

Celebrating 50 Years!

Fall | Winter 2019

Standish HUMANE SOCIETY

www.standishhumane.org

P.O. Box 634 | Duxbury, MA 02331 | 781-834-4663

TALL TAILS NEWSLETTER

What is it Like to be a Standish Foster Parent?

We asked two of our executive board members who are long-time foster moms to tell us about their experiences.

Joyce Keyes

Joyce Keyes has been rescuing feral cats for years. She traps them, has them spayed or neutered, and then releases them. Many times, though, a trapped cat has been pregnant. In those cases Joyce fosters the feral cat, allowing her to give birth in a safe place. Joyce has a cage system and provides the cat with food, water, a litter box, toys, a soft, warm bed, and a place to hide when the cat is anxious. Feral cats are cats born in the wild with little to no human interaction. Thus, they are not domesticated and are fearful of humans. Joyce has to be very careful not to be scratched or bitten by the cat. Once the kittens are born, the mother cat becomes very protective. To avoid being injured by the mother cat, Joyce keeps separators between her and the feral mom at all times.

As soon as the kittens begin crawling, Joyce starts the socialization process in earnest. She takes each kitten out of the cage one at a time for a play and petting session away from the mother. She cuddles the kittens and pets them. At first they struggle but later they begin to look forward to the socialization sessions, and ultimately they become friendly to humans. This is not an overnight process, and the socialization must be done routinely and in longer and longer sessions. Success is achieved once the kitten wants to be petted and held and will sit in a lap and purr with great pleasure. This is Joyce's reward for her hard work.

Because the kittens have been in contact with Joyce since they were born, they are not like feral kittens born in the wild. If feral kittens are exposed to humans when they are very young, they can be socialized to be pets.

The mother cat, or queen, and kittens are ultimately separated so the queen's milk can

dry up and she can be spayed and released where she came from. Standish makes sure the spayed female is going back to the same place she came from or another suitable place where she will continue to be fed. Many times these feral cats enter barn situations where they can be working cats and ward off rodents. The kittens are either adopted from Joyce's home or brought to Standish to be adopted. Now Joyce is able to relax a bit and marvel over her accomplishment. She has just saved a litter of kittens from the very short and difficult life of a feral cat and stopped the reproductive cycle of that entire cat family.

Kathy Bergeron

Kathy has been a foster mom almost a quarter of a century. In many cases, Kathy's kittens are born to stray, lost, or abandoned cats rather than to feral mothers. (cont. p. 2)



Foster Mom and Lapful of Kittens



Basket Full of Foster Kittens



Newborn Foster Kittens in Birthing Bed with Mom

**Standish Humane Society
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Julie Salamone-President
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Kathy Bergeron-Treasurer
Joyce Keyes-Clerk

Shelter Director

Julia Fratalia

Tall Tails Newsletter

Lynn Allain
Kathy Bergeron
Marilyn Phillips
Heather Cipullo



Kathy says there are certain responsibilities all foster moms of kittens assume, such as having a pregnant cat tested for the presence of feline leukemia and feline AIDS. Fleas and worms must be eradicated and a prevention program for these pests must be implemented. Once kittens are born, there is a vaccination schedule the foster mom must follow. Another job a foster mom must do is to check every cat and kitten daily for signs of medical problems. If a cat needs medical care, Standish will arrange for professional medical treatment.

Kathy notes that foster rooms (a separate space away from pets in the home required for foster cats) are thoroughly cleaned every day. As with children, just a few minutes of active kittens running and playing makes it seem like the room was never cleaned.

When Kathy fosters a pregnant cat, she makes certain the mother-to-be is as

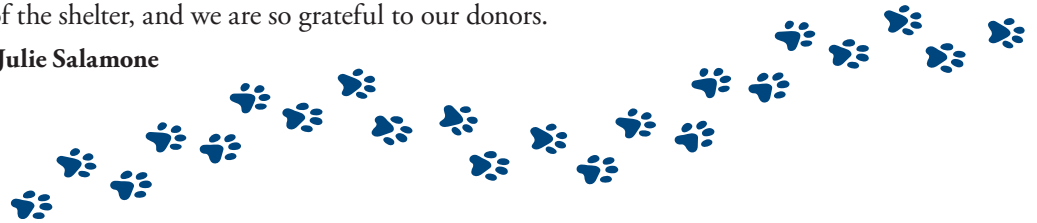
Our 50th anniversary year has been a very good year for us. We have increased the number of adoptions, the number of kittens born to feral mothers that have been socialized and placed in homes, the number of fundraising activities, and the number of volunteers.

