

Volume 17
Issue 2

The Cat's Meow

Winter
2017-2018

I have met thousands of cats in my 27 years at MHAA: each one unique in their own way, leaving their mark and touching my heart. But nothing prepared me for the depth of emotion I would feel for sweet, little Peggie. A tiny handicapped kitten, her eyes held a heart full of wonder and gently touched my soul.

She appeared on a chaotic day with a vet run in progress. Found lying alongside a busy roadway, she was scooped up and went along for the ride where it was determined that only one paw was working properly. Very disconcerting news for a six week old kitten.

My wife met Peggie less than 24 hours after her arrival at MHAA and was asked if she would foster. She couldn't resist those beautiful, inquisitive eyes. Peggie was given her own room so we could monitor her progress and devote uninterrupted time to her away from our other pets. After some research and a trip to another vet, Peggie was diagnosed with Swimmer Syndrome. Her back legs were in a splayed position and she dragged them to get around. The vet supported taping her legs at hip level and daily physical therapy in the hope she would be able to walk.

Peggie had no idea she was handicapped in any way, pulling herself across the floor, using the litter box and exploring until she passed out from exhaustion. She was fierce in her determination to play and climb and soon she was able to keep her legs up and even stand on her back legs to capture the wand toy for short periods of time. After two and a half months of at-home therapy, Peggie triumphantly walked without her tape all day! She was introduced to Abbey, the family collie and went about making friends with the other cats. Her progress was nothing short of remarkable.

Peggie's exuberance for life and her amazing story were featured on MHAA's Facebook page and soon Peggie was adopted to her forever home! She continues to thrive in the loving arms of her mom, who loves her unconditionally and helps her face and conquer additional adversity. Peggie recently battled pneumonia and additional congenital challenges. She has a tracheal abnormality and is fed special meals five times a day. Her new home includes ramps so she can access and lounge on the couch or bed! The many vets she has seen adore her, are amazed at her progress and believe she is an enigma. Each day she defies all odds and enjoys being cherished, spoiled and given all she needs. She couldn't be in better hands.



MHAA is determined to provide all of our residents with the best and most appropriate form of care, whether physical, social, or both. Our foster network is vital to creating fear-free and trusting environments for our smallest and most needy cats. I consider it an honor to have played a small part in giving Peggie the support, love and hope she needed. My holiday wish is that she enjoys a long and healthy life and that her story inspires you to consider joining our foster network. The love my family gave to Peggie has been returned tenfold and my life is certainly richer for having this extraordinary little ball of wonder in my home and heart.

Don Petruncola, MHAA Board President

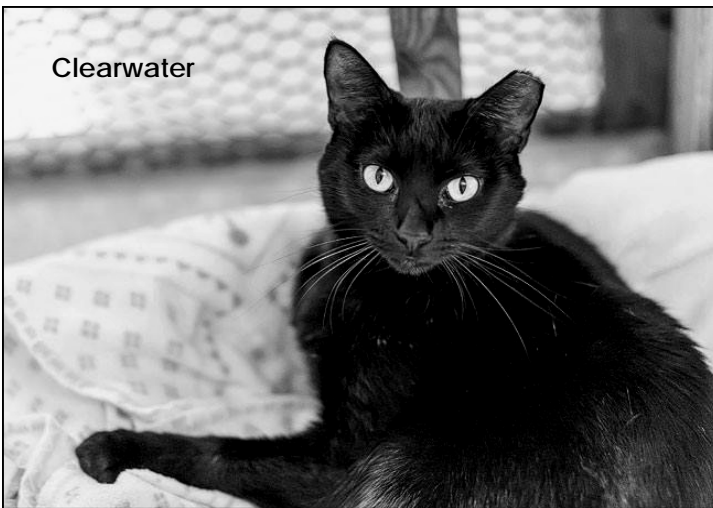
Miracles happen here everyday ~ because of you.

Hurricane Irma Refugees

The recent wave of hurricanes left devastation and despair for thousands. Already crowded animal shelters reached north to find accommodations for displaced pets. MHAA partnered with Brother Wolf Animal Rescue in Asheville, NC to coordinate the transport of several Florida cats to Beacon. These cats traveled hundreds of miles from shelters that were at risk of flooding or were being vacated to make room for displaced family pets. Friendly and playful, our new residents were right at home at MHAA. For *Miami Beach*, *Key Biscayne* and *Sanibel Island*, their journey has already ended in a forever home! *Boca Raton*, *Clearwater* and *Cape Coral* are still hoping to end an eventful 2017 in a new home as well. Please complete an application today to make their holiday dreams come true.



Boca Raton



Clearwater



Cape Coral

This summer, MHAA took in two cats who ultimately came down with the highly contagious respiratory illness: Feline Calicivirus Infection. FCV is a virulent virus that causes upper respiratory infections and oral disease in cats, often resulting in mouth ulcers. Though the ill cats were immediately quarantined, several other adult cats came down with the symptoms of Calici within days. With veterinary conference, we closed the doors of the sanctuary to the visiting public for a few weeks and completed a deep cleaning of the sanctuary with a Rescue disinfectant. Soon all of the ill cats returned to good health.

