

MassPAWS Newsletter

The Massachusetts Progressive Animal Watchdog Society has an eye on animals in Massachusetts, and the animals are the beneficiaries.

Winter 2009

Stanley's Story; by Dee Dennis, V.P.

Stanley was picked up by Animal Control and was taken to a holding facility in Peabody. Lucky for Stanley, one of Animal Control Officers (ACOs) of that town is a Chihuahua fan. The ACO made a call to PALS (Peabody Animal Life Savers) who did dog rescue years ago. They have since discontinued their work with dogs and focus only on cats and kittens. So their hotline person Diane, called me seeking MassPAWS help. Diane and I are both suckers for the little Chihuahua crosses which have inundated the pounds as of late and I said that I would intervene on his behalf.

I called the ACO who told me a little more about Stanley and his suspicions about the person who found Stanley; *the stories just didn't jive*. Stanley's time was up and we made the commitment to spring him before he was scheduled to be euthanized.

On the evening I picked-up Stanley I was shocked to see how boney and how timid he was. Unsure of what and who I was going to be to him, he hung his head and looked up at me with his sad doe-like eyes which seemed to beg me for mercy and forgiveness; *I wanted to cry*. He needed vaccines and neutering which MassPAWS provided. When I picked him up after his surgery, he was still groggy and I felt that I could easily break his bones when I handled him – *he seemed so fragile*.

Stanley gained confidence and made friends in the weeks to come. His fighting spirit made him stronger. His playful and adventurous side was surfacing and every-



thing was a new discovery for him.

I remember his first REAL walk he took with me. The acorns, leaves and sticks on the ground were all of great interest. He acted as if it were the first time he was seeing these things, and like a child he mouthed everything and explored by digging into every pile of dirt and leaves he encountered. *Made me wonder if he ever got to romp and play in the out of doors in his previous home*.

Stanley met his new family shortly after I took him in for fostering. To say that they adored him doesn't even come close to describing how they feel about him. *Truly a match made in heaven*.

Updates on Stanley come regularly; he has gained weight, recovered from kennel cough and has made friends with the cats in his household and with his cousins the pugs. He enjoyed the holiday surrounded by warmth and love from his adoring new family who will take care of him and who will keep him safe for the rest of his life.

Stanley was a dog who's time was up; he was slated for euthanasia. He was petrified at the Peabody holding facility. After being fostered with MassPAWS, he has blossomed into a very happy little guy and has been placed in a loving home!



Charlie

All of us are worthy of a second chance



Carla

I second that e-motion

These Loving Little Guys are just two of the animals being cared for by MassPAWS. Please call MassPAWS to adopt or to make a donation to help with their care: (617) 846-5586 or donate with www.PayPal.com to MassPAWS@aol.com

Angus the Powerful! by Dee Dennis, V.P.

Angus is the product of a backyard breeder. The Bully Breeds (Bull Dog/Bull Terrier Breeds) that are so over bred on the North Shore and throughout Massachusetts, need our help more and more as they have become the victims of status symbol mentality. We have seen them in the pounds and have cried when we looked into the eyes and their scarred, worried faces. We have heard (all too often) of their demise at the hands of irresponsible humans who know very little to nothing about their needs, care or proper training (let alone being concerned).



Angus has a birth defect that we feel is likely the result of inbreeding and over breeding. I got the call before Christmas that a neighbor had caught wind at her work place about a new born litter of pups. One of the pups had a “dangly” leg. The owner was going to put the pup into a plastic bag and hook him up to his car tail pipe to kill him.

The woman, who has done independent rescue was determined to help this little guy. She asked to meet the owner and was allowed to go and see the pup. She convinced the owner to surrender the pup to her so that she could help him and give him the care he needed. She was successful in getting the pup surrendered to her but then realized she did not have the means or ways to care for him and so she called on MassPAWS to help. We took Angus into foster care and he will receive the necessary veterinary care which will include his leg amputation. The defect

is pretty severe and although the leg is pretty useless, Angus is a beefy little pup; determined and spunky.



