

MassPAWS Newsletter



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

Winter 2011

We're on the Web!
MassPAWS.PetFinder.org

Chris & Joe Adore these Two Little Ones!

Kate & Sam are from a litter of six which were found outside. They are inseparable; if Sam has to go to the veterinarian, Kate has to go also because she'll cry if she can't find him. They're very lovable and Chris & Joe adore them.

KATE IS THE GREY TABBY & SAM THE ORANGE



Looks like **Kate** is just going to be a bit plump no matter what, she doesn't over-eat but she's this round puff ball and so playful.



Sam is all lean, muscle and long. He's the eater and his favorite lay down position is pictured here. Back legs flattened out like a little hyena.

KYA & Pat

Kya was wandering the streets of Chelsea on the Everett line one cold Sunday night. Kya was badly matted with hair loss, had a lump on her abdomen, and wasn't born yesterday.

A Good Samaritan brought her to MSPCA and alerted Mass-PAWS. We knew she had to get to the Pound in Lynn if she had a chance to be claimed. MSPCA sent her to Boston Animal Control, and at our alert, Chelsea Animal Control picked her up and brought her to Lynn. Alas, 10 days went by and no one called for Kya.

We spoke up for her again.

Kya was estimated to be 7-8 years old. Our **friends at Paws Here Inc.** in Revere offered to foster Kya and the **Mass. Animal Coalition PILOT Program** and **Pound Hounds** spayed her and provided vaccinations, flea treatment, and a heartworm test.

Kya spent 3 weeks at Paws Here playing & playing; getting lots of love and attention while



her coat came in. She healed from her spay and hernia repair. Kya started to shine

Finally, a kind woman named Pat came to meet Kya; she brought her to a new home. Kya now hikes & has her own yard. She will never be seen wandering again! After a few weeks of settling in, it is mutual love for Pat and Kya!

.....*now known as Rory.*

"No expert recommends keeping a cat outside" Source: Animal Planet, Cats 101, October 16, 2010



The Massachusetts Progressive Animal Watchdog Society, Inc

Beverly Alba, President ♦ Mary Jones ♦ Dee Dennis

Dear Community Leader and Friend of Animals,

We are asking for your support at the holidays in order for us to continue to help homeless cats and dogs in our North Shore communities. The need is ever greater in these most difficult economic times.

You can help us to help homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in this critical year for Boston North Shore animals by making a donation by check to the address below, in person to one of our volunteers, or on line at [Paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) to masspaws@aol.com.

MassPAWS is a 501 C(3) non profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We simply cannot help the hundreds of animals needing our assistance without the support of caring folks like you in our communities. We are making a difference in the lives of impounded dogs, stray cats and feral cats, and we ask for your help again this year so that we may continue to do so. Since gaining non profit status in 2005, we have helped over 2000 cats and dogs to gain a better life. There is still much work to do, and we are called upon daily to assist with more. Our organization is all volunteer and over 90% of our funding goes directly to spaying and neutering and veterinary care. We do not turn the sick or injured away.

If you have a question about how you can help, please feel free to call our Board Members or Volunteers:

Winthrop:	Beverly Alba 617-846-5586
Revere:	Mary Jones 781-289-0163
Swampscott:	Dee Dennis 781-581-5258
East Boston:	Carol Pollastrone 617-653-0028 or Alan Roy 617-459-5498

We will mail a letter of appreciation/receipt back if you send a check to:

MassPAWS
P.O. Box 520136
Winthrop MA 02152

Sincere thanks on behalf of the animals,

Beverly Alba
Founder and President

Tax Exempt # 260-100-201



Muffin; awaiting a new home for Christmas!

P.O. Box 520136
Winthrop, MA 02152



MassPaws@aol.com
(617) 846-5586

Winter Pet Tips

To help prevent cold weather dangers from affecting your pet's paws and skin, please heed the following advice from our experts:

- Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat can cause itchy, flaking skin. Keep your home humidified and towel dry your pet as soon as he comes inside, paying special attention to his feet and in between the toes.
- Trim long-haired dogs to minimize the clinging of ice balls, salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry on the skin. (Don't neglect the hair between the toes!)
- Bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws. After each walk, wash and dry your pet's feet to remove ice, salt and chemicals—and check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes.
- Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your vet to recommend a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.
- Dressing your pet in a sweater or coat will help to retain body heat and prevent skin from getting dry.
- Booties help minimize contact with painful salt crystals, poisonous anti-freeze and chemical ice-melting agents. They can also help prevent sand and salt from getting lodged in between bare toes, causing irritation.
- Massaging petroleum jelly into paw pads before going outside helps to protect from salt and chemical agents. And moisturizing after a good toweling off helps to heal chapped paws.
- Brushing your pet regularly not only gets rid of dead hair, but also stimulates blood circulation, improving the skin's overall condition.
- Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime, sometimes causing dehydration. Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help to keep her well-hydrated, and her skin less dry.

Remember, if the weather's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet. Animal companions should remain indoors as much as possible during the winter months and never be left alone in vehicles when the mercury drops.

A friend for life is worth the wait!!

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



Your tax deductible donations
DO make a difference!

DONATE TODAY

- \$25 Feeds orphaned kittens until weaned
- \$35 Provides grooming and a collar for a neglected dog
- \$50 Provides pet supplies to a new foster family
- \$100 Provides extended veterinary care for an abused dog



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

NEW STUDY EXPLAINS WHY BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION DOES NOT REDUCE DOG BITES

Important article now available from JAVMA website.

