



Halfway Home Pet Rescue

Feline Rescue & Rehabilitation

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



Winter 2023

Winter is coming!

Remember to build outside shelters for strays. Always use straw!

Norma's Notes

Where did the summer go?



I just shoveled the last shovel of snow in May and then I blinked and that was our short, wet summer. Now the cucumbers are fully blossomed but the frost has already hit.

It was a summer of making plans, construction, saving babies, and an avalanche of seriously ill and severely

injured adult cats coming to us the entire summer. Vet medical bills soared.

To keep the renovation of the warehouse going for the clinic, and to protect the healthy adoption center cats by not exposing them to the ill cats, we emptied my living room and put all the ill and injured cats in the living room and in my bedroom. I was allowed to keep my bed and a chair.

As a volunteer family, we welcomed the **Sewall Foundation representatives** with a light luncheon, thanking them for their wonderful donation of \$100,000 toward the building construction costs and \$40,000 for the continued success of the **Free Spay/Neuter Cat Clinic and Low-Cost Dog and Cat Vaccination Clinic**. We also received another \$15,000 from the **Maine Community Foundation** to add to the **Free Spay/Neuter Fund**. We received many other valued donations from individuals including a generous \$15,000 from **Glen and Rita Levasseur** of Sabattus, \$6,000 from **Bill Kelley** of Fort Fairfield (\$3,000 in memory of his wife, Bree, who was an animal rescuer her entire life, \$2,000 in honor of Al Morin of Fort Fairfield for his care of needy animals and \$1,000 in honor of the dedicated Halfway Home Pet Rescue volunteers).

On the down side, we suddenly found we had to completely rebuild the underground water and sewer lines and complete some roof repair due to the snow damage around a chimney, but gratefully this was all accomplished even though it was the busiest time of year for the businesses who helped us. It has been a community of support with business people trying to squeeze our needs in whenever they could.

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LAST TWO HHPR CAT SURGICAL CLINICS FOR 2023

Spaces are booking fast! Submit your application today!

NOVEMBER 3 TO 5, 2023

Feline only surgical clinic includes: Exam, Spay/Neuter, Distemper and Rabies. Microchip is available for an extra \$30.

DECEMBER 7, 2023 from 2:30 to 6 pm

Dog/cat Low-cost Wellness Clinic: Free Exam, distemper \$20, rabies \$20, parasite treatment \$20, ear mite treatment \$20, Roundworm & Tapeworm treatment (Drontal tablets) \$20, Microchip is an extra \$30.

DECEMBER 8, 9, 10, 2023

Feline only surgical clinic includes: Exam, Spay/Neuter, Distemper and Rabies. Microchip is available for an extra \$30.

Services are free but we are asking those who can to make a donation. Please consider donating \$50 for females or \$35 for males. If you can't afford to donate, we will still fix your cat. This will help us provide clinics into Spring 2024.

Maine Help Fix Me is not providing any funding to subsidize the costs of the clinics.

For every homeless pet to have a home, each person would need to care for **7 ANIMALS.** That would mean 28 pets for a family of four!

DO YOUR PART. SPAY & NEUTER YOUR PETS.

artist unknown

Furry, Fun Adoptables

Although we generally send most of our adoptable cats to ARLGP in Portland because we are at capacity, at this time we will be doing a few adoptions here. If you are interested in one of the cats in the photographs below, please call for an application and after an interview we will talk about an adoption with you.

Buddy



Mavis



Tigger & Tommy



Billie & Bobby



Sweet Marie



Maggie



Kenzie



Norma's Notes cont.

We had 6 clinics in the spring of 2023. We **spayed/neutered 600 cats** for Aroostook County including many from feral cat colonies. We also were able to give routine health care to close to **350 County dogs and cats**. The **State Help Fix Me program** did help us with 60 vouchers for the 600 surgeries in the Spring. They have notified us that the program is out of money so they will not provide any vouchers this Fall. However, we will continue with the mission knowing our higher power will help us find a way. This will give us a total of **9 clinics for the year 2023**. Hopefully the end will show at least 1,100 to 1,200 free spay/neuters. With winter storms and dangerous road conditions we do not plan any winter clinics but will start back up again for May, June, and July.

I look back at all that has been accomplished for these precious but helpless animals and I am so grateful to our financial supporters. Without you this mission would not be possible. You are our solid foundation of compassionate care for homeless, helpless pets just as our volunteers are the loving hands that serve them.

Thank you.

Please Do Not Declaw Your Cat

Cat declawing is like cutting off a person's fingers at the first knuckle.

