



The Massachusetts "I'm Animal Friendly" license plate tells your community that you care about animals!

By purchasing this license plate, you will be contributing to a statewide program that directly benefits Massachusetts animals.

MassPAWS Newsletter

www.MassPAWS.org



www.massanimalcoalition.org/

We'd Love to Hear from You!

Address

P.O. Box 520136
Winthrop, MA 02151

Phone: 617.846.5586

E-mail:
masspaws@aol.com

Web

www.masspaws.org



Please Keep your pets safe in the Winter. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or stolen, injured, or even killed.

Stevie's Story, It was Love at First Sight

... By Dee Dennis, Vice President

It was Love at First Sight . . . that is what Stevie's new mom said when she first met him . . . *and music to my ears when I heard those words.*

Stevie is a blind cat whose story began with a dire need that lead to a happy ending. The night that I received the report from two of our volunteers . . . that while on the case of a reported injured cat they came upon Stevie. He was huddled with other strays in the neighborhood where he was found. They told me that they could tell that he was blind and that he was also friendly. I could not imagine that he was going to make it outside; even with the company of other strays. "Bring him to me" I said and so they did.

I settled Stevie into a cage with the typical amenities; bed, litter box and coup cups for food and water.

Although friendly outside, he was not completely comfortable in his new surroundings; he lunged and swatted at anything that was coming near him. So it was a few weeks of maneuvering around him with a fake hand on a stick to pull litter box and bedding out for cleaning. I was worried that he may never like being in a cage and would have to find another foster home where he could be happier.

It seemed like it happened overnight, the day that Stevie came to the front of the cage seeking attention. I petted him while he ate and he enjoyed it so; his face tilted up to my voice and responded to my voice and touch . . . *I was elated.*

The next step was to have Stevie neutered, combo tested and vaccinated . . . the



veterinarian and staff just loved him. He was such a good boy while in their care and he came through with flying colors. The veterinarian reported that Stevie had been blind since birth and confirmed that Stevie was about 9mos to 1 year old. I could not imagine that someone could be so cruel as to turn a cat out of a home onto the street knowing that he was blind!

... continued on page 2

Stevie and others like him could not have made it to safety without your support. Thank you for your kindness and caring. If you are able to give at this time to support MassPAWS and our mission of rescue, medical care and fostering, please accept my sincere thanks on behalf of the cats and dogs that we assist.

Save That Date / 'Paws For A Song' benefit | March 21st



... see page 2 for Complete Information

Mass PAWS 8th Annual 'Paws for A Song' Benefit

An evening of Entertainment, Good Food & Fun helping Homeless Cats & Dogs on Boston's North Shore

Angus has found his forever home.



\$25.00 per Ticket

Thursday March 21, 2013
7:00 pm — 10:00 pm



Aries is still seeking a forever home!



Caifou shares his home with Tiger the cat.



Darla is now Stella

Our Field Manager Carol has been taking care of this Havre St. stray in E. Boston for many years, it took her over 2 years to trap & neuter this friendly beauty.



Orient Heights Yacht Club, 61 Bayswater St., E Boston (617) 567-9439

For Tickets, Please Call
Winthrop: Beverly Alba 617-846-5586
Revere: Mary Jones 781-289-0163
Swampscott: Dee Dennis 781-581-5258

masspaws@aol.com
www.masspaws.org
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MassPAWS

Silent Auction—Mangia Italiano
 Music by **Cassandra Marsh & Dave Simmons**

Stevie's story continued . . .

Back in his cage that he had come to know as a familiar and safe place, Stevie and I waited and made a plan to get him a permanent home. When a good friend and fellow rescuer said that she had mentioned him to friends and they showed interest, I was delighted.

We talked and discussed and made a plan for them to meet. ***It was love at first sight.***

Stevie is now Stevie Ray and has been integrated into his new home in the gradual manner that we always recommend. He is now living large with the other cats in his forever home. He

manages to climb the stairs without much effort and is comfortable hanging with the other cats; he's one lucky boy to have found MassPAWS and his forever home.



