



Shelter mews



Progress Worth Celebrating!

Wow, was it me or did 2023 just fly by?! This year, we met so many amazing people and cats, but we also got a lot done!

As of the end of October, we spayed or neutered over 700 cats, dogs, and rabbits. The number breakdown is 304 cat spays, 315 cat neuters, 54 dog spays and 34 dog neuters. We have two clinics scheduled in both November and December, and so that number will be around 860 by the end of the year.



SCAR shelter with freshly manicured flower beds. Thank you Jen & Jan.

You have probably figured out that our commitment to offering the local communities these low cost clinics is huge! We also have hosted two shot clinics and five nail trim clinics. We are able to keep these clinics low-cost in part because most of the individuals helping are volunteers.



Volunteer Katie

Spaying and neutering our pets prevents thousands of unwanted litters - SNAP (the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program at snapus.org) estimates that close to 5,000 kittens can be produced by one female cat and her kittens in seven years!

There were times when we felt swamped with requests to take in cats, but our amazing community stepped in to help ensure that we always had kittens and cats being adopted, allowing us to make room for more that needed our help. As of this writing,

we have taken in 234 new cats and kittens this year (owner-surrendered, stray rescues, and more) and found homes for 207. Of course, these numbers will be higher by the time the year is officially over.

We also worked on trapping and bringing in cats from outdoor stray colonies, including 11 cats and kittens from Jefferson (one of whom was pregnant and able to raise her baby safely at our shelter) and seven from right here in Littleton (with a few more remaining that we are presently trapping). In doing so, we can spay/neuter and find them homes, and again preventing countless litters from being born outdoors.



Juliet & Othello, part of a stray colony in Jefferson

The planning continues on a major renovation, and in the meantime we continue to repair and improve our

shelter building, a former farmhouse with attached barns. With the help of a grant a new heat and hot water boiler was installed (a big thanks to Harris Energy for great service) and we should see energy savings soon.



We spruced up both the kitchen and office by removing the old wallpaper, repainting and replacing the mismatched and rusty file cabinets. This winter will bring much needed new flooring in a few rooms, along with new doors and floors for our adoption room condos to replace the old, scratched-up wood that has been there since 2010. With your help, we can continue updating the SCAR shelter to keep it safe, healthy, and efficient for the kitties in our care!



Our Giant Annual Tent Sale Fundraiser was a huge success. Volunteers also participated in the Berlin Public Library's summer program and NE Wire Technologies' Wellness Fair. It's a great feeling to be able to engage with the community again.

The work here is never done, and while it sometimes involves sweat and tears, there is also a lot of laughter, and our hearts are always full. We thank you all for being a part of it! ~Gabby Sweet
Source: www.snapus.org



Shelter Manager Jan and Volunteer Coordinator Gail



Office Helper Frankie hard at work

It's important to vote on Town Meeting day in March! It's the only time you have a say where your tax dollars will go every year, including to non-profits that you care about, like us.



1517 Meadow Street
Littleton, NH 03561
603-259-3244

www.secondchancear.org

email: secondchancear.org@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/secondchancear

www.twitter.com/SCARLittletonNH

www.instagram.com/secondchancear

www.petfinder.com

SHELTER HOURS

By Appointment Only

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jackie Allison, President
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Carolyn Murro, Treasurer
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Judy Abbott
Irene Amsbary
Alicia Prater
Carl Schafer

Gabby Sweet, Asst. to Shelter Manager

VETERINARY ADVISORS

Woodlands Veterinary Clinic
Lancaster, NH
Companion Pet Care
Littleton, NH

OUR MISSION

To provide homeless animals with a second chance at life and companionship in a no-kill shelter.

Our organization goes beyond shelter walls and is committed to:

- 1) Positive people and animal relationships and placements
- 2) Offering affordable spay, neuter and vaccination clinics
- 3) Cooperative rescue efforts
- 4) Animal welfare education

Second Chance Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and our EIN is 27-2815668. SCAR receives no federal or state tax money; nor portions of donations made to national humane organizations.



Aren't Cats Wonderful?

Felines at Festivities



Including our family cats in the holiday festivities is part of the fun, but we also need to keep them safe. Let's think about what our kitties are often attracted to. How about the wonderful aroma of cooking the Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner? As obligate carnivores, cats need meat and animal fat in their diet and turkey is a protein source in many feline foods. The danger lies in the bones which can easily splinter and cause a fatal tear or blockage in the cat's digestive tract. Those in the esophagus can be fatal.

