



## Resource Handbook

*updated May 2011*

# General Information

**Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society**

**63 Elm St., (Route 110 East)**

**Salisbury, MA 01952**

**978-462-0760**

**Fax: 978-463-6826**

**[www.mrfrs.org](http://www.mrfrs.org) / [info@mrfrs.org](mailto:info@mrfrs.org)**

**Find us on Facebook as Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society**

## **Mission Statement:**

The MRFRS is a nationally recognized, non-profit volunteer-driven organization committed to ensuring the health and welfare of feral and domestic cats and kittens by promoting pro-active, compassionate, no-kill programs.

MRFRS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible.

## **Locations, Directions & Hours of Operation:**

### **Salisbury Adoption Center (63 Elm St./Route 110, Salisbury MA):**

Sunday: open by appointment  
Monday: open by appointment  
Tuesday: 2pm – 6pm (4pm-6pm January- May)  
Wednesday: 2pm – 6pm (4pm-6pm January- May)  
Thursday: 2pm – 7pm (4pm-6pm January- May)  
Friday: 2pm – 7pm (4pm-7pm January- May)  
Saturday noon – 5pm

Adoption appointments can be made by calling the shelter or emailing adoptioncounselor@mrfrs.org.

#### **From Route 95:**

Take Exit 58A (Route 110 East) Salisbury. Continue on 110 East for approximately 1.6 miles. Shelter is on the right just beyond the Stevens Christmas Tree Farm.

#### **From Route 495:**

Take Exit #55 to Route 110 East. Continue on 110 East for approximately 3.0 miles. Shelter is on the right just beyond the Steven Christmas Tree Farm.

### **PetSmart Adoption Center (104 Andover St./Route 114, Danvers MA):**

*adoption center cell phone: 978-223-0023 / store phone: 978-774-3694*

Sunday: noon – 2pm  
Monday: closed  
Tuesday: 2pm – 6pm (4pm-6pm January- May)  
Wednesday: 2pm – 6pm (4pm-6pm January- May)  
Thursday: 2pm – 7pm (4pm-6pm January- May)  
Friday: 2pm – 7pm (4pm-7pm January- May)  
Saturday noon – 5pm

Appointments can be made by calling 978-223-0023.

*\*note: cats may be viewed in their cages anytime the store is open*

From I-95 North, take exit 47A (Rte. 114 East) toward Peabody. PetSmart will be on your right, 0.6 miles from the exit. There is no exit for Route 114 from I-95 South. Take exit 50 toward Rte. 62/Middleton/Danvers, and merge onto Route 1 South. From Route 1 South, take the 114 East exit toward Peabody.

## Frequently Asked General Questions

### **How and why was MRFRS founded?**

MRFRS was founded in 1992 in response to growth in the feral or homeless cat population along the Merrimack River in Newburyport. This growth resulted in widespread disease, malnutrition, and death in the feral cat population, which endangered the health and well-being of Newburyport's residential cat population. The MRFRS began a trap, neuter, and return (TNR) program for these cats in 1992 with feeding stations where the cats are fed twice a day. There are now only one or two cats remaining on the Newburyport waterfront, but MRFRS continues to facilitate TNR programs and operate feral feeding stations in other areas of Newburyport, as well as in Salisbury, Amesbury, and Newbury.

### **What does the organization do? How and what do you operate?**

We are a volunteer-based organization that maintains a no-kill adoption center with two adoption locations: Salisbury and PetSmart in Danvers. Our other major programs are:

- A mobile low-cost spay/neuter clinic for cats (The Catmobile)
- A feral spay/neuter clinic program, which provides sterilization and vaccination for feral cats being TNRed
- A state-wide hotline (SpayMass) that provides referrals to low-cost spay/neuter services for both cats and dogs from anywhere in Massachusetts
- A foster home program for healthy and special needs cats and kittens, as well as for temporary emergency placement of cats (The Bridge Program)
- A barn cat adoption program for feral cats
- We also participate in two pilot programs in Lowell([www.lowelltnr.org](http://www.lowelltnr.org)) and Fitchburg

### **How many cats and kittens have gone through the MRFRS system?**

We have placed over 17,000 cats and kittens into homes, and have spayed or neutered over 10,000 feral cats, and over 13,000 owned cats.

### **Does MRFRS accept monetary donations? How does one go about making a donation?**

Donations are gratefully accepted. MRFRS is funded solely by private donations and grants. Donors may make a donation by credit card either online on the MRFRS website ([www.mrfrs.org](http://www.mrfrs.org)), or by calling the main shelter. Donations may also be made by check. Checks should be made out to "MRFRS" and mailed to the Salisbury address. **MRFRS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible.**

Please see the fundraising section for more donation options.

## **Does the shelter accept donations of supplies?**

Yes, we have a wish list of needed items. Donations can be dropped off at the shelter in Salisbury, PetSmart in Danvers, or our donation barrels at Market Basket in Rowley, and Shaw's in Seabrook, NH and Newburyport. Our most-needed items include:

- **Canned and dry cat & kitten food** We accept all brands and all sizes of cans, though we prefer loaf/classic/pate-style food. This food is used to feed the cats at the shelter, in our foster homes, and our outdoor feral cats.
- **Trash Bags** (13-gallon and 30+-gallon size)
- **Laundry Detergent** (any brands and types)
- Small litter pans
- Toilet paper
- Towels and *small* blankets
- Dishwasher detergent
- Latex and non-latex gloves (all sizes for our shelters and spay/neuter clinics)
- Quick-read digital thermometers
- Snuggle-Safe warming discs
- Small kitchen scales
- Stainless steel and ceramic food bowls
- Pocket Folders
- Office supplies (printer cartridges, post-it notes, etc. – contact [info@mrfors.org](mailto:info@mrfors.org) for details)

If you are interested in making a donation of a larger item, please contact us for some ideas!

