



Notes from Norma

What are the Goals of HHPR



There is a saying “**Go with the flow**”.

HHPR started with the basic initiative of learn and grow which changed our flow many times over the past 12 years.

1. At first, we simply concentrated on saving the feline lives that came to our door.

2. We ended up overloaded with needy cats & not enough good homes for them. Our spaces became more limited as we refused to euthanize healthy cats or cats with recoverable health or injuries.

3. We resolved this problem by networking with several southern Maine shelters which had higher populations for great homes for our cats, thereby, allowing us to have more space for other cats needing protection. **The Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland and the Friends of Feral Felines** played a large part in these placements.

4. The networking solution was a lifesaving gift for these County cats.

5. We now decided our spay/neuter opportunities were great for our Adoption Center cats, but with vet costs soaring in the County we worried about owned cats. Networking with our neighboring shelters, **Central Aroostook Humane and Houlton Humane** worked well with matching accomplishments. Remember the movie phrase “**Build it and they will come.**” We did and they came.

With financial support from the **Elmina B. Sewall Foundation and the Maine Community Foundation – Aroostook County Fund**, HHPR developed a series of Free Spay/Neuter Clinics in Caribou four times a year offering sterilization service each clinic for about 150 cats – a total of at least 600 cats each year, operated by the **Back Roads Mobile Vet Service** located in Portland. In addition, our local vet **Dr. Brown of NCAA** generously added to that number. WOW!!! The program has **decreased the County shelter intake numbers by more than 75 percent.** Remember our cheer to “Go with the Flow” and “Build it, and they will come.” Our goal became reality.

**Thank you,
Norma Milton**

Our first 2022 Free Spay/Neuter Clinic is scheduled for January 6, 7, 8.

Applications are available at: halfwayhomepetrescue.org/clinic. Complete **one application for EACH cat and answer EVERY question.** You will receive a postcard of the appointment date & time after December 10, 2021. Halfway Home Pet Rescue FREE Spay / Neuter Clinics are made possible by the grants from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation and the Maine Community Foundation – Aroostook County Fund.



In Honor of the Life of Judith Robertson

Judy Robertson passed away peacefully in her home on August 7, 2021 in Caribou.

Judy was a life-long friend of all animals and was an important member for the start-up team of the Halfway Home Pet Rescue in Caribou.

She worked hard without complaint, but was quick to say if she didn't agree with something.

Judy was so active in bringing in stray cats and kittens that the board of directors often teased her asking if she walked the railroad tracks looking for strays. Her favorite reply was "Well, someone's got to." We love and miss you, Judy.

May you rest in peace.

We Will Miss Our Beloved Candy

Sunday, October 17 was another heartbreaking day for Halfway Home Pet Rescue. Our beloved Candy, a short-hair black, beautiful brown eyed, 19 year old cat decided it was time for the rainbow bridge. Candy came to us very ill from Chief Newall on Nov. 23, 2018. She was found in a cold, wet ditch struck by a car near the outskirts of Fort Fairfield. We immediately took Candy to our vet. She was diagnosed with spinal bruises, broken leg, severe URI, a large abscess on her neck, old frost bite marks on her ears & the ears were infected. Our vet estimated she was 16 or 17 years old at the time. We treasured this spunky little girl as we watched her struggle to regain her independence and she did work for it. Candy then decided she liked her HHPR foster home and convinced her foster mom "so what is one more." We are grateful we have been allowed to provide Candy with a loving, safe home for her elder years. Rest in peace little Candy. You know you were loved. ♥♥♥♥♥♥



Preaching to the Choir

I would say that about 100% of our readers and supporters are very responsible pet owners. However, there is one aspect of a pet's life that is easily overlooked by a loving owner. What will happen to your pet if something unexpected happens to you. These are suggestions for you to consider BEFORE that time. 1. Think who you would want to take your pet(s) and speak with them to see if they would be agreeable. 2. Put this agreement in writing with one copy for your caregiver and a copy placed with your will and place a copy of how many pets you have and who the new prime caregiver is and how he or she can be reached: Name, Address, Telephone. Maybe tape it on your refrigerator with a huge ATTENTION sign. 3. If you have some funds you might appropriate some to them to help with cost of care for your pet.



Fort Fairfield... We Will Miss You!

We are saddened to tell Fort Fairfield residents that Halfway Home is no longer your pet rescue to call when you have strays or owned cats to rehome.

Chief Cummings has informed HHPR that your town has signed a contract with the Central Aroostook Humane Society. It has been our pleasure to work with Fort Fairfield people over several years, but because the Fort Fairfield dog unit needs repair and there is no money to fix it, your town chose to sign with CAHS as they have the set-up to take dogs.

