



**The Merrimack River
Feline Rescue Society**
Caring for Cats in Need

A nationally recognized, nonprofit volunteer organization committed to ensuring the health and welfare of feral and domestic cats and kittens by promoting proactive, compassionate, no-kill programs.

**MRFRS Headquarters
& Adoption Center**

63 Elm Street
Salisbury, MA 01952
Tel: (978) 462-0760
Fax: (978) 463-6826
Email: info@mrfrs.org
Web: www.mrfrs.org

Adoption Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday:
2 pm to 6 pm
Thursday and Friday:
2 pm to 7 pm
Saturday: 12 noon to 5 pm
Sunday by appointment
Closed Monday

PetSmart Adoptions

104 Andover St. (Rte. 114)
Danvers, MA 01923
Tel: (978) 223-0023

Adoption Hours:

Tuesday and Wednesday:
2 pm to 6 pm
Thursday and Friday:
2 pm to 7 pm
Saturday: 12 noon to 5 pm
Sunday: 12 noon to 3 pm
Closed Monday

Adoption "Meet & Greet" Center

Cat Tail Inn (at Muddy Creek
Animal Care Center)
993 Haverhill Street (Rt. 133)
Rowley, MA 01969
Tel: (978) 948-2345

Adoption Hours:

Monday - Friday
10 am to 7 pm
(closed 1pm to 3 pm
on Wednesdays)
Saturday 10 pm to 2 pm
Sunday 5:30 pm to 7 pm

SpayMass Hotline

888-495-SPAY (7729)

Cat Currents

Dear Friends,

What a Fall!
We're just about catching our breaths from one of the busiest falls I can remember at MRFRS! The season kicked off with our yard and plant sales. We appreciate those of you who came out to our Salisbury headquarters for those two events. Many of you also joined us for the MRFRS Annual meeting where feline mystery writer Clea Simon entertained us with a short reading and a very enjoyable slide show. Shortly after that, we held a special adoptathon, where we waived fees for adult cats over one year of age. This was in response to having over 200 cats in our adoption centers and foster care that needed homes. We're proud to report that we placed over 100 cats during September—many with special needs. October brought our annual Furball, which raised nearly \$18,000. Thanks all around to those of you who supported the Furball.



New Executive Director

Maryellen Madaio joined the staff in September as our new Executive Director. Given her focus on fundraising and special events, you'll certainly be hearing from Maryellen over the months to come. Prior to coming to MRFRS, Maryellen worked for many years in a variety of fundraising, marketing, and event planning roles. Prior employers include, Zipcar, Arnold Worldwide, Body & Soul magazine, the Museum of Fine Arts, and WGBH. I will continue with my work as President of the MRFRS Board of Directors, working closely with Maryellen and Liz.

Cat Tail Inn Partnership

This month we launched a new partnership with Muddy Creek Animal Care Center on Route 133 in Rowley, part of InTown Veterinary Group. They'll be housing some of our adoptable cats at their beautiful Cat Tail Inn boarding facility. We're thrilled about the arrangement and will feature the Cat Tail Inn in a future communication!

Holiday Appeal

While there are many successes to report, it has also been a financially challenging fall. We've faced unexpected expenses—from a broken boiler to a 25+ cat colony in need of trapping, neutering/spaying, and releasing/placing. Our need for general operating support at this time of year is critical. Your contributions are vital to MRFRS's success, so please look for your holiday appeal in the mail and give as generously as you can.



Help us Meet our Challenges

In a recent board meeting, we discussed the role the MRFRS has in the community. A long time volunteer and board member said, "We're not afraid of the big problems, and our people know that." Help us continue to be able tackle the "big stuff" and to care for all the cats in need we encounter.

On behalf of all of us at MRFRS, I wish you a peaceful and joyous holiday season. Thank you for your continued support.

Best,

Stacy LeBaron, President

facebook

Become a fan of MRFRS on Facebook today!

