



Newsletter

Spring 2012



P.O. Box 488 Caribou ME 04736 · 207-492-1722 · halfwayhomepetrescue.org · norma@halfwayhomepetrescue.org

HHPR CAT FEATURED IN NATIONAL PUBLICATION

Adopt Me! Tabitha Lost Her Owner in a House Fire

By Amy Jamieson, People Magazine Online
April 12, 2012

Home. Some cats and dogs never have one to call their own. We want to help change that by introducing you to an extraordinary homeless pet every week. Today, we'd like you to meet Tabitha, a 10-month-old kitten who survived a house fire.

This sweet cat's world was turned upside down when a discarded cigarette sparked a house fire that killed her owner. During a sweep of the Fort Fairfield, Me., property, firefighters discovered the kitten hiding under a piece of furniture.

Fireman performed emergency treatment to keep the injured cat breathing and she was taken to a nearby animal hospital where she was treated for burns on her body, feet, eyebrows and whiskers, and for a sore throat caused by smoke inhalation.

It took feedings through a syringe and a lot of recovery



time for Tabitha to get well. "She's had quite a [journey]," says Norma Milton, president of the Halfway Home Pet Rescue of Caribou, Me., who is caring for Tabitha. "She has little patches of burns, but she's beautiful."

This sweet and loving feline, whose medical bills were paid for by David and Ruby Bickford of Etna, Me., has "grieved deeply for her deceased owner," says Milton. She needs to find a safe place where she can learn to love again – a home without other animals would be preferred.

If you want to open your heart to Tabitha, contact the Halfway Home Pet Rescue at (207) 492-1722. The HHPR is a network of foster homes for cats. In 2011, they helped 195 felines find forever homes.

New Building Project Needs Your Help

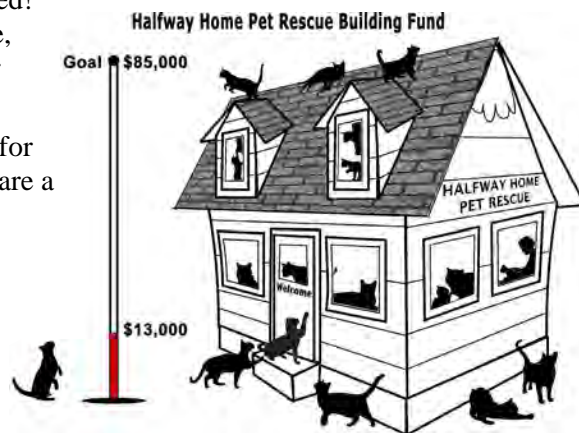
Time is running out and we need your help. Halfway Home Pet Rescue must relocate in order to comply with Caribou Zoning Ordinances. Our priority has always been the care of the animals and we rely on donations. We have worked diligently to raise funds for a building and we now have \$13,000 saved! But, because we must keep our operating expenses as low as possible, we cannot purchase a property until we have reached at least half our goal, allowing us to keep mortgage payments low.

Please use the donation form in this newsletter to send us a donation for the Building Fund. No amount is too small. Every dollar counts. We are a 501c3 non-profit and a 2012 state of Maine Licensed Pet Rescue. Please help if you can.

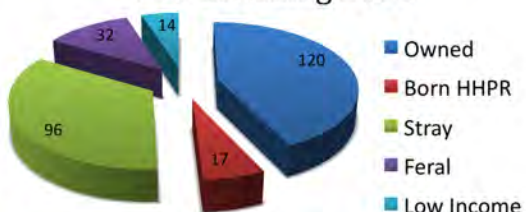
Thank you,

2012 HHPR Board of Directors

Norma Milton, Robyn Smith, Ruby & David Bickford,
Anne Price, Sharon Watson, Garrick & Sandy Milton,
Zachary Smith, Verna Johnson, Kathryn Harnish,
Rob Lawless, Carol Austin.



279 Incoming 2011

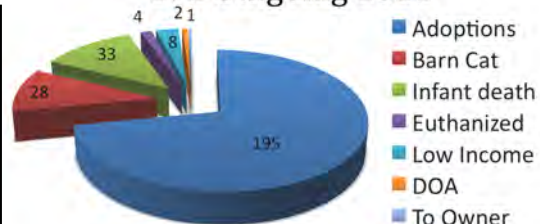


How did we do in 2011?

279 cats helped by HHPR
120 were owner surrendered.
96 Strays, 32 Ferals, 17 born at HHPR, 14 low-income.

195 were adopted, 28 became barn cats, 33 infant deaths.

271 Outgoing 2011



SEEKING HOMES

SUGAR is a 2-year-old reformed feral female. She loves her family of cats and spends time cleaning all of them, especially around the ears and chin.



She is particularly attentive to Toby, our brain damaged mascot. She will come for human affection when you are on the toilet so that all attention is on her and by her rules. New owner would need patience for her to grow to love them. No small children. \$20.