Of course, there is always butter on the dinner table but beware, as a dairy product butter isn't the best thing for your cat. Cats lack the enzymes to digest dairy products. Ham is another favorite of people and cats, but it can sometimes be quite salty. If your cat has heart disease, diagnosed or not, too much sodium can send your cat into heart failure.

Let's talk pumpkin! It is safe for cats when given in a small quantity. Too much can cause diarrhea. Never give your kitty "pumpkin pie mix" as it has spices mixed in it. The spices are a hazard and can turn a great time for all into a disaster.

What is the best thing for your cats to eat during the holidays? The same things they eat during the other days of the year. A well balanced low-carbohydrate, high-protein cat food. In addition to the holiday meals, cats face other dangers during these celebrations. They often hover in the kitchen waiting for a dropped goodie or a handout. They may get stepped on by the cook concentrating on preparing the meal. Keep the cats out of the kitchen! Err on the side of caution when it comes to your cats during holiday feasting and celebrating.

~Jackie Allison

A Pet For Christmas?

Adopting a pet at Christmas should not just be an action of the season. Rather, adoption is a commitment to love and care for that animal year-round. Now dogs and cats both make wonderful pets and those of us at Second Chance (your local cat shelter) would certainly not try to convince you that one is better than the other. That being said, each species have much different characteristics and would appeal to different people. Having spent most of my life being owned by cats, let me tell you a few reasons why I love them so much. First are the usual reasons and then the true reasons!

The usual reasons. Let me count the ways. Cats are relatively quiet, low maintenance, independent, great apartment or condo pets, easily house trained, less costly, and keep themselves clean. Now let's move on to the real reasons.

They are good for us. A lap cat lowers your blood pressure and laughing while watching a cat play makes you feel better. Waking up with a cat cuddled up next to you is a wonderful way to start the morning. They are companions who elevate your mood.

They're playful. Cats are cats no matter what the size. Your house cat may not be a jungle feline but when playing with a catnip toy, she's still stalking, hiding, leaping, and pouncing. And as



you watch her play or play with her, you're going to be smiling and laughing. How wonderful?

Those eyes! When your cat looks you in the eyes, it's hypnotic. Cats convey all of their emotions with their eyes. We just need to pay attention.

Cats are cute. Kittens especially are absolutely the cutest thing on the planet. But happy cats, playful cats, and even sleeping cats are cute.

They love us. People who say cats are aloof just haven't been loved by a cat. Cats do love their people and show it in many ways. We just need to watch them to recognize it.

Best of all, they purr. There is nothing like a cat's purr. When your cat is on your lap or snuggled up against you in bed and that purr motor begins, you know your cat is happy and content. When you hear and feel that purr, you too are happy and content!

~Carl Schafer

Sources: *Freshpet* and *The Honest Kitchen*



Senior Spotlight

We have found ourselves caring for quite a few senior cats recently, such as Ernest, who was presumably abandoned outdoors at over 14 years of age. And then there's Micah, Sylvia, and Bowser, who all three sadly ended up in our shelter after their owners entered assisted living or nursing homes. There is also sweet Khloe, who was surrendered and adopted, then sadly returned at 14 years old because her owner could no longer care for her.

We know many people prefer to adopt kittens or young cats, as we all know it's fun to watch kittens grow up, and people want to know that their beloved new pet will be with them for a long time. But many senior and adult cats can just as easily adjust to new environments and families if given the chance.

You can feel good knowing you opened your home to a pet that truly needed it, and just in time for the holidays!

These older kitties will be safe and loved at our shelter until their special angels take them home. Your support makes it possible for us to care for these cats for however long that takes. Please visit our website or Facebook page, Petfinder.com or Adoptapet.com to see photos and biographies of all of our adoptable cats.
~Gabby Sweet



Micah



Sylvia



Khloe

Cat Tails: Blu & Binx

"We are all in love with these beautiful kitties. Blu (formerly Earl) and Binx (formerly Louie) are blossoming and growing every day.

Blu is so sweet and kind, gentle and patient. Binx is a little ham, very vocal and into everything, everywhere, all the time. He makes us laugh. They are both very lovable and cuddly. Nikki P."



Thank You Ky!

Ky and Azalea stopped by with their mom Steph to drop off goodies for the shelter kittens and cats that Ky collected in lieu of gifts for his birthday!

No matter your age, there are so many ways you can make a difference in the lives of so many kittens and cats.



Spay ASAP!

Did you know that Second Chance offers low cost spay & neuter clinics once or twice a month? Veterinarian Dr. Sara White of the aptly named Spay ASAP, Inc. has worked with us for over 10 years, and together we have altered thousands of local cats and dogs.

