



Norma's Notes

April is Volunteer Appreciation



A huge **THANK YOU** to our dedicated and responsible volunteers who work **VERY** hard and are so **FAITHFUL** to our homeless animals. We have **LONG** bypassed **3,400 cats in the physical intake of the most at risk cats**. This number does not include the

owned family animals served with our pet food pantry and emergency medical vet care which involves many species including, dogs, rabbits and birds.

Our work with the feral cat colonies is tremendous proving sterilization is effective and certainly more humane than euthanizing which is the "old" method of dealing with the issue. Now our priceless volunteers have added to their work load by the building of an **ALL-IN-ONE Regional Animal Health Care Center in Caribou**.

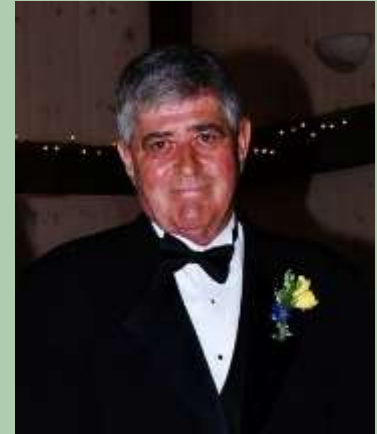
We are extremely busy with our new endeavor which will allow us to bring more animal services to Aroostook County. We will open the clinic in May in a bare bones mudded sheetrock and unpainted walls – but the animals won't care.

This exciting center will have a its first vaccination clinic on **May 11 from 3 to 6 pm for CATS AND DOGS** on a first come first serve basis. On **May 12, 13 and 14**, we will host a 3 day cat spay/neuter clinic. A second clinic is scheduled again on **May 23 for CAT AND DOG vaccinations** from 3 to 6 pm again as a first come first served basis, and also for the **CAT spay/neuter surgeries on May 24, 25 and 26**.

Thank you, HHPR Volunteers and **God Bless and STAY SAFE**.

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

Remembering Alan A. (Butch) Willey



Alan A. (Butch) Willey, 70, passed away on February 3, 2023 in Bradenton, FL of unexpected complications following a brief illness. He was born in Caribou, on February 12, 1952, the son of the late Loomis and Mary (Murphy) Willey.

Alan dedicated decades of service to his profession, where he was known through all parts of the County for his honest and sincere demeanor. Anyone who knew Alan can attest to his humble nature, deep generosity, and a love to make others smile.

Alan is survived by his wife of 45 years, Charlotte (White) Willey of Caribou and their daughters Krystal and Tiffany and other cherished family members.

Alan and Charlotte were active members of the working Board of Directors of Halfway Home Pet Rescue in Caribou, Maine. Alan provided direct animal care, and also worked intensely on the fundraising efforts for the New Aroostook County Regional Animal Wellness Center in Caribou.

He is greatly missed by his co-volunteers, his loving comfort to the homeless animals that he dedicated his heart to and especially his strong, relentless attitude of "We can do this."
Rest in peace, Alan. We love you.

Future Home of the Aroostook Regional Animal Health Facility

Renovations are under way! The building is 45' x 55' and is being divided into much needed space for a reception area, medical clinic, intake and recovery rooms, adoptable cat room, feral room, and office space for HHPR.



A special thank you to **Haney's Building Supply, Quality Home Services, RL Todd Electrical, and Joel Violette** for working with an unreasonable deadline and still allowing discounted services for the animals welfare.

This building was originally donated to HHPR by **Doug Morrill**. Carpentry work donated by **Dean Staples Construction of Caribou** with the pet rescue paying less then \$7,000 for cost of materials. Soon the building will be able to house the entire group of programs so important to the pet rescue mission. **It takes a community.**

From Homeless to Happy and Thriving!



Misty was found in the middle of the road with a broken jaw at about 3 months of age. Her very serious injuries were treated at the Kindred Spirits in Orrington and then transferred to the Maine Veterinary Medical Center in Scarborough for specialized care. Misty was then fostered through the Animal Refuge League in Portland by volunteer Sharon Secovich of Alfred. She now lives in her permanent home in Bangor.