As volunteers and because of our space limitations HHPR does not take dogs. We will miss you. **Be safe, be happy and stay well.**

Ways You Can Help HHPR

Donate Items from our Wish List

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

- Canned Friskies: shreds, chunky, bits (chicken, fish, or turkey)
- Fancy Feast (all flavors)
- World's Best Cat Litter
- Fresh Step Litter (clumping or non-clumping)
- Postage stamps

Donation Drop off Locations:

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

Donate Bottles & Cans to HHPR

Donate your bottles and cans to HHPR by leaving them at: 11 Pioneer Ave. or 88 Bennett Drive in Caribou, or any of the Caribou or Presque Isle redemption centers or at the Parson St. Redemption boxes. **Please label your bag, HHPR.**



Do you shop at Amazon?

You can donate to HHPR when you shop. Go to smile.amazon.com and select Halfway Home Pet Rescue OR purchase some items for us from our **Amazon Wish List. Thank you for your support!**

Cats Looking for their “Furever” Homes



Rudy is a beautiful neutered 2 year old male who has a most pleasant personality. He is loving, clean, well-mannered and LOVES to eat. He is good with children of all

ages and attentive to any couch potato. Rudy is READY, all medical done and his suitcase is packed. Our sweet "go with the flow" fellow.



Quiet – We haven't told **Tawni** that she is disabled. Tawni has Cerebellar Hypoplasia otherwise known as the Wobbly Cat Syndrome (brain damage). Tawni's is a mild case and it doesn't physically slow her down, it does make it difficult for her to always

make the litter box in time). We have found that "Litter Attract" spread on top of her litter box is helping a lot. She is 5 months now and is learning fast. We tried kitten diapers but she got it off like a flash. She will have to grow more before we can get diapers to really fit her. Sweetheart, how we love her, She is very loving, happy, and really tries to make her box but she doesn't always have enough time if she is across the room when the feeling tells her to RUN.



Kissie is 15 years old and very sweet & yearning for affection. Kissie will follow you around like a dog, very curious & will love being your happy lap cat. Clean, well-mannered & desperately

wants a forever home. She came from a good owner who has passed away.

Happy Tails!

Flynn (disabled kitten) Adopted ♥



Sweet Flynn's twisted black legs resulted from poor positioning in the amniotic sac and crowded in the uterus which caused his legs to grow stiff & twisted as he was unable to move and flex before birth. This can happen in small or large litters, show cats or feral cats. Flynn's condition improved and he is adopted by his foster family.



Flower (left), 15 years, and **Clover** (right), 3 years, are mom and daughter and very bonded.



BeBe is an elderly declawed cat about 16 years old who is very mellow and anxious for her last home. The hoarder's remaining colony of 5 cats live loose in one room together and all get along very well. Bebe is extremely loving, and eager for the touch of your hand to cuddle her. Please Santa, melt a human heart.



Amy is 9 years old, daughter of BeBe who is 16 years -- they are not bonded. BeBe is very outgoing but Amy is very shy and quiet.

BeBe snacks her around if they are together. Amy likes her bed and to be off by herself but when you start loving her she sticks to you like glue.



Hi my name is **Min Min**. I'm feeling a bit sad and lost because my human mom had to go into a nursing home. We had lived together for 14 years my whole life! Now I'm searching for a forever home. I have lots of love to give.



Free Pet Food Pantry

If you are able to gift any type of pet food assistance for the **Free Pet Food Pantry** you may deliver pet food products to 11 Pioneer Ave in Caribou (back door or place in garage) or have it mailed to HHPR, Pet Food Pantry, 11 Pioneer Ave, Caribou, ME 04736.



Please attach your name and address so we can acknowledge your gift and send you a thank you. Know that any gift you give will go to a needy family who can no longer afford to buy food for their beloved pets or small farm animals. HHPR shares this food supply, when available, to anyone in need. Every food or monetary gift is appreciated. HHPR has plenty of donated toys, we need food and other essential supplies for the pantry. Unfortunately we do not have a system for large farm animals, but if you know of someone in need please provide hay, straw, grain directly to that family if you are able.

Pet Food Pantry Items Needed:

- Purina One Dry
- Purina Cat Chow Complete
- Purina Kitten Chow
- Friskies Dry Seafood flavor
- Friskies canned Chicken & Salmon, or Turkey & cheese, or Whitefish & Tuna – all shreds, meaty or chunky
- Fancy Feast
- Dry dog food of good quality
- Canned dog food – for large or small dogs
- Supplies for rabbit, gerbil, bird seeds, chicken, ducks, etc.
- Any type of cat litter most any clumping or good quality non-clumping available (litter is getting in short supply) Intake center prefers World's Best Litter
- Flea protection products for dogs or cats – there is a huge need for these products along with worm medication.
- Heating water pails or bowls for feral cats and barn animals.



Credit: Artist unknown

Baby, its Cold Outside

One of our responsibilities as an animal lover is to help homeless animals who have no food, water or shelter during these cold winter months and /or are suffering in hot weather in the summer.

Remember the importance of food and water in all weather.

