



# Season's Greetings!



Volunteer Amy Thompson (middle) with her dog Layla

## 5 K RUN FOR RESCUE – PROCEEDS NEARLY DOUBLE

Animal lovers and supporters close to 300 came out this year to participate in the Run for Rescue's 2nd Annual 5k Race to benefit local animal charities. The race this year was in our hometown of Marblehead. We couldn't have anticipated a more glorious day. Owners and their beloved pets enjoyed the scenic walk through the tree lined streets of Marblehead neck enjoying views of the harbor.

A huge thank you goes out to Amy Renz of Goodness Gracious dog treats who organized this spectacular event. All of her hard work of endless emails and calls certainly paid off for the beneficiaries of the event.

Thanks to the participants, nearly \$15,500 was raised for the rescue groups of which FOMAA joyfully received **\$2,234.39**.

We'd also like to thank the sponsors of the event and the many volunteers.

Funds raised from this event will help provide vet care, food and supplies to help care for our shelter animals and cat food for our feral cat feeders.



The shelter found loving homes for over 180 pets this year, exceeding our goal from last year. The Friends of Marblehead's Abandoned Animals is a very special shelter because we are truly a no-kill animal shelter that reaches beyond our town borders to rescue animals in need. It is a 24/7 operation that is run solely by the generous donations we receive and dedicated volunteers.

Please join in our efforts so that we can continue to save the many animals needing our help.



Bubba with kitten

### facebook

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Abandoned  
Animals



## Recently Adopted!



Gabe was finally adopted by a loving family after almost a year at the shelter. GO GABE!



Freddie found a wonderful home just in time for Christmas.



Abandoned by his owner, Buddha is now in a loving home where he will be cherished.

### Adoption Hours

**Mon., Tues., and Thurs.** from 4:00 to 6:30 PM

**Fri.** from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

**Sat.** from noon to 6:00 PM

**Sun.** from noon to 4:00 PM

During those hours, a team of knowledgeable volunteers will be available to assist you.

## A HOLIDAY LETTER OF THANKS

By Katie Van Dorpe, Shelter President

As we come to the end of 2013, I want to thank all the wonderful animal-loving friends who support our efforts and the families who have adopted our furry friends and love them as much as we do. Our thanks also goes out to the many children who sold lemonade, made bracelets, accepted food and toys in lieu of birthday gifts and who performed other tasks to raise money for the shelter. A great big thank you goes out to our many volunteers who, after a busy day at work, at home, or at school come to the shelter to clean cages, feed the animals, do laundry and provide lots of love to our animals. The abundance of love our furry friends receive from our volunteers teaches them to trust and return love, which prepares them for their forever homes.

As in previous years, we rescued many stray Moms and kittens before the cold sets in. Our "kitten season" now extends throughout the year. The calls about kittens and strays keep pouring in so our outreach efforts grow each year. As a result, we hope our volunteer teams grow as well. We are always in need of volunteers for cleaning, fostering animals, walking dogs or assisting with fundraising.

A very special thanks to the two Veterinary practices that provide excellent medical care for our animals – Atlantic Veterinary Hospital and Hawthorne Animal Health Care. Wishing all our supporters of the shelter and friends a very happy holiday and winter season.



## Plans for the future...

FOMAA is considering looking for a larger building to run our shelter operations. Although the Town of Marblehead has been great to us in providing a building at no expense, our need for space continues to grow due to the countless number of homeless animals needing our help. Having one main room to house both dogs and cats is very challenging as you can imagine so the bigger space will allow us to not only be able to accommodate

more animals more comfortably, it will also allow us to run educational programs for school children where they can learn about the importance of taking care of animals and to host community service assignments at the school level. If you or someone you know may have a suitable space, we'd be interested speaking with you.

# UNSUNG HEROES



This holiday newsletter is dedicated to two of the most outstanding and dedicated women in the feline rescue community. These two remarkable women, who wish to remain anonymous, are out on the streets 365 days a year rescuing cats living on the streets. They never say "no" to a feline in distress or in need of rescuing, most often maxing out their credit cards in order to pay for food, medical care and gas. They keep a journal that is on any given day 3 pages long of places they need to visit and scout out for a cat or litter of kittens. Animal Control uses them on a regular basis for which they receive no compensation. They depend solely on shelters and rescue groups who are willing to help with the placement of their rescues as well as private donations. Not surprisingly, all rescues come to a standstill when shelters have no room or are unwilling to take a cat that needs medical work or are not willing to take in local strays. They are hard working woman who seem to fear nothing and will visit areas most people would not travel through let alone venture out into unfamiliar neighborhoods looking for cats. It is a great big THANKS to them that they have caught more than 600 adult cats and hundreds of kittens this year alone and the year is not even over. On any given weekend when a feral clinic is running, catching a mere



Pictured above is a typical feral colony in the wild.

