



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF RESCUE
AND OVER 19,000 PRECIOUS LIVES SAVED

Spring 2015

SWEET PEA



Miss Sweet Pea

Late last November a man called the shelter saying he had "too many cats" and needed to get rid of some of them. We asked him "how many is too many?"

He thought for a moment and then guessed "Thirteen, maybe?" He explained that someone had given his girlfriend four young female cats and they had all given birth within two weeks of one another. The mom cats had since disappeared and the offspring were now about eight months old.

This is a rescue dance that we know very well. The caller realizes that their situation is out of hand and yet they have trouble letting go. After several phone exchanges, they brought in the first two cats in December, and then another three. Then progress stalled. We knew there were at least eight more young cats, and there had been mention of another litter of 6-week old kittens. We pressed them gently to please finish the good work they had started and let us rehome the rest of the cats. Weeks passed. At last, three more cats were delivered late one night. The following week, another two. Then silence again for weeks. Finally, after some serious encouragement on our part, they relinquished the remaining three young adults and the litter of kittens, now three months old.

The cats upon arrival were, for the most part, in good physical condition, with one exception. A thin 2-year old calico squinted through sticky eyelids, barely able to lift her head. Her soaking wet bottom indicated another problem. Sweet Pea was extremely dehydrated, anorexic and lethargic. She was suffering from severe infections in her kidneys, urinary tract and uterus. Additionally, radiographs revealed that at some point in her young life, she had experienced significant trauma to her tail which caused both fecal and urinary incontinence. Before undergoing the life-saving surgery to remove her infected womb, she was stabilized with high doses of antibiotics and IV fluids.

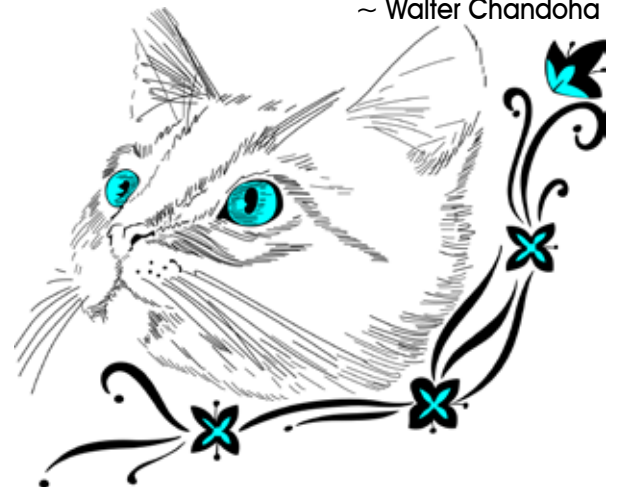
Recovered now from those things which can be treated, Sweet Pea remains incontinent. Her bladder must be expressed manually by loving human hands a few times each day. She cooperates fully in the process and makes our job as easy as possible. After each expression, she likes to hug her caregiver around the neck or lie on her back and kick a catnip toy. She seems to smile.

"There are two morals to this story. The first is "please spay or neuter your pets to prevent overpopulation". Don't delay. It is our fervent wish that one day there will be no need for euthanasia for space in shelters and there will be no more homeless pets. Secondly, "please keep cats indoors" to prevent devastating injuries such as the one sustained by Sweet Pea."

We have promised Sweet Pea the best life possible. Our hope is that she will be able to have a permanent home with someone experienced with this type of special need. If that's not possible, we will use our greatest powers of persuasion to find her place at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, UT. If so, many of her MEOW friends will see her on their annual volunteering vacation there, and maybe she'll get to room with Winter. No matter where Sweet Pea's path leads her, she will be loved.

"Of all domestic animals the cat is the most expressive. His face is capable of showing a wide range of expressions. His tail is a mirror of his mind. His gracefulness is surpassed only by his agility. And, along with all these, he has a sense of humor."

~ Walter Chandoha



THE FABULOUS FOUR



Fabulous!

It was August and temperatures had been hovering near 100 degrees for over a week in Eastern Washington. A couple taking a walk in a rural area thought they heard the sounds of very faint meowing. They scoured the area and located an old, dilapidated truck.

