



# Newsletter Spring 2013



P.O. Box 488 Caribou ME 04736 · 207-999-1075 · [halfwayhomepetrescue.org](http://halfwayhomepetrescue.org) · [norma@halfwayhomepetrescue.org](mailto:norma@halfwayhomepetrescue.org)

**NORMA'S NOTES** It's been a hugely busy year at HHPR and we are grateful to have been able to hang in here for the animals. Along with a greater than normal number of cats needing help we have had a large group of cats with very serious injuries and illness. Believe me, it is a "jungle out there." We tackle each problem individually and give each cat the care they need to survive. Our small volunteer network of foster homes and adoption center have helped slightly over 150 cats during January to May, 2013 with all medical completed including that most necessary spaying, neutering and Leukemia/AIDS testing.

Over the course of January to May 2013, HHPR paid more than \$13,000 in vet care expenses, over \$3,000 in medical supplies, and nearly \$6,000 operating expenses. We have received \$4,500 in public grants, \$1,500 from the Maine Community Foundation, \$3,000 from the National Federation of Humane Societies and await \$1,000 from Toby's HSUS contest (see page 2). About \$9,000 has been received in public support (that means you). Volunteers raised \$8,000 in fundraising activities – a great deal of hard work in addition to caring for the animals – and \$2,500 came from other sources (adoptions, recycling). We constantly rub two nickels together and somehow come up with the 15 cents we need. Each month, I marvel at all we have accomplished and been able to pay because when we say to our vet, "If he/she can be saved, we want to give this kitty that chance." When I say this I have absolutely no idea where the money will come from – we do it all on faith and our faith has been good to our cats and to our volunteers.

We started new trainings for volunteers and the public: the Itty Bitty Orphan Kitty and Animal Care workshops and the Compassion Fatigue class (story page 2). These were very successful and will be repeated. We received a very pleasant call from Caribou Fire Chief Scott Susi thanking HHPR for cleaning up and relocating the Limestone St. feral cat colony. We removed and tested over 30 cats - several tested positive for Leukemia and AIDS. Over the past 7 or 8 years, several of us worked on the feral colonies in the Access Highway trailer parks. This action brought that population down from over 150 roaming cats to now just 7 which we hope to catch this summer. The Noble's Trailer Park area has also been a targeted site and we have made great progress there.

Haven't seen our Adoption Center at 489 Main St. in Caribou? Stop in. Saturday Noon to 3 pm. These are the public hours so volunteers can do all the direct cat care during the week. Saturday not good? Call Mary Rowe, Volunteer Office Manager at 999-1075 for an appointment.

I close with only one thought - to sincerely thank you, all of you, for everything you do to keep HHPR saving feline lives.

**KELLY'S CORNER** Kelly Normandin joined the Halfway Home Pet Rescue volunteer team in the winter of 2012. Kelly is now a member of the Board of Directors and has recently been appointed HHPR Volunteer Coordinator/Manager and HHPR Adoption Team Leader. She is a busy lady who, in addition to all of this volunteer activity, is also employed at the Law Office of Frank H. Bishop, Sr. of Presque Isle.



Kelly was born and raised in Southbridge, Massachusetts and moved to Maine in the spring of 2012. Formerly, she volunteered at Second Chance Animal Shelter out of East Brookfield, Massachusetts and People for Animals League out of Spencer, Massachusetts

When we asked Kelly why she chose to do her volunteer work at Halfway Home Pet Rescue, she quickly answered. "Why I work at HHPR and why am I so dedicated. Three words "I Love Cats". I love their constant love and longing for human companionship even after the horrible "turmoils" that most of them go through. They are not jaded by their past. They will not hold the horrible things that they have gone through against you. They will be there for you when you have gone through your own "turmoils" and will be there for you when you have "horrible things" you must undergo. They are constant loving companions and all they ask for is food, water, shelter and LOVE. Why HHPR? HHPR is a local rescue that actually "rescues" the cats/kittens who need rescuing, who need rehabilitation, who need HELP. Some of the most horrible cases have come through HHPR, but the dedicated volunteers will fight to get them the help they require to get to have that wonderful rest of their life. I want every cat that comes through our doors to find that forever home, to find that LOVE that they so deserve, to find that companion that will be there for them and that they can be there for. I love working with a great group of volunteers. And HHPR has just that, a great group of volunteers...from the very young children who want to play with the cats to the retirees that spend their personal time finding homes for these wonderful cats. Everyone has their niche and everyone has a purpose but our main goal, together, is to find a forever home for each and every cat that comes through our doors."

