



BCCC's Mission in Action — TNR



A feral recently helped by BCCC

of the situation and get the cats in for spays or neuters, vaccinations and any medical services needed. Through the dedicated efforts of those on BCCC's Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) team, the first TNR of these colonies was conducted which included 3 females and 1 male going to the monthly TNR clinic.

After they spent time recuperating from their surgeries in a heated barn tack room BCCC volunteers returned them to their colony. And, they are happy to be back.

Congratulations to the trapping team on a job well done that requires patience, time and skill in sometimes outsmarting cats, who have learned how to survive outside, to get them into a trap! Fewer kittens will cease to be born into the feral cat cycle as a result. The work will continue.

TNR is why BCCC was established and is the organization's main mission. If you are interested in learning how you can participate in our TNR program or at the monthly TNR clinic please contact us via our website.

While this edition was being prepared concerned citizens reported seeing cats on the side of the road, as a result of vehicles hitting them along Concord Road.

Through some diligent investigative work, BCCC discovered there are areas where BFFs (being a friend to ferals) are caring for colonies. BCCC is working with these new friends to gain control

HELP HOMELESS CATS

Visit our website:
www.billericacatcarecoalition.org

View Our List of Available Cats
 Become a Volunteer

Learn about

- Feral Cats
- Pet Overpopulation
- The Importance of Spaying & Neutering

Donate To Our Food Bins at

- Market Baskets—Billerica
- Billerica & Tewksbury Libraries
- Agway, Chelmsford

Donation Jars at

- K-Nine Comforts, Billerica
- Shank's Mare, Billerica

Our Sponsoring Vets

The Cat Doctor
 McGrath Animal Hospital
 Tewksbury Animal Hospital
 Middlesex County Animal Hospital

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Hi, I'm
Sid

Featured Cat



I don't mind telling you what a very handsome 2 year old I am. I was born in March 2010. I'm an orange tabby with eyes that match my fur. I really like to cuddle with my foster mom when things are quiet and we are alone, but my favorite thing is to be brushed. At other times "City Cat" my alter ego likes to just hang out. I do like to play with other cats/kittens and I'm loveable to them. I would be a great companion for your cat or I'll do fine on my own. It's a new year, hopefully I will finally get my forever home.





Letter from the President



Lila — now in a loving home

After nine years of humane, no-kill cat and kitten rescue, along with helping pet owners with resources and advice for their felines, it is refreshing to review what BCCC volunteers have accomplished and where we are at today since we started in the spring of 2004.

Every day, week, and month brings new adventures, challenges and satisfaction, knowing we are providing humane solutions to help feral cats and their caretakers. As this New Year began, for example, BCCC learned of an area where feral cats are hit and killed regularly by cars. BCCC began researching, by door to door investigation, where the cats were being fed. This provided our trapping team with starting points of where to begin our trap/neuter/return (TNR) program, colony by colony (what a family of feral cats are called), in order to effectively and safely provide free resources for spays and neuters. Additionally, our TNR efforts in the new location allows BCCC to locate kittens born to the feral cats, who we do not locate in time to get them spayed or neutered, before they give birth, to a new generation.

However, this does not mean those kittens have to grow up in the same cycle, as long as we are told about them while they are young enough to get into foster care for socialization and vet care.

This is the beauty and culmination of an all-volunteer organization consisting of talented folks who provide their skills, experience, time and care to make a difference.

What talents do our volunteers bring ? A passion for making a difference via: administrative, fund-raising, marketing, trapping, education, outreach, fostering, creative talents and a host of other invaluable skills and experience which overlap and compliment for results oriented programs and a cohesive organization.

I encourage you to stop by one of BCCC's upcoming spring or summer events and/or review the volunteer list on our website, to consider learning how you can participate in helping cats and kittens in need. Thanks to those who donate food at our donation bins to feed hungry feral cats throughout the year at BCCC's managed colonies, attend our events, provide monetary donations to pay for vet and related expenses (100% of all donations go directly to the cats and kittens) and the many other ways you provide support and encouragement to us. Don't forget about our June chocolate tasting event which is always lots of fun and a great way to support BCCC.

What started as a thought to begin a grassroots organization in our area has turned into a reality that is growing and that has made an impact for thousands of cats and kittens, who otherwise would have not had the care, or, for some, the loving forever homes they now have.

For those who cannot speak for themselves, the cats and I thank you.