To minimize future risk, we consulted with the Cornell Veterinary Center and Merck Animal Health to eradicate the virus in our environment. Merck suggested that we should not use any type of plastic products, including litter boxes. Though we were using disposable litter boxes for the few cages we had, all of our permanent plastic litter pans needed to be replaced with stainless steel pans.



Chef Jezebel with our new 'restaurant-grade' litter pans

A very special donor helped us replace all of our litter pans with stainless units to prevent the spread of this type of disease and allow for continuing ease of disinfection for good. Surprisingly, our best option was to go to a restaurant supply company and purchase steam table pans! These, coupled with new metal litter scoops, will help us to continue in our mission to provide the best possible care and germ-free environment for our residents until their special family arrives.

Join the movement. Believe in kindness.

Adopt a Senior Cat

There is no hard and fast rule about when a cat is considered "old". While age-related changes occur in the cat's body from about 7 years, most vets consider cats to be geriatric at the age of 10-12 when the cumulative effect of such changes can start to affect the cat's body and lifestyle. Cats are longer-lived than most other domestic pets and this longevity means that there is no shortage of adult and older cats needing homes. They also age gracefully and, with a little understanding and care, there is plenty of mileage left in most 10 year old cats. Older cats are generally quieter and more sensible than kittens or young cats and generally, need less supervision. They are already used to household life and know the ground rules of living with people. Instead of becoming bored and needing to let off steam in your absence they are more likely to doze, leaving your furnishings intact. An older cat is fully grown so you can see what you are taking on - large, medium or small, longhaired, semi-longhaired or shorthaired, placid or active. We can provide you with details of the cats character, allowing you to select a cat that suits your own needs and lifestyle. Cats are at their most companionable in these later years. They enjoy attention and companionship. Caring for a senior cat is a very rewarding experience and an older cat will enjoy the love and security that a caring cat owner can provide. *- Project Change*

The worst part of life is waiting. The best part of life is finding someone worth waiting for . . .



When you are adopting a pet, take the time to meet the scared ones, the shy ones, the ones that don't stick out to you, the ones with boring colors or missing limbs or eyes, the older ones, the frail ones, the ones that hiss, the ones that cower, the ones that seem beyond repair. They have not given up. They just need you. And maybe you just need them too.

It's called the season of giving, but at MHAA, it's the season of saving. Lifesaving!
Bring a new best friend home. It's the best part of the holidays.

Sponsor a homeless cat in honor of a loved one.



Mid Hudson Animal Aid, Inc.

Essie Dabrusin Cat Sanctuary
54 Simmons Lane
Beacon, New York 12508
Phone: 845-831-4321
info@midhudsonanimalaid.org

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.

How can one person save one hundred cats each year?

You can join us on the volunteer Board of Directors for MHAA and work to care for, clean and raise funds for the many abandoned felines that come through our doors - or you could just spay one cat each year. No matter the approach, your efforts make a difference. If it's the former, please email MHAA with a letter of interest to info@midhudsonanimalaid.org; if it's the latter, we thank you for your support.



ELVIRA

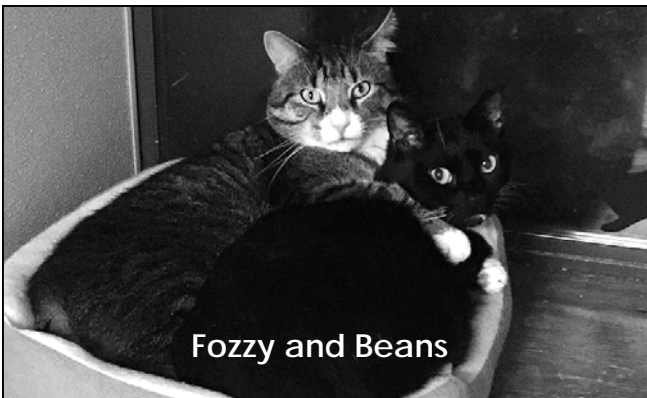


TAFFY



Beans

Beans didn't ask to lead a challenging life, but struggle after struggle was heaped upon him. He was hit by a car, and suffered a broken jaw and severe leg damage. His jaw was wired and his leg set. The stress of his misfortunes caused him to panic and dread anyone who came to visit or medicate him. Pain prevented him from eating well and despair set in. He would lay in the back of his cage and not move unless you tried to touch him. His leg did not heal as expected and amputation became the only option. While under anesthesia, he had the wire removed from his jaw and a broken tooth extracted. Through months of bandage changes, vet visits, surgeries, cone wearing, and medications, Beans wore the look of pure hopelessness. But he conquered all that he was unfairly given and now hobbles around in our FIV suite (yes, he also is positive for FIV), and cannot bring himself to trust humans. Day in and day out, we work to give him confidence and TLC.



Fozzy and Beans

Although Beans' journey may seem depressing, his future is hopeful. MHAA is one of the few shelters that take in FIV positive cats and also runs a Feral Friends program to restore trust to scared cats. Beans is now in a free range space and enjoys the company of other cats. He gets special chicken and one on one time each weekend. His buddy Fozzy has taken him under his wing and he is finally able to relax and enjoy life. He may never be a lap cat, but he is safe and sound and loved by all. Please feel free to visit him!

For all high school students: earn community service credit and build your college application resume while learning about animal care and supporting MHAA behind-the-scenes as a volunteer.

Know that even one life has breathed easier because of you.