To their astonishment, inside the truck was a box containing four very tiny kittens...calling for help. The nearest animal shelter was unable to address the intensive care these kittens would need if they were to have any chance to survive. The emergency transport arrived at MEOW just hours later.

These kittens were about three weeks old, all girls and all in trouble. Prolonged scorching temperatures and no food source had caused severe dehydration and malnutrition. One kitten in particular, later named Tully, was the most fragile. She struggled hour by hour. Every day was a victory. With special care around the clock, little by little, each kitten grew stronger and at last we began to see a sparkle in their eyes. Oh glory day!

The fabulous four, Bailey, Carly, Lacey and Tully, began to blossom before our very eyes. Each week brought new milestones: discontinued fluids, measurable weight gain, crawling turned to running, jumping and wrestling. The sound of four warm, purring kittens was music to our ears.

Several months later, Bailey and Lacey, the biggest and strongest of the four, were adopted. These girls hit the jackpot! Their new home had cozy cat beds, cat trees and an abundance of toys. And, their new people loved them to the moon and back. While thrilled with their new kittens, the family couldn't stop thinking about the other sisters. The four had been through so much. They deserved to stay together. And so it was. Carly and Tully were welcomed with open arms. We are forever thankful to Sage and Kari for the abundance of love that is being given to the 'fabulous four'.



"Cats always seem so very wise, when staring with their half-closed eyes. Can they be thinking, "I'll be nice, and maybe she will feed me twice?""

~ Bette Midler

CARE FOR A CREAMSICLE?

Care for a Creamsicle?



Ellie and Elliott
or is it Charity and Charlie?

Last September, an elderly woman contacted MEOW asking for 15 spay/neuter vouchers. She explained that two years ago an orange and white cat had given birth under her deck and had since birthed three more litters. Vouchers were issued and carriers

were loaned to the woman.

Over the past four years we have secured a total of \$50,000 in grant funds from The Handsel Foundation and Washington Federation for Animal Care & Control Agencies for the purpose of spay/neuter vouchers for low income pet owners. Initially, Feral Cat Project in Lynnwood was our cats-only voucher partner. Recently, Seattle Humane in Bellevue joined with us to honor vouchers for both cats and dogs. MEOW has facilitated nearly 3,000 free alter surgeries for publicly owned animals who would not otherwise have been altered. Requests for vouchers continue to come in daily, indicating that the need for these services still exists.

When, after a few months, the vouchers issued to the woman had not been redeemed at either clinic, we knew we would have to play a more active part to get this situation under control. A visit to her home allowed us to do a realistic assessment. We met Mama who had started it all, and Daddy-o, a handsome orange and white boy from her first litter, who had since fathered all the others. Not surprisingly, there was an amazing family resemblance among them. With the woman's cooperation, we were able to get 19 adult cats and teen kittens altered within just a few days.

Many of the cats and kittens from this household now occupy MEOW's Back Community Room, where they are enjoying the comfort of their familiar family members while adjusting to their new situation. "The Creamsicles", as we affectionately call them, are learning to trust new people, trying to step into a new life where they won't see themselves around every corner, but rather they'll have just one or two other cat friends in a home where they can grow to feel unique and definitely loved.

HOME AGAIN HARRY



Happy Harry

Susan was heartsick. Her beloved cat had disappeared. It was mid-December and temperatures in the Chicago area were dipping well below the freezing mark. Harry was not used to being outside and Susan agonized about his fate. She searched everywhere, she spoke to neighbors, she posted signs. Days turned into weeks and hope began to fade. On January 9, MEOW received a phone call from Lake County Animal Control in Libertyville, Illinois. They had picked up a very thin cat, scanned him for a microchip and learned that he'd been adopted from MEOW Cat Rescue. Using the microchip number, we would be able to quickly and easily match the cat up with his owner(s), contact them and reunite them. Piece of cake. Or...maybe not.

After some sleuthing, we successfully located Susan, Harry's person. She had moved from Seattle to the Chicago area several years ago and it never occurred to her to update Harry's microchip information. Susan was overjoyed that her beloved Harry had been safely found.

