



# Shelter mews

## Homeward Bound

Most shelter cats go to a “forever” home where they easily adopt the family and acclimate to their new environment. Some cats, however, may react very differently during the first few days in their new home. Adjusting can be a tense and frightening experience for them and there is no way of predicting how any particular cat will react. Frightened cats or kittens will most often hide under a bed or piece of furniture and stay there for long periods of time. They may refrain from eating for awhile. Patience and understanding on your part can help your new cat feel at home and soon become a much loved part of the family. The following tips may help in this adjustment.



**The Ride Home** Riding in a car can be traumatic for cats. Keep the cat or kitten in a carrier during the ride home (and on subsequent visits to the veterinarian). Keep the cat in the carrier until you are safely inside your home. Do not pull the cat out of the carrier.

Instead, let them come out on their own and begin to explore or hide as the case may be.

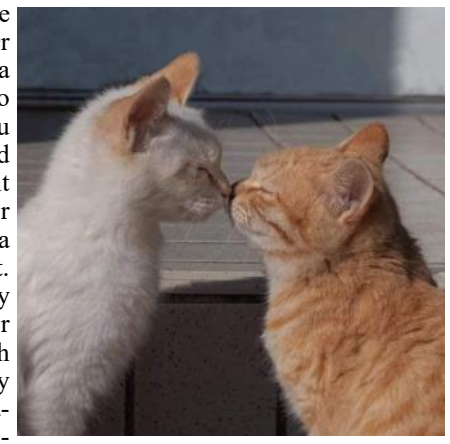
**The New Home.** Introduce your cat to their new home gradually. Restrict the cat to one quiet room at first; emphasis on quiet. Put out a litter box, water, food, and soft bedding. Most cats prefer sleeping spots where they can be comfortable, warm, and free from drafts. Isolate other animals from the new cat during this adjustment period. Spend time with your cat sitting and talking quietly. The cat may not eat much, often for several days. Try to make that first night in your home as stress-free as possible. Allow your cat several weeks to adapt. When the cat openly solicits attention and is no longer hiding, you can slowly give them more rooms to explore.

**Introduction to Other Animals.** If the other pet is a dog, it is recommended that the dog be kept away until the cat feels comfortable in the new home. Do not allow the dog to chase or corner the cat, even out of playfulness or curiosity. The cat should have a safe retreat, either up high or in a room that is inaccessible to the dog. Never force interaction and allow them to accept one another in their own time. Many cats and dogs become playmates and companions while others simply learn to tolerate one another.



To introduce a new cat to your current resident cat, keep them separated at first so you can control their initial meeting. They should be able to smell and hear each other but not come into physi-

cal contact. Feed each cat near the door that separates them. After two or three days, switch locations, so they can investigate each other’s smell. This also lets the new cat explore another section of the house. After a week or so, if there are no signs of aggression, you may let the cats meet and greet. Understand that it may take a few weeks for resident cats to develop a friendship with a new cat. Although cats will usually become friends, a few never do and learn to avoid each other. In other words, they agree to rule the house separately and in their own manner!



**Homeward Bound from Second Chance.** Consider the experience of the many adoptable cats at Second Chance. They have come from a variety of circumstances. The cat may have been lost or abandoned. They may have been separated from a familiar home and forced to break a bond with human companions and other animals. Kittens may have been recently separated from their mother and litter mates. They may have had to deal with the stress of surgery or adapting to life in a shelter with many other cats.



In all of these cases, our volunteers have given great care, loving attention, and many hours of socialization to these cats. With such attention, most of our cats show a ready ability to adjust by exploring everything, eating well, wanting to be petted, purring, bunting, and playing. These are all signs that they are readily adoptable and worthy of that “second chance” in a new “forever” home. Be they kittens or older cats, we are sure to have the “purrfect” match for you and your love will be returned many times over. ~Carl Schafer

Sources: PAWS and The Humane Society of the U. S.

