

HULL Seaside ANIMAL RESCUE

501(c)(3) Non-profit

No-kill Shelter

Welcoming our new shelter manager!

I had the pleasure of interviewing our new shelter manager, Ellen Whitney, and I can tell you that HSAR is so very lucky to have her! I suppose she's not so new anymore having started with us in January. Little did any of us know that in the months ahead the world would be dealing with a devastating pandemic, and the shelter would have to close for the unforeseeable future. Having said that, we are now reopened and doing adoptions by appointment only. With Ellen's direction and perseverance, we decided to use the down time during closure to do much needed updates and repairs. Let me share some of my conversation with Ellen.

jb: I know you're not originally from Hull, so where are you from, and what brought you to our little town?

ew: Well, my husband grew up in Western Massachusetts, and he always wanted to live by the water. The commuter boat was definitely a draw as well. I also have family next door in Hingham.

jb: What career path did you have prior to becoming the shelter manager at HSAR?

ew: I was in finance and a municipal bond trader. I went to North Adams State, where I met my husband and studied sociology. I considered going into social work at one point in time.

jb: OK, so what are some things you love to do when you're not at the shelter?

ew: I love to ski, and I enjoy reading historical fiction. I love live music. And I am a huge fan of Fleetwood Mac. My favorite food is pizza, but my favorite meal is ice cream for dinner!

jb: Who has inspired you in your life?

ew: My mother was the epitome of who I want to become. She was an advocate for intellectually challenged adults and a fighter for their rights. My sister Susie, who is intellectually challenged, lives in a group home and has been a huge inspiration for me. After spending time with her, I am on cloud nine and feel pure love.

jb: Do you have any causes you are passionate about?

ew: I am very active with the Special Olympics in Needham. I am passionate about factory farming which is why I am a vegan...not a preacher though! Now that I live in Hull, I hope to join the Beach Management Committee.

jb: What do you love about HSAR and your involvement with this organization?



Ellen and "Wyatt"

ew: I really love the people and how things are run here. It makes me feel good about the work we all do, especially making sure the cats go to the right homes. And cats touch me so much!

jb: What do you love about Hull since moving here several months ago?

ew: I love that I can walk everywhere, and the sunsets are so beautiful!

jb: What would you want people to know about you?

ew: I love my hubby and have been happily married for 28 years, and I am fairly certain he would say the same! Our awesome 23 year old son Ethan is living with us here in Hull, along with 2 cats, Reilly and Maizie, and a 14.5 year old dog named Zoey. We are currently fostering Jenny from the shelter who recently had to have her front leg amputated, and I am happy to say she is recovering and doing really well!

jb: What are your hopes for HSAR?

ew: I hope this is a long-lasting relationship...I want to stay here! As I get more confident in my role, I hope others will be more confident in the job I'm doing. I hope everybody feels like they can talk to me...if there's an issue...let's talk about it!

Interviewed by Joanne Berman

President's Letter: The Shelter Gets a Facelift

It's been quite a 2020! So much has happened in the world since our winter newsletter. When Covid-19 struck in March, HSAR decided that we had to prioritize the safety of volunteers, so we closed the shelter to visitors and stopped taking in cats. We had 3 remaining cats in the shelter: Ashley and Melody who had been at the shelter for 9 months and Jenny who was in need of surgery for an old leg injury.

Our shelter manager, Ellen, who had been on the job only three months sprung into action, taking Jenny into her home as a foster and finding a volunteer to foster our long-time sister residents. Since then, all three cats have found wonderful homes - you can read about how far the formerly skittish sisters have come in the article below.

During the time of the shut-down, an anonymous donor came forward, generously offering to donate funds for capital improvements. The timing was perfect. With an empty shelter, new flooring could be installed without upsetting feline residents. And new siding would give the building a much-needed facelift. The donor was eager to support not only the shelter but also the local economy during the weeks when so many jobs were lost.



Tux, on the newly installed floor!



Before and after the newly installed siding

HSAR is now open again, though with some changes to keep volunteers and visitors safe. Adoption hours will be by appointment only, and visitors will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing. To make an appointment, call Judy at 781-534-4902.

The year 2020 has brought challenges but also wonderful opportunities: capital improvements, the publishing of Kittendales for sale in bookstores across the U.S. (see article), and the welcoming of a new Shelter Operations Manager. Throughout it all, you have supported HSAR - sending donations and saving bottles and cans for recycling. Thank you for keeping us purring along!

Passers-by once again see in our windows lounging cats and mischievous kittens. Volunteers are back, and HSAR is looking good.

Gratefully,
Maura

Good News: Homes for Bonded Pals



Blue & Monty

Dear HSAR,

I wanted to give you guys a quick update on the kitties, Blue (formally Jordan) and Monty (formally Dana). They are getting so big and they are definitely growing into their little personalities! Blue is a huge daddy's girl and also gets super jealous whenever Monty is getting attention that

she thinks she deserves 😊 Monty is still a little shy at times but loves loves loves belly rubs and snuggling in a warm blanket on the couch! They both are as crazy as ever running, playing, and tackling each other! They also still love to snuggle and sleep in the same kitty bed together!

Thank you for helping us find the best kittens ever! Rick and I are forever grateful! We love living life with them!

Sincerely,
Kathy Payzant

Dear HSAR,

I love Lucy and Lily! In early May I adopted Melody (now Lucy) and Ashley (now Lily). I wanted to add another cat to my home to keep me and my cat Lenny company. One cat just isn't enough for me.