October 1, 2010 -- For years, evidence has mounted that breed specific legislation (BSL) fails to reduce dog bite incidents. The data supporting this conclusion has come from cities and counties all over North America, and from four European countries.

An insightful new analysis, recently published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, explains why BSL has consistently failed to reduce dog bites. The authors, Gary J. Patronek, VMD, PhD, and Amy Marder, VMD, CAAB, of the Center for Shelter Dogs, Animal Rescue League of Boston; and Margaret Slater, DVM, PhD, of the ASPCA, have applied one of the most valuable and well recognized tools of evidence-based medicine to this question.

Number needed to treat (called NNT) measures the effectiveness of new medicines or treatments. It asks the question: How many patients have to take the medicine or get the treatment in order for one patient to avoid a bad outcome? The fewer patients that have to be treated in order to avoid a bad outcome, the more effective scientists consider a medicine or treatment to be.

But what if we had to treat thousands of patients to avoid even one bad outcome? Would we bother with a new medicine if the number of people we needed to treat to prevent one bad outcome was 10,000? If we could only identify 9,900 people suffering from the disease, we could not treat enough people with the new medicine to be sure that even one of them would avoid the dreaded symptom.

This is precisely the result that Patronek and his colleagues obtained when they applied this evidence based method to estimating how many dogs a community would have to ban to prevent a single, serious dog bite. They called their mystery number the number needed to ban (NNB). Using dog bite injury data from the Centers for Disease Control, the State of Colorado, and other, smaller jurisdictions, along with guest mates of the population of various breeds or kinds of dogs, the authors calculated the absurdly large numbers of dogs of targeted breeds who would have to be completely removed from a community, in order to prevent even one serious dog bite. For example, in order to prevent a single hospitalization resulting from a dog bite, the authors calculate that a city or town would have to ban more than 100,000 dogs of a targeted breed.

To prevent a second hospitalization, double that number.

Dog-bite related fatalities are so extremely rare that not even a state could ban enough dogs to insure that they had prevented even one. (Consider: in Denver, Colorado, after they banned pit bull dogs in 1989, they had another dog bite related fatality in the Denver area, involving another type of dog.)

Spain, Italy, Great Britain and the Netherlands have all reported that their breed specific regulations have not produced a reduction in dog bite incidents. The Toronto Humane Society surveyed health departments throughout the province of Ontario, and reported that the breed ban enacted in 2005 had not produced a reduction in dog bites. In Winnipeg, Manitoba, after the city banned one type of dog, dog bites actually rose, just involving other types of dogs. Reports from Denver, Colorado, Miami-Dade, Florida, Prince George's County, Maryland, and Omaha, Nebraska all tell the same story.

While there is no scientific evidence that one kind of dog is more likely to injure a person than another kind of dog and BSL's documented record is one of ineffectiveness, BSL remains a policy that some find attractive. Patronek, Marder and Slater explain why.

"It is our belief," they write in their conclusion, "that BSL is based largely on fear, and it has been emphasized that appeals to fear have their greatest influence when coupled with messages about the high efficacy of the proposed fear-based solution."

The documented failures of BSL, now combined with the NNB analysis, can be marshaled to undermine such fear-based appeals. BSL proponents will be unable to show "high efficacy of the fear-based solution" or that BSL is rationally related to the public safety issues communities are typically attempting to address when implementing BSL.

The complete article can be purchased from the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association at <http://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/pdf/10.2460/javma.237.7.795>

i Patronek, G., Slater, M., Marder, A., "Use of a number-need-to-ban calculation to illustrate limitations of breed specific legislation in decreasing the risk of dog bite-related injury," JAVMA, vol 237, Number 7, October 1, 2010



www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com



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 MRFS.org or call (978) 465-1940 or email Catmobile@MRFS.org
- 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.

That's My Maggie!



I bought my baby Maggie a comfortable bed, but yesterday she chose my bathroom sink to sleep in. She has slept in a cardboard box I use to bring my shopping in, inside my sink, under the couch or bed...but not her bed!!

That's my Maggie!!

She is eating real well, plays, and yesterday she was very social with the friends who came to visit. She went to them with no problem, rubbed against them and let them pet her, but she still does not like to

be picked up and held for more than a minute. I did give her a kiss for you, but I don't think she likes to be kissed yet... admittedly, I am a pain in the neck, once I start kissing her, I don't want to stop!!!

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ADDRESS
PO BOX 520136,
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Special Points of Interest

- Your generosity and kindness in 2010 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 are FANTASTIC! While this is great news, it also means that we hope you will continue to help us rescue more animals. *With your support, more animals like Kya (Rory) and Maggie and Sam and Kate 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 MassPAWS@aol.com
- - - Thank You!

- In addition to helping older 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. Terrified, confused, and heartbroken, **OLDER CATS** who have lost their homes may sit waiting and waiting while potential adopters bypass them in favor of kittens.



We love to honk at other Spay/Neuter plates !

The Starfish Story

Adapted from *The Star Thrower*
by Loren Eiseley (1907 - 1977)

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, so he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

As if he hadn't heard, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he turned, smiled and said, "I made a difference to that one!"

A very BIG 'Thank You' to our volunteers who know they are making a difference in the lives of "stranded" cats and dogs!

Save the Date . . . for "Paws For A Song"; Thursday . . . March 24, 2011; 7-10 pm

Tickets in advance by emailing us or sending a check and SASE to PO Box 520136, Winthrop 02152
\$25.00 includes a fabulous dinner; lots of fun and entertainment by Jackie and Mara and Dave!