

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.

Salisbury Adoption Center

63 Elm Street
(Route 110 East)
Salisbury, MA 01952
978-462-0760

Adoption Hours

Sunday & Monday:
closed

Tuesday & Wednesday:
11:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday:
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Friday & Saturday
11:00am - 4:00pm

Stop in anytime we're open, or, for an appointment outside of our regular hours, email adoptioncounselor@mrfrs.org.

Visit our cats online anytime at mrfrs.org - click on Meet the Cats!

Catmobile Hotline

Monday - Friday
10:00am - 4:00pm

978-465-1940

or anytime at
catmobile.org
catmobile@mrfrs.org

Find us on...

Facebook
facebook.com/MRFRSorg
facebook.com/catmobilemrfrs

Cat Currents

Happy Tails: Leopold



Leopold, a handsome brown tabby & white fellow, originally came to us as a two-year-old stray in 2012. He was adopted two months later, but sadly, was brought back to us this past spring when his owner said he had become aggressive, and had taken to biting and scratching her.

Because of this behavior, staff just let Leo be, hoping that he would settle in and calm down—but Leo had other plans! When a window was left open one night at the shelter, he and several other cats escaped through the screen. As soon as the escape was discovered, traps were set and search parties launched, and all cats were quickly recovered... except for Leopold.

Staff registered Leo's microchip as lost, posted on Facebook, printed & hung lost cat posters, and searched surrounding yards, all to no avail. Days turned to weeks, and then weeks to months, and we tried to take heart in the fact that the weather was mild and that Leo was a tough cookie who had survived as a stray before.

And then one day, an MRFRS foster home near the shelter called about a very friendly stray in her yard. We were stunned when that cat turned out to be Leopold—and even more surprised when we discovered Leo had decided to drop the tough guy attitude, and had turned into a big love! Leo went home shortly thereafter with a kind man named Scott—and we are thrilled to report that he is doing great in his new home!

Leo, now called Hercules (or "Hercky" for short!) is described by Scott as "...so wonderful, always puuuurrrriiinggg when patting him, always want[ing] to cuddle..." Scott told us recently that Hercules "is such a delight to have, such a pleasant boy. Everyone who meets him is so surprised how calm and loving he is."

We are so grateful to Scott for giving Leo/Hercky such a great home—it was clearly a match made in heaven—and it means the world to us after such a rocky start here at MRFRS!

SAVE THE DATES

- **FLATBREAD COMPANY (AMESBURY) DINING TO DONATE NIGHT: Tuesday, March 3rd** Join us for pizza and a 50/50 raffle! A portion of the proceeds from all meals sold—eat-in or take-out—will benefit MRFRS!
- **20th STRUT FOR STRAYS: Sunday, May 31st, 10:00am-2:00pm** at the Newbury MA Upper Green. Join us for a 5K Walk, 5K Run, and family festival with food, vendor booths, and entertainment—all to raise much-needed funds to help cats in need!
- **SPRING RABIES & MICROCHIPPING CLINIC: Saturday, March 21st, 9:00am-noon** at the Hilton Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Road (Route 1) in Salisbury. Open to cats and dogs from any town. Rabies vaccinations are \$10, microchips are \$15 (including registration).
- **SPRING YARD SALE: Saturday, June 6th, 9:00am-2:00pm** on the front lawn of the adoption center.
- **SPRING PLANT SALE: SATURDAY, May 9th, 10:00am-2:00pm** at 63 Elm Street, Salisbury. Pick up some beautiful spring plants for your home and garden (and cat grass for your kitties!) with profits going to benefit the cats of MRFRS! Pope's Pots and Aruba Cats will be there too!
- **SUMMER RABIES CLINIC: Saturday, June 13th, 9:00am-noon** at the Hilton Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Road (Route 1) in Salisbury.



Letter from the President - and Makeover Update!



Dear Supporters,

Things usually slow down for us at MRFRS in January after the year-end excitement of the Fur Ball, our Black Friday adoption event, The Santa Claws online holiday auction and Whisker Wonderland. Not so this year—for when the calendar page turned to January, we embarked on an “Extreme Makeover” of the MRFRS adoption center. If you haven’t been following this project on our Facebook page, it’s really quite an undertaking. Every room of the center has been stripped down, thoroughly cleaned, repainted and the floors resealed. We also had the entire lower level’s heating and ventilation system replaced.

