



**The Merrimack River  
Feline Rescue Society**  
Caring for Cats in Need

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Merrimack River  
Feline Rescue Society

# Cat Currents

*Dear Friends,*

The cold spring is finally over and the heat is here. We are very busy with many adult cats and kittens needing assistance this summer.



We face challenges and emergencies every day, and it is this busy time of year that we need our foster homes the most—especially for adult cats. We often times have almost 200 cats in foster care! In this newsletter we profile some of our older kitties—kitties who would love a break from the summer kitten craziness, even for just a few weeks or a month! Please contact us today to foster a kitty or, if you can't foster, to contribute to help cover these senior kitties' care.

June was adopt-a-shelter cat month and our staff worked very hard to send as many kitties into loving homes as possible. We have had some construction happening at our PetSmart location so we have fewer cats than expected down there.

Our Catmobile just spayed our 15,000th cat since starting in October 2008! Dr. Brady and her Catmobile team have been doing a wonderful job caring for so many kitties on a daily basis. We have new locations in Medford and Tewksbury. Many of you have seen the Catmobile going up and down 495!

Our Sunday feral spay/neuter clinics continue every month. We usually have over 100 cats needing our service every month, but we are only able to assist around 50. We are seeking funding to help cover the cost of our supplies for these clinics. Our pilot TNR programs in Lowell and Fitchburg continue to grow and prosper.

MRFRS retail efforts have grown. The special handmade kitty beds that were introduced at the Whisker Wonderland Open House are for sale at our Salisbury adoption center, along with many other wonderful items. Feel free to stop by to shop for your cat or dog—yes, dog! We do carry items for dogs, including toys and

handmade collars, and we will even microchip them. Call or email us for an appointment and we will microchip your cat or dog for \$20, including registration. We want all of our pets in the community kept safe, and microchipping (as well as our rabies clinics) is a great way to help do that!

Finally, I want to thank everyone who attended the Strut for Strays in Newburyport on May 22. The event was a fantastic success, raising over \$35,000 to benefit the many homeless kitties in the region. As many of you know, last fall was a tough time for the MRFRS financially, and while times continue to be tough, the Strut's success helps us to continue our humane work.

Looking ahead, I hope you will join us on Wednesday, September 28 at 6pm at the Unitarian Church in Newburyport for our annual meeting, where Harvard Professor Paul Waldau will speak on animals and religion. And make sure you save the date for the Fur Ball on Saturday, October 22 at the beautiful Blue Ocean at the Pavilion in Salisbury.

Thank you again for caring for the cats in need,

Stacy LeBaron, President

**ENDICOTT & VIRUS  
UPDATE**

As many of you read in our e-news earlier this spring, the shelter was hit hard by a kitty cold virus, leading to many thousands of dollars in vet bills, including the cost of placing a feeding tube for Endicott and one other adult kitty. All the cats have recovered well, and as of the writing of this newsletter, Endicott can be found lounging on the table in the main room of the shelter. He is about the most laid-back kitty you can imagine, and he would love to find a wonderful new home for the summer!

# The Catmobile Connection

The Catmobile is a program designed to reach out to communities far and wide, across the North Shore and Merrimack Valley, and even into parts of Boston. One of the many locations this program has been extremely beneficial to is the city of Lowell, MA. The mobile surgical unit parks at Lowell Humane Society every Monday, where community and shelter pets alike are spayed and neutered.



Statistics show that cats receive much less veterinary care than their canine counterparts. Coupled with the current economic downturn, its possible owners are far less likely to provide even the most crucial vet care for their cats, like vaccines and sterilization. This is certainly a dilemma, as it will only cause a huge increase in the already rampant cat overpopulation problem. The

low-cost surgery provided by the Catmobile, with help from grant money specific to the area, has given many people in Lowell the opportunity to provide this necessary service for their pet when otherwise it would not have been an option.

The Catmobile recently celebrated not only its two-year anniversary, but also its 10,000th surgery, a huge milestone for this program. This is also an incredible accomplishment for Lowell Humane Society, given that approximately ten percent of those surgeries have been in Lowell. The ultimate goal is to see a significant decrease in the amount of cats that pass through the shelter, especially kittens. The Catmobile, together with Lowell Humane Society, will likely make this goal a reality, as in the past year cat intake numbers at the shelter have already shown a decrease!

## August 2011



### Low-Cost Mobile Spay/Neuter for Cats

*A non-profit program dedicated to helping end cat overpopulation.*

**Neuter Packages \$75**  
**Spay Packages \$100**

*Package Includes: Exam, Spay/Neuter, Rabies Vaccine, Flea Treatment*

*Microchipping an optional \$20 fee*



Join the Catmobile on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/catmobilemfrfs](http://www.facebook.com/catmobilemfrfs)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Lowell	2 Malden	3 Methuen	4 Peabody	5 Portsmouth, NH	6 Weymouth
7	8 Lowell	9 Billerica	10 Salisbury	11 Haverhill	12 Fitchburg	13
14	15 Lowell	16 Lynn	17 Methuen	18 Peabody	19 Gloucester	20
21	22 Lowell	23 Woburn	24 Salisbury	25 Medford	26 Waltham	27
28 Woburn, Kittens only	29 Lowell	30 Topsfield	31 Salisbury			
31						

**To book your appointment call 1-978-465-1940  
or email [catmobile@mfrfs.org](mailto:catmobile@mfrfs.org)**

# Thompson Chipmoore



In the middle of winter in 2010, a scrappy, skinny, terrified black & white cat appeared in the horse barn of a nearby college attended by two MRFRS staff members. The two women set out to trap the starving cat. When he arrived at MRFRS, he was skin & bones—and teeth! Terrified and unsure of where he was or why he was there, the cat we called Thompson Chipmoore would lash out at anyone who came near him.

