



## Stray or Feral?

At Second Chance we take in cats and kittens due to a variety of circumstances. There are times where we tell someone that the cuddly, affectionate cat they're currently snuggling was brought to us as a stray, and they'll reply, "There's no way this cat was a stray, it's so friendly." It got me thinking – do people equate the word stray with an animal being feral, unfriendly, or even aggressive?



A "stray" cat or kitten is, simply put, one without a home. This could be a cat that you notice has been outside for several days and not claimed by any of your neighbors, or an injured, dirty or very thin cat that appears to have been on its own for a while. Stray cats can be feral cats or they can be spayed or neutered fat

and friendly housecats. Whatever the case may be, we often have good Samaritans report and drop-off strays to our shelter.

We always scan cats for microchips when they enter the shelter to match them with their owner rather than adopt them out to a new family. We hold all cats for a short period of time, and if unclaimed, we set out to find a loving new home. Stray doesn't necessarily mean dirty, sick, or mean; oftentimes, stray cats come to us in pretty good shape! Archi was one of our recently adopted cats found outside injured as a stray, yet he's one of the sweetest cats!

On the other hand, a feral cat or kitten has had little to no socialization or interaction with humans for most of its life. The sooner a feral kitten or young cat is brought to a shelter for socialization and re-homing, the better chance it has of becoming a socialized housecat.



Not all stray cats are feral. On the flipside, not all feral cats are strays either! Some feral cats belong to a colony or community of many cats, or a feral cat may be someone's outdoor mouser or barn cat. If you see a cat with a tipped or notched ear, that means that it has been spayed or neutered through a TNR (trap-neuter-release) program.

Feral cats often act like wild animals; they have not learned to trust or enjoy humans. They will run when approached, and may hiss or strike if cornered. Some feral cats, depending on their age and personality, can eventually be tamed. For those that cannot, we find them a warm, safe barn home where they can have food, water, shelter, and freedom.



In the past, feral cats were often euthanized in many parts of the world, but TNR and other efforts to co-exist with feral cats is much more generally accepted. TNR improves the lives of feral cats, improves their relationships with the

people who live near them, and decreases the size of colonies over time. Unfortunately, it is still the practice of many animal control agencies to continue to euthanize cats, even though that approach has been shown to be ineffective in controlling colonies.

In conclusion, there IS a chance that that snuggly cat in the shelter was a stray. It likely just wandered too far from home or unfortunately was let loose or left behind. Please don't let the word "stray" deter you from adopting a shelter cat – take it from us, strays can be some of the sweetest, most amazing cats you'll ever meet!

~ Gabby Sweet

## An Impressive Community Impact

We started offering low-cost spay/neuter clinics early in our organization's life and have remained dedicated to ensuring this service to our community. We first expanded to once a month clinics, and now attempt to offer twice a month clinics with Dr. Sara White of Spay ASAP. We dedicate so much to these services because of the impact they have on our community.

Firstly, these are low-cost clinics; meaning that we are able to charge less because of a combination of the high volume, subsidization via donations and grants, and our volunteer labor. Dr. Sara spays and neuters approximately 40 animals, mostly cats, at each of our clinics. In addition to having a highly skilled vet dedicated to performing dozens of these surgeries in one day, we have our amazing donors and supporters to thank for our ability to hold such clinics.

The bottom line shows that our clinics are an extremely important part of our work within the community. A female cat can start having litters at 4 months old, and after a 65 day pregnancy, can immediately go into heat, even while nursing, and become pregnant again. So every 2 years, an unsprayed cat can have 5 litters. With an average of 4 kittens per litter (though they can often be as many as 7!), that's 10 kittens a year. And by the time the second year rolls around, the unsprayed kittens from the first year are already having kittens of their own! Female cats will continue having kittens throughout adulthood until their body can no longer handle it. The number of litters a male can contribute to is unlimited.

