

Commonwealth Cats Review

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Newsletter of Commonwealth Cats, Inc.



Dear Friends,

Volume 1, Issue 1 ■ Winter 2006

Welcome to the first newsletter for Commonwealth Cats! We look forward to keeping you informed about the progress of our Spay, Neuter and Vaccination Clinic program. **Our mission is to provide sterilization and vaccination services for the health and population control of feral cats in Massachusetts.**

I am happy to report that, to date, we have been able to organize 7 clinics and have provided spay or neuter and vaccination services to 235 cats! We met our goal to run 6 clinics during 2005 and we are looking ahead to 2006 and our plans for the future. We hope to increase the number of clinics we run and the number of cats we help as our funding and volunteer base grows.



Sharlene and Sheba

Because this is our initial newsletter, I thought it would be a good time to tell you about our short history. In January of 2004 a group of individuals interested in the plight of homeless and feral cats convened to brainstorm ideas on forming a new organization aimed at providing spay and neuter services to this underserved population of felines. Through the course of our discussions

we crafted the plans for an organization. We formed our founding Board of Directors, selected officers and named our new organization. Subsequently, we prepared and filed the paperwork necessary to become a legal entity. As of April 1, 2004 we were incorporated and approved by the IRS as a qualified 501(c) 3 public charity.

Many hours were spent in the planning of our flagship Spay, Neuter and Vaccination Clinic program, as well as building the foundational structure of our fledgling organization. We hoped to begin clinic operations in the fall of 2004 and began soliciting and collecting monetary and in-kind donations to fund and operate our program.

Our clinic program has truly been a community effort with the trapping and transportation of the cats coordinated by various humane societies, animal control officers, rescue groups and individual who work with feral cats. We were fortunate to have the support of other groups with similar programs who donated and loaned us equipment and supplies. The Winchester Animal Clinic, All Creatures Veterinary Hospital, The MSPCA's MetroSouth Animal Care and Adoption Center in conjunction with the MSPCA's mobile spay unit and the Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute provided us with the veterinary facilities to conduct our program and the Lexington Cat Clinic and Natick Animal Clinic donated supplies and funding. In addition to this support, on the front lines of providing the veterinary care for our feline patients, we

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Commonwealth Cats, Inc.

Board of Directors

Sharlene Sallet, *President*

Deborah Brady, DVM, *Vice President*

Teresa Sarandrea, *Clerk*

Sheila Magesky, *CVT*

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Contributions, donations, and gifts are tax-deductible.

were fortunate to have a fine team of veterinarians, veterinary technicians and other dedicated individuals who have volunteered their time and expertise to help feral cats in Massachusetts who would not otherwise receive any veterinary care.

I want to thank the individuals and organizations that have made donations to us whether it has been monetary, supplies or your services. It is expensive to purchase services, surgical and medical supplies, anesthesia and vaccines and your generosity has made it possible for us to help the neediest cats in Massachusetts.

Looking forward to 2006, we are eager for the opportunity to reach out to provide care to more cats that inhabit our communities and who, without our program, would not have the access to veterinary care.

Sincerely,

Sharlene Sallet
President

Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians



We need veterinarians and veterinary technicians to volunteer at our clinics. Veterinarians provide spay and neuter surgery and examinations. Technicians prep cats for surgery, administer treatments under the guidance of veterinarians, give fluids, assist with surgery and other vet tech related tasks. Our clinics depend on the generosity of the veterinary community in volunteering services. With your help we can reach out to feral cats who would not otherwise receive veterinary care. Volunteers may participate in one or many clinics. For more info., please contact Sharlene at: 508-303-3806 or sharlene@commonwealthcats.org



I would like to help Massachusetts neediest cats!

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$500 \$1000 \$ _____

All contributions are fully tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

You can also give a gift to Commonwealth Cats online at: www.commonwealthcats.org

I am interested in becoming a Commonwealth Cats volunteer

Please make checks payable to Commonwealth Cats, Inc. and mail to:
Commonwealth Cats, Inc. ■ P.O. Box 93 ■ Southborough, MA 01772

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT

Massachusetts Animal Friendly License Plates

Massachusetts now offers specialty license plates that help to prevent pet overpopulation by funding programs that provide services such as spaying and neutering to cats and dogs. To purchase go to: <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/express/plates.htm>