Thank You to  
**Companion Pet Care**  
for their donation and collected pet supplies from their Pet Photos with Santa fundraiser!

Thank You to  
**tailswag**  
FOR PETS & THEIR PEOPLE  
for their donation and pet goodies collected from their Giving Tree fundraiser!

1517 Meadow Street  
Littleton, NH 03561  
603-259-3244

[www.secondchancear.org](http://www.secondchancear.org)

email: [secondchancear.org@gmail.com](mailto:secondchancear.org@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/secondchancear](https://www.facebook.com/secondchancear)

[www.instagram.com/secondchancear](https://www.instagram.com/secondchancear)

[www.petfinder.com](https://www.petfinder.com)

### SHELTER HOURS

By Appointment Only

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jackie Allison, President  
Karen Gordon, Secretary  
Carolyn Murro, Treasurer  
Jan Nadeau, Shelter Manager  
Judy Abbott  
Irene Amsbary  
Emma Gooden  
Alicia Prater  
Carl Schafer

Gabby Sweet, Asst. to Shelter Manager

### VETERINARY ADVISORS

Woodlands Veterinary Clinic  
Lancaster, NH  
Companion Pet Care  
Littleton, NH

### OUR MISSION

To provide homeless animals with a second chance at life and companionship in a no-kill shelter.

Our organization goes beyond shelter walls and is committed to:

- 1) Positive people and animal relationships and placements
- 2) Offering affordable spay, neuter and vaccination clinics
- 3) Cooperative rescue efforts
- 4) Animal welfare education

Second Chance Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and our EIN is 27-2815668. SCAR receives no federal or state tax money; nor portions of donations made to national humane organizations.



## Aren't Cats Wonderful? Why Do Cats Purr?



From wild cheetahs and cougars to the littlest fur ball, all cats purr. It is an unmistakable sign that everything in that cat's life is good, or is it? While a kitten learns to purr when it is only a few days old, it has nothing to do with happiness. It is more of a homing beacon so their mother can find them, especially before their eyes open. Purring also helps a mother bond with and comfort her kittens.

Purring is caused by the vibration of a cat's vocal cords. It is a simple flexing of a cat's larynx and diaphragm muscles as they breathe in and out. Though purring takes energy, many cats purr when they are hurt or in pain, and their purr may actually have healing properties. It might also be a way for

a cat to comfort themselves. Some research suggests that purring may actually help heal. The low frequency of purring can cause a series of related vibrations within their body that can heal bones and wounds, build muscle tissue and repair tendons, ease breathing, and lessen pain and swelling.

There is more to a cat's purr than meets the ear. Their purr can calm and relax us, and living with a housecat has been shown to even lessen our chances of developing medical issues. There is also evidence that petting a fuzzy feline can cause our bodies to produce stress reducing hormones which can help lower blood pressure, heart rate and normalize our anxiety levels.

Purring on its own can mean just about anything. If your kitty is relaxing in a sunny spot, perhaps on their back, eyes half closed, tail mostly still, and they are purring.....I like to assume they are in a happy place. Perhaps this purr is their version of a big smile. ~Jackie Allison

Sources: [chewy.com](http://chewy.com), [24petwatch.com](http://24petwatch.com), [IFLscience.com](http://IFLscience.com)

## What is a Polydactyl Cat?

A polydactyl cat is not a breed of cat. Rather, the term refers to a cat that has more than the normal number of toes on one or more of its paws. Most cats have eighteen toes, four on each rear paw and five on each front paw. There is however, an inherited genetic abnormality in which a cat is born with more than the usual number of toes. Each additional toe has its own claw, pad, and bone structure.



These polydactyl cats are adorable and much loved around the world. Also according to legend, they bring luck to their happy owners. Polydactyl cats are actually not that rare. If one cat parent has polydactyly, there's a 40-50% chance the kittens will inherit it. Polydactyl cats are not inbred since it is just a hereditary issue that one of the kitten's parents passes down. The trait can affect any breed, but it's more common in Maine Coons and also along the Eastern Seaboard of North America.