Assuming that a clinic is half female, each of our monthly clinics prevents about 20 litters from being born in the subsequent 3-4 months, which means 60 litters a year on average (but up to 100) or more than 240 unwanted kittens. Never mind how many kittens the males we neuter can contribute!

There are also health reasons for spaying and neutering cats – numerous veterinary sites have information on these benefits, such as [vcahospitals.com](http://vcahospitals.com). So the impact these services have on our community is nearly incalculable. ~ Alicia Prater



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www.twitter.com/SCARLittletonNH  
www.instagram.com/secondchancear  
www.petfinder.com

**SHELTER HOURS**

By appointment only

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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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.

**Tent Sale**  
Meadow St, Littleton  
August 12, 9am-3pm

Please donate your gently used household items to SCAR's biggest fundraiser of the year!  
Call us at 603-259-3244 or check our website  
www.secondchancear.org for more information.

**Aren't Cats Wonderful?**

*Cat Playtime*

Being a cat owner, you know cats love to play. But why is play a vital element to your furry friend? Turns out, there are a number of reasons. Interactive play meets important biological needs for these animals. "People have an impression that they don't have to do much for cats, but nothing that's alive should be viewed as low-maintenance", says Pam Johnson-Bennett, a certified animal behaviorist. "When we bring cats into our homes, we owe it to them to make sure they are getting enrichment for their overall health."



Playtime isn't simply about fun and games. It is part of a healthy diet plan for your pet. Cats that don't get enough mental stimulation and exercise may be prone to packing on unwanted pounds as well as developing diabetes or joint disease. Playtime builds confidence, decreases boredom, and teaches your cat new skills. Under stimulated cats can also experience mental health issues. Unhappy kitties may become withdrawn or depressed, or even become aggressive with their humans or other household pets. By encouraging them to be active, it will help to keep your indoor pet fit and healthy.

Play can strengthen your bond and will help you to engage with them in a way that makes them feel comfortable around you. This could be especially important for a shy kitty having a difficult time adjusting to a new home. Keeping some treats handy as a reward for playing with you might also help them come out of their shell.

Playing is nonnegotiable for every pet. It's the best source of bonding between a cat and an owner. It can be an enjoyable way to see what excites them and what they respond to. If your cat doesn't want to play don't force them. Sometimes they are not in the mood. We all have those days, so try offering them an alternative such as grooming or petting. Not wanting to play can sometimes be a sign your cat is experiencing discomfort, maybe a dental issue or some other medical problem. If you think this could be the reason, have your pet checked out by your veterinarian.

Try to integrate playtime into your existing schedules at home. Predictability can help build a sense of trust along with giving your cat something to look forward to each day. Discovering how your cat likes to play and what toys and activities engage her the most is one of the fun parts of welcoming a feline into your family. ~ Jackie Allison

**Callie's Last Great Adventure**

We once had a very beloved Tortoiseshell cat who we adopted from Second Chance. Callie, as her "tortitude" predicted, was always very inquisitive. She loved our home in the NH White Mountain region. Strictly an indoor cat, she would spend hours watching wildlife from the windows and the screen porch. Her great thrill was watching the numerous chipmunks, birds, little red squirrels and the occasional black bear.

All that changed one evening. Unbeknownst to us, Callie slipped out of an unlatched door for her "last great adventure." Was it to visit her small friends or was it the clear cool night with a billion stars in the sky calling "let's go explore"? As we were getting ready for bed, we couldn't find Callie but found the open door and realized she was gone! Panic ensued as we turned on the outside lights and thoroughly searched the vicinity with flashlights and her favorite treats in hand. Oops, do bears come for treats? Anyway, NO LUCK!

Distraught, we could not go to bed. We put her bed on the front porch. We prayed that no creature of the night would find her and that she would return when she was hungry. We took turns sitting by the original "escape door" in the darkened house with the door slightly ajar.