**MRFRS Meet and Greet Questions and Answers:** These are the responses to commonly asked questions that you should provide to the public and on the phone.

### **I need to give up my cat. Can you take him?**

If you live in Salisbury, Newburyport, Newbury, West Newbury, Amesbury, or Byfield, or if your cat was adopted from the MRFRS, or you are a volunteer or a donor, we will help you. The first step is to fill out a surrender waiting list form, or it can be downloaded off of our website at [www.mrfrs.org](http://www.mrfrs.org) (click on Quick Links). If you live in Merrimac, Rowley or Georgetown, or Seabrook, NH, we *may* be able to help you when we have extra space at the shelter. If you do not live in any of the listed towns, or are not a volunteer or donor, we will be glad to provide you with a list of resources in your area. *Please note that we only accept intakes BY APPOINTMENT. All intakes must be approved by the Director of Operations.*

**It is always worth visiting [www.masscats.org](http://www.masscats.org) and sending an email to the moderator for posting on this state-wide email group for cat rescuers, trappers, and shelter workers. Include your contact information, town, and the situation you need help with. If someone near you can help, they will contact you directly.**

Once your surrender form is received and reviewed, we will call you or email you to let you know whether we can take the kitty in and when.

### **I am going away on vacation. Do you board cats?**

No, we do not board cats, but you can try one of these facilities or pet-sitters:

Purr-fection Cat Sitting, Patte, 508-341-8490

The Natural Dog, 978-499-9909

Cat Whiskers Inn (Bradford), [info@catwhiskersinn.com](mailto:info@catwhiskersinn.com), 978-857-5933

Cat Tail Inn @ Muddy Creek (Rowley), 978-948-2345

Pampered Pet, Roberta Mavilia, 978-462-4696, 508-451-7387

**Response for an emergency:** If your cat is in our service area (volunteers, donors, towns listed above) a volunteer or staff member can contact our on-call emergency cell phone for you. **If the kitty is in distress, please direct the person to take the cat directly to a veterinarian, or to contact their animal control officer/police department in the town they are in for immediate assistance.**

### **If I need low-cost medical assistance for my cat, how do I get that?**

See Spay/Neuter Program section of this guide for low-cost information.

### **My cat is missing. What should I do?**

Please give us a description of your cat, where the cat was lost from, and when, and we will add the cat to our lost list. You can also bring us a poster. In addition, you should call your local animal control officer, place a lost ad in the paper (usually free), and consider calling your local DPW or highway department. Visit [www.lostapet.org](http://www.lostapet.org) for helpful tips on searching for lost pets. Consider setting a trap, especially if your cat is shy or timid, or is an indoor-only cat who has gotten lost outside. For more information on trapping, call MRFRS and speak to the staff, or visit [www.catsinthebag.org](http://www.catsinthebag.org). If you decide to try trapping, you can rent a humane trap from MRFRS. (See trap rental section in Feral Program pages.)

## Frequently Asked Medical Questions

### **What is FIV?**

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a virus that may eventually suppress the immune system of the carrier animal. Though it is sometimes referred to as feline AIDS, that term is misleading and incorrect.

- FIV is spread through blood to blood or saliva to blood contact. The primary means of spreading this virus is through deep bite wounds, as the virus must directly enter the bloodstream in order to potentially infect another cat. *Everyday cat activities such as sharing food bowls and litter boxes or mutual grooming will not transmit the virus.* Therefore, it is perfectly safe for a non-aggressive FIV+ cat to live with an FIV-negative cat.
- Between 60-70% of the adult cat community has a natural immunity to the virus. It is most commonly found in unneutered male cats, who tend to do a lot of fighting.
- FIV is not contagious to people, dogs, or other non-feline pets.
- There is no cure for FIV, but 90% of positive cats will lead long, healthy, normal lives if they are well loved and well cared for.
- FIV+ cats biggest health issues tend to be chronic upper respiratory issues and chronic dental issues, both of which can be easily handled with routine vet care.
- There is a vaccine for FIV, but its effectiveness is questionable, and being vaccinated against FIV will cause a cat to test positive for FIV for the rest of its life. There is no way to determine if the positive test result is due to the vaccine or actual infection.
- For some great information on FIV, visit [http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/petcare/cats\\_fiv.cfm](http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/petcare/cats_fiv.cfm)

### **What is FeLV (Feline Leukemia)?**

- Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is a virus that may eventually suppress the immune system of the carrier animal. The most common secondary disease that affects the cat is cancer, hence the common name “feline leukemia.”
- The FeLV virus is present in the saliva, blood, urine, and feces of an infected cat. For the virus to spread to another cat, prolonged contact is most likely necessary. Mutual grooming is the most common means of transmission.
- Between 60-70% of the adult cat community has a natural immunity to the virus.
- There is a vaccine for FeLV, but it is only reported as being 60-90% effective.
- The life expectancy of an adult cat with FeLV varies tremendously, given that there are several strains of the virus, some more debilitating to the cat than others. With a less aggressive infection, the cat could live many happy years.

### **Can you recommend a veterinarian?**

We don't make specific recommendations. You can go to the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association at [www.massvet.org](http://www.massvet.org), where you can search a database and find a veterinarian of your choice. You can search by location, practice type, and specialty.