The Massachusetts Progressive Animal Watchdog Society, Inc.
MassPAWS.Petfinder.com

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 (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
- **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.

NOTE: will spay/neuter Pit Bulls for FREE.

How Your Cat Views Ownership & Sharing Resources

We Thank *petcentric* www.petcentric.com hosted by PURINA for this great article.



Cats are a lot like people as far as establishing and understanding ownership, and dividing up resources. If we buy a house, we clearly understand what property is our own versus what is the neighbors' -- fence or no fence. And we know when it's appropriate to enter our neighbor's property and when it's not.

If we move in with another person, as a roommate, we work out how we're going to share our space and resources. That's your bedroom, this is mine. We have one bathroom, and I go to work early, so I'll take my shower at night, you take yours in the morning.

Cats are pretty much the same. The reason cats have "behavior problems" when there are multiple cats, is because we may have created an environment that violates a cat's sensibilities. We may unwittingly put our cats in a very awkward social situation.

Cats in the wild will mark their territory, the size of which depends on the available food supply. They'll mark by scratching, rubbing, urinating, and leaving feces. Cats will patrol their territory regularly, and remark it often. Other cats respect the property lines, and don't mess with another cat's domain -- any

more than we'd go have a picnic on our neighbor's lawn. They will, however, timeshare certain property -- without any written contracts. They work out who uses an area at this time, and who uses it at another time. It's all very civilized.

So, when we bring a kitty home to be our pet, she comes with all her instincts. The first thing she needs to do to make this home comfortable and livable is to stake out her territory -- which may be the whole house. She will be very uneasy until every piece of furniture has a little of her own scent on it. Most of this marking will be done simply by walking and rubbing. (Cats have scent glands in their feet, allowing them to own anything they walk upon!) Hopefully, she won't urinate or defecate outside the litter box ... but that's another story.

Being the sole cat in your home is a very easy and comfortable life. Everything belongs to her, and being a cat-lover, you're okay with that. Your kitty is so wonderful, you want to get another cat.

When you bring the second cat home, he enters an environment that's clearly owned by Miss Kitty. And perhaps she's not too pleased with this uninvited intruder. He may not be pleased either, because it's very clear to him that everything belongs to her. Nothing in the house has his scent, so he feels like a trespasser.

This is as awkward for cats as it would be for you to go to a foreign country, be booked in a hotel room, and when you go to

your room, there's another guest already staying there. (Your booking agent thought you'd enjoy each other's company!) You have nowhere else to go, and no choice but to share the room. It's awkward for both of you. How you work it out will greatly depend on your personalities.

But, strangers can become friends and what's awkward at first can become comfortable and normal. Obviously, there are many thousands of multiple-cat homes, in which all kitties get along wonderfully, and live as one big happy family!

If you live with more than one cat, and they're best buddies, it would be interesting to observe the territories they've created in your home. Notice where each cat's favorite resting place is, and see if other cats ever occupy it. Or if there's a spot that all the cats enjoy, notice if each one uses that spot only at certain times of the day.

While we define our home visually with walls, rooms and furnishings, your cat defines it with scent. Throughout your cat's day filled with grooming, napping, playing, stalking, climbing and observing, there is also a whole lot of patrolling going on. This is how kitty remains in charge of her domain. And you, of course, are her most prized possession -- which is why she rubs against your legs every time you come home!



Help Homeless Pets in your Neighborhood;

Please participate in the PETCO Foundation and PetSmart Charities fundraising programs; *they work!*



<http://www.petsmartcharities.org/>



<http://www.petco.com/>



<http://www.massanimalcoalition.org/>

Rosco is now Diego and his new mom & dad LOVE him!



An Act Further Regulating Municipal Animal Control - - - s. 2192



UPDATE:
signed by the Governor on 8/2/12; the law took effect 90 days after it was signed on 10/31/12.

which previously did not exist in Massachusetts; create categories for kennel licensing; create consistency in the holding time for stray dogs and provide other meaningful updates to the state's antiquated animal control laws. A House amendment added some restrictions on the tethering of dogs.

