



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

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

"HELPING THE FORGOTTEN FELINES OF
BERKSHIRE COUNTY SINCE 1999"

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

My fingers were frozen, my wind blown body chilled to the core. I couldn't wait to get back home, out of the cold, out of the wind, to warm up again and have a good meal. I had been out with volunteers, packing straw into shelters for feral and homeless cats to sleep in, and replenishing their food and water. Counting my blessings, I felt such sadness for all the people and animals who have no warm place to rest, no way to feed the hunger. En route home, I passed block after block of rundown buildings, boarded up homes, and signs of poverty, interspersed with upscale restaurants and affluent neighborhoods. This scenario takes place right here in the Berkshires, and plays out across the United States.

Times are tough, but nothing



A cat exits an insulated shelter built by Pittsfield HS students. Along with food and water, a warm, dry shelter is essential for feral cats' survival. Easy to build—call us if you'd like to help!

is harder than life on the streets or in the wild. Help us to help the thousands of abandoned and feral cats in Berkshire County—we are their only advocates! We go to where they are—in condemned buildings, vacant lots, junkyards and

barns, to provide them with food, warm shelter boxes, spay/neuter and veterinary care. Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) involves the humane capture and spay/neuter/vaccination of feral (wild) cats, so that they can peacefully live out their lives as the wild felines they are, without giving birth to any more kittens. Our dedicated volunteers are out in all kinds of weather, 365 days a year, caring for these forgotten felines. As more people lose financial footing in these hard times, more and more cats and kittens are being abandoned to fend for themselves in the wild. Today's abandoned pets (those that survive) will become tomorrow's feral cats. Please help us to continue fighting for these dignified animals that deserve so much better.

Help us save paper, postage and printing costs; please e-mail us to start receiving your newsletter electronically.

Our Mission

To improve the lives and promote the humane care and acceptance of feral cats throughout Berkshire County and beyond. Through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) the population of feral cats will become stabilized, with healthy cats and a zero reproductive rate. Through advocacy, education and action, we raise awareness and activism among citizens, animal care professionals, local government and the business community.

You can donate online at www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org

P.O. Box 1073 Pittsfield, MA 01202

413-528-1328

Email: info@BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org

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Recent Rescues

Albert was locked inside a boarded up building for three weeks.

Thankfully, the roof leaked so he was able to drink water, until finally, someone noticed him through a window. When Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. gained access to the building, Albert was too traumatized to come out of his hiding place inside a wall. We used a humane trap baited with tuna to lure him out, and once rescued, had him checked by a veterinarian and neutered. Albert has blossomed

into a mellow, lovable cat, has gained weight and is ready for a permanent home.

Won't you consider adopting him?

Too many of the cats we rescue, turn out to be abandoned pets. Though they seem wild at first, once their ordeal is replaced by our gentle care, they learn to trust again and become the most devoted, loving pets. Consider adopting (or fostering) a cat or kittens from Animal D.R.E.A.M.S.- we guarantee a perfect match!



Albert takes it all in stride, after being rescued from inside a boarded up building.

When broken windows or condemned buildings are boarded up, special care must be taken to make sure animals are not locked inside to face a slow, horrible death.

Saved!

As skinny as a runway model-lanky, bones protruding, he had been starving for quite some time. Each vertebrae jutted out, making his spine look spiked like a dinosaur. Eyes sunken, gums pale, I suspected he was a throwaway pet, acquired as a "free" kitten at the beginning of the summer, only to be left behind when the season ended.

Now, on this freezing November day, he has joined the ranks of the lucky ones; those who were found and rescued by Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. We immediately took him to a veterinarian, and tonight, he is purring on a fleece blanket next to the woodstove, taking small meals every two hours, as his ordeal becomes a distant memory.



Found nearly starved, this older kitten rests in his fleece bed as he regains his strength.

Our Board of Directors

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**Animal
Dignified
Rescues
Education
Advocacy
Medical
Services**

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Making Change



As a grass-roots organization, we rely on community support to continue our important mission. Every dollar makes a difference! Your spare change dropped into our donation canisters helps keep our Trap-Neuter-Return program going.

Visit us on the web at
www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org



Show you care!

Get the animal friendly license plate, and help support spay/neuter in Massachusetts.

Animal D.R.E.A.M.S has received two grants, from PetSmart Charities, and from the Massachusetts Animal Coalition "I'm Animal Friendly" licenses plate monies, for feral cat spay/neuter surgeries. However, we desperately need donations for vaccination and parasite treatments, which are not covered by the grants.

Winter Tips



Use straw or hay to line cat shelters. Avoid blankets and towels-they will get wet and freeze, or become mildewed.

Remember to provide fresh lukewarm water as well as food. During these frozen months, cats have a hard time finding fresh water to drink.

Animal DREAMS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving life for cats living on the streets or in the wild.

Our Wish List

- Dry and canned food for the many cats we feed everyday. Their survival depends on it!
- Towels, cage pads, blankets to line recovery cages after surgery
- Bales of straw for bedding
- Postage stamps for newsletters
- Motion-activated digital scouting camera, so we can monitor elusive ferals
- Insulated shelters for feral cats to sleep in (see photo on front page)
- Sponsor a feral cat; \$100 covers all veterinary care and food for one month
- Remember us in your long-term plans, so that we may continue to advocate for those that have no voice

**Call us for drop-off locations or to arrange pick-up-we have volunteers in every town!
And a huge thank you to all of our volunteers who give so selflessly to help cats everyday!**

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

B E R K S H I R E



ANIMAL
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These kittens were born in the wild to a feral mom. Mom was spayed and returned to her neighborhood; her kittens, at 2-months old, have been tamed and are now **available for adoption!**

"You [Animal D.R.E.A.M.S.] are the saviors of the cats of Berkshire County"

-Krista B, Williamstown

These feral cats (mom and her older kittens) were spayed/neutered and released back to their home territory after a few days recovery time. Without spaying, mom and daughters would have produced another dozen kittens by next spring.