Purrs, *Sharaku*

Making a Difference

Visit us on our Facebook page to see how BCCC is making a difference. We've got pictures, rescue stories, and more.

www.facebook.com/pages/Billerica=Cat=Care-Coalition/178563832586



MRFRS Catmobile



Wow! MRFRS offers affordable spay/neuter services for your cat in your neighborhood.

Females \$100
Males \$75

The package includes exam, spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, flea treatment, and nail trim.

MRFRS added Catmobile2 to serve Central and Metro West Massachusetts.

To find out when the Catmobile will be in your area, go to www.catmobile.org.

Make an Appointment:

- 📍 Online @ www.catmobile.org
- 📞 Call 978-465-7940
- ✉ Email: catmobile@mrfrs.org



Scan this QR code for direct access to our website



The Many Ways You Can Help Us Help Them

Wish List

- Canned cat food
- Dry cat food
- Kitten food
- KMR—Kitten Milk Replacement (powder or liquid)
- Bowls
- Kitten bottles
- Paper/ceramic plates
- Cat beds
- Cat toys
- Cat litter
- Litter boxes
- Litter scoops
- Paper towels

One of the Ways We Care

Billerica Cat Care Coalition helps the feral cats in our community by providing food to them at feeding stations around town.

When possible, we help the kittens of the feral cats and abandoned cats by fostering them in private homes by volunteers, until they find their forever home. All this takes food and litter and many other supplies.

Through caring friends such as you, our work can continue.

Won't you consider donating an item from our wish list to the left?



Use the NeedyMeds Drug Discount Card

For every prescription filled NeedyMeds donates 25¢ to BCCC. There is no cost to you and it is accepted at most major pharmacies. You can print the card from our website and find the link to theirs.

TNR Trappers & Drivers Needed

Do you enjoy working outdoors while helping animals? Want to humanely help reduce the over-population explosion of feral cats and prevent more kittens from being born outdoors? BCCC will provide equipment and training to teach you how to become a trapper in our Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program.

Or transport cats to or from the monthly TNR clinic.

Contact:

info@billericacatcare-coalition.org

Be a Foster Volunteer

- Provide lots of TLC
- Transport to the vet, as needed
- Allow pre-screened prospective adopters to visit the foster kitty in your home to see if there is a match
- Administer any medications the cat may require
- Have a separate room available
- Training will be provided to you

Meet & Greets

- Introduce adoptable cats to the public at Petco in Burlington, or Agway in Chelmsford.

See Kittens? Tell Us ASAP!

Spring is upon us and with it comes newborn kittens, whether from a feral cat, or someone's domestic cat that has been lost or forgotten.

BCCC is often contacted about feral kittens too late (when kittens are 4 to 6 months old), usually due to cold weather concerns.

If you see kittens Please Do Not Touch them

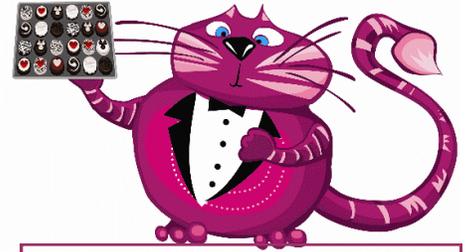
Please help BCCC help them by contacting us as soon as you discover them via our website. We will work with you to capture them, hopefully with their mom, who we can then spay, once the kittens are weaned. The earlier the kittens are captured and brought into foster care to

be socialized, the better their chances of being adopted by someone who will love them always. When kittens are older, it is harder for us to socialize them.





9th Annual The Cat's Meow Chocolate Tasting & Silent Auction



Save a Cat, Eat Chocolate!

You are cordially invited to attend this popular event that is fun, musical, oh so delicious and benefits homeless cats in Billerica and surrounding areas.

The chocolatiers provide a wonderful delectable assortment of chocolates and the silent auction is always full of wonderful items to bid on. Enjoy live jazz, information on our programs and a cash bar.



Ahhhhhhh . . . Godiva

Chuck and Matt

June 14, 2013
7:00—9:30 PM
Tewksbury Country Club
1880 Main Street
Tewksbury, MA



**Tickets: \$25 in advance
\$30 at the door**

Tickets available in advance **via our website** or the following locations:

The Cat Doctor of Bedford
200 Great Road, Suite 9
Bedford, MA 01730

Middlesex County Animal Hospital
330 Boston Road
North Billerica, MA 01862

Shank's Mare Thrift Shop
306 Boston Road
North Billerica, MA 01862

Tewksbury Animal Hospital
1098 Main Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Treat yourself
to some
chocolate and

help replenish
our veterinary
medical fund



The Chocolate Truffle



Life for Feral Cats



Lumberyard cat Julius

We've all heard the saying "it takes a village." You, the residents of Billerica and surrounding communities are that village.