This new law will not cost money, it will actually minimize costs to municipalities by reducing the number of homeless animals and the associated cost to house and take care of them. In addition, ensuring that animal control officers are trained, and improving the dangerous dog law to protect public safety, will provide indirect cost savings.

Why were these Changes Needed

Many of the laws that govern animal control date back to the 1800s. Quite simply, the laws did not address the current state of animal control in our municipalities, which are no longer based on the county system. The fines are outdated, as is the term "dog officer"; "animal control officer" more accurately describes the role fulfilled. These proposed changes were made to Chapter 140, sections 136A through 174D to update and make the animal control laws more efficient, current and effective. They will also save cities and towns money. At the beginning of every legislative session, many bills are filed to address a section or issue relating to animal control. For years, organizations, individuals, and legislators have been seeking a more comprehensive revision; this law is the result of stakeholder meetings since 2005 to rework the sections in Chapter 140 relating to animals.

The [Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts \(ACOAM\)](#), the [Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(MSPCA\)](#), the [Animal Rescue League of Boston](#), the state's Bureau of Animal Health within the Department of Agricultural Resources and the [Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association \(MVMA\)](#) worked together to draft these changes.

Summary of the New Law

- ◆ Creates a statewide spay/neuter program to **reduce the number of homeless animals in the Commonwealth** and will, in turn, also reduce the cost to cities and towns for housing and sheltering these animals. *This is funded by a voluntary tax check off.*
 - ◆ Adds enforcement provisions to section 139A (the spay/neuter deposit law for animals adopted from shelters and animal control facilities) to **ensure these animals can't reproduce.**
 - ◆ **Requires animal control officers to receive training.** People are often surprised to learn that their local animal control officer is not required to receive training for the complicated work they do to keep the people and animals in their community safe. This is funded by the tax check off.
 - ◆ **Prohibits carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide gas** as a means to "euthanize" dogs and cats.
 - ◆ **Reduces dog bites** by improving the dangerous dog law in a breed neutral manner.
 - ◆ Allows **pets to be included in domestic violence protection orders to protect both animals and people.**
- The law will also create some statewide oversight for animal control,

MassPAWS was organized in 2001 as a group of long-term animal welfare volunteers and professionals committed to working on the most compelling animal issues in Massachusetts, with the goal of ending the suffering and destruction of cats, dogs, wildlife and animals in entertainment and research. Our primary activities include: humane education; rescue of cats and dogs from terminal impoundment and life-threatening situations; foster care and adoptions; humane feral cat management utilizing trap-inoculate-neuter protocols and lending support and networking to other humane organizations. The Massachusetts Progressive Animal Watchdog Society has an eye on animals in Massachusetts, and the animals are the beneficiaries.



An Indoor Cat is a Safe Cat

Caillou

... By Dee Dennis, Vice President: *I am so glad that we stepped up for this awesome dog. He has a lot of living to do at the tender age of eight. He has landed in his new foster-to-adopt home and I know that he is lovin' life now with rotted teeth gone which no longer annoying him and getting neutered - all healed up!*

... below is an e-mail from Elaine his new momma.



Here is a photo of Caillou on Tiger's bed. Tiger and Caillou get along nicely (*Tiger is her cat*). Caillou seemed very eager to meet Tiger. Tiger was less enthusiastic but very calm and tolerant of Caillou; this was a good match. Caillou is right at home here. He's eating very well, but doesn't like the meat roll. He did like my oven roasted chicken, though. I just gave him a little. He is such a little sweetheart. There have been no issues at all so far. I'll keep you posted. - - - Elaine

Winter Pet Tips !

Winter has arrived and it's cold outside. Don't forget your best friend (s) as it gets cold outside. Use these cold weather tips to keep your pets safe.

Don't keep your pets outside. They say if the weather is too cold for a person, it's too cold for pets. Even if thermometers show one temperature, the wind chill can make it feel much colder outside. Time outdoors should be limited for pets, and owners should check for frostbite on ears, tails, and feet.

Wipe their paws. Snow can cake in their paws and in between their toes. To make sure that they do not get frost bitten, clean them out with a towel. Hazardous materials like antifreeze, salt, ice melt can stick to your pet's paws as well; all of which can be poisonous to your pet.

