



## 2004 Brings Change at AFA

Dear Friends,

A hallmark of the Alliance for Animals has always been our ability to evolve and meet the challenges of each new decade. As the needs of those we serve have changed, so too have our own needs. I am writing to share the news with you of changes to come at the Alliance for Animals.

As you know, we have always leased spaces for our shelter and veterinary clinic, but it has long been our dream to incorporate all of our services, plus additional programming, in one permanent location. After giving our situation considerable thought, and weighing various options, we have concluded that 2004 is the time to begin our campaign for a new site for the following reasons:

- A permanent site is more reliable and secure.
- A larger site will allow us to provide more services.
- A single location will unify our operations.
- We want to provide parking.
- We want to make more efficient use of resources, including donations and volunteer help.
- We want to create self-sufficiency and public awareness of our services with a more accessible and visible location.

The first step, closing our Cat Adoption Center in Arlington, was a painful one. But we will use funds now allocated for the shelter, and the rent money saved, toward establishing our new permanent



Tasha, one of our many grateful furry clients.

shelter location. We will still be able to do adoptions from our clinic and at off-site locations such as pet supply stores. Our ideal of course is to establish our new site as quickly as possible.

At this time we have adopted all of the cats in our Arlington shelter to permanent, loving homes. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Joyce Barringer and all the shelter volunteers who have dedicated years to making our shelter the extraordinary place that it is. Words cannot express how much we will miss this peaceful haven of love.

Our new site will be located in Boston and will allow us to:

- Increase and expand our veterinary services.
- Expand our rescue and adoption capacity by establishing Adoption Centers for both cats and dogs.

- Establish the humane education programs and other services for inner-city youth and families we have long envisioned.
- Bring us many new opportunities for growth.

### **We need your help!**

**Volunteer to help us:**

- Identify suitable locations in Boston.
- Move the shelter.
- Transport animals to adoption sites on adoption days.
- Increase our sheltering capacity by providing foster care for cats or dogs.
- Coordinate or help with special fund raising events.
- Provide temporary storage for shelter supplies from our Arlington Center.

**Join:**

- Our Advisory Committee or Capital Campaign Committee to help guide us with these important decisions and funding goals.

## ALLIANCE FOR ANIMALS



*"When we help animals, we help people."*

Donna Bishop,  
President

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Visit our website at  
[www.afa.arlington.ma.us](http://www.afa.arlington.ma.us)  
and [petfinders.org](http://petfinders.org)

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

### *2004 Brings Change, continued*

Change is often difficult. It demands sacrifices, but it can also bring renewed strength and growth. We hope that you share our commitment to change and improvement, and that you will stand beside us as we tackle the challenges ahead. The animals need us more than ever, and we all need each other.

Please contact me with your ideas and comments—we are all in this together, and it is our Alliance which makes us strong.

Warmest regards,

Donna Bishop



## Heartfelt Thanks!

We deeply regret that we have not been able to thank each of our supporters individually, but your donations have not gone unnoticed. We are so grateful for each one. For all of you who gave so generously to the Feinstein Challenge, and for all of you who have continued to give, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

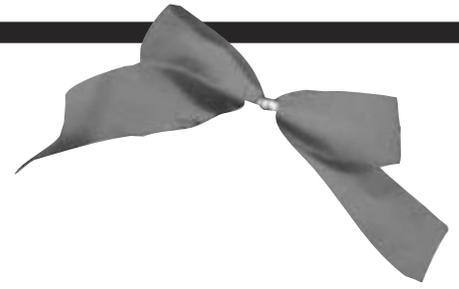
We also want to honor Hedy Jarvis for choosing Alliance for Animals to carry on the work for animals in memory of, and as a bequest from, her grandmother, Evelyn Amdorsky. She is truly a Guardian Angel.

Many thanks also go to all of you who responded to our Wish List and brought us so many wonderful and needed things. We so appreciate your caring.

Finally, we want to thank the Arthur C. Murray Charitable Foundation, the Marino Foundation, the Red Acre Foundation, the DJ&T Foundation, and the Martha Morse Foundation for their generous support of our programs this year.

We can never thank all of you enough for the faith and support you have shown us, and we hope for your continued loyalty. Nobody does what the Alliance for Animals does, but we can only continue to provide these life-saving programs for animals with your continued support.

