

Bethel woman adopts nearly frozen feline

By Nanci G. Hutson
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NEW MILFORD — Second Chance, the green-eyed tabby whose near-death tale intrigued people across the country, has a second home.

A Bethel woman, who asked not be identified, adopted the abandoned feline after writing a letter to the Animal Welfare Society of New Milford. The letter convinced the manager she would be the right owner.

"It was her need to take care of something that needed her as much as she needed it," manager Renee Gardner said. "That's what swayed me."

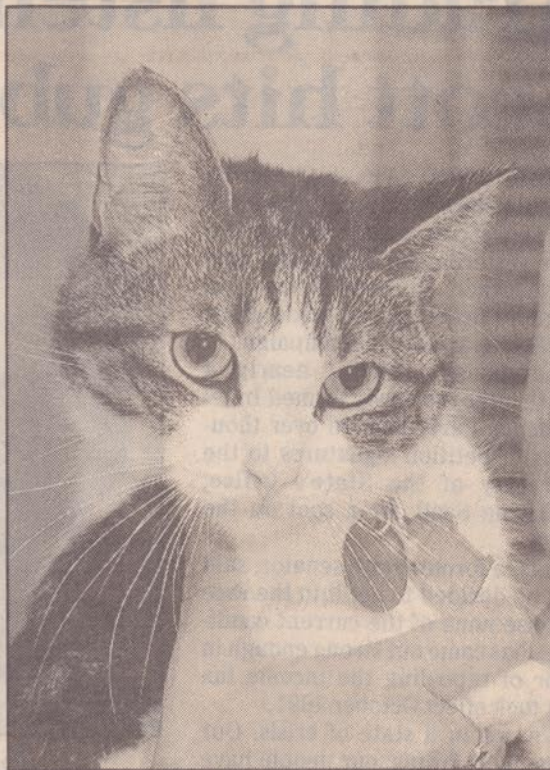
Gardner weeded through more than 25 inquiries before she found the right home.

"A lot of people wanted him because it makes a neat story they could tell at parties," Gardner said. "This woman wanted the pet."

Second Chance does have a neat story, though.

In July, the cat was left outside a shelter in New York state inside a cardboard container with the words "poisoned by mistake" written on the outside. The cat was stored in a freezer and included in the cargo of other dead animals to be cremated at the Balmoral Pet Cemetery.

But when cemetery employee Robert Broadie opened the box to cremate the animal, the cat



The News-Times/Carol Kaliff

Second Chance, the cat who escaped death despite being stored in a freezer in July, has a new home in Bethel.

leaped out — alive and well.

After a local veterinarian examined it, the cat was placed for adoption with the Animal Welfare Society, where it was named Second Chance.

The shelter places about 250 cats a year.