



OPERATION "CATSNIP"
Reducing Cat Overpopulation Through Spay/Neuter

January 2012

Dear SCFAW Supporter,

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" once again for all you have done to support Second Chance Fund for Animal Welfare (aka SCFAW) in our mission to end feline overpopulation and homelessness and improve the lives of cats and kittens. With your help we have sterilized over 13,000 felines and placed 2,000 cats & kittens into forever homes in the ten years since our founding in 2001.

I also want to ensure that this letter reflects the latest news on our organization.

In August of this year we announced that we were merging with the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society (MRFRS). This merger allows us to provide more services for cats in MetroWest and Central Mass. communities, including operation of a brand new mobile spay/neuter clinic called The Catmobile 2, which has been fully funded and is being custom manufactured for us now. There is tremendous synergy between our organizations, which you will see as you read more about MRFRS later in this letter. Being under one organizational umbrella enables us to streamline our processes and use our combined resources more efficiently and help more cats.

I am pleased to say that our merger is now complete. So what happens now?

All of SCFAW's programs will continue to operate as usual. Cathy Gadway remains as Director of Operations, managing our "CatSNIP" low cost spay/neuter clinics, Scratch's Patch Up Program providing access to discounted veterinary care for catastrophic illness or injury, and our Counseling Program to help people facing animal issues. Cathy will also manage our new Catmobile 2 program.

We will be phasing out the use of the name Second Chance Fund for Animal Welfare, Inc. and will assimilate into the MRFRS organizational name and logo. Newsletters, emails, etc., from MRFRS which you have undoubtedly already begun to receive are also being sent on behalf of SCFAW.

SCFAW's colorful kitty logo "Scratch" will continue to be the face of the "CatSNIP" clinic program. Donations will be accepted under both MRFRS and SCFAW during our transition period. Donations can be targeted to SCFAW programs or designated to help cats in a specified geographic area, so donations will be directed to help cats wherever you desire.

The SCFAW Board of Directors has been phased out and its members have been offered the opportunity to join the MRFRS Board of Directors. I have accepted and joined the MRFRS Operating Board. Jan Beckwith, who founded SCFAW, has been named a member of the MRFRS Founders Board.

We are in the process of leasing space in our area which will be home base for management of Catmobile 2 and will provide us with a local facility and increased presence in the community.

What is the synergy between SCFAW and MRFRS? Our missions align well, as you can see:

"The MRFRS is a nationally recognized, non-profit volunteer-driven organization committed to ensuring the health and welfare of feral and domestic cats and kittens by promoting pro-active, compassionate, no-kill programs."

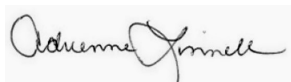
MRFRS was founded in 1992 in response to growth in the feral or homeless cat population along the Merrimack River in Newburyport. MRFRS began a trap, neuter, and return (TNR) program for these cats in 1992 with feeding stations where the cats are fed twice a day. In 2009 Zorro, the last feral cat from these colonies, passed away. In 2010 MRFRS assisted cats in need in over 100 towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In the shelter's current service area towns (Salisbury, Newburyport, Amesbury, Newbury, Byfield, West Newbury, Merrimac, and Rowley, MA) MRFRS operates in a "kitten-free" zone and therefore assists other communities in need of assistance with placing kittens. The shelter is an open admission, no kill facility for the designated service area towns for kittens and adult cats.

These are the MRFRS programs:

- Two no kill adoption centers - in Salisbury, MA and at PetSmart in Danvers, MA.
- A feral trap, vaccinate, neuter, and release program
- A spay/neuter program for feral cats
- A low cost spay/neuter program operated by the Catmobile on the North Shore - expanding to MetroWest and Central Mass. through Catmobile 2 and the merger with SCFAW
- A foster home program for healthy and special needs cats and kittens
- A barn program for feral relocation
- Low cost vaccines, and veterinary care
- The Captain Courageous Fund which assists injured homeless cats
- The Bridge Program to assist those that need emergency boarding for their cats.
- The Spay Mass Hotline to assist pet owners access to low cost spay/neuter services for cats and dogs in Massachusetts

Since inception MRFRS has placed 17,000 cats and kittens into homes, spayed or neutered over 11,000 feral cats, and spayed or neutered over 17,000 owned cats, thus totaling over 45,000 cats helped. Since it started the SpayMass hotline has handled over 25,000 calls for assistance.

I believe this merger provides a wonderful expansion of SCFAW's services for our area. While we are giving up our independent organizational identity, we are still in operation and we are significantly advancing our mission on behalf of felines in our service area. I hope you share my excitement about these developments. Please contact me with any questions at ALinnell@charter.net.



Adrienne Linnell