As they say, “it takes a village” to help our fabulous felines, and we could not have attempted our Extreme Makeover without the support you have given us in so many ways:

- Your generous response to our request for funding, which helped us raise the dollars necessary for the project.
- The efforts and elbow grease of our wonderful volunteer workforce, who generously gave their time and talents to create a clean and comfortable home for our cats and our staff.
- The dedication of our wonderful staff, who tended to our feline guests and personally performed much of the makeover work themselves.
- Finally, your collaboration on our adoption efforts prior to the Makeover. We felt it was critical

to get our adoption center population down to as few cats as possible to make the project less stressful for our residents, and thanks to your word-of-mouth and Facebook shares, by year end, we had just 19 cats left in the shelter! As a result, the remaining cats have been kept happy and comfortable during the work.

As you read this, we expect that the adoption center will be open once again. We’re excited to be back in the business of matching deserving cats with wonderful new owners. Please stop by and see the results of the makeover...we think you’ll be quite inspired!

MRFRS is a volunteer-driven, self-sustaining organization. We view our supporters as members of our team, helping us to make the world a better place for cats. On behalf of our Board of Directors, our staff, volunteers and of course, the kitties, we truly thank you for being part of the MRFRS family!

Adrienne Linnell,
President
MRFRS Board of Directors

MICROCHIP YOUR PET!

We’ve all had that moment: when we find a door accidentally left open or a loose window screen and we fear that our indoor cats have somehow gotten out. While we go to great lengths to make sure our pets are safe, unfortunate accidents can and will happen...and that’s when you’ll be glad you microchipped your cat.

According to Home Again, one out of three pets will go missing during their lifetimes and without proper identification, 90% never return. Collars and ID tags are important, but they may fall off or break. A microchip is easy and painless to administer to your cat and is a permanent form of identification that may make all the difference in having him or her returned to you safely. A recent article in the January 21 edition of the Newburyport Daily News highlighted a perfect example: a 2 year old cat missing for nearly 8 months was happily reunited with his owner, thanks to his microchip.

So, we invite you to one of our quarterly rabies and microchipping clinics to put that all important ID on your cat—or dog! The next clinic will be on Saturday, March 21 at the Hilton Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Rd. (Route 1) in Salisbury. A microchips costs just \$15 at our clinic—but the peace of mind it will give you is, well, priceless!

Staff Spotlight

Catmobile 2, which covers the 95 corridor from Salisbury to Brockton, is staffed by Dr. Nicole Breda and technician Kelly Keiley.

Dr. Breda graduated with



her doctorate in veterinary medicine in Prince Edward Island, Canada and spent 3 years in private practice in Marion, MA before coming to work full-time for the Catmobile in 2013. She has always had a special passion for spay/neuter programs, and has participated in numerous projects around the U.S and Canada to provide low-cost or free spay/neuter to pets in need.

She currently lives in Kingston, MA with her husband Dan, and their two boxers, Brando and Stella. When Dr. Breda isn’t working (which isn’t often!), she enjoys traveling, reading, going to the beach, and watching reality television shows.

Kelly Keiley started her animal welfare career in Western MA, working at several major shelters there, and then at MSPCA Boston as an Animal Care Supervisor before joining the Catmobile in 2013. Kelly is a craft beer aficionada, and she & her husband Mike (who runs the Noble Family Animal Care and Adoption Center at MSPCA’s Nevins Farms) live in Byfield, MA with their 3 dogs (Jeffy, Bob, and Lucy), 4 cats (Fiona, Manny, Raphael, and Liam), 12 hens and 1 rooster—as well as a rotating assortment



of foster cats and senior foster dogs.

MRFRS Catmobile Programs Hits 40,000th Cat Fixed!!

The MRFRS Catmobiles roll on! In 2014, we spayed and neutered 7,179 cats in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, making our Catmobile program vans one of the region’s most effective forces fighting feline overpopulation. In December, we reached the milestone of having performed sterilization surgeries on over 40,000 cats since the program’s inception in 2008...that’s a lot of cats...and countless unwanted births prevented!

The Catmobile’s convenience and affordability make it an ideal choice for families who might normally have financial or logistical difficulties getting treatment for their kitties...we even travel on Saturdays! We are especially grateful that, during the year, a number of generous grants from foundations and animal welfare organizations allow us to further reduce the cost of surgery for our clients. Some of these grantors include:

- PetSmart Charities, whose special programs in 2014 included “Beat the Heat” (for female cats) and “Precious, Not Parents” (for kittens)
- The Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC), who provides grants for spay/neuter programs as a result of its Massachusetts “I’m Animal Friendly” License Plate Program. (Find out more about how you can get a plate at petplate.org/)
- The ASPCA, with both its Share the Love program and a grant specifically for feral cats in Fitchburg

MASS ANIMAL FUND

Put a smile on your face when you do your 2014 MA taxes! Just look for line 32f! Yes...you read that right! Thanks to a law passed in 2012, you can now help homeless animals when you complete your Massachusetts income tax return.

