

Dear Friends,

I'm writing today to ask for your donation to help cats like Orangina and Melonball, a mother cat and her kitten rescued by the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society from a frigid New England winter.

On a chilly January day, a young man walked into the shelter in a panic. While out for a walk behind his home on the marsh, he and his dog, a 110-pound gentle giant of a Rottweiler, had discovered a terrified orange cat behind his house. The young man quickly realized that she was in trouble, as her front leg was stuck partway through the stiff collar around her neck. He also soon discovered that she was not alone. Under the porch, there was at least one tiny kitten, crying pitifully in the cold for his mother.



Terrified for the kitten's safety in the chilly, wet weather, the man and his friends scooped him up and brought him inside, then went for help. Worried that there were more kittens, and unsure of how to help the mom, the man knew that Merrimack River Feline Rescue would know what to do – and he was right, because **through the generous support of donors like you, Merrimack River Feline Rescue is always ready and able to help cats in need.**

Two staff members quickly sprung into action, bringing along a heating pad for the kitten, a trap for the mother, and hopes for the best. They quickly trapped the mom, and both mom and kitten were transported back to the shelter – after the staff thanked the young man and his dog for finding this helpless kitty family, and for going the extra mile to make sure they got the care they needed.

Back at the shelter, the staff immediately removed the collar from around the mom's neck and leg, as well as the second collar she was wearing. Sadly, neither collar had any

identification on it. The kitten, who appeared to be less than a week old, was healthy and glad to be back with his mom. Staff dubbed them Orangina and Melonball, and once they got a clean bill of health, they settled in at a foster home – safe, warm, and comfortable at last.

Stories like this happen every day – cats abandoned outdoors, left to fend for themselves – and, in cases like this, even to give birth alone, cold, and partially handicapped by the collar that served as a sad reminder that someone once loved Orangina. **But thanks to you, she and her kitten are safe and loved once again – and will soon be on their way to homes that will love them forever this time.**

Before they go to their forever homes, Orangina and Melonball will both receive all the medical care they need – vaccines and parasite treatments, testing for diseases, microchips, and, of course, spay/neuter at the appropriate time – all of which is provided to them through the incredibly generous donations of our supporters. **Without your support, they would have had no place to go.**

Won't you please make a donation today so that cats and kittens like Orangina and Melonball will always have a place to come in from the cold?

Sincerely,

Bill Piercey
Executive Director

P.S. Your donations will go directly to help cats like Orangina and Melonball. Please give today!



YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED...

MS. MARPLE

Found as a stray by Amesbury Animal Control, this sweet young girl was in terrible shape when she came to us. She has a myriad of health issues that few shelters could handle – but because of your support, we are able to give “Marps” the care she so desperately needs.



MOCCASIN

Trapped as a stray, this big lug turned out to be a big lovebug. He also turned out to be both FIV and FeLV positive. Lucky for him, he landed at MRFRS, one of the few shelters in the state that will accept FeLV+ cats – something we are able to do because of the support our donors provide us.



TOGA

Brought in as a stray by a Good Samaritan who had once adopted from MRFRS, this sweet older, deaf girl was fending for herself in freezing cold temperatures this winter. Dealing with a large wound on her side, she was skin and bones by the time she made it to us, and is now on the mend, enjoying naps in the sunshine and having food available at all times!



TONY MONTOYA

Fed for years by an elderly woman in Amesbury, Tony was trapped when he showed up with a large wound on his face. During his neuter surgery, our vet discovered that he has multiple bullets lodged in his back leg, testament to a hard life lived outdoors for many years. Tony is safe with MRFRS now, and will never have to live in fear again!



The Merrimack River
Feline Rescue Society
Caring for Cats in Need