Minnie and Winnie (left) came from a Washburn hoarder situation – both very ill with Winnie almost passing. Dedicated volunteers and Dr. Brown at North County Animal Hospital brought hope to the siblings who are now healthy, happy, and at home in Portland after being adopted through the Animal Refuge League Partnership with Halfway Home Pet Rescue.

Carrot (right) was found in a neighbor's trash can at about 6 weeks of age and very ill. He now lives with his new family in North Carolina.



Young Vanna (left) is one of the most beautiful tiger cats you will ever meet and also one of the sweetest and most loving. Unfortunately, she also came from a hoarder environment and pregnant. Unhealthy hoarder care caused her great pain with her pregnancy and her body soon began to reject the heavy load of babies. We rushed her to Dr. Brown at the North County Animal Hospital for an emergency C section. A large litter of immature kittens failed to survive, but sweet Vanna is healthy and happy once again.



Theo (right) came in with a badly injured back. Over several weeks, he slowly recovered most of his mobility and now is the Top Cat in his new home.

2023 HHPR Board of Directors

Norma Milton, Caribou
David Bickford, Etna
Charlotte Willey, Caribou
Mary Theriault, Caribou
Gail Langley, Caribou
Cathy and Kent Coston, Fort Fairfield
Pam Thompson, Caribou
Hugh Kirkpatrick, Caribou
Randy and Cheryl Holton, Presque Isle
Bruce and Stacey Dickinson, Caribou

Robert Carlson, Caribou
Andrea McPherson-Mesa, Manchester, NH
Robyn Smith, Caribou, Webmaster, Media & IT Specialist
Carrie Anderson, Presque Isle, Clinic Manager
Christina Kane-Gibson, Caribou, Direct Care, Marketing Agent

A special Thank You to Beth Henderson of Caribou for her 8 years of service for the homeless animals of the County.

The Help Fix Me Program in Maine Needs Fixing

By Norma Milton, 11 Pioneer Ave., Caribou, Me 04736, 207-999-1075

Although I am President and Founder of Halfway Home Pet Volunteer Rescue in Caribou the following information is my personal opinion. I am saddened over the continued problems of the Maine State Animal Welfare Program (AWP), HELP FIX ME (HFM) Program. Certainly, Aroostook County has been neglected by Help Fix Me vouchers for many years. In the past, the Help Fix Me Program lost the good will of County area vet clinics resulting in all County clinics refusing HFM vouchers due to the poor payment record of Maine. Several County Vet Clinics complained about not receiving voucher payment even up to a year after giving service.

These vets were doing HFM surgeries at a loss as a gift to the Animal Welfare Program in order to help with animal over-population and to decrease euthanizing needs of local humane shelters. The vet clinics endured until it became a matter of "we simply cannot afford to work for nothing." Rightly so. The program is now a state disaster with **Aroostook County being totally ignored.**

This is donated funding strictly guaranteed for HFM vouchers. It comes from **donations** of 1040 tax write-off, sale of Maine Animal Welfare License plates and fees from the pet food producers. **It is not tax income.**

I was recently told by, **Ronda Steciuk, Director, Animal Welfare Program**, to send my request of what Halfway Home Pet Rescue requires for this year's low-income and feral cat vouchers. Halfway Home plans on doing 5 large spay/neuter clinics for at least 700 to 900 low-income families and feral cats over 2 months. Ronda replied the State of Maine could only afford to send us 11 vouchers at \$150 per cat.

Over a year ago the Legislative Agriculture Committee mandated actions to fix the program. The new mandates of 2022 were reasonable. The Animal Welfare Program (AWP) has still not followed the mandates. They closed the low-income voucher program from April 2022 until late fall 2022. The telephone was not answered – only a machine message saying "Due to the popularity of the program..." no new vouchers

could be issued at the time.

How is a closed program so popular that is completely shut down? The money came in but it did not go out to the animals. I have requested Profit and Loss Statements and a program audit. This never happened. **Is it time for a Freedom of Information request? Where is the money? Is Aroostook County to be ignored again?**



✓ 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.