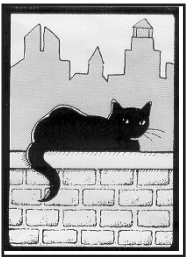


CATmatters

Every Cat Matters. Every Person Counts. Fall 2010

“Cat”-tastrophe Averted

by Val Maloney



The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 1996 to address the problems of cat overpopulation, neglect and abuse in our area. GNHCP provides spay/neuter assistance for feral, stray and abandoned cats, and promotes responsible pet ownership through educational workshops. The organization is comprised solely of volunteers, and is funded through private donations, fundraising events and grants.

The GNHCP Board Executive Committee

Cheryl DeFilippo *President*
Rebecca Gibb *Vice President*
Emily Doubleday *Treasurer*
Katherine Gaudet *Secretary*
Amy Priest *Development*
Beata Planeta-Wilson *Chair, Adoption
Committee*
Robert A. Schaper, V.M.D.

Additional Board Members

Jane Ciarlone
Chair, Education Committee
Debbie Donofrio
Volunteer Coordinator
Jennie Llanos
Community Services Coordinator
Pamela Pisano
Chair, Fundraising Committee
Roberta Reynolds *Chair, Newsletter*

Copyright © 2010 The Greater
New Haven Cat Project, Inc.
All rights reserved. P.O. Box 1432,
New Haven Connecticut 06506.
GNHCP *Catmatters* staff: Val Maloney,
Roberta Reynolds, Barbara Skinner

Kim, a chemistry instructor at a local college, spotted four small feet under her shed. Kim acted fast and put out a bowl of food for the mother cat and her kitten. The mother cat was so hungry she quickly ran for the food. Kim put straw under her pool deck and covered the deck with a heavy duty tarp to provide “Mother” and “Scooter” with a dry and comfy home.

Kim called The Greater New Haven Cat Project (GNHCP) for assistance because she had met GNHCP’s President, Cheryl DeFilippo, eight years ago when she adopted a beautiful gray cat named Trudy. With Cheryl’s help, “Scooter” and a second male cat were trapped, neutered, and returned to Kim’s yard. However, the mother cat was elusive and would not go into the trap.

Only a few months later, Kim noticed “Mother” hiding tiny kittens up inside the wheel well of a parked car. Kim wondered why “Mother” didn’t bring the kittens into the yard where there was food and shelter. She then realized that “Mother” couldn’t jump over the fence while carrying a kitten in her mouth. Kim opened the gate to her yard and watched the precious parade of

babies come into her yard one by one.

It was quite a surprise for Kim how quickly the mother cat got pregnant again and that it happened so soon after giving birth to “Scooter.” The first litter was born



Kim and Cheron

in the early summer of 2009 and by late summer the new kittens and eight more cats had joined the colony in search for food. Kim now had twelve young cats and the possibility for many more. Kittens can get pregnant at five months old and deliver new kittens by the time they are seven months old. Kim was facing a possible cat population explosion that could have mounted to 32 cats by the fall and more than 60 cats by late winter.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Kim knew she had to get all of the cats spayed or neutered, but how would she get them to the veterinarian if she couldn't even catch them. It must have been fate because, while reading the obituaries column, Kim read about the passing of Dr. John A. Caltabiano, a veterinarian who developed FeralStat*, an oral contraceptive for cats. With the help of a veterinarian, Kim purchased the oral contraceptive which she fed to all of the cats. FeralStat is intended to be used in conjunction with surgical sterilization so Kim still needed help to trap and spay/neuter the remaining cats.

With the FeralStat in place as a stop-gap measure, Kim again called on GNHCP for assistance. Cheryl dispatched Debbie, one of GNHCP's expert trappers, to humanely trap all

of the cats so they could be spayed or neutered. Debbie caught almost all of the cats on the first day of trapping.



Trudy and Baxter

Kim's mother, Rosa, described Debbie's work as "a miracle." The cats were brought to a local veterinarian and then recuperated for a couple of days before being returned to Kim's home. Trap/Neuter/Return has been proven to be the most effective method of controlling the population of feral cat colonies.