While 'on the lam', Harry lost four pounds and contracted an upper respiratory infection. He's working on gaining the weight back and enjoys tuna with gravy every day along with the water that he drinks out of his favorite red Solo cup! Susan reports that Harry is the most affectionate and sweetest cat she has ever met. She says that he's the only cat she's ever encountered who can whine and purr at the same time - quite a talent! He also enjoys wetting his paw on the ice of cocktails. He's a silly boy for sure!

It goes without saying that Harry's microchip information has been updated but if you ask him, he'll tell you he's not planning to venture outside ever again.



"If I were a professor, I'd bring my cat to class. I'd be silent until it meowed, and as soon as it did, I'd stand up and say, "Lecture's over."

~ Jarod Kintz

KEEP YOUR PETS' MICROCHIP INFO UP TO DATE

While microchips have incredible potential for reuniting lost pets with their owners, the chip itself is only one component in a system involving microchips, registries and scanners. The microchip contains a unique number used to identify your pet, which, when properly registered, links to your contact information, allowing veterinarians, rescue organizations and clinics to contact you should your lost pet be found. It is important to note that the microchip itself does not store your contact information ~ it only contains the microchip number.

A microchip is not a GPS or tracking device. It is only when a lost pet is found, scanned, and the number searched in the manufacturer's registry that someone will be able to contact you. Failure to keep your contact information current on the registry renders the microchip useless.

These are the most common microchip brands:

Manufacturer	Telephone	Website
24PetWatch	866-597-2424	www.24petwatch.com
AKC	800-252-7894	www.akccar.com
AVID	800-336-2843	www.avidid.com
Banfield	877-567-8738	www.banfield.net
Bayer resQ	877-738-5465	www.petlink.net
HomeAgain	888-466-3242	www.homeagain.com

If you know your pet's microchip number but are unsure of the manufacturer, you can go to <http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org/>, and type in the microchip number. Your pet's microchip number will be included in your veterinary paperwork or shelter adoption packet. It is a good idea to review your pets' microchip information annually to help ensure that if a pet is ever lost, it will be returned safely home.

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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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