20 cats for spaying or neutering is like any other day. "You'd be amazed at how many homeless cats are out the streets and although it makes for a long day that begins as early as 5:00 a.m. and ending at 11:00 p.m., it's so rewarding to know that cats aren't out on the streets reproducing." The only downside to what they do is when they are forced to release a friendly cat or kitten that has been spayed/neutered because there is no place for it to go. "Releasing them back to the hard life on the streets is the hardest thing to do. Some of the cats, when the trap door is open, don't even run away but rather circle around our legs as if to say, don't leave me here. It is heartbreaking having to leave them behind but what else can we do when there are no fosters or shelters that have room or may be unwilling to help street cats." FOMAA will continue to assist these women in taking in their rescues. If you would like your donation or part of your donation to go towards these women's rescue efforts, please air mark it as such. All contributions are much appreciated.



## Feral Housing Update:

We are pleased to report that all the feral housing we constructed was used by our feral colony last year. We even had a litter born in one. That mom was spayed and released and her kittens are available for adoption.

Thank you to **Geo Brothers Fence** who graciously donated and

installed the needed fence where the cats are cared for.



## Winter Tips

- Remember, after the roads are salted you should wash your dogs paw pads off after each walk. Salt gets in between their pads and can cause irritation and burning. Use pet friendly Ice melt around your house and sidewalks to avoid irritation to your dog.
- During the cold winter months, it's just as important to exercise your canine friend. Check with your local beach or park department and see if they are open to dogs being unleashed. It's a great way to play with your dog and your dog gets to socialize with other canines.
- If you do feed any birds or stray cats in your yard, please remember to put out a bowl of water for them. Wildlife and outdoor kitties have a hard time finding water to drink during the winter months.



# THE CAT WHO BECAME KING *by Leslie Eddy*



Pictured above is **Henry** appearing quite relaxed in his hotel room despite a hectic day at the airport.

The shelter received a call about some cats that were victims of abuse. When we found poor Henry, he was sitting in a tiny spot of sun in a garbage strewn yard. He had wounds on his body and sadly one of his ears had been cut off half way. Henry was rescued, treated, neutered and recovered from his wounds. The only thing Henry needed now was a home. Here is the tale of his final journey to his new home.

My sister Lisa is no stranger to the animal shelter. Ten years ago she adopted Arielle, a cat who required glove-wearing volunteers to remove her from her cage. Arielle moved to New York and lived a cozy life overlooking the Empire State Building. Arielle has since past away and my Lisa now lives in Florida. When she called me and told me she was ready to adopt again, I went to the shelter and was introduced to Henry. After meeting him I instantly knew he would be accompanying me on a flight to Florida that afternoon.

My husband, I was certain, would love to have a cat keep us company on the flight. He was amused until we learned we had to get out of the line we had been

standing in for 45 minutes only to get into another line to purchase a plane ticket for Henry. That's when he stopped talking to me but I was certain Henry was elated.

Security lines were long and I continued to reach into Henry's carrier and scratch his head. It was finally our turn and an agent asked me to take Henry out of his carrier. After several minutes of protest, I was asked to step aside and was escorted into a holding area surrounded by armed guards. My husband mysteriously was MIA. No one was amused when I announced that Henry must be someone really important to get this much attention. I lifted Henry out of the carrier so he could be examined when one of the guards asked why he was wearing a hat. I told them it was his crown.

When we finally re-entered the security area, I realized we had missed our flight. We were rerouted to Pittsburgh, where the three of us would spend the night in a non-pet friendly hotel. Henry was more than cooperative in helping to sneak past the chatty doorman, even when I had to put my coat over his

carrier. Once inside he pounced on the white, plush goose down comforter. He stretched his paws out and appeared to say "Ah, I am a king after all."

Henry settled into his new home with Lisa and his new sister Genie, where he spends most of his days holding court on the dining room table and basking in the warm Florida sun, dreaming about stuff only Kings dream about.

As for us, our return flight was rather uneventful when my husband leaned over and said "I miss King Henry."



A wounded Henry gobbling up wet food soon after being rescued.

**H**arvey, a velvety-soft Rex Rabbit, came into the Marblehead Animal Shelter after being removed from a home where he experienced neglect. Despite the lack of love and attention in his home, he knew what love was and adored being held and stroked. One day, a rabbit lover with a big heart came in, fell in

love and whisked him home.

Renamed Nelson Mandela for his beautiful coloring and gentle disposition, he now enjoys full run of his new home, enjoys pleasant day vacations in his outdoor hutch and follows his owner and her many guests around like a puppy, always looking for a scratch behind the ear or a back rub.

