



Miracles

The end of December at the Alliance is usually fairly quiet. Some lucky animals have found a home of their own for the holidays. The rest are settled comfortably in a now peaceful clinic. But December 2006 brought several emergency patients to us, each struggling to stay alive.

Nikki came first—a handsome orange and white male cat, only one year old. Two local hospitals turned him away for lack of money, and he was now in critical condition. His urethra was blocked. Countless young male cats die of this condition every year because their families cannot afford the \$1,000–\$2,000 bill at local hospitals. At the Alliance we work to save those who find their way to our door, usually worse off due to precious time spent elsewhere.

Nikki was in very bad shape. He was completely blocked. He was



catheterized and unblocked, but as sometimes happens he continued to block up despite medications and catheters. It looked like it might be too late for Nikki.

As the animals have proven to us so many times, the will to live is great. Nikki did not die. Instead, he made a miraculous turnaround. He began to eat, and even to purr. He spent the New Year with us and was able to go home later in January, a new cat, and a miracle for the New Year for us.

A few days after Nikki arrived, Gizmo's mom carried him into our clinic, bloody and unrecognizable. He had some kind of head wound and was unconscious. We stabilized him but we couldn't find out what was causing his problem because his head and face were so swollen. One eye was completely hidden and most of his scalp was missing. He was in shock and we feared he would not



make it through the night.

But Gizmo was alive the next morning, and although barely conscious he accepted syringe feeding, fluids, and medication. He stayed this way for more than two weeks. Every night we wondered if he would make it, and every morning he was still alive. Gradually he became more responsive and started to eat a little on his own. He continued to submit to multiple bandage changes, fluids, and medications daily with good humor. Weeks went by, and we celebrated our second New Year miracle as Gizmo fought for his life.

Even when he was finally able to stand up and walk, however, we still feared for his prognosis because of the massive damage to his skull, face, and eye. The prob-

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ALLIANCE FOR ANIMALS



"When we help animals, we help people."

Donna Bishop,
President

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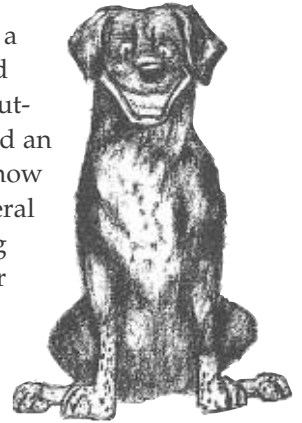


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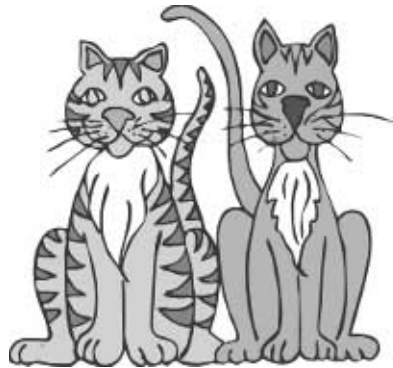
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full extent of the law.*

Dear Friends,

We can say it now: 2006 was a very hard year, a real test of our organization. We were challenged financially, and often the need for our services outstripped our resources. In early spring we formed an Advisory Committee and worked to determine how to solve our problems and build our future. Several new volunteers came to our assistance, including Susan Labandibar and John Harrington. A donor with a bequest in memory of her brother John O'Hara gave us a big boost when we needed it most, and all of you continued the support that means so much to us.



I have always felt that the Alliance has a guardian angel, who comes to us in our times of deepest need. I believe this is because the Alliance does what no one else does, and it continues to be unthinkable that there could ever be no Alliance taking care of the needy—human and animal. Our mission is at once basic and yet creative. We were the first to recognize and address the problems afflicting inner-city animals and their caretakers (such as our programs for feral cats and pitbulls); we were the first to expand affordable spay/neuter to affordable full-service veterinary care to help needy pet owners care for their animal companions. The people and animals we see every day remind us how much we are needed, and give us the incentive to keep going, no matter the hardships.



In 2007 we are experiencing new life. Beginning with our New Year Miracle animals, followed by a growing group of shelter and clinic volunteers, and finally our new arrangement for management assistance with Joseph Callanan, owner of Neponset Animal Hospital, we are definitely on the way to making this year, our twentieth year, the best yet. We owe it all to our alliance of friends and supporters, all of you who believe in us and our mission. With your continued support we will be able to launch our Capital Campaign for a new shelter and clinic, which we hope to begin by early 2008. We hope you will all be with us for this exciting new challenge.