Yes...you read that headline right! Thanks to a law passed in 2012, you can now help homeless animals when you complete your Massachusetts income tax return.

That law created the Massachusetts Animal Fund, which seeks to end animal homelessness by investing in spay/neuter surgeries and animal control officer training. The Fund is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, with assistance from an advisory committee and encourages Massachusetts residents to invest in the responsible care of animals.

The Fund provides no-cost spay/neuter surgeries for homeless cats and dogs owned by low-income families. In its first six months, the Fund distributed over \$200,000 to help over 2,300 dogs and cats across the state! MRFRS is pleased to be one of those providers through our two Catmobiles.

Your participation is critical to the Fund’s success, as it operates solely on online donations and those made through the Massachusetts Resident Income Tax Return. Donating is as easy as filling in a donation amount on Line 32f...and any amount matters! There are easy step-by-step instructions for most major online tax preparation platforms on the Massachusetts Animal Fund website at <http://mass-animalfund.com/donate/>.

You can be confident that your contribution is directly supporting the animals you care for; over 80% of the Fund’s budget is allocated for spay/neuter funding and animal control officer training, with under 20% going toward administration and marketing.

Help the Massachusetts Animal Fund make a greater impact in the Commonwealth in 2015. Invest in the responsible care of animals by donating on Line 32f this tax season – and by helping to spread the word about this important program!



Other grantors who supported the Catmobile in 2014 include: Ahimsa Foundation, Bernice Barbour Foundation, Bissell Pet Foundation, Community

Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, Institution for Savings, LeBaron Foundation, New England Anti-Vivisection Society, and Odd Fellows.

We’re thankful for our skilled Catmobile staff, including our call center team, who frequently handle hundreds of phone calls a day. Check out our profile of our Catmobile 2 medical team above!

One more thing: one of the biggest ways people learn about the Catmobile is from a friend or word-of-mouth. So, please tell your friends, and share our posts on social media!

Get social with the Catmobiles! See cute pictures of our patients and learn more about our work!

- Facebook: [Facebook.com/catmobilemfrs](https://www.facebook.com/catmobilemfrs)
- Twitter: @MRFRCats
- Instagram: @catmobile2

Leave Behind a Legacy of Caring

Find out how you can include cats, kittens and caring for local families in your will.

We can even help you plan for care for your beloved cats.

Call 978-462-0760 or email MRFRS at info@mrfrs.org for details.

Or visit our website, www.mrfrs.org, for more information.



Find comfort in planning. Consider discussing planned giving to MRFRS.

Is a Pet Trust Right For You?

If you went out to dinner tonight and, because of a tragic accident, did not come home—what would happen to your pets? Are you assuming a family member or friend would take them in? That might be wishful thinking.

An estimated 500,000 pets are euthanized every year in shelters because their owners predeceased them. To avoid this additional tragedy, you need a plan for your pets. You can have either an informal plan or you can include your pets in your estate plan through a pet trust.

An informal plan identifies who should receive and care for your pets in the first few days after an emergency, as well as longer term. You should leave the caregiver some basic information about your pets, including identification if you have several pets, their behaviors, and health records.

In addition, you may want to leave the caregiver money to ease the financial burden. If so, this needs to be in writing and if it is more than a nominal amount, you should consider a pet trust. With a pet trust, funds can be held in a separate account by the caregiver or alternatively, you could also name someone else (a trustee) who

would hold the funds and disburse them for specific expenses or reimbursement to the caregiver as needed. The latter approach ensures the funds are spent only for the benefit of the pets.

How much money should you leave? Calculate your pet's annual expenses and multiply that by life expectancy, including a cushion to cover unexpected costs. If funds remain after the pet's death, you can designate a charitable organization to receive them.

The benefit of a pet trust is that it legitimizes the setting aside of money for the proper care of your pets, and ensures the money actually benefits your pets. While it takes a little more effort, you can rest assured that even in a worst case scenario, your pets will remain in a loving and caring environment for the rest of their lives.

Adam Bartsch is the principal of NorthEast Estates and Trusts, PLLC, a Shelburne, Vermont-based law firm focused solely on estate planning for residents of Vermont, Massachusetts and New York.

WISH LIST

- **Canned (pate style) food**
- **Canned kitten food**
- **Paper towels**
- **Bleach**
- **HE laundry detergent**
- **Black sharpies**
- **Copier paper**

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