

2013

Annual Report





**People who love cats
have some of the biggest
hearts around.**

~ Susan Easterly

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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.

Through your support, 546 cats &

Adoption Program

The Adoption Program takes in homeless cats and kittens and places them into loving homes. In FY 2013, MRFERS took in over 600 cats and kittens. All were checked for wellness prior to adoption, treated for any medical conditions – and 100% were vaccinated and spayed or neutered before adoption. MRFERS 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 placed over 18,500 cats and kittens.



kittens found new homes this year.

◀ Toonces

Picked up by MRFRS staff as a stray in Newburyport and discovered to have a serious seizure disorder, Toonces was a tough sell to adopters... until Meg and her family (including 18-month old baby Lily) came along. Meg says "Adopting a special needs cats was a 'no brainer' – every cat should have a loving home! Administering her medications takes less than 5 minutes out of our day. Too easy. Toonces is a sweet, gentle cat and we are so happy to have her in our family!"

Tock ▶

Proving once again that there is a home out there for every cat, Tock has found the perfect combination of a job and a great place to live – a horse barn in need of rodent control! Tock was a bit of a behavioral challenge, but here at MRFRS, we love a challenge! We knew that eventually, just the right placement would come along – and his new family's Facebook post tells the story: "The happiest cat around...Tock loves his job at Davis Farm!"



