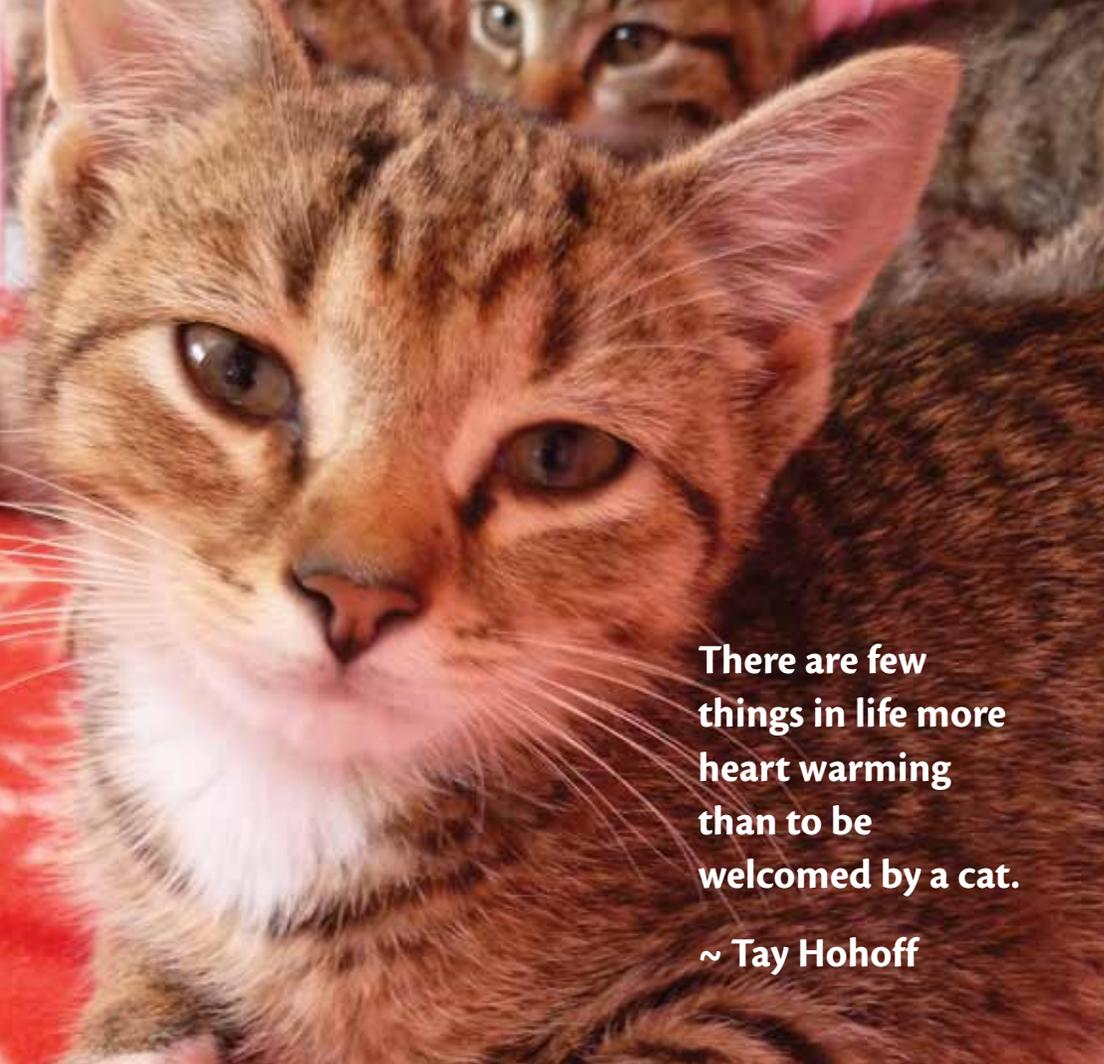


2012

Annual Report



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



**There are few  
things in life more  
heart warming  
than to be  
welcomed by a cat.**

**~ Tay Hohoff**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Our Mission Our Commitments.....	1
Adoption Program.....	2
Spay/Neuter Programs .....	6
Veterinary Assistance Programs...8	
Other Programs.....	10
Thank You to our Grantors .....	11
Financial Report.....	12
Operations Committee Board of Directors.....	13

## Our Mission

The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society is a nationally recognized, nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization committed to ensuring the health and welfare of feral and domestic cats and kittens by promoting proactive, compassionate, no-kill programs.