With all the cats spayed or neutered, Kim had her colony under control. Now she could concentrate on providing the best care for her cats. GNHCP donated one insulated cat shelter to Kim's colony and Kim made an additional nine shelters using the instructions found on the GNHCP website (www.gnhcp.org).

Kim provides balls and toys for the

cats to play with and has purchased an energy efficient heated bowl that prevents the cat's water from freezing. She also dug escape routes under the fence just in case any wildlife threatens the cat family.

Some of the cats have moved on to live their lives elsewhere but the remaining cats are enjoyed by Kim and her family. Kim can now pet Cheron who is very brave for a feral. But the other cats: Mother, Stripe, Slinky, and Chinny are typical feral cats and keep their distance from people. Kim also has a large 8 year old male cat, named Baxter, who lives inside with Trudy and Kim, and her family.

With the help of the GNHCP, Kim has an ideal feral colony.

Note: Time is of the essence in spaying and neutering outdoor cats. Also multiple pregnancies compromise female cats' health and deprive kittens of the much needed nutrition to develop normally. Acting quickly will prevent a myriad of other problems within your outdoor cat colony.

* (For more information about Feral Stat, visit www.FeralStat.com or call 860-399-0097.)

"Time spent with cats is never wasted." - Colette

Memorial Contributions

In loving memory of our beloved cat, Salem
- The Torgerson Family

In memory of Robert G. Ives
- Ann Ives

In memory of Regan
- Natalie S. Rawls

**In memory of our dog, Romeo,
who fully lived his life and lived it well**
- Helena Lee

In memory of Mister Missy
- Barbara Canali

In memory of Peanut
- Stephen & Laurie Piserchia

The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. presents the Eighth Annual



Feral Feline Festival

Saturday, November 20, 2010
Italian-American Club, Hamre
Lane, Branford, Connecticut
Music by Angelo Vessichio/Sound
Alternative (Big Band to present)
B.Y.O.B, snacks provided

For information call 782-2287
gnhcp1@gnhcp.org

Volunteer Spotlight

by Val Maloney

It was two cat emergencies that resulted in Evelyn becoming a volunteer with The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP). A friend of Evelyn's called her when a feral cat had a chicken bone stuck in its mouth and was having difficulty swallowing. Another friend, Jeannette, suggested she call Cheryl, the GNHCP's President, because Cheryl would know what to do.



Albert

Cheryl sent one of her expert trappers, Debbie, to catch the cat and take him to a local veterinarian. The vet was able to remove the bone, gave him all the appropriate immunizations, and neutered the cat as well. In addition, GNHCP was able to trap all five of the feral cats, had them spayed/neutered and returned to their home. The mother of Evelyn's friend took in all five of the cats and they are still living happily inside her home.

About five years ago, the second cat emergency happened right in Evelyn's back yard. She found a mother cat and two small kittens living in her shed. She could tell they were feral because they ran away when ever she got near. Debbie showed Evelyn how to use the humane traps and they caught all three cats. The mother, Mama Cass, and her kittens, Peaches and Herb were spayed/neu-

tered and now live with Evelyn. They get along very well with her other cats, Freckles and Albert but are still shy with humans.

Evelyn, a retiree of Yale's Sterling Library, could be gardening but instead she chooses to volunteer with GNHCP. She staffs a table at Petco once per month, which includes giving out information about GNHCP, talking with people about their pets, and sharing rescue stories. Some of the stories are heartbreaking but most have a happy ending with the animals being rescued and the pet owners sharing their cell phone pictures. She also helps with other fundraising events, such as GNHCP's tag sale, Yankee candle sales and annual raffle.

Evelyn also does direct care at the GNHCP Center twice a week. She provides food and care to the cats awaiting adoption and takes time to pet and play with each cat. Evelyn commented "I love caring for the cats and kittens, but I do feel a little sad when I come in and see one has been adopted. I know that they're fortunate to be adopted, but I still miss them."

Evelyn is a very dedicated volunteer of GNHCP, and the organization and its foster cats are lucky to have her.