Are you our next Kelly? Will you come through our door and simply ask "What can I do to help?" Every task, every moment of volunteer time is valuable to our cats. If you have at least 2 hours a week that you can offer to help at the adoption center cleaning and feeding the cats in the afternoon, running errands, helping with fundraisers, please contact Kelly at [Kelly@halfwayhomepetrescue.org](mailto:Kelly@halfwayhomepetrescue.org)

## Caribou Community Pays It Forward — HHPR the grateful recipient



Catholic Charities of Maine celebrated helping another non-profit through tough times by donating 1 ton of loose cat litter to the cause of HHPR super-duper pooper scooping volunteers. This is a gift of meeting daily needs of the HHPR pets on site and was gratefully received. Pictured from left: Dixie Lee

Shaw, Director of Catholic Charities; Norma Milton, President of HHPR; Mary Rowe, HHPR board member and Office Manager; and Robyn Smith, board member, webmaster and HHPR IT specialist.

Key Bank of Caribou Employees celebrate "Neighbor's Day" by volunteering at Halfway Home Pet Rescue packing up the 1 ton of loose cat litter donated by Catholic Charities into smaller containers. From left: Janet Gagnon, Morgan Gagnon, Brenda Hartley and Lindsey Becker. Not present for the photo was Steven Gagnon of



Caribou. In addition, volunteers packaged the cartons of recycled ink cartridges for mailing, spent time brushing and loving every cat and kitten in the rescue and adoption centers. Steve Gagnon accomplished some needed paperwork tasks for the rescue after business hours.



## Farewell Friends

HHPR recently suffered the loss of three of its feline friends: Henry, Darrell and Alyssa. While volunteers and foster families grieve their passing and remember them fondly, we are comforted by the belief they are now happy and free of suffering and humbled to have been given the opportunity to know these wonderful cats.



Many of you are familiar with poems about "The Rainbow Bridge" inspired by a Norse legend. We'd like to share a bit of the version by Steve and Diane Bodofsky. It begins:

By the edge of a woods, at the foot of a hill,  
Is a lush, green meadow where time stands still.  
Where the friends of man and woman do run,  
When their time on earth is over and done.



For here, between this world and the next,  
Is a place where each beloved creature finds rest.  
On this golden land, they wait and they play,  
Till the Rainbow Bridge they cross over one day.

No more do they suffer, in pain or in sadness,  
For here they are whole, their lives filled with gladness.  
Their limbs are restored, their health renewed,  
Their bodes have healed, with strength imbued.

## HHPR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Norma Milton    | Caribou      |
| David Bickford  | Etna         |
| Ruby Bickford   | Etna         |
| Anne Price      | Presque Isle |
| Eleanora Ring   | Caribou      |
| Robyn Smith     | Caribou      |
| Kelly Normandin | Caribou      |
| Carol Austin    | Caribou      |
| Sherry Hewitt   | Caribou      |
| Mary Rowe       | Caribou      |
| Becky Brady     | Woodland     |
| Eugene Katsman  | Woodland     |
| Dean Rauch      | Woodland     |
| Vince Brunette  | Caribou      |

## ON THE WEB

Our website was recently redesigned. Visit us at [halfwayhomepetrescue.org](http://halfwayhomepetrescue.org). The new site offers a way to comment on pictures, submit happy ending stories and much more.

Our Facebook page is very active and it is the place to get the very latest information. Find us at [facebook.com/halfwayhomepetrescue](https://facebook.com/halfwayhomepetrescue)

## MASCOT WINS NATIONAL CONTEST

April - HHPR mascot Toby won the Judges Choice Award for Best Personality in the World Spay Day 2013 Pet Pageant, coordinated by the Humane Society of the United States.

A few weeks earlier, HHPR President Norma Milton read an online article about a photo contest for Spay Day 2013 and she just knew that Toby was the perfect contestant. His story is heartwarming and his personality shines. She sifted through Toby photos and found the one that best captures his endearing personality. Volunteer Robyn Smith had taken the photo catching Toby in the middle of a yawn, which makes him look like he's laughing.