Credit for our good fortune this year must be given to our volunteers. If we had no volunteers, we would certainly have no shelter. The heart and soul of the shelter comes from our great group of volunteers who give so willingly of their time.

The jobs done by our volunteers range from advanced medical care by a licensed veterinarian to the mundane but necessary mopping of floors. Volunteers clean the shelter, cat cages and bedding, and make certain the cats have food, clean litter boxes, and playtime. Other volunteers handle accounting, insurance, and tax matters, while yet others maintain the shelter building and the grounds. It is hard to estimate the value of this work in monetary terms, but the amount is huge.

During the upcoming holiday season, we want to thank each and every one of our volunteers and our staff, all of whom also devote extra hours to volunteering. The cats are truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of people who lovingly care for them until they find their carefully-screened forever homes. We also want to thank those who donate to the shelter even though they might not be able to volunteer. The gifts we receive are essential to the operation of the shelter, and we are so grateful to our donors.

--Julie Salamone



comfortable as possible. Kathy runs a five-star maternity ward. When the mother begins delivering her kittens, Kathy pays special attention to make sure the birth goes smoothly.

Over the years Kathy has had some anxious moments while a cat was giving birth. Although most mother cats safely deliver their kittens on their own, if a pregnant cat in Kathy's maternity ward goes into labor at bedtime, Kathy monitors the mother until the kittens are safely born. That might mean a sleepless night for Kathy. If the intervals between the birth of one kitten and the next are unusually long, Kathy may need to give a veterinarian a midnight call. One mother cat was so blasé about her maternal duties that she cut the umbilical cord on only three of her five kittens. Kathy had to consult

a book to find out what to do. Then she did the honors and cut the cords while the mother cat was busy grooming herself.

Immediately after the kittens are born, have their cords cut, and the amniotic sacs removed, Kathy then is rewarded by the miraculous sight of the newborns whose eyes and ears are shut at birth, gravitating to their mother in search of milk. About three weeks after the kittens are born, their ears unfold so that they can hear. Suddenly, they know Kathy is there, and they are alive and full of life. After a few weeks, they learn to use a litter box and eat from a dish before going to their forever homes. Then Kathy can relax until she hears the siren call of a new litter.



Growing Foster Kittens

Memorials & Tributes

Standish Humane Society is very grateful for the many donations made in loving memory of the following people:

Gordon Blanchard, Cohasset
Cody Carr, Duxbury
Deborah Finnie, Scituate
Peggy Griffin, Dorchester
Marilyn Harrington, Hanson
Penny Hermanson, Pembroke
Suzanne Hill, Hanson
Geraldine Hollywood, Duxbury
Eleanor Leahey, Pittsfield
John Leighfield, Pittsfield
Joseph A. Maloney, Quincy
Joann McLaughlin, Weston
Sheila Merchant, Marshfield
Kathleen Morse, Pembroke
Joshua Perry, Hanover
David Salamone, Plymouth
James Schilling, Halifax
Eldora Twohig, Hanover
Daisy and Gus Verdi, Hampton, NH

We are also very grateful for the following memorials and tributes.

Norma Andrew – In memory of Mandie
Donna Angell – In memory of Gus
Madeline and Joseph Bean –
In memory of Alex
Ursula and Theodore Bergstrom –
In honor of Cecil
David Clinton – In memory of Kenobie
Thomas Cravens – In memory of Buster,
Antoinette, Laverne, Maxine
and Wren
Denise Downing – In honor of Flossie
Diane Elz – In memory of Bluie
Lynn Farnham – In memory of Blazer
Ruthanne and Stephen Gellar –
In memory of Linny
Beverly and Richard Grieco –
In memory of Rocket, Nellie,
and Lucky
Nancy Griffin – In honor of Tigger
Lezlie and John Hodges – In memory of Lily
Norma Infusino – In memory of Al
Mary Jenkins – In memory of Pudding
Rosemary Keighley – In memory of Venus
Patricia Leighfield – In memory of Crystal,
Skwecker, and Madison
Marjorie and David Lowry –
In memory of Dusty
Ashley and Jonathan MacCallum –
In memory of Busby
Suzanne MacKay, Keven McNerney, and
Karen Ricciardi – In honor of Samantha
Robinson's birthday