He plays and tries to run, despite his handicap. He is in the best foster care with a veterinary technician who loves the babies and does a fabulous job caring for them until they are ready for adoption. Angus is our poster child for 2010. We are determined to work toward solving the over breeding issues that the bully breeds and other breeds are victims of across the commonwealth. Join us in challenging and changing the minds and actions of the public. By sending your donation to MassPAWS today, you will also send us your message of support as we carry out our mission to save puppies like Angus.

Alice's QUEST, by Dee Dennis, V.P

Unfortunately, Alice did not find her home for the holidays, but that has not dampened her spirit at all. Her foster family is enjoying her company and is patient about helping us find the home that will suite Alice for the remainder of her life. We may never know Alice's story, but from what we've seen lately Alice is among the many MA dogs finding themselves homeless during these difficult economic times.

Alice WAS someone's beloved pet. Did her owner die? Become hospitalized? Get placed into a nursing home? Become homeless themselves? We may never know.

What I do know about Alice is she is a lovely dog w/manners, spunk and a desire to please. Her holding time was up at the pound right before the holidays and decisions were going to be made.

Had we not intervened, Alice may not have made it to a foster home for the holidays. Thanks to MassPAWS she will have another chance to steal her way into someone's heart and home.

To meet her is to love her and given her positive outlook on life, it is hard to believe that she lost her home. She is approx. 11 years old and has been spayed; we have updated her vaccines and tested for heartworm (she is negative). She needs dentistry and a longtime friend of MassPAWS has made a donation to help cover this care. She is scheduled to receive her dental work in January.

She is fabulous in the car, is crate trained and is wonderful on leash and fun to walk. I can picture her sleeping peacefully by the hearth and sharing future holidays and years to come with a new family that will appreciate her verve for life and her sweet little personality.



'Until you have loved an animal, part of your soul remains unawakened'



In case you think a cat should enjoy "the great outdoors"; Hodge's brother died of rabies.

Sadly, my brother fell victim to the perils of being an outdoor free-roaming cat. He died due to the Rabies Virus. Thanks to MassPAWS I'm alive and well and awaiting my forever INDOOR ONLY home.

My name is Hodge and I'm ready to be adopted!

Ways to help MassPAWS!

Use www.goodsearch.com when searching the web, and in input MassPAWS as the beneficiary (in the section WHO DO YOU SEARCH FOR, type in MASSPAWS and press your enter key).

Use www.igive.com where you're on-line shopping benefits MassPAWS. A toolbar can also be downloaded. Donate at PayPal to MassPaws@aol.com

MassPAWS is proud to have received grant monies from: The Petco Foundation, PetSmart Charities and from the Massachusetts Animal Coalition License Plate Program.



Help Homeless Pets in your Neighborhood; please participate in the PETCO Foundation and PetSmart Charities fundraising programs; *they work!*

An Inside Cat is a Safe Cat – Safe for You and Safe for your Cat

Robinson Crusoe

Robinson Crusoe is safe inside and perfectly happy looking out a screened window. When found in Lynn, Robinson had been hit by a car. He had a fractured rear leg that healed crooked, a bruised bladder, a heart murmur and was loaded with fleas. He weighed only 7 pounds and is now healed and happy and 12 pounds; more like it! *Robinson Crusoe is available for adoption to a special someone!*



Tweedles



Tweedles was a very young kitten when she was stepped on or hit by a car in Revere. Her rear leg was broken and she hobbled around for months until a kind woman got her inside and called MassPAWS. Tweedles is half grown now, and her old fracture healed with a large callous. She is quite happy now to have regular meals, no fleas, and a soft bed. *Tweedles has a kind and quiet outlook on life now and will be available for adoption.*

A Day in the Life of Animal Rescue at MassPAWS

MassPAWS got a call about a mother cat and kittens living outside in a public housing site in Withrop. Once we had secured a foster home for this little family, one of our board members and senior trapping expert, Mary Jones, mobilized to help. Mary began her efforts on a Tuesday night.

After hours of setting traps and patiently waiting without success Mary pulled up the traps and vowed to go back the next day to try again. First to be caught on that Wednesday morning was a female thought to be related to the "Mom" cat, then an adult male and finally the Mom.