Recently, Nelson took his first vacation, which involved a total of eight ferry rides (a first for him!), at the Montauk Yacht Club. His only complaint was that there was no white fluffy bathrobe in his size!



## STILL AWAITING HOMES...



Mack was found living in a park when someone finally reached out to him and brought him to the shelter. He has a warm personality and loves attention. The vets feel he is over 10 years old and has high blood pressure which is managed with one pill a day. Mack would love to spend the holidays and his golden years in a home where he can be loved and finally have a loving person in his life.



James and Janet were both left abandoned in a parking lot. They have been at the shelter since early fall. They are very lovable and super playful.

Casey has been in search for a home for over a year. She is a friendly cat who loves attention but requires her family to keep a really clean litter box. She is a beautiful girl and would enjoy a home where she's the only cat.

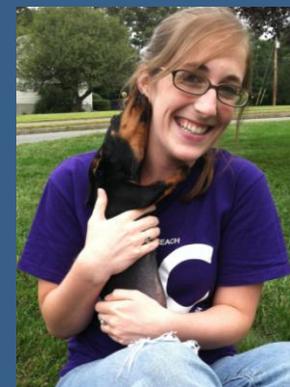


## IF NOT YOU, WHO WILL? *Interview with Neala Menz*

**How did you get involved with the shelter?** I have always enjoyed volunteering and spending time with animals, so when my co-worker, Dyan Katz, recruited me to the Wednesday night cleaning team, I was all for it! I was initially volunteering as temporary fill-in but have now been there 6 months.

**What would you tell someone who is interested in volunteering?** I would tell them that they should definitely do it! The shelter is always in need of help, especially during an influx of cats. I feel that I get a lot out of volunteering. I enjoy meeting and working with other volunteers and especially like spending time with the cats! Plus, someone has to take care of these fluffy cats and if not you? Who will? Plus, the shelter couldn't do what they do if not for the volunteers.

**What do you like best about volunteering?** Being a volunteer makes me feel like I am part of a community. Since these animals do not have a home and an owner to care for them, we all have to put in a little time to take care of them. It's like every volunteer is a part owner/care taker of these animals while at the shelter.



Neala Menz, FOMMA  
volunteer

**F**inn Finnegan and Dancer, now known as Finny and Danny, were adopted into our home two years ago. They were so attached to each other that the shelter volunteers felt they shouldn't be separated and boy, were they right! Finny, having maturity and a wonderful



BFF- Finny (Tiger) and Danny (B & W) enjoying their favorite past time

disposition, has shown patience and has provided countless hours of loving grooming that has nurtured young feral Danny from being somewhat wild to an affectionate love bug who actively seeks out his people for chin scratches, back strokes and being picked up for hugs. On many an evening, we watch with great pleasure as Finny teaches Danny some of his wrestling moves. Even though Danny is much younger and physically adept, Finny is still the king and manages to wrestle Danny on to his back. We often hear them in the bathroom wrestling each other in the tub or behind the bathroom door making quite a racket! Each night as we cook dinner, Finny sits on his rug in the kitchen and stares intently into our eyes every chance he gets. We know he loves being with us but we also know it is that he will never miss an opportunity for some people food that he is so persistent and always under foot. Apparently being homeless on the streets gave him a taste for people food, especially boneless ribs and fried fish, coating and all! In between feedings, Finny spends his days sleeping on the couch or bed with our other three cats, (it's quite a sight!), or on his own chair when he needs some space. He gives us unbounded love and gazes into our eyes with such contentment and appreciation that we are know how grateful he is to be with us and the feeling is mutual!

**Jessica, Casey and Quintin McHale**

**P**atches was a senior cat that came into our shelter after a sad situation left her homeless. She was a sweet cat that sadly was missing an eye but also had a very unique looking front tooth, which gave her lots of character. Thankfully a kind hearted couple came in to adopt her but in doing so they also fell in love with two black sibling kittens. Who would've thought that all three would be lucky enough to be going home with this amazing couple? Below are a few highlights of life in their new home.

#### **Dear friends at The Marblehead Shelter.**

It's us, Patches, Bosc and sister Asia reporting in on our doings but first let us say THANK YOU for protecting us while we were with you. As for me {Patches} my new mum discovered early on that my actual name is {Lefty}. Guess that's because I have only my left eye. I'm not much on socializing though; life has been rather tough on me. Bosc and Asia don't give a darn and just jump over me so fast that I really don't know what happened, they are just sort of like a couple of black flashes that fly by. You'd never know I'm 12 years old, keep those homemade toys coming, especially toilet paper rolls tied with yarned.