## Our Commitments

- We will be strong, passionate advocates for the humane treatment of cats.
- We will treat cats in our care humanely, and with compassion.
- We will respond to requests for assistance from our colleagues and communities promptly and courteously, and provide as much support as we can.
- We will ensure that confidential information about adopters, staff, volunteers, and supporters is kept private and is shared only to the extent necessary.
- We will support and celebrate the activities and successes of our colleagues.
- We will regard our mistakes as lessons that give us the opportunity to improve our ability to achieve our mission.
- We will share our knowledge of MRFRS operations, policies, and history freely with our colleagues, so as to improve operational efficiency and each other's skills.
- We will be sensitive to the impact of our words and actions on each other, on the reputation of the MRFRS, and on the ability of the MRFRS to accomplish its mission.

# Because of you, 569 cats & kittens

## Adoption Program

The Adoption Program takes in homeless cats and kittens and places them into loving homes.

In FY 2011, MRFRS took in over 600 cats and kittens. All were checked for wellness prior to adoption, and 100% were vaccinated and spayed or neutered before adoption.

MRFRS is especially well known for our ability to adopt out older and special needs cats and kittens. Since our inception in 1992, the Adoption Program has assisted over 17,000 cats and kittens.



## ◀ Glory

On the 4th of July, Glory was thrown out the window of a moving truck. A Good Samaritan rescued her and brought her to MRFRS, where the terrified kitten was pronounced healthy. She received her vaccinations, treatment for fleas, and went to foster care to grow big enough for spay. Once this sweet little girl was spayed, she was adopted almost immediately and is now in a wonderful, loving home!

## Oliver, Chuffly & Mischief ▶

"We chose to adopt Feline Leukemia-positive cats because we have found them to be just like any other cat that is looking for a home, plus it has been our experience that these cats know that they are different and are extremely grateful for a loving home to have of their own!"

- Christi B. & family



# Because of you, 569 cats & kitt



## Velma

"Thank you for bringing Isabelle (formerly Velma) to me. We can't seem to keep our hands/paws off of each other. She's still rubbing all over me [to mark] me as her territory – all the way to my heart."

– Kate G., an adopter through our Seniors for Seniors program, which waives the adoption fee for adopters over sixty adopting cats over five years old

## ◀ Suki

Suki was surrendered to us when her owner was deployed overseas with the military. This sweet girl is still looking for a home.

ens found new homes this year.

## Sole ▶

Sole originally came to us from a hoarding situation. Living in such crowded, unsanitary situations meant that Sole never quite got the hang of litter box use. He was adopted out with his sister, but eventually was returned to us. The sweetest cat you could imagine, Sole was nonetheless very difficult to place with his litter box issues – until a family looking for a friendly kitty for their horse barn came along, proving that homes – and new friends – come in all shapes and sizes!



With your support, 8043 cats we

## THE CATMOBILE

MRFERS's two mobile low-cost spay/neuter clinics for cats, Catmobile 1 and Catmobile 2, serve Eastern Massachusetts, Southern New Hampshire, and the Metrowest/Central Massachusetts corridor. Each clinic is staffed by a veterinarian and two technicians, and each can alter up to 40 cats a day. Since the inception of this program in 2008, over 21,800 cats have been spayed or neutered on our Catmobiles.

The Catmobile program serves owned cats, unowned strays or ferals for a discounted fee, and also provides spay/neuter services to other shelters and rescue groups.



A quote from Lucy the cat, a satisfied client:

"Thanks for the hospitality you extended to me during my Wednesday appointment at the Catmobile...for some reason that big, muscular hunk of fur from down the street isn't nearly as attractive as he used to be. Maybe it has something to do with the Catmobile visit.

