



Volume 12  
Issue 3

# The Cat's Meow

Winter  
2012-13

A very young kitten, Lorelai, was brought to the sanctuary after being found crawling around in someone's yard. Lorelai appeared to be paralyzed, with no movement of her back legs. An evaluation with the vet revealed a fractured leg and possible permanent paralysis. We were able to fund her surgery to repair her broken leg through a special plea for immediate donations. We are grateful to the medical team at Middlehope Veterinary Hospital, who repaired her bone fracture. She is now facing a lifetime of struggles.



While our initial estimate of \$1,800 will cover the surgery, we anticipate many other expenses now that Lorelai has returned to the shelter for recuperation. Lorelai will need physical therapy which we feel can be handled at the sanctuary and at six months old will have a special cart made for her, at a cost of approximately \$400. Come visit Lorelai; she is in good spirits and is otherwise, quite healthy.

For those who may not be aware, MHAA had a paralyzed cat in a cart for seven years. Bonnie came "home" to Mid Hudson's Essie Dabrusin Cat Sanctuary in 1995, and never left. Some donors were kind enough to contribute to a fund to purchase Bonnie a "disability cart" that would help her get around. It was a wonderful idea, but before long Bonnie could pull herself along the floor faster on her own. Bonnie was appreciative of each and every kind gesture. She reminded us that with some effort, any obstacle could be gotten around, if not forgotten. Imagine Bonnie's seven years she had lying in sunny windows at MHAA, napping with her cat friends on her big quilt, getting her baths and visits from us, and sitting on a lap. This would not have been possible if someone decided she wasn't worth the trouble. Ten years later, we still cannot imagine it.

That is a big part of what Mid Hudson Animal Aid is about: giving animals with handicaps or chronic, debilitating conditions a home and the chance for therapy, treatment, recovery, loving care, and adoption. We do not euthanize animals unless they are suffering, and we only make this decision under the supervision of a veterinarian. While our affection and care is generous and unconditional, the tools and supplies we need to care for handicapped or injured animals are not. The daily expenses of caring for all the healthy animals (food, litter, staff, vet bills, medications, spaying and neutering, shelter maintenance and upkeep, emergency treatments) stretch the MHAA budget to a dangerous limit. Add to that the stratospheric "above and beyond" expenses we incur in caring for our handicapped and "Special Needs" animals, and our finances are stretched far too thin to sustain this level of treatment for many cats.

So many compromised animals have been cruelly abandoned or injured, and are in desperate need of help and a second chance, like Lorelai. So many are capable of having a normal life in a home, or at the shelter, with people who love them. Many people, like you and all of us, want to help a Special Needs animal, but cannot take one into our homes. Sometimes they require constant care, or frequent cleaning, or daily shots or fluids, or other requirements that extend beyond our capabilities in our busy lives. If you could help to sponsor these extraordinary animals, to give just one cat like Lorelai a chance to sit in the sunshine, wouldn't you love to help?

*Don Petruncola, MHAA President*



### **Captain America**

As he burrowed deeper into the dark hole for protection, he watched in horror as his sibling could not escape the clutches of the terrier's powerful and angry jaws and was mauled to death. Life had barely begun for this 8 week old motherless baby and now seconds stood between him and imminent death. Mercifully he was spared when the dog's owner grabbed him and rushed him to the vet.

Traumatized and full of puncture wounds, he was lovingly welcomed into the MHAA family. One of our young volunteers cradled him in a red and blue fleece blanket. As his teeny fearful eyes peeked out and he mustered a faint little hiss, she pronounced him Captain America. And a super kitty he is, purring and bouncing about always ready to play. He is remarkably social and growing by leaps and bounds! The brutality of life on the streets is a harsh reality for many homeless cats and luckily now a distant memory for him. Your donation has the power to turn danger and despair into hope and promise for a homeless kitty.

### **The Home Depot provides help to MHAA**

Recently we received materials, supplies and many helping hands via a Home Depot grant. Several local Home Depot staff joined MHAA volunteers and staff to make much needed repairs to the shelter. Preparation for 'Home Depot Day' was a week long effort that entailed moving sixty cats to foster homes, scrubbing all of the rooms, priming walls and corralling the remaining hundred cats into smaller rooms.

The big day saw the combing of MHAA and Home Depot volunteer forces. Highlights of the project included: painting of the free-range Great Room and public hallways, replacement of doors and flooring, new shelving and exterior porch fencing. The H.D. staff chose to honor Sarah, a blind kitty (who has since found her forever home) with a custom made wooden perch. Today this perch is used by Sarah's friends and stands as a testimony to the compassion of the Home Depot Foundation. Two paws up to the MHAA staff, board, volunteers and H.D. employees for enriching the lives of our cats.

### **Home Depot employees graciously give their time and talent on their days off to assist local charities.**



### **Children's Book Launch Raises Money for Homeless Cats**



When Helene Sola adopted her cat, REXXAROO she was awestruck by how loving he was. Sola's first children's book: *Loo Loo and the Fabulous Marvelous REXXAROO*, a wonderful tribute to shelter cats, launched in December.

The story is of a lonely little girl named Loo Loo. When she discovers REXXAROO, a very unusual cat, "her world begins to change, and things begin to look quite strange!" Through their many magical adventures together, REXXAROO helps Loo Loo to overcome her shyness and meet many new friends. We hope that this book and REXXAROO will bring more exposure to MHAA to help our felines.