# Happy Endings



## Hannah

After she spent six long months at AfA's clinic, we had mixed feelings when Hannah finally got a break. We were thrilled to see her go to a wonderful new home, but we still miss her so much—her gentle, happy spirit, her beautiful eyes, her sloppy kisses.

Hannah had only one problem: she is a 'pitbull.' A new ordinance in Boston targeting pitbulls has now made it even more difficult to adopt the countless gentle, adoptable dogs who are killed every day in shelters and pounds just for being labeled a pitbull.

Hannah is one of the lucky ones. She had statewide help, beginning with the Fitchburg Animal Control Officer who rescued her and brought her to us. All Dog Rescue found a foster care home in Worcester and then a permanent home in western Massachusetts. Hannah loves everybody, and now she finally has a family to love her forever, too. Working together we were able to save this fine dog.



*Lassie enjoys a cuddle in her new home*

## Lassie & Brownie

Lassie and Brownie were found wandering on a busy street, lost, hungry, and scared. We agreed to take them in and care for them. Both were malnourished, dirty, unsplayed, and obviously abused and neglected. After much medical care, grooming, and TLC, each blossomed into a beautiful, happy dog.

Our first triumph was Brownie's tail: after keeping it tucked between her legs for weeks, she finally raised it and wagged away! Later we could scarcely contain her zest for play and attention.

Both Brownie and Lassie found loving new homes and the life they so deserved.

# ADOPTION GALLERY

Since our earliest days, a very important mission of the Alliance for Animals has always been to provide rescue and adoption for abandoned cats and dogs. We have been extremely fortunate for the past ten years to have beautiful shelter space in Arlington, a superb shelter manager, and dedicated volunteer staff.

Now it is time to move toward our long-term goal of uniting our veterinary and rescue programs in one modern facility. So even though we have closed our Arlington site, we have in no way curtailed our rescue and adoption programs. While we seek a new, more permanent home, we are continuing to rescue cats and dogs the same way we always have. Since 1996 we have rescued and sheltered cats at the Clinic until they were able to go to Arlington. Now they will simply stay at the Clinic to await adoption to a permanent, loving home.

In this newsletter we are introducing our Adoption Gallery of cats waiting for a good home. We will continue to show off our shelter friends in future issues. We hope that all our members and shelter supporters will join us in this new phase of our growth, with the assurance that our goals and our commitment to the animals remains steadfast and unchanged.



When **Bo** first came to us he was a very frightened and lonely cat. A veterinarian brought him to us when his owners requested he be euthanized because he has feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). The veterinarian refused, and asked us to take him in.

Bo is a young, healthy cat with no symptoms, and as likely to live as long as any other cat with good care. He is not contagious to dogs, people, or other cats. He loves cats (especially kittens), dogs, and everyone he meets. He is a wonderful cat, but because he bears the stigma of FIV, he has not been adopted.

Bo would dearly love a home for the holidays. He will be a steadfast and loving companion for the lucky person who adopts him.

(For more information on FIV, please contact Donna at our Clinic.)

**Ziggy and Jethro** are playful, happy boys, looking for attention and a family to join. Each has a lot of love to give, plus entertaining companionship to boot. (They are not a pair, and can be adopted separately). Both are approximately one year old neutered males and are FeLV/FIV negative and healthy.



**Kelly** is a quiet girl and would prefer to be an only cat. She is too dignified to join the boys in roughhousing, but likes to watch. She would love a quiet home, and someone to appreciate her. Kelly is an approximately four year old spayed female and is FeLV/FIV negative and healthy.

**Cutie** was forced to give birth in a ditch, where she was discovered with her five babies by an AfA staff member who brought her in to the Clinic. Cutie was extremely grateful and takes every opportunity to let us know with hugs and kisses. Cutie is also a fabulous mother, and has brought up her babies to be healthy, happy, and exceptionally well socialized. In addition to her own five, she welcomed an additional five orphaned kittens and cared for them as well. We salute Cutie. It is a joy to know her and now that she has weaned her kittens, she deserves a great new home. Cutie is a beautiful grey tabby spayed female, about one year old, FeLV/FIV negative, and healthy.



