



The Human-Animal Bond

Animals need people and people need animals. Every day we see the strength and power of that bond, which can lead animals and people alike to do extraordinary things: animals risking their lives to alert and rescue family members in a fire; the thousands of people throughout the Gulf risking their lives by refusing to evacuate without their pets.

At the Alliance we are often contacted by homeless and women's shelters when people in need refuse help because they will not abandon their animals. They stay in

dangerous situations or sleep on the street or in a car to keep and protect their animal companions. Less dramatically, but no less important, people throughout our community are confronted daily with the cruel choice of euthanizing a beloved pet because they lack the hundreds or thousands of dollars required by veterinary hospitals to treat sick or injured animals.

We do not believe that animals should die of routine illness or injury simply due to lack of money. We do not believe that lives should be weighed on the basis of funds.

Animals are not disposable, and the bond of love between people and their animals must not be so lightly dismissed.

At the Alliance, we carry out our mission to promote and sustain the human-animal bond every day by bringing life-saving medical care to those in need. Every day we do what no one else will do.

We help the people and animals who have been turned away by everyone else. We provide safe haven for pets



Huckleberry finds his happily ever after.

of the temporarily homeless. We provide emergency services for family pets and chronic care for the pets of seniors. We hold out a lifeline because we believe so strongly in cherishing that bond, holding it in our hearts and extending it outward to all.

In the delighted face of a child adopting his first dog or cat, in the tears of the hurricane victims reunited against all odds with the family pet, we see what should never be lost—the bond between the human and animal spirit. In this issue we want to celebrate that bond and share with you a few of the experiences we have had over the past year.



Taj Mahal and his new companion.

ALLIANCE FOR ANIMALS



"When we help animals, we help people."

Donna Bishop,
President

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Donate using the new
PayPal link on our website!

*Alliance for Animals, Inc. is a non-profit
501 (c)(3) charitable organization.
Donations are tax-deductible to the
full extent of the law.*

Dear Friends,

2005 has been a difficult year for many of us: the loss of human life in Iraq, Pakistan, Africa, and our own Gulf Coast; the toll taken on animal lives around the world and in our own backyards; the loss of loved ones so many of us have suffered. Life gets faster, economics get tighter, sometimes the future can seem dimmer.



Still, every day we find reason to hope and believe: children donating their allowances for the animals; neighbors bringing in the only donations they can—a roll of paper towels, a bottle of dish soap, a handmade picture; the light that comes over the face of an animal afraid to trust when she discovers the safety of a loving touch; or the wagging tail of



an animal on the mend. These are the faces of hope, and the force behind our work at the Alliance for Animals. It is not an easy place to work—we have too much to do and not enough resources—but the animals and the wonderful people who care for them keep us going every day.

As we approach the holidays and a new year, there is much reason for hope. With the assistance of the Executive Service Corps, a talented advisory committee, and a dedicated staff, we are building a strong future for the Alliance for Animals.

Our best hope is still you, our supporters. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who has given so much this year: our volunteers, staff, donors, supporters, monthly sustainers, corporate helpers, adopters, and sponsors. As always, what makes us strong is the alliance of people from across our city, state, and country working together for the animals. Your caring and sacrifices make us strong and give us hope. Thank you.



Warmest regards,

Donna Bishop

Room at the Inn

Homelessness happens. It can happen anytime, to anyone. A fire, a flood, domestic abuse, an illness, unemployment—but what happens to the animals when their families lose their own home? Too many times, loved and healthy animals die or must be given up, or their people go without the aid of a shelter because they cannot bring their animals with them.



Chiquita and Ebony enjoy some loving at the clinic.

The Alliance for Animals has always provided a safe haven for people and animals in need. This year, the need has increased dramatically as homelessness has increased. Battered women seeking safety in Boston shelters often will not go until their pets are safe. Boston courts and social service agencies are realizing how strong and vital a role the human-animal bond plays in human lives. They seek help for their clients in the only place offering that help—Alliance for Animals.