## **My cat is having behavioral problems. What should I do?**

We recommend that you first seek the advice of your veterinarian. Many people want to surrender cats to us with behavioral issues and we usually tell them that if they are having a problem at home as an only cat or with a few, then just think how they would be with 30-40 other loose cats in the house. That usually convinces people to keep trying other alternatives. Other ideas and sources of information:

- ARL Boston's Pet Behavior Helpline (free): 617-426-9170
- Feliway Comfort Zone pheromone diffusers (help w/ stress, aggression, spraying) – order online at [revivalanimal.com](http://revivalanimal.com), or buy at Petco/PetSmart
- Twisted Whiskers and Cat vs. Cat by Pam Johnson-Bennett ([www.catbehaviorassociates.com](http://www.catbehaviorassociates.com))
- Dr. Kathryn Wrubel, Animal Behaviorist (781-305-2252)
- flower essences: [www.anaflo.com](http://www.anaflo.com); Infinite Heart Flower Essences/Francesa Giacchino: 978-821/1134 / [fgiacchino@yahoo.com](mailto:fgiacchino@yahoo.com)
- Homeopathic vets: Dr. Regina Downey (Exeter, NH – 603-772-PETS), Dr. Karen Komisar (Danvers, MA – 978-762-8700)

# Adoption Program

## **What is the process for adopting a cat?**

The applicant should start by filling out an adoption questionnaire either online at [www.mrfrs.org](http://www.mrfrs.org) or in person at one of our adoption centers. An adoption counselor will review the application to determine if any additional information is required. All applicants must be 18 years of age or older. The application can often be processed the same day, but may take a day or two to process if additional information is needed. The applicant will be notified by telephone, email, or regular mail once their application is either approved or denied. **If an applicant is interested in a particular cat, he or she must leave a \$25 deposit to place the cat on hold. (Please note that we do not take holds on kittens.)** If the application is denied, the deposit will be returned. If the application is approved but the applicant decides not to adopt the cat, the deposit is forfeited. An applicant may have an approved application put on file for future use if he or she has not decided upon a specific animal at the time of application.

For a **same-day** adoption of a cat/kitten, the applicant must bring proof of current rabies vaccinations for any other owned pets, and permission from a landlord that pets are allowed (if they rent).

Adoption fees are as follows:

- Kittens (1 year or less): \$200
- Adults: \$125
- Special needs cats (cats over 10, cats who have been with us for a long time, cats with medical or behavioral issues): \$50
- Barn cats: flexible donation

If a person adopts two cats or kittens at the same time, a discount of \$25 off the second cat applies. We accept cash, check, Mastercard, Visa, Discover, and American Express.

**The adoption fee includes testing for feline leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) (for cats over 6 mo. old), spay/neuter, rabies and distemper vaccinations, microchipping, flea treatment, and deworming – as well as a lifetime guarantee that we will always take the cat back into our care if the need ever arises.** Note: Some cats and kittens may not be able to receive all of these vaccines and it will become the adopter's responsibility to make sure their new cat's vaccines are tended to. All new parents receive a health record stating what vaccines and treatment the cat has had.

### **Why are your adoption fees so high?**

The included vet care you receive with one of our cats is at least \$500 worth of care, so you're actually getting a great deal! In addition, your adoption fee helps us care for the many sick and not-so-adoptable kitties we take in each year. As a no-kill shelter, we are committed to caring for every cat from our service area in need of help – whether a cat just needs spay/neuter and shots before adoption, or whether a cat needs \$5000 worth of specialized surgery. We are currently spending an average of \$480 on each cat that comes through our doors (and we take in about 800 per year!), and recouping an average of \$110 per cat in adoption fees. Without your support, through adoption fees and other donations, we couldn't help as many cats as we do.

### **Can I see your cats online?**

Yes! You can view our adoptable cats at our website [www.mrfrs.org](http://www.mrfrs.org) by clicking on Meet the Cats, or by visiting [petfinder.org](http://petfinder.org). We do our best to keep the online cats up to date, but sometimes we get behind – especially with kittens, who often come and go so fast it's hardly worth putting them up!

### **I am looking for a particular color or kind of cat? Can you call me when one comes in?**

Your best bet is to call us. We get pretty busy around here, so we may not always remember who was interested in what – but please feel free to call and do a quick check-in, or to keep an eye on our website to see if we have what you're looking for!

### **Where else can I go to adopt or surrender a cat in this area?**

Visit <http://www.massanimalcoalition.com/resources/adoption/> or see the list of shelters below.

