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# Marie Phillips Collection

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For many years, the UMass Amherst campus was home to several colonies of feral cats that took up residence in its barns and outbuildings, and beginning with Leo V. Robinson in 1945, a succession of individuals were moved to feed and care for the cats. An alumna and employee in Human Relations, Marie Phillips (BA '78, MPA '91) took over as feral cat caretaker between 1991 and 2007, joined by her colleague Meg Caulmare of the English Department, and together they supported the colonies along the Cat Corridor stretching from the rear of Munson Hall to the Queen Anne Horse Barn. With increasing construction on campus and careful rehoming, the feral cat population was gradually reduced on campus until 2014, when the last cats to live in the Horse Barn, Mr. Junie Moon and Rusty, were given a home by Caulmare. Phillips wrote about her experiences with two of the more notable cats on campus, Dadcat and Ashes, in her book *Dadcat University* (2007).

The Phillips collection offers a visual records of the lives of the feral cats on the UMass Amherst campus. A strong supporter of efforts to preserve the declining Horse Barn, Phillips also accumulated photographs, reports, and research materials on the barn and horses at the university.

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## Background on Marie Phillips



Marie Phillips and Jakie near Bartlett Hall, 2007

For many years, the UMass Amherst campus was home to several colonies of feral cats that took up residence in its barns and outbuildings, and beginning with Leo V. Robinson in 1945, a succession of individuals were moved to feed and care for the cats. An alumna and employee in Human Relations, Marie Phillips (BA '78, MPA '91) took over as feral cat caretaker between 1991 and 2007, joined by her colleague Meg Caulmare of the English Department, and together they supported the colonies along the Cat Corridor stretching from the rear of Munson Hall to the Queen Anne Horse Barn. With increasing construction on campus and careful rehoming, the feral cat population was gradually reduced on campus until 2014, when the last cats to live in the Horse Barn, Mr. Junie Moon and Rusty, were given a home by Caulmare. Phillips wrote about her experiences with two of the more notable cats on campus, Dadcat and Ashes, in her book *Dadcat University* (2007).

## Scope of collection

The Phillips collection offers a visual records of the lives of the feral cats on the UMass Amherst campus. A strong supporter of

efforts to preserve the declining Horse Barn, Phillips also accumulated photographs, reports, and research materials on the barn and horses at the university.

## Inventory

Cats at UMass Amherst: Horse Barn colony

1994-1999

16 images

Box 1: 1



Phillips, Marie: Cats in the mounted horse patrol's horse trailer

1994 July

Cats playing in open back of police horse trailer parked at the Horse Barn, UMass Amherst. Left side: Tyler with Mr. Moustache behind her; right: Tippiie on the ramp and Woodrow inside.



**Phillips, Marie: Goldie at the side door to the Horse Barn**

1996 June

Ginger tabby standing in open door to the Horse Barn, UMass Amherst.



**Phillips, Marie: Hey Lady**

1997 Sept.

Dilute calico cat on gravel near the Horse Barn, UMass Amherst.



**Phillips, Marie: Mr. Moustache**

1994 July

Mr. Moustache posed inside the open doorway to Horse Barn, UMass Amherst.



**Phillips, Marie: Mr. Moustache and his charges**

1999 June

Mr. Moustache seated in the doorway to the Queen Anne Horse Barn at UMass Amherst, with two calico kittens nearby.





Phillips, Marie: Mr. Moustache and his charges

1999 June

Mr. Moustache seated in the doorway to the Queen Anne Horse Barn at UMass Amherst, hissing at two calico kittens nearby.



Phillips, Marie: Muffin at five and a half weeks old

1994 Feb.

Gray and white kitten.



Phillips, Marie: Muffin (Sophie) sitting on a fresh pile of laundry

1999 Jan.

Formerly feral cat (dilute tuxedo) from the Queen Anne Horse Barn at UMass Amherst, sitting in comfort.



