



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 17 YEARS OF RESCUE
AND OVER 18,000 PRECIOUS LIVES SAVED

Holidays 2014

CALLING ALL ANGELS



The holidays are a magical time. We look back in gratitude and wonder, and we thank our angels for the many miracles we've witnessed this year. When we allow ourselves to be quiet, to let our angels come to us, we can recognize the little miracles they bring us, nearly every day. There are almost unnoticeable coincidences; circumstances coming together at just the right time, in just the right way. Was an angel present? At MEOU, we believe that each animal

who comes to us has miraculous potential and perhaps an angel to watch over them. They may come to us cold, hungry and dirty. Often they're too frightened to eat and too nervous to accept consolation. Some have been abandoned and others have just lost their way. Many are injured or ill. Some are suffering from geriatric frailties, some are tiny newborns, struggling for an opportunity to fulfill their potential. Many others fall somewhere in-between. Most are confused, bewildered, upset, perhaps flattening themselves against the back of a carrier or hiding under their bedding. They come to us because they have nowhere else to go.

They come in need of an angel. Whether they are perfectly healthy or have permanent challenges, whether their lives are just beginning or they are in their winter years, each one is equally valued. All will have a clean, warm and safe place to call their own, good nourishing food, the finest veterinary care, the love and respect of the deeply committed staff and volunteers at MEOU, and perhaps most importantly, the promise of a forever home. They come in need of comfort and joy. They've come to the right place. At MEOU



we're so happy to be able to offer the same level of care to each animal entering our doors. It is only because of MEOU's angels, the individuals and businesses who believe in us and offer generous support, that we are able to fulfill our mission. Perhaps you've given the gift of your precious time at the shelter, in your home as a foster parent, or helping with a fundraising event. Maybe your gift was a donation of food, litter, cleaning supplies, beds, toys, office supplies, or a monetary donation which helped us provide for the daily needs and the special medical needs of each precious one. Regardless of how you have given, you have been an angel. You have made a difference.



Over the past 18 years, your kindness and goodwill have helped to save and enrich more than 18,000 lives. During this season of angels, of comfort and joy, we'd like to offer our most sincere thanks to all of you who have helped. You have offered courage to the fearful, patience to the withdrawn, endurance to the weak, intercession to the forgotten, hope to the hopeless, and compassion to all who enter here. In this season of love, of angels and miracles, we hope you'll be moved to continue giving needy animals the comfort and joy they so richly deserve. This holiday season we hope you'll spend some time with your angels, to be still, to reflect, to be thankful for the blessings you have and to be generous with those who have less. We hope your kindness will be returned to you and multiplied.

Today, tomorrow, and always we pledge to continue being angels for the animals in our care. If they could ask for just one gift this holiday season, we're sure that every homeless animal would ask their angel for something so simple yet so precious ~ the safety, the security, and the undying love of a human angel in their very own forever home.

MERCY AND GRACE

Teach me to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault I see,
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.

~Alexander Pope (1688-1744)



Angels Mercy & Grace

When Marnie, our Shelter Manager, saw a cat carrier at the front door of the shelter one morning when she arrived, she was taken aback. Just days before, some-

one had left a senior cat on our doorstep. It couldn't be happening again so soon, could it? As it turned out it could, and it did. This time it was a pair of senior cats.

It happens from time to time, but each time is shocking. We'll never understand what might bring a person to abandon an animal, particularly an elderly pet whom we can only assume was a family member. At these times we must do our best to withhold judgment, to summon forgiveness. On that day, our focus quickly turned to the cats.

At first, they tried to hide behind one another, looking confused and frightened. For several days they cowered in the back of their cages. Then, ever so slowly, and in little ways, they began to respond to our overtures. When we spoke softly to her, Grace began to open her mouth and answer, almost inaudibly, but unmistakably making conversation. It took longer for Mercy's rigid body posture to relax. Finally, there it was, the slightest rise of her bottom as a gentle hand slowly stroked her back. The two, purring in unison.

We've since learned that these best friends are pure-bred Ragdolls who have been together for their entire lives. Mercy is 13 and Grace is 15 years old. Their senior panels reveal they are both healthy and aging very gracefully.

Mercy remains a bit shy and insecure, but then, who wouldn't? We are hopeful she will learn to trust again and to love completely and forever. Grace chats and purrs readily these days. We're calling all angels to watch over Mercy and Grace, to bring that special person to them, to grant them a happy forever.