Through your support, 546 cats &



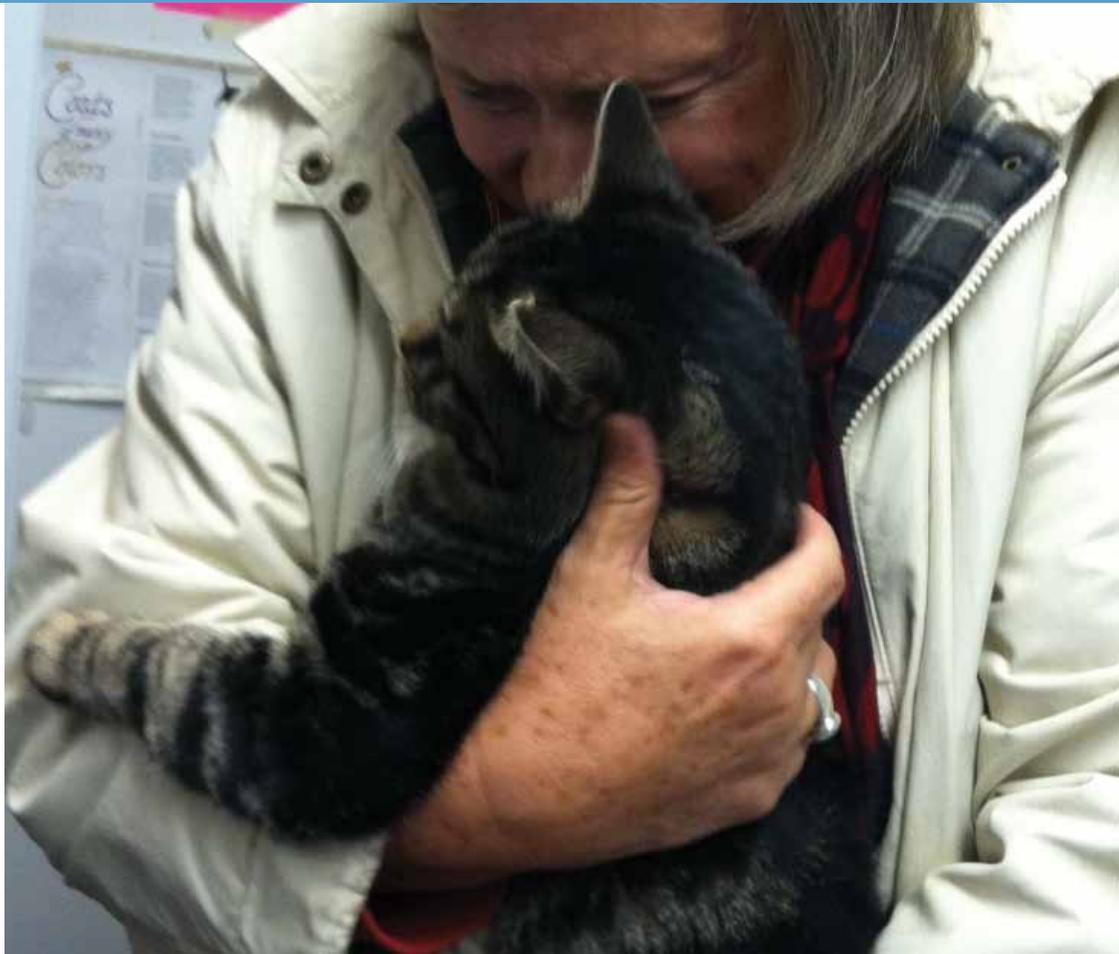
◀ Dan D. Lion

Dan was trapped outside by a TNR group, but he was so friendly they couldn't bear to let him go! Unfortunately, a visit to the vet showed that he was positive for Feline Leukemia, a disease which causes cats to live a significantly decreased life span. Lucky for Dan, the MRFRS has a special room for these kitties – and amazing adopters willing to take in FeLV+ cats. Our Care for Life program even covers the cost of all FeLV-related medical expenses for these kitties for the rest of their lives!

kittens found new homes this year.

Gus ▶

Gus was picked up as a stray by Merrimac Animal Control. We were pleased to find that he had a microchip – and shocked when it turned out to be registered to a family in New York City! Turned out that four months earlier, Gus had escaped from his owners' car when they broke down on the side of the highway. He took off into the woods, and despite his family's best efforts, was never found... until the day we called them to tell them he was safe with us! A happy reunion followed a few days later, testament to the amazing power of proper identification!



With your support, 8910 cats we

THE CATMOBILE

MRFERS's two mobile low-cost spay/neuter clinics for cats, Catmobile 1 and Catmobile 2, serve Eastern, Metrowest, and Southeastern Massachusetts, as well as Southern New Hampshire. Each van is staffed by a veterinarian and technicians, and each can alter up to 40 cats per day. Since the inception of the Catmobile program in 2008, nearly 30,000 cats have been spayed or neutered. The Catmobile program serves owned cats, shelter cats, and unowned strays/ferals, all at a discounted rate. Rabies vaccinations and microchipping services are also provided.



re spayed or neutered this year.

The Catmobile has had a tremendous impact on the Greater Lowell community. From a sheltering standpoint, we have seen feline intake numbers decrease overall, but more impressive, more cats who are surrendered to our shelter have already been altered thanks to the Catmobile. This means less of a financial investment on our part so those funds can go to more serious medical cases. Living in this community, I often come across people within the community discussing the positive effects the Catmobile has had for them personally; many times allowing families to keep their beloved pet when otherwise they would be faced with surrendering their animal due to behavior issues that altering can improve. Overall the Catmobile has made an amazing impact on our community and I feel lucky to have the opportunity to work with them.

Crystal Arnott
Shelter Manager, Lowell Humane Society

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 11,500 feral cats have been spayed/neutered and vaccinated, including 500 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 served 377 cats in FY 2013.

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 176 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 its inception in August 2010, FARS has assisted 200 cats. The program operates solely on donations. SPUP matches up low-income owners with vets in the Central MA area willing to provide lower-cost care. This past year, SPUP assisted over 50 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 9 cats last year.

injured cats get the care they needed.



◀ Kolbie

The FARS program has literally saved my cat's life. My cat's name is Kolbie and he is so special to me. I could not love and adore him anymore than I possibly do. He is such a love bug and is my whole world.

I was introduced to the FARS program through my vet because I was having a hard time financially due to Kolbie's illnesses. If I had not received help from the FARS program, my cat never would have been given the chance at the very happy life that he lives today. I am disabled from an injury and have little to no money from these circumstances. Because of the FARS program, Kolbie did not have to pay the price in any way due to my

injury. They have given me the biggest gift I could ever ask for: having Kolbie home with me at all times. ... To me, they are miracle workers.