With the stay at home orders, it seemed like the ideal time to adopt, so I could bond with my new cat. Many other people had the same idea, and there weren't many female cats available to

adopt nearby. When I saw pictures of Melody and Ashley and read their story about how bonded they were, I knew they would be a great addition to my home.

Knowing they would keep each other company while they settled in made it enjoyable for me to watch their day-to-day progress. Lily has bonded with Lenny and me fairly quickly. However, Lucy is confident around Lenny, but she will only sit near me and not come too close. It is all about being patient. My cats bring me great comfort during these difficult times and I can tell by their gestures that they are happy to be in their forever home.

Thanks!
Mary Lally

Junebug and Sophia came to us upon the reopening of the shelter. They came from the same cat colony and are most likely related (mother/daughter perhaps). They were pretty scared at first, but volunteers spent lots of time with them to help them feel more comfortable. Happily, they found a new home together with an adopter who will offer them the love and patience they need.



Lucy & Lily



Sophia



Junebug

Kindred Spirits: An Adopter's Tale...

"What if she never comes out from under the bed?"

"Be patient, she will. She's scared and you're a stranger. Remember that this morning she was living in a shelter and before that, under someone's porch. She's home now; she just doesn't know it yet."

I'd never been to a shelter; animals just seemed to find me. But I had go looking because I'd recently lost my little guy, and there was a huge hole in my heart.



The staff brought me into the young cat room. Wow, too many; that made me sad and I had to leave. I returned the next open day. I left. On the third visit, I exhaled and that's when I saw her. She was a small blur of black fur jumping and running and diving for cover, hoping nothing and no one would stop her on her way to her "cubby" and safety; home base. That was more than 10 years ago.

I told them about my household. Its temperament was quiet, calm, and warm, and this new kitty would have me and Rose, my 11 year old rescued yellow Lab, as her new family.

The shelter staff put her in a carrier and gave me some food and instructions: if you have a room you can dedicate to her, that would be good. Check. Put her litter box and food and water bowls in there. Check. Take some wet food and put it on a plate and slide it under the bed. Check. Lay down next to the bed. Check. Say nothing. And wait. Check.

I named her Lily. After-all I had a Rose. By the end of our first week, she was eating what I gave her. By the end of week two, she'd found the courage to eat at the edge of the bed. And, by the third or fourth week, she came out from under the bed to

eat. But then, she would retreat. We maintained this routine for a few more weeks. All the while I was checking in with the staff. "It sounds like things are going great!" "She's getting used to you. Your patience is paying off. Keep at it."

I continued to sit with her, quietly. Waiting. Reassuring her. The day came when she decided it was time to leave the safety of her room. I watched her stretch her little neck over the threshold and take her first steps towards her new world. 1600 square feet of freedom. Today, she knows every inch.

Ten years ago, a little scared black cat was pulled out from under someone's porch - homeless, most likely motherless. Whisked to a place she didn't understand: alone, untouchable, uncommunicative. Ten years ago, a women in her forties walked into a place she didn't understand: scared, sad, heartbroken.

"I think we're supposed to be together" I told the staff. "I think I can help her. I know I'll love her". "I kind of already know her". I told the staff I'd adopted a cat similar to her in the early 90's; a lifetime ago.

"Hey Lily, I'm home." I hear a little "thud" from upstairs. Her little face appears from around the banister having jumped off our bed. One yellow and one green eye look down on me.

"How was your day Lil?" I hold out my hand, palm side up. She runs down the stairs, sniffs to make sure it's me. Ah, Mama's home; it's all good now.



Lily

Lily's Mom,
Caryn Schneider

Kittendales 2021: In a Store Near You!

We are super excited to announce that our little Kittendales Calendar will be going global, and in more ways than one!

This year the world saw some real changes in how we live our lives. The Kittendales Calendar was not immune to those changes.

For 2021, the calendar has gone into production with the help of a publishing company who will print and distribute our calendar with our photographs from the previous 13 years. The Kittendales Calendar will now reach far and wide, both on various websites and in retail stores across the country. HSAR will continue to sell them locally for the same \$20 we have been charging all along, and every penny will go directly to the shelter.



If you purchase in a store or online, the shelter will receive a royalty from that purchase as well.

With all of the publicity and visibility we have never had before, we hope to have a record year of sales and raise lots of much needed funds for HSAR! Check out www.kittendales.com or search for Kittendales 2021.



Thanks for all of your continued support!
Joanne Berman &
Susan Davis

Shelter Manager

Ellen Whitney

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Maura Norton and Joanne Berman,
Newsletter Production



Hull Seaside Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt organization which rescues and places homeless cats and assists in the care and control of the local feral cat population of Hull and surrounding towns. We are a no-kill cat shelter, founded in 1999 by a handful of concerned citizens that understood the need to establish an animal rescue and shelter program. We have grown over the years and now boast over 75 volunteers with a part-time paid shelter manager. The shelter exists solely on donations, fundraising events, grants, and bottle/can collection and redemption.

Adoption Hours **by Appointment Only**

487 Nantasket Ave. Hull

Monday appointments from 6:30-7:30 pm

Saturday appointments from 2:00-3:00 pm

Contacts

Adoptions: Judy @ 781-534-4902

Shelter: Ellen @ 781-925-3121

Recycling: Don @ 774-226-5910



Send donations to:
HSAR
P.O. Box 787
Hull, MA 02045
Visit www.hsar.org

Ways to Donate

- Donate with PayPal or credit card at hsar.org
- Send a check with the enclosed envelope.
- Purchase HSAR merchandise at the shelter or online.
- Drop off redeemable cans/bottles.

Thank you to all of our donors!