

LOCAL NEWS

Thank-you

SUN/JON HILL



community liaison for U.S. Rep. Marty
 the congressman to Moveon.org activists
 vote against President Bush's troop
 actually on the last leg of a six-day

Billerica group rescues cat

By Jack Minch

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BILLERICA — Oliver is a 9-month-old long-haired orange and white cat who's known pain in his short life.

Doctors yesterday found three rubber bands wrapped so tightly around his neck they were embedded in the skin.

Sharon DuBois of the Billerica Cat Care Coalition works for the city of Lawrence and last week learned about Oliver, who was apparently being abused by a resident of the city. The Billerica Cat Care Coalition cares for abandoned and feral cats.

His collar was so tight it was growing into the skin and rubbed away the fur.

The owner, whose name DuBois isn't releasing, finally

took off the collar. He put an ace bandage around the neck and secured it with electrical tape.

"It's horribly infected," DuBois said.

Through a coordinated effort between the city police, the animal control officer and DuBois' group, the owner surrendered him yesterday, DuBois said. It was not immediately clear if animal cruelty charges would be sought in Lawrence.

She took Oliver to Middlesex County Animal Hospital on Boston Road in Billerica where a veterinarian found the three rubber bands embedded in his neck. The doctor removed the elastics and injected Oliver with pain killers, DuBois said.

"Once he's healed he'll be up for adoption," she said.