Anyway, thanks again. I'll recommend you to all my friends!

Love,  
Lucy"

re spayed or neutered this year.



“The Catmobile provides an incredibly valuable service. It allows individuals on a tight budget to fix and vaccinate their cats, which is not just the responsible thing to do, it is also much healthier for the cat. For groups like ours trying to help stop overpopulation, it is a wonderful, cost-efficient resource.”

– Kit Lilly, Charles River Alleycats

### Sunday Spay/Neuter Clinics

MRFRS operates a monthly spay/neuter clinic for feral cats in partnership with MSPCA Nevins Farm. These clinics are free to trappers, and are run entirely by volunteers. Since the inception of this program, over 11,000 feral cats have been spayed/neutered and vaccinated, including 490 cats this past year.

### CatSNIP Clinics

The CatSNIP clinics are low-cost spay/neuter clinics for cats belonging to financially challenged households. These clinics are held at veterinary practices in the Metrowest/Central Massachusetts area and serve up to 1000 cats each year.

### SpayMASS Hotline

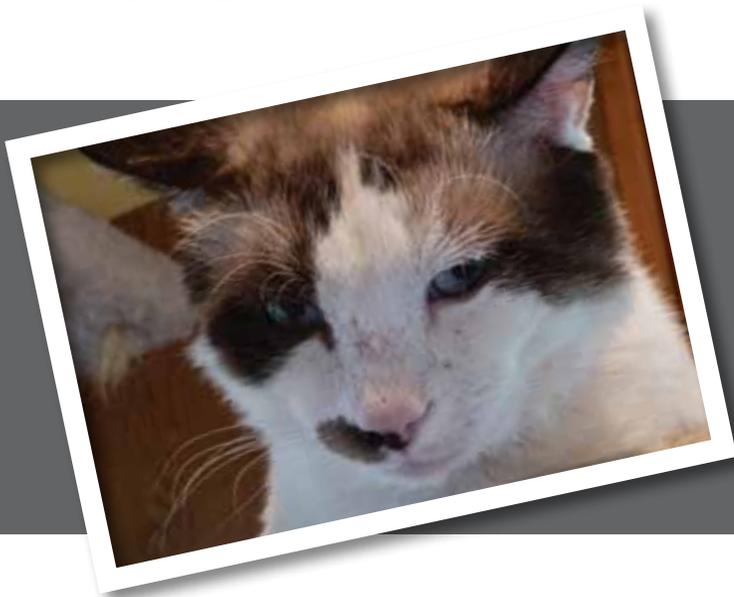
The SpayMASS Hotline is a referral source for both cat and dog owners in search of affordable spay/neuter services in their area. The hotline serves callers from across Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. The hotline was started in October 2007, and is the only one of its kind in the region. It currently handles more than 700 calls per month.

# Your contributions helped 55 sick or

## Veterinary Assistance Programs

### Feline Assistance, Resources & Support (FARS) & Scratch's Patch-Up Program (SPUP)

MRFRS's FARS Program assists low-income Massachusetts pet owners when their cats need medical care for injuries or illness. FARS strives to help loving cat owners keep their cats rather than surrender them to a shelter or be forced to decide to euthanize. Since inception in August 2010, FARS has assisted 97 cats. The program operates solely on donations. SPUP matches low-income owners up with vets in the Central MA area willing to provide lower-cost care. This past year, SPUP assisted over 30 animals.



### Captain Courageous Fund (CCF)

MRFRS's CCF was founded in memory of a feral cat named Captain, who passed away as a result of severe injuries. In his honor, the CCF assists caretakers of feral and stray cats with the cost of medical care for injuries and illnesses. CCF operates solely on donations, and assisted 6 cats last year.

