

Springtime Kittens

- Abby Schalck

Despite the on-and-off winter we've had this year, Spring is now finally here to stay. At the Marblehead Animal Shelter, Spring season is kitten season. The Marblehead Animal Shelter (Friends of Marblehead Abandoned Animals - FOMAA) is a non-profit organization run by volunteers and supported by donations. At this time of the year, there is an influx of kittens at the shelter, and the shelter can use all the help they can get. The kittens that come to the shelter need to be vaccinated and spayed or neutered before they can be adopted. These are paid for by donations, so any contribution you make to the animal shelter will help to make the kittens healthy, happy, and ready to go to a new home.

Another need of the shelter during kitten season is finding a place to put the kittens. There is only so much room at the shelter, so most litters of kittens are sent to foster homes until they are adopted. Plus, it is better for the kittens and their mother to be in a home for the first few weeks rather than the shelter. You can volunteer to foster kittens until they are ready for adoption, which is usually about six to eight weeks. A typical litter of kittens stays in the foster home with their mother until they are ready to be separated from her. If the shelter rescues a pregnant cat, they usually will put her in a foster home and have the kittens delivered there. I personally volunteer at the Marblehead Animal Shelter, and everyone who has fostered kittens has told me that it is a really fun and incredibly fulfilling experience.

Of course, the best option for the cats and kittens at the shelter is for them to be adopted. If you are interested in fostering, adopting, or donating, please call 781-631-8664 or email at fomaa44@gmail.com. You can also go to their website <http://www.marbleheadanimal-shelter.org> or their Facebook page, Friends of Marblehead's Abandoned Animals. Finding the animals a safe and happy home is the number one priority at the Marblehead Animal Shelter. Being a part of finding pets a home is a very humbling experience.