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The Cat Connection Annual Report 2015

Mission

The Cat Connection is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit no-kill organization whose primary mission is to rescue abandoned, stray, abused, neglected, unwanted, and injured cats, and to facilitate their adoption into responsible permanent homes. The second part of our mission is to control the feral cat population through our Trap-Neuter-Return-Maintain (TNRM) program, and trapping and socialization of feral kittens. To reduce cat abandonment, surrender, and unwanted breeding by pets, we support low income families through spay/neuter vouchers, financial assistance for acute vet care, food and supplies. We serve the towns of Waltham, Watertown, Newton, Belmont, Arlington, Lexington, Allston, and Brighton.

Summary for 2015

As a result of our programs, The Cat Connection has made great progress reducing the feral and stray cat population in Waltham and surrounding cities for over 15 years; however, there are more stray or abandoned cats needing rescue and cats in our foster system needing permanent homes.

The Cat Connection is working to open a shelter to add to our foster home network. We hope to soon begin the renovation of an unused building rented from the City of Waltham to create a much-needed cage-less, no-kill cat shelter and central location for all of The Cat Connection's programs. We applied for and were approved to rent an unused building that was previously a branch library. The Cat Connection is approved to rent for the next 20 years with the right to renew the lease. We are actively raising funds to renovate and equip this building. The building will need a complete renovation including new windows, updating electrical, new HVAC with special ventilation, reworking of the plumbing, new waterproof flooring, repair of the roof, and a new first floor handicapped-accessible bathroom.

Our adoption preparation costs have been rising and are expected to continue to rise because we are expanding our capacity with a shelter. Further, as we get closer to opening the shelter, donations and fundraising efforts which previously would have gone exclusively to foster care and adoption preparation are now split between ongoing cat care and the capital campaign. Additionally, vet bills have been rising.

Once we have more capacity with the shelter and funding from various grant programs and donations, we hope to increase adoptions, to increase intake of cats (which has previously

been limited by our foster care capacity), and to enhance our services for special needs or senior cats. With increased intake we will have more adoption preparation costs. We pay for all spays/neuters and vaccinations of adopted cats. Many cats need medical treatment before adoption, especially because most of our intake is through trapping of strays and abandoned cats and surrenders. This population tends to require more medical care to prepare them for adoption, including de-worming, testing, dental work, and vaccinations. Some of the trapped or surrendered cats require special diets or long-term medications to maintain their health until they are adopted. Another program we would like to start, if funding allows, is assisted adoption through a Seniors for Seniors program, where senior citizens would adopt our older cats, but still receive financial assistance for things such as veterinary care from The Cat Connection.

The greatest expenses for this year were for veterinary care (\$63,14) and cat supplies for our fostered and colony cats (\$18,238).

Funding Sources

The largest income sources in 2015 were from regular donations (\$64,028), our annual calendar raffle (\$11,775), and yard sales (\$11,115). We are so grateful to all our donors and the vendors who support us, including Petco, Pet Supplies Plus, Especially for Pets, Watertown Savings Bank, Pet Source, Belmont Pet Shop, Bird Precision, and to our vets who give us discounted service for cats, including Commonwealth Vet, Pet Haven, Vescone, and all the individuals and businesses who donated items for our annual calendar raffle and yard sales. We appreciate fundraisers held by the Chateau, Lexington High, Arsenal Mall and Barnes & Noble in Burlington.

Officers and Board of Directors FYE 2015

Eva Miller, President
 Morgan Ritz, Vice President
 Mary Tornabene, Treasurer
 Erin Vannasse, Secretary

Martha Ann Volante
 Cathi Holmes
 Gabrielle Cunningham
 Janet Lucas

TCC Cat Report 2015 (calendar year)

| Cat Intake/Outcomes for 2015 | Number of cats or colonies |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total Jan 1 | 149 |
| Total Received | 87 |
| Average Colony Size | <i>Not available</i> |
| Number of Colonies | 10 |
| Total Adoptions | 81 |
| Spay/Neuter | <i>Not available</i> |
| Euthanized or Died | 8 |
| Total Dec 31 | 152 |
| Total Received/Cared For | 236 |

TCC Donors FYE 2015 (in alphabetical order)

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Elaine Abrams | Donna Cardarelli | Geoffrey H. Dutton |
| Carol Adler | Amanda Carlson | Mary Egleston |
| Diane Albernaz | Stephen Carreiro | Kenneth Epstein |
| Nancy Amstutz | Dianne Cecere | Larry Espling |
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| Sharon Bauer | Joseph Collins | Lucille Forti |
| Catherine Bazarian | Barbara Compton | Marc Fredette |
| Audrey Benevento | Larry Connearney | Irene Freedman |
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| Carol Bennett | Daniel Corcoran | Lisa Fruitt |
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| Karen Boenig | Carl Cunningham | Rebecca Germonprez |
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| Katherine Button | Anita Denault | Joanne Hayes |
| James Cain | Gregory Devine | Pauline Heidemann |
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| Amy Campbell | Mary Donnelly | Elizabeth Hodder |
| Margaret Cannon | Sara Drost | Crystal Hodgkins |

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Barbara Huggins Carboni
Barbara Hughes
Doobin Im
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Ouida Young
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