Warmest regards,

Donna Bishop

Every Pitbull Belongs In A Yarn Shop



"Wacky Wanda" we called her, and wondered if she would ever find a home. Wanda was also called Wanda Wonderful for her delightful personality and amazing smile. As most of our dogs are, she was rescued from "death row" at the pound and she had too much energy for small spaces. She charmed all the staff, but months went by and nobody came for Wanda.

Then one extraordinary day an extraordinary woman named Lucy came in and fell in love with Wanda. She lived in Cambridge and did not have a car. I thought about our wacky girl riding buses and subways to get to her new home. Lucy owned a yarn shop, and I thought about Wanda presiding over that genteel place. It didn't seem possible. But Lucy and Wanda were in love and there was no discouraging them.

Now Wanda has her own blogs and the website she shares with Lucy. We see her gleefully digging up the yard, sitting sweetly in her newly knitted sweater, just being the happiest and luckiest dog ever. Lucy and Wanda are a regular sight around Cambridge as they run errands together, and Wanda is learning to be a model citizen with Lucy's guidance and faith. Thank you Lucy—we love you Wanda!

Check out the adventures of Wanda, a *very* lucky AfA adoptee, with her own blog, at www.fullserviceyarnshop.com. You can see her preparations for taking Wanda home, Wanda's first weeks at her new home, and regular updates on what Wanda and Lucy are up to.



Buttons Finds A Home

Buttons was found wandering a city street—blind, deaf, and malnourished, her long hair dirty and tangled. Animal control officers doubted they could ever find someone to take a disabled dog. They turned to the Alliance for Animals.



We discovered that Buttons is a very pretty Shih Tsu after getting her cleaned up. Although she was believed to be deaf and blind, our vet found that her eyesight could be saved with medical intervention, and that her hearing was not altogether lost either. She badly needed care for abscessed teeth and lots of nourishment, but she was healthy. She was absolutely delighted to have a "Day of Beauty" at the groomers and returned with a cute bow and a big smile. She enjoyed the companionship of staff and other dogs, and relished cuddling.

As the picture shows, Buttons (now Maddy) is living in the lap of luxury, loved by her new family, and even learning how to play. We are so happy to see Maddy going from street urchin to beloved family member. And to think no one wanted this dog!

The wedding all the animals loved!

When Joel Frenzer and Amber Duntley decided to get married, they also decided to do something different—celebrate their new life together by sharing with others. Instead of gifts for the shower, and later the wedding, they asked that donations be made to the Alliance for Animals. What a great and wonderful idea! We feel like all of us, especially the animals, are sharing in the festivities and the joy of Amber and Joel and their friends and families. We wish you a long and happy life together, and we thank you for your creative and loving gift to the animals.



Feinstein Challenge A Big Success!

Thanks to our many friends and supporters we are happy to report that the Feinstein Challenge, our annual appeal, was a great success, and raised more than \$25,000 for the Alliance. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Happy Endings



Molly and Pooh

Isn't it nice when stepsisters get along?

Merry Christmas
Dean Eaton, Molly and Pooh

Faith

I am attaching the latest images of Faith to show how big she has gotten since her Spring 2002 ALLY cover story. She is very vocal and loves to have you acknowledge her when you walk nearby—a little chin rub or a scratch behind the ear. After our move, she has been busy exploring the new sights and smells from the windows in each room. Our new apartment has lots of windows with wide sills to lounge on. We are very thankful to all of the shelter staff for rescuing and helping Faith and allowing us to make her a part of our family.

Sincerely,
Paris



Gino and Gia

Just wanted to submit a photo of my kitties (more like cats now!). Formerly Merlin and Jesse, they are now Gino and Gia!

Thanks!
Nicole Dallon

Gulliver

Gulliver wanted us to let you all know that he is very happy in his new home in Merrimac, with his new big sister Sarah and his new big brother Sam. Despite his visual impairment, Gulliver is very curious and spends much of his time exploring his surroundings, both inside and outside. Sometimes he seeks out secret places to hide his chew bones from Sarah and Sam, and has buried more than one of them under the end table in the corner of the dining room.

Sincerely,
Richard, Paul, Sarah, and Sam



Peaches

We adopted Peaches from you in September 2005. We found Lucky about a week later from a posting on the internet. They still like to sleep together. They make us laugh all the time.