Chaz's mom needed emergency shelter. But she also needed emergency aid for Chaz, who had been locked in an apartment without food or water by her abuser. Chaz was rescued, brought to the Alliance, and cared for until mom found a new home. Several donors and volunteers bought and cooked chicken and other goodies for Chaz to keep her eating. By the time she left, she had received much-needed dental care and lots of love.

Chaz was joined by *Ebony*, *Chiquita*, and *Wendy*, three dogs whose mom likewise had to run from a life-threatening situation. She found the Alliance and brought us the traumatized dogs. All had been living in a car. Wendy was so stressed that high blood pressure caused ruptured veins in her eyes. All settled in at the clinic, however, and with mom volunteering, they soon felt safe. By the time mom found a new home two months later all had received the dental and other vet care they needed.

Star lives on the street with her dad. On rainy nights she huddles with Steve, giving him comfort and warmth. But Steve doesn't like to see *Star* out in the rain and asked if we could keep *Star* overnight in bad weather. We were happy to take care of *Star*, a gentle German Shepherd who loves everyone. We also spayed her and provided heartworm preventive and Frontline. We are continuing to provide "bed and breakfast" for *Star* as the cold weather sets in, while Steve gets help from a local human services agency.

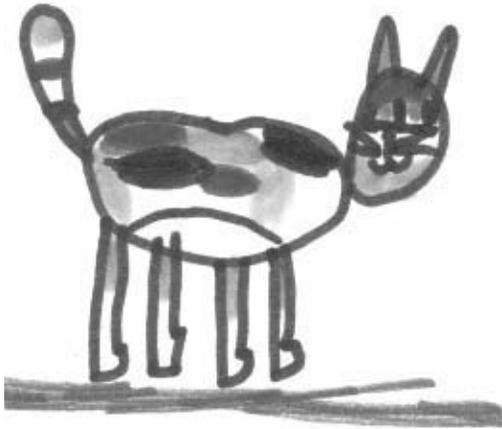
Star, *Chaz*, *Ebony*, *Chiquita*, *Wendy*, *Silver*, *Dottie*, *Fiona*, *Mitzi*, *Chucky*, *Isabelle* & *Ferdinand*, *Hamlet* & *Socrates*—all these and others found shelter at the Alliance when their human families lost their homes. The urgent need for this kind of sheltering is clear but so often overlooked. When all has been lost, must the human-animal relationship also be lost? Must one also lose the only remaining lifeline left to them? The Alliance is working hard to answer the call for help, providing hope where none was left.

These are the drops in the bucket that eventually make the bucket overflow. These are the tiny disasters, no different than the great disasters that have afflicted America this year. But there is no tide of help for these disasters, no national relief fund. We must do everything possible to give hope and safe haven, to reunite our human and animal friends.



Chaz and her mom now have a home.

Happy Endings



Sandy

Thank you so much for fixing Sandy! I was really happy that you could squeeze her in. Your animal hospital is helping and saving animals. You also do operations for animals like Sandy and you do more stuff. Thank you!

From,
Emily Berner



Raisin and Rocky

Dear AfA,

Raisin and Rocky are happy and healthy and are the best of friends (as you can see!). Their new little brother (human) arrived in September and they have been so gentle and loving to him. They are the most wonderful kitties in the world. Thank you for all that you've done to help them and for all that you do for the animals in your care. You are a wonderful organization!

Karoline, Matthew, Benjamin, Raisin and Rocky Shair

Oliver

Oliver likes to sit in the chair when we watch T.V. He is often in the window during the day. He eats diet food and plays with toys and uses the cardboard scratcher. He seems to need to be taught how to use toys but he's learning.

Diane Hamer





Penny

Penny was a project, rescued and adopted with the collaboration and help of northshore animal control, volunteer transporters, Alliance, foster care homes, and All Dog Rescue. She has now found the perfect home, doggie companions, and truly a happy ever after.