## Where else can I go to adopt or surrender a cat in this area?

| Shelter                                | Dogs/Cats/+     | No - kill | Town                    | Phone-       |                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ellen Gifford Sheltering Home for Cats | Cats            | Y         | Boston (Brighton)       | 617-787-8872 | <a href="http://www.giffordcatshelter.org">www.giffordcatshelter.org</a>                 |
| New England Haven for Animals          | Cats<br>Dogs/+  | Y         | Boston (Dorchester)     | 617-288-5673 | <a href="http://www.haven4animals.org">www.haven4animals.org</a>                         |
| MSPCA, Boston                          | Cats/<br>Dogs   | N         | Boston (Jamaica Plain ) | 617-522-7400 | <a href="http://www.mspca.org">www.mspca.org</a>                                         |
| Second Chance Shelter for Cats         | Cats/<br>Dogs   | Y         | Boston (Jamaica Plain)  | 617-522-1852 |                                                                                          |
| City of Boston Adoption Center         | Cats/<br>Dogs   | N         | Boston (Roslindale)     | 617-635-1800 |                                                                                          |
| Animal Rescue League of Boston         | Cats            | N         | Boston (South End)      | 617-426-9170 | <a href="http://www.arlboston.org">www.arlboston.org</a>                                 |
| MSPCA – Methuen                        | Cats            | N         | North – Methuen         | 978-687-7453 | <a href="http://www.mspca.org">www.mspca.org</a>                                         |
| Peabody Animal Life Savers             | Cats            | Y         | North – Peabody/Salem   | 978-531-7578 |                                                                                          |
| Animal Umbrella                        | Cats            | Y         | North - Lynn            | 617-731-7267 | <a href="http://www.animalumbrella.org">www.animalumbrella.org</a>                       |
| Friends of Marblehead... Animals       | Cats/Dogs       | Y         | North - Marblehead      | 781-631-8664 | <a href="http://www.marblehead-animal-shelter.org">www.marblehead-animal-shelter.org</a> |
| Melrose Humane Society                 | Cats            | Y         | North - Melrose         | 781-662-3224 | <a href="http://www.Melrosehumanesociety.org">www.Melrosehumanesociety.org</a>           |
| Northeast Animal Shelter               | Cats/Dogs       | Y         | North - Salem           | 978-745-9888 | <a href="http://www.Northeastanimalshelter.org">www.Northeastanimalshelter.org</a>       |
| Merrimack River Feline Rescue          | Cats            | Y         | North - Salisbury       | 978-462-0760 | <a href="http://www.mrfrs.org">www.mrfrs.org</a>                                         |
| North Shore Feline Rescue              | Cats            | Y         | North – Middleton       | 978-774-4413 | <a href="http://www.nsfr.org">www.nsfr.org</a>                                           |
| Ipswich Humane Group                   | Cats            | N         | North – Ipswich         | 978-356-6652 |                                                                                          |
| PAWS                                   | Cats/<br>Dogs   | Y         | North - Wakefield       | 781-246-6111 |                                                                                          |
| Kitty LoveCat Shelter                  | Cats            | Y         | North - Wilmington      | 978-657-0967 |                                                                                          |
| Kitty Angels                           | Cats            | Y         | Northwest -Tyngsboro    | 978-649-4681 | <a href="http://www.kityangels.org">www.kityangels.org</a>                               |
| Animal Rescue League of Brewster       | Cats/<br>Dogs/+ | N         | South - Brewster        | 508-255-1030 | <a href="http://www.arlboston.org">www.arlboston.org</a>                                 |
| MSPCA - Brockton                       | Cats/<br>Dogs/+ | N         | South - Brockton        | 508-586-2053 | <a href="http://www.mspca.org">www.mspca.org</a>                                         |
| Neponset Valley Humane Society         | Cats            | Y         | South - Canton          | 781-769-1990 | <a href="http://www.nvhumanesociety.org">www.nvhumanesociety.org</a>                     |

|                                    |                  |   |                         |              |                                                                            |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ARL Boston                         | all              | N | South - Dedham          | 781-326-0729 | <a href="http://www.arlboston.org">www.arlboston.org</a>                   |
| Animal Rescue League of Fall River | Cats/Dogs/+      | N | South - Fall River      | 508-676-1061 | Animalrescueleaguefr.org                                                   |
| All Paws Rescue                    | Dogs/Cats        | Y | South - Hingham         | 781-749-0968 | <a href="http://www.allpawsrescue.org">www.allpawsrescue.org</a>           |
| Just Cats                          |                  | Y | South - Mansfield       | 508-339-6717 |                                                                            |
| Purr-fect Cat Shelter              | Cats             | Y | South - Medway          | 508-533-5855 | <a href="http://www.purrfectcatshelter.org">www.purrfectcatshelter.org</a> |
| Milton Animal League               | Cats/Dogs        | Y | South – Milton          | 617-698-0413 | Miltonanimalleague.org                                                     |
| New Bedford ARL                    | Cats/Dogs/       | N | South – New Bedford     | 508-999-2349 | N/A                                                                        |
| CeCe & Friends                     | Cats             | Y | South – Weymouth        | 781-331-6115 | www.angelfire.com/ma3/cecenfriends/                                        |
| Hilltop Humane Society             | Cats             | Y | South – Randolph        | 781-963-5875 | <a href="http://www.hilltophumane.org">www.hilltophumane.org</a>           |
| Scituate Animal Shelter            | Cats/Dogs        | N | South – Scituate        | 781-544-4533 | www.scituateanimalshelter.org                                              |
| Stray Pets in Need (SPIN)          | Cats             | Y | South – Wellesley       | 781-235-1218 | http://www.straypetsinneed.info/                                           |
| Standish Humane Society            | Cats             | Y | Southeast – Duxbury     | 781-834-4663 | http://www.standishhumanesociety.com/                                      |
| Lakeville Animal Shelter           | Cats/Dogs        | N | Southeast – Lakeville   | 508-947-3891 | www.lakevillema.org/departments/animal_shelter.cfm                         |
| Friends of Plymouth Pound          | Cats/Dogs        | N | Southeast – Plymouth    | 508-224-6651 | www.fppshelter.org                                                         |
| Wareham Champs Shelter             | Cats/Sm. Animals | Y | Southeast – Wareham     | 508-291-0072 | N/A                                                                        |
| Milford Humane Society             | Cats             | Y | Southwest – Milford     | 508-473-7008 | www.milfordhumane.org                                                      |
| Elaine Bosler Humane Society       | Cats/Dogs        | Y | West – Barre            | 978-939-7316 | www.boslerhs.org                                                           |
| Baypath Humane Society             | Cats/Dogs        | Y | West – Hopkinton        | 508-435-6938 | <a href="http://www.baypathhumane.org">www.baypathhumane.org</a>           |
| Buddy Dog Humane Society           | Cats/Dogs        | Y | West – Sudbury          | 978-443-6990 | www.buddydoghs.com                                                         |
| Pat Brody Shelter for Cats         | Cats             | Y | Central – Lunenburg     | 978-582-6116 | <a href="http://www.catsontheweb.org">www.catsontheweb.org</a>             |
| Cape Ann Animal Aid                | Cats/Dogs        | Y | NE – Gloucester         | 978-283-6055 | <a href="http://www.capeannanimalaid.com">www.capeannanimalaid.com</a>     |
| Billerica Cat Care Coalition       | Cats             | Y | North – Billerica       |              | www.billericacatcarecoalition.org                                          |
| North Attleboro Animal Shelter     | Cats/Dogs        | Y | North – North Attleboro | 508-699-0128 | <a href="http://www.nashelter.org">http://www.nashelter.org</a>            |
| Animal Rescue Merrimack Valley     | Cats/Dogs        | Y | North – Haverhill Area  | 978-374-7233 | armv.org                                                                   |

