



Honor Animals with a Beautiful Necklace

Amelia Rose Design has teamed up with MSPCA—Angell to create a beautiful paw-print pendant to help raise money for the kindness and care of animals. It's available in sterling silver or gold vermeil for a contribution of \$60 (all but \$15 is tax deductible). A wonderful gift for animal lovers!

To place an order, please contact Sandra Wong at 617 541-5046 or swang@mspca.org, or visit mspca.org/necklace.



Can You See into the Future?

You don't need a crystal ball to know that animals will always need our help. We've been helping them, with the support of friends like you, since 1868.

Please, as you make your estate plans, consider a bequest to the MSPCA—Angell as a fitting continuation of your lifelong love for animals. And when you do, please let us know! We'd like to invite you into our Circle of Friends and acknowledge your thoughtful concern for the future of our organization. By providing for the animals in your own future plans, you become an essential member of our Society.

For more information, contact Kathleen Santry, Manager, MSPCA Giving Circles, at 617 541-5075 or via e-mail at ksantry@mspca.org.



Our Monthly Donors Are ANGELLS OF KINDNESS!

OVER 65,000 ANIMALS A YEAR RELY ON US...and we rely on our monthly donors. Monthly donations allow us to be ready whenever animals need us. Once you sign up, your contributions will *automatically* begin to help animals in need. Please visit mspca.org/AOK or call 617 541-5081 to become an Angell of Kindness!



Scan here to give monthly!



71 Dachshunds Find Happy Homes While Former Owners Face Charges

Angell Ophthalmologist Saves Kitten's Sight

Nevins Alerts Prospective Adopters to "Pig Preparedness"



You'll Definitely Want to Save These Dates!

We know you're busy, so we want to make sure you get these very important MSPCA-Angell dates on your calendars way in advance. We look forward to having you join us!

In Boston...

May 1–June 15
The Big Snooze
See page 8

May 10
Mother's Day Flower and Plant Sale
Boston Adoption Center

September 26
Walk for Animals
Boston Common.
Online registration at walkforanimals.com

October 28
MSPCA Annual Gala
The Cyclorama
(Boston Center for the Arts)

Call 617 541-5046 for more information about Boston events or visit our website: mspca.org/about-us/calendar-of-events.html

And at Nevins Farm...

May 1–June 15
The Big Snooze
See page 8

May 1
"Hair of the Dog"
Wine Tasting & Art Show

June 7
"Horses Helping Horses"
Trail Ride

July 25
"Tails and Ales"
Craft Beer Tasting

September TBD
Blackdog Builders
"Paws for the Cause"
Golf Tournament

September 13
Pet Memorial Sunday
Hillside Acre Animal
Cemetery

September 26
Walk for Animals
Methuen. Online registration at walkforanimals.com

October 17
"Horses Helping Horses"
Beach Ride

Call 978 687-7453 for more information about Nevins events or visit our website: mspca.org/about-us/calendar-of-events.html

And at the Cape...

May 1–June 15
The Big Snooze
See page 8

June 19
14th Annual "Furry
Affair" Auction
Willowbend Country Club,
Mashpee

September 26
Walk for Animals
Hyannis. Online registration at walkforanimals.com

October TBD
Estate Sale to benefit
MSPCA Cape Cod
Osterville

Call 508 775-0940 for more information about Centerville events or visit our website: mspca.org/about-us/calendar-of-events.html

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Did You Know...

...that the MSPCA-Angell is a stand-alone, private, nonprofit organization? We are not operated by or funded by any national humane organization. Donations you make to "national" humane organizations do not funnel down to the animals we serve in Massachusetts. The MSPCA-Angell relies solely on the support of people like you who care deeply about animals.

About Companion

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Companion is published by the MSPCA-Angell, a nonprofit organization founded in 1868 by George Thorndike Angell. The MSPCA-Angell is an independent organization, not part of any national humane organization. We do not receive any government funding and we depend on donations from friends like you to carry out our mission to protect animals, relieve their suffering, advance their health and welfare, prevent cruelty, and work for a just and compassionate society.

Companion is sent to MSPCA-Angell donors who contribute \$25 or more annually. To ensure that you receive the next issue, please use the enclosed gift envelope or visit mspca.org/companion. Thank you so much for making this a better world for animals!