Let the hair grow, never shave your pet in the winter. Their hair is there for a reason... to keep them warm. How would you like it if someone took out all the stuffing in your warm winter jacket? Got a short hair pet? Help a puppy out. There are a plethora of cool and silly looking coats and sweaters out there for your dog.

Never leave them alone in the car. We all know better than the leave them in the car during the summer; in the wintertime your car can act like a fridge making it unbearably cold inside.

Keep the antifreeze away, it is **poisonous**. It tastes sweet to animals so they want to drink it. Keep a warm bed. Just like you, pets like a warm bed too. Not only do they like it, they need it in the winter. Make sure they have some place out of the elements and the wind with something warm on the ground to collect heat.

Dehydration is just as bad in the winter as it is in the summer. Keep a fresh bowl of water available to your pets at all times. Keep dogs away from frozen lakes/ water. Your dog doesn't understand that the ice is a few centimeters thick and they can fall through.

It's also a good idea to help ill or elderly neighbors care for their pets during the winter when the temperatures are low and slippery conditions made it difficult for them to care for their companions.



We should name her "Ellie "for "Elusive" By Beverly Alba, President

This little black and white female cat had had at least 3 litters of kittens in the East Boston yard where she "lived". There were lots of Tom Cats who we had trapped and neutered and lots of kittens we had sent along for adoption. But "Ellie" remained behind a fence, and resisted every attempt to trap her for over a year. Our volunteer, Carol, tried for hours with every kitty trick in the book, all the while feeding the colony every day. and knowing that she couldn't rest until Ellie was spayed!

On a cold day in February, Carol tried a new kitty treat, and Miss Ellie found it too tempting to resist. Imagine our surprise when Ellie meowed and we knew she wasn't feral!

Ellie will be available for adoption when she has recovered

and re-acclimated to an indoor life. She tells us she appreciates her new digs.

Finishing this colony, only one of many colonies in one of many communities, will keep the colonies smaller and manageable and result in better health for the cats and prevent kittens from filling up shelters. This in turn allows for more adult cats to be helped into new homes.

Carol and so many volunteers and good Samaritans are dedicated to feeding those cats who are not socialized and remain outdoors, and making sure they have shelter.



We are grateful for the donations that allow us to continue to help cats like Ellie, and for the veterinarians and programs that help us to make a better life for all cats.

Rules for the cat

The cat is not allowed on the furniture.

Alright, the cat can go on the furniture, but NOT the kitchen counter.

OK, the cat can go on the kitchen counter too, just not when I'm preparing food. Deal?

Fine... The cat can go wherever it wants, whenever it wants, as long as it doesn't swat me in the face at 5:30 in the morning demanding to be fed.

The cat will be fed at 5:30 in the morning.



P.O. Box 520136 - Winthrop, MA 02151

Phone: 617.846.5586

E-mail: masspaws@aol.com

Web: www.masspaws.org

Like us on FB

www.facebook.com/masspawshumane

If You Suspect Animal Abuse

If you believe an animal is being abused, there are a few simple steps you can take in order to help.

1. Know the laws; Mass. general laws provide for the basic necessities of an animal. Food, water, and shelter are among the most common concerns, as well as actual physical abuse. Food and water do not have to be available 24/7, but it is subjective to the breed and health of the animal.
2. Documentation; Document information such as time of the incident, person committing the act (description of person, if identity is unknown) exact location (such as proper address of where the animal lives or license plate of vehicle being driven) and as much information about the animal being abused (breed, color, size, where it is kept).
3. Know who to call; It is generally not a good idea to try and intervene yourself. Contact the proper law enforcement agencies such as the local police and/or animal control.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals <http://www.mspca.org/programs/cruelty-prevention/> and the **Animal Rescue League of Boston** <http://www.arlboston.org/> have specially trained Law Enforcement Officers that are commissioned as special state police officers to investigate animal cruelty. These officers are highly trained and deeply concerned.

If the life of an animal is in immediate danger, contact the local police at once.