As weeks went by, Thompson's health improved, bolstered by yummy snacks and top-notch vet care—but his disposition continued to be a challenge. He was terrified of loud noises, especially if he heard cats fighting, and would lash out at anyone or anything near him. He bit several staff members quite badly when they were

in the wrong place at the wrong time, and visitors and volunteers were warned to stay away from him. We wondered how we would ever feel that we could safely send him to a home, and pondered the idea that he might do better in a barn.

MRFRS staff couldn't quite give up on Thompson, though, and we continued working with him, hoping he would learn to trust again as he got stronger and healthier. We explored finding him a foster home, but as the months went by, the right place never seemed to be available.

As we entered the holiday season of 2010, a woman named Penny stopped by the shelter one Saturday in search of a feline companion. She lived alone, she explained, and was looking for just one cat. Going out on a limb, we decided to introduce her to Thompson, making sure to explain his rocky history carefully. Despite all that, Penny fell in love, and with not a little trepidation, we packed Thompson up & sent him home.

When we checked on Thompson (now called Emerson), we got this wonderful report from Penny:

“Emerson is doing fabulously!... When I brought him home and let him out of the carrier it was like he looked around at his new home and said “I'll take it!” He immediately acted like he had known me his whole life. He is so friendly and loving and always follows me every where I go. Since I live alone he is great company. He is so smart! He likes to watch football and read!... He really is a ‘little person in a fur coat.’ I am so glad I have him, he's the best kitty!”

This happy ending is the result of many leaps of faith—and that, in a nutshell, is what MRFRS does—we believe in the cats that so many others don't or won't believe in—and it is all worth it when a story ends like Emerson's does!

Want to read more? Visit our Facebook page to see more photos of Emerson, and to view a video of Emerson playing fetch with his new mom!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### July 14

Restaurant Fundraiser at Papa Gino's, 100 Macy St., Amesbury, 978-388-5280, 5:00-8:00pm, eat-in and carryout

### August 2

Restaurant Fundraiser at Phat Cats Bistro, 65A Market St, Amesbury, 978-388-2777, 4:30-9:30pm  
\*Reservations recommended

### September 10

Fall Yard Sale at MRFRS, 63 Elm St., Salisbury

### September 17

Fall Plant Sale at MRFRS, 63 Elm St., Salisbury

### September 28

MRFRS Annual Meeting at the First Religious Society, 26 Pleasant St., Newburyport, 6:00pm with guest speaker Professor Paul Waldau of Harvard University

### October 8

MRFRS Craft Fair, Hilton Center, 43 Lafayette Rd., Salisbury 9:30am-3:00pm

## STATS AT A GLANCE

### From June 1, 2010, May 31, 2011

- Cats spayed/neutered on the Catmobile- 5603
- Feral cats spay/neutered at our Sunday Clinics- 530
- Cats/kittens adopted- 697
- Phone calls to our SpayMass Hotline- 8596
- Hours that volunteers logged at our Salisbury shelter- 5700
- Feral cats assisted through the Lowell TNR Pilot Program since founding in 2009- 554
- Total cats assisted since our founding, 1992: 43,459

## MRFRS RETAIL SHOP

To come...



63 Elm Street  
Salisbury, MA 01952  
(978) 462-0760  
info@mrfrs.org

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Non-Profit Org.  
Permit #11  
Newburyport, MA  
01950

## MRFRS WISH LIST 2011

canned cat food  
(paté/ground/classic)  
paper towels  
laundry detergent  
copy paper  
13-gallon trash bags  
30-gallon garbage bags

Check out our full wish list on  
Amazon.com -- just search for  
MRFRS!

*Silent and Live Auction,  
6:00 to 10:00 pm  
Saturday, October 22, 2011*

**BLUE  
Ocean  
MUSIC HALL**

**4 Oceanfront North  
Salisbury, MA 01952**

**Tickets: \$35 (advance)  
\$45 (at the door)**

Purchase tickets online at [mrfrs.org](http://mrfrs.org),  
PetSmart in Danvers (Rt. 114)  
or MRFRS HQ in Salisbury (Rt. 110)

**Live auction hosted by Randy Price  
of Channel 5 News!**

All proceeds go to local cats and kittens in need. For more  
information please call 978-462-0760 or visit [www.mrfrs.org](http://www.mrfrs.org).

**facebook**

**Become a fan of MRFRS on Facebook today!**

Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Merrimack River Feline Rescue"—join us today to keep updated on all the latest happenings at MRFRS!