

## CCI VOLUNTEERS

Commonwealth Cats, Inc. (CCI) is an all volunteer organization. Without the help and dedication of the individuals who generously give their time and talents, the organization would not be able to help the feral cat population of Massachusetts, and the people who care for those cats. Volunteering for any organization that speaks to your passion is a worthwhile and rewarding experience. To all those who have volunteered at a clinic,

**Thank You!**



Dee Dennis and Carol Capone

## VOLUNTEER QUOTES

Here are some inspiring reasons why our volunteers give up one Sunday a month to join us at the clinics.

*"For me it is a very rewarding experience, each time I help at the clinic. It brings me great joy to know that in doing my small part I am helping the 'forgotten' cats, giving them a chance by spaying or neutering, and helping reduce the overpopulation of kittens. It sure beats euthanizing. These beautiful creatures didn't ask for this kind of life."*

**Carol Capone**

*"Volunteering for Commonwealth Cats is a rewarding and worthwhile experience. We love being able to help remedy one of the most pressing animal welfare issues today. We are so glad to have discovered Commonwealth Cats. It is a well-run organization that has wonderful, dedicated people working toward an admirable goal."*

**Ashlee and Andy Cartwright**

*"I volunteer for the Commonwealth Cats because it is a great organization. The people of Commonwealth Cats are extremely enthusiastic, organized and caring. Most importantly, I believe that the Spay and Neuter clinics actually get to the root of the problem of unmanageable cat populations."*

**Aline Speckaert**

## NOTABLE QUOTES

*"The smallest feline is a masterpiece."*

**Leonardo da Vinci**

*"There are two refuges from the misery of the world, music and cats."*

**Albert Schweitzer**

Newsletter design – Marina Sarandrea  
marinastudios@hotmail.com

Commonwealth Cats  
P.O. Box 26  
Peabody, MA 01960



# COMMONWEALTH CATS

Feral Cat Sterilization & Vaccination Program

SPRING/SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER



## TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN...IT WORKS

Trap, neuter, return (TNR) was first practiced in the United Kingdom and Denmark in the 1960's. TNR programs were first proposed and adopted in the United States in the early 1990's. Caretakers humanely trap stray and feral cats already living outdoors. They are brought to a clinic, where they are anesthetized, given a physical examination, vaccinated, and spayed or neutered. Ear tipping (a method first approved by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in England) is performed on each cat as a means of identifying those that have been sterilized. Any medical conditions found on physical examination are treated as needed. Kittens and tame strays are placed in temporary foster care or homes whenever possible. The caretakers manage colonies of healthy feral cats that are returned to their outdoor homes, where they are being fed and provided with shelter.

TNR works because it...

- stabilizes the size of the colony by preventing new litters
- eliminates or reduces nuisance behaviors like urine spraying, yowling, and fighting
- reduces the number of cats and kittens brought into local shelters. People benefit too...
- caring for feral cats teaches people compassion and unconditional love
- many people find it rewarding in knowing that they have done something good for these cats
- many caretakers enjoy the companionship the cats offer while gardening or spending time outdoors.

Trap, neuter, return is the compassionate solution to the overpopulation of stray and feral cats. The goal of TNR is to humanely reduce the number of feral cats while improving their quality of life.

## COMMONWEALTH CATS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Brady, DVM, President  
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commonwealthcats@hotmail.com  
www.commonwealthcats.org



Kate Domenico, DVM



Pet Rock Festival

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### ***PAWS IN THE PARK***

**Sunday, June 8, 2008**

John H. Pierce House  
Lincoln, MA.

[www.saveadog.org/paws2008.asp](http://www.saveadog.org/paws2008.asp)

Check out the websites for details. You won't want to miss a day of fun.

CCI is exhibiting at both these events. Stop by our table.

Bring along your companion dog to participate in some of the events.



## CCI SPAY, NEUTER & VACCINATION CLINICS

Date	Clinic	Location
June 15	MSPCA	Brockton
July 13	MSPCA	Brockton
Aug 10	MSPCA	Boston
Sept 7	MSPCA	Brockton
Oct 12	MSPCA	Brockton
Nov 9	MSPCA	Boston
Dec 14	MSPCA	Boston

To schedule cats for any of these clinics, please send an email to [commonwealthcats@hotmail.com](mailto:commonwealthcats@hotmail.com) with contact information, date of clinic and how many cats you plan to bring.

## THE CLINICS

These clinics have made a positive difference in the lives of feral cats and, most importantly, reduced the number of ferals born in Massachusetts. The clinics would not be possible without the volunteers who give their time and talents to staff the clinics, the trappers and caretakers who are devoted to the care of the ferals, and the support of our donors. Thank you! Commonwealth Cats Inc. (CCI) was founded in the Spring of 2004, and held the first Spay, Neuter and Vaccination Clinic in November of that year. As of May 2008, CCI has held 25 clinics and admitted 975 cats.

## SPAY, NEUTER, ADOPT AND DRIVE TO END PET OVERPOPULATION.

Show your support for spay/neuter with the Animal Friendly license plates. These plates provide the first statewide funding for spay/neuter. Make a statement, show everyone you are Animal Friendly. For more information visit the Massachusetts Animal Coalition website or go to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.



You can give a gift online at: [www.commonwealthcats.org](http://www.commonwealthcats.org)  
Please make checks payable to Commonwealth Cats, Inc. and mail to:

**Commonwealth Cats**  
P.O. Box 26  
Peabody, MA 01960

*Commonwealth Cats, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.  
CCI's federal employer ID number (EIN) is 20-0821243.  
Donations are tax-deductible.*



## FACTS AND TRIVIA ABOUT CATS

The Maine Coon cat is America's only natural breed of domestic feline.

Cats purr at about 26 cycles per second, the same frequency as an idling diesel engine. Domestic cats purr both when inhaling and exhaling.

In relationship to their body size, cats have the largest eyes of any mammal.

Both humans and cats have identical regions in the brain responsible for emotion.

Six-toed kittens are so common in Boston and surrounding areas of Massachusetts that experts consider it an established mutation.

A cat spends nearly 30% of her life grooming herself.

Cats lose almost as much fluid in the saliva when grooming themselves as they do through urination.

If a cat is frightened, the hair stands up fairly evenly all over; when the cat threatens or is ready to attack, the hair stands up only in a narrow band along the spine.

Cats respond most readily to names that end in an "ee" sound.

37% of homeowners have at least one cat.

It is scientifically proven that stroking a cat can lower one's blood pressure.

The life expectancy of cats has nearly doubled since 1930 – from 8 to 16 years.

*Facts and permission to reprint courtesy of the responsible cat guardians at [www.xmission.com/~emailbox/catstuff.htm](http://www.xmission.com/~emailbox/catstuff.htm)*



I would like to help Massachusetts' neediest cats. Please accept my donation of:

\$15     \$25     \$50     \$100    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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