When a cat's extra toe is on the inside of their paw and looks like a little thumb, the polydactyly is preaxial. Postaxial is when a cat's extra toes are on the pinky side, or the outside of their paws. Polydactyly is not painful for cats and doesn't cause any other health problems. Finally, the world record for number of toes is held by three cats who each had seven toes per paw. That's a whopping 28 toes! When you finish that nail trim, it's time to start over again.

Footnote: This "tail" has a happy ending as Mango (pictured) gave us two thumbs up as he left Second Chance for his new furever home. ~Carl Schafer

Sources: [The Spruce Pets](http://The Spruce Pets), [Purina](http://Purina), [The Vets](http://The Vets), [DailyPaws](http://DailyPaws), and

## Cat Tails: Hugo

"We are happy to say we think Hugo has settled into his new home. Even on the first evening he was very comfortable with couch snuggles and lots of petting. Some of his hobbies are bird and squirrel watching, napping anywhere we are, eating of course, and helping with napping on schoolwork.

We appreciate all your help and thank you and all the volunteers for rescuing these animals! Charles S."



Recently adopted Winnie loving her new furever home!

## Senior Spotlight

Li'l Debbie is a total lovebug who was surrendered through no fault of her own. She's very friendly and really enjoys attention and catnip! She came to us very overweight and does not walk or jump very well. Her adopter will need to help her on her weight loss journey so she can spend her golden years healthier and with more mobility and comfort. Obesity in pets can increase the risk of diabetes, arthritis and joint pain, and more.



We were told she was thought to be around 12 years old. She's a lover, not a fighter. She doesn't mind other cats but will not do well in a home with a cat that will bully her or act assertively toward her - cats with gentle and sweet dispositions only! Get in touch to see if she's still waiting at the shelter today. ~Gabby Sweet

## Another Five Funny Feline Facts

1. Cats sweat through their paws and nowhere else on their body. It's no "Secret" now. Cats do not need under-leg deodorant.
2. Cats rear claws do not retract. Therefore, they are not as sharp as the front claws because they become worn down through regular activity.
3. About 40% of cats favor one front paw over the other. Studies show that males tend to be left-pawed and females right-pawed. As with humans, the lady is usually "right!"
4. Cat whiskers are as sensitive as human fingertips. They normally have 12 whiskers on each cheek, arranged in four rows of three each. These and other whiskers act as touch-receptors and help a cat get around, especially at night. A cat's whiskers should never be cut or trimmed.
5. What is a cat loaf? Cat loafing is when a cat tucks itself into a rectangular shape with paws underneath and tail wrapped alongside, forming a bread-loaf shape. ~Carl Schafer



Sources: Wikipedia, Purina, Charlottesville Cat Care Clinic

## Shelter Happenings

We've made more progress renovating the shelter that we wanted to share with you! While the wooden doors on our cat "condos" were aesthetically pleasing, after 13 years of use they were damaged from all the kitty claws over the years. They've been replaced with much more sanitary metal doors.

The condo flooring is new as well, as holes were starting to wear in the floors which made it difficult to clean. We hope to do the same with the condos in the Sun Room soon as well. A big thank you to Abbott Rental, Bill Howe and Frank Dodge for all their donated hard work!



Before



After

### Spring Clinics at the Shelter No appointment needed

**Please bring dogs on leashes and cats in carriers**

**Pet Nail Trim Clinic** - Sunday, April 14th at 10am to noon.  
Cash only \$10 minimum donation per pet.

**Low Cost Vaccination Clinic** - Sunday, April 7th at 10am to noon. Distemper (FVRCP for cats & DHPP for dogs) and Rabies. Cash only \$15 each.

### Annual Gigantic Tent Sale Fundraiser Field behind Cumberland Farms, Meadow Street Saturday & Sunday, August 10 & 11

Save your gently used unwanted household items as we'll start accepting donations in May. Details to come! Volunteers are always needed that Friday thru Sunday.

## Meet Molly Roger

In November 2023 we took in an older white cat who was in rough shape. She had a bad tooth, a mass on her left cheek, and a badly-damaged black and bleeding ear. In spite of these ailments, she was one of the sweetest, gentlest cats I'd ever met.

For anyone who may not know, "Jolly Roger" is the name historically used for flags identifying a pirate ship, commonly seen bearing skulls and crossbones. Imagining that her surgeries might make her look a bit like a battle-scarred or rough-and-tumble pirate, I decided to name her Molly Roger. Her multiple surgeries were costly, but it was worth every penny to save this sweet little soul. Big thanks to Companion Pet Care of Littleton for taking care of her!



Dubbed our newest administrative assistant, she now spends her days lounging mostly in the shelter office. She can be nervous around strangers so she also has a secret napping spot up high. She does a lot of things to help out, including (but not limited to) knocking the pens on the floor, stealing the office chair the minute you get up, and lying on the keyboard (also while knocking pens on the floor). She loves to sit on my lap or in the cat tower behind the chair where she can soak up the afternoon sun through the window.

She has almost no teeth, is bow-legged, missing half of her left ear, and has the softest fur! I hate to think of what may have happened to Miss Roger had she not come to Second Chance. Your support makes it possible for us not only to open our doors to cats and kittens in need, but also to tend to their medical issues so that they can continue to lead their best lives. Thank you! ~Gabby Sweet

## Cat Tails: Daisy

"With time this last week Daisy has become more comfortable and is slowly adjusting. She is enjoying getting to know her big sister Layla! They have started adjusting well and are sharing their space together, along with tons of playing together. Can't wait to see these two become best friends! Emily P."



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Shelter Wish List

- ♥ Postage Stamps
- ♥ Gift Cards
- ♥ 13-gal. Trash Bags
- ♥ Laundry Detergent
- ♥ Bleach
- ♥ Dishwasher Detergent
- ♥ Paper Towels
- ♥ White Unscented Clay Cat Litter
- ♥ Purina Kitten Chow
- ♥ Purina Cat Chow Complete
- ♥ Black Oil Sunflower Seed

### Cat Tails: Niko

"Thank you so much everything! Niko is an amazing boy. I expected him to hide for at least a day or two but he only hid for maybe an hour. He also went right up to the dogs on his own and today they are sleeping next to each other. He fits right in and is very loved! Sarah L."



## You Can Help

### DONATE

We know that you're swamped with requests for donations. While you support the big national organizations that help animals, we ask that you first consider giving to your local shelter. Stop by the shelter and see your gifts at work—giving the local area's abandoned and abused cats and kittens a "Second Chance"!

### MONETARY DONATIONS

SCAR relies on private donations to fund our shelter, rescue and adoption operations, and community programs. Your donation is 100% tax deductible. Please mail your check today, donate securely online at [www.secondchancear.org/donate](http://www.secondchancear.org/donate), or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera and click the banner.



There are many other ways you can donate. Call us at 603-259-3244 to discuss.

### TRIBUTE GIFTS

### WISH LIST DONATIONS

### STOCK & ANNUITIES GIFTS

### WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

### VEHICLE DONATIONS

### INCLUDE SCAR IN YOUR WILL

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—LEND A HAND!

Your shelter needs you! As our area becomes more populated and more people are wanting pets, we are busier than ever. There's the many clinics, phone calls and emails, more cats coming into the shelter and being adopted (can you say paperwork?!); along with trying to maintain, clean, and improve the building (while it has served us well, it is old!). Volunteering with the kitties is fulfilling and fun! How can you help?

*Handyman/carpenter volunteers needed for occasional shelter repairs.*



*Volunteers needed for quarterly newsletter mailings.*



*Volunteers needed to plow and shovel at the shelter.*

