

The Voice

President's Message

It was December 2, 1987 and I was looking for support in the work I was doing for animals-particularly cats-in the York, South Berwick, Eliot, Kittery area. Except for Maine Animal Coalition and Hemlock Hill Farm Sanctuary there were no rescue groups and while efforts were made by some shelters for dogs, NOTHING was being done for cats.

I wrote a letter to the editor of the York Weekly explaining what I was doing; why I needed help; and when I hoped to draw a group of concerned people together. I was not sure what would happen and I went to the meeting with my heart in my mouth. Much to my surprise and relief five people showed up to be part of a new organization which was eventually named Voice for Animals (VFA) and they all stayed with the group for several years. Over that time, as a result of much publicity of our advocacy, others joined.

From the start we knew that VFA would be a no-kill organization and that euthanasia was not ever going to be our way of solving the overpopulation problem. We focused on spay/neuter, education, and encouraging

towns to include cats in the work of their Animal Control Officer (ACO). All of these remain issues even today.

That brings me to our needs now, twenty-five years after the date of our founding.

This year we lost a foster home because a change in family dynamics there meant a space would no longer be available to us. Because of that it has become more difficult to give sanctuary to all those animals who need our help. As we celebrate 25 years of animal advocacy we continue this quest for a permanent shelter for all the animals in our care and the need grows increasingly urgent.

To date a Shelter Fund has been created from the donations already received and we have found an *actual shelter* for sale in Lebanon, Maine. If it remains available we would love to make it the Voice for Animals

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Hi-Frequency Pest Control

Candy Burrell, Vice President

The cold weather is upon us and the field mice and rats are seeking the warmth of the houses. I have heard from a few friends who are dealing with this post on Facebook that they are setting spring traps or glue traps to catch these animals. I have asked, well *begged* them to reconsider this barbaric approach for a more humane method by using electronic pest control. These devices are typically purchased at most local hardware stores and garden centers and are simply plugged into a wall outlet.

Either through vibrations or high frequency sound waves not heard by the human ear, the rodents and some insects will be repelled to leave the premises.

Be aware that if you have hamsters, gerbils or guinea pigs this approach is not advised. If you live in an apartment building with only walls separating families that you should check to make sure your neighbor doesn't have a small pet that could be harmed.

Are You Prepared?

Quite a few Hurricane Sandy cats are being transferred from the Monmouth County SPCA to shelters in Maine. This highlights the fact that many animals, particularly cats, were left behind when Sandy struck and their people did not or could not try to retrieve them.

Plan ahead. Make the cats in your care "Inside Cats." If you need to evacuate they will only need to be placed in carriers not searched for outside. Plan to have enough carriers for all companion animals who will need to be transported in them. (Cats CAN be transported in pillowcases in a pinch.) Keep a file on all your animals' medical records in something you can pick up and carry with you when you evacuate.

For more information

In Maine contact your county EMA and get specific information from The County Animal Response Team (CART). In New Hampshire contact The Disaster Response Team (DART) <http://www.newhampshiredart.org/importantlinks.html>.

Never, never, never leave an animal behind. They are members of your family and trust you to protect them in times of disaster.

Renting with a Companion Animal

Here are tips to help prove your case with apartment owners.

- Be responsible with your animals-get them fixed and have obedience training.
- Set up an opportunity for the landlord to meet your animal friend.
- Provide veterinary documents including preventive treatment for fleas, heartworm, and rabies
- Provide an explanation of what Buddy or Lucky cat does all day
- Bring references
- Offer to pay an extra deposit
- Offer to buy renters insurance
- When you move out from this apartment, leave it in excellent condition, this will help insure a home for the next person with an animal friend.
- Search for pet-friendly apartments and living situations at:

apartmentlist.com

www.peoplewithpets.com

www.pets911.com

www.petswelcome.com

www.mynewplace.com

More resources available at: <http://www.srdogs.com/Pages/needhomes.other.resources.html>

Other Organizations in Maine

The Maine Equine Welfare Alliance

Helping Horses, Educating People

What we do:

- Provide temporary financial assistance to qualified individuals for:
 - Feed
 - Veterinary Care
 - Farrier
 - Gelding
 - Euthanasia
- Provide placement assistance for horses in need of homes through networking and advertising
- Provide education and mentoring to the general public
- Assist law enforcement and animal welfare officials in emergency situations

www.maineequinewelfarealliance.com

Maine Farm Animal Advocates

It has been a very busy year for us here at Maine Farm Animal Advocates. Because of space limitations we are unable to take new resident animals but we've been busy assisting farm animals in need in finding new, safe, no kill homes. We've teamed up with Downeast Equine and Large Animal Society to improve our networking and outreach. We've hosted several vegan meet ups in Hancock and Penobscot County in an effort to make vegan food more available. Our bovine residents continue their "work" as ambassadors for a vegan diet and they are quite successful. Once people meet them and get to know them as individuals, who are not much different than their dog or cat at home, they find it much harder to continue using them or their products as food source. For 2013, we are planning several events with the local PCRM Cancer Project Food for Life instructor and a joint event with the Cancer Support Center of Maine. Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Maine-Farm-Animal-Advocates/140997485945259>



Christopher likes to tuck his head in when he snoozes. :)



Forever home in
time for the holidays.

Sierra is a beautiful and playful, young torbie. She was abandoned in a neighborhood and a kind person called Voice for Animals for help. Voice for Animals got her spayed and vaccinated and she is now waiting for a forever home. Sierra's foster mother describes her as a character: comical and full of energy. She is quite mischievous and likes to "stir things up." If you are looking for some excitement in your life, Sierra may be the kitty for you. She will also give you plenty of loving after playtime is done. Sierra is a young kitty...not quite one year old. Please email in2catz@gmail.com for more information.



Shaman is an absolute love. He is a "plug in" kitty with lots of energy. He is being fostered with several other cats and three dogs and is friendly to all the animals as well as his people friends. For some reason Shaman has gotten passed over for months by people looking for a furry companion to add to their home. It is hard to believe and the volunteers for Voice for Animals just can't understand it. He is a perfect little cat...about 8 months old with so much to offer. His picture just hasn't caught the right person's attention yet. To meet him is to love him. If you are interested in giving Shaman a forever home in time for the holidays please call [207-698-4874](tel:207-698-4874) or email in2catz@gmail.com

Vegan Corner

Festive Nut Loaf

Dry Ingredients:

2 ½ cups ground mixture of sunflower seeds, almonds, and walnuts
¾ cup wheat germ
½ cup raw oats
½ tsp. each dried rosemary, sage, and parsley
1 tsp. ground caraway seeds, use blender (*optional*)

½ cup cooked brown rice
3 Tbsp. nutritional yeast (*health food stores*)
½ tsp. poultry seasoning

Liquid Ingredients:

2 Tbsp. tahini (*sesame butter*)
3 Tbsp. applesauce with no added sugar
Tomato juice, unsalted

1 Tbsp. tamari soy sauce or Bragg Aminos
(*health food stores*) or to taste
1 Tbsp. molasses

Raw Vegetables:

3 cloves garlic, *minced*
2 celery stalks, *finely chopped*

1 large onion, *finely chopped*
1 large carrot, *grated*

Saute vegetables in medium frying pan in water and/or vegetable broth (*about 3 Tbsp.*), adding more liquid if mixture dries out. Wine may also be used with above liquids. Drain vegetables when tender. Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl, adding tomato juice, as needed to moisturize. Mixture should hold together. If too moist, drain off excess liquid. Spoon into large loaf pan and bake in a 350 degree oven 45 minutes or until top is brown and loaf is dry. Let cool for 10 minutes, invert onto serving platter and slice. Serve

with Brown Gravy, Stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce.