As it turns out the male was recognized by the neighbor who had called asking for help and the owner agreed to let us neuter the cat and return him after surgery and vaccinations. After loading up the cats in traps into her car, Mary drove the three adults to Revere Pet Clinic (RPC) for their medical care.

Mary stopped on her way back from dropping off at RPC to pick up more transfer cages to go back to the site to tackle trapping the five remaining kittens. Mary was able to trap four of the five kittens that afternoon. She then went back to pick up the 3 adults at RPC and then journeyed back to the site to return the male to his owner. They were very grateful for the help and his neuter means that he will stay close to home and will be a healthier feline because of our intervention.

Mary went home for a quick dinner break before she would then go on to pick up a crate and flea medicine before heading to the foster home with mom, "Auntie" and the 4 babies. It is now 8:00 p.m. Mary then helped the foster home set up the crate and settle the little family before heading back out to trap the remaining kitten.

Mary worked over 10 hours to secure all

the kittens and their mom and the other two adults. The toll on our volunteers is stress, frustration and time away from family and pets. The cost to MassPAWS for this trapping project was \$400.00 initially for the surgeries and flea treatment with more financial commitment to follow once babies will be old enough for vaccinations and neuters.

This is but one colony in one town that we assist. MassPAWS is completely volunteer-based and we, as volunteers, make great personal effort and sacrifice. Our reward is the lives saved. At a minimum we need financial support, fostering assistance, and help with placement from the citizens in the communities we serve. Thank you to all who give the support and validation we thrive on to continue to save lives. Without you we would not be able to carry on our commitment.



Looking to adopt a cat or two? MassPAWS cats may be seen at PetSmart Salem with our friends from PALS and at PetSmart Saugus with our friends from Melrose Humane Society. Be sure to adopt not shop!!

Did you know that MassPAWS is an all Volunteer organization? Please consider donating; your generosity will save the lives of cats and dogs.

"Some would say that animals are 'in the way'. We say that they are leading the way, to a more ethical and humane society." — Beverly Alba, MassPAWS Founder

You See Cute — We See Tragic
Thousands of Kittens and Cats and Puppies and Dogs are Destroyed Every Year in Massachusetts because There Are Just TOO MANY entering pounds & shelters

Please have your pet fixed.

Information for low cost spay/neuter agencies are available on the next page.



This is not sexy !



The Massachusetts Progressive Animal Watchdog Society, Inc.

Spay / Neuter Information

Thousands of kittens, cats and dogs are stray, abandoned, homeless and unclaimed every year in Massachusetts; sadly, many are destroyed. Please have your pet spayed or neutered, show your love and keep them safe!

- Find upcoming low cost **CATMOBILE** Spay/Neuter clinics at MRFRS.org or call (888) 495-SPAY/7729.
- The **S.T.O.P. Clinic**; this mobile unit drives to many cities performing low cost Spay/Neuter (cats only, fee includes initial vaccinations) www.TheStopClinic.com Call the S.T.O.P. clinic at (617) 571-7151
- Low cost Spay/Neuter certificates at **Friends of Animals** www.FriendsOfAnimals.org or call (800) 321-7387
- **Animal Rescue League SPAY Waggin'** (877) 590-7729, a mobile unit that provides low cost spay and neuter for cats and dogs under 60 pounds, fee includes initial vaccines. www.arlboston.org
- **Alliance For Animals** offers low cost Spay/Neuter services 232 Silver St., South Boston, (617) 268- 7800 www.afaboston.org **NOTE: will spay/neuter Pit Bulls for FREE.**
- **MSPCA SNAP** (617) 541-5005 & **Shalit-Glazer** (617) 541-5007 programs, assisting low-income households with Spay/Neuter needs; go to: www.mspca.org and search SNAP or Shalit-Glazer
- **Merwin Animal Clinic** 542 Cambridge St. Allston 617-782-5420 Walk-in clinic open 12-3 Mon-Sat (cash only) Low cost spay and neuter by appointment.