Phillips, Marie: T. Tommy Tailspins

1999 June

Ginger cat standing by entrance to the Horse Barn, UMass Amherst.



**Phillips, Marie: Thomas P. P. Barton**

1994 Jan.

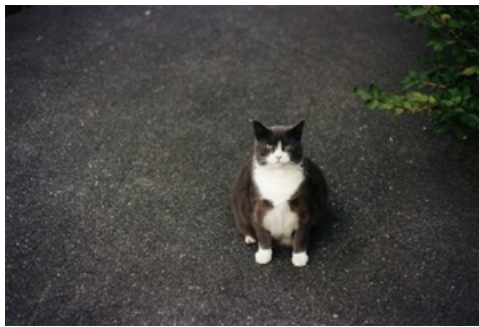
Piebald tabby cat posted on grass outside Horse Barn, UMass Amherst.



**Phillips, Marie: Tippie**

1998 Sept.

Gray and white cat seated on pavement, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Tyler**

1998 Sept.

Gray and white cat seated on pavement, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Tyler and Mr. Moustache**

1999 June

Tyler (left, dilute tuxedo) and Mr. Moustache (tuxedo) in the Horse Barn, UMass Amherst.



**Phillips, Marie: Wee Gee**

1994 June

Profile of black and white cat at the Queen Anne Horse Barn at UMass Amherst, seated on the grass.



**Phillips, Marie: Woodrow and Muffin in their room at the Horse Barn**

1994 Mar.

Gray and white kittens in the hay.



**Phillips, Marie: Woodrow at the Horse Barn**

1994 May

Woodrow (black and white cat) curled up on fabric in the Horse Barn, UMass Amherst.

Cats at UMass Amherst: Munson Annex colony

1992-1999

29 images

Box 1: 2



**Phillips, Marie: Ashes**

1993 Aug.

Gray and white cat slinking up brick pile, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Ashes and the Dadcat**

1998 Apr.

Ashes and Dadcat (l. to r.) on grass by Whitmore Hall; part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Ashes and the Dadcat (l. to r.)**

1999 July

Black and white cats standing on the grass by construction, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Bessie**

1998 Apr.

Tuxedo cat on a concrete stairway, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Blackie below the ridge at Whitmore Administration Building**

1992 Aug.

Black cat along west side of Whitmore, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.





Phillips, Marie: Buddy J. Budsford III

1997 June

Long-haired gray cat at a food station, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Cokie

1999 June

Black cat lying on sidewalk, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Dadcat

1999 June

Dadcat posed on a pile of cinder blocks, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Dadcat on his gangplank at the apex of the Tobin hedges



1995 Mar.

Dadcat seated on top of tall hedges by Tobin Hall surveying his realm, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Gussie, the Woodrow look-alike

1999 Apr.

Black and white cat standing among bushes, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Janie

1999 Apr.

Tuxedo cat standing by concrete building, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Kiddus

1999 June

Blue cat standing in the grass next to a building, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Kiddus and the Dadcat

1999 June

Kiddus and Dadcat (l. to r.) posed on a pile of cinder blocks, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Miss O'Scootie Toots

1996 June

Calico cat standing among rhododendrons, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Mr. Blacknose

1993 Dec.

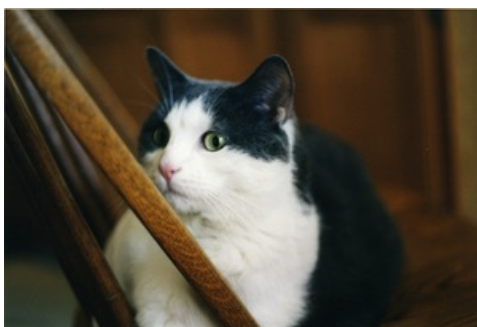
Tuxedo cat standing at the base of pine tree, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Mr. Whitenose (l.) and Mr. Blacknose at the Whitmore tree