*See next page for NH resources*

## What about resources in New Hampshire?

| Shelter                                                                                                           | Dogs/Cats/+ | No-kill | Town                     | Phone-       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Cats 1 <sup>st</sup><br>hstrial-bcoes.homestead.com                                                               | Cats        | Y       | Southeastern NH          | 603-760-7877 |
| S.A.F.E.R.<br><a href="http://www.safercats.com">www.safercats.com</a>                                            | Cats        | Y       | Seacoast – Hampton       | 603-929-4975 |
| Rescue Anonymous                                                                                                  | Cats        | Y       | Seacoast – Hampton Falls | 603-926-9472 |
| Kitty Angels<br><a href="http://www.kittyangels.org">www.kittyangels.org</a>                                      | Cats        | Y       | South - Tyngsboro, MA    | 978-649-4681 |
| Salem Animal Rescue League<br><a href="http://www.sarl-nh.org">www.sarl-nh.org</a>                                | Cats/Dogs   | Y       | South – Salem            | 603-893-3210 |
| NHSPCA<br><a href="http://www.nhspca.org">www.nhspca.org</a>                                                      | Cats/Dogs/+ | N       | South – Stratham         | 603-772-2921 |
| Animal Rescue League of NH<br><a href="http://www.rescueleague.org">www.rescueleague.org</a>                      | Cats/Dogs/+ | Y       | Central - Bedford        | 603-472-3647 |
| Humane Society of Greater Nashua<br><a href="http://www.hsfh.org">www.hsfh.org</a>                                | Cats/Dogs/+ | N       | Central – Nashua         | 603-889-2275 |
| Concord-Merrimack Cty. SPCA<br><a href="http://www.concordspca.org">www.concordspca.org</a>                       | Cats/Dogs/+ | N       | Central – Concord        | 603-753-6751 |
| New Hampshire Humane Society<br><a href="http://www.nhhumane.org">www.nhhumane.org</a>                            | Cats/Dogs/+ | N       | North Central – Laconia  | 603-524-3252 |
| All Breed Rescue                                                                                                  | Cats/Dogs   | Y       | Seacoast – Seabrook      | 603-580-2121 |
| Feline Friends Rescue League                                                                                      | Cats        | Y       | South – Salem            | 603-893-2483 |
| Manchester Animal Shelter<br><a href="http://www.manchesteranimalshelter.org">www.manchesteranimalshelter.org</a> | Cats/Dogs/+ | Y       | Central – Manchester     | 603-628-3544 |
| Monadnock Humane Society<br><a href="http://www.monadpets.org">www.monadpets.org</a>                              | Cats/Dogs   | N       | Southwest – Keene area   | 603-352-9011 |

# Spay/Neuter Programs

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE with SPAY/NEUTER and VET CARE**

### **I can't afford to spay/neuter my cat. What should I do?**

If you live near the northern 495 corridor, take advantage of our mobile spay/neuter clinic, the Catmobile. The Catmobile is open to anyone (no financial pre-qualification needed), and costs \$75 for male cats, \$100 for female cats. This covers spay/neuter surgery, rabies shot, flea treatment. The Catmobile is staffed by a licensed veterinarian and two technicians, and travels to different areas each day. We are regularly in Lowell, Salisbury, Methuen, and Peabody, and in a variety of other locations as well. Appointments can be made by calling or emailing 978-465-1940 or [catmobile@mrfrs.org](mailto:catmobile@mrfrs.org). Pregnant cats are accepted, as are kittens over 8 weeks of age/2.2 lbs. We offer microchipping for \$20 including registration.

If you live in Massachusetts, but are not within the Catmobile's area, call or email our SpayMass hotline (888-495-SPAY or [spaymass@mrfrs.org](mailto:spaymass@mrfrs.org)) for referrals to low-cost spay/neuter programs throughout the state *for both cats and dogs*. New Hampshire residents can visit [www.nhspca.org](http://www.nhspca.org) or call 603-772-2921 for more information on spay/neuter programs in that state.

### **What other low-cost services do you offer?**

We offer microchipping for cats for anyone (whether you live within our service area or not) for \$20 per cat. This includes registering the chip. Just call MRFRS at 978-462-0760 or email [info@mrfrs.org](mailto:info@mrfrs.org) to schedule an appointment.

### **If you cannot afford veterinary care for your pet, please look into one of the following options:**

PetCo walk-in vaccination clinics: [www.petco.com](http://www.petco.com) or call your local store

*Grant programs (usually require that you take cat to vet for estimate, and then submit estimate to the group for consideration):*

Feline Veterinary Assistance Program for Cats Only [www.fveap.org](http://www.fveap.org)

IMOM, phone (301)599-7387; [www.imom.org](http://www.imom.org)

Animal Welfare Assoc., phone (888)616-9663.

Help-A-Pet, phone (603)986-9504; [www.help-a-pet.org](http://www.help-a-pet.org)

Nike Animal Rescue Foundation, phone (408)946-2291; [www.narfrescue.org](http://www.narfrescue.org)

Pets in Need, phone: (650)367-1405; [www.petsinneed.org](http://www.petsinneed.org)

United Animal Nations Lifeline Grants, phone (916)429-2457; [www.uan.org](http://www.uan.org)

**FARS c/o MRFRS; give the info. to Stacy (will be an application to fill out)**

Care Credit, (800)839-9078; [www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com). Credit payment plan for vet & personal health care costs.

