

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

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

“HELPING THE FORGOTTEN FELINES OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY SINCE 1999”

## ADVOCATING FOR THE UNDERCAT

### Did you know.....

- There are several thousand cats living on the streets and in the wild in Berkshire County
- Most of these cats are abandoned pets that are so traumatized by their ordeal, they may behave like feral (wild) cats, which are untamed and afraid of humans
- These stray pets, unless spayed or neutered, will begin breeding and having kittens
- If kittens are not socialized to humans by 3 months of age, they will grow up feral (wild) and forever fearful of humans
- Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. is the only organization in Berkshire County helping these forgotten cats, providing humane alternatives to traditional “do nothing” or “trap and kill” policies
- Since 1999, we have spayed/neutered over 2000 cats and maintain several feral cat feeding stations around Berkshire County, providing quality food, water, and insulated shelters for feral cats to sleep in
- We provide a critical public health service by rabies vaccinating every cat we help
- We dispel the myths surrounding feral cats, raise awareness about the importance of caring for them, and provide workable solutions

You can donate online at [www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org](http://www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org)



Max



Lavender



Gypsy

See our adoptable cats on our website, or visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) (enter zip code 01202)

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

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

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

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



Dignified  
Rescues  
Education  
Advocacy  
Medical  
Services

## HoneyBunny Hits the Lottery

For seven years, HoneyBunny, an abandoned, large pumpkin colored tomcat, had been living outdoors, protecting his turf from the many other cats living on the streets around him, and looking at life through infected eyes. A compassionate woman in the neighborhood fed him, and provided a shelter with heating pad for the cold weather. She did her best to keep his eyes clean, but it was a losing battle, for he suffered from entropion, meaning, his eyelashes turned inward, brushing against the corneas and causing constant irritation and discomfort. When she learned about Animal D.R.E.A.M.S.’ Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, HoneyBunny’s caregiver called us right away, and within a week, he was receiving veterinary care. While hospitalized, HoneyBunny was such a good patient, that one of the technicians at the animal hospital fell in love with him, and adopted him! After neutering and surgery to correct his eye problems, Honey Bunny can once again see clearly, free of pain, and will spend the rest of his life being cuddled for all the years he missed.



*Welcome Art for Critters!* We are pleased to have been chosen as a charity of choice by Art for Critters, a collaboration of gifted artists who donate a percentage of their sales to animal charities. Please visit their website [ArtForCritters.net](http://ArtForCritters.net) to view the complete listing, and be amazed at their talent!

Remember **Bones**, the black kitten found near death from starvation?

After two months of intensive home care, “**Jesse**” as he is now called, made a full recovery (his weight increased from an emaciated 5 pounds, to a healthy 9 pounds.) Jesse was adopted by his foster mom Erin Sadlowski, who moved to Boston recently and realized that she could not leave the Berkshires without Jesse. Having witnessed the instant bond they forged, we couldn’t be happier, and wish them both well in their new life and city.



You can donate online at [www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org](http://www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org)

Lasting change begins at a community level. Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. is a grass-roots, volunteer driven organization, and the need for more volunteers is greater than ever, as we embark on our second decade. In order to continue providing the care for the forgotten cats around us, we desperately need the time and talent of our Berkshire friends and visitors. Do you have a knack for marketing, fund-raising, creative advertising? Would you like to foster a sweet cat while s/he awaits adoption? Would you like to become part of our in-the-field trapping team, or help out at feral cat feeding stations? We are currently seeking a film maker and underwriting for a documentary-short on feral cats. Please call us if you can help! In our first decade, we have helped over 2000 cats, and prevented thousands of kittens from being born. Your help can save lives and insure that Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. will continue to be there for the forgotten cats of Berkshire County.

**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.

## CATMATCH!

Animal DREAMS has a stellar adoption success rate. While the majority of cats we help are feral, and go through our TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) program, some of our rescues are abandoned pets that just need a gentle place to learn to trust again. We home foster all of our adoptable rescues, getting to know their personalities and gently working with them until they are ready for a permanent home. While in foster care, the cats are exposed to children, dogs, other pets and traveling in a car, so that we can best match them to prospective adopters. We also include a home visit: this helps both the cat and new family transition easily, and with car travel comfortable, the cats will do well commuting, as some of our cats do. In fact, several of our “alumni” now live in other areas: California, Vermont, Florida, Connecticut, New York, and even one lucky feline who makes her home in Japan! Call us if you or someone you know is ready to add a cat to your family—our adoptions are legendary; we guarantee a perfect match!



**Gilligan & Maryanne**  
From survival on the streets to inseparable  
friendship

### THANK-YOU!

We are most grateful to the veterinarians and staff at Pittsfield Veterinary Hospital, and Greylock Animal Hospital, for providing exceptional care to all the cats we rescue. They provide low-cost spay/neuter for feral and stray cats through our TNR program, and are generously participating in CatSNIP (low-cost spay/neuter/vaccination for pets of those with financial hardship.) Cats that are not spayed or neutered are frequently abandoned when females go into heat and become pregnant, or males begin urine-marking and fighting. Since beginning the CatSNIP program, we have seen an overwhelming response from cat owners who truly want to do the right thing for their cats, but simply could not afford it until this program became available.

### When times are tough.....Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. shifts into high gear!

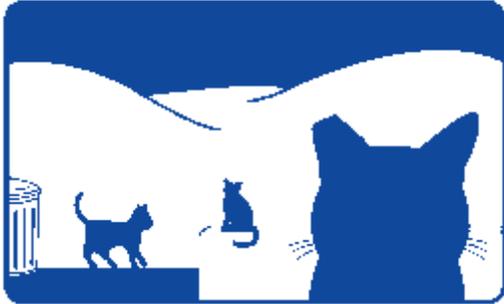
Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. secured two grants for spay/neuter of feral and stray cats in the city of N. Adams. Nowhere else have we seen so many cats trying to survive on the streets, and with these grants from PetSmart Charities and Massachusetts Animal Coalition (from the “I’m Animal Friendly” license plates) we have been making a huge difference in North Adams. To date, we have Trap-Neuter-Returned over 100 cats and prevented dozens of kitten births, as well as implementing low-cost spay/neuter for pet cats. We have trained several new volunteers, who are learning the ins and outs of humane Trap-Neuter-Return. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to them and to our lead team in N. Adams: Krista Andrews, Becky Verrier, Aimee Annichiarico, and Jennifer B. We simply could not do this without you —Thank You!

## In Memoriam

This newsletter is in memory of Leslie Smallridge, a dedicated volunteer who lovingly maintained a feral feeding station near her home in Egremont. In addition to feeding a colony of feral cats every day, she built warm huts out of hay and plywood and had names for all of them (who else but Leslie could tell 5 all-black cats apart!). When Leslie learned of her illness, it brought her great comfort to know that someone else would take over the caring for the cats and would love and look after them with the same devotion as Leslie had. Her generous heart, compassion for people, animals and the natural world will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

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

B E R K S H I R E



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## **“FREE” KITTENS ARE NEVER FREE.** ADOPT RESPONSIBLY!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Kittens are born with blue eyes, which change color at around 7 weeks of age, about the same time they wean from their mother's milk. Kittens should not be taken from their mother until their eyes lose their blue color (or seven weeks in the case of blue-eyed breeds.)



Kittens adopted from shelters or rescue organizations are health checked, spayed/neutered and vaccinated prior to adoption, while the adopters are interviewed to insure a good match. What a deal! With “free” kittens however, these important procedures are not included, leading to greater expense later on.

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