Sadie

Dear Donna,

Sadie (formerly Roxie) is so happy to be living here in Quincy. It didn't take her long to feel right at home. She is the most gentle, loving pup we could've wanted. She even gets along great with the neighborhood dogs. Thanks again for Sadie!

Mike, Danielle, and Sadie Hughes

Arielle

Arielle seems to be settling in nicely. I took her camping this past weekend and she had a ball. She is still shy to men but she's getting better. I love her to death. Here's a picture of Arielle camping with her new brother, Titan the Boston terrier.

Thank you from Tony Ziagos



Happy Endings

And so many more will have a home for the holidays!

Cats

Amethyst, Andrew, Anna, Arabella, Ava, Baby, Bo, Bootsy, Brandi & Blue, Brie, Bud, Bundy, Casey & Whiskey, Charlie, Chuckie, Dakota, Diamond & Topaz, Duma, Dusty, Ella, Emerald, Fred, Garfield, Georgia,

Hansel & Gretel, Jade, Jasmine, Jay & Conan, Jethro, Kelly, Leiea, Lily, Maybelline, Montana, Moo, Nevada, NuNu, Paula, Peaches, Pebbles, PeeWee, Rico & Chico, Sammi, Silver, Stitch, Tabitha, Taj, Toby, Virginia, Whisper, Ziggy

Dogs

Acorn, Arielle, Bianco, Buster, Flash Gordon, Huckleberry, Lucky Charms, Luna, Peanut, Roxie





Ask Us



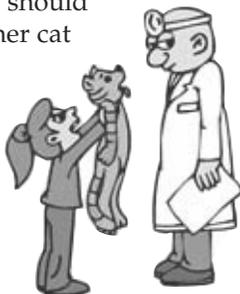
What are the differences between FeLV, FIV, and FIP?

FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) is an immune deficiency virus affecting cats. The virus is so named because if the cat lives long enough, he or she can contract leukemia, a cancer of the blood system. However, most cats with the virus die in two years or less from other diseases or infections. Because the immune system is not working, even ordinary colds or illnesses can be deadly for the FeLV positive cat.

The virus is spread through bodily fluids such as saliva, blood, and urine. It can also be spread to kittens in utero or through breast milk. Close contact with a positive cat—including grooming or sharing the same dishes or litter box—can expose a healthy cat to the virus. The virus can lie undetected in the body for some time, and the cat may appear healthy until the virus takes over.

FeLV can be detected by a simple blood test, which your veterinarian can perform in the office. If a positive test results, the cat can be retested in 3–6 months if there are no other cats in the home, or a more complicated test can be sent out to test for active illness.

Because the virus is so deadly, one should never expose a healthy cat to another cat before testing for feline leukemia virus. There is a vaccine for FeLV, but like all vaccines it is not 100% effective and can have significant side effects. The best way to protect your cat is to prevent FeLV in the first place by keeping your cat indoors, and not exposing her to outdoor or unknown cats. FeLV cannot be transmitted to dogs, humans, or any species besides cats.



FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), otherwise known as “cat AIDS,” is not nearly as bad as it sounds. Like FeLV, it is an immune deficiency disease. But unlike FeLV, it is not easily spread, and FIV positive cats often have a normal life span. FIV is spread only through deep puncture into the vein, i.e., a deep bite which puts the saliva of the infected cat into the blood stream of the uninfected cat. It can also be spread in breast milk from an infected mother to her kittens. Typically we see FIV in unneutered, outside male cats. These cats seem to be the

losers in cat fights—“teddy bear” cats, big, friendly, and not interested in fighting.

FIV can be readily detected with a blood test, usually done in combination with the FeLV test. FIV positive cats need to live indoors, protected from illness and disease. With good veterinary care, they usually live as long as a healthy cat. They do seem prone to periodontal disease, so regular check-ups and good dental care are essential. FIV is not a death sentence, FIV positive cats can live safely with other cats, and no one should be afraid to adopt one of these wonderful “big boys”! FIV cannot be transmitted to dogs, humans, or any other species.

FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis) is the name for a little-understood viral syndrome that affects cats of all ages, but particularly those who are young or have a compromised immune system. Like FeLV and FIV, FIP can stay in the body undetected for months or even years while the cat appears to be healthy.

FIP appears to be readily spread through any contact and is likely airborne like the distemper and parvo viruses. Because FIP refers to a syndrome, rather than a single disease, there is no diagnostic test, no vaccine, and no cure. The disease often shows up as a “wasting” illness with unexplained weight loss (like “fading kitten syndrome”) or a congestive illness in which fluid fills the chest and lungs and the cat dies of respiratory arrest. The only possible way to avoid infection is to keep your cat indoors and away from other outdoor or unknown cats. Unfortunately, there is no good news about FIP, but researchers continue to work hard to discover the mechanisms of this terrible disease. Like other feline viruses, FIP cannot be transmitted to dogs, humans, or other species.

Why and How Should I Train My Dog?

It’s all about the bond. It is not about the tricks, it is not only about what we think of as obedience. It is you and your dog learning to trust each other, respect each other, and form the bond that can save both your lives.

Obedience is important because dogs are pack animals—social beings who depend on a leader to keep order and provide safety. Relationships within the pack are determined through a complex language of play, touching, voice, and behavior. You and your family are your dog’s pack, and for the safety of all you must be the leader—the



saved? For your dog, stress may be a trip to the veterinarian or a move to a new place. If she has learned to trust you, because you have always been consistent and you have never let her down, she will have the confidence to face such challenges.

Your dog should look to you for all cues about what he should be doing. He should “work” for a living, because a bored dog is an unhappy dog. Dogs love to work, to perform, to please. Training should be an everyday activity for you and your dog: *sit* before eating, *down* before fetching, *shake* before a treat. Give the *okay* before the dog goes out a door, off a curb, or out of a car. This could not only save her life, but also exercises her mind. Every dog should be a thinking dog, a dog with a job and a purpose in life. After all, it really is about the bond, the bond of love and trust that you build with your best friend. She wants to walk at your side, in work and play, and know that she has a safe harbor in your family.

Next time watch for training tips.

“alpha” dog. Working with your dog establishes the hierarchy of his pack. It should establish you as trusted leader, on whom he can depend in times of trouble or stress. For your dog, trouble may be a dog barking across the street. Should he dash across the street to defend you, or should he sit quietly at your command because he has learned that you are in control and do not need to be

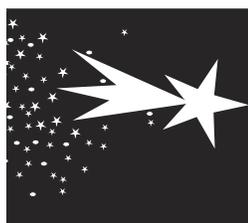


TNR: Past, Present, and Future A History of the Trap-Neuter-Return Movement

A new book by Ellen Perry Berkeley, author of the classic *Maverick Cats: Encounters with Feral Cats*

“As the TNR movement has grown, an accessible written history of the movement has seemed ever more necessary – to support the efforts of TNR advocates, to expose the misunderstandings and falsehoods of TNR detractors and, ultimately, to give a better life to the many feral cats still to be trapped, neutered, returned, and managed/monitored by loving caregivers.”—from the Author’s Note

Available now from Alley Cat Allies
www.alleycat.org/books.html



BECOME A GUARDIAN ANGEL

Let your love and compassion for the animals live on after your lifetime with a bequest to the Alliance for Animals. For more information please call Donna Bishop at 617-268-7800.

We salute the following individuals whose foresight and generosity enable us to continue our important work on behalf of the animals: Janet Roy, James J. Burton, Anna Twomey, Mary Barbone, Hilda Leveen, Rita Wolfson, Evelyn Amdorsky, and Shirley Kaddy.

Good News!



