

Animal Tales

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010

Getting Choo-Choo Back on Track

Choo-Choo, a long-haired Chihuahua mix, found himself all alone in the middle of winter, homeless, cold, and desperately hungry when he was picked up by a local Animal Control Officer. Under state law, strays like Choo-Choo have to be held in a holding facility for 10 days to see if their owner might be located.

Several days passed and no one came forward to claim poor Choo-Choo.

But his luck was about to change.

You see, at NEAS we work with several Animal Control Officers to evaluate unclaimed animals and make every attempt to find good homes for them. An NEAS staff member, Marianna, was making one of her regular visits to a holding facility when she spotted Choo-Choo's sweet little face. She sensed that he would thrive in a loving home.

At first we were all sure he would be quickly adopted, but we were in for a rude awakening. Choo-Choo turned out to be a handful! "He was sweet and charming to me," Marianna recalls, "but he was snippy to everyone else. He would even bark and growl at visitors and volunteers."

Choo-Choo was going to be a challenge, but we were up for it. As one of the largest no-kill shelters in New England, we do everything possible to make sure animals like Choo-Choo have a second chance.



The first step was to work on Choo-Choo's social life. Dogs who are at the Shelter for more than two weeks get paired with a member of our dog team. These staff members work one-on-one with our rescued dogs who may still be having some behavioral issues. Our goal is to get to know them better so we can place them with just the right adoptive family.

Gradually Choo-Choo showed improvement and began to come out of his shell. We found that he loved to run around and play ball with a familiar person but he still was not quite ready to be adopted.

After further evaluation we decided Choo-Choo would benefit from extra attention away from so many new faces at the Shelter. Marianna then arranged for him to stay at the home of one of our

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These electricians were in for a shocking surprise!



You may have heard of “The Dog Days of Summer,” but do you know when it’s “Kitten Season”? Two local electricians can tell you. While working in an empty building in downtown Salem, Carlos and Jeremy went searching in the basement for an electrical panel, and that’s when they made an unexpected discovery – three newborn kittens nestled on old rags in a dark corner!

Carlos and Jeremy were surprised, but when they showed up at our Shelter with the kittens in an empty electrical supply box, we told them it was a “routine delivery.”

Mother Nature seems to know that kittens stand little chance of survival in cold weather, but when spring and summer arrive animal shelters across the nation are flooded with homeless litters. That’s because unspayed cats go into heat in warm weather, and unneutered male cats come running from near and far. And, as Carlos and Jeremy found out, sometimes the birthplaces are unexpected.

Our Shelter staff examined the trio of tiny kittens – with their eyes still closed – and determined they

were less than two weeks old! The three furry brothers were still too young for adoption, and they would need extra care for a while.

With 63 cats and kittens in our foster care network already, we didn’t immediately have a foster home that we could call on. So, one of our devoted staff members, Laurie, took the kittens home with her and mothered them for seven weeks.

The kittens thrived in her care, and when she brought them back to the Shelter, they were bigger, stronger, and raring to go. We had them vaccinated and tested to be sure they were ready to be placed with forever families.

Returning the kittens to the Shelter was bittersweet for Laurie because for seven weeks she had been their mother and savior, but when Laurie came in the following day and learned that all three kittens had been adopted – in less than 24 hours – she was delighted.

We live for happy endings like this one. And we’re grateful for everyone who helps make them happen!

Choo-Choo *(continued from page 1)*

veteran foster care volunteers.

After two months, Choo-Choo’s disposition was completely transformed! Back at the Shelter he was friendly and at ease with everyone. All Choo-Choo needed was some steady love and attention. Now he *really* was ready for adoption, and that day wasn’t far away.

Kay was looking for a dog who would not only be a good pet for herself, but would also be a companion for her two elderly parents. She thought Choo-Choo might be perfect, but she wasn’t completely sure. Marianna told her

to take him home for a week and if it didn’t work, she could bring him back. Choo-Choo seemed to like this idea too. He eagerly jumped right into Kay’s car!

A few days later when Marianna called Kay to see how everything was going, Kay gushed, “Oh! I’m so in love!” And Kay wasn’t the only one. Her parents were in love with Choo-Choo, too. Her dad wasn’t verbal anymore, but his whole face lit up when Choo-Choo was around. “This one little dog has brought my whole family a wealth of joy,” Kay said, “and Choo-Choo seems pretty happy too!”

A Joyful Reunion!



Randy was an exceptionally smart and obedient cat. That's why during a vacation last summer, Paula felt perfectly comfortable letting him meander about in their friends' backyard.

But then the unthinkable happened: Randy disappeared. Family and friends frantically searched everywhere, but with no luck. At summer's end, Paula's family sadly headed back home heartbroken about their loss.