*A few of Cutie's adorable kittens*

# Alliance Accomplishments

The Alliance for Animals was incorporated in Boston in 1988 by a small group of animal advocates. Having worked with a number of humane organizations over the years, we wanted to do something different. We decided to address the more global problems of animal abuse and exploitation through our quarterly newsletter, ALLY, and to devote our primary programming to helping companion animals. We felt that until the animals in our streets and backyards were safe, we could not solve issues of animal abuse elsewhere. We wanted to use our experience to remedy a problem which had by then become a crisis, an overwhelming tragedy for all involved—pet overpopulation.

In 1988 we initiated a pilot project in Boston for the purpose of identifying causes and solutions to the problem of pet overpopulation, and to gauge the success of our intended approach. We selected two Boston housing projects as our first “target” neighborhoods and went to work introducing our program.

We spent the first year going door-to-door in the projects, visiting every home and talking to anyone who would listen. We explained who we were, how we could help, and why neutering was important. We picked up every animal identified as abandoned, and we spayed or neutered the pets of every cooperative resident. By 1990 we had expanded to other inner city neighborhoods, our program had grown by 61%, and kitten births in our target neighborhoods had dropped to zero. This demonstrates that spay/neuter programs can be effective if they are geared to the needs of the community.

Since 1988 we have successfully established the following programs:

## **Spay/Neuter And Veterinary Services**

- 1988 Introduced Boston’s first low-cost spay/neuter program.
- 1988 Introduced Boston’s first Trap/Neuter/ Return program for the humane control of feral cat populations.
- 1988 Introduced Boston’s first juvenile spay/neuter program and first spay-before-adoption for all



*Ziggy inspects Clinic inventory*

animals placed.

- 1996 Opened New England’s first nonprofit veterinary hospital, providing high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter and other veterinary services for inner city residents.
- 1998 Initiated a collaborative program with Northeastern University to provide college students with the opportunity to learn about shelter medicine and inner city veterinary practice by offering cooperative job rotations for interested students. The Program is now in its seventh year.
- 1999 Initiated a program with Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine to provide an alternative educational experience for students and free

spay/neuter for stray and feral cats, by offering a surgical rotation to 4th-year veterinary students at our Clinic.

- 2000 Established a program to provide free spay/neuter for dogs and cats rescued from Boston City pound.

Through our Metro Action Clinic we provide spay/neuter and life-saving emergency medical care for strays, ferals, and pets belonging to poor, elderly, and disabled residents who previously had nowhere to go.

Each year the Alliance for Animals provides a full range of veterinary services for more than 5,000 cats, dogs, and rabbits. Since 1996 we have provided veterinary services for more than 50,000 animals.

What makes these statistics impressive is that every one represents an animal who would otherwise never have been helped. Our priority is helping those animals most in need, the animals no one else will help, and people who have nowhere else to turn. We have earned the trust of our community, and we are committed to expanding our services to include all who need us. We currently serve all of the greater Boston community as well as approximately 15 other companion animal rescue organizations, thus enabling them in turn to rescue and place even more animals.

### **Rescue And Adoption Programs**

- 1988 Opened our first shelter for cats in Wellesley, followed by two new spaces in Brookline and Somerville in 1991.
- 1994 Opened our Cat Adoption Center in Arlington.
- 1994 Invited to participate in the Adopt-A-Shelter program with Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, to educate future vets about sheltering and animal protection issues.
- 1996 Expanded our rescue and sheltering capacity to include space in our new Metro Action Clinic, providing rescue, complete veterinary care for all shelter cats, shelter until space became available



*"Chatty Cat"*

in our Adoption Center, and follow-up veterinary care for adopters as needed.

- 1996 Began our Canine Adoption Program for rescuing abandoned dogs and providing all needed veterinary services, sheltering, fostering, and placement into permanent homes.
- 1998 Expanded our rescue program to include Rabbit Rescue.
- 2000 Opened a new and expanded Cat Adoption Center in Arlington, featuring a peaceful, home-like environment staffed by more than 30 talented and dedicated volunteers.
- 2000 Established Pound Dog Rescue Program to provide rescue, spay/neuter, and adoption for rescued city pound dogs
- 2002 Established Boston's only emergency shelter at our Clinic for pets belonging to people who are temporarily homeless due to fire, domestic violence, or other life crises.

Each year the Alliance has rescued and placed approximately 300–500 cats and dogs. Our priority is animals, first and last, and our policies reflect that priority. For example, during the summer months when other shelters will accept only kittens or puppies, we take in adults.

Our commitment has always been to provide shelter to abandoned animals and those most in need, particularly

those considered unacceptable at other shelters simply because they are no longer little, or they are stray, or the wrong breed, or they come from "bad neighborhoods," or because their rescuers lack the resources to find suitable placement. Without our assistance, these animals will die. We give them the love and the time they need to find the right home. Through our Rescue and Adoption programs AfA has placed more than 5,000 animals into permanent, loving homes.

- 2004 AfA temporarily shifts our rescue and adoption programs to our Metro Action Clinic while we work to

*Continued on Page 8*

*History, continued*

unite all of our programs in new headquarters in Boston. We will continue to operate our adoption programs at our Clinic in the same way as before.

- 2005 We are launching our first Capital Campaign to obtain a site which will allow us to unite all of our programs and facilities, and introduce new programs for innercity youth.

**Outreach, Education, And Collaboration**

Since 1988 we have:

- Expanded our service area to include virtually every neighborhood and town in the greater Boston area and beyond.
- Expanded our Neighborhood Liaison Program to include more than 100 community contacts who work with us to identify animals in need in their own neighborhoods.
- Dramatically increased our outreach and services in minority communities.
- Responded to more than 1,500 calls each week from people needing our assistance.

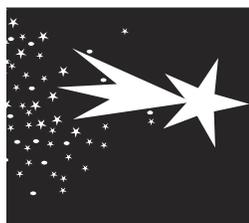
We have continued our policy of collaboration and outreach for animals:

- 1995 We were founding Directors of the Humane Coalition of Massachusetts, dedicated to providing a voice for small rescue groups and establishing an Animal-Friendly License Plate program to fund spay/neuter services in Massachusetts.
- 2000 We were a founding member of MAC, the

Massachusetts Animal Coalition. MAC is the first organization of its kind: a state-wide coalition of animal control officers, veterinarians, rescue groups, both no-kill and traditional shelters, commercial retailers, veterinary school officials, animal behaviorists, and others interested in animals. The purpose is to put aside differences and overcome long-held barriers to communication in a cooperative effort to help animals and find solutions to long-term problems.

- 2002 AfA introduced a model program for pitbulls and other large "city" dogs.
- 2002-2003 We collaborated with the Humane Coalition of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Animal Coalition to establish the first animal-friendly license plate for Massachusetts.
- 2003 AfA president serves on the five-member Massachusetts License Plate Task Force which will make all decisions regarding allocation of funds for spay/neuter under the program .

The key components of all our programs are community outreach, practical and affordable services, and public education. The strength of our programs is the down-to-earth, personal approach. We have made ourselves an integral part of the inner-city community, a familiar face and trusted resource throughout the neighborhoods of greater Boston. We have also reached out to virtually every organization and individual working for animal protection in order to serve AfA's goal of collaboration and visionary networking for animals.



**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, and Evelyn Amdorsky.

# A Miracle for the Holidays

When Alfreda noticed two young children sitting on a curb in the street, she was concerned. "Why aren't you children in school?" she asked. The children showed her a cat lying in the road, bleeding, and crying piteously. They told Alfreda that they had found the cat in the road on their way to school. Not wanting to leave the cat alone, they had stayed to wait for someone to come. They did not know where the cat belonged, but they knew the cat needed attention. Until Alfreda came by, no one had stopped to help.

After being turned away from another hospital, Alfreda brought the cat to us at the Alliance. It was impossible to judge the extent of his injuries, but it was clear he was in shock and needed emergency care. He appeared to have both a broken shoulder and a broken jaw.

He was obviously in pain, but when he raised his head from the blanket he arrived in, bleeding and disfigured from his head injury, he started to purr. He gazed at me with that special look of an animal that believes he is safe. He strained to rub my face in gratitude, and I knew that somehow we had to save the little nameless cat.

We named our small friend 'Mr. Miracle.' It was incredible to think of the hours he lay in the street, the odds against him, his will to live. Despite a wired jaw and a useless arm, he started to eat, and even to thrive. He has never stopped purring.

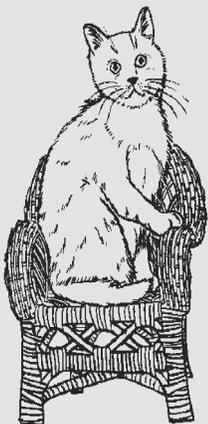
Mr. Miracle suffered permanent nerve damage from his injuries, so his front leg will have to be amputated. He



will lose a few more teeth as well, but with his strong spirit, we know he will come through everything beautifully.

Mr. Miracle is a very handsome classic tabby, probably about seven months old, and extraordinarily affectionate. He is FeLV/FIV negative, and very healthy. Like so many rescued animals, he is thrilled to be alive and grateful to everyone who stops to say hello. He will make some very lucky person a truly wonderful companion.

—Donna Bishop



## AfA Announces Special "Spay Days" For Feral Cats

Now that our clinic is open six days each week, AfA is planning a weekly "spay day" for feral cats, at special rates, from December–February.

In addition, we are planning quarterly Sunday "Spay-a-thons" for stray and feral cats. Contact our clinic at 617-268-7800 for details on days and rates.

.....  
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*newly expanded and updated (2001)*  
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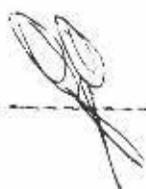
"If you have ever known or loved a cat, read this book for sheer pleasure. With their warmth, wit, and style, Mrs. Berkeley's chapters on individual maverick cats must be classed with the finest of all writings about cats." *Defenders* (magazine of Defenders of Wildlife)

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# *In Memory and In Honor*

In memory of Bucky (Buckwheat), my sister's 19-year-old "noble" black and white cat who lived with my sister and her husband through their 1st year of marriage and hung in there through the addition of three children. Through Bucky they all learned to love and respect all living creatures. From Laurie Sickles



Danielle

In memory of Patty Portwine on her birthday. From Gladys Burr

In memory of a greyhound named Disco, who enjoyed the best four years of his life with Diana and Roger Weiss. From Bill Schwartz

In loving memory of Clancy Cat, my furry prince. From Eileen McNamara

In memory of Tigger, an AfA alumnus. Best cat ever, love him forever. From Jean M. Marshall

In memory of Bucky, 19 years of being a special kitty in the Bengier home. From Marion Sickles

In memory of Cookie, the sweet little beautiful calico cat who lived to be 20 years old and passed away on August 4th. From Charlotte and Paul Travis

In memory of my husband David Garth Pepperell, who was loved by his kitty companions Liza Jane and Pippi Long Stocking. From Annie Pepperell

In memory of my brother Jimmy, who was one who loved animals. From Sandra E. Menz

In memory of Evelyn Amdorsky, longtime member and animal lover, and Guardian Angel to the Alliance for Animals.

In loving memory of Danielle, the De Ville kitten, who came to me after being set on fire. In spite of her rocky start, she blossomed into the most wonderful cat ever. Thank you for 16 and a half wonderful years, Sweetie. You are missed. From Lyn Abissi

In memory of Ranger, soldier prince, beloved friend and companion of Mary Weber, remembered and missed by his many friends. From Donna

For Bobby and Mary Catherine Harvey in memory of dear little Asta. From Donna

For Annie and Dunkin. From Kathleen Fitzgerald

In loving memory of Penny. From Dr. Doris Hanna

For Grace Perry, in loving memory of dear Lady. From Donna

In loving memory of my sweet cats, Baby Boy and Baklava. From Martha Manning



Disco

In memory of Karly, who I miss more and more each day. Thank you, Donna, for bringing Karly into my life. I will always be grateful to you. From Betty Brendley

In honor of the little ones helped by AfA. From Richard Sims



Karly

*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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## Our Wish List

**Special Events Volunteers -**  
call Donna at 617-268-7800

**SEEKING NEWSLETTER SPONSORS** - Corporate or Individual - \$500 or more per year. Please call Donna at the clinic, 617-268-7800.

- **Administrative help urgently needed—work at home or at our clinic.**
- **Computer help with networking, email, web design**