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Let us hear from you! If you have questions or comments about *Companion*, please e-mail companioneditor@mspca.org or write to MSPCA-Angell Companion, Managing Editor, 350 S. Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

Cover Photo: Tophex Cox

FEATURE STORY

Adoption Centers Adapt to Sudden Flood of Dogs

MSPCA-Angell Rescues 71 Dachshunds from Westminster Home

Cruelty Charges Filed Against Former Owners

In early January, without very much warning, our adoption centers in Boston and Methuen suddenly overflowed with short-legged dogs of all sizes, genders, ages, coats, and colors. Seventy-one Dachshunds had been voluntarily surrendered from a commercial breeding operation in Westminster.

Many of the dogs were underweight, matted, and coated in urine and feces. Conditions inside the home were described as extremely dirty, and some of the dogs had been housed in cages outside, with little protection from the harsh winter weather. All of them were given medical exams, behavior evaluations, and lots of affection at our adoption centers, where they became favorites of staff and volunteers.

Our MSPCA Law Enforcement department opened an investigation immediately, and after a few weeks, announced it was filing 14 counts of animal cruelty against the Dachshunds' former owners for subjecting the animals in their care to unnecessary suffering and for failing to provide a sanitary environment. Animal cruelty is a felony in Massachusetts.

Most of the adorable little dogs needed dental care, and some had other minor health issues, but for the most part, in spite of their traumatic experiences, the Dachshunds adapted beautifully to their new lives. Scores of eager Dachshund lovers applied to adopt them, and when the dogs were ready, our adoption counselors chose the best match for each dog and family. ■



All of them were given medical exams, behavior evaluations, and lots of affection at our adoption centers, where they became favorites of staff and volunteers.

ANGELL STORY

Innovative Ophthalmology Procedure at Angell

Homeless Kitten Born Without Eyelids Gets Sight-Saving Surgery



Top: Phil (right) before his surgery, with his feline bestie, Vixen.

Right: Young Phil, feeling much better after his surgery.



Kitten and Best Friend Adopted Together

Phil, a playful kitten, was born without upper eyelids, a condition known as “agenesis.” This unusual birth defect causes painful irritation that could lead to ulceration and blindness. Thanks to a procedure invented by Angell surgeon Dr. Mike Pavletic and performed by Angell ophthalmologist Dr. Martin Coster, Phil has brand new eyelids, a brand new home, and is living life to the fullest!

MSPCA Adoption Center manager Alyssa Krieger discovered Phil — and his feline friend Vixen — at a shelter in Roslindale last November. Krieger noticed that although Phil was in pain, he still acted like a typical, playful kitten. She agreed to take the pair back to the MSPCA, and then booked a consultation with Dr. Coster.

Dr. Coster performed the innovative surgical procedure by removing tissue from Phil’s lip and attaching it to the muscles that enable him to blink, thereby reconstructing his missing eyelids.

“I expect Phil to recover completely and have a long and healthy life, with the discomfort of his condition finally resolved,” said Dr. Coster. One month later, Phil — and Vixen — were adopted by the same person! ■

Angell in Boston and MSPCA–Angell West in Waltham provide 24x7 emergency and critical care along with a host of other specialty services. For more information, please visit www.angell.org or call 617 522-7282.

We’d Be Helpless **WITHOUT YOUR HELP**

Progressive Programs Succeed at MSPCA

Targeted Spay/Neuter Efforts Lead to Decline in Cat Intake

Cats of Every Description Find Loving Homes

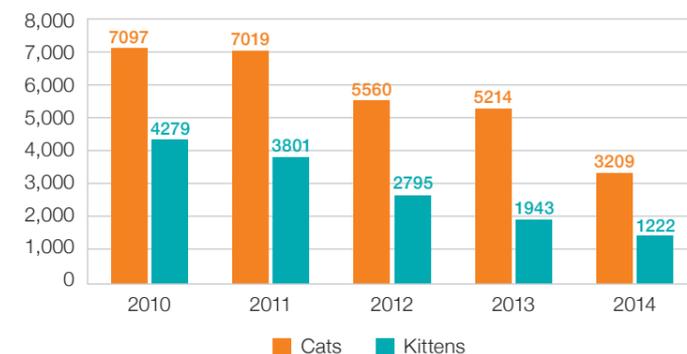
Animal shelters across the country have told the same story for a long time: cats, cats, cats, and more cats. At our three adoption centers we were facing a constant barrage of felines, especially in the summertime. We are now delighted to report that through the implementation of progressive, innovative programs, the tide has finally turned and we are seeing a significant decline in the number of kittens and adult cats coming into our shelters.