We don't like to think about the poor animals that were once domesticated pets living in the wild. But we see them anywhere we go. They didn't choose to be there. They are there because a domestic cat lost it's home, mated with another cat and had kittens outside. These kittens become feral cats, and the cycle begins.

BCCC's mission is to help the feral cats in our towns.

When you attend events like our Chocolate Tasting, it provides us with the financial support we need to take care of these forgotten creatures. It goes toward our TNR program, and, on occasion, helps to treat one of the cats in the colonies that has become injured or sick. Cats like Ella, whose care giver observed she was missing her tail, took her for treatment, then released her back to her colony.

It helps to fund the feeding stations which serve several purposes. Most im-



Sunny — life in the wild

portantly, when cats gather at feeding stations it provides BCCC an opportunity to identify cats who still need to be TNR'd. They also provide a steady nutritious meal for the cat, helping to keep them out of trash cans. Once in awhile it results in a missing cat being discovered and returned to its owner.



Thoughts of a Feral

by Annette Easdon

Dedicated to all the kind and caring people who give the lonely feral a little care, a little love, and a little hope.

*I sit beneath the bushes as she fills my dish each day,
I only venture out to eat when she has gone away,
I know it will upset her when I turn away and hide,
As every day she tries her best to get me by her side.
I wish that I could let her know that I don't want to run,
And hope that she will understand it's nothing that She's done.
I'd like to have her stroke me and pat my weary head,
But fear will overcome and I'll run and hide instead.
For all the kindly people who feed the strays each day,
I pray the Lord will care for them as they have cared for me.*

Reprinted by permission of Pet Rescue

Thank you for supporting your local animal rescue group. We're helping animals right in your backyard.



Ella — a feral who lost her tail





Seeking a Forever Home



Hi! My name is Monday. I'm a brown tabby girl with spots like a leopard and I was born in August of 2010. My brother, Wednesday, and I came into foster care as part of a group of kittens named after the days of the week. My brother Wednesday and I are all that is left and we are longing for our forever family. We've been together for a long time so would like to go together, but if we can't, that's okay, as long as there's another friendly cat to play with. We get along with the other foster cats and love following them around.



My name is Wednesday. Like my sister Monday, I'm also a tabby with spots. Both my sister and I love to play with the other cats in our foster home. We have been together for a long time so would like to go together, but if that's not possible then we would like to go to a home with at least one other kitty. We're rather shy till we get to know our human parent(s).

Do you have room in your heart and home for both or one of us? Check us out on the website: www.billericacatcarecoalition.org



BCCC thanks the following organizations and people for their generous support:

- Agway, Chelmsford
 - Andover Animal Hospital
 - Billerica Public Library
 - Pat Bucko, Artist
 - Charles J. DiMatteo Jr., CPA
 - DeMoulas Market Baskets
 - K-Nine Comforts, Billerica
 - Michael Kuszek, Photographer
 - McGrath Animal Hospital
 - Middlesex County Animal Hospital
 - Jody Nelson, Designer
 - Shaun Nelson, Webmaster
 - Nestle Purina
 - Petco Foundation
 - Petco in Burlington
 - Shank's Mare, North Billerica
 - Tewksbury Animal Hospital
 - Tewksbury Public Library
 - The Cat Doctor
 - Donna Turley, Attorney
- Thanks also go out to the private citizens who have donated to BCCC. You help us keep the cats fed and healthy!

Calendar of Events—Spring/Summer 2013

Check out our website for more information on these fun and exciting events this spring and summer—like exact dates, times & locations.