Charitable Giving is Tax Deductible

At GNHCP, we keep our overhead costs low and the benefits for felines high. We have a strong tradition of stretching our donors' dollars as far as they can go.

Our work would not be possible without the generous financial support of caring people like you. In 2008, GNHCP was able to provide spay/neuter and veterinary assistance to 586 feral and stray cats in the greater New Haven area. In addition, 112 cats who were once homeless were placed in permanent homes!

Your donation will go to work instantly to enable GNHCP to continue its mission to address cat overpopulation through spaying/neutering and public education. If you prefer, you can designate where you would like your donation to be used: to provide food and veterinary care for our foster cats or our special needs cats (The Tommy Fund); to the spay/neuter program for feral and stray cats; or for overhead at our Center (i.e., electric bill, rent, etc). With the flurry of activity that takes place from mid-November through the end of the calendar year, now is the time to consider a tax-deductible donation to GNHCP. GNHCP is also able to receive securities.

GNHCP is an authorized tax-exempt, non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. And what does it mean to be a 501(c)(3) organization? For donors like you, this means your contributions are fully tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law.

Please help GNHCP continue its good work. Thank you. GNHCP, P.O. Box 1432, New Haven, CT 06506

GNHCP Wish List — Things to keep our Center clean and running smoothly and to keep our foster cats happy and healthy.

Gift cards to
WAL★MART, Petco
or grocery stores
First-class stamps
Paper towels

Trash bags
Simple Green
Dish soap
Frontline

KMR Powder Formula
Catnip toys, Toy mice
Cat treats
Unopened dry and
canned cat food

Donations

The Greater New Haven Cat Project, Inc. (GNHCP), begun in 1996, works to combat the cat overpopulation dilemma with a comprehensive spay/neuter program that focuses on the numerous feral colonies and abandoned cats of Connecticut. We also locate excellent, stable homes for the friendly cats and kittens that are found or abandoned in the streets and houses of the Greater New Haven area. Finally, we offer other programs such as The Tommy Fund, Barn Home Project and regular operations at our Center. If you would like to aid and abet our burgeoning mission, then please consider one of the following options for your gracious donation:

Basic Donation:

With an annual donation of \$25, you will receive copies of our newsletter, *Catmatters* twice a year.

Population Donation:

With an annual donation of \$45, you will receive a copy of our newsletter, *Catmatters*, twice yearly as well as a 10% discount on all GNHCP merchandise or tickets for a GNHCP fundraising event. Most importantly, this type of gift enables GNHCP to spay one female cat and to promote a healthy, humane approach to the cat overpopulation problem.

Gift Donation:

With a minimum donation of \$25, this gift is a great idea for a birthday or holiday for the fellow or sister cat lover in your life. The recipient will receive an acknowledgment on your behalf in addition to our newsletter, *Catmatters*, for one year.

Memorial Donation:

You can recognize a special animal or person in your life with a donation that will help other cats.

Additional Contribution:

Any additional donations received through our newsletter will help to fund our spay/neuter program, The Tommy Fund (for extraordinary veterinary expenses) or operations at our Center.

Foster Cat Sponsorship:

With a donation of \$125, you will receive our newsletter, *Catmatters*, for one year, a photo and update on your sponsored cat and a 10% discount on GNHCP merchandise or tickets for a GNHCP fundraising event.

Please sign me up for a:

Basic Donation (\$25) : _____ Population Donation (\$45) : _____ Gift Donation (\$25) : _____ Sponsor a Foster Cat (\$125): _____

Memorial Donation: \$ _____ In memory of: _____

Contribution to GNHCP: Spay/Neuter Program \$ _____ Tommy Fund \$ _____ Center expenses \$ _____

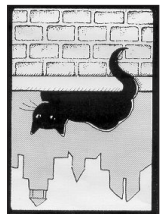
Name _____

Full Address _____

Thank you for your support of our efforts. All donations are tax deductible.

gnhcp.org
Visit us on the web

The Greater
New Haven
Cat Project, Inc.
P.O. Box 1432
New Haven,
Connecticut 06506



Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New Haven, CT
Permit No. 526