That is the mystery of grace: it never comes too late.
~François Mauriac (1885-1970)

BLESSED BY AN ANGEL

Late last fall, volunteers Marc and Andee Castillo moved Marc's mother, Pauline Drew, to Kirkland from her home in Oregon. Pauline looked forward to living closer to family, to holidays together, and to becoming a volunteer at MEOW. She had witnessed her son and daughter-in-law's selflessness and commitment to our mission and was anxious to get involved.

She was just getting settled in, just starting this new life, when she received a devastating diagnosis. She had an aggressive cancer. In six short weeks, Pauline lost her battle. Her two cats, Percy and Frankie, a pair of FIV+ brothers adopted from a shelter near her Oregon home, moved in with Marc and Andee and became a part of a large family of cats and one tiny dog. They fit right in.

Although Pauline Drew lost her battle, she didn't lose her dream. Before earning her wings, Pauline arranged for a generous bequest to complete MEOW's new Intake Room. Thanks to our special angel, that space has now been fitted with beautiful custom cabinetry to accommodate everything needed to welcome new residents to the shelter. How appropriate that each and every new resident cat and kitten is welcomed by an angel who has planned for their arrival.

ANGELS IN THE CUPBOARDS

Today the cats' fondest wish is for canned food, a staple at MEOW. Every day we open dozens of cans. Some of our cats are fed canned food exclusively. It's vital for introducing kittens to the plate, it's a symbol of kindness to our frightened newcomers, it's helpful for cats with finicky appetites or fussy stomachs, it's necessary for recovering from dental procedures, and it's the best diet for overweight and diabetic cats. If you can donate a case of food, or even a can or two, any brand, any flavor, the cats at the shelter would be ever so grateful. Other items on our Wish List would be much appreciated as well. Thank you.

Canned Kitten and Cat Foods
Royal Canin BabyCat
Royal Canin Special 33
Liquid Laundry Detergent HE
Kitchen Garbage Bags
Bleach
Cat Attract Litter
Postage Stamps
Paper Towels
Hand Sanitizer



KUDOS TO KELLY & THE CANINES

That's right. Ever since MEOW began, we have had a Canine Division, headed up by Kelly Starbuck. Kelly has always been committed to the dogs in our care and over the years she has become widely known and well respected, particularly within the world of the Chinese Shar-Pei breed. In October, our Kelly was honored to receive the Special Rescue Award by the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc. The inscription on the beautiful plaque reads, "In recognition of your tireless efforts on behalf of all the less fortunate Chinese Shar-Pei who would not have had a chance without your help."

The club's magazine, The Barker, will feature a recent rescue story in which twenty-three Shar-Pei were rescued from a terrible existence with a backyard breeder through Kelly's commitment, perseverance and unfailing love.

Congratulations, Kelly!

ANGELS AMONG US

The universe has a way of placing angels just where they need to be. Such was the case earlier this year when Kenny was asked to feed and care for the dogs belonging to a business acquaintance in an emergency situation. Upon arrival, he found 23 beautiful purebred Chinese Shar Pei being housed in wire chicken coops. The stench of layers of filthy blankets, ropes, urine, feces, fur, and insects, was unbearable. The dogs' feet were raw from wire cage bottoms and unclipped toenails embedded in their pads. Water bowls held only thick algae and the huge food bins were caked with dirt.



I'm outta here!

Kenny and his wife Kristin spent the next three days bathing dogs, gutting and pressure washing all the cages, replacing bedding, as well as walking the dogs and reassuring them that help had indeed arrived. When Kenny contacted the owner he came to realize that nothing was going to change without legal action. Photos had been taken of the premises prior to cleaning it up, but Animal Control needed more evidence to charge anyone with cruelty. He contacted MEOW Canine Division's Kelly Starbuck.

Interestingly, Kelly had been made aware of this breeder a couple of years ago through concerned neighbors. At that time he had actually abandoned his home and his dogs, coming back only infrequently to feed them. He had been willing to do just enough to avoid criminal prosecution. Now there were dogs suffering at his hands again. This time, because Kenny had a working relationship with the man, Kelly saw an opportunity to compel him to end the nightmare for every one of these dogs. Over the following two weeks, while Kenny and Kristin cared for the dogs, he negotiated, he threatened, he pleaded on their behalf, until finally the breeder agreed to relinquish all of them!



First Bath

Victory! How amazingly resilient animals are. The dogs wagged their tails and offered kisses. All the while Kelly made mental notes of the medical issues which would have to be addressed as soon as possible. In addition to ingrown toenails and bleeding foot pads, many had skin issues common to the breed, yeast infection burning their ears, and many needed entropion surgery to correct eyelashes painfully scratching their eyes with every blink. In addition, all of them were intact and needed spay/neuter surgeries.

