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# The Cat's Meow

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The suffering of abandoned and abused animals does not end if you choose to look the other way. The only way to make it end is to be proactive and do something about it. If you can help through volunteer time, fostering or becoming a feral friend, it is a simple way to show your support for MHAA and homeless animals. Pedro's story illustrates how one animal's life can be enriched by compassion and trust and how that love in turn enhances the adopter's life.

When Jackie Hadden first met Pedro, he was burrowed in the carpet-lined cat house on the screened-in porch at the shelter. She could hardly see him, he blended in so well. Once introduced to her new feral friend, she offered him a few treats. He licked her hand, and she promised to visit him again a couple of days later. They continued this way, with Pedro always in his special place when she came onto the porch. Jackie would know he was there only because of his sweet shining eyes in the darkness. Quite honestly, she didn't think he was going to change his personality just because she visited him.

A week after she joined the Feral Friends program, a black cat she didn't know approached her in the shelter, then retreated, then approached again shyly. He took the treats she offered, but she had to explain to him that she was there to visit Pedro, and needed to move on. This black cat let her go, but kept his eye on her as she went to the corner of the porch where Pedro always was. She looked in the cat house, only to find it empty. Pedro was the black cat who had come to her!

"I agreed to foster Pedro for a couple of weeks to help him with his socialization and now Pedro, renamed Skitter, prefers being close to our family to being away from us. He is an absolutely gorgeous boy – a big cat with rear feet the size of corn cobs. He has piercing, slightly-crossed eyes that so want to trust, and each day I see in them that he does trust us a little bit more. If I'm late waking up in the morning, he'll call from the bottom of the stairs, and come up to see what's taking me so long."

"I never would have imagined he could come so far so quickly with just some on-on-one attention. All I have to do is sit on the floor, and he is right there, ready to push his head into my hand, and while he won't sit on my lap yet, he'll happily leap across it multiple times to make me laugh. Had I come to the shelter looking to adopt, I could easily have missed him because he was a shy cat, and that would have been a shame for all of us. I ask you to

open your eyes to a cat that might not be the first to catch your eye, but might be the one, in the end, to most catch your heart. I, quite honestly, can't imagine our family without him."

MHAA is constantly striving to help rescue the abandoned and abused felines forgotten in our community and in doing so strengthen and enrich families. A \$100 donation helps needy cats in immeasurable ways and ensures the continued vital work of our organization. Can we count on your donation today? And remember, there is no better place in the Hudson Valley to adopt when considering adding to your feline family.

*Don Petruncola, MHAA President*



**Interested in supporting MHAA in the long-term? Planned giving is a great way to ensure the future of our sanctuary and work. MHAA depends entirely on private donations. Bequests, gifts of Life Insurance, Charitable or Deferred Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Shares of Stock, and Memorial donations are just some of the ways that you can ensure on-going financial support of MHAA. If you would like more information regarding any of these gifting methods, please contact us at [info@midhudsonanimalaid.org](mailto:info@midhudsonanimalaid.org).**

# Popsicle

Barely six weeks old and only 13 ounces, the kitten was starving to death. His body temp had fallen to 89.5—a far cry from the normal temperature range for a cat of 100.5 to 102.5 degrees. He became known as 'Popsicle'.

The morning of the pending August storm, a man came into the MHAA lobby yelling "help, help!" He had found a kitten tangled up in some weeds and close to death. We got the kitten inside for evaluation, gave him some fluids, karo and heat and rushed him to the vet. Half way to the vet he regained consciousness. They gave him a dextrose shot and after an hour his blood sugar was still only 47, well below normal. The vet praised our team's efforts and said that he would have been dead in a half hour had we not acted quickly. Popsicle is likely to require round the clock care until we get his temperature and sugar regulated. Your donations provide the necessary resources to respond to emergencies like Popsicle's.



## CATSTOCK

Mid Hudson Animal Aid will host our third annual Catstock benefit concert on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 pm to 11 pm. This event will be held at The Howland Cultural Center located at 477 Main Street in Beacon. The show features folk, blues and rock music by local artists Todd Giudice, Phil Cohen, Brittani O'Hearn, Down to the Bricks and Tim Haufe. This event is family friendly and all proceeds go directly to the shelter. Tickets can be purchased by calling the shelter at [845-831-4321](tel:845-831-4321) or at Planet New York Tattoo, 11 Marist Drive, Poughkeepsie, and at Dream in Plastic, 177 Main Street, Beacon. Come attend this fabulous night of music, peace, love and cats!

## OUR SPECIAL ADVICE COLUMN: ASK ARIEL

*Dear Ariel,*

My name is Galileo, and my job at MHAA is to greet all the visitors at the door. Before I came to live at MHAA, I lived as an indoor/outdoor cat. Now, I'm not allowed to go outside. I sit by the door but no one will let me out! How come MHAA cats can't go outside? I hear that MHAA doesn't allow indoor/outdoor adoptions. Is this true?