Triumph: Woof & Co. run out of town

As we reported previously ("Puppy Mills: An American Disgrace," Volume 16, June 2004), Woof & Co. represents a national problem with the merchandising of animals, the health threats posed to all of us by unhealthy animals, and the devastating conditions facing breeding stock in "puppy mills." But thanks to a great outcry in Massachusetts led largely by MARC (Massachusetts Animal Rights Coalition) and AfA's Mary Feldhaus Weber, Woof & Co. will be selling puppies and kittens at the mall no longer. They have packed up and left! But don't let down your guard: your friendly puppy mill dealers pop up around the country with new names all the time, so we must keep vigilant.

AfA receives grant from Special License Plate Program

Massachusetts' Special Animal-Friendly License Plate Program has already provided \$100,000 for animals, and Alliance for Animals is a recipient of the program. Sales of the "I am animal friendly" license plates provide funds



for spay/neuter of cats and dogs through a grant process open to nonprofit organizations and municipal animal control departments. The program is administered

through the Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC). In this first year, Alliance received \$8,000 to spay and neuter feral cats, cats and dogs belonging to homeless or indigent individuals, and abandoned cats and dogs. We have already conducted one "Spayathon" and expect to do several more. *Please remember—every purchase of the plate goes to help animals in your neighborhood and across the state.* For more information, call us at 617 268-7800 or check the MAC website at www.massachusettsanimalcoalition.org.

New chip could reduce animal testing

A new chip that includes live cells from animal tissues could soon start substituting for some testing on live animals during pharmaceutical and consumer product development. The "Hurel" chip can help to predict the effectiveness and toxicity of compounds being screened for use in humans. Drug and consumer product companies may find that they save both money and time by using this technology in place of some animal testing. If so, many animals would be spared. The Hurels may be commercially available before the end of next year. The reduc-

tion in animal testing also brings the added benefit of increased safety for humans with the advent of more precise testing methods.

Alliance establishes Advisory Committee

AfA has established an Advisory Committee to set goals and priorities, to develop a strategic plan for the next phase of our growth, and to help move toward the future. The major goals are to identify a suitable site for our permanent location and begin the funding campaign, and to recruit a skilled manager to oversee the project. We are very excited about our plans, and we hope you will join us in this new phase of our development. If you would like to join one of our Committees, or would like to help in any way, please call Donna Bishop at 617 268-7800 or e-mail us at allianceforanimals@verizon.net. Watch for continuing progress notes in future issues of ALLY.

AfA has more adoptions than ever!

As a result of increased visibility through our clinic and our website on Petfinder.org, the Alliance has experienced a banner year for adoptions! We have also partnered with the PETSMART store in Braintree for in-store adoption events, allowing us to increase our dog adoptions and public visibility.

AfA featured in the media

AfA's work on behalf of needy urban animals was recently featured by Rick Winterson on the Neighborhood Network News cable TV program. Winterson praised AfA as "one of the quiet but effective organizations in South Boston." AfA's work was also highlighted on BNN and other local networks in an hour-long feature story about animal rights. Alliance President Donna Bishop and New England Wildlife President Virginia Fuller were interviewed by Dr. Nancy Mroczek about a variety of issues affecting animals. The show has continued to air monthly throughout the year.

AfA establishes PayPal account for added convenience in making donations online

See our website at www.afa.arlington.ma.us. Watch for our updated website at a new address in the coming months. Thank you to Phil Budne for his continued diligence and hard work on this project!



🍀 *In Memory and In Honor* 🍀

In memory of my mother Margaret Yoston, an avid cat lover. In memory too of my son James Slattery who also loved cats very much. From Carol Sico.

In memory of our dear friend Leslie Kiernan. From Elizabeth Herman, Director, The Ninth House.

In memory of Princess, adopted as "Maggie" on September 27, 1996 from the Arlington shelter. It's hard when we lose something so special to us, but every bit of pain in loss cannot possibly match the wonderful and joyous years of companionship Princess gave to us. From Tiffany and JB Dowd.



