

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

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

“HELPING THE FORGOTTEN FELINES OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY SINCE 1999”

TEN YEARS OF SAVING COMMUNITY CATS

In ten years, we have saved the lives of nearly 2500 cats. These cats had fallen through the cracks—either feral (wild, untamed) cats and kittens living in barns or on city streets, or traumatized pets left by roadsides, struggling to find food and shelter during harsh Berkshire winters. We implemented the first and only feral cat TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) program in the county, and successfully spayed/neutered thousands of feral cats, thereby preventing the births of many more thousands of kittens into a world already plagued with a severe overpopulation of cats. We raise awareness about, and acceptance of feral cats, and provide an important public health service by having each cat vaccinated against rabies. We advocate for a population of cats that is typically ignored or harmed by animal care professionals—most cities and towns do not include cats in animal control budgets; while animal shelters either turn away or kill feral cats brought to them. These outdated practices must change—these cats are a permanent part of our communities, and must be given the same right to exist as our beloved housecats. Through humane, non-lethal Trap-Neuter-Return of feral cats, and aggressive spay/neuter programs for housecats, the numbers of community cats living in the wild will be reduced. Animal DREAMS is committed to these goals, and will not give up until every cat is a wanted cat.



Dignified
Rescues
Education
Advocacy
Medical
Services

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



HOPPER

From farm cat to celebrity

Hopper, our mascot, makes regular appearances on TV, in schools, and at Animal DREAMS events. One of 30 cats we rescued from a farm during a neglect case in 2005, Hopper likes and trusts everybody and is an ambassador for rescued cats everywhere.



FIT FOR A QUEEN: Queen Mother is the matriarch of our original feral cat colony. Now approximately 13 years old, she will be re-trapped for a veterinary check-up, during which time she will have

bloodwork, vaccinations, and dental cleaning. Any health issues that are found will be treated, so that she can enjoy her senior years with a clean bill of **health. Queen Mother's longevity is proof positive** that TNR works, and feral cats can happily live a long time in the wild, while never having kittens **again. In the ten years since we first TNR'd Queen** and her feral family, no new kittens were born in their colony!

See our adoptable cats on our website, or visit Petfinder.com (enter zip code 01202)

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

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Email: info@BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org
www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org



Smoothie's Farewell

For over nine years, Smoothie, a feral cat, slept among the hot water pipes inside the foundation of a local restaurant. The restaurant owner left the hole unsealed, and Smoothie honored the pact by providing free rodent control. Smoothie went through our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program for feral cats, and one of our dedicated volunteers stopped by every morning with fresh food and water. We rarely saw her, for in true feral fashion, Smoothie moved mostly at night, when the restaurant was closed and she felt safe. I last saw her in July, as I was driving past the restaurant late in the evening. There was Smoothie, looking healthy and happy, playfully rolling in the parking lot, obviously enjoying the balmy summer night.



Smoothie

One day in September, I got a call from the restaurant owner, with the sad news that Smoothie had died. Her passing spoke volumes about the bonds that can form between animals and humans. In the middle of the afternoon, Smoothie had curled up on the "Welcome" mat outside the entrance to the restaurant, and died peacefully. In all the years she lived there, she had never come closer than 10 feet from any human, and certainly not during daylight hours. She preferred a solitary life, and yet, when her time came to leave this life, rather than go off alone as most wild animals do, she sought out her human "family," as though to say goodbye and thank-you. She is now buried under the trees she loved to sit under, in the field behind the restaurant, and a potted plant sits in front of Smoothie's entrance to the foundation, in her memory.

You can donate online at www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org

FOUNDERS MESSAGE

On a cold winter day ten years ago, I found a tiny feral kitten next to a dumpster in downtown Great Barrington. Despite my work in the animal care field, I knew little about feral cats or the staggering number of cats living outdoors. Shy by nature, feral cats and frightened strays usually remain out of sight, skirting our awareness. That kitten was the inspiration for Animal DREAMS, and in this decade we have raised public awareness about these community cats living all around us. But the work continues. Especially in these tough economic times, the epidemic of pet abandonment cannot be understated. Just this week, we rescued a kitten and a young adult male near a shopping center; both were friendly, hungry throwaway pets that had been hiding in the thorns and weeds for over a week, too frightened to come out. They have now been neutered, and are in foster care. We are the *only* organization in Berkshire County working exclusively with the population of cats on the streets and in the wild. Our extensive list of supporters and dedicated volunteers bear witness to the need and desire to allow these cats to live their lives in peace, free of hunger, disease, birth of kittens, and harm by humans. Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is recognized around the world as the most humane and effective way to manage free-roaming cat populations. With community support Animal DREAMS can continue to be there for Berkshire County, truly making a difference between life and death for them. I invite you to join me as we enter our second decade. Together, we are making this a better world for them.



