



2016 Year in Review from Norma Milton

2016 has been another extremely busy year with volunteers giving massive hours of time to our homeless cats. The rewards of this mission are immense and we often jokingly say, "We need to add another zero to our imaginary paycheck." Without our volunteers, this would be impossible.

HHPR, in 2016, has worked with several feral colonies in Van Buren, Caribou, Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle. The work never ends and yet – we are seeing a big difference in public attitudes.

People are taking advantage of the low-cost spay/neuter clinic vouchers and that is greatly decreasing the number of kittens abandoned in Aroostook County.

Each year we see changes in our numbers and in the type of medical assistance needed for the cats. Of the highest priority this year has been the number of elderly cats needing to be re-homed due to their elderly owners no longer being able to care for them. It is a heartbreaking situation for these owners and we make the transition as kindly as possible (see *New Beginnings* in this newsletter).

We have found that although these cats had good vet care over the years, the later years have not been as

diligent probably due to an inability to transport to a vet, or financial limitations of fixed income for the elderly home owner.

These elderly cats have needed lots of expensive dental and medical care which we are glad to provide.

Our transport system, after losing our 20 year old truck to the junk yard, has been greatly revitalized by a grant from the Maine Community Foundation Belvedere Animal Welfare Fund. This grant of \$5900 enables HHPR to continue with the pet food transport, feral cat transport, and the transportation of healthy, happy, loving adoptable cats and kittens to the southern Maine shelters and rescues who have space available. We are delighted to have an agreement with The Animal Rescue League of Greater Portland, HART of Cumberland and Coastal Humane Society of Brunswick, Maine. This transport allows us to have more space available in our adoption center for other felines in need.

A grant from the Humane Society of the United States for \$5000 enabled us to work

with the Cleo Fund of Spay-Maine and Mariam's Dream and the Maine Help Fix Me Program to provide

complete medical care including spay/neuter to 78 cats in the Van Buren low-income housing projects which also included 4 different feral colonies. This project was in addition to our regular feral

sites in the surrounding communities.

A grant of \$1000 by the Bangor Savings Bank enriched the lives of feral kittens who were fostered by HHPR volunteers. These tamed kittens are then adopted after receiving initial medical care and spay/neuter vouchers for when they are old enough for the sterilization surgery.

We are blessed each time we are feeling over-whelmed with the needs of the cats, that someone or something happens to inspire us to remember the Little Train that Could and we just keep on doing our part. Thank you for everything you do to help us help our homeless, helpless kitties. We are honored with your support.

Norma Milton, President HHPR



2016 HHPR Board of Directors

Norma Milton, Caribou
David Bickford, Etna
Mary Rowe, Caribou
Corey Bogel, New Sweden
Beth Henderson, Caribou
Suzanna Beil, Limestone
Nancy Hunter Caribou
Stacy Thibodeau, Caribou
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Brian Knox, Van Buren
Brenda Pelletier, Caribou
Priscilla Steeves, Presque Isle
Kim Plavnick, Caribou
Pat Canavan, Fort Fairfield

VIP Specialists

Robyn Smith, Webmaster & Media Consultant
Andrea McPherson-Mesa, Newsletter

SECOND CHANCE

A thrift store to benefit the cats of HHPR.

31 Herschel St. Caribou

Public Hours

*Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday*

Available for Adoption: **Special Needs**

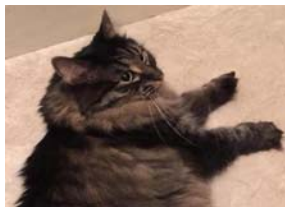
Meet Joey:

Joey is a 6 -7 year old domestic short hair, white and black neutered male cat whose owner died. Joey is very clean about his environment and is accustomed to lots of loving. He is a great choice for a lap cat. He is great with other cats and has a totally

mellow personality. You can't miss with this cat as his goal in life is to please you. Joey's special need is that he loves to eat and as long as food is available, he will continue chowing down. He has been dieting with HHPR, but will still have to have his amount of food monitored.