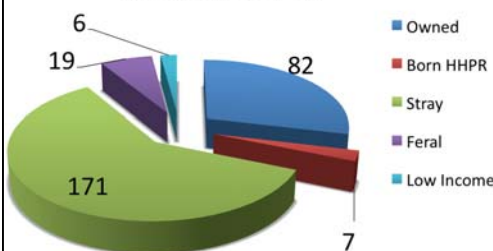
Toby will receive a personalized pet collar engraved with his name and title and his winning photo will be published in an upcoming issue of *All Animals* from the Humane Society of the U.S. There is also a \$1,000 grant award to be given to a qualified shelter of Norma's choice. Because HHPR meets the requirements, that \$1,000 grant will be given to Halfway Home Pet Rescue for its spay/neuter program.

## ITTY BITTY ORPHAN KITTY PROGRAM

Each spring we see dozens of orphan kittens in need of special care with never have enough skilled hands to care for them. HHPR recently conducted an educational series called "Itty Bitty Orphan Kitty" with the hope to: (1) encourage new volunteers; (2) educate the general public; (3) and to encourage, educate and support our very valued HHPR volunteers. The workshops were divided into 3 sessions. Session 1, facilitated by Anne Price, RN retired, focused on the very young orphaned kittens and the massive amount of time and energy necessary to keep these little babies alive without a mother to guide them. Session 2 was facilitated by Dr. Andrea Pesut, DVM who focused her workshop on how volunteers can help recognize early symptoms of illness and the need for advanced medical care. Dr. Pesut also went into detail on the various diseases that can be communicated from cat to human, as well as feline contagious illness most likely to occur in shelter situations. Session 3 focused on Compassion Fatigue which is nationally recognized and lists humane shelter workers and volunteers as a career having one of the highest burn-out rates. This session was facilitated by Ms. Sharon Berz, LMSW-cc of the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging.

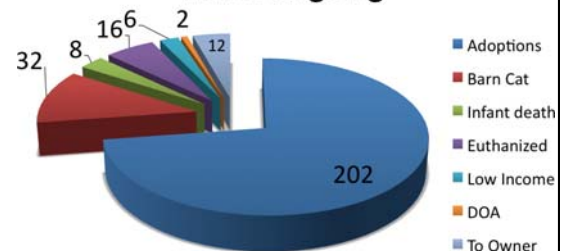
**HOW DID WE DO?** In 2012, 285 cats came through HHPR. 171 were brought in as strays, 82 surrendered by owners, 19 ferals

### 2012 Incoming



humanely captured, 6 low income situations, 7 born on site. HHPR facilitated **202 adoptions**. Sadly, we lost 8 kittens to disease, 16 cats required euthanasia due to extreme illness. 12 cats returned to the owners, 32 became barn cats and 6 low income situations received assistance.

### 2012 Outgoing





PRESENT THIS FLYER AT TIME OF ORDERING.  
IF YOU FORGET TO BRING THE FLYER, PLEASE TELL YOUR SERVER THAT YOU FORGOT IT— BUT YOU WANT 20% OF YOUR NON-ALCOHOL PURCHASES TO GO TO HALFWAY HOME PET RESCUE FOR THE GIVEBACK PROGRAM. DATES OF EVENTS: 7/26 7/27 7/28 8/3

ENJOY A MEAL WITH US AND WE'LL GIVE BACK.

# Ruby Tuesday

## COMMUNITY GiveBack PROGRAM

100% OF THE GIVEBACK AMOUNT IS DONATED DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION.

Ruby Tuesday is extremely proud to be part of your hometown and believes in giving back. As a fellow member of the community, we invite you to participate in...

### Ruby Tuesday's Community GiveBack Program.

Grab your family and friends and join us at the 830 MAIN STREET location on the dates listed below. Please present this flyer to your server, and we will give back **20%** of your purchase to the organization.

HOW IT WORKS

(We apologize but we cannot accommodate coupon usage or other discounts in conjunction with our GiveBack Program.)



To make a reservation, call us at 207-764-2874 or visit us online at [rubytuesday.com](http://rubytuesday.com)

Organization's Name: **HALFWAY HOME PET RESCUE INC**

Event Name: **DINE FOR HALFWAY HOME PET RESCUE**

Date(s) of Visit: **7/26/2013 7/27/2013 7/28/2013 8/3/2013**

For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu,  
visit [rubytuesday.com](http://rubytuesday.com)

# Ruby Tuesday

830 MAIN STREET, PRESQUE  
ISLE ME

*Adoption fee for Adult Cats is \$40:  
If you bring this flyer with you, the  
adoption fee will be reduced to \$25*

**HALFWAY HOME PET RESCUE, INC. P.O. Box 488, 489 Main Street. Caribou ME 207 999-1075  
Kelly@halfwayhomepetrescue.org Adoption Hrs: Saturday 12 Noon to 3 PM or by Special Appt.**

Adoption fee includes snap-combo testing (Leukemia/AIDS), age appropriate vaccinations, parasite treatment and prevention medications, and sterilization surgery.