Theresa and Robert Millett –
In honor of Tippy
Betsey Neal – In honor of Boot, Pumpkin,
and Oliver
Kathy and Tom Newill – In honor of
Lisa Chandler's birthday
Joan O'Leary – In memory of Kittery
Christine Prendiville –
In memory of Shmi and Peanut
Christine Perry – In memory of Viv, Reilly,
and Trucker
Marilyn Phillips – In memory of Cody
Leslie Prescott – In honor of Chloe
Louise and Charles Quigley –
In honor of Barack and Inkling
Nancy Riegel – In memory of Woody,
Zelda, Elvis, and Arthur
Kathleen Rumble – In memory of Mikey
Patricia Smiley – In honor of Oreo
Jacqueline Solomon – In memory of Nikki
Laurie Solomon – In honor of Reggie,
Clancy, and Ollie
Rebekah Stoltz – In honor of Coki
Amy Symanski – In memory of Jinx
Susan Temple – In honor of Katherine B.
Alicia Williams – In honor of Nina
Clare Wood – In memory of Cathy Girl
Esther Yeck – In honor of Sharon
and Tom Shea

Want to be a Foster Family?

If you want to experience the joy of living with a feline friend without a long-term commitment and without any cost to you, check out our web site at standishhumane.org under the drop-down menu titled "Support Us." You will find lots of information on fostering. You will need a separate room with a door to segregate the foster cat from the rest of the house.



Thank You to Our
Wonderful Sponsors

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businesses!

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Tiny & Sons Glass

Duxbury Animal
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Trucchi's

VCA Animal Hospitals

Forever ♥ Homes



Cheddar

was adopted 15 years ago. This is his second Golden Retriever best pal. He outlived his first one.



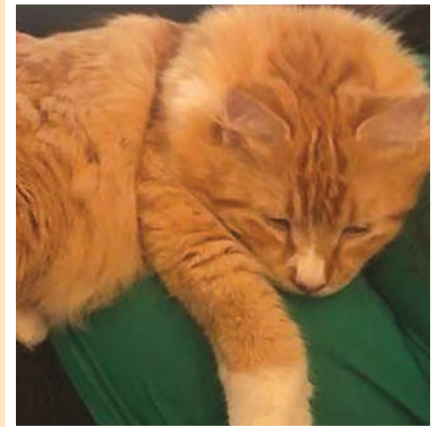
CeCe

is a very social cat who has won over the hearts of her adopters and all their friends and family.



Ellis

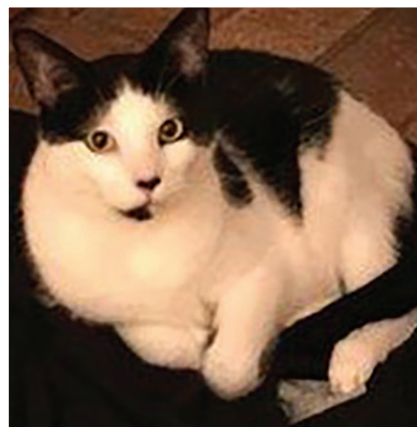
(formerly Fidget) was surprised to see he had a doggie twin when he arrived at his forever home.



Rocket

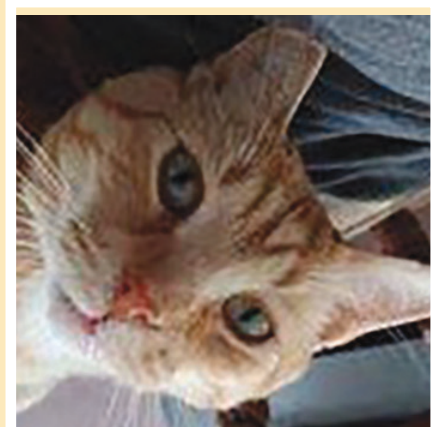
was adopted several years ago. Now his mom is going to have a baby, and Rocket likes to sleep on his mom close to the baby.