Since the pandemic we have found that a good portion of our phone calls are folks looking to schedule their pets for a clinic. We often hear the same phrases: "My male cat has started spraying, and I need to have him neutered right away or I can't keep him." "My female kitten has gone into heat, and she's trying to sneak outside." Or "I have pet male and female siblings and I want to avoid puppies or kittens."

Unfortunately, too often we don't receive these calls for help until there's an issue, and our clinics are so busy that we simply can't schedule everyone ASAP. For female cats, the wait can often be up to two months.

Please email or call us (secondchancear.org@gmail.com or 603-259-3244) as soon as you know, and we can schedule your pet for an appointment when it is appropriate for their age and needs. If your kitten is at least 8 weeks of age and fits other good health criteria, they can be spayed or neutered. The sooner they are altered, the lower the chance of your cat running away, beginning to spray, or getting pregnant. Spaying your female kitten before 6 months of age reduces her risk of mammary cancer by around 90%!

Please spread the word, as we know there are many pet owners in need of help, but they may not know where to turn! Together we can make a difference in the lives of our community's pets.

~Gabby Sweet
Source: "Association between ovariectomy and feline mammary carcinoma" by Beth Overley et al.



Five Funny Feline Facts

Cats normally have just 18 toes; five on each front paw and four on each rear paw. Exception being polydactyl cats which have an extra toe(s) on front and/or back paws.

Cats' claws are curved in such a manner that allows them to climb upwards head first. Conversely, they must climb down backwards or else jump.

Many cats have the "Zoomies" after using the litter box. Normally this running around like crazy is happiness after a job well done. However, constipation or swelling in the gastrointestinal or urinary tract might cause the same effect and professional advice should be sought.

Cats have fewer taste buds than dogs or people. Humans have about 9,000 and dogs 1,700. Cats only have about 470 taste buds. They can taste salty, bitter, sour, and savory flavors but cannot taste sweetness. So sorry sweet tabby - the sweets are all mine!

Cats walk like giraffes and camels. Their walking sequence is both right feet first, followed by both left feet. Or is it the other way around? Either way, they move half their body forward at once. No other four-legged animals walk in this manner. Cats call it putting their best feet forward.
~Carl Schaffer

Sources: Purina and PetMD



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Wish List

- ♥ Postage Stamps
- ♥ Gift Cards
- ♥ Dishwasher Detergent
- ♥ 13-gal. Trash Bags
- ♥ Laundry Detergent
- ♥ Bleach
- ♥ Paper Towels
- ♥ White Unscented Clay Cat Litter
- ♥ Purina Kitten Chow
- ♥ Purina Cat Chow Complete
- ♥ Black Oil Sunflower Seed

Cat Tails: Chloe & Zoe

"We adopted two kittens in October of 2021 and we named them Chloe and Zoe. They have been the best cats, and we just love them so much!

They are very happy and playful cats, and are very spoiled. Daniel & Mattie M."



Cat Tails: Zahra

"Morning! Just wanted to let you know that Sybil (now Zahra) is fitting in perfectly. She and Raven are doing well with being together and figuring out boundaries as to be expected. She does love her food! If she was a human she would win the pie eating contest. Seriously, I give her just a bit of her wet kitten food at a serving and all is wonderful. Laurel K."



You Can Help

DONATE

We know that you're swamped with requests for donations. While you support the big national organizations that help animals, we ask that you first consider giving to your local shelter. Stop by the shelter and see your gifts at work—giving the local area's abandoned and abused cats and kittens a "Second Chance"!

MONETARY DONATIONS

SCAR relies on private donations to fund our shelter, rescue and adoption operations, and community programs. Your donation is 100% tax deductible. Please mail your check today, donate securely online at www.secondchancear.org/donate, or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera and click the banner.



There are many other ways you can donate. Call us at 603-259-3244 to discuss.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

WISH LIST DONATIONS

STOCK & ANNUITIES GIFTS

WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

VEHICLE DONATIONS

INCLUDE SCAR IN YOUR WILL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-LEND A HAND!

Your shelter needs you! As our area becomes more populated and more people are wanting pets, we are busier than ever. There's the many clinics, phone calls and emails, more cats coming into the shelter and being adopted (can you say paperwork?!); along with trying to maintain, clean, and improve the building (while it has served us well, it is old!). Volunteering with the kitties is fulfilling and fun! How can you help?

Handyman/carpenter volunteers needed for occasional shelter repairs.



Volunteers needed for quarterly newsletter mailings.



Volunteers needed to plow and shovel at the shelter this winter.