1993 Sept.

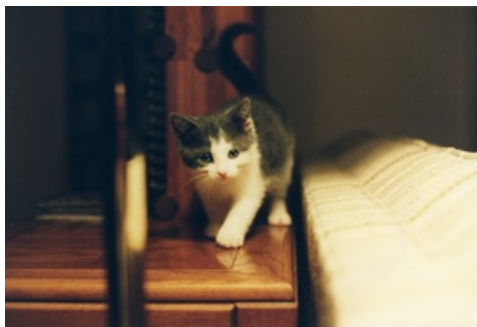
Tuxedo cats feeding at the base of pine tree, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Munson

1998 Oct.

Black and white cat seated in Windsor chair, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Munson at eight weeks**

1993 Nov.

Gray and white kitten walking on a side table; part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Munson at five weeks**

1993 Oct.

Gray and white kitten on a blanket; part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



**Phillips, Marie: Munson at seven weeks**

1993 Nov.

Gray and white kitten on a carpet; part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.





Phillips, Marie: Munson at six weeks  
1993 Nov.

Gray and white kitten on a carpet; part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.

Phillips, Marie: Paisley sits on the fireplace in the vine-covered fenced-in area behind Munson Annex



1993 Aug.

Calico cat sitting on a brick pile behind Munson Annex, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats



Phillips, Marie: Pumpkin

1994 July

Ginger kitten lurking among rhododendrons, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Pumpkin's mother, C.C.

1999 May

Tortoise shell cat enjoying wetfood on the lawn, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Pumpkin's sister, Jakie

1999 May

Polydactyl blue cat walking through the grass, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Raggedy-ear Tom, alias the Dadcat

1995 Aug.

Dadcat standing in construction area near Munson Annex, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Silky Alice

1999 Apr.

Long-haired tortoiseshell, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.

Phillips, Marie: Squirt (foreground), Sweetie (far left), Ashes, and the Gray and White Boys



1993 Aug.  
Kittens feeding by a brick pile, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.



Phillips, Marie: Three gray and white boys  
1993 Oct.  
Kittens standing by a brick pile behind Munson Annex, part of the Munson-Bartlett colony of feral cats.

Cats at UMass Amherst: Munson Annex colony  
1993-1997  
14 items  
Box 1: 3



Phillips, Marie: Aluminum door leading into the back room of Munson Annex  
1993  
View of the door into the extension built for the pottery kilns.

Phillips, Marie: Ashes hunches on the side wall in back of Munson Annex. The Dadcat sits in front of the pottery wheel studio





1994 Feb.  
Black and white cats in the snow behind Munson Annex.



Phillips, Marie: Ashes waits for dinner in front of the quonset hut  
1995 Mar.  
ray and white cat waiting patiently in leaf litter.



Phillips, Marie: Ashes with a no-name behind her  
1993 Nov.  
Black and white cat with unnamed kitten at Munson Annex.



Phillips, Marie: Ashes with Woodrow in the back room at Munson Annex  
1993 Nov.

Black and white cat and kitten among debris in Munson Annex.



Phillips, Marie: Cokie

1997 June

Black cat rolling on the sidewalk.



Phillips, Marie: Construction scene on the Cat Corridor

1997 June

Backhoe tearing up the way for steam line replacement; former kilns at the rear of Munson Annex can be seen at the far left of the image.

Phillips, Marie: dismantled parts to the back room of Munson Annex are piled up by the quonset hut



1995 Jan.

Dismantling of the cat center at Munson Annex; south face of Boyden Gym in the background.

Phillips, Marie: Garber Field astroturf installation project. The Southwest Dormitory Complex can be seen in the background



1997 June  
Bulldozer preparing the field for astroturf.

Phillips, Marie: Gussie naps on the stairs between the Tobin hedges while the steam pipes are replaced on the Cat Corridor



above her  
1997 June  
Black and white cat napping behind sign announced road closure for steam line replacement project.