Additional information can be found at [www.rexxaroo.com](http://www.rexxaroo.com).

**You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.**

### Cage Sponsorships

Just in time for the holidays! Give the gift of warmth and comfort to a caged cat while honoring a friend, loved one, pet, or advertising your business. Each sponsorship will include a decorative frame with three lines of text mounted on the cage. Prices are: 3 months \$90 / 6 months \$180 / 12 months : \$365. A dollar a day can make such a difference!

To charge your donation, take a moment to fill out this form and return it to MHAA  
*Please notify us if your address has changed.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa MasterCard Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*All contributions to MHAA are tax-deductible. Receipts are sent out for gifts over \$250.*

\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor a MHAA cage at the: 3 month / 6 month / 12 month level.  
*(Include your desired 3 lines of text for the cage frame on a separate paper, please)*

\_\_\_\_ I would like to foster a cat or kitten in my home, please email me.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate my services: Plumbing, Electrician, Accountant, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer some time at the Sanctuary, please email me.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to help with special events by providing baked goods, crafts, or time.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to help raise much needed funds by serving on the fundraising committee.

\_\_\_\_ I can help with transporting cats to vet appointments, please email me.

In 2012, we had many individuals and area businesses that donated their time, provided contributions, and sponsored our fund-raising and volunteer efforts. Our volunteers collectively spent hundreds of hours of their time in our shelter and at our offsite adoption events.

Thank you for sharing our passion for MHAA's work and supporting our cause with generous donations, fostering and ultimately adopting our cats and kittens.

We are grateful to the medical team at Middlehope Veterinary Hospital has helped so many of our cats, often from life-threatening situations.

Through all of our activities and events, we have been able to find forever homes to over 200 cats and kittens in 2012. We thank all of you who have supported and continue to support our sanctuary. We pledge to you to make the best use of the financial resources you entrust to us and the abandoned and abused cats of MHAA. We could not do what we do without you.

### 6 Ways to Monitor Your Cat's Health at Home

You take your cat to the vet at least once a year for her checkup. But what do you do to keep track of her health between visits? Cats can be subtle about expressing illness or pain; they rely on you to listen to what they can't tell you in words. Here are some tips to help you do just that.

**Check her coat:** Your cat's fur should be smooth, thick, and shiny.

**Get in her face:** Your cat's face can tell you a lot about her health. Her nose should be free of discharge and sores, her eyes should be bright and clear, and she shouldn't have bad breath.

**Look at her teeth:** Her gums should be nice and pink, with no redness and swelling. Her teeth should be free of tartar, and she shouldn't have sores or growths in her mouth. Your cat's dental health is crucial to her overall health. Infected teeth and gums can cause heart and kidney disease.

**Be a weight watcher:** Put your thumbs on your cat's backbone and run your fingers along her rib cage. If you can't easily feel her ribs, she may need to lose weight. From above you should see a slight tuck at her waist.

**Monitor intake and output:** Changes in your cat's eating or drinking habits can be signs of potentially serious illnesses. If your cat is always hungry or thirsty, or if she's lost her appetite, call your vet.

**Be on the lookout for behavior and activity-level changes:** Sleepiness and lethargy can be signs of illness or fever. An increase in aggression can be a mask for physical discomfort. If your cat has started meowing more or begun peeing outside her box, it might be a medical problem.

*Catster.com*



**Come see PEPPER  
and all of the cats awaiting new homes  
at the Essie Dabrusin Cat Sanctuary  
54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY.**

**Someday we will all have a home.**



Mid Hudson Animal Aid, Inc.

Essie Dabrusin Cat Sanctuary  
54 Simmons Lane  
Beacon, New York 12508  
Phone: 845-831-4321  
Email: [info@midhudsonanimalaid.org](mailto:info@midhudsonanimalaid.org)

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NEWBURGH, NY 12550  
PERMIT NO. 8604

### On 11/11/12 Sarah Went Home

For all those who helped Sarah through your generous donations, we would like to give you an update: Sarah was adopted in early November and went to her forever home and was renamed Sadie. Her new family sent us this picture of Sadie enjoying her surroundings and family just before Thanksgiving. Thank you all for helping a sweet deserving cat survive and find a loving home.



A sweet girl whose owner had neither the means nor the desire to provide her with essential medical care, Malia arrived at MHAA just in time. A small inner ear polyp rapidly spread and overtook the interior and exterior of her ear. Suffering and in pain, she had begun to scratch and claw her ear to dislodge the obstruction. During surgery it was discovered that it has also invaded a large portion of her mouth. After the surgery she ate like a queen and gave head butts in appreciation. She is a stunning young lady who is so grateful for the care and compassion she has received and asks that donations be made for other special care cats.



### Fluid Cats Jazz and Live Art Painting Benefit

Join us at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon, NY on January 19th at 7pm to experience a live, professionally improvised jazz music and painting event. A portion of the proceeds will go to MHAA. World class performers and live painting sessions will provide a wealth of creativity, energizing your evening along with other exciting events and fun planned for Fluid Cats. For advanced tickets, please visit the event website <http://fluidcats.blogspot.com/>