



Tails Newsletter

Fall 2021



Kittens in Crisis

An unusually wet summer creates major health risks for local cats...and tough choices for shelters

The summer of 2021 was New England's second wettest summer on record. For humans, it meant soggy vacations, but for kittens born to stray parents, the consequences were much more grave. Warm, wet conditions create a perfect atmosphere for the fungus that causes a highly contagious skin disease called Ringworm to thrive; this summer, in the close and unsanitary quarters of feral cat colonies, it spread like wildfire among vulnerable newborn kittens and adult cats suffering from the compromised immune systems common to strays living 'rough.'

SAS has well established feral cat programs whereby kittens young enough to be socialized are brought to the shelter for adoption and adults are neutered. This year, 28 kittens rescued in this way presented with Ringworm. While the infection is highly treatable with fairly intensive care protocols, it is also extremely contagious to other pets and even to human caregivers. That's why many shelters make the agonizing choice to euthanize otherwise healthy cats with the condition.

SAS does not. Instead, the organization made the choice to suspend new intakes of cats and to temporarily halt volunteer cat caring programs to

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Our staff put in extra time and hours to nurse these kittens back to health.