The program does not just help out Kolbie. The program helps out both of us. Kolbie would be devastated if he were away from me and I would be the same. The FARS program allows him to be healthy and happy. So in turn, I am extremely happy that he is happy. Kolbie is a gift, a joy and just the best little guy anyone could ask for. I am blessed to have him. Thanks to the FARS program, I am able to care for my blessed cat. I am forever grateful to the FARS program.

Thank you for being a huge part of our lives.

- Alison R.

Boo Boo

Boo Boo was found Feb 9th, 2013, in Holland, MA after the blizzard... He came on Elaine's property and she knew right away that he had a tail injury but he was injured and scared at that point and so Elaine just started feeding him outside. It took her until May to fully gain his trust and be able to handle him. I called and talked to a nice woman at your shelter and she told me she thought the CCF might be able to help... Dr. Bolger evaluated him [and when he had] his infected tail amputated, they also neutered him. He is doing great... Much thanks and hugs and kisses from Boo Boo Kitty... keep up the good work... you are really making a difference with God's creatures.

- Janet

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.



h e l p i n s o m a n y w a y s .



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:

Ahimsa Foundation
Banfield Charitable Trust
Best Friends Animal
Society
Community Foundation
of North Central MA
Especially for Pets
Foundation M
Harpley Foundation
IDEXX Shelter Partnership
Program

Institution for Savings
Charitable Foundation
LeBaron Foundation
Massachusetts Animal
Coalition
Newburyport Civic League
Petco Foundation
PetSmart Charities
Red Acre Foundation



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

Operating Revenue	2012-2013	2011-2012	Other Financial Information	2012-2013	2011-2012
Catmobile	\$589,653	\$523,347	Assets		
Adoption	65,051	63,311	Cash- Unrestricted	\$400,824	\$144,311
Surrender fees	7,121	13,455	Cash- Restricted	33,067	140,646
SNIP Clinics	32,766	36,345	Medical Supply Inventory	-	7,504
Donations & Appeals	431,612	290,209	Property, Plant & Equipment, ppds	552,746	622,662
Grants	133,880	368,824	Total Assets	\$986,637	\$915,123
Fundraising	158,569	152,302			
Interest Income	2,836	2,785	Liabilities		
Total Operating Revenue	\$1,421,488	\$1,450,578	Accounts Payable	\$38,857	\$27,575
			Mortgage Payable	3,635	86,686
Expenses			Other Current Liabilities	3,437	5,374
Salaries & Taxes	\$467,437	\$418,105	Opening Balance Equity	72,883	72,883
Animal Care	448,678	438,413	Retained Earnings	722,957	526,860
Grant Consumption	124,820	120,302	Net Income (Loss)	64,868	195,745
Admin, Bldg & Catmobile costs	275,857	219,215	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$986,637	\$915,123
Fundraising	37,828	58,798			
Total Expenses	\$1,356,620	\$1,254,833			
Net income (Loss)	\$64,868	\$195,745			

Staff

Executive Director

Bill Piercey

Director of Operations

Liz Pease

Catmobile Veterinarians

Dr. Deborah Brady

Dr. Nicole Breda

Operations

Elizabeth DeAlmeida

Chris DeCamp

Britney Fox Hover

Cathy Gadway

Katelin Murphy

Mary Murphy

Renee Pabisz

Gaye Piechowiak

Lydia Prysak

Janet Rogers

Lauren Weinberger

Nicolette West

Melissa Witherspoon



Officers & Executive Board

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Patte Grimes, Co-President

Jennifer Hickman, Vice President

Lynda Schnare, Treasurer

Tara Becker, Secretary/Clerk

Adrienne Linnell, At Large

Board Members

Jim Lagoulis

Stacy LeBaron

Scott Matheson

Kristen Petrie

AJ Nadkarni

Jeanne Schmeichel



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 2013 we assisted cats and kittens from over 120 different communities through our programs.



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Catmobile Hotline: 978-465-1940 • www.catmobile.org