Visit www.facebook.com and search for "Merrimack River Feline Rescue"—join us today to keep updated on all the latest happenings at MRFRS!

MRFRS Officers and Executive Board

Stacy LeBaron, President
Jim Lagoulis, Vice President
Richard Booth, Secretary
Lynda Schnare, Treasurer
Patte Grimes

Board Members

Joe Bell
Kristen Eaton
Kristin Schwab

MRFRS Operations Committee

Erin Concannon
Lisa Enright
Margaret Hall
Ali Herman
Stacy LeBaron
Tricia Lentz
Maryellen Madaio
Amy Moody
Liz Pease
Vi Ricker
Janet Rogers
Michiko Sherwood
Amy Stevens

Catmobile Staff

Lisa Andrejczyk
Dr. Deborah Brady
Lydia Prysak

Newsletter Credits

Editors/Writers:
Stacy LeBaron
Maryellen Madaio
Liz Pease
Amy Stevens

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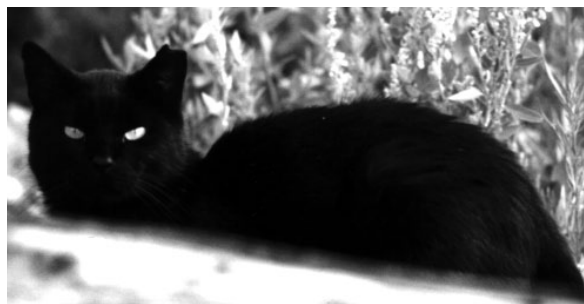
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Liz Pease

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Merrimack River
Feline Rescue Society

Zorro Retires From the Waterfront

Zorro one of the original Newburyport waterfront cats, for whom the MRFRS was founded, has retired from the waterfront after 15+ years. Many of our ferals die outdoors — just as they have lived. However, during the last few months, Zorro has increasingly been seeking out human contact. Therefore, volunteers determined that the best way to care for Zorro would be to take him inside for whatever time remains. Concerning Zorro, Patte Grimes wrote, “He is a true survivor, and it is a real testament to our organization and our wonderful crew of volunteers that have fed and monitored him and his fellow ferals during this remarkable expanse of time.”



FISCAL YEAR 2010, 1st QUARTER (June–September 2009) STATISTICS

<i>cats taken into our adoption program:</i>	306
<i>cats adopted out:</i>	316
<i>feral cats sterilized at our Sunday clinics:</i>	240
<i>cats sterilized on our Catmobile:</i>	1,851
<i>calls received on our SpayMass hotline:</i>	2,117
<i>volunteer hours worked in our Salisbury headquarters only:</i>	2,322

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FROM MRFRS

A perfect gift for any cat lover on your list, the calendar features “regular-people-cats,” submitted by local residents and MRFRS supporters. Calendars can be purchased online at www.mrfrs.org, at MRFRS’s Salisbury and Petsmart Danvers locations during open hours, and at selected retailers (see list below). Cost is \$15 for each calendar, plus \$3 shipping and

handling if purchased online. Bulk orders of calendars are available and can be purchased by contacting stacy@mrfrs.org. Or consider a gift donation card or sponsoring an MRFRS kitty in someone’s name.

Order calendars online at mrfrs.org or purchase at:

- Boxford General Store, Boxford*
- Cat Tail Inn at Muddy Creek Animal Care Center, Rowley*
- Essex County Coop, Topsfield*
- Holistic Animal Healing Clinic, Exeter, NH*
- The Natural Dog, Newburyport*
- Newbury Animal Hospital, Newbury*
- Old Town Animal Hospital, Seabrook, NH*
- Pet Source, Lexington*
- Village Pet, Newburyport*



NOW ACCEPTING

exhibitor/sponsorship applications for Strut for Strays, an MRFRS walk for pets and their people. For a kit, email maryellen@mrfrs.org.

