

# CATmatters

Every Cat Matters. Every Person Counts. Spring 2010

## Feral or Tame: A Cat's Best Friend

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

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New Haven Connecticut 06506.  
GNHCP *CATmatters* staff: Roberta  
Reynolds, Val Maloney

Randall L. Murphy, DVM gives back to the community by supporting The Greater New Haven Cat Project's (GNHCP) Trap/Neuter/Return and low-income spay/neuter Programs.

Dr. Murphy started working with GNHCP in 2006 when one of his clients needed help catching her feral cat for spaying. Since then, Post Road Veterinary Clinic has spayed/neutered more than 1,000 cats for GNHCP. His clinic supports GNHCP by providing spaying and neutering surgery services at a low cost. He also vaccinates the cats against Rabies and Distemper.

Of course, Dr. Murphy could be swimming laps in his spare time but when GNHCP brings in a cat, he forgoes his workout and heads into surgery. He does this because he has compassion for the homeless cats. Growing up, Dr. Murphy always had cats, and today, Dr. Murphy, his wife, and children have several cats, birds, fish, and a large turtle.

Dr. Murphy's kindness for animals is evident in the tender care he provides to all animals, with the feral cats being no excep-

tion. He and his team (Lynn, Betty, and Lori) give every GNHCP cat a huge dose of TLC to keep the cats' stress to a minimum. He anesthetizes the cats before removing them from their cat carrier or trap and uses a non-chemical method of anesthesia

which allows the cats to recover from the anesthesia more quickly. He spays the females making the smallest incision which requires only two stitches. This method allows the female cats to be returned to their outdoor homes, and caregivers, after only a two-day recovery period. Each cat also receives a health exam, flea treatment and/or ear-mite treatment as needed.

The Post Road Veterinary Clinic is a full-service hospital providing all types of surgery, including orthopedic

surgery. They have an intensive care center, a full service lab, x-ray machine, and ultrasound capabilities. Dr. Murphy's clinic provides dental care, grooming, and limited boarding.

All the volunteers of The Greater New Haven Cat Project, its foster cats, and the numerous feral cats whose quality of life have been improved want to extend heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Murphy and his team for their support and kindness.



Daisy and Dr. Murphy

# A Friend to Animals

by Rebecca Gibb & Mark Herz



With this edition of *CatMatters* we remember our friend, **Dr. Liubinco Tosici**, whom we lost to cancer in April.

Dr. Tosici was GNHCP's first participating veterinarian.

Even before GNHCP was established, Dr. Tosici was helping individuals who were working independently to rescue stray and feral cats and kittens, some of whom became founding members of GNHCP.

When we first met him in 1993, Dr. Tosici had just started his own clinic in Milford. It was a small practice, where for

some time Dr. Tosici's support staff consisted only of his cat, Essie, who lived at the clinic and greeted clients. Despite the modest size of his practice, Dr. Tosici's willingness to help animals was boundless. He never refused an animal the care it needed, no matter how feral, if a cat, and regardless of his clients' ability to pay. When treating rescued animals, he donated much of his time and services. The well being of the animals he treated was always his primary concern, and he applied the same rigorous standard of care whether his patient was a pampered housecat or a feral cat living outdoors.

Dr. Tosici's generosity and compassion were critically important in GNHCP's early days. He worked as hard and gave as much to GNHCP as its members did, helping it to survive and

eventually to grow. As it did, he continued to be a mainstay among its participating veterinarians and more recently served on its Board of Directors. His altruism, however, extended well beyond his work with GNHCP. Among the beneficiaries of his spirit and gifts were other organizations and individuals who helped animals, as well as the greyhounds at the Milford racetrack, for whom he provided veterinary services and helped to place into adoptive homes at the end of their careers.

We miss Dr. Tosici and will always remember how well he served the cats of GNHCP as well as the kindness he extended to all the animals, and to the people who cared for them, in his practice and in his community. We will remember him as our friend and above all, as a friend to animals.

## The Tommy Fund

THE TOMMY FUND began in 1999 to raise money to pay for a crucial ultrasound for a homeless four-month old kitten rescued from the streets in New Haven. GNHCP has continued the Tommy Fund in order to provide care to other rescued cats requiring special care. Through generous contributions, GNHCP has been able to help many special needs cats, including those who have serious illnesses or injuries. Money raised will help cover veterinary care beyond the spay/neuter and vaccinations that GNHCP provides to all rescued cats. Extraordinary care includes diagnostic procedures (x-rays, ultrasounds, biopsies),

as well as surgical procedures and on-going medical treatments (medicines, special foods, emergency veterinary visits).

Tommy is a wonderful success story, but there are many other cats with special needs that require extraordinary care. GNHCP would like to be able to give every cat a chance to receive the medical treatment it needs. By donating to the Tommy Fund, you will enable us to aid the many special needs cats that may not otherwise be able to receive the care they need.

Raquel, one of our Tommy Fund recipients, underwent hip dysplasia surgery. Raquel would do best in a home with another cat and without any dogs or a lot of activity.