Pepper and Oreo

In loving memory of Pepper and Oreo Curry. From Maureen Curry.

In memory of Uncle Eddie Ellard. From Dale and Fitz.

In memory of Roger Apollo. From Dale and Fitz.

In memory of Rose Kennedy. From Alliance for Animals.

In memory of Shirley Kaddy. From Alliance for Animals.

In memory of Miss Lilly, and dear Spunky, rescued chihuahua, my buddy. From Barbara Burns.

In memory of Percy. From Mary Catherine Harvey.

In memory of Percy, wonderful companion of Donna. From Lyn Abissi and Bill Schwartz.

In memory of and for Beverly Boyd. From Douglas Boyd.

In memory of Bethie, who had a little head and a great big heart. From Lyn Abissi and Bill Schwartz.

In loving memory of Bethie, joy of my life, greyhound extraordinaire, sharer of popcorn, stealer of wine. From Martha Abissi.

In memory of all who were lost on the Gulf Coast, may you rest in peace now. From Alliance for Animals.

In memory of those we loved so much, but could not save. For Herman, Princess, Fiona, and Asia, may you be in a better place. From Donna Bishop.

In memory of Hazel, the sweetest little girl. From Robert Souza.

In memory of Squeaky, my son's first cat. From Sarah Walker.



Bethie

Happy Birthday to my cousin John Goreham. From Anne V. Quinn.

In honor of Betsy, a very good kitty. From Janice and Phil.

For Margaret's graduation. From Aunt Susan.

In honor of Sylvester, our new best friend. From Nate and Josie.

In honor of Josephine. From Nancy Haddeford.

Happy Birthday Ray. From Donna.

Happy Birthday Patrick. From Donna & Charlotte.

We couldn't have done it without you!

John Harrington
Maura Pensak

Charitable Friends

Executive Service Corps
Shirley Shattuck Windsor Charitable Foundation
PetsMart Charities
Martha Morse Foundation

Marino Foundation
DJ&T Foundation
Boston Community Capital

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Mid-Mantra
The Ninth House
Crafty Yankee
Snooty Jewelry
Total Image Consultants
Elmwood Motor Lodge, Maine
Joie de Vivre
Bottlecap Studios
Professional Productions

Books Done
Broadway Lock
The Oven Door

Kids We Thank
Jenna Spaulding
Jasmine Benger
Gabrielle Gurley
Julian Bloom

Happy Holidays To All

From all of us at the Alliance for Animals!



HAVE YOU RENEWED?

If you've forgotten to renew your AfA membership in the past year or more, we'll regretfully have to remove your name from our membership list in the very near future. So, if you want to keep receiving ALLY, please fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and send it in to us with your membership dues. We can't help the animals without help from you!



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Alliance for Animals is a non-profit humane organization.
Donations are greatly needed, deeply appreciated, and tax-deductible.

Please use this form for donations, renewals, or change of address

I would like to help the Alliance for Animals. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

Name _____ • \$500 _____
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 City _____ State _____ • \$150 _____
 Zip Code _____ Phone _____ • \$50 _____
 E-Mail _____ • \$ _____ Other _____

Accept my Sustainer pledge for \$ _____ per month.

I would like to give a gift membership to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____



If you work for a company with a matching gift program, the value of your membership donation can be doubled or even tripled by your employer.

Alliance for Animals • 232 Silver Street • South Boston, MA 02127-2206

Our Wish List

Clinic Needs

Distilled water
 Rubbing alcohol
 Trash bags
 Laundry detergent
 Bleach (not Ultra)
 Antibacterial liquid soap
 First-class stamps
 File folders
 Copy paper
 Post-it notes
 Pens and markers
 Scotch tape
 Calculators

Shelter Needs

Pretty towels
 Cat and dog toys
 Chew toys
 Collars and leashes – all sizes
 Large ceramic water bowls
 Radios

Equipment Needed

Computers (new or like new)
 Copier
 Dehumidifier
 4-drawer file cabinets