HHPR always uses a handful of catnip thrown in with the straw to encourage the cats to give the new shelter a try. Your intervention might very well be the only thing that saves a cat's life. Very little financial investment and very little time. This would be an excellent project for youth groups. Also making you a great role model for the next generation.



Cold: These examples of easy shelters are the use of totes or other crates always with straw inside. Straw (NEVER HAY) is a natural insulation.



Heat: The totes and other waterproof crates also serve well in the summer time as well as long as they are placed in a shaded site with the door opening placed to protect the opening from rain to keep the straw or other bed from getting wet.

Halfway Home Pet Rescue Board of Directors and Volunteers

Board of Directors



Norma Milton, Caribou
Exec. Dir. Intake Center / Office



Todd Foisy, Presque Isle
1 year
Board of Directors, Direct Care, Other Tasks



Pam Thompson, Caribou
8 years
Board of Directors, Volunteer for Cats & Kitten Care



David Bickford, Etna
15 years
VP, Board of Directors, Transport, Food Pantry, Any Task, Adopted 10 feral cats into house cats



Mary Theriault, Caribou
3 years
Board of Directors, Direct Care, Spay Clinics



Beth Henderson, Caribou
10 years
Board of Directors, Auditor



Alan & Charlotte Willey, Caribou
5 years
Board of Directors, Direct Care, Fundraising



Andrea McPherson-Mesa, Manchester, NH
8 years
Board of Directors, Newsletter Designer



Hugh Kirkpatrick, Caribou
3 years
Board of Directors, Special Projects



Rob Carlson, Caribou
1 year
Board of Directors, Feral Cat Handler, All Needed Tasks



Gail Langley & Spunky Caribou
8 years
Board of Directors, Direct Care / Thank You Notes



Bruce and Stacey Dickinson, Caribou
6 years
Board of Directors, Direct Care, Medical, Repairs, Feral Cat Handler



Kent & Cathy Coston, Fort Fairfield
5 years
Board of Directors, Foster Care, Spay Clinic

Dedicated Volunteers



Randy & Cheryl Holton, Presque Isle
7 years
Intake Center, Transport



Robyn Smith, Caribou
12 years
Media & IT



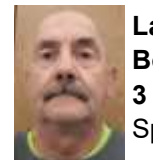
Matt and Marcia Simonds, Presque Isle
4 years
Transports / Spay Clinic



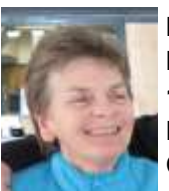
Donna Staples, Caribou
12 years
Direct Care and Transport



Isaiah Belyea, Caribou
3 years
Direct Care, Spay Clinic, Feral Colony Feeder



Lawrence (Sonny) Bouchard, Van Buren
3 years
Special Projects



Brenda Perkins, Presque Isle
10 years
Direct Care, Intake Center



Carrie Anderson, Presque Isle
4 months
Direct Care and Spay Clinics



Theresa Fraser, Caribou
2 months
Direct Care & Special Projects



Judy Hennessey, Presque Isle
3 years
Special Projects, Clinics, Mailings

Dedicated Volunteers cont.



Sally Turcotte O'Neal, Woodland
18 years
 Feral Colony Management, Special Projects



Penny & Ivan Shaw, Caribou
7 years
 Fundraising, Special Projects



Sharon Mahoney, Presque Isle
10 years
 Direct Care, Intake Center



Steve Thibodeau & daughter Mia, Caribou
8 years
 Direct Care



Nicolette Martin, Madawaska
2 years
 Intake, Foster, Transport, Feral Handler, Youth Cat Whisperer



Joel Violette, Woodland
8 years
 Carpentry, Repair, Feral Cat Handler & Feral Colony Feeder



Larry Tarbox
1 month
 Special Projects

Welcome Gina!



HHPR welcomes **Gina Miranda-Martin of Madawaska** has joined the HHPR team as both a shelter foster volunteer and as an Executive. Assistant to Norma Milton during Norma's medical leave. Gina's duties will include data entry, running pet rescue errands, working with the cats' medical files, processing monthly population reports, bringing cats for vet visits, gathering and answering mail and other items.

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

Celebrate Giving Tuesday

Celebrate Giving Tuesday however you feel comfortable. Whether you are an adult or a child, you might do something special for the animals at your local shelter: Money is always great as bills accumulate as fast as intake population. But if a financial gift is not possible there are many other wonderful tasks you can do.



rocking with the cats, rabbits, etc.

3. Drop off a few cans of food.
4. Bring in some bedding for any type of species. Soft blankets or towels are always welcomed.
5. If you live in Maine, consider collecting recyclable bottles or cans and turning the money into the shelter.



Whatever you can do, it all helps the animals and what a beautiful role model you are for any children in your life.

1. Offer to spend some time walking or playing with some dogs.
2. Give some loving brushing or

✓ 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.