MassPAWS was honored to receive a grant for the year beginning July 1 from the "I'm Animal Friendly" License plate, administered by the Massachusetts Animal Coalition, for \$ 5,000.00. It will allow us to spay/neuter approximately 90 animals! We have thus far in 2009 facilitated over 120 surgeries. Drive to benefit animals all across Massachusetts by buying the Spay/Neuter License Plate! And we love to honk at other SN plates!!

"Please Support the Massachusetts Animal -Friendly License Plate Initiative".
www.MassAnimalCoalition.org

We are also grateful to the Massachusetts Animal Coalition P.I.L.O.T. program, which provides for spays, neuters, and vaccinations on unclaimed Pound dogs, so that they can be readied for foster care and adoption. MAC has helped both cats and dogs with innovative programs all across Massachusetts, including those in our Greater Boston North area. Check out their web site: www.massanimalcoalition.org



An Inside Cat is a Safe Cat – Safe for You and Safe for your Cat

MassPAWS

ADDRESS
PO BOX 520136,
WINTHROP, MA 02152

Phone
617-846-5586

Email
MassPaws@aol.com

Web Site
MassPAWS.PetFinder.org



MassPAWS

the Massachusetts Progressive Animal Watchdog Society has an eye on animals in Massachusetts, and the animals are the beneficiaries.

Special Points of Interest

- Please join us for our annual "Paws For A Song" benefit at the Orient Heights Yacht Club on March 18, 2010. For tickets please call Beverly Alba 617.846.5586 (Winthrop); Mary Jones 781.289.0163 (Revere); Dee Dennis 781.581.5258 (Swampscott)
- Your generosity and kindness in 2009 is so much appreciated; **without your help the animals we have been able to save would have suffered and many would have been euthanized**; you guys ROCK! While this is fantastic news, it also means that we hope you will continue to help us rescue more animals. *With your support, more animals like Stanley and Robinson Crusoe and Angus and Tweedles will be saved.* Please donate to MassPAWS at 617.846.5586 or to P.O. Box 520136, Winthrop 02152 or with www.PayPal.com to Mass-PAWS@aol.com
--- Thank You!
- Terrified, confused, and heartbroken, **OLDER CATS** that have lost their homes & may sit waiting and waiting while potential adopters bypass them in favor of kittens. In addition to helping these cats find loving homes, there are many good reasons to consider an older cat for adoption; Older Cats are not as messy or destructive; Older Cats have better litter box habits; & Older Cats are usually spayed or neutered.



We love to honk at other Spay/Neuter plates !

MassPAWS has received funds from the sale of the license plates for five years in order to Spay/Neuter hundreds of cats & dogs from our North Shore area.

MassPAWS is very grateful to Maria Palmieri and Ann Cantalupo for conceiving, planning and executing the Kelly's Square Pub fundraiser on November 10th all by themselves! The room was full, everyone got full on great food, and many people went home with cool raffle prizes (even Mary). All was well presented, and even St. Michael's Church gave us a donation! It was a great get-together for people and for the animals. I KNOW there are so many good folks in East Boston who WANT the cats to be taken care of, and we will remain committed to helping. We were blessed this year to find even more volunteers to help with the cats, lead again by Al Roy, who has been totally committed to trapping, transporting, neutering and fostering the free-roaming cats in East Boston and beyond.

We are also grateful to Georgiana Struzziero of Winthrop, who mailed our Kelly's Square Pub flyer to many neighbors in Winthrop, generating several donations mailed in to us. We have always responded to the stray cats in Winthrop, and found many more this year than in past years needing assistance.

In one November day, we saved the lives of a Salem dog and a Salem cat; without our intervention and commitment, both would have died. We spayed a Revere mother cat in one week in December and rescued her 3 kittens (thank you, Mary), spayed and neutered 5 Lynn cats (thank you Dee and Mary), and some of those will be taken in by neighborhood folks there. Al got a substantial donation from a new donor (thank you, Al).

Thank you to all who attended our fundraiser on December 3rd at Giggles! Thank you Donna Michaud!

The animals are better for all of these efforts; we simply cannot help them without the financial support of our communities, and in order to help more, we need to keep up the support.

Well done to all, and let's keep plugging. -Beverly