# injured cats get the care they needed.



## ◀ Omelette

When Omelette was attacked by a neighbor's dog when it broke through a screen to get to the indoor-only cat, his owner faced a \$5000 veterinary bill in order to save her cat's life. Recently laid off, and badly injured in the dog attack herself, Omelette's owner turned to FARS in desperation. "Three years ago," she wrote, "I rescued Omelette and he rescued me! Omelette and I have such a bond that I can't even bear the thought of losing him." FARS was able to assist with the cost of Omelette's extensive surgery, and today he & his owner are recovering well.

## Gael

Gael was a stray cat living on the streets of Worcester, abandoned by his owners and left to fend for himself. When Michelle, a local rescuer, helped to get Gael neutered, she discovered that he was friendly, and was hopeful that she could place him in a home. It was soon discovered that Gael had very bad teeth, causing him to nip in pain whenever someone went near his mouth. With no funds available to her, Michelle was faced with the awful choice of having to either put Gael back outside or have him euthanized – until she contacted the Captain Courageous Fund, who helped with the veterinary care Gael needed. Michelle was then able to place Gael with a local shelter, who found him a great new home. "... without the help [of CCF]," Michelle wrote, "[Gael] would be living back on the streets."



## Other Programs

### Bridge Program

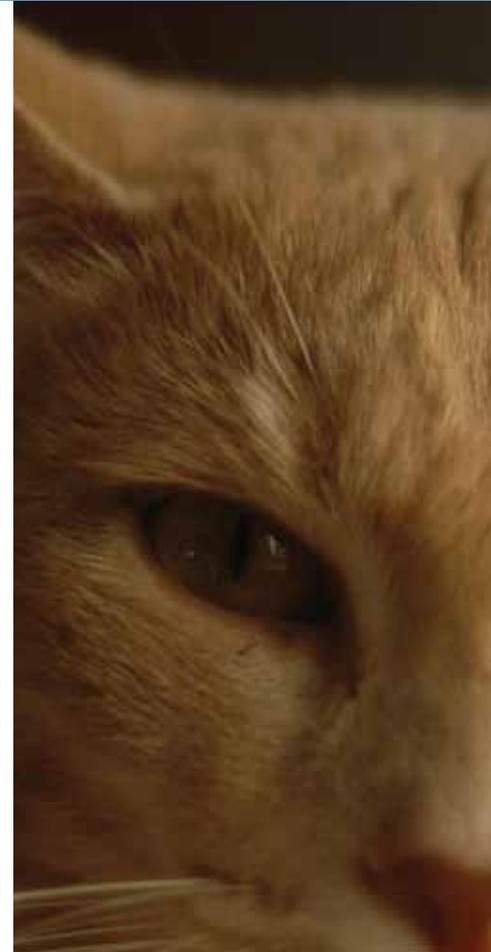
Our Bridge Program helps cat owners who find themselves in difficult life situations – homelessness, domestic violence, hospitalizations, house fires, or other issues – with foster care for their beloved pets. The duration of foster care ranges from several weeks to several months, and all pets are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and updated on vaccines during that time.

### TNR & Trap Rental Program

MRFRS provides rental of humane traps for the purpose of TNR (trap-neuter-return). We will gladly provide instruction on how to use traps, referral to low-cost or free spay/neuter services, and colony management tips. MRFRS volunteers also feed several managed feral cat colonies in the greater Salisbury area.

### Pilot Programs

MRFRS offers areas of severe need a way to jump start new feline assistance programs through mentoring and access to affordable spay/neuter. We are currently working on two pilot programs, one in Lowell and one in Fitchburg. The goal of these programs is to help a group set up and begin to make a difference in the community quickly, with the group ultimately becoming a self-sufficient entity.





## Thank You

The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society would like to thank the following foundations whose generous grants of services and funds have helped to make this past year a success:

ASPCA

Bernice Barbour  
Foundation

Blue Sky Soda

CE & FCA Foisy  
Foundation

Elinor Patterson  
Baker Trust

Foundation M

Greg Biffle Foundation  
(for SCFAW)

Harmony Fund  
(for SCFAW)

Harley Foundation

Humane Society  
of the U.S.

