

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

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

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**CELEBRATING 13 YEARS AS CHAMPIONS
FOR COMMUNITY CATS**

Dignified

Rescues

Education

Advocacy

Medical

Services



Photo by Stephanie Lawton

In from the Cold

When we rescued little Terry, he was a 10-week-old kitten, hissing, frightened, and untouchable without thick gloves. He and his four siblings had been crying for their mother for 3 days from a thick bramble of bushes near a horse farm. She was never to return. Animal DREAMS took them in, and slowly Terry and his littermates started to eat food out of hand, then played, then purred. Today, Terry lives with a wonderful family that adores him. His four siblings will be adopted as well.

These are the cats who fall through the cracks, who would have short, cold, hungry lives of bare survival were it not for our organization. Animal DREAMS goes out to these community cats: abandoned house cats discarded into a frozen landscape where food, water, safety, and shelter are lacking, or feral cats who can never be tamed but still deserve to live with dignity. We provide veterinary care for all rescued cats, and home-

foster cats and kittens until they are ready for adoption. Feral cats are humanely trapped, neutered/spayed, and returned (TNR) to their colonies; volunteers ensure they're fed, watered, and sheltered from the elements.

With over 3,500 rescues to date, we are entering our 13th year as champions for community cats. In early 2012, we moved into our storefront office and adoption center at 441 North Street in Pittsfield. We then conducted our biggest rescue ever: trapping, neutering/spaying, and treating a colony of 61 cats. Now, as we look toward 2013, we're setting our sights even higher. We are planning to take on an entire section of Pittsfield, one that hosts hundreds of community cats. We will need every resource, every volunteer, every business to make this a reality. We're 100% donation funded. Can we count on you to help us get these cats out of the cold?

Cricket's Second Chance at Life



Cricket didn't even try to get out of the rain—she barely moved, too sick even to seek shelter. The homeless adolescent kitten had given up, resigned herself to die. Our trapping expert Melissa rescued her from an open weed-lot. Weak and struggling to breathe, Cricket's nose and lungs were bubbling with infection, and her long fur was severely matted. When I first saw her, my initial thought was "the poor thing—she's too sick to save." But Melissa didn't want to give up on her. And soon I could see why.

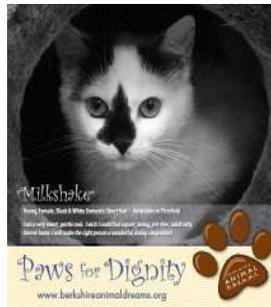
Cricket, our petite princess, has become a new kitty. After weeks of medications and nurturing in my home, she has put on weight and has a luxurious silky coat. Small and engaging, she has shed her shyness and spends hours playing with her toys. It's as though she is making up for the kitten-hood she was robbed of, when life on the streets made every moment a struggle just to stay alive. The only link to her past is a slight wheeze (due to scarring in her lungs from her past respiratory infections.) But that doesn't slow her down. Cricket has been spayed, FLV/FIV tested, vaccinated, and is now waiting to be adopted. After her ordeal, our little princess deserves a fairy-tale ending!

Yvonne Borsody

Thank You, Community Partners!



Jody Soules (with Apollo and Odysseus) of **Wild Birds Country Store** in Great Barrington is one of many local merchants who support Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. Our adoption events at Jody's store are always a huge success, and her love of cats is as great as her love of birds.



Berkshire Money Management sponsored **Paws for Dignity**, an innovative and successful fundraiser held during the July and August Third Thursday celebrations in Pittsfield. The event brought hundreds of people into our headquarters, where they learned about our mission and met some of our rescued cats.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS FOR FOOD & TOWELS

Pittsfield: Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. 441 North St. Pittsfield
RSVP (Bartlett Avenue, lower level of public library building)
Pittsfield Veterinary Hospital (1634 W. Housatonic St/Route 20)
Lee: Meow & Growl (59 Main St.)
Great Barrington: Wild Birds Country Store (783 Main St.)
Pawsh Buddies (67 State Road)
Lenox: Chez Pet (Lenox Commons, 55 Pittsfield-Lenox Road)

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.

Like us on Facebook!



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

Yvonne Borsody,
 Founder and Director



Board of Directors

Bill Polk
 Judythe Isserlis
 Barbara Crocker
 Betsy Carey

Patty Brown-Charland
 Stacey Carver
 Woody Printz

Adoption Counselor
Volunteer Coordinator
Trapping Coordinator

Ellen Casey
 Jaime Sotis
 Melissa Tharion



Congratulations to Wayne Sheppard of Kent, Ohio, formerly of Pittsfield, MA the winner of our \$3000 DREAM Trip Raffle! The drawing was held on National Feral Cat Day, October 16, at Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. It was a great fundraiser for us and Wayne is looking forward to an exciting trip of a lifetime. Happy travels, Wayne!



Little Oscar snuggles with Stretch, his babysitter. Stretch, rescued from a tough life on the streets, is a natural uncle figure who takes rescued kittens under his care. Stretch would love to be part of your family—at 2 years old, he’s still a kitten at heart.

You can donate online at
www.BerkshireAnimalDREAMS.org

Your donation stays here in the Berkshires, helping the community cats that live right here around us and need you the most. We are a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

TNR Trap-Neuter-Return The humane trapping and neutering of community cats is the most effective, non-lethal way to reduce the population of cats living outdoors.

Volunteer Spotlight: Lola Wick

She shows up twice a week, always on time, always made up beautifully and wearing a different T-shirt or sweatshirt with a cute cat graphic. At 85 years young, Lola is our most senior volunteer, but you’d never know it to watch her. She walks half a mile to get to the bus stop, and at the office she stays in constant motion: getting the cats ready for the day, washing dishes, keeping the floors swept. Lola won’t slow down (we’ve given up trying!). She has a saying for every occasion, such as her motto “I’m like a bad penny—you can’t get rid of me!” To which we reply, Lola, keep the pennies coming—you’re one of a kind! We appreciate *all* of our volunteers who give so much of their time and talents to help the cats in our community. We simply could not continue without their dedication.



Lola with Blueberry, a blind rescued Russian Blue at Animal D.R.E.A.M.S.





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

Winter 2012-2013



**Celebrating 13 years as champions
for community cats**

Dignified
Rescues
Education
Advocacy
Medical
Services



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **First Fridays Artswalk:** Month-long exhibits by local artists. **December:** *"Songbirds of Springtime."* Berkshire County native Stephanie Lawton displays an excellent eye for songbirds during their spring migration in this photography exhibit shot in the Berkshires. At our 441 North Street location.
- ◆ **Dining to Donate: Arizona Pizza** (Lenox Route 7 location) From 11am-10pm Sunday, **December 23**, eat in or take out, curbside and bar sales. Write "Animal DREAMS" on your guest check and 20% of your food and beverage amount will be donated to Animal DREAMS. Bring your appetite!
- ◆ **Live 95.9 Radio:** Live broadcast from Animal D.R.E.A.M.S. Saturday **December 8** from 11am to 1pm, join us for this fun and informative event with raffles, giveaways and a few surprises as well!
- ◆ **Anniversary Celebration: February 8 & 9** join us for our Anniversary Reception & Open House at 441 North Street, Pittsfield.



Rescued in
Berkshire County
available for
adoption

Off the ground, fully insulated,
with straw as bedding. This
outdoor cat shelter provides a
warm hideaway.



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