



THE ANIMAL UMBRELLA MESSENGER

JULY 2013

Dedicated to the Rescue, Welfare and Adoption of Even the Most Unadoptable Homeless Cats

Number 71

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

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www.animalumbrella.org

SENIOR CORNER – SMOKEY AND SNOOKEY HAVE A NEW HOME!

It is part of Animal Umbrella's mission to rescue even the most unadoptable cats and to try to find them a home. Older cats are not accepted by many shelters because they are hard to adopt but we go the extra mile to give them a second chance.

Smokey and Snookey ages nine and five years old belonged to a woman who had been wanting to surrender them to us but we had convinced her to keep them if we paid for spaying, testing and vaccinations which we did.

In December, we heard the woman was in the hospital and the cats had been left unattended for days. We called her and pleaded she would send someone to feed them while she was at the hospital which she did. She was very ill.

In February, the woman's sister called us to tell us she had died of ovarian cancer. The cats had been left in the apartment alone as the sister lived in Malden and had no car. We immediately sent a volunteer to meet with her and went to the apartment to rescue these



**Smokey
and
Snookey**

beautiful and loving cats. When they arrived at the shelter they were traumatized by the experience and it took us some time to rehabilitate them and finally make them available for adoption. **Thankfully, they have a new home now and are living with two loving people in Medford. Thank you!**

GINGER'S RESCUE

She was being fed by an animal lover in a trailer park. At the time she had a kitten which was never seen again. Animal Umbrella was asked to take her in so that she would stop reproducing. She probably belonged to someone at one time but had been out for quite a while. She is very timid. Ginger was trapped and brought to our vet where she was tested, vaccinated and spayed. Unfortunately she is FIV positive but we plan to socialize her and make her available for adoption to a home without other cats or with FIV positive cats. **Thank you Mary for saving Ginger's life!**



Ginger



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.

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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.

SNAPSHOT...



Freddie

Carlo

This is a picture of Carlo AKA O'Malley and Freddie. Both cats are FIV positive and were adopted from Animal Umbrella in March 2012. Carlo/O'Malley was rescued in Revere badly wounded and it took him a long time to recover and Freddie was living with siblings near a wooded area in western MA. Both cats are doing well and are happy. Thank you Mary!

REMINDER: ANIMAL UMBRELLA INTERNET UPDATES

Please remember to log on to our WEBSITE animalumbrella.org and our FACEBOOK page FREQUENTLY to learn about upcoming Animal Umbrella ADOPTIONS, FLEA MARKET and SPECIAL EVENTS.

PLEASE STOP BY TO SAY HELLO - WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

WINNER ANIMAL UMBRELLA 2013 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE DRAWING

Joyce Spencer of Auburndale, Massachusetts is the winner of the Bose Wave Music System. Random name drawing was made for supporters donating \$35 or more.

Congratulations Joyce and thank you for your support!

We would also like to thank our generous anonymous donor for providing the brand new Bose system. THANK YOU AGAIN!



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CAT LIVES – THE NEW NORMAL

by Annamarie Taylor

Our world is changing so rapidly that we can hardly keep up. What was the norm a few years ago is no longer valid. Sadly because of people's new stresses in their lives, what is happening to them has at times a negative impact on their pets. Some of the more frequent factors:

- Suicides
- Heart attacks, strokes, or other terminal illnesses
- Eviction / bankruptcy due to financial hardship
- Divorce / separation
- Relocation to another state
- Increased allergies
- Financial hardship / can no longer keep pet
- Increased landlord hostility towards pets

Unfortunately, most of the pets that were caught in these situations became homeless as no family, friends or shelters would take them.

Animal Umbrella has been trying to save as many as possible but our efforts are constrained due to space and financial challenges. The three cats below are photos of cats that we recently saved.

Fortunately for the cats, the new normal has positive changes as well:

- Increased public awareness of the plight of homeless cats due to owner hardships
- Additional training provided by Humane Organizations to people willing to rescue cats themselves
- Increased proactive involvement of animal lovers to rescue and safely place or keep saved animals

Please continue to help abandoned animals because often, shelters are overwhelmed with requests and may arrive to help too late or not at all.

If you have a special situation you want to discuss please call us at 508-877-1194 and we will try to help you or direct you to someone else who can. Thank you!

BENJI



Benji, Lynn owner committed suicide recently.

BOBBY



Bobby, abandoned in Everett was being fed by a kind animal lover.

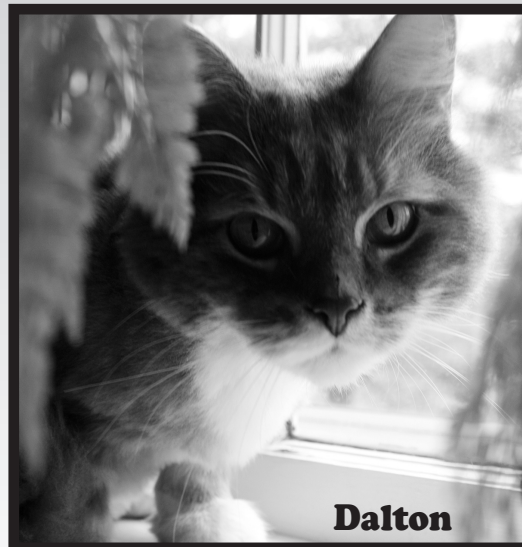
NICKY



Nicky, Metro West owner lost her job and became homeless.

