



*For Immediate Release:*

**Friday, November 16, 2018, Waterville, ME.** On Friday, October 5, 2018, at approximately 2:00 pm, the Humane Society Waterville Area (HSPA) received a phone call from the Animal Control Officer of one of the communities they serve informing them of a serious case of animal abuse and neglect. Twelve cats, four in each of three plastic dog crates, were found in a locked storage unit and had been abandoned for 17 days, nearly 3 weeks without food, water or litter. Immediately following, the cats were transported to HSPA by a staff member and were taken in by the feline technicians overseen by the Operations Director.

Due to the inhumane circumstances of their living conditions, three of the cats were deceased upon arrival, one passed away shortly after arriving because medical intervention could not help her deteriorating health condition, and one was humanely euthanized two days later due to fluid in his lungs. The seven remaining cats were bathed, closely monitored and promptly begun treatment for potential illnesses and severe malnourishment. In the weeks following, their health and well-being steadily improved.

On Friday November 16, 2018, the surviving cats will be available for adoption, though Executive Director Lisa Oakes, says the procedure will be far more extensive than normal, "We plan to have a special adoption process for these cats. We will be accepting adoption applications for Felicity & Boone as a bonded pair, Felix & Emmeline as a bonded pair and Flick on his own. We will require applicants to provide a letter explaining why they would like to adopt them along with 3 personal references that we will be contacting." Oakes goes on to say, "We want to make sure they continue to receive the exceptional care and attention we have shown them. There will be an adoption fee for each of the bonded pairs and an adoption fee for Flick. One stipulation of adopting these cats is that we receive updates from their new families every six months for the next 2 years. We plan to choose adoptive families by November 28th."

We will have a special fundraising campaign devoted to raising money for the incurred medical costs of the cats and to benefit the shelter. Currently, there are several sponsors looking to contribute to a dollar-for-dollar matching sponsorship.

--

About the Humane Society Waterville Area

#### Mission Statement

To shelter animals until they find permanent homes, to educate the community about responsible pet ownership, and to advocate for the humane treatment of all animals.

#### Contact

Lisa Oakes, Executive Director  
100 Webb Road  
Waterville, Maine 04901  
Tel: (207) 873-2430  
Fax: (207) 873-1266  
loakes@hswa.org