Thanks,
Peggy



Jolie and Misha

When I adopted Jolie, a Maine Coon breed, from your shelter when it was in East Somerville, little did I know what an incredible companion she would be for over 14 years. She passed on in my arms on Friday, December 1 and my life will never be the same without her. *Thank you* for all you do to find homes for animals. Here's a photo of her and of Misha (formerly known as Mary from the Peter, Paul, and Mary litter), whom I also adopted from your shelter when it was in Arlington in October 1994. Misha is happy and healthy.

Wendy Mastandrea



Adopt Us!

DJ and Sam lost their home when their mom died. They were left alone for many weeks because no one in the family could take them, and no shelters would take them due to their age. DJ is 16 and Sam is 9. They are the nicest cats imaginable, and they are healthy. They get along well with other animals, and they are very friendly and affectionate. DJ entertains everyone with his great personality, while Sam watches in admiration. Maybe someone you know can help these wonderful cats? They deserve a chance.



Nina is a lovely dog, about 4 years old. She is very sweet, loving, and easygoing, but also very playful and exuberant. She wants desperately to go home with someone. She will be a wonderful family pet, puppy playmate, or best friend. Come visit Nina at 232 Silver Street in South Boston.

Tribute To Judy

You will probably recognize this picture. Judy's was the beautiful face looking out soulfully on our Feinstein Challenge appeal letter. Judy's story was another holiday miracle, but bittersweet.

I first met Judy after receiving a call about a dog needing emergency assistance. She had been left alone in her home after her mom fell and was taken to a nursing home. When she was found, she was extremely malnourished and dehydrated. It was also discovered that, incredibly, she had been kept inside, including for bathroom needs, all of her eleven years! She had never experienced the outdoors, other people, or anything whatsoever. The house was condemned and Judy needed somewhere to go. When no one else would take her, her rescuers called the Alliance.

We all expected a dog so unsocialized and fearful to require very special foster care. Judy had her own policies however, and she clearly had decided that she wanted to experience everything, and as soon as possible. After initial hesitation she did walk out the door of her home. After even more hesitation she got into a car. By the time she got to me she was like a happy puppy, wagging her tail with utter delight, bouncing around and wanting to kiss everyone. On her first day she spent the whole afternoon in my back yard sniffing grass and checking out every single thing in the yard. She had never seen a cat, yet she did not bark or chase. Instead, she tried to cuddle with the cats and lick them. She did the same with the dogs. She seemed to just want to hug and kiss everyone she saw. She accepted her new freedom as a gift.

Judy was emaciated and anemic. She also had obvious tumors on her chest. We did a full diagnostic work-up, which showed that Judy had mammary cancer. Further tests showed the cancer had spread, and that she also had bladder cancer. We knew she might not have the several years we had hoped to be able to give her. The best we could possibly do was to assure top quality of life for all the time she did have. To us Judy was a miracle—that she was alive at all, that she had the strong spirit and beautiful soul that allowed her the inner peace she showed.

Our next miracle was Holly Rogers, who responded to our ad for hospice care for Judy. She had previously taken

care of cancer patients, and was prepared to take Judy. She said she just happened to look at our site on Petfinder, and Judy's face and story touched her.

Judy went to live on Cape Cod, with other animals and all the love and care anyone could possibly have. She got to see the ocean, and enjoyed countless other experiences. She was happy and comfortable until the very end. It came much too soon. She never got to experience summer, and none of us got to hold on to her for as long as we needed to. But Holly made sure all her days were good, and she never suffered.

It is very hard to express what everyone who met her saw in her eyes, but she was a very special dog, who breathed for eleven years but only really lived for a few months. She had so much more grace than I could have. I was angry that she had cancer—if she had only been spayed, she would not have gotten it. It was impossible to accept that this abused animal, imprisoned for eleven years, could not at least have a few years to be a dog. When the time turned out to be even less than we thought it would be, we were devastated.

Judy lived and died with grace, intelligence, kindness, and courage. She could have been fearful and withdrawn, but instead she met everything and everyone with absolute joy. She gave that joy to everyone. We will cherish and remember Judy always.



HAVE YOU RENEWED?

If you've forgotten to renew your AfA membership in the past year or more, we'll regretfully have to remove your name from our membership list in the very near future. So, if you want to keep receiving ALLY, please fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and send it in to us with your membership dues. We can't help the animals without help from you!

🌿 *In Memory and In Honor* 🌿

In memory of Bob, my friend's cat. From Patricia Warsaw.

In memory of Patty Portwine. From Denice Chandler.

In memory of tiny Chewy. From Donna.

In memory of Bo Mei, beloved Shar Pei of Sharon Soong and Ned Lyon. From Kim Smith.