**Raquel**

Donations to the Tommy Fund can be sent to GNHCP, P.O. Box 1432, New Haven, CT 06506. Donations are tax deductible. If you are interested in adopting your very own Tommy, please call (203) 782-CATS or us at [gnhcp1@gnhcp.org](mailto:gnhcp1@gnhcp.org).

## What Were We Up To in 2009?

**527 feral and tame cats received assistance from the GNHCP.** Although our focus is the Greater New Haven area, with cooperation from caregivers, we provided assistance to cats and people from Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Bridgeport, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Bristol, Beacon Falls, Farmington, Groton, Hamden, Hartford, Killingworth, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, North Branford, Waterford, Southington, Seymour, Shelton, West Haven, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge, and Guilford.

## 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

Cat treats

Toy Mice

Unopened dry and  
canned cat food

# Volunteer Spotlight

by Roberta Reynolds

If you have ever passed by The Greater New Haven Cat Project on State Street and peeked in the window, you probably have seen at least a couple of our Center cats draped over their favorite spot on “Kette’s Tree.” These cats are able to lounge in luxury because of the generosity of Betsy Frey, one of our volunteers and supplier of cat trees for the Center. Betsy also donated the cats’ favorite scratching post near the front window in memory of Simmie, a long-time Center resident who never found the “forever” home he needed and deserved. This over-sized post is complete with a “perch” on top and sits next to the window that Simmie loved to gaze out of and now supplies other cats with the same view. Betsy is also well known as the cats’ “supplier,” bringing them entertaining catnip on many weekends.

Betsy came to the New Haven area after her college days, attending Yale’s Divinity School and then earning her doctorate in theology. Having loved cats as a little girl, she adopted her own in 2000 from a local animal shelter. The following year, during walks around the Orange Street neighborhood, she happened to

find The Greater New Haven Cat Project. Recalling the day in July well, Betsy met our Center’s residents, found, fell in love with, and adopted Kette (pronounced KETT-uh) whom she named for the theologian Martin Luther’s wife Katherine, also a cat lover. Amazingly, Kette and her other cat at home, Princess, bonded right away; an unusual behavior with cats and a credit to the calm and safe atmosphere Betsy must have provided for them. These two cats remained very close for the nine years they were “sisters.”

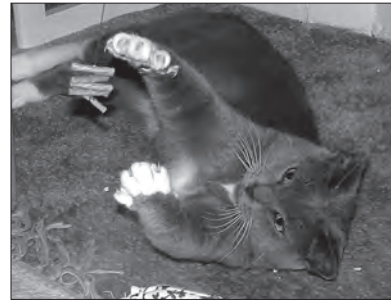


*In memoriam:*  
**Princess, 9/5/95-2/27/10**

Betsy says “I was so grateful to GNHCP for letting me adopt Kette. I’ve always been a renter, can’t afford a house of my own, and I know some shelters are concerned about that. This got me involved with the organization.”

Betsy generously donates cat food for caregivers who maintain feral cat colonies, which is one of our organization’s lesser known but extremely important functions. Without this donated food, some of these managed colonies may not be fed as well. And, since writing is her occupation, Betsy has lent her talents to this newsletter, most recently in the Fall 2009 lead story.

Fostering cats is also one of the many ways Betsy helps GNHCP. Eiko, one of our recently adopted Center cats, was fostered and also uniquely named by Betsy. Being a freelance academic writer/editor, Betsy had just edited a book and named Eiko after the book’s author, a friend from Japan where cats are very popular. Betsy’s favorite foster cat has been Trudy, who survived deplorable conditions of neglect back in 2002. GNHCP President Cheryl DeFilippo was contacted to rescue abandoned cats in a multi-family home not far from Betsy’s house, nine in all (two cats had not survived their heinous circumstances). After getting a call for assistance from Cheryl and learning what



**Trudy, happy to play in Betsy’s home**

Trudy had overcome, Betsy gladly fostered her. Caring so much for Trudy that even after adoption into a loving home, Betsy has kept in touch with Trudy’s “mom.” Both Eiko and Trudy, as well as the other foster cats that have passed through Betsy’s home, have been blessed to receive her care. GNHCP is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassion person as a volunteer.

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## Memorial Contributions

**In Memory of Paul Bliss, a much loved grey cat**  
- Christina Bliss

**In Memory of Florine & Anthony Corrado**  
- Vincent & Dorothy Amore

**In Memory of Pussywillow & Momcat**  
- Nancy Miller

**In Memory of Max, Aggie & Jay**  
- Susan & Jay Vessicchio

**In Memory of Castor and Pollux** - Cynthia Russett

**In Memory of Sisko & Butch** - Lynn Autry

**In Memory of Rhett** - Donna Consolini

**In Memory of Shadow** - Judy & Marlo Bedini

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 Vessicchio/Sound Alternative (Big Band to present)  
B.Y.O.B, snacks provided

**For information call 782-2287**  
[gnhcp1@gnhcp.org](mailto:gnhcp1@gnhcp.org)



# 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.



**The Greater  
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Cat Project, Inc.**  
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