Holmes House



Leo

(formerly Brussels Sprout) has been in his forever home for three years now.



J.R.

was adopted three years ago. He is much loved.

Holiday Gift Lists from Standish Cats

Major Medical Treatment



Please fill my stocking with donations for Standish to help other cats like me who need expensive medical treatment to save their lives.

Thank you, McGee



Complex Dental Care



Please fill my stocking with donations for cats with bad tooth problems so they can go to the dentist like I did.

Thank you, Gus



Spay / Neuter



I had kittens when I was still a kitten myself. Please fill my stocking with donations so other kittens can be spayed before they become mothers. I was a good mother, though.

Thank you, Dorrie



Saving Unwanted Cats From States Where There Are No Available Shelters



Standish rescued me from Florida where there was no shelter space for me. Please fill my stocking with donations so Standish can save more Florida cats like me.

Thank you, Yoli



Elvis Feral Fund



Please fill my stocking with donations for the Elvis Feral Fund so that Standish can continue to socialize feral cats like me and help community cat feeders so feral cats will have food to eat.

Thank you Santa, Mookie



AMAZON Wish List



Santa, I am sorry for hissing at the volunteers, but they scare me. I'm a life-long resident at Standish, and we need lots of things to keep the shelter going. Please fill my stocking with presents from our Amazon Wish List on our website at standishhumane.org.

Thank you, Miss Peacock



You may DONATE to any of the causes the cats want to support by using the enclosed envelope OR by going to standishhumane.org and clicking on the donate button.

Why Does My Cat Do That?



Of course, there is no way to know why a cat does what it does, because, after all, it is a cat. However, there are certain behavioral problems that concern adopters more than others. When a never before aggressive purring ball of docile, furry love suddenly without warning becomes a berserk wild animal threatening to bite or scratch its adoring owner, the owner is understandably upset.

There are a number of causes of aggression in cats, including petting-induced aggression caused by overstimulation or discomfort, fear-induced aggression, territorial aggression caused by the cat's natural territorial instincts, maternal aggression caused by a mother cat's protective instincts toward her kittens, and pain-induced aggression caused by touching a cat in a painful area. The most baffling type of aggression experienced by our adopters is redirected aggression that occurs without any discernable provocation.

Redirected aggression causes a cat to lash out at its owner or another nearby target, such as a dog or another cat, after sensing a threat it cannot address directly. It may seem to the owner that the attack happens for no reason at all, because the owner cannot perceive the source of the cat's agitation. Although the attack may seem to occur without warning, cats exhibit signs of impending attack with their body language. Flattened ears rotated backward, dilated pupils, puffed fur, crouching, turning sideways, hissing, growling, spitting, and tucking its tail are signs of aggression.

Redirected aggression is frequently caused by another cat, which is the direct object of the aggression. Your cat cannot attack a cat who is in the yard, peering in your window,

vocalizing to your cat, or marking the outside of your house with its scent or its urine. The other cat's behavior arouses severe anxiety in your cat causing it to attack the nearest available target -- you. Never touch or interact with the cat in this situation.

The best way to prevent redirected attacks is to avoid exposing the cat to the stimulus or to remove the stimulus from the cat. The VCA website section on redirected aggression offers several solutions to the problem. Confining your cat away from doors and windows where the stimulus from the outside cat might be seen, heard, or smelled may be necessary at times when the trespasser is likely to be outside. Blinds or shutters may be used on the windows. Another option is to keep the trespassing cat off your property by using animal repellents sold by pet stores or strategically placed water sprinklers. Garbage receptacles and bird feeders that can attract outside cats should be placed where your cat cannot see them. Finally, if recommended by your veterinarian, there are drugs that can reduce the aggression.

Redirected aggression can be eliminated or prevented. There is no need to re-home your cat, and, of course, punishing it is never an answer to anything. Our adoption counselors will be happy to discuss redirected aggression with you to find a solution for you and your cat.