*Galileo  
The Greeter*



*Dear Galileo,*

You know very well that one of the reasons you came to MHAA is that you got lost with no microchip! It's true that MHAA doesn't let our cats out or allow indoor/outdoor adoptions. There are many reasons for this. One reason is that indoor/outdoor cats only have an expected life span of 6 years. Lots of bad things can happen to you outside. You could get hit by a car, or attacked by an animal, or catnapped by someone who thinks you might be a stray. It is much better to stay inside. Indoor cats live an average of 15 years. I would suggest you take some time to play with all of your toys and enjoy the cat grass people sometimes buy for the shelter. You might also want to go home with a friend. Having a buddy helps alleviate boredom!

*Ariel*



The warm weather has made fleas and ticks very prevalent this season. We have 144 residents who need to be treated. If you can help us ensure our cats stay healthy by donating \$10, we would greatly appreciate it! \$10 is what it costs us for a dose of preventative for each cat. This necessary process is expensive but the health benefits associated with eradicating blood borne disease far outweigh the upfront medication costs. We need your immediate support in covering the cost of this project. A few dollars from you will go a long way in helping us sustain a healthy population.

# Ducky

Knowing that any other shelter would likely euthanize Ducky rather than give her a chance at a full life, her owner brought her and her sister D.C. to MHAA when he had to go into the hospital. Ducky has a special condition. Her front legs are deformed due to contracted tendons, most likely the result of crowding in the womb and she stands on her hind legs like a little duck. She has touched the hearts of all who have met her at MHAA, as she is a sweet little cat with a loving personality. Ducky is high spirited and creative and has figured out how to go up and down stairs, climb on things, use the litter and clean herself perfectly well. She enjoys being held and having her belly rubbed and spends her days sliding around on the tile floor of the shelter while playing with the other cats. It is a comforting feeling to know that a place like Mid Hudson Animal Aid exists and that we are willing to take in and care for a disabled cat like Ducky without hesitation. We would love to be able to help more animals in need, like Ducky, but can only continue to do so with your donations. Please continue your generous contributions to MHAA so that we can continue our mission of providing a safe and loving environment for animals that would otherwise be turned away at other shelters.



## You're Invited!

Mid Hudson Animal Aid Goods and Services Auction will be held on November 3, 2012 at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Townsend Avenue, Beacon. Preview Starts at 5:30 PM, Live Auction at 7:00 PM. Finger foods and desserts included with \$15 admission price.

Charismatic Auctioneer Bill Rinaldi will once again entertain and delight the audience while presenting awesome lots for bid, including:

- Pet Pampering
- Tickets to the David Letterman Show
- Theater and Performing Arts Tickets
- Week's stay in Florida
- Art and Antiques
- Local Restaurant and Store Certificates
- Spa Services

Generous donations of restaurant certificates, theater, sporting and concert event tickets as well as business ads for the program are needed and much appreciated.

Email us at [mhaaauction@yahoo.com](mailto:mhaaauction@yahoo.com)

Sponsored by: Royal Auto Parts

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Geico , Pepsi and all our sponsors of the Golf Tournament and Volleyball tournament. Special thanks to Royal Auto Parts of Hopewell Junction, New York for your continuing support.

Thank you to retiring Board members: Joanne Maggio, Marian Meikle and Robin Cozette for your years of service and to the volunteers of MHAA for your dedication to extending our mission to help abandoned and abused animals.



The GEICO Gecko came to visit us for the first annual volleyball tournament where MHAA raised over \$3,500 for the kitties! Thanks to all that came out to show their support!

Helping hands and loving hearts are needed at our sanctuary. If you love cats and have some time each week to spend with some of the friendliest kitties you could ever meet, please consider joining our team of MHAA volunteers.

Email us at [volunteer@midhudsonanimalaid.org](mailto:volunteer@midhudsonanimalaid.org)

Interested in sponsoring a cage? Email us for more information.



Mid Hudson Animal Aid, Inc.

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### **Mid Hudson Animal Aid, Inc. Receives 2012 Best of Beacon Award**

Each year, the Beacon Award Program identifies companies that have achieved exceptional success in their local community. These are organizations that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and the community. These exceptional companies help make the Beacon area a great place to live, work and play. MHAA is a previous award recipient of the Best Place to Adopt a Cat by Hudson Valley Magazine.



### **We have so many beautiful cats waiting for a warm, loving home. Adopting one is easy!**

First, think about your needs. Would you like a frisky, playful kitten, or a more demure older cat? Are there young children in your household, or other pets? Kittens may not be appropriate for a family with very young children.

Next, browse our web site to see if any cats strike your fancy. If so, you can call us at (845) 831-4321 for more information on that particular cat. But if not, don't worry. We have plenty of felines in all shapes and sizes to choose from.

Then, visit our shelter to pick out your special someone. **We're open from noon to 4 p.m. every day.** Spend some time looking around. Once you've narrowed down your choices, pet and talk to each one. Veterinarians recommend that you pay more attention to personality than looks. Don't overlook a seemingly shy cat. With a little coaxing, these timid creatures will bond with you and be a friend for life.

Once you've made your selection, fill out an adoption application (also available online). You'll need to provide the name of your vet if you've had pets previously, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of two references. The adoption fee is \$125 per cat (\$100 for a special needs cat), or \$165 per kitten and includes all shots and spaying. It'll take us a few days to check your references and give your cat one final medical check-up. We'll call you to make an appointment to come in and pick up your new sweetie. Remember to bring a cat carrier!