In memory of "Good Boy," who spent a wonderful life in Amherst, New Hampshire, and in tribute to Pauline, who rescued and cared for him. From Marion Sickles.

In memory of Patty Portwine. From Ginger Burr.

In loving memory of Pepsi, a most special spirit who brought me many years of cherished memories, challenges, laughter, and happiness. From Donna Bishop.

In loving memory of Casey and Whiskey. From Bill and Carol Dawe.

For Irving Singer in memory of Laptop, a beloved cat. From AfA staff.



In loving memory of Dorey, a wonderful neighborhood dog with a fantastic owner! From Ryan Kelley.

For Melissa in memory of dear little Chewy. From Donna.

For Ebby and Kristie. From AfA staff.

In memory of Casey and Whiskey, so lovingly cared for by Bill and Carol Dawe. From AfA staff.

In memory of Judy, a magnificent spirit and a beautiful soul. From Donna



In memory of precious Betsy who had too little time. From Donna.

In memory of Pepsi. What a great cat! From Bill Schwartz.

For Sammy (formerly Wesley), who still keeps us hopping and gives us lots of laughs. We love him very much. From Kathleen Downing.

In honor of the birthdays of our nieces and nephews: Lauren, Hillary, Benjamin, Christopher, and Mark. From Millie Rahn and Bill Stokinger.

For Cosmo—thank you for rescuing him all those years ago. From Helen Andrews.



For Tess and Easter. From Lisa LaPierre and Glen Leiner.

Thank you to Amber, Linda Given & Joie de Vivre, Darilyn Arancio, Sadie & the DiStefano family, Christine Norton, Bill Trabucco, the McNeil sisters, and all the other wonderful people who donate the supplies that keep our clinic and shelter going. You are more important than you know!

For Hazel. She was adopted from AfA. She moved to Sherwood in 1999 and remains a happy Oregonian! From Janet Harrington.

Thanks for my wonderful cat! From Marta Coppola.

To AfA, thank you for your kindness. From Margaret Marcus.

In honor of Amber Duntley and Joel Frenzer and their upcoming wedding. From many friends, including Norah Solorzano, Shana Scollo, Lauren Harman, Jennifer Fidler, Eric Hoffman (and more, see upcoming newsletter)

Happy Birthday to Maria Imperato, who adopted two cats from AfA.

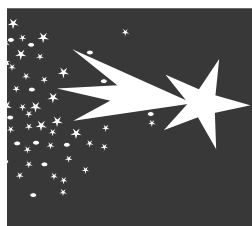
Miracles

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lem had apparently been caused by an inner-ear abscess gone undetected. He wore a bandana to cover the bandages which covered his skull with its missing scalp. We could only wait, and hope, and tend to our brave little Gizmo.

Gizmo's family came to see him every day. They brought

deli treats and lots of love. Gradually he became stronger and was even able to go out for walks. One of our vets performed reconstructive surgery to begin the formation of a new scalp, and to repair eye tissue. The surgery went well, and eventually Gizmo was able to go home after more than two months of care and treatment. Now, after several more reconstructive surgeries Gizmo finally has a new scalp and hope for limited vision in his eye. When we first met Gizmo we couldn't even tell what kind of dog he was, and now he is the handsomest Llasa in town! We will always remember our little miracle boy, Gizmo.



BECOME A GUARDIAN ANGEL

Let your love and compassion for the animals live on after your lifetime with a bequest to the Alliance for Animals. For more information please call Donna Bishop at 617-268-7800.

We salute the following individuals whose foresight and generosity enable us to continue our important work on behalf of the animals: Janet Roy, James J. Burton, Anna Twomey, Mary Barbone, Hilda Levean, Rita Wolfson, Evelyn Amdorsky, John O'Hara, and Shirley Kaddy.



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Accept my Sustainer pledge for \$ _____ per month.

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Our Wish List

☎ Volunteers needed! Varied opportunities.

Clinic Needs

Distilled water
 Rubbing alcohol
 Paper towels
 Trash bags
 Laundry detergent
 Bleach (not Ultra)
 Antibacterial liquid soap
 First-class stamps
 File folders
 Copy paper
 Post-it notes
 Pens and markers
 Scotch tape
 Calculators

Shelter Needs

Pretty towels
 Cat and dog toys
 Chew toys
 Collars and leashes – all sizes
 Large ceramic water bowls
 Radios

Equipment Needed

Dustbusters
 Radios (the cats listen to classical radio 24/7 and always need new radios!)
 Office chair, reception area chairs