a daily feeding schedule. Food and water are **ESSENTIAL IN THE WINTER!** If for some reason you cannot feed the animals in an area please call us as we may know someone else who could.
- If you find yourself in a particularly difficult situation please call us as we may be able to provide some advice to lead you in the right direction.

Remember you can make a big difference this winter for the homeless cats in your area! The animals are counting on you for your help . . .

***If you need to call
ANIMAL UMBRELLA
our number is 617-731-7267***



We were trying to trap a sick cat outside in the area near the shelter but Tim got in the trap instead. He was thin, sick and full of wounds. We took him. He would have never survived the winter in his condition. He is now available for adoption.

At the beginning of every winter, it has become a tradition for Animal Umbrella to publish this article both as an educational tool to the new supporters who join our organization every year and as a reminder to our old friends that the cold months are particularly harsh on abandoned animals. Some of these animals will only survive because of the kindness and dedication of some of you. ***May God bless you for your compassion.***

The **Animal Umbrella Streets Cat Shelter** is located at:
320B Charger Street (on the second floor of Paws Here)
Revere, MA

Animal Umbrella is a statewide volunteer non-profit organization, dedicated to the rescue, welfare and adoption of even the most unadoptable homeless cats.

- Monthly Contributor\$25
- Annual Member\$35
- Supporter\$50
- Save a Stray\$75
- Contributor\$100
- Sponsor\$250
- Other _____

Animal Umbrella contributions are tax deductible.

Animal Umbrella meetings are held regularly.

Please call us for dates and times.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Do you currently receive our newsletter? _____

How did you hear about Animal Umbrella?

MAIL TO: ANIMAL UMBRELLA
P.O. BOX 2675
ACTON, MA 01720-6675
TEL: (617) 731-7267
WEB ADDRESS:
www.animalumbrella.org



ANIMAL UMBRELLA
P.O. BOX 2675
ACTON, MA 01720-6675