Kelly arranged to house most of the dogs at Everett Animal Shelter during their transition to foster homes. During that time, she and a group of wonderful volunteers went to Everett early each morning to feed, clean spacious pens, exercise and play with the dogs, and just get to know each of them.

In ones and twos they moved from the shelter into foster homes, into forever homes, into their futures. One of the magical abilities which animals possess is acceptance. Another is forgiveness. They live in the precious present. On that day, when Kenny resolved to intervene on their behalf, to do whatever it would take to relieve their suffering, 23 gentle souls received their precious present. Their lives were changed forever because someone became their champion, their defender, their angel.



MERCER ISLAND EASTSIDE
ORPHANS & WAIFS
all canine lives are precious™

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

18 years ago, I found my beautiful Smokey at your shelter. Yesterday, she passed away. Thank you for giving me those amazing years.
Frank Branch

In honor of Amelia Riedler's birthday!
Angeline Candido

Remembering Miss Hissy Kitty. She is always in my heart and thoughts.
Stephen Lamphear

In memory of Sam.
Susim Chen

Fond memories of Pandora, greeter and social butterfly extraordinaire.
Friends of Pandora

In loving memory of my husband, Mark.
Vicki Russell

In honor of Tina.
Patty Edwards

In memory of Tiger Lilly Fenser Vine, beloved companion of Ken, Mary and 'Don Juan'.
Mary Cutting

Honoring 3 sweet girls; Pretty, CC and Maxie.
Carmen Almodovar

In memory of Margie Squifflet.
Edmond Squifflet

In honor of Harald Sund's birthday.
Mimi Zorn

In memory of Tiger Lilly.
Mary Cutting

In memory of Max Rabel.
Dick & Mimi Zorn

In honor of soon-to-be MEOW volunteer Ty Albright's 18th birthday.
Anne Scott

In memory of Banyon, who with his sister Lily, ruled the roost at Earth Pet. We will miss his big, fluffy commanding 'cattitude'. May all cats be as loved as he was.
Jackie & Madeline Wood

Thanks for all the wonderful cats you've saved!!
Mary MacGregor

In memory of Lindsey Soffes' dog, Chai and Marilyn Evenson's cat, Ava.
Mary Ann Chenoweth

In memory of "Percy" Lindberg.
Miriam Zorn

In memory of actor, James Garner, for his love of animals and the joy he brought to millions of people. He made me smile.
Harry Goldstrom & Goldstrom girls

In memory of Janet Elizabeth Roberts.
Tom & Carolyn Roe

In memory of Peanut.
S.L. Verrinder



In loving memory of Kerry Kat, my beautiful MEOW cat.
Marilyn Sylvester

In honor of Nimbus, fondly known as Cloudy, adopted in November 2010!
Outerwall

In loving memory of Cali, Chloe and Sam Asplund.
The Bineau family

In memoriam ~ Tuxedo ~ 20 years of love.
Lovisa Lerose

In loving memory of Janet Kowalczewski Whitner.
Doreen Kowalczewski

In memory of:
Oscar, lovingly missed by Heidi Bowers.
Rupert, loved by Jacqueline Bringolf.
Sammie, loved and cared for by Shellie Hart.
Harley, loved and missed by Lee Tenneboe.
City Kitty

We honor the memory of Bob. Beloved by Linda, Paula and many neighbors.
Jean Stewart

Merry Christmas to Mai and her kitties.
Judi S. & Scout T. Braverman

In honor of Marnie Annin, MEOW is in the best of hands!
Sisters Susan & Elizabeth

In loving memory of Sugar, Ashley, Scottie, Summer and Stewie.
Joan Talder

2015 MEOW CALENDAR



The 2015 MEOW All nine Lives are Precious calendars have arrived, featuring some very remarkable cats from MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption. This beautiful 2015 calendar is available now for \$10 or

\$12 if you would like it shipped. Order online on our website or stop by or call the shelter (425) 822-6369 to purchase your calendar. All proceeds from your calendar purchase support MEOW.

With respect and compassion for all animal life, MEOW promotes lifelong relationships between people and companion animals, providing shelter and care for each precious life until adopted into a forever home.

