



Halfway Home Pet Rescue

Feline Rescue & Rehabilitation

Caribou ME 04736 · 207-999-1075 · halfwayhomepetrescue.org

Fall 2020



Notes from Norma

Our mission has changed with a focus on providing FREE sterilization of cats and the rehabilitation of feral cats and/or behavioral issues of cats (peeing outside the box, biting, etc.). We also have focused on a Free Pet Food Pantry which has been revitalized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

HHPR networks with several very reputable no-kill shelters in southern Maine mainly the **Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland** and we send the majority of our adoptable cats down for their well-trained adoption counselors to handle the adoption.

Thus we can keep our limited spaces available for other at-risk cats and keep our volunteer work force on direct cat care instead of the huge amount of time one has to spend for appointments on researching and interviewing adoption applicants. HHPR also works with **Friends of Feral Felines** when we need to relocate feral cat colonies to a more safe and healthy environment.

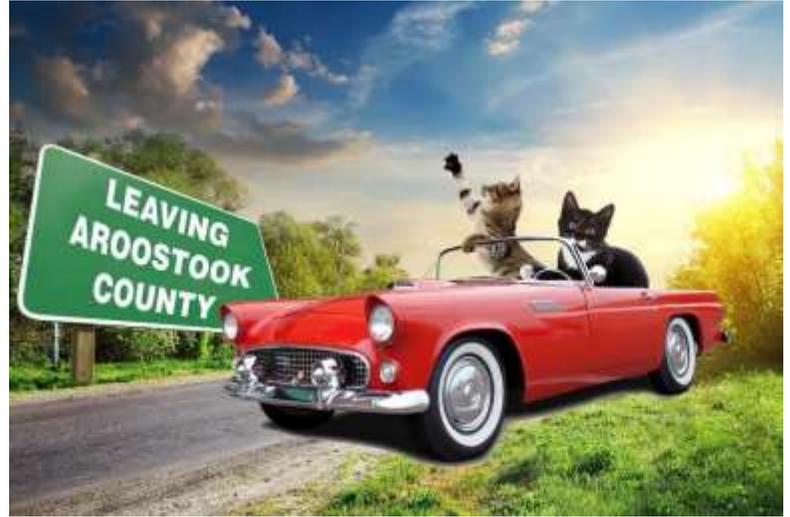
We have been very fortunate to have the support of the **Maine Community Foundation** and the **Elmina B. Sewall Foundation**. These foundations have invested heavily in the animal welfare issues of Aroostook County communities and are totally responsible for the highly successful FREE Spay-a-Rama clinics as well as the FREE Pet Food Pantry.

Our plans for redefining our mission statement had been in the works over the last few years due to the aging of some dedicated volunteers so consequently the COVID-19 pandemic has been a mixed pandora's box of issues and not all of it bad.

The majority of our local fundraising had to be cancelled and individual financial donations have been few, but many of our former donators used their previous financial donation to instead send us monthly gifts of greatly appreciated boxes of pet supplies, and the generous grants enabled our mission to continue meeting the county needs.

In addition, we have also found it necessary and we were able to help several families with the cost of emergency vet care of their pet. We are grateful that our mission has been blessed and grown with the needs of this county. The year of COVID 2020 has allowed HHPR to grow in the spirit and quality of our mission to the precious animals we serve.

Respectfully,
Norma Milton



Job closely supervises HHPR office work. Although struggling against liver failure, Job believes in the HHPR mission having been rescued near death 5 years ago by the Fort Fairfield Police. Job is fond of reminding us "it isn't over until the fat lady sings," and Norma can't carry a tune.

Networking with Humane Partnerships

HHPR is blessed to network with several shelter partners. This year we have worked most closely with Animal Refuge League in Greater Portland for the welfare of **83 kittens and cats** and also with the Friends of Feral Felines for the welfare of **14 of our adult feral cats**.