Four Legged Life Savers, [www.fourleggedlifesavers.org/](http://www.fourleggedlifesavers.org/)

Cats In Crisis, Inc., P.O. Box 354, Mountville, PA 17554; [www.catsin crisis.org](http://www.catsin crisis.org)  
“Providing financial assistance to help with diagnosing, treating and maintaining cats with special medical needs.”

AAHA Helping Pets Fund, [www.aahahelpingpets.org](http://www.aahahelpingpets.org) (866)443-5738

Angels4Animals, [www.angels4animals.org](http://www.angels4animals.org) (916)941-9119

***Low-cost vet clinics in the Boston area:***

South Boston: [www.afaboston.org/clinic.html](http://www.afaboston.org/clinic.html) 617-268-7800

Fall River: [www.faxonarl.org/clinic.htm](http://www.faxonarl.org/clinic.htm) 508-676-1061

Alston: [www.geocities.com/merwinmemorial/merwinmemorial.html](http://www.geocities.com/merwinmemorial/merwinmemorial.html) 617-782-5420

In addition, the MSPCA will euthanize a sick animal for a donation. Refer people to the branch nearest them. (See the shelter list.)

### **What is the MRFRS Sunday spay/neuter program for feral cats?**

We offer monthly Sunday spay/neuter clinics, the purpose of which is to sterilize and vaccinate as many feral cats as possible. Clinics are always held on a Sunday.

#### Qualified cats

- Homeless, unowned and free-roaming, un-socialized/feral
- At least 4 lbs. (due to the anesthesia we use)
- Appear healthy
- To be released back into its home colony, which will be managed

#### Non-Qualified cats

- Owned or possibly owned
- To be adopted out or in foster care waiting possible placement
- To be euthanized by an animal control facility
- Do not appear healthy

Many caretakers are bonded to their feral cats and think of them as “pets,” claiming they can touch them when eating, the cats come inside for a while, don’t have to be trapped,

etc. Ask questions to get beyond the “pet” designation. If the cat is truly a pet, other low-cost spay/neuter programs are appropriate, not the Sunday Spay/Neuter Clinics.

Sunday Spay/Neuter Clinics are free, but donations are welcome.

Clinic treatments include: A brief exam, spay/neuter, rabies and distemper vaccines, flea and ear mite treatments, and the left ear is tipped (3/8” is taken off the top of the ear) for identification that the cat has been sterilized and vaccinated. *No other diagnostic services or treatments are given, and no treatments can be omitted.* Tests for FIV and Feline Leukemia are not done.

Cats must be brought to and picked up at the clinic site, which varies month to month. The cats must be in a trap (no cat carriers) and have not eaten in the last 12 hours.

**Contacts:**

For reservations email [clinic@mrfrs.org](mailto:clinic@mrfrs.org) or leave a message at 978-462-0760. For information on volunteering email [clinic@mrfrs.org](mailto:clinic@mrfrs.org) or leave a message at 978-462-0760.

**What are other locations for feral s/n clinics in the Boston area?**

**Commonwealth Cats** (donation-suggested monthly clinics)  
[www.commonwealthcats.org](http://www.commonwealthcats.org) or [info@commonwealthcats.org](mailto:info@commonwealthcats.org)

**Animal Rescue League of Boston Sunday Spay/Neuter Days for Feral Cats.**

Offering ear tip, S/N, rabies vax, FVRCP. The limitation is that we ask them to be from the city of Boston (including the Boston neighborhoods). Contact Melissa Tanguay at 617-226-5634 or [mtanguay@arl-boston.org](mailto:mtanguay@arl-boston.org).

Sterling Animal Shelter is offering spay/neuter for ferals for \$35.  
978-422-8585

**MRFRS Catmobile**

We can do four ferals in traps a day on the Catmobile. \$75 covers surgery, ear-tipping, rabies shot, and flea treatment. Financial assistance is available to cover feral cats. Call 978-465-1940 or email [catmobile@mrfrs.org](mailto:catmobile@mrfrs.org) for more information and appointments.

**Mid State Mobile-Dr. Michelle Bianco 978-660-2704**

**The Stop Clinic- Dr. Ann Marie Roche- [www.Stopclinic.com](http://www.Stopclinic.com)**

South Boston

Alliance for Animals Metro Action Clinic  
232 Silver Street  
617-268-7800

Boston

Animal Rescue League of Boston Spay Waggin’ 877-590-7729

# Feral Program

## **What is a feral cat?**

A feral cat is one that has been abandoned by its human caregivers and has reverted back to its innate, wild instincts in order to survive. It can also be the offspring of abandoned cats and may never have had contact with humans. They will generally not approach humans voluntarily. When spayed/neutered, and provided with a steady feeding source and shelters, feral cats can often live long, happy lives outdoors.

## **I have ferals in my back yard. Will MRFRS take them?**

MRFRS endorses TNR (trap-neuter-return) for feral cats as the most effective and humane method for controlling and caring for feral cat populations. Feral cats are almost never happy indoors, and have very little chance of being adopted. On occasion, if feral cats in our service area are in immediate danger, or their habitat is being destroyed, we may be able to assist with barn placement for them, or we may be able to take them into our Danville sanctuary – but relocating feral cats is always the *very last option*.