As the number of cats coming into our adoption centers declines, we are able to devote more resources to the individual cats coming in to our care.

How did we do it? Through our targeted, low-cost spay/neuter efforts. Starting in 2011, we received several grants that enabled us to offer free or \$10 spay/neuter surgeries in the towns and ZIP codes that historically have provided our shelters

with the highest number of cats. Targeting these high-need areas addresses the feline population most at risk of homelessness. And as the number of cats coming into our adoption centers declines, we are able to devote more resources to the individual cats coming in to our care. On our adoption floors you will now find 15-year-old cats, cats with feline leukemia, shy cats, feisty cats, cats that recovered from ringworm, cats that received dental surgery...just about every kind of cat there is. And the best news? They are all getting adopted into wonderful new homes! ■

Cat & Kitten Intake (2010–2014)



Nothing Will Stop Handsome Simba

Cat with Neurological Condition Finds Loving Home

Adopter Seeks Out Special-Needs Cat



Meet Simba. This young, outgoing, affectionate boy is just like any other cat in most ways. One thing makes him different. He has a condition called cerebellar hypoplasia (CH), a nonprogressive, noncontagious neurological condition that results in walking and balance problems. Unless a CH cat has other health issues, his life expectancy is the same as a cat’s without CH. Many times, owners of these cats will tell you that their cat’s fabulous personality more than makes up for his lack of coordination. The cats don’t seem to care that they are differently abled, and have just as much fun in life as other cats.

Simba’s adopter, pictured with him above, has a soft spot for special-needs cats and had been searching for one with cerebellar hypoplasia for over a month. Once she learned about Simba, she immediately reached out to us and drove an hour and a half to adopt him. We just love seeing Simba in the arms of his new, loving mom! ■

NEVINS FARM

Influx of Pigs at Nevins Farm

These Hundred-Pounders Won't Fit in a Teacup

29 Piggies Now Call Nevins Home

Crossword-puzzle enthusiasts might know that a group of pigs could be called a drift, drove, passel, or sounder, but we're not sure there's a word for the recent influx of pigs at Nevins Farm — except maybe “astonishing.”

In past years, Nevins has been home-sweet-home to between two and eight pigs, but in 2014, farm staff members found themselves caring for 29 of these charming but sometimes challenging animals. Swine come in from all over New England.

Reasons for surrender are typically size (pigs growing larger than anticipated) and behavior (pigs exhibiting destructive behavior). Many people give up their pigs because they thought they were getting a “teacup, mini, or micro” pig that would end up weighing less than 20 pounds. Living with an animal that could tip the scales between 150 and 800 pounds is more than many people can handle. And because it's so difficult to place the larger pigs, some might stay at Nevins for years.

This influx of pigs has had a significant impact on Nevins. The pig barn, meant for up to six pigs, now has to house up to 12. Pigs are creatively housed in the horse stalls, tack room, and even dog runs. Adoption counselors highlight the need for good “pig preparedness,” and dog-training volunteers assist with any behavior-challenged pigs, using clicker training to reward good behavior.

If you like smart, funny, endearing animals (who doesn't?) and your property fits the appropriate “piggie profile,” be sure to visit some of the fine swine at Nevins — you might just end up taking one home! ■



Living with an animal that could tip the scales between 150 and 800 pounds is more than many people can handle.

Cats Rescued from Brutal January Weather

Overwhelmed Breeder Surrenders 18 Animals

Kitties Convalesce in Law Enforcement Offices



During the last week in January, Officer Christine Allenberg and Law Enforcement's newest animal-welfare agent, Erica White, with the help of the Boston Animal Care and Adoption Center staff, arranged for the surrender of 17 cats and one dog from an overwhelmed breeder in Franklin County.

The cats were grossly underweight, suffering from numerous ailments, and living in outdoor cages lacking adequate protection from this brutal winter. Fifteen of the cats were made available for adoption shortly after receiving veterinary care and some TLC.

The two remaining cats, Edie and Cher, were the sickest. They have been convalescing in the offices at Law Enforcement headquarters and have made excellent progress. With regular food and medications, both cats have gained several pounds and have recovered from respiratory and digestive ailments. Edie has back pain from a partial tail amputation. Both will soon be able to be transferred to long-term foster care, and after that will be adopted out into new — and warmer — homes. ■

The MSPCA Law Enforcement Department encourages individuals to contact them to request an investigation of animal abuse. To report suspected animal cruelty, please call 617 522-6008 or 800 628-5808. All calls are confidential. In the event of an emergency after hours, call your local city/town police department.