**KITTENS!** These tiger and white kittens are full of energy and curiosity. They are just a few of the many kittens of various ages at HHPR that will be ready to adopt when they reach appropriate age. Kittens are \$55 and come with a voucher for spay/neuter.



**GRACIE** is approx. 1 year old. She is a female Maine Coon Mix (Tiger). She prefers an active home with young children to play with.



**STAR** is approx. 2 years old. Black & white. Shy at first but will warm up, can be a lap cat but does not like to be held for a long time. Star is good with cats and children.



**RONNIE** is approx. 2 years old. He is a DECLAWED buff colored male. He has a sweet demeanor and loves to talk.

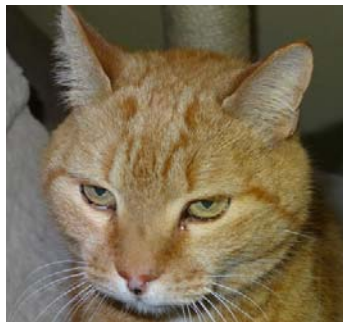


**MISS KITTY** is approx. 2 years old. She is a DLH black female. She prefers a less than active home. She is a talkative cat so she loves attention and to be heard.



**DECLAWED**

**OZZIE** is approx. 6 years old. He is a DECLAWED buff male. Ozzie is a sweet cat.



**GIZMO** is approx. 2 years old. He is a buff tabby male. Gizmo does not like kittens.



**MINOU** is about 4 years old. This calico prefers to be the only cat and would love an older adult in a quiet home. She is a large cat with very distinct markings. Her former owner spoke French so she'd love a French fur-ever home.



**SHARON** is approx. 2 years old. She is black and white and loves to be petted. Sharon gets along well with other cats.



**DANNY** is approx. 2 1/2 years old. He is a gray tiger, very confident and has great pride in his appearance. He gets along

well with female cats only. Danny is a very big cat and will probably gain even more. He is clean, playful and curious. He is a great hunter. He prefers to be an inside/outside cat.



**RITA** is approx. 1 1/2 years old, tiger, shy nature but is extremely loving once she knows you. She will even enjoy lying on your lap for some petting. She would prefer a home with lots of calm and love.



**JAZZ** is approx. 7 months old. She is grey and white with a sweet demeanor.



#### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

**CHESTER** is a young, neutered male with lots of energy, curiosity and love to give the right family. This guy is a bit special - he has 3 legs. But that does not slow him down much or prevent him from doing what most any other cat would do.



## I SUPPORT HALFWAY HOME PET RESCUE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP WITH HHPR

Annual for \$20 (Jan-Dec.) \_\_\_\_\_New \_\_\_\_\_Renew

Half year \$10 (July-Dec) \_\_\_\_\_New \_\_\_\_\_Renew

### I WANT TO DONATE TO:

\_\_\_\_\_ Greatest need \_\_\_\_\_ Spay/Neuter

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! HHPR is all-volunteer, so 100% of your donation helps the animals.**

**Note:** You can also donate online at [halfwayhomepetrescue.org](http://halfwayhomepetrescue.org) or check our Facebook page for special fundraisers.

### LOCAL HEROES

Life at Halfway Home Pet Rescue (HHPR) is looking much better for this young Momma Cass than it did a few weeks ago. A young girl was taking the garbage outside to the garbage barrels when she heard a soft pitiful cry. Looking over the barrel at the ice still between the garage building and the garbage cans where the sun can't reach, she saw little Momma Cass frozen in the ice with her 5 young kittens. Reacting quickly, she got her parents and they quickly started thawing out the ice to release the momma and 5 babies. Unfortunately, 4 of the babies could not be revived. The family soon brought the feline family to HHPR for more help.

Momma Cass and little Rocky were treated with eye ointment and antibiotics during their recovery and are now slowly gaining weight and energy after their near death experience.

This family is a hero to the HHPR volunteers as they postponed their day's tasks to save the lives of this feline family. Momma Cass also took over the care and feeding of four orphan kittens. She is extremely loving and grateful for her rescue.



## 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).



**SPAY  
maine**

Funds are available for the sterilization of cats and pitbull breed dogs to reduce the number of unwanted animals in shelters.