By participating with these well-established and respected organizations we are able to help more cats in Aroostook County as our limited space then becomes available for new intakes. We have two more transports scheduled for 2020. Hopefully, these transports will allow us to have enough cage space available for the most needy cats during the rough winter months.

**A special
THANK YOU to
MMG Insurance Co.
of Presque Isle, ME
for donating the printing
of our newsletter.**

SPAY AND NEUTER



Help for Low Income County Families with Spay/ Neuter Costs

We all know the importance of spay and neuter for our family pets. Unwanted kittens come from any family pet who has not been FIXED. We might know this is the best thing to do but where do we find the money for what has become a very expensive pet procedure for all county folks of all financial levels?

This expensive procedure can feel like a nightmare for low-income, elderly, disabled, and families who have lost jobs due to COVID-19. This can be especially difficult for families with children. Then what will happen when the kittens and puppies are born – more unwanted expenses and probably a trip to the nearest humane shelter.

Through the generous support of the **Elmina B. Foundation** and the **Maine Community Foundation Aroostook County Fund**, HHPR is now able to help families with UNFIXED cats to get FIXED. No cost is involved for the family. At this point in time we can only offer this help to cat owners but every good thing has to start somewhere and as a cat rescue the cats are our current priority. Appointments are limited at this time of year, but we will help you in whatever way we can. **To request an application, email Norma at norma@halfwayhomepetrescue.org and ask for a FREE Spay/neuter Application.**

Free Pet Food Pantry for Cats, Dogs, and Rabbits

Due to the generous grants from the **Elmina B. Sewall Foundation** and the **Maine Community Foundation Aroostook County** grants, HHPR has been able to re-open our FREE pet food pantry.

However, due to the COVID-19 virus and Norma’s age and health restrictions we do not have people coming to her home for help. Pet supplies are regularly available at the **Caribou and Fort Fairfield Police Departments** and at the **Presque Isle at the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging**.

Supplies are also available at the home of Gina Miranda-Martin of Madawaska, email: gmcarnmi@gmail.com. Other sites will become available in other towns as soon as possible. You can stop in to any of these sites and tell the person how many pets you have and what species. The Pet Food Pantry offers food supplies to pets on a county-wide level – just walk in and state what your need is.



Please Care for Your Community Cats

Winter is coming! Please remember to care for the feral cats in your community and other small animals. You can purchase inexpensive electric heated bowls for water or



canned food with water added to it and perhaps even a heated bed made especially for pet safety. Straw (not hay) is the best natural insulator so don’t hesitate to use these simple designs.



Pet Safety During the Pandemic

COVID-19 does not affect pets except for mask safety. Please make a point of **cutting the ear strips** of your masks before disposing of them in your garbage.

The danger is that these strips can wind around an animals feet, mouth, beak or neck and cause death. Cutting the ear loops before throwing away masks help prevent animals from getting caught in them.



Wishing for a Home Before Christmas

Sylvester

Sylvester is a 3 to 4 months old former feral short-hair kitten with a mustache who wants a home before Christmas. He has been tamed and now adores being rocked and cuddled.



All medical has been completed including neutering. Applications can be completed on HHPR's facebook page and once reviewed by the volunteer adoption committee a time will be schedule for bonding with Sylvester and to consider him for a family member.



Mia and Ace

Two sibling orphans, **Mia** (black) and **Ace** (buff), from a feral background approximately one day old have graduated from around the clock bottle feeding.



Mia is a tiny little tough girl who thinks she can handle anything, Ace is twice her size and knows he can do anything. Mia likes being rocked and cuddled. Ace thinks the world is his private playground. They will be ready for adoption by December 1, 2020.



Nila

Nila is a short-hair calico about 5 mos old. She will be spayed on 11/11/20 and then be ready for a home. Nila would like an active home that is a busy as she is. She has a habit of hogging all of the toys, but she would love to have an older child to play with and then she will share her toys...maybe?