Cat Math Quiz

Question:

If one female cat, her mate, and all of their offspring produce two litters a year, how many cats could you have after 9 years?

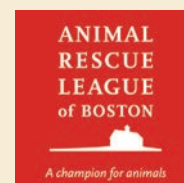
Answer:

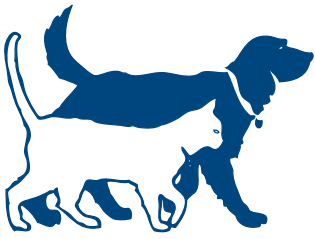
Over 11 Million Cats

This figure is shocking. To avoid contributing to the cat overpopulation problem, Standish has operated a very successful spay/neuter program for decades. Dogs are referred to veterinarians who have partnered with Standish in providing low-cost spay/neuters to eligible

owners. For many years, the Animal Rescue League of Boston has sent its Spay Waggin', a modern, mobile veterinary facility, to Standish once a month to provide low-cost spay/neuter for cats from our shelter and cats of approved owners in the South Shore community. Probably the largest dent in reducing the population pyramid has come from the Spay Waggin's spay/neuter program for feral cats in the South Shore community. Feral rescuers participate in a TNR (trap, neuter, and return) program. After the feral cats are spayed or neutered, they are returned to the location where they were trapped by feral rescuers and where they

will continue to be fed. The feral rescuers and Animal Rescue League of Boston have performed an incredibly valuable service to the South Shore community by preventing each spayed or neutered cat from starting its own population pyramid. We thank the Animal Rescue League of Boston and the feral rescuers for greatly reducing the feral cat population.

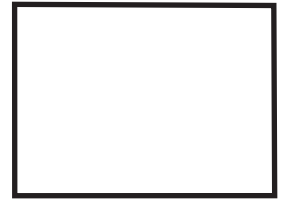




Standish

HUMANE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 634
Duxbury, MA 02331



YOUR CAR TELLS THE WORLD HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT PETS

Purchase the Massachusetts Animal Friendly license plate and help support spay/neuter programs throughout the state. The plate's initial cost is \$40, \$28 of which will be used to support sterilization programs. On renewal, the entire \$40 will go to those programs.



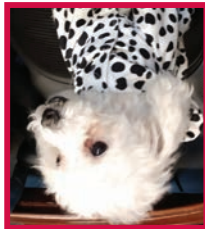
- Easy to order • Tax deductible

Go to www.mass.gov/rmv
to purchase your Animal
Friendly License plate!

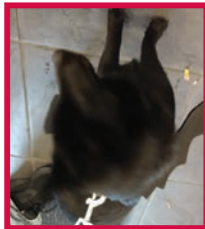
Visit standishhumane.org to view pictures and videos of Standish's adoptable cats!

Donate

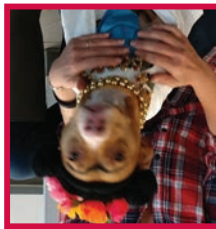
If you take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from a retirement plan, please consider making a donation to Standish by having the donation sent from the plan directly to Standish. You might save on your taxes.



Raven
3rd Place



Maggie
2nd Place



Gabby
1st Place

Now is the **TIME to BUY the SUBARU you have been wanting.** Many Standish volunteers own Subarus from Planet Subaru. They love their cars and are also thrilled with the service from Planet Subaru's service department. We thank Planet Subaru for the huge amount of love they have shared with Standish. Please support this wonderful organization.

leased during the event period, Planet Subaru will donate \$250 to our animal shelter if the buyer chooses Standish as the buyer's charity of choice.

Once again Planet Subaru has chosen Standish as one of its local non-profit partners for the Share the Love campaign. The campaign began November 14, 2019, and will run through January 2, 2020. For every new car sold or

Planet Subaru Trick or Treating and Costume Contest
Planet Subaru has a number of events for pets. Recently, a Halloween trick or treat and costume contest were held for dogs.

The winners of the contest are pictured here.

Gabby is available for adoption at Paws New England. See her adoption page at <https://pawsonewengland.com/adopt/pet-883188831>.



**Planet Subaru
SHARES THE LOVE
and Standish is LOVING IT**

This Newsletter was printed
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