Stuffing

A change of pace from potatoes or rice

1 med. onion, *chopped*
3 cups fresh mushrooms, *sliced*
¼ cup fresh parsley, *chopped*, or 2 tsp. dried
¼ tsp. each marjoram and black pepper
Tamari soy sauce to taste

3 garlic cloves, *minced*
4 cups cubed, whole grain bread
½ tsp. each sage and thyme
1¼ cups celery, *diced*
1 cup very hot water or vegetable broth

Saute onion, garlic, celery, and mushrooms in water with some wine added (*non –alcoholic ok*).
Saute until barely tender, adding more water, as needed. Stir in bread cubes and water or vegetable broth. Place in oiled baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

Brown Gravy

2 Tbsp. arrowroot or cornstarch
2 cups water or vegetable broth

4 Tbsp. tamari soy saucy or Bragg Aminos
4 Tbsp. soy powder

In medium saucepan, mix tamari and cornstarch together well. Add remaining ingredients, stirring until mixture is smooth. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until gravy thickens and boils. Makes 2 cups

Recipes contributed by Barbara Bonsignore and are from her cookbook *Cooking with Compassion*, a gourmet, vegan cookbook. All proceeds from the sale of these books go to low cost spaying and altering of dogs and cats. Price is \$20 postpaid and should be sent to Spaying & Altering Service 8 Hutchins Street Concord, NH 033301-3208

Maine Update

I am thrilled to have started as the new State Director for The Humane Society of the United States this year and look forward to working with all of the amazing and devoted animal advocates throughout Maine!

The short 2012 legislative session included a victory on behalf of animals in the successful opposition to LD 1826, which sought to repeal all income tax return check-offs. While the "Companion Animal Sterilization Fund" charitable check-off will remain as a source of funding for Maine's low cost spay/neuter program, more work must be done to ensure that it stays that way. The check-off must generate \$10,000 in donations for 2012 tax returns, and then increase \$3,000 per year until the donations reach \$25,000. In order to meet these new requirements we must spread the word about the tax check-off (which is located on Maine Schedule CP), so that this source of funding is available to continue the crucial low-cost spay/neuter efforts that help to reduce shelter intakes and euthanasia.

On another funding note, I am excited to share with you that the popularity of Maine's Adopt Specialty License Plate continues to grow. There were more than 3,000 new registrations for the 2012 fiscal year! If you haven't gotten yours yet, make sure you do so, as they provide

important support for animal cruelty investigations and the Help Fix ME program.

It has also been great to see the commitment and continuing efforts to include animals in emergency and disaster planning. As part of the CERT Jamboree this year, a fantastic group participated in the Humane Society University's three day Disaster Animal Response Training that provided the necessary elements of team-building and background necessary to become an effective emergency animal relief responder. Additionally, the Maine Emergency Management Agency recently held an incredibly productive exercise/workshop with representatives from County Animal Response Teams, County Emergency Management, The Animal Welfare Program and HSUS. The group was able to provide important and unique feedback about the varied elements of response to be included in Maine's Animal Care Plan so that we will be as prepared as possible in the event of a disaster.

I am excited about what 2013 has to bring in the way of making positive change for animals, especially in light of the switch in leadership in both the House and Senate. It is because of advocates like you that important public policy reforms are possible! So be sure to stay informed about what steps you can take to continue to promote respect and compassion for all animals by joining me in our efforts this upcoming year.

Katie Hansberry

News from Maine and New Hampshire

Joanne Bourbeau HSUS Regional Director New Hampshire and Vermont

New Hampshire Legislation

A bill that would have significantly weakened the state's poaching laws (HB 1332) was defeated thanks to the combined lobbying efforts of the HSUS and the NH Fish and Game Department.

A housekeeping bill (HB 325) introduced at the request of the NH Department of Agriculture, Food & Markets was changed significantly because of opposition from the NH Federation of Humane Organizations to provisions that would have hampered their adoption efforts. The final version of the bill, which passed, allows transferees of animals for adoption to accept sick or injured animals, and requires that transferred animals be held for 48 hours at a licensed facility before being transferred for adoption.