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

- In honor of Bud Alkire's birthday.
Gayle Hansen
- In honor of Graycee, adopted in 2010.
She entertains us every day.
Jane Stevens
- In honor of all the cats and dogs that we've loved.
Lee Klasterin
- In memory of my dear Tina.
Lea Galanter
- In honor of Copperfield and
in memory of Puck, both MEOW cats.
Dorothy Day
- In honor of Hathaway, adopted 11 years ago.
Beverly Teraoka
- In memory of ZeZou,
lovingly cared for by Marie Martin.
City Kitty
- Greetings from my tabby girls,
Tabitha and Tiffany.
Patricia Edwards
- For Tiger and Samantha, my childhood cats.
Daniel Carey
- In loving memory of Toby.
Thank you for being our little monster.
We miss you and were so blessed to have you.
Michele & Aaron Gowin
- In loving memory of Zoe,
my wonderful companion of nine years.
Jeff Keller
- In honor of Samantha and Cheetha.
Lucinda Wood
- In remembrance of 'Bob'.
Susie Hart
- In memory of my beloved Sam.
Susim Chen
- For Ouzo and Sake, who live on in my heart.
Lynne Madrigal
- In loving memory of Willow and Blannigan.
De Calvert
- In appreciation of the remarkable care
provided by Dr. Erin Maillet and staff at the
Redmond-Fall City Animal Hospital.
Margaret Baker
- In memory of Barbara Wallin and her kitty, Calli.
Sharon Gay
- In honor of Heidi, Ajax, Halo and Buttercup.
The Hale family
- Thank you for Sandy and LeRoi,
they bring laughter and love
to my life every day.
Patricia Fullerton
- Still remembering Rosa. I adopted her in 1998
from your old Mercer Island room.
Kathy Hall
- In memory of Ten,
a big boy with an even bigger spirit.
He was loved indeed and will be missed
by his family.
MEOW Cat Rescue
- In honor of Nelle.
Joan Hutto
- Winslow ~ we still miss you,
please come home.
Lynne Harrison
- Remembering Tonto, my trusty sidekick.
You are missed.
Gary Woy
- For my 'Big Guy', Joey.
Kim Current
- To honor my MEOW cat KaKa (Kayla) who went to
Cat Heaven in August. So very missed.
Inalou Cates
- To honor my friend and MEOW supporter,
Roxanne. To remember my rescue kitty cat,
Stardust. Miss you sweet girl.
Carol Smith
- In honor of our beloved cat, Sadie.
Cheryl & Jim King
- In remembrance of Kyra.
Don & Sandra Casto
- In memory of Cliff.
Rob & Margaret Drollinger
- In honor of Nellie.
Judith Lipton
- In memory of Spooky and Pretty Boy,
lost within two months, my dear loves.
Lillian Garland
- Remembering Merlin, Clawdius, Gulliver
and Bridgette. Honoring Simba and TMax.
Beth Van Pay
- In honor of Hobbs and Calvin, rescued in 1995.
Andrea Lorig
- In honor of the sweetest (and furriest) Sundae
I have ever known and in memory of Egypt,
queen of all she surveyed.
Christy Reynolds
- In memory of Rocky, the best dog ever.
Judy Anderson
- In loving memory of Yazhi,
beloved chafelaine of our little castle.
We miss you so much, baby girl.
Judi Sorensen
- In honor of our foster
Jolie Scheibe's birthday.
Lori Hendry
- In memory of those we lost in 2014 ~ Plusha, Gizmo,
Zeus and sweet little Pandora.
You will live forever in our hearts.
Bob & Kathy Posner
- In honor of Nate and Jen Anderson's
10th anniversary.
Michael & Elisabeth Spring
- In memory of Roger Rice.
Karel Vance
- In honor of Lucy, a rescue cat
and my constant companion.
Phyllis Albrecht
- In memory of my beloved
Joey Caracal (1997 - 2014).
Zee Straight-Weiss
- In memory of my beautiful dilute tortie,
Sabrina ~ a real "snuggle-bug"!
Dawnell Lamb
- To honor Elsie and Dewey ~ 14 years of fun!
Bridget Dacres
- In loving memory of my mom.
Christine Grossman
- In honor of all living things.
Connie Keith-Kerns
- In memory of sweet Sassafrass,
we will miss you, kitty-girl.
Sue Schankel
- In celebration of the 4th anniversary of Flint
and Pearl's adoption from MEOW!
Rowena Verdan
- In memoriam of Muriel Harvey.
Daughters of the British Empire of Washington
- In honor of Christi Robinson.
Steven Robinson
- In memory of Baby, who had to be put down
on January 2, 2015. She was a beautiful,
loving cat who was 9 years old.
Thank you for working hard to help cats who aren't
given a chance to have a great life.
John Reinyas
- In loving memory of my husband, Mark.
Vicki Russell
- In support of Roxanne and Gina.
Gary Hoffman
- In memory of Taylor Griffith,
16 year old son of Jackie and Ken Griffith.
Patty Anderson
- In memory of Mr. Lucky Puck.
Consuelo Larrabee
- In memory of Bertha (Penny) Harvey.
She loved all cats!
Donald Harvey
- In memory of Zoe.
Allison Johnson
- Remembering Bob and Frosty Mariger,
together again beyond the Rainbow Bridge.
from friends at MEOW

SWANZI & BEAUTY



Swanzi & Beauty

Years ago, a MEOW volunteer was called out to trap feral cats near a dairy farm in Duvall. In fall of 2014, she returned to the same site, and found a pair of kittens hiding in the back of one of the stalls—feral, tiny, and just eight weeks old.

The kittens, now named Swanzi and Beauty, went to a foster home to be cared for and socialized until they were ready to be adopted. Right away, their foster mom noticed that Swanzi's breathing was often labored and her stomach was distended with fluid. She couldn't play with her brother for more than a few minutes before becoming tired, and her chest heaved even when she was at rest. Some days, she was so fatigued that she'd almost fall asleep while sitting