This is the #1 reason owners of declawed cats tell us why they are surrendering the cat to our rescue.

"The vet did not tell us that this surgery might cause lifetime pain issues or behavioral problems."



Philip's Journey to Finding a Home



Dear sweet Philip (estimated to be 12+ years) came to HHPR in a feral trap. We neutered and did a wellness exam and had his eyes checked. After 7 years of living under a porch crawl space and impregnating the resident females, Philip now knew he had some better choices. He allowed his loving nature to spark the trust of HHPR volunteers. It was quickly apparent that **Philip was not a true feral**, but had been forced to fend for himself as best as he could. Philip did not belong in a feral barn as a rodent patroller so we waited for him to find his FAVORITE choice of a forever home.

A follow-up medical check-up at the Kindred Spirits Clinic in Orrington determined that Philip does have perfect vision, but suffers from an untreated eye injury from his youth. Philip checked out his new life options and soon applied for the job of Assistant Office Manager at the **R.L. Todd Electrical Company in Caribou**. He does a good job of managing Amy and is slowly teaching her that the desk should be clear of all papers (which should obviously be on the floor). He is still working on reorganizing Tim's desk.



Philip does an excellent job of greeting all customers as well as guarding each doorway from clients without appointments. No one gets past Philip without the required password, "Good Kitty."

According to Philip's schedule, it is always 5 'clock somewhere and time for his seventh nap of an exhausting day. Supervising employees and convincing each that he is still hungry is a tough job and requires one dinner per employee if they want to go home without guilt. **Drop in to meet Philip at R.L. Todd Electrical of Caribou.**

From Mexico to Maine?



Little Willie Wonka (age 8) originally from Mexico recently ended up in Lincoln, ME in need of medical help. The family of JR and Nicole Townsend stepped forward to rescue him and are seeking financial help for Willie's severe dental problems. His teeth are so bad it is difficult for him to eat. HHPR stepped forward with a donation toward the cause. In photo (left to right) Elaine Beaupre, HHPR board member, Nicole (holding Willie), JR Townsend, and Hugh Kirkpatrick, HHPR Vice President. Because Willie has a microchip, the Townsends are looking forward to learning how Willie traveled from Mexico to Maine.

Ways You Can Help

- Purchase an **Adopt license plate** when you register your car to help support Maine Animal Welfare Programs.
- Donate your **bottles and cans** to HHPR to support our spay/neuter clinics.
- Donate your change in the **collection jars** we have in area businesses.
- Check-off to support Maine's spay/neuter donation when you file your Maine taxes.



The Halfway Home Pet Rescue Mission is changing

Norma Milton, President/Founder of Halfway Home Pet Rescue (HHPR) has given notice for slowing down her volunteer work activities for the pet rescue. The HHPR Board of Directors has been in the process of revising work responsibilities including having both volunteer and BOD members to pick up many of Norma’s previous tasks. The dedication and commitment toward the animals of Aroostook County will continue with some changes of activities.

HHPR volunteers have noticed a definite change in the needs of residents and their pets. For many years we concentrated on rescuing stray, surrendered and feral colonies due to huge cat over-population in the County area. **The over-population of County cats is still an issue but it is not the biggest issue after the years of our Free Spay/Neuter Clinics.**

Although the clinics have **decreased the number of cats** coming into area shelters, we have found there is still a huge problem with responsible **owners not being able to access quality vet care** for their pets. Some families have to be on a waiting list for up to 1 ½ years before their new kitten/puppy can have its first vet wellness exam and needed shots. Families with a loved pet with a serious illness or major injury has the same urgent issue—no vet care. To get emergency vet care one must travel 3 ½ hours one way to a Bangor Emergency Clinic. **This is unacceptable.** Fortunately, our **Mobile Vet Clinic, Dr. Elizabeth Stone, of Community Cat S/N of Topsham,** has agreed to add approximately 6 hours of time the day before the 3-day surgical clinic to do community routine pet wellness care.

Norma will remain as President involved only as intake specialist and grant/newsletter writer.

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR DOG OWNERS: The Central Aroostook Humane Society in Presque Isle is offering a dog spay/neuter clinic during the first week of December. Call Betsy at 207-764-3441 for more information and an application.

HOW TO REACH THE CORRECT HHPR DEPARTMENT

Telephone:

- For General information Call 207-999-1075
- For Spay/Neuter Applications Call 207-496-2466

Email: General Information: norma@halfwayhomepetrescue.org

Spay/Neuter Clinic Applications: hhprsnclinic@gmail.com

Facebook: admin@halfwayhomepetrescue.org

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

✓ 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.