YOU CAN HELP US Prevent Cruelty

You Can Help Stop Illegal Ivory and Rhino Horn Trade

Advocacy Department Legislative Update

Visit mspca.org/jointheteam to Help!

Elephants around the world are poached at an alarming rate, with an average of 96 elephants killed each day. Black rhinos have experienced a 96% population decline since 1970. The U.S. ivory market is the second largest in the world, and Boston/Cambridge has been ranked as the seventh-largest U.S. market, contributing to the global poaching crisis driving these declines.



To address this plight, “An Act to Prevent Trafficking in Ivory and Rhino Horns” was filed in the Massachusetts legislature by Senator Jason Lewis and Representative Lori Ehrlich. The act would clamp down on illegal activity by prohibiting the sale and trade of all ivory and rhino horns. Many believe that such sales are already regulated at the federal level.

However, loopholes that allow people to sell antique ivory make it common for wildlife traffickers to “age” newly harvested ivory and smuggle the items into the country. This bill (SD 648/HB1935) will help close those loopholes, and will also clarify for enforcement agencies whether an item or action is legal.

By banning trade and sale of ivory in the Commonwealth, we can prevent the extinctions of these majestic animals within our lifetimes and remove the Commonwealth from the global poaching crisis entirely.

Visit www.mspca.org/ivory to learn more and find out how to contact your legislators. ■

PUBLIC RELATIONS CORNER

Revisiting the Animals from Ludlow

A Public Relations Update



If you read our last issue of Companion, you'll recall the story of the 35 emaciated and freezing farm animals our Law Enforcement team seized from an unlicensed "petting zoo" in Ludlow one year ago. The animals — an assembly of alpacas, donkeys, pigs, goats, ducks, sheep, and one emu — were in appalling condition when our investigators first arrived.

Their story dominated the airwaves for nearly a week, with every major print, online, and network TV newscast covering each step the animals made toward recovery.

homes shortly after we rescued them, with alpacas Lenny and Sheldon (as well as Emmett the emu) thriving on new farms, with loving families. As of this writing we're interacting with several journalists who are interested in follow-up stories. We love bringing forward these happy endings and we ask you to stay tuned to the news for updates on Lenny, Sheldon, and Emmett! ■

Their story dominated the airwaves for nearly a week, with every major print, online, and network TV newscast covering each step the animals made toward recovery. This past February, on the one-year anniversary of their rescue, we revisited the story and were delighted to announce that all of the animals found new

THE ARCHIVES CORNER



Angell's Millionth Patient

Dachshunds are our cover story for this issue of Companion, and we were delighted to discover another Dachshund story that illustrated a real milestone for Angell Animal Medical Center. In March 1948, veterinarians at Angell treated the hospital's millionth patient since its founding in 1915. This celebrated patient, a Dachshund named Bonnie, was treated to a two-page photo spread in the June 1948 issue of *Our Dumb Animals*, showing Bonnie and her owner, Mrs. James R. Denning, keeping an appointment to have Bonnie's minor skin condition checked. Bonnie's veterinarian was Dr. Erwin F. Schroeder, pictured here with Bonnie, Mrs. Denning, and nurse Dorothy Broderick. Bonnie's condition had been diagnosed through tests performed at the laboratory at Angell, and, after several weeks of treatment, Dr. Schroeder pronounced his patient to be in excellent health.

We don't have exact figures yet, but our projection is that Angell will probably welcome its four-millionth patient in 2015, also the year of Angell's 100th birthday! ■

Update on Important Event Changes!



Heads up! We've made an important change to our Events schedule for 2015. Our Spring Gala and Animal Hall of Fame Dinner have been combined into an exciting, **new fall fundraising event**, which will be held Wednesday, October 28, at the Cyclorama (Boston Center for the Arts). Please mark your calendars!

Watch our e-newsletters and the mail for more information, or contact Allie Feiner at afeiner@mspca.org or 617 541-5043.



Is that old car driving you crazy?

You can turn your old car, truck, or boat into a meaningful contribution to help animals! It's very easy and you'll get a tax deduction, too. Car donation is a great way to support the MSPCA-Angell. Read our FAQ and fill out our form at mspca.org/carsforkindness and we'll take care of the rest. For more information, call 800 237-5714 or e-mail donation@carprogram.com.