GOLDIE is about 7 months old, a torti long-hair beauty queen. She has all of her medical work done. A little shy until she knows you, warms up quickly once she has checked out her environment for safety. A very nice cat, but probably not for very young kids due to her shyness. She is used to big dogs and small dogs. This lady has been around. Adoption \$40.



TABITHA is a 10-month-old sweet, gentle, clean living female torti who has all her medical work done. Her previous owner is deceased. Tabitha tolerates other cats, but does not like them — It is hiss and spit time. Fee \$40.

KATIE is 10-month-old gray/white, short-hair, spayed female, currently being fostered at Tractor Supply Store in Presque Isle. She has all medical work completed. She is very clean in her environment, happy, playful and good with other cats after her initial Hiss & Spit introduction. Katie would like to be an inside/outside cat if adopted to a family on a quiet street or in the country. She liked to sleep with her former foster family and if pushed off the bed would jump on the bureau to knock everything off and make her own place. A cutie, a love for any size family. \$40.



EBONY is an all black 3-year-old male with all his medical work complete. He is very loving, happy, and wants to be part of any type family. With other cats, he will initially hiss & spit and then ignore them. The same attitude with dogs. Fee is \$40.

MARIE is a 5-year-old spayed calico female. Good with kids, does not especially like other cats and will hiss and spit some. She will be good for any type of family unit. She is used to dogs and ignores them. \$40.



BONNIE is about 8 months old, a torti female, and recent mother who has weaned her healthy babies. All her medical work is done. She is clean, sweet, healthy, happy and very friendly with other cats. She is very mellow and not inclined to be upset over anything. \$40.



PETUNIA is a female domestic short hair black and white mother. She is clean, affectionate, and perfect for any family — except no very young children. \$40.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

Mary Rowe, a HHPR Caribou volunteer, will be organizing a garage sale at the home of Norma Milton, 11 Pioneer Ave. in Caribou on **Saturday, May 19, from 9 to 4pm** during the Caribou City-wide Yard Sale. (Saturday Only) All proceeds will go toward medical bills of HHPR cats. Donated bags of returnable bottles & cans will be welcomed at the same time.

Special Girl Needs Quiet Foster Home

Suzy is a special needs kitty living at a Halfway Home Pet Rescue Foster Home. This sweet torti is about 1 1/2 years old and is spayed. She has all current medical needs completed: shots, worming, Leukemia test. Suzy is special because she has a 3rd degree heart condition — meaning that medical problems may occur down the road, making her “unadoptable.”

HHPR is looking for a more permanent foster home in a quiet family situation. Suzy wants to sleep with her person. She is very clean about her environment. HHPR will oversee Suzy's ongoing medical situation until her condition requires she return to HHPR. For now, Suzy would like a home with lots of gentle loving. Call 492-1722 for a foster home application.



HHPR is a member of the Best Friends Network of Charities

I SUPPORT HALFWAY HOME PET RESCUE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

I WOULD LIKE TO:

_____ Become a yearly member for \$20

_____ Become a lifetime member for \$200

I WANT TO DONATE TO:

_____ Where most needed _____ Building Fund

In Memory or In Honor of: _____

Name and Address of family member/friend:

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Donations are tax deductible. We will send a Thank You note that will be your receipt. Thank you for your support — we could not do this without you!

Note: You can also donate online at halfwayhomepetrescue.org

The Year in Review: 2011 by Norma Milton

I will remember 2011 as the year that sped by in a blink while I seemed to move in slow motion. The compassion and dedication of our "working" Board of Directors is a constant morale booster. Our dedicated volunteers continue to do a multitude of tasks including cat care, cleaning, fundraising, medical travel — all needed to keep a pet rescue going and growing. Look at our numbers for 2011! (see front page) Impressive does not begin to describe what we have done as a small group. Think of the tax dollars saved by our constant fundraising that pays for the impressive medical care. Think of the lives saved by adopting out fully-vetted cats at low adoption fees. Think of the Marie Joyce Allen Pet Food Pantry helping families in crisis feed their pets instead of losing their beloved pet to a shelter. Think of the 14 low-income families helped so they did not have to euthanize an otherwise healthy pet. Think of our student volunteers learning some of life's most valuable lessons: responsibility, companionship, compassion and civic duty. People care — and people will help in whatever way they are able — as long as we inform the public of our needs. Think of our strong media support with the weekly Aroostook Republican and other news resources, our website success, Facebook marketing and our adoption fairs. All of this increases public awareness of what we do for our animals. The situation with the City of Caribou forcing HHPR to relocate has been difficult and expensive, but the board has tackled that challenge with determination and a positive attitude. I believe Halfway Home Pet Rescue will become a role model of what a pet rescue/shelter should be — not a temporary holding space for unwanted animals, but a Rescue and Rehabilitation Center for homeless, abandoned and abused pets. Together, we will make that happen. Thank you for your support of HHPR.

