

Dear Friends,

I'm writing today to ask for your help with a truly exciting challenge – Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society's first-ever gift-matching challenge! For the first time ever, donations to this appeal up to \$17,000 will be matched by donations from several anonymous donors. In other words, your gift will go twice as far!

I'm asking you to give today in honor of Ollivander, a sweet orange tabby kitten whose life changed dramatically for the better once he came through the doors of MRFERS. Without your support, Ollivander could never have received the help he so desperately needed. I hope you will read his story and consider making a gift today to help us meet our goal.



"Ollivander shortly after intake"



"Ollivander's front legs before surgery"

Ollivander came to us here at MRFERS in early November 2013 at about 10 weeks of age. Born with severe deformities to all four of his legs, most significantly his back legs, his former owners soon realized that they were simply not able to provide the care he required or afford the medical care that was undoubtedly in his future. Despite his badly twisted back legs, Ollivander was an incredibly happy guy when he arrived at MRFERS, charming the staff and volunteers with his antics in his intake room cage. He was able to move around by walking on his front elbows and pulling his back legs behind him. This was far from ideal, however, in part because it was likely lead to arthritis or pressure sores in future – and also because no-one knew what growing larger would do to Ollivander's limbs. We quickly sent this sweet boy for X-rays and a veterinary consult – but it turned out that just one veterinarian would not be enough! Lucky for Ollivander, however, he had access to excellent medical care through the support of generous donors like you.

Because it was important for little Ollivander to keep exercising his muscles, MRFERS medical coordinator Brit Fox Hover and her husband Robert took the little guy home to foster him. Ollivander quickly fell in love with Brit & Robert's dog, Miles, and their daughter Ainsley! Brit began researching options to help Ollivander, bringing him to an orthopedic specialist and a feline specialist.

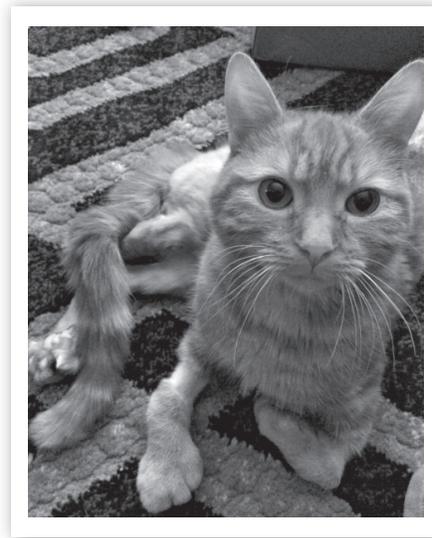


"Ollivander's back legs before surgery"

Most places offered suggestions for physical therapy, but nothing much in the way of actually trying to “fix” Ollivander – but Brit was determined, and in February 2014, when people started forwarding her links to an article about a similar kitten at a Chicago rescue group and the surgeon who helped him, Brit knew she’d found the doctor for Ollivander.

An email to Dr. Niehaus in Chicago was quickly returned, X-rays were sent, and before we knew it, Brit, Robert and Ollivander were booked on a flight to Chicago for a Friday consultation, with surgery number one scheduled for the following Monday. A staff person in Dr. Niehaus’s office agreed to foster Ollivander for the weeks following his surgeries.

Brit describes Ollivander’s deformities and surgeries like this: “Basically the bones in Ollivander’s rear legs are there, but it can be best described by saying it’s like a puzzle where all of the pieces are there but they are put together wrong. Dr. Neihaus had to go in and rearrange/realign those bones and joints so that they might function more like regular legs.”



“Ollivander looking great after his surgeries!”

Today, Ollivander is back in his foster home after his adventures in Chicago, continuing to recover from his surgeries. Brit says, “He’s walking on his left back leg and still trying to figure out his right, but he’s doing super well and is always a trooper no matter what.” Ollivander has at least one more surgery ahead of him early this summer, but in the meantime, he is getting around better every day – even climbing stairs and running around like the kitten he is!

Without the incredible generosity of donors like you, Ollivander could never have received the truly extraordinary care he did. At any other shelter, he would have been put to sleep or left untreated, leading to a lifetime of potential pain and discomfort. The MRFRS is different, however, and the reason we are able to be different – to go above and beyond to create the best life possible for each of our cats – is because of all of you.

Won’t you please make a donation today to help Ollivander and cats like him?

Sincerely,

Bill Piercey

p.s. – Don’t forget! – your gift will be matched by a generous group of anonymous donors, and will go twice as far to support care for cats like Ollivander, and the many others out there still in need of our help.