### MARMALADE'S STORY—WHAT LOVE CAN DO

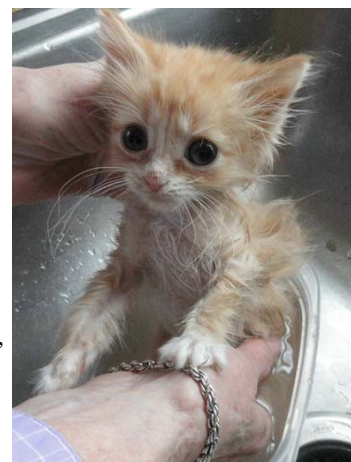
Marmalade was a throw away kitten. Hard to believe when you look at that face.

Volunteers at HHPR did not know if he would survive. But as we have seen before, a bit of care and lots of love works miracles.

This little fella wasted no time stealing hearts once he found his way to Halfway Home.

Little Marmalade quickly gained the nickname "Marble" because his belly was so enlarged he was like a marble with legs. He was far behind in his weight and growth rate which concerned us all about underlying medical conditions. But, his medical tests proved this mini-kitty was a survivor! His digestive system was just a bit underdeveloped and all he needed was time. This was something we could arrange.

Marmalade was given the usual TLC from volunteers and then appeared his foster mom, Stacey – love at first sight – big surprise. Marmalade's progress was a certainty once he was in his foster home. Of course, the foster home soon became his permanent home. As you can see from the photo, this is one true happy ending!





P.O. Box 488 Caribou ME 04736

*Dedicated to Feline Rescue  
and Rehabilitation*

Change service requested

#### **DID YOU KNOW ...**

An unsprayed 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.

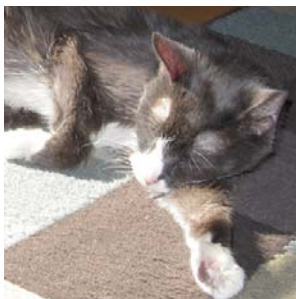
**SPAY - it's the only way!**

(source: spayusa.org)

#### **MILESTONE CELEBRATED**

In April we did intake number 1,000 – a cat in desperate need of care who we named Harry. Harry is a neutered, declawed adult male who was basically thrown out to fend for himself. The Fort Fairfield Police brought this terribly ill cat to HHPR. He was nothing but skin and bone but obviously wanted to live and be loved.

Harry received immediate care but after several days he was still not gaining weight. After further evaluation and medical attention, it was determined that Harry had a hyperactive thyroid gland. We had a few options, but the only one that we felt was the best for him was surgery. We opted to have that gland surgically removed so that Harry could at last have some sort of life. He has recovered from the surgery but still needs to gain weight, which will take time and lots of TLC.



As we have rescued 1,000 cats, we would like you, our adopters, to join us in celebrating by sending us photos of your HHPR cat. You can also send us a short happy ending story along with your photo. We will post these Happy Endings on our website as well as Facebook. Please email to [stories@halfwayhomepetrescue.org](mailto:stories@halfwayhomepetrescue.org) or by postal mail to PO Box 488 Caribou ME 04736.

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

#### **SPECIAL CATS—SPECIAL NEEDS**

Cats like Harry (see “Milestone Celebrated”) and Chester, our three-legged wonder boy, are challenging and charming. They also create larger than normal veterinarian bills for HHPR.

To help with these costs, volunteer Kelly Normandin set up online fundraising accounts with two well-known services: Indiegogo and FundRazr. The “Help Hyperthyroid Harry” campaign raised \$785! We are grateful and amazed at the support coming from so many compassionate people out there. These fundraising services make it easy to support causes. Fees are taken out for payment processing, but because HHPR is all-volunteer, 100% of what we get, does indeed go to help the animals. If you use the Internet, check our Facebook page for the latest special needs stories.

#### **FANTASTIC FUNDRAISER DRAWING**

**How would you like to win a side of organic beef, a side of organic pork or a brand new BBQ grill?**

HHPR is having a drawing on July 1, 2013 and you could be the lucky winner of one or more of these prizes. Tickets are just \$1 each or even better - \$5 for 6 - \$10 for 13!

HHPR volunteers and supporters have been selling the tickets around the central Aroostook County area. To get tickets, stop by our Adoption Facility at 489 Main Street, Caribou on any Saturday Noon—3pm and ask about the drawing. You can also enter if you mail your request and money to HHPR, PO Box 488 Caribou ME 04736.

**We must receive your entry with money by June 29.** If you win and you do not live in the Caribou area, you will need to make arrangements for pickup.