It seems like you can find anyone and anything on Facebook, the



Web-based social networking site, these days...and Halfway Home didn't want to be left out! In recent months, we've been working hard to develop a presence on Facebook, and we now have nearly 1200 friends that receive almost-daily updates on new adoptable animals, as well as those that have found "happy endings"; adoption fairs and other special events; calls for volunteers; animal care tips; lost animals in the area; and more. Thanks to our friends on Facebook, we've created more awareness of the adoptable cats in our care. As a result, we've found great homes for a number of cats, including long-time resident Mary, whose new family in Fairfield, Maine, found her on Facebook and couldn't resist! If you haven't found us on Facebook yet, check out our page at facebook.com/halfwayhomepetrescue.

Happy Endings: Mister Rogers

In early March, Halfway Home welcomed a sweet-natured boy that we named "Mr. Rogers". A generously proportioned kitty, Mr. Rogers definitely had the personality - if not the physique! - of the beloved PBS children's host and quickly won over everyone who had a chance to meet him. When Mr. Rogers went in for his mandatory vet visit, HHPR got some good news and some bad news.

The good news: he tipped the scale at "only" 14.5 pounds, not approaching 20 that we all had guessed. So while he needed to diet a little, he didn't have to get too hard-core about losing weight! The bad news:



Mr. Rogers had two teeth that were in pretty sorry shape. They were infected and caused him to feel, in a word, miserable. We worked with the vet to get him the dental care that he needed, but it was expensive — the estimate provided was \$300 — and we were concerned about how we'd meet our obligations and continue to provide care for other needy cats.

To help raise the money necessary for Mr. Rogers' treatment, we decided to try something new — we reached out to our Facebook and other "virtual" supporters via ChipIn, which allowed our friends to make online donations (using PayPal) for his dental work. Several rescue organizations have made very effective use of ChipIn to raise money for extraordinary vet bills and other special needs, and Mr. Rogers seemed like the perfect "test case" for Halfway Home to experiment with the service. We're happy to say that Mr. Rogers' ChipIn was "filled" very quickly — we had more than \$300 in donations in just a few days, which let us take him in for care without having to worry about covering the costs. And now Mr. Rogers is all smiles — shortly after coming home from the vet, he was adopted by a wonderful new family!

Since this first attempt at asking our friends to "chip in" for a cat with beyond-the-usual medical expenses was such a success, we're planning to sponsor similar online campaigns for other animals that come to us needing special (and often expensive) care. Every little bit helps make a better life possible for these cats — you don't need to make a big contribution, and it takes just moments to do! So the next time you see a ChipIn on HHPR's Facebook page or Web site, take a moment to learn more about a special cat that needs your help.



P.O. Box 488 Caribou ME 04736

*Dedicated to Feline Rescue
and Rehabilitation*

Change of address required

DID YOU KNOW ...

An unspayed female cat, her mate, and their offspring, producing 2 litters per year (average 2.8 kittens surviving per litter) can total:

1 year = 12 2 years = 67

3 years = 376 4 years = 2,107

5 years = 11,801

Only 1 in 12 finds a home.

SPAY - it's the only way!

(source: spayusa.org)

NEED HELP WITH SPAY/ NEUTER?

The Help Fix ME Program currently has money to continue helping low-income families have their cats sterilized. The portion you would pay for a cat is \$10. Call the number below and get your form in to them as soon as possible.

Contact Help Fix ME: 1-800-367-1317

Mon-Fri 9am -12 noon is best

You will qualify for Help Fix ME if you receive: food stamps, TANF, MaineCare, SSI or SSD or have an income below 133% of the federal poverty level (you do not have to be receiving any government assistance to qualify).



FREE PET FOOD PANTRY CHANGES

HHPR has reorganized the distribution method for pet food pantry supplies. Potential recipients must now fill out an application for assistance, attaching proof of need by reason of total income, fuel assistance, food stamps, etc. The application is reviewed by the Board and measured against the amount of food available. This change ensures that people with the greatest need are the first to receive help. HHPR thanks all who continue to donate food so that families in crisis can prevent their pet from entering a shelter environment.

For more information, contact HHPR at 492-1722.

**Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Caribou ME
Permit No. 86**

HHPR ATTENDED STATE CONFERENCE

HHPR volunteers Anne Price of PI and Norma Milton of Caribou traveled to Augusta to attend the Maine Federation of Humane Societies Conference all expenses paid by the Maine Federation. The one-day conference on animal rescue led to new and renewed friendships with southern Maine pet rescues as well as a sharing of new ideas and resolutions to common problems. The conference confirmed to us that HHPR has solidly established programs that many small rural rescue/shelters are just beginning to focus on: (1) a spay/neuter program for all pets before leaving the rescue, (2) a free pet food pantry, (3) rabies vaccination, (4) Leukemia/AIDS testing, and (5) a feral cat program. The conference was inspiring, fast moving, and informational without one minute wasted.

TODAY'S HEROES

Congratulations to Emmanuel Bouchard, an HHPR student volunteer, for being selected for an Aroostook Teen HALO Award.

Congratulations to Norma Milton, Anne Price and Robyn Smith for selection to the Maine Governor's 2012 Roll of Honor for volunteerism.

Kudos to the Fort Fairfield Police Dept. and the County Commissioner's Office for seeking humane solutions to the issue of stray pets.