You can email [ferals@mrfrs.org](mailto:ferals@mrfrs.org) for more help on learning how to TNR (trap-neuter-return) your ferals, and/or check out some of the resources listed later in this section. For assistance outside the MRFRS service area, please visit [www.masscats.org](http://www.masscats.org) to post a request to this state-wide group. We also recommend that anyone interested in learning more about community efforts to help needy cats consider joining the Mass Cats Yahoo! online group. Everyone is also welcome to make use of our monthly feral spay/neuter clinics (see Spay/Neuter Program section).

## **Do you rent out traps?**

Yes, we do. It is \$5 to rent a trap for a week, plus a refundable deposit. We have a number of box traps available for rental, as well as several transfer cages, and two drop traps. Traps can be rented during normal business hours. Sorry, we do not take reservations for traps. Please call us or email [info@mrfrs.org](mailto:info@mrfrs.org) for more information and details. We will be glad to show you how to use the traps, and give you tips on trapping.

## **Where can I learn more about feral cats?**

Alley Cat Allies ([www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)) has lots of information on feral cat advocacy, trapping, and caretaking, including shelter and feeding station plans.

Neighborhood Cats ([www.neighborhoodcats.org](http://www.neighborhoodcats.org)) Promotes trap-neuter-return ("TNR") as the most humane and effective means of solving feral cat overpopulation problems; lots of good information for caretakers on shelters, etc.

Massachusetts Animal Coalition ([www.MassAnimalCoalition.org](http://www.MassAnimalCoalition.org)) A statewide not-for-profit organization of animal professionals. MAC is highly supportive of TNR.

### **Can I adopt a socialized feral cat?**

A “socialized” feral is not the right cat for everyone. Households with very young children or where there is a lot of activity, homes with many other companion animals, or those people who expect an instant lap cat – will probably want to adopt a more domesticated cat. But for those people who are willing to extend their compassion to these special cats and give them patience and understanding, along with much love, the bond that can develop between a feral and its human guardian is a wonderful reward.

### **Can I foster feral kittens or cats?**

Absolutely! We are always looking for more foster homes, especially those willing to work with socializing feral kittens, or those willing to take in a feral adult who needs a place to recover from an illness or injury before being re-released. We will provide training and supplies. Please email [amy@mfrfs.org](mailto:amy@mfrfs.org) or call 978-462-0760 for more info.

### **What services does MFRFS provide for feral cats?**

Our Managed Colonies Program cares for many cats in Newburyport, Newbury, Amesbury, and Salisbury by maintaining feeding stations and shelters for them throughout the year. We also provide medical and veterinary care for the cats in these close-knit colonies, many of whom have been our “friends” for years. Many of the cats in our feral colonies have been with us for 5 years or more. The nourishment we provide sustains them, and the small shelters built by volunteers offer the cats shelter from inclement weather.

### **How can I provide monetary support for feral cats?**

MFRFS recommends three programs to which you can donate: our Sunday feral spay/neuter clinics, the Sponsor-a-Cat Program and the Captain Courageous Fund.

See Spay/Neuter Programs section for more info. on Sunday feral clinics.

### **What is the Barn Placement and Feral Relocation Program?**

This program was established to help place feral cats from colonies that would otherwise starve or be euthanized. It is an excellent solution for barn owners who might have a rodent problem. All you have to do is agree to take a minimum of two cats, fill out an adoption application, and have a barn site inspection (or email us photos of your barn). After receipt of a completed application, you will receive a set of ***MFRFS Barn Placement Guidelines*** explaining how to acclimate the cats into your barn. All cats are tested for feline leukemia and FIV, given at least an initial distemper vaccine, a rabies vaccine, and spayed or neutered prior to placement. After your application is approved, a kitty playpen, bedding, litter-box and food dishes, provided by the MFRFS, will be set up in your barn. The cats are kept in the playpen for about 4 weeks. This allows the cats to bond with their new caretaker and become familiar with their new surroundings. If possible, after the 5 weeks, the cats should have a room or a stall that is completely enclosed for them to be released into and that will enable you to keep them in at night.

# Fundraising

## What are some of your upcoming fundraising and other events?

### 2011

Spring Book Sale – Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

Spring Rabies & Microchipping Clinic – Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>

Spring Plant Sale – Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>

Kitten Shower & Supply Drive – Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>

Strut for Strays – Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Spring Yard Sale – Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

Fall Yard Sale – Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

Fall Plant Sale – Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

Annual Meeting & Dinner – Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

Fall Rabies Clinic – Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

FurBall Auction Event – Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Whisker Wonderland Holiday Open House – Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

*For more information contact Stacy at [stacy@mfrfs.org](mailto:stacy@mfrfs.org) or 978-462-0760, or visit [www.mfrfs.org](http://www.mfrfs.org) or our Facebook page near the time of the event.*

### Other Events:

**PetSmart Santa Paws** events are usually the first three weekends in December. MRFRS volunteers are needed to play Santa take photos of people with their pets for this excellent fundraiser for the MRFRS. If interested, please email [liz@mfrfs.org](mailto:liz@mfrfs.org) .

**MRFRS Calendars** will be for sale for the upcoming year by mid-September. They will be \$15 each, or \$17 by mail.

We also have over 100 **donation cans** placed in the area. If you are interested in having a donation can at your store please email Judy Besancon at [jbesancon@aol.com](mailto:jbesancon@aol.com) or call her at 978-463-9039.

We often have restaurant nights-these are night where a local restaurant will donate proceeds of a night's revenue to the MRFRS.

## **Do you accept memorial donations?**

Yes, we do accept memorial donations. Just give us the name of the animal or person the donation is given in memory of, the address of the person you'd like notified, and your information, along with your donation, and a card will be sent out to the family.

## **What other donation options do I have?**

**Donation in honor of a birthday or to celebrate a holiday:** Just give us the name of the person you'd like a card sent to, the occasion, and your info. along with your donation.