Phillips, Marie: Munson Annex: rear (west-facing) side  
1993  
Showing the pottery kiln area and "quonset hut" where the cat colony was centered in winter



Phillips, Marie: quonset hut buried in the snow  
1993  
Note the trash bin in the foreground has a sign reading "Please do not feed the cats. They are becoming a health problem in our building. We will be forced to trap them."

Phillips, Marie: quonset hut, cinder block wall and brick chimney-like kilns are all that remains of the destruction of the back





room of Munson Annex and the fenced-in area

1995 Mar.

Dismantling of the cat center at Munson Annex; south face of Boyden Gym in the background.

Phillips, Marie: Rear view of Munson Annex after the quonset hut and fenced-in area are demolished



1995 Oct.

View of the remaining cinder block wall and three kilns.

Cats at UMass Amherst: Marie Phillips with Jakie at Bartlett Hall

2007 Aug.

Box 1: 4



Phillips, Marie: Three gray and white boys

2007 Aug.

Phillips holding Jakie near rear of Bartlett Hall.

Cats at UMass Amherst: copies of photographs

1897-1964

Box 1: 5

Horse Barn: background information

1993-1994

Box 1: 6

Copies of background documents used in raising support to save the barn.

Horse Barn: photographs

ca.1910-1994

9 items

Box 1: 7



**Phillips, Marie: George Hawthorne, Morgan horse expert, driving horse cart**  
1994 Dec.

Hawthorne, long-time UMass employee, gives visitors a hayride at the third annual barn festival in Hadley. The cart is marked UMass Equine Center.



**Phillips, Marie: M.A.C. Barn, Amherst, Mass. [postcard]**  
1910

View looking to the northwest of the barn complex west of Grinnell Arena, including the hay barn and dairy barns.



**Phillips, Marie: Mr. Moustache at the entrance to the Horse Barn**  
1994

Mr. Moustache seated in the doorway to the Queen Anne Horse Barn at UMass Amherst.



Phillips, Marie: Queen Anne Horse Barn  
1994 Apr.

View of center section of the Horse Barn, showing cupola and slate roof.



Phillips, Marie: Queen Anne Horse Barn  
1994 Apr.

View of the doors and west gable of the horse barn with snow plow blade in front.





Phillips, Marie: Queen Anne Horse Barn interior  
1994 Apr.  
View of stall door.



Phillips, Marie: Queen Anne Horse Barn interior: hay crib  
1994 Apr.  
View of hay crib in the corner of a stall.



Phillips, Marie: Queen Anne Horse Barn interior: horse stalls  
1994 Apr.  
View down row of horse stalls.



**Phillips, Marie: Queen Anne Horse Barn interior: horse stalls**

1994 Apr.

View down row of horse stalls.

Horse Barn: reports

1987-2012

Box 1: 8

Includes correspondence supporting renovation of the barn and copy of the Massachusetts Historical Commission Building Reports.

Horse Barn: restoration

1987-1995

Box 1: 9

Background information, Massachusetts Historical Commission Building Reports, and other documents used in Horse Barn Restoration Project.

Horses at UMass Amherst

1948-1956

Box 1: 10

Copies of correspondence and memoranda relative to the Morgan horse herd at UMass Amherst.

Horses barn pin-back button: "The Horse Barn, est. 1894"

1994

Box 1: 11

Button produced for supporters of renovation of the Horse Barn.

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Marie Phillips, July 2015.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Aug. 2015.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use ([More information](#) )

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### Subjects

Barns--Massachusetts--Amherst

Cats--Massachusetts--Amherst

Feral cats--Massachusetts--Amherst

Historic preservation--Massachusetts--Amherst

Horses--Massachusetts--Amherst

Munson Annex (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Queen Anne Horse Barn (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

University of Massachusetts Amherst

## Contributors

Phillips, Marie, 1954- [\[main entry\]](#)

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