KITTY DALTON'S NINE LIVES – He is now adopted!

A kind-hearted Lynn woman was feeding a stray for quite a while. Then she did not see him for several days and feared for his life. Fortunately, Kitty (that is the name she originally assigned him, we later renamed him Dalton), returned but had a wound on his head. She took him to the vet and he was placed on quarantine. She treated his wound for several weeks but asked us to take him to finish his quarantine which we did. As time passed, we noticed Dalton was becoming more lethargic and was not passing stool. Our vet took x-rays and found that poor Dalton had been hit by a car at one point and his pelvis was crushed and had healed improperly so the narrow passage was making it difficult to pass waste. Adel, a vet tech at the Natick Animal Clinic where Dalton was being treated decided to adopt him because he needed to be closely monitored and needed a special diet and medication. In this picture Dalton is happily shown in his new home. **Thank you!**





HAPPY ENDINGS



Conan

Conan

Conan was rescued from a North Shore pound and adopted by a Revere woman. Unfortunately, he did not adjust well in her home and he was returned. **He was recently adopted again and now happily lives in Arlington. Thank you!**

Carol

Carol's owners did not want her anymore and threw her in the street. A kind Revere neighbor fed her and she survived. As the cold weather approached, Carol wanted to come in the neighbor's home but could not be let in because of the woman's severe respiratory illness. **We came to rescue her and she has now found a more loving home.**



Carol



Grateful

Grateful

Grateful was a Revere stray being fed by a good hearted woman but he was in such bad shape that she called us and we took him last Thanksgiving's week. He now lives in Arlington and no longer needs to search for food and a safe place to stay.

PLEASE NOTE: Our newsletter space is limited and not all cats adopted are shown in each issue.

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Continue to support A HOME FOR TWO PROGRAM!

We have NEARLY DOUBLED OUR ADOPTIONS since we started this special and successful 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.

Some time ago, **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 or whatever else you can afford, will help us continue this effort. THANK YOU!

GOLDIE



BRAD



PAMELA



Adopted Together as part of the A HOME FOR TWO PROGRAM!

WHY CATS NEED COMPANIONSHIP

by Annamarie Taylor

Anyone who has ever owned a cat or a dog is familiar with their human-like traits. Cats, although commonly known for their individualistic personalities, show near human sensitivity and a great sense of perception.

Because of their sensitivity, most cats are very social animals and are happier if (in most cases) they have companions of their own. Although they appreciate human companionship, they also need to interact with other animals (cats or dogs or sometimes even more exotic animals) to play with, to groom and to give and receive comfort.

If you add a companion to your cat's life, you will prolong its physical and mental health. A cat who is left alone at home all day (because its owners are at work) is more destructive on the furniture, carpets, curtains etc. as it will use all its energy on them. Frequently, it can become depressed and anxious and tend to overeat. When a cat has a companion, it will be playing with the new animal more frequently thus getting more exercise and distraction. Cats also enjoy grooming each other as a display of love towards the other individual. Grooming is often done just before both animals fall asleep totally relaxed, next to each other.

Compatible animals bond after living with each other for many years. We have heard from many people about their cats grieving for weeks after the loss of another companion animal. Sometimes the grieving was so intense that the animal gave up and died.

Animals need each other for comfort, love and company just as much as human beings do. Seldom, an animal will be so antisocial that it will not bond with another animal. In most cases however, cats if properly introduced to another pet and if treated with the same TLC of before, will adjust to the new comer and thrive with the new relationship.

If you have a single cat please consider adopting another one. You will prolong its life and give a loving home to another needy abandoned animal.



LISA AND PRISSY

***Lisa and Prissy,
two shelter residents
exchange love and
companionship.***

important reminder **from** **ANIMAL UMBRELLA**

PLEASE SAVE LIVES BY:



Spaying and neutering your cat and by always keeping it safe indoors



Sponsoring spaying / neutering a stray or someone's cat because the owner cannot afford the veterinary expense



Help STOP pet OVERPOPULATION!



If you are unable to pay a vet's full price, please contact Animal Umbrella at LLachman@rcn.com to discuss other options. Thank you!



ARE YOU FEEDING STRAYS?

With this Summer's high temperatures, please try to change water, wet and dry food twice a day to ensure they are clean and fresh. THANK YOU!

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.

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Supporter\$50 ☐
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Other ☐ _____

Animal Umbrella contributions are tax deductible.

Animal Umbrella meetings are held regularly.

Please call us for dates and times.

Name _____

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Do you currently receive our newsletter? _____

How did you hear about Animal Umbrella?

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