**Giving Tree Donations:** Make a donation of \$125 to our building fund, and we will dedicate a leaf on our “Giving Tree” mural at Salisbury – just let us know what information you’d like painted on the leaf! Your donation goes to our building fund to help with our building improvements and pay off the mortgage.

**Sponsor-a-Cat:** Feral Cats, Care for Life, and Salisbury Cats can be sponsored with a monthly donation of \$20. For more details, contact Stacy directly. You can also sponsor a spay/neuter surgery for a low-income cat owner on our Catmobile for \$75.

**Mass Animal Coalition – Animal friendly license plates** are available through the RMV website ([www.mass.gov/rmv](http://www.mass.gov/rmv)). Money from these plates goes into a program and groups can apply for grants from the program. MRFRS regularly receives grant money through this program.

Visit [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and sign up so that a percentage of all your online purchases from stores like Staples, Lands’ End, L.L. Bean, Amazon.com, etc. benefit MRFRS.

**Donate your used printer cartridges** (ink jet and laser jet) to MRFRS so that we can redeem each one for \$3 in Staples Rewards. Email [liz@mrfrs.org](mailto:liz@mrfrs.org) for more information.

**See our Supplies Wish List on page 6 as well for more donation possibilities!**

# Volunteering

## **What volunteer opportunities are there at MRFRS?**

We are always looking for more volunteers, and we have numerous volunteer opportunities at all of our locations and in all of our programs. We ask that individuals commit to at least one day per month. Prospective volunteers may fill out a Volunteer Application at one of our adoption centers or online.

*Young adults 15 and older are welcome to volunteer in our Salisbury adoption center. Kids younger than 15 can find a list of ways to help MRFRS on the volunteer information page on our website (also see below). At Petsmart, young adults between 16 and 18 can volunteer along with a parent; those 18 and older can volunteer on their own.*

Volunteering options include:

***Shelter chores at the adoption centers in Salisbury and at PetSmart-Danvers:*** Mornings and afternoons, seven days a week, 365 days a year, there are people who come to adoption centers and help us keep a safe, clean and comfortable environment for the cats. Volunteers usually spend about two hours cleaning and feeding. The cats are given hands-on interaction so that they learn to feel comfortable and loved. There are also numerous assorted tasks and fix-it projects that we can use help with. Most people come in once per week although others prefer to come more frequently.

***Catmobile:*** We need people who are willing to wash, pack, and autoclave instruments at MRFRS for a couple of hours each week, and people to take home surgery drapes to fold, vaccines to draw up, etc. We have many on-going small projects that need help with to keep our Catmobile running smoothly.

***Administrative:*** Our phone rings off the hook, and we need competent people with great customer service skills who are willing to spend a few hours, or a day, a week to help answer the phone and triage calls. These volunteers also assist with basic office tasks like photocopying and filing, and are welcome to take on special projects, and learn to work as adoption counselors as well!

***Meds Volunteers:*** We need volunteers to assist with giving our kitties their medications. You will be fully trained, and will learn great cat-handling skills that will be very useful if your own kitties every need medicine!

***Sunday spay/neuter clinic:*** We need volunteer veterinarians, veterinary technicians, trappers, transporters and holders of the feral cats for the Sunday spay/neuter clinics. We also need general assistants to clean and move cages, monitor and track recovering cats, and assist with a variety of clinic-related tasks. As for non-clinical tasks, we need help with packing and transport of medical supplies to and from the clinic, and people to coordinate and donate lunch.

**Feral feeding:** We are always in need of responsible individuals to feed our feral cats that live in managed colonies in the Newburyport area. Typically, our volunteer feeders commit to **one or two feedings a week**, depending on their personal schedules and commitments. The food is donated by MRFRS supporters and can be picked up by the feral feeders at the MRFRS shelter. We feed our cats every day year-round, including holidays.

**Foster homes:** We need foster homes for our kittens, adult cats, elderly cats, ferals and special needs (FeLV, FIV and diabetic) cats. We ask in most cases that you keep the cats separate from your other cats. Guidelines, as well as all needed supplies, will be provided. Our foster homes are a critical part of our mission, and allow us to help many more cats than we can house in our adoption centers.

**Trapping:** We are also in need of responsible individuals to help trap ferals. This involves any of the following: Monitoring traps to ensure that cats are not left in the traps unattended; transporting trapped cats to a holding place, such as a foster home or the MRFRS shelter; transporting trapped cats to and from a spay/neuter clinic or veterinarian; providing a holding place for a trapped feral until it can be neutered and/or released to the colony.

Other possible volunteer opportunities include: fundraising, helping with special events, photography, grant writing, PR, graphic design, data entry, mailings, making phone calls, purchasing supplies, transporting animals, administering meds. If you have a skill, we can probably put it to good use! Just let us know how you'd like to help!

**How to help if you are under 15, or want to do something different and fun:**

- *hold a penny drive or collect and redeem returnable cans at school/work*
- *hold a supply drive or donate items from our wish list – just ask us for a copy of our latest list, or look up our Amazon.com wish list under MRFRS!*
- *hold a bake sale for us – we're always happy to have groups set up a bake sale at the shelter on nice Saturdays!*
- *volunteer to staff a table selling our cat toys and MRFRS gear outside the shelter on nice Saturdays*
- *come and plant some flowers outside our building, or make decorations for one of our special adoption events*
- *make rice bags for our Sunday feral spay/neuter clinics (ask a staff member for more information)*
- *ask for donations to MRFRS for your birthday/special event instead of gifts*
- *have a yard sale, lemonade stand, or car wash to benefit MRFRS*
- *help us hang up flyers for a special event, Catmobile, adoptable kitties, etc. – just ask a staff member what needs distributing!*