Yvonne Borsody & Lemondrop

[Photo by Mary Vasquez-Slack]

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.

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

Yvonne Borsody, Founder and Director
Bill Polk
Jeanne Young
Betsy Carey
Judythe Isserlis

HOW YOU CAN HELP

A very special thank you to all the people who have supported us to become Berkshire County's advocate for feral and abandoned cats. Every not-for-profit relies on its dedicated volunteers to keep the mission alive. As more cats are being abandoned to the wild, Animal DREAMS needs community minded volunteers to help in many ways:



- ◆ Feeding
- ◆ Adoption
- ◆ Fostering
- ◆ Trapping and Transport for Spay/Neuter
- ◆ Building Insulated Shelters
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Collecting Cat Food
- ◆ Community Outreach



Don't have time to volunteer? Your tax-deductible donation will help us continue to be there to save the lives of Berkshire County cats. Consider making a gift in someone's honor, or to sponsor a cat's veterinary care. During these tough times, more than ever, the cats need you!

Do you work for a company that has a matching gift program? If so, let us know; donations are the lifeblood of a not-for-profit, and in these tough economic times, matching gifts are a great way to double your donation!

THANK-YOU! To all of our dedicated volunteers and supporters without whose generosity we could not continue:

Veterinarians & Staff
Feeders
Trappers
Transporters
Computer Techs
Foster Families
Canister Collectors
Mobile Adoption Partners:
Wild BirdsCountry Store
Chez Pet
Petco
Merchants
CTSB-TV
Fundraisers & Donors



It takes a community working together to make a difference. We cannot do it without you and are most appreciative for all who have helped us help the cats of Berkshire County!

HAPPY ENDING! Our most recent adoption was December, a gentle, sweet senior cat who had pushed her way through a basement window last winter, during a snowstorm. December and her new owner, also a wonderful senior lady, are a match made in heaven and will keep each other warm this winter! Decey (as she is now called) "has warmed up to me wonderfully, snuggles under the covers and sleeps there all night. I knew there was something missing when I moved into this house...and that was December. Now, I am an old lady, with an old cat, living in an old house! I have never seen a cat that loves to be loved like her. Thank-you!"



-Virginia Y. Sheffield, MA

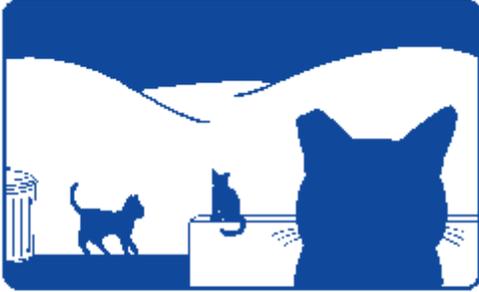
"...the expertise and compassion you showed, and the speed with which you responded for this injured [feral] cat was so appreciated. Nobody else would help me..."

-Beverly K. Adams, MA

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

B E R K S H I R E



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

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CATS SAFE!



PLEASE DON'T FORGET US!

Munschkin & Sylvester

This 7 year old brother/sister duo, happy and healthy, are fed by a devoted volunteer 365 days a year. Feeding stations and shelters provided by Animal DREAMS are found throughout Berkshire County, allowing community cats to live comfortable, dignified lives. This pair was spayed/neutered and vaccinated at 4 months of age, preventing them from ever having kittens. Note their healthy condition and beautiful coats.



A FERAL CAT SHELTER: off the ground, insulated, packed with straw for warmth, with two exits for safety.

Desperately needed!
Cat food -canned & dry
Drop off locations:
Wild Birds Country Store Great Barrington
Chez Pet Great Barrington
Petco in Pittsfield

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