S P O N S O R - A - C A T

Help us Provide a Home for the Holidays (and Throughout the Years)

The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society is dedicated to improving the life, health, and well-being of all cats and kittens in our community. Most often that means placing them in loving forever homes, such as yours. We're successful doing that most of the time, but not all cats find a ready home. Many cats, because of age, health, and/or behavioral issues have a slim chance of being adopted. Because we never euthanize any of our felines (unless medically necessary), the MRFERS provides a safe haven for many cats that would otherwise be in peril.

With our Sponsor-a-Cat Program, your monthly (or once yearly) donation helps us to provide much of what a home offers—food, a comfy place to sleep (including the occasional lap), and medical care if required. The average cost to provide these necessities can be \$1000 per cat or higher. With over 30 hard-to-adopt cats in our care, the cost is high. Your donation will go a long way to providing steady and reliable relief.

Become an MRFERS Cat Sponsor and receive:

- An MRFERS calendar or t-shirt and bumper sticker
- An open invitation to visit our special cats at the shelter any time we're open!
- The good feeling that comes from donating such direct help to needy cats.
- Bi-monthly email updates on how our special cats are faring! ...and our thanks!

MEET SOME OF THE CATS IN NEED OF SPONSORS

BIG DADDY



One of our ferals, Big Daddy is the patriarch of his colony. He lives for the delicious meals our volunteers deliver to his feeding station and is often seen waiting for his dinner to arrive, so that he can be the first to sample the day's fare! Neutered and vaccinated by MRFERS, Big Daddy prefers life outdoors and we ensure that his life includes healthy meals, vaccinations, and warm winter shelters.

With his super-model Maine-coon good looks, Boris elicits all sorts of attention from potential adopters—that is when they can see him! Timid Boris generally declines to come out of his hidey-hole to meet would-be adopters. Recently, evidence emerged that Boris might enjoy a secret more outgoing nocturnal life. Working late one night, Liz caught Boris lounging on the the shelter's 4-poster kitty-cot!

BORIS



TINA



Tiny and chocolate, Tina is an absolute cuddle bunny. A staff and volunteer favorite, Tina has charm galore and she's been adopted many times only to be returned. Tina is troubled with...shall we say toileting issues? Staff suspects that Tina had a bad urinary tract infection as a youngster and may forever associate the litter box with pain, a behavior that is likely to make her a long-time resident of the shelter.

Sponsorship Form

Name

Email.....

Address.....

Town State..... Zip.....

Phone.....

Payment Information

- Check Visa Mastercard
- Card No. Exp. Date.....
- Sponsor a cat monthly \$20.00
- Sponsor a cat annually (all annual donations receive one month's discount from monthly rates) \$220.00
- Sponsor a cat for a lifetime \$1000.00

Is this a holiday gift?

Recipient's name

Email.....

Address.....

Town State..... Zip.....

Phone.....

Please clip and send to:

The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society
Attn. Sponsor-A-Cat Program
63 Elm Street
Salisbury, MA 01952

*Take \$25 off the adoption fee for cats over
1 year old through the month of January!
See coupon on Page 4!*



63 Elm Street
Salisbury, MA 01952
(978) 462-0760
info@mrfrs.org

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Non-Profit Org.
Permit #11
Newburyport, MA
01950

MRFRS WISH LIST FALL/WINTER 2009

- canned cat food (paté/ground/classic)
- paper towels
- C-fold paper towels
- bleach
- laundry detergent
- copy paper
- HP ink cartridges: 21, 22, 96, 97
- 13-gallon trash bags
- 30-gallon garbage bags



Now through January!

\$25.00 Coupon

*Take \$25 off the adoption fee
for cats over 1 year old
through the month of January!*



Doing your holiday shopping online?

Make sure to stop at www.igive.com first to register, then select MRFRS as your charity, and a portion of the money you spend at online merchants like L.L. Bean, Amazon.com, Staples, Best Buy, Barnes & Noble, and many more will go to support MRFRS!

Happy Holidays – and happy shopping!