Meanwhile, several miles away, Miriam began noticing a cat hanging around her yard. She assumed it was a feral cat (a cat living in the wild), so she kept her distance. But as months passed she saw how tame he was and wondered if he might actually have had a home.

With winter bearing down, Miriam brought Randy to our Shelter. As part of our standard intake, we scanned him for a microchip. These tiny computer chips are implanted between a dog's or cat's shoulder blades and contain a code identifying the pet's owner.

As luck would have it, the cat Miriam rescued had a microchip that led us directly back to Paula. On the phone, a Shelter staff member excitedly announced "I have some great news for you! Your cat, Randy, is here at Northeast Animal Shelter, safe and sound." Paula instantly broke into tears of joy, and our Shelter employee shed a few tears of her own, too.

While much of the work we do at Northeast Animal Shelter involves finding families for homeless animals, once in a while we are able to return lost pets to their original loving homes. Playing a role in these joyful reunions is an immensely rewarding experience for everyone involved.

What's the Scoop: Pet Microchipping

Each year, more than 10 million pets are lost, injured or stolen and more than half are not wearing collars or ID tags by the time they reach a shelter or veterinarian.


Microchip technology is one solution to the problem of lost and abandoned pets. By providing animals with a permanent method of identification, microchipping helps ensure a happy reunion for pet owners and their beloved pets.

Once the microchip is implanted, it is for the life of the pet without needing replacement. The chip can't be lost or damaged.

Each chip has a unique code that, when read by a scanner, enables animal shelters to locate the owners of lost pets. Every animal that arrives at NEAS is scanned for a microchip. We recently started to implant microchips in dogs who are adopted from our Shelter. We hope that this will help to create even more happy reunions.



Things We Need

-  Canned dog food (Nutro®, Science Diet®) 
-  Canned cat food (Friskies®, Fancy Feast®) 
-  Towels (paper and cloth) 
-  Gift cards to Petco® and PetSmart® 
-  Stamps 
-  Dog and cat toys 

For a complete list, visit our website at www.northeastanimalshelter.org/supplies

Learn More!

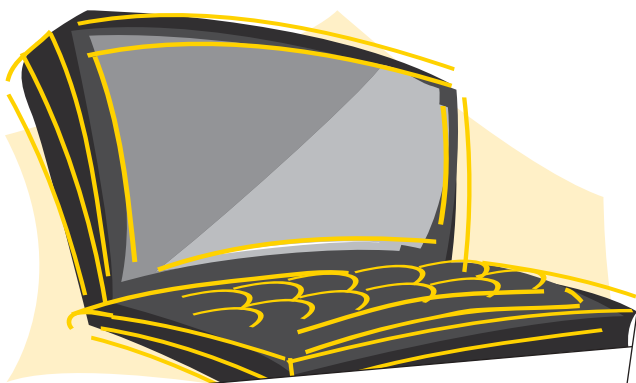
Go online for more information about our shelter, adoptions, and special events happening at Northeast Animal Shelter. Our website is <http://www.northeastanimalshelter.org>

Summer Pet Tips

Here are some tips every pet owner should know about summer care for their cat or dog.

- NEVER leave your pet in the car. Even though there can be a breeze outside, the temperature in the car can rapidly rise while you are away, making it dangerous for your pet to stay there.
- Check your pet's water dish several times a day during the summer months. Just like you, your pet will need plenty of hydration to stay healthy in the heat.
- If you are transporting an animal, always bring enough water, so that he/she does not attempt to drink from contaminated puddles outside.

Email Inbox



To: Northeast Animal Shelter
Subject: Roxy

Roxy is the friendliest dog I've ever known. She cuddles right up to me & just wags her tail with so much happiness. She plays all the time with our 10 year old dog Midnight. They are quite the pair & it is such a joy to watch these two dogs care for each other.

If I were to adopt another animal, I would definitely go back to Northeast Animal Shelter. I felt everyone there was so good to us. The staff made every effort to make sure that Roxy would be a good match for our family. I am very glad we went to NEAS to adopt this wonderful dog.

Donna B., Billerica, MA

To: Northeast Animal Shelter
Subject: Socks

Socks has been such a joy since the very first day. She is playful and loves to be in the basement playroom with our girls and their friends. She is also very cuddly and purrs a lot.

We all feel like Socks was the best thing that happened to our family this year.

Thanks for making the adoption process such a pleasant experience.

The Ronn Family, Revere, MA



To: Northeast Animal Shelter
Subject: Bella

I just wanted to share a couple pictures of my most recent adoption of Ariel who has a new name now "Bella". The pictures attached are of my pets, "Lucy and Bella" who were both adopted from Northeast Animal Shelter. I love them both very much and I wanted to say – Thank you!

My family is now complete!

Jen T., Lynn, MA