Sadly, bills to ban gestation crates for pregnant sows (SB 312), ban horse slaughter for human consumption

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

For Pet Owners in Need

Please keep in mind that each organization is independent and has its own set of rules and guidelines. You will have to investigate each one separately to determine if you qualify for assistance:

The American Animal Hospital Association: (866) 443-5738; <http://www.aahahelpingpets.org>

Angels4Animals: Provides financial assistance to save pets facing euthanasia or being surrendered due to financial difficulties. (916) 443-6007; <http://www.angels4animals.org>

The Big Hearts Fund (financial assistance for the diagnosis and treatment of canine and feline heart disease): [bigheartsfund.org](http://www.bigheartsfund.org)

The Binky Foundation: [binkyfoundation.org](http://www.binkyfoundation.org)

Brown Dog Foundation (prescription medications): [browndogfoundation.org](http://www.browndogfoundation.org)

Canine Cancer Awareness: [caninecancerawareness.org](http://www.caninecancerawareness.org)

Care Credit <http://www.carecredit.com/vetmed/>

Cats In Crisis: [catsin crisis.org](http://www.catsin crisis.org)

Feline Veterinary Emergency Assistance Program:

Provides assistance to cat/kitten guardians who are unable to afford veterinary services to save their companions when life-threatening illness/injury strikes. Focus on seniors, people w/ disabilities, people who have lost their job,

God's Creatures Ministry Veterinary Charity: www.all-creatures.org

Goldstock Fund: Provides funds to rescue organizations or individuals to pay for transportation, boarding, evaluations and medical costs of golden retrievers and golden hearted dogs taken into rescue. Also supports other breeds of dogs in rescue situations. <http://www.goldstockfund.org>

Good Samaritans who rescue a cat or kitten. <http://www.fveap.org>

Help-A-Pet: [help-a-pet.org](http://www.help-a-pet.org) 916-443-6007

IMOM.org: [IMOM.org](http://www.imom.org)

LabMed: Will provide monetary assistance toward emergency medical expenses for Labrador Retrievers who are abandoned or in a rescue situation and for whom no other funding is available or is insufficient. <http://www.labmed.org>

Labrador Life Line: Provides for dogs who are with families, but for valid reasons, the family cannot provide the required help for the dog's condition. <http://www.labradorlifeline.org>

Magic Bullet Fund (cancer-specific): [themagicbulletfund.org](http://www.themagicbulletfund.org)

The Mosby Fund: [themosbyfoundation.org](http://www.themosbyfoundation.org)

The Onyx & Breezy Foundation: [onyxandbreezy.org](http://www.onyxandbreezy.org)

Paws 4 A Cure: [paws4acure.org](http://www.paws4acure.org)

Pet Food Bank: www.petco.com

The Pet Fund: [thepetfund.com](http://www.thepetfund.com)

Pets of the Homeless (pet food and veterinary care assistance for homeless): www.petsofthehomeless.org

The Pet Fund: Provides financial assistance to owners of domestic animals who need urgent veterinary care. Also provides information about preventative care, pet insurance programs, and financial services that will ensure that pet owners are able to develop financial resources on their own and thus avoid future emergencies through care and planning. (916) 443-6007. <http://www.thepetfund.com>

RedRover Relief: [redrover.org](http://www.redrover.org)

Rose's Fund: [rosesfund.org](http://www.rosesfund.org)

Shakespeare Animal Fund: www.shakespeareanimalfund.org

Starfleet Canine Aid Foundation: Provides financial aid to owners who could not otherwise afford medical treatment. <http://www.canineaid.org>

Top Dog Foundation "Bentley Grant": [topdogfoundation.org](http://www.topdogfoundation.org)

United Animal Nations Life Line Grant: Provides funding to Good Samaritans, animal rescuers, non-profit organizations, and pet owners to provide care for animals in life-threatening situations. (916) 429-2457; <http://www.uan.org>