- June 1 Meet & Greet—Habitat Re-store, Billerica
- June 14 9th Annual "The Cats Meow Chocolate Tasting & Silent Auction"
Tewksbury Country Club, Tewksbury
- Apr—Sept Meet 'n Greets: Agway in Chelmsford
Petco in Burlington—every 3rd Sat.
- BBO's at Agway in Chelmsford — check our website
- Sept 14 Yankee Doodle Weekend—Look for us at the Bennett Library for a Meet 'n Greet or at our Information booth behind the high school.

www.billericacatcarecoalition.org



FIV and Cats

When you are looking for a new kitty from a rescue group or shelter, you may see sometimes a really cute or handsome cat that appeals to you, but he or she may be labeled as FIV-positive. What does this mean and how does it affect your decision about whether or not to bring that cat into your home?

line infections. Like HIV, FIV cannot live outside of the body and so can't be spread by casual contact. In cats it is usually spread in the saliva by deep bite wounds and occasionally from a mother cat to kittens during the birth process. It is usually not a sexually transmitted disease in cats. Unneutered male cats, or tomcats, are most commonly infected because they fight with other tomcats over females and territory. FIV infects

into your home and have him live safely with FIV-negative cats as long as you introduce them properly. A careful, slow introduction, which is the least stressful way to introduce a new cat regardless of his or her infection status, will help to minimize the possibility of serious fighting that could spread infection. FIV-positive cats, just like all cats, should have regular veterinary checkups to watch for signs of problems secondary to the infection. They may be more likely than the average cat to have trouble with respiratory infections, dental inflammation, allergies, and cancers such as lymphoma, but these are problems that we see even in FIV-negative cats. Most FIV-positive cats have a normal lifespan.



The best way to prevent cats from picking up an FIV infection is to spay and neuter them to decrease roaming and fighting over mates and territory, and to keep cats indoors. A vaccine is available for FIV but is not currently recommended by the American Association of Feline Practitioners because the test for FIV involves looking for antibodies to the infection and vaccinated cats test positive for these antibodies.

"FIV-positive" means that a cat has antibodies to FIV in his or her bloodstream, indicating that he or she has been exposed to FIV and is therefore infected. FIV is a viral infection and the initials stand for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. It is in the same family of viruses as HIV, but it cannot infect people and there are some important differences between the human and fe-

white blood cells called T-lymphocytes and can hamper a cat's ability to respond to infections with other viruses and bacteria, but luckily it rarely leads to the full-blown immune system failure that is characteristic of AIDS in people.

Although the decision of whether or not to adopt an FIV-positive cat is ultimately up to you, you should not immediately turn away from these cats. Since FIV is not easily spread between cats, it is usually possible to bring an FIV-positive cat

ies. Until a better test is available to tell the difference between infected and vaccinated cats, the decision of whether to vaccinate your cat should involve a careful and informed discussion between you and your veterinarian.

For more information about FIV, check out the Cornell Feline Health Center's online brochure at http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/healthinfo/brochure_fiv.cfm

by Dr. Anne of The Cat Doctor
Bedford, MA





Billerica Cat Care Coalition

PO Box 141
North Billerica, MA 01862

Address Correction Requested

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Place Mailing Label Here

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE CATS?

DONATION LOCATIONS

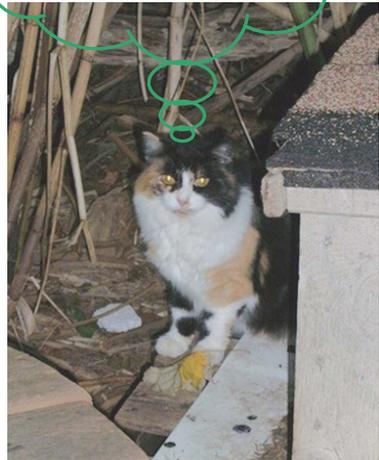
Donate cat food or supplies at:

- Market Baskets in Billerica
- Billerica & Tewksbury Public Libraries
- K-Nine Comforts, Billerica
- Shanks' Mare Thrift Shop, Billerica
- Agway, Chelmsford
- Donate pet store gift certificates or gift cards

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Volunteer your time
- Use GoodSearch.com for BCCC
- Use iSearchiGive.com for BCCC
- Shop online @ www.iGive.com/BCCC
- Buy items on our Wish List @ Amazon.com
- Donate inactive cell/smart phones
- Donate your used vehicle: www.donationline.com

Angus says thanks for donating food and supplies to our food bins!



You Can Save Lives Right Here, Right Now

The cats are depending on you. You can make a difference. You can make their hard lives a little bit easier.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT OF:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$250 Other

All contributions are fully tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Donate online @ www.billericacatcarecoalition.org using PayPal
Send a check Payable to: Billerica Cat Care Coalition
Mail to: PO Box 141, Billerica, MA 01862



THE ADVOCAT



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Spring/Summer 2013

Editor
Vicky Roy

This newsletter provides general information. It is not intended to provide medical advice. Medical advice should be obtained directly from your veterinarian.

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