New Beginnings: HHPR Success Stories



Maggie: Adopted!

Maggie is an 8 1/2 year old spay female whose owner had to enter a nursing facility. For months, Maggie curled in a ball refusing all loving from the HHPR volunteers. Chris Pinette was the only one she allowed to hold her, but only for a second before she rebelled. Because of her attitude, no one felt they could foster her. Finally, Brian and Jane Sutherland came to the shelter to see if she would respond to their foster care. The emotional bond was immediate and within days the Sutherlands had applied for her adoption.

Way to go Maggie!



Syd: Adopted!

Syd, is a 9 to 10-year old neutered male who came to HHPR in the winter of 2014 after having spent his entire life as a barn cat. In 2014 Syd developed chronic lung problems requiring vet care. The farmer ask HHPR to take over his care as he felt Syd could no longer tolerate the barn conditions as well as the younger, more aggressive male cats. It became a saga of "what about Syd" as his routine nose blowing wetness, his

age and background appeared to limit his adoption opportunities. However, Melissa Bickford of Etna saw Syd's loving personality, his appreciation for a clean environment and felt compassion for his background. Syd has now been adopted into the Bickford family and has made himself the mayor of the other two cats and 2 dogs. Everyone is living happily ever after. **Go Syd! So happy for you.**

Many Thanks to the Generosity of Local Businesses



Pictured are: (left to right) Machias Branch Manager, J.R. Belanger, Asst. Branch Manager, Casey Plourde and Caribou Hannaford Store Manager, James Redman.

Machias Savings Bank of Caribou and Hannaford Supermarket recently donated over \$200 worth of Fresh Step cat litter and Purina Cat Chow to the homeless cats residing at **Halfway Home Pet Rescue**. After being notified by HHPR President, Norma Milton, of the brand of supplies preferred by the rescue, J.R. Belanger, shopped at Hannaford in Caribou for the items and delivered them to the rescue. Hannaford also continues to be an ongoing donor of supplies to the volunteer rescue.

Our Mission

Halfway Home Pet Rescue is dedicated to improving the quality of life for stray animals in Aroostook County, Maine. We focus our mission on the rescue and rehabilitation of cats and kittens from Caribou and surrounding communities who are not eligible for admission to other area shelters. HHPR provides medical care, social and emotional rehabilitation through our foster home network and a safe haven that is "half way home."

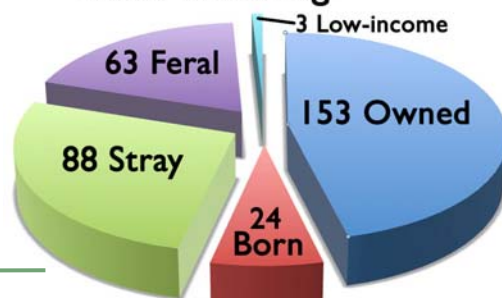
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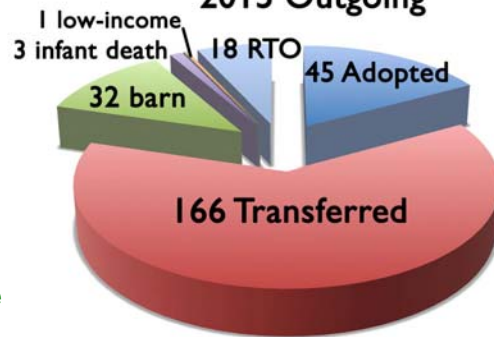
Meet Thomas: Thomas, is a 7 year old neutered male who has a history of mega colon issues which

are controlled with a low-cost diet of strictly canned food with water added. He cannot have any dry food. Thomas is sweet, loving and very clean about his environment.

2015 Incoming



2015 Outgoing



Volunteers Needed!

Do you love cats? Would you like to give your time or skills to help Halfway Home Pet Rescue?

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please call **207-999-1075** or visit our website at halfwayhomepetrescue.org.