Source: Humane Society of the United States

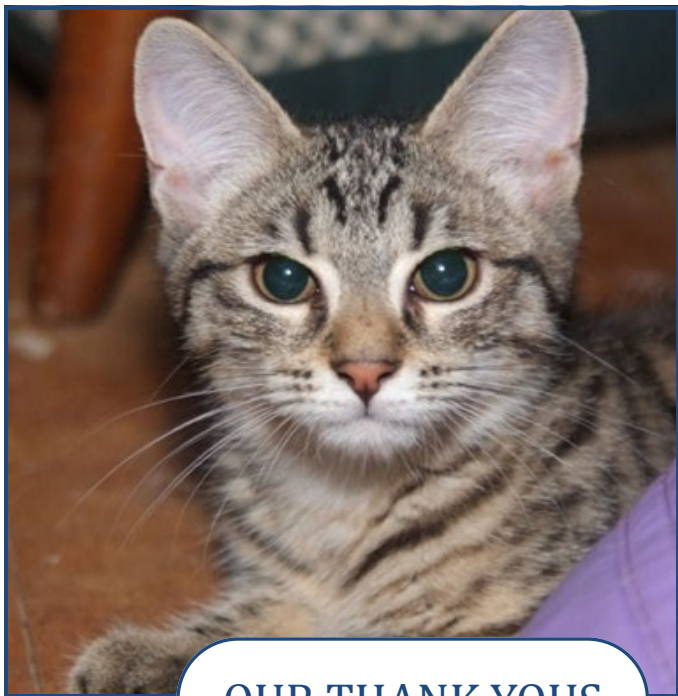
NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON AN ANIMAL IN NEED

Elizabeth Hunt-Nickerson

Last summer a very frail but beautiful calico made her way in my backyard. At the first sighting or two I hoped and assumed that she was someone's pet who had wandered over and I just hadn't noticed her before. But my instincts told me that was not the case.... and sure enough I saw her repeatedly over a week or so and she looked so dirty and frail. On that third or fourth day she walked over to me while gardening outside where I could pat her; her skinny little body was so tiny underneath her rough coat. I knew this was not a healthy cat and immediately got some cat food from inside the house. She ate it like she hadn't eaten in weeks! I knew then for sure that this was not a well-cared for pet but didn't know what to do. I called our animal control officer who said, "don't feed her, I know who she is and she has kittens". That seemed like terrible advice and made no sense. Instead, I called Rebecca Chasse at Voice for Animals and she helped me make the decision that I knew was right for her and for my conscience: she was a cat who needed help and I should bring her into care. I was unable to take

her, though I struggled with that decision. I was so grateful to have someone to help me.... what a hard decision that was! I was also incredibly grateful for Rebecca finding a foster home for her.; I was relieved and sad and worried all at once. Rebecca arranged for me to bring her in; she diligently took her to their veterinarian to look her over and he confirmed what I knew in my heart: she was a very hungry adult cat. She seemed to have an infected eye and was estimated to be at least 12 and was spayed. There is no way she could have had a current litter of kittens. I was so happy that I had not listened to that Animal Control Officer! I was equally as happy to have the guidance of someone at Voice for Animals to help me do the right thing for her and make sure she was taken care of. Rebecca unknowingly guided me to listen to my conscience and care for this cat who was not being cared for.





OUR THANK YOUS

This is a good place to briefly, but effectively, describe your product or services.

Our board member, Rebecca Chasse has stepped down to spend more time doing VFA's hands-on work with the cats in our care. (You can see her write-ups and pictures of cats here.) In her capacity as secretary she kept up our correspondence, laid out the newsletter and helped work on grant proposals. She did all this in addition to working with feral colonies and finding homes for strays and kittens. One has to wonder how she found the time to do it all so well. Thank you, Rebecca, for all you have done for us. We will miss you at our board meetings and all the professional work you have done for us, but we are happy to know you will be continuing your compassionate work with the animals who need your care.

Another thank you to Ann Peterson owner of Ann-imals U.S. 1 York, ME 03909 (207) 351-2777 for donating some of the proceeds from her annual Christmas with Santa photographs to our Shelter Fund. She has proven to be a wonderful friend to VFA. Thank you, Ann, for supporting this long-term goal.

Monthly Adoption Events at Pet-Quarters in Wells

V

oice for Animals began its first adoption event at Pet Quarters in Wells on December 8 from 11am to 3 pm; the second is scheduled for January 19.

These events will continue monthly throughout the year. Our “Thank you’s” to the manager, Dennis Vienneau.



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My Check, Payable to
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My gift will be matched by
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Name: _____

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I do not wish to be a member, but would like to make a donation of \$ _____

I want to offer my services to Voice for Animals
My skills include: _____ Working with animals (live trapping, fostering, working with sick animals, etc.)

_____ Fundraising/Special events

_____ Other: _____

THANK YOU!

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.