



# ADVOCAT

## newsletter

### 🐾 MRFRS Catmobile 🐾



Wow! Low cost spay/neuter service for your cat in your neighborhood: \$80 for males, \$120 for females. The package includes exam, spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, flea treatment and nail trim.

To find out when the Catmobile will be in your area, go to [www.catmobile.org](http://www.catmobile.org)

How to make an appointment:

**Online:** [www.catmobile.org](http://www.catmobile.org)

**Phone:** 978-465-1940

### 🐾 Trap - Neuter - Return 🐾

Since 2004, BCCC's mission has been to reduce the suffering and death of feral cats through TNR: Trap-Neuter-Return.

What exactly is TNR? Feral cats living outdoors together in a colony (group) are humanely trapped. The cats are then brought by volunteers to a monthly clinic to be neutered, vaccinated, and ear-tipped. The cats are then returned to their colony.

This ends the cycle of reproduction, improves the health of the cats, and over time, reduces the population of feral cats.

Thanks to your support, and the efforts of BCCC volunteers, local feral cats are getting the food, shelter, and care they need to live out their lives.

### IF YOU FIND KITTENS

The time between late spring and early autumn is known as "kitten season". During this time of year, feral and unaltered cats reproduce prolifically. If you encounter a litter of kittens in need of rescue, contact Billerica Cat Care Coalition via e-mail at [info@billericacatcarecoalition.org](mailto:info@billericacatcarecoalition.org) (BCCC serves: Billerica, Tewksbury, Chelmsford and Carlisle). Or, BCCC will provide info on your local no-kill cat rescue, if you need help out of our service area.



A mother cat will periodically leave her nest for food. If you see young kittens without their mother, it is likely she will return. It is always better for young kittens to remain with their mother. Pre-weaned kittens (under 4 weeks) without a mother are difficult to care for and have a high mortality rate. The mother should return to the nest within a few hours, if you watch quietly, from a distance. A mother cat will also regularly move her nest of kittens instinctively. If you see a single young kitten, it is likely that it's the first of the group moved to a new location or the last of the group in the old location. It is important that you do not take pre-weaned kittens away from their mother. Only take them in if, after watching for several hours, you are 100% certain she is not returning.

If possible, kittens should be socialized by people and still remain with their mother, until they are 8 weeks of age. This may mean taking in the mother cat and kittens together. Never attempt to confine or house a feral mother cat, as this can be dangerous. Just contact BCCC and we will help or put you in touch with your local no-kill rescue for help.

### WHAT TO DO

Leave kittens under 5 weeks of age with their mom. If you have watched for several hours from a distance and you are 100% certain that a kitten has been abandoned, contact BCCC at: [info@billericacatcarecoalition.org](mailto:info@billericacatcarecoalition.org) or via our Facebook page or contact your local animal control.

At 5-6 weeks: If the kittens are friendly, BCCC will take them in and provide care and socialization until they are 8 weeks of age.

At 6-8 week: If the kittens are friendly, they will be placed in foster-for-adoption, after vet care. If kittens are feral (unfriendly), we will assess and attempt to socialize them, so they can be placed for adoption. However, it can be difficult to socialize older feral kittens, so we may opt to trap-neuter-return (TNR) an older feral kitten and return it to its environment/feeder. It is important to let BCCC know as soon as you see kittens, no matter how young, so we can get them (and, maybe their mom, too) into foster care, so they can be socialized and receive vet care. If mom cat is feral, she will be spayed and returned, once the kittens are weaned. Friendly stray mom cats will also be fostered and adopted via our program.



# ADVOCAT newsletter

## 🐾 Spring & Summer Events 🐾

**Agway. 24 Maple Rd., Chelmsford, MA: B-B-Q's & Meet and Greet:**

June 11th, July 9th & August 13th, 10 - 2 p.m.

**Pepperell Farmers Market. Town Common:  
Custom cat items for sale.**

July 16th & July 30th, 9 - 1 p.m.

**Carlisle Farmers Market Info Table:**

August 6th, 8 - noon, Route 225, Carlisle, MA

**Billerica "Yankee Doodle Day":**

Info booth behind Billerica High School and also "Meet & Greet" adoptable felines inside Bennett Library, Billerica Center.

Saturday, September 17th, 10 - 3 p.m.

**National Feral Cat Day:**

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
All 3 Billerica Market Basket stores on Route 3A/  
Boston Road, Billerica, MA.

**Visit us online for additional events:**

www.billericacatcarecoalition.org

### **GOLDIE, A BEAUTIFUL ORANGE TABBY GIRL**

Goldie came to Billerica Cat Care Coalition when she was about 4yrs. old. Goldie had a home, but when her owner brought home another cat, they didn't get along. Sadly, instead of rehoming the new cat, Goldie's caretaker got rid of her.

Goldie was one of those 'hard to place' kitties because she was one of those 'diva' cats that preferred to be the only cat in the house. She went to many 'meet & greets' looking for that special family that would spoil her, love her and appreciate her special purrsonality. She had many admirers, but for one reason or another, did not get picked.

Luckily, with the help of the many Billerica Cat Care Coalition supporters, we are able to care for our cats until the right family comes along, no matter how long it takes. They always have a home. Finally, after waiting two years, a couple fell in love with the beautiful Goldie and gave her the loving home she was waiting for and deserved. It just shows that there is a home for all of them.



### **SMOKEY IS A BEAUTIFUL 14 YEAR OLD KITTY**

Smokey has a shy but very sweet personality. She is not very active, but enjoys playing from time to time. She just wants to be around her people, and is a lap cat at heart. She is friendly with people she knows, but would be stressed in a situation with children or dogs. She seems to dislike male cats, but would probably be okay with another female cat.

She is FeLV/FIV negative, up to date with vaccinations and spayed. When Smokey came into foster care, her veterinarian diagnosed her with painful bladder stones which have been surgically removed. She needs special food and daily thyroid pills.



### **YOU CAN SAVE LIVES.... RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.**

*The cats are depending on you. You can make a difference. You can make their hard lives a little bit easier.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT OF:

\$25    \$35    \$50    \$250    OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions are fully tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

You may donate online at [www.billericacatcarecoalition.org](http://www.billericacatcarecoalition.org) using PayPal

You may also send a check to:  
Billerica Cat Care Coalition P.O. Box 141 N. Billerica, MA 01862