Happy Tails

Conan came to HHPR on May 14, 2020 as a tiny orphan about 2 days old and very ill. All his siblings died before coming to HHPR. After several weeks of 24/7 bottle feeding and trips to our vet, Conan is able to have his neuter surgery and then will be adopted by his foster family, Cathy & Kent Coston.



Conan as a baby.



Conan as a healthy adult.



Daisy ♥ *Adopted!*

Sweet **Daisy** was abandoned in the apartment when the tenant moved out. Daisy is supposedly 15 years old but HHPR does not believe it as she acts like she is 4 years old. She has a mellow personality, gets along with all other cats, loves all people and enjoys being groomed. She never gets upset, eats whatever is put in front of her, plays with her toys & enjoys watching the kittens play. Daisy is a true lap cat.



Milo

Milo, 3 years old is a short-hair orange tabby, neutered with all his medical completed. He was abandon-ed in the apartment when the owner moved. He is a sweetheart with people and other cats. He would be very good with children. He is very clean and anxious to have a good home.



Pyometra Disease in Female Cats

As well as preventing unwanted kittens, spaying can also make for a healthier family pet by preventing the **often fatal Pyometra** in unspayed female cats.

Pyometra is an accumulation of pus in the cat's uterus, which develops because of the hormonal, anatomical, and physiological changes that occur after a cat has gone through a heat cycle but does not become pregnant. Bacteria can then take advantage of the situation, resulting in a potentially fatal infection.

The only cure for Pyometra is to spay the cat — removing the diseased uterus. We are pleased to know that our **FREE** spay clinics have saved the lives this year of at least 5 young cats who had the disease. An unexpected blessing for these 5 cats.



Ways You Can Help

Donate items from our Wish List.

We are always in need of the items below at the shelter.

- Friskies canned cat food – Chicken or Turkey
- Canned kitten food – Fancy Feast Turkey
- Purina Kitten Chow
- Purina Cat Chow – Complete (blue bag)
- Litter (either non-clumping or clumping)
- Bleach
- Fragrance Free hand sanitizer
- Toys and scratching surfaces
- Pet beds, blankets, towels
- Postage stamps

Donation Drop off Locations:

- HHPR Adoption Center,
489 Main St. Caribou
- Office: 11 Pioneer Ave. Caribou

Do you shop at Amazon?

You can donate to HHPR every time you shop. Go to smile.amazon.com on your computer and select Halfway Home Pet Rescue as your charity OR purchase some items for us from our **Amazon Wish List**.

Your Trash is Our Treasure!

Proceeds from your donations help us pay our vet bills.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the returnable bottles and cans have become a major fundraiser. Items can be dropped off at:

- Norma Milton's home, 11 Pioneer Ave. in Caribou.
- 88 Bennett Drive Redemption in Caribou.
- The Presque Isle Redemption in Presque Isle.
- Blue containers at the Caribou & PI Parsons St Redemption Centers

Please tell the service person, at each location, that your redemption is to be donated to Halfway Home Pet Rescue in Caribou.



2020 HHPR Board of Directors

Norma Milton, Caribou
 David Bickford, Etna
 Corey Bogel, New Sweden
 Beth Henderson, Caribou
 Gail Langley, Caribou
 Pam Thompson, Caribou
 Hugh Kirkpatrick, Caribou
 Jon Roark, Mapleton
 Deborah Roark, Mapleton
 Bruce & Stacey Dickinson, Caribou
 Andrea McPherson-Mesa, Manchester, NH
 Robyn Smith, HHPR-Specialist IT & Media

✓ Yes, I want to help support Halfway Home Pet Rescue.

Your donation makes a difference. Please send check or money order to: HHPR, P.O. Box 488, Caribou ME 04736

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I wish to make a donation in the amount of \$ _____

My gift is: ____ In Honor of ____ In Memory of: _____

Please send an acknowledgement to: Name: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please print clearly to ensure accuracy.