Now listen Patches, don't hog all of the space. It's Bosc here. My sister Asia is sort of nuts, she plays tag with our humans. She eats well and is petite. How I despise those who can eat anything and never gain weight! I do, however, enjoy climbing up the curtains

and darting around is my favorite hobby. I just love to play attack with my sister and then off we go and have a blast with all of our climbing toys and boxes of all colors. Then there are these weird shaped things with tunnels and crinkly stuff, which are super cool! I've been adopted by Mabel who's 12 and from another shelter. To me she's a real neat Great Grandmother. We rub noses and butt beads with loving purrs attached.

Well, we all wish you Happy Holidays with comfy warm beds, plenty of food and lots of toys!

If you find that you have extra love to give and would like some special furry love in return, visit the shelter for a special needy friend or 2.

Shalom and Happy New Year  
The Kitty cat Gang



## FUNDRAISING EVENTS ...

### Annual Instant Wine Cellar Raffle

The shelter runs this successful raffle every year during the **Christmas Holiday season**. Please visit our website and Facebook during the month of December for ticket sale locations.



### Thanksgiving Dinner for Homeless Cats and Kitties

This fundraiser was a first and also a big success. The kitties received lots of yummy treats from all who attended. Special thanks to Christine Koretz for organizing this event. We hope it will become an annual event.

### Bi-Annual Yard Sales

Each spring and fall, the shelter holds its annual yard sales raising approximately \$1,000 for each event. Please consider helping out by donating some unwanted items during drop off times. The animals truly appreciate it.

A special **THANK YOU** goes out to Chris Wiley, Jake Carey and Kevin Touch each of whom chose our shelter as their senior year project. Chris, Jake and Kevin spent many hours clearing up the side yard, hauling in stone, dirt and mulch, and planting seed in order to grow grass for our four legged friends. The side yard looks fantastic and because of their efforts, our wonderful and deserving dogs now have a clean and enjoyable place to romp and play while they await their new families. Thanks again guys. Awesome job!



**Chris Wiley, Jake Carey and Kevin Touch**



## Upcoming Events...

- Valentine's Day Party
- Springtime Dog Show
- Art Auction
- Logo Contest

Please visit us Face book for dates and time.

### Margarian Rug Cleaning



"Pets are a common reason Many of our customers continue to use our services", explained owner Wayne Hanscom of Magarian Rug Cleaning at 155 Atlantic Ave. in Marblehead. To show their appreciation for this loyalty, Magarian Rug Cleaning will be making a donation to the Friends of Marblehead Abandoned Animals each time you have your rug cleaned starting December and running throughout the year. "We love our pets too and we understand that pet ownership adds to the challenge of maintaining a clean and healthy home", says Hanscom. "We feel it is important to support the Friends of Marblehead Abandoned Animals on a regular basis, because many of our customers, like ourselves, are passionate about its mission." The total amount donated will be tracked regularly and posted at [www.magarianrug.com](http://www.magarianrug.com).

**Marblehead Animal Shelter**  
44 Village Street  
Marblehead, MA 01945

**Phone:**  
(781) 631-8664

**Website:**  
[www.marblehead-animal-shelter.org](http://www.marblehead-animal-shelter.org)

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Abandoned  
Animals**



### **Thanks to our foster families.**

A huge thanks goes out to our foster homes; the Li, Dove and Lord family. Also, Lorraine, Liz, Laura, Rachel, Alex, Danielle, Lisa, Marie, Jane and Cynthia.

We couldn't have saved so many if it weren't for your help. You will never know how much we appreciate your help and kindness. It's a huge sigh of relief when we can take in another litter of kittens; and it's only because of you.

A special thanks to **Susanne Csonger**, owner of the Blue Peacock in Hamilton, who graciously took us in when the cats of my feral colony lost their home after the property where they lived was sold. "I will be forever grateful for her compassion and generosity."

*Dyan*  
FOMAA Volunteer

### **Christmas Wish List...**

- Advantage II Flea Treatment for Cats
- Max Cat Lite dry food for adult cats
- Fancy Feast paté style wet cat food
- Adult and kitten wet cat food: Precise or Paul Newman brand
- Grain free wet food like Wellness for cats with special dietary needs
- Cat toys and dog treats (Zuke's)
- Laundry detergent and bleach

*Please visit our website for a complete list.*



### **Friends of Marblehead's Abandoned Animals**

44 Village Street  
Marblehead MA 01945  
**Phone:** (781) 631-8664  
**www.marblehead-animal-shelter.org**

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### ***We need your help!***

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to our shelter. We are an all volunteer, no kill animal shelter dedicated to changing the lives to all who come into our care. Your support is greatly appreciated.