IDEXX

Institution for Savings  
Charitable Foundation

LeBaron Foundation

Newburyport Civic League

Massachusetts Animal  
Coalition

Odd Fellows,

Quascacunquen Lodge

Odd Fellows, Kearsarge

Lodge

Petco Foundation

Petfinder

PetSmart Charities

Pfizer Animal Health

Red Acre Foundation

Two Commandments  
Foundation

VCA Charities

Verrill Foundation

Walmart Foundation

Wiederhold Foundation

## Financial Report Statement of Operating Revenue, Expenses and Non-Operating Activities

<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>Other Financial Information</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
Catmobile	\$ 523,347	\$ 467,984	<b>Assets</b>		
Adoption	63,311	81,136	Cash- Unrestricted	\$ 144,311	\$ 212,558
Surrender fees	13,455	10,293	Cash- Restricted	140,646	10,030
SNIP Clinics	36,345		Medical Supply Inventory	7,504	11,280
Donations & Appeals	290,209	196,629	Property, Plant		
Grants	368,824	45,990	& Equipment, ppds	622,662	474,403
Fundraising	152,302	109,417	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 915,123</b>	<b>\$ 708,271</b>
Interest Income	2,785	1,732			
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,450,578</b>	<b>\$ 913,181</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>			Accounts Payable	\$27,575	\$15,185
Salaries & Taxes	\$ 418,105	\$ 377,368	Mortgage Payable	\$86,686	\$90,690
Animal Care	438,413	352,812	Other Current Liabilities	\$5,374	\$2,653
Grant Consumption	120,302		Opening Balance Equity	\$72,883	\$72,883
Admin, Bldg & Catmobile costs	219,215	130,711	Retained Earnings	\$526,860	\$520,419
Fundraising	58,798	45,849	Net Income (Loss)	\$195,745	\$6,441
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,254,833</b>	<b>906,740</b>	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$915,123</b>	<b>\$708,271</b>
<b>Net income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 195,745</b>	<b>\$ 6,441</b>			

## Operations Committee

### President/Executive Director

Stacy LeBaron

### Director of Operations

Liz Pease

### Catmobile Veterinarians

Dr. Deborah Brady

Dr. Stephanie Born-Weil

Dr. Holly Brown

Dr. Maxwell Farber

Dr. Samantha Simonelli



### Operations

Dianne Ayvazian

Kelly Charpentier

Britney Fox Hover

Cathy Gadway

Amy Gately

Amy Moody

Renee Pabisz

Gaye Piechowiak

Chondra Provencher

Lydia Prysak

Janet Rogers

Elisa Sousa

Jennifer Thompson

Lauren Weinberger

Melissa Witherspoon



## Officers & Executive Board

Stacy LeBaron, President

Patte Grimes, Vice President

Joe Bell, Secretary

Lynda Schnare, Treasurer

## Board Members

Crystal Carvotta-Brown

Jennifer Hickman

Jim Lagoulis

Adrienne Linnell

Kristen Petrie

Paul Strauch

Judy Wolfe



**MRFRS was founded in 1992 in response to growth in the feral or homeless cat population along the Merrimack River in Newburyport. This growth resulted in widespread disease, malnutrition, and death in the feral cat population which endangered the health and well-being of Newburyport's residential cat population. MRFRS began a trap, neuter, and return (TNR) program for these cats in 1992 with feeding stations where the cats are fed twice a day. In 2000 we started offering free monthly spay/neuter clinics for feral cats. In 2003 we opened our cageless adoption center at 63 Elm Street in Salisbury. In 2008 we launched our mobile spay/neuter clinic, the Catmobile. We now operate two Catmobiles, which together visit over 30 different locations. In 2011 we assisted cats and kittens from over 120 different communities through our programs.**



**63 Elm Street (Route 110) • Salisbury MA, 01952  
978-462-0760 • [info@mrfrs.org](mailto:info@mrfrs.org) • [www.mrfrs.org](http://www.mrfrs.org)  
Catmobile Hotline: 978-465-1940 • [www.catmobile.org](http://www.catmobile.org)**