Act NOW, Before Your Cat Wakes Up!

The Big Snooze

Shhhhhh...It's nap time!

Have you always longed for a way your cat could be part of a big fundraising effort to help all the animals at the MSPCA? This is it! **The Big Snooze** is a totally online event for you and your cat — one that builds on your cat's innate but uncelebrated talent for...sleeping! Cats can sleep as long as 18 hours a day, and just by taking advantage of that fact, you and your cat can doze your way to becoming fundraising champions.



Just put together a fun, personalized fundraising Snooze Page (complete with your pictures) and then contact all your friends, family, and Facebook pals to help you meet your goal. The cats and their

human companions who sleep the longest (raise the most money, that is!) will win some fabulous prizes. And whether your cat naps win a prize or not, we'll be thanking you over and over for all the help you bring to the animals at the MSPCA.

Every dollar raised helps to support injured, abused, and homeless animals in Massachusetts.

This event is completely online! No transportation or parking problems, no worries about the weather, no need to volunteer...no need to even get out of bed! You and your cat can do all of your fundraising work from the comfort of your computer, your tablet, or even your phone.

Sponsorships: We are also seeking sponsorships for this event. If you are interested, please contact Allie Feiner at afeiner@mspca.org or 617 541-5043. ■



There's No Time to Waste

The Big Snooze runs until June 15.
Sign up here: mspca.org/bigsnooze



Nowzad: Helping Animals in Afghanistan

The MSPCA-Angell has a long history of helping animals around the world. Recently, we learned about an organization called Nowzad in Kabul, Afghanistan. Nowzad was founded in 2007 with these important goals: humanely reduce the stray dog population and rabies, provide animal-welfare education for the Afghan people, and develop training programs to improve the lives of working animals. In addition, Nowzad has reunited more than 650 soldiers, who were serving in Afghanistan and are now back in their home countries, with the dogs or cats they rescued from the front lines. The MSPCA-Angell has a number of donors whose primary interest is animal health and welfare outside of the United States, and we are pleased to use some of their restricted gifts to support this worthy organization. For more information, see www.nowzad.com. ■

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



ANN AND JERRY COHEN

Ann and Jerry Cohen have been annual donors since 1988, and monthly donors since 2001. The Cohens have two dogs now: Lucy, held by Jerry in the photo, a rescued Sato from Puerto Rico; and Samantha, held by Ann. Last July, the Cohens lost their dear Sweetpea, and when Ann found out about the 71 Dachshunds surrendered to us in January, she wrote a moving letter to all three of our adoption centers, hoping to be on the list to adopt one of the dogs. Ann and Jerry were eager to adopt, but Ann wrote, "Please take all the time necessary to give the care, attention, and affection those poor little rescues need and deserve. They have much healing to do — and I only have to wait." Samantha, we've learned, spent this past harsh winter snuggled up next to the Cohens' stove, no doubt happier than she's ever been before. ■



KAREN AND JOHN SEWALL

Karen and John Sewall have been giving annually to Nevins Farm for 30 years, and they have a unique and thoughtful way of targeting their donations. Each time one of their friends adopts a pet, they make a donation in honor of that new pet, and when a pet passes away, they make a memorial gift. Karen says, "We know well the pain when a beloved member of our animal family passes and the joy we feel when a new member joins us." The Sewalls began their relationship with Nevins years ago, when they were newlyweds. Through the years, they have continued to sing the praises of Nevins to all their friends, encouraging them to remember the animals generously in whatever ways they can. Karen and John have always shared their home with multiple pets, including Louie-Louie, the cat they adopted from Nevins most recently. ■



PAMELA CHATIS

Pam Chatis works part-time by choice in order to have time to do the things that are close to her heart, and has really found her niche at our Boston Adoption Center, helping the small "furries," especially bunnies. Always thinking up new ways to help the animals, she gives not only her time but also her financial support as a current Leaders Circle member, member of our Circle of Friends, and sponsor of multiple cages in the adoption center. You will frequently find Pam attending our forums and events. She says, "Volunteering at the shelter and getting to know and work with the staff has been a great privilege. Socializing the bunnies and fostering a litter of baby bunnies have brought great joy into my life. Rabbits are amazing creatures and when one finds a forever home, I shed a tear of happiness." ■