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Info@meowcatrescue.org
Newsletter@meowcatrescue.org
www.meowcatrescue.org

Hours:
Tues., Wed. 12PM - 5PM
Thurs. 3PM - 7PM
Fri. 12PM - 7PM
Sat. 11AM - 5PM
Sun. 12PM - 5PM
Closed Mondays and Major Holidays

SHILOH ~ ANGELS IN THE HAYLOFT

Every MEOW cat is blessed with a promise, a safety net, and a soft place to land if ever their world should turn upside down. We're here to welcome them back with open arms, to offer unconditional love and support until they become part of another family. We learn all we can about each one. We attempt to address their every



Hugo welcomes Shiloh

need, medical and behavioral, to prepare them for the next chapter. We rejoice when we say our goodbyes and wish them a happy ever after.

Shiloh, a six year old tortie, was returned when her elderly mom had to move and could only take one of her two cats. She apologized for her choice but explained that the other cat would be easier to manage. You see, Shiloh had a history of aggression and unpredictability. From the moment her mom left, it was clear that Shiloh was troubled. She would scream and charge at anyone foolish enough to come within a few feet of her cage. We had to work out a complicated system to feed her and clean her double cage space in isolation, our quietest area. We draped her cage to cut down on external stimulation. Shiloh could only be described as fractious. Staff members responsible for her care had to use extreme caution. Days turned to weeks. Our veterinarians, unable to examine her to potentially discover the source of her discomfort, prescribed medications for anxiety and for nerve pain. They felt she must be in distress or discomfort, either mentally or physically, to act this way. The word euthanasia was uttered aloud.

All the while, we kept trying to calm and befriend Shiloh, hoping for a breakthrough. For weeks, she would loudly threaten as we gently tossed treats from a few feet away. Eventually, her growls and hisses had less power. Then one happy day she took a treat right from Jason's fingers. He worked hard at developing a rapport with her. She made progress, great progress. Still, after six months she remained very high-strung and unpredictable. We felt she wasn't a candidate for adoption into a regular family setting and we began to think outside the box.

Then the call came. Might MEOW have a cat who could live in a barn? After a long honest conversation about Shiloh's personality, we asked "Are you still interested?" The reply was "What other options does she have?" When we responded that she didn't have many, this family knew what they had to do. "Of course, she can come here." Angels do exist.

On a sunny September day, Shiloh started a new life in a warm, well maintained barn at an absolutely lovely equestrian farm. Now she romps and plays in a beautiful hay loft and ventures down the stairs to rub against Hugo, the big, rambunctious family dog. Her new extended family adores her and has learned to understand her quirks. Recently she caught her first mouse and proudly offered it as thanks to her angels in the hayloft.

A GIFT THAT LASTS ~ A GIFT THAT HELPS

Is there a person or animal in your life for whom you'd like to make a lasting tribute which recognizes a special relationship? Your sponsorship will provide necessary funds to help ensure we are able to provide the necessary care to our residents as they await their forever homes. A personalized plaque commemorating your sponsorship will be displayed for the year. At the end of the year you will have the opportunity to renew for another year.

Accommodation Sponsorships

Resident Cages ~ \$500/year

Meet and Greet Rooms ~ \$750/year (not currently available)

Suites ~ \$1500/year

Community Rooms ~ \$3000/year (not currently available)

Other Ways to Help

Monthly Donation ~ \$10/month minimum

Commemorative Tile ~ \$50 donation

Newsletter Tribute ~ \$50 minimum donation

Tree of Life ~ Leaves of Love ~ \$500 donation

Your Cat on Metro Bus Ad ~ \$1000 donation

For more information about any of these opportunities, please see our website, call the shelter or email us at donations@meowcatrescue.org.

Each smallest act of kindness reverberates across great distances and spans of time, affecting lives unknown to the one whose generous spirit was the source of this good echo, because kindness is passed on and grows each time it's passed, until a simple courtesy becomes an act of selfless courage years later and far away.

~ Dean Kootnz

MEOW'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR & OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH FROM 12 PM ~ 5 PM

It's almost time for our annual bazaar and open house. This year MEOw's Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale will once again be in the Chapel at the Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, located about 3 blocks north west of the shelter at 308 4th Ave S in Kirkland. We'll have handcrafted items and delicious baked goods for sale, generously donated by our volunteers and supporters. There will also be MEOw logo merchandise available and raffle drawings. Volunteers will be available to do your gift wrapping for a small per package donation of \$1 to \$3 based on size (buy your gifts here or bring them from home).

Come on by, do some holiday shopping and then head over to the shelter to meet up with other volunteers, adopters and MEOw feline residents and have some refreshments. Bring a donation of pet food to help support our Animeals food drive for families in need, distributed by Hopelink.

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