Oh joy, three hours later we saw her in the outside light, but then she turned and ran! An hour later she reappeared but ran away again. We waited and waited heartsick, turning off all the outside lights and trying not to be seen or heard. At 3:15 AM, without so much as a warning, an animal startled us as it shot like a bullet through the door. Hopefully it was not the neighborhood bobcat! It ran toward the bedroom door which was closed to contain her best friend Cinder. Thank goodness it was Callie. When the bedroom door was opened, her food bowl was first on her mind before telling Cinder where she had been. She was obviously spooked but glad to be home. Not nearly as happy as we were though! Our prayers were answered. So, it was indeed "Callie's Last Great Adventure" because we will be super careful never to leave any doors unlatched again. We love you Callie, welcome home! ~ Carl Schafer



## Mimsy's Journey

In January our shelter took in a small kitten that was found abandoned outside of a laundromat. At about 7 weeks old she was much too young to fend for herself and was brought to us, where she was fed, cared for and prepared for her new family and home!

I thought I would share her experience here so you can see what a cat or kitten typically goes through while at SCAR, as they enter our shelter's doors to when we say our goodbyes.



When a cat or kitten first enters the shelter they are given a name if they don't have one and a number. They are examined by shelter staff and a record is started of their history, health, behavioral status, and

their appearance. They have a fecal float test which checks for parasites and worms, and a FeLV/FIV test which checks for feline leukemia and FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus). Then they are given a flea preventative and a de-wormer. And of course there are lots of photos taken so they can be posted online for potential adopters to see! Finally they are examined by a veterinarian and are spayed or neutered and vaccinated. Phew, then lots of napping!

Everybody is fed dry cat food twice a day, and if a kitten like Mimsy they get to have wet food as well to feed their growing bodies! Volunteers come in mornings and afternoons to care for the cats and kittens, which includes feeding, cleaning litter boxes, and giving the kitties as much attention as possible!

Once they are ready for adoption and are posted online, each adoption application is screened in an effort to match each cat with the best home for their personality and needs. It's a lot of work, but so worth it. Once an adopter is found, they come to the shelter to meet and take home their new cat or kitten. And of course the volunteers and staff have the toughest job of all of saying goodbye before they go!



Mimsy's journey was typical of a normal stay at our shelter, other than she was only at our shelter for about a week and a half, which is unusual as it usually takes longer to complete the intake process. Her new family happened to be at the shelter the day she came in and fell in

love at first sight!

Cats or kittens that have major medical issues that we need to address or that are "hard to place" unfortunately tend to wait longer to become adoptable or for someone to choose them. "Hard to place" felines are senior cats, those with special needs or have behavioral issues such as those that dislike children or need to be the only pet.

A lot of people think of animal shelters as depressing places, where animals are put to sleep or kept locked in cages all day. While unfortunately there are such shelters in our country, that is most certainly not the case at Second Chance! Here, cats and kittens have their medical needs met, don't have to worry about their next meal, and get to enjoy plenty of time out of their cages with loving volunteers (and cat buddies) every single day! ~ Gabby Sweet

## Continued Community Impact

Our April low-cost shot clinic was a big success! Dr. McLaughlin and her team from Woodlands Vet Clinic of Lancaster, along with some dedicated SCAR volunteers, vaccinated over 100 cats and dogs against rabies and distemper. We also serviced 50+ cats and dogs (and even a rabbit!) at our April nail trim clinic, and spay/neuter clinics are as busy as ever.



In this time where veterinary care can be difficult to come by in our area and unaffordable for others, we'll continue to host and work at these clinics. Stay tuned for future clinic dates, which can be found on our website [www.secondchancear.org](http://www.secondchancear.org) and our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/secondchancear](http://www.facebook.com/secondchancear). ~ Gabby Sweet

## Honored to be a Feline Safe Haven

We recently lost two of our senior girls here at the shelter. Sarah Lee spent about five years with us at the shelter. She was here first from 2016 to 2018 after coming to us as an extremely overweight cat. Her weight loss was managed and she was adopted, but she then came back to us a few years later, where she spent three years as one of our office cats alongside Lady Bug. Sarah Lee was so easygoing and relaxed. You could run the vacuum right next to her, and she couldn't care less! She was friendly and happy, and enjoyed begging for scraps from our lunch. There was no one like her, and her presence will be greatly missed. She reminded us to slow down and enjoy the little things, like a good cardboard box or a bite of tuna salad!



