

B E R K S H I R E



ANIMAL  
D.R.E.A.M.S.

OUR MISSION:

To have all feral cat colonies in Berkshire County managed and stabilized, with healthy cats and a zero reproductive rate, with kittens and non-feral cats socialized and adopted out into loving homes. All cats are health-screened, spayed/neutered and vaccinated prior to release or adoption.



FREE KITTENS?



**Free kittens are abundant this time of year. For those “free” kittens, life is often short and tragic.** Cats that are allowed to breed time after time are generally not healthy or well cared-for. As a result, they often have weak, sickly kittens, who probably receive no veterinary care either. The expense involved in raising a kitten responsibly (vet checks, vaccinations, worm treatments, **spay/neuter**) quickly adds up, meaning that the “free” kitten ends up costing far more than one adopted through a reputable shelter, where all those things are included in the adoption donation.

The cuteness of a cuddly kitten quickly erodes as it grows. As an adolescent, s/he may climb the curtains, break valuables, and scratch furniture. The kitten may become a victim of blame, neglect or abuse. If not spayed/neutered, by six months females can become pregnant; males will roam, spray and behave more aggressively.

At this point many kittens, acquired for free, are discarded. They are dropped off at barns, or put out on the street when owners move, only to have to learn to survive—scavenging for food, searching for clean water, seeking shelter from inclement weather, and trying to protect themselves from predators. If they survive their first winter, they begin breeding by spring, and the glut of kittens born in April, May, and June will grow up wild, starting the whole cycle over again. By fall, the female will have a second litter, and the young male will have had injuries from the inevitable catfights which accompany the mating cycle. After time on the streets, even a friendly housecat will revert to a wild state, and become fearful of humans.

NOW AVAILABLE  
ON OUR WEBSITE:

[www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org](http://www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org)

You can now see pictures of the cats and kittens available for adoption.

Also, it is now possible for you to make donations by credit card through the website, on our secure donations page.

Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. will be holding a fundraising tag sale this summer—details on the website. If you have anything to donate, large or small, please call us!



Dignified Rescues Education Advocacy Medical Services

P.O. Box 1073 Pittsfield, MA 01202  
413-528-1328

Email: [info@BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org](mailto:info@BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org)  
Website: [BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org](http://BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org)



## ABOUT Animal D.R.E.A.M.S.

Founded in 1999 by Yvonne Borsody, Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization of volunteers dedicated to improving life for cats living on the streets or in the wild. With close to 2000 rescues to date, we are the only organization in Berkshire County to go where these cats are found. Unlike traditional animal shelters, which do not dispatch to locations, Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. has an expert team of dedicated volunteers which can go to any location and will not give up until the cats/kittens have been found and rescued.

We believe in the dignity of each animal, and are experts in the safe capture and handling of feral (untamed) or frightened felines. Through our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, we have prevented the births (and subsequent deaths) of many thousands of kittens.

Funded solely by donations, we receive NO funding from towns, cities or the state. Yet our work greatly benefits all: by spaying/neutering every cat we work with, we are reducing the cat overpopulation, while insuring only healthy, cared for cats are released to a qualified caregiver. Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. has several feral cat feeding stations throughout Berkshire County, with healthy, managed colonies of cats which are cared for by volunteers. With an estimated 75+ million feral cats in the U.S. (several thousand right here in Berkshire County), we advocate for compassionate and tolerant co-existence with these cats while reducing their numbers through spay and neuter.

[www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org](http://www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org)

### MELISSA THARION, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any organization, and Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. is fortunate to have a growing number of dedicated people giving of their time and talent to help the cats of Berkshire County.

Melissa Tharion of Lenox has been a volunteer extraordinaire for the past 6 years. Always enthusiastic and ready to tackle any cat situation that arises, Melissa is the assistant to our director, and willing to go anywhere needed.

**Hand-feeding orphaned kittens is Melissa's specialty, bottle-feeding them every 2 hours, night or day.** She is also excellent at building insulated sleeping shelters for feral cats. Working full time, with a husband and a son at home (plus 2 adult children). Melissa has boundless energy and is an indispensable member of **the Animal D.R.E.A.M.S.' team.**



Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. Board of Directors:

Mary Kate Jordan, President  
Victoria Wright, Vice President  
Lin Schreiber

Nancy Larkin, Secretary  
Bill Polk, Treasurer  
Judy Isserlis

Yvonne Borsody, Founder and Director

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ◆ Become an animal advocate! First and foremost, make sure your cat is spayed/neutered and persuade everyone you know, whether family, friends, colleagues or neighbors, to do the same.
- ◆ **Talk to that person in the neighborhood who “feeds all the strays.” Feeding is great, but without spay/neuter, this years kittens become next years population explosion.**
- ◆ If you know of a group of cats needing help, call us. Perhaps you and your friends can sponsor their vet care and/or become a designated feeder who will look after them.
- ◆ Spread the word!! Our limited budget means we try to limit advertising so we can use funds toward the care of the cats. Finished with this newsletter? Pass it on!
- ◆ **Look for our “Cat Rescue Fund” collection canisters in stores and drop your change into them.** Ask merchants to call us if they would be willing to have a canister in their store. It promotes our important mission while providing necessary donations, and shows the merchant to be animal friendly.
- ◆ Know someone wishing to adopt a cat? We have a limited number of wonderful, fully socialized cats and kittens awaiting homes. We guarantee a perfect match!
- ◆ Become a foster parent for a cat or kittens. The results are rewarding, helping a once-frightened cat or kitten blossom into an affectionate, lovable cat!
- ◆ **Remember us with donations, “in lieu of flowers” for loved ones, and in bequests.** Insure that we can continue our important mission.

### *Wish List*

- ◆ DONATIONS
- ◆ FOOD (Preferred dry foods: Premium foods such as Innova (available at Chez Pet in Gt. Barrington), Nutro, California Natural, Wellness. Canned foods: Friskies Buffet, Fancy Feast, Wellness)
- ◆ POLAROID FILM for ID photos of cats
- ◆ BLEACH and PAPER TOWELS
- ◆ Metal COFFEE CANS for donation canisters
- ◆ HIP WADERS for water rescues
- ◆ ADVANTAGE brand flea-treatment
- ◆ TOWELS, FLEECE BLANKETS AND PUPPY TRAINING PADS to line cages
- ◆ PERSONS TO TRANSPORT CATS to and from vet appointments in Pittsfield
- ◆ CATMOBILE: A late model, low-mileage station wagon or van with excellent fuel economy to replace our aging Catmobile
- ◆ VOLUNTEERS to assist with mailings, collection of donation canisters, filing
- ◆ POSTAGE STAMPS

Need a gift for someone?

Consider making a donation in his or her name to Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. Consider sponsoring a feral cat — \$100 will pay for all the veterinary care for one feral cat, as well as its food for one month.

Animal D.R.E.A.M.S., Inc.  
PO Box 1073  
Pittsfield, MA 01202

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ANIMAL  
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Mister Peanut is a 2-month-old kitten, rescued as a newborn, along with his feral mother and his three brothers, from under the porch of an abandoned house in Pittsfield. He and his brothers have just gone to their new, safe, indoor homes. His mother, after being nursed back from ill-health and then spayed, soon let us know that she had once been a pet. With gentle fostering, she relaxed and grew sweet and friendly, and is now in a loving home, too.

Summer 2007