Khloe was 18 years old and spent her last year with us after being surrendered at 17. Her owner passed away, and no family members wanted to take her in. She was the definition of a couch potato and a favorite among volunteers for her easygoing nature. She loved being brushed, and tolerated being bathed better than most any other cat we know! Volunteers came in to spend some extra time with her in the days before we knew we'd be saying goodbye. While we are sad that we weren't able to find her an adopter, she spent her last year safe, warm and loved - what more can anyone ask for!

We couldn't be here to act as a safe haven for the homeless cats and kittens in our community without your continued support. ~ Gabby Sweet

## Cat Tails: Sam & Max

"Max and Sam are settling in well. They purr a lot and are very friendly. They both slept with me last night. The basket of toys when they were done was all over the place. Such happy kitties. Thanks! Linda H."



## Always There for SCAR

Marti Faulkner and Ed Tomashek are long time donors and volunteers at Second Chance. Having spent so many hours at the shelter, they see what needs to be done and DO IT! Their most recent large donation was a 10x20 foot storage shed. Jan's plan is to store and sell donated furniture, etc. out of it year round, not just at tent sale time. Thank you Marti and Ed!



## Nail Trim Clinic

Sunday 7/16, 10am-Noon  
Second Chance Shelter  
\$10 Cash per pet



## Wish List

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Cat Tails: Thor & Mittens

"Thor and Mitten's personalities are really coming out and we're thoroughly enjoying them. Thor clearly has no idea how big he is and Mittens has a new playground on the wall where she can supervise and pounce on everyone. Both are very persistent when they want attention and are adjusting to having a puppy in the house. Our vet is very taken with them and they behaved very well for shots and nail trims. Thanks so much for bringing these two clowns into our lives! Chanda C."



## You Can Help

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. You can visit us any time and see your gifts at work, giving the local area's abandoned and abused cats and kittens a "Second Chance"!

### MONETARY DONATIONS

Your donation is 100% tax deductible. Please mail your check today or donate securely online at [www.secondchancear.org](http://www.secondchancear.org)

### TRIBUTE GIFTS

Tribute gifts can be made in memory of or in honor of a pet or loved one. A card will be sent upon request.

### WISH LIST DONATIONS

Help keep our supply closet stocked up year round. See our wish lists at [www.secondchancear.org](http://www.secondchancear.org), [www.chewy.com](http://www.chewy.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### GIFTS OF STOCK & ANNUITIES

Stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other securities, along with transferring of real estate offer alternative ways to donate that can benefit both you, your heirs and SCAR.

### EBAY SELLABLES

Donate jewelry, antiques and estate valuables for resale on EBay. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

### WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

Many workplaces coordinate charitable giving campaigns for their employees.

### VEHICLE DONATION

Donating your unwanted car is simple, easy, and free, plus it 100% tax deductible. [www.careasy.org](http://www.careasy.org) will convert your car into cash, which becomes a much-needed donation to SCAR!

### DONATE WHILE SHOPPING

You shop online, SCAR gets money! For free, with no cost to you! Sign up at [iGive.com](http://iGive.com)

### ESTATE GIFTS

Include SCAR in your will, trust or with a beneficiary designation.

### VOLUNTEER

Join us and help the cats and kittens who can't help themselves. You'll also make new friends and have fun! Fill out a Volunteer Application today.

### FOSTER

Can you open your home occasionally to house a mom and her kittens until they're old enough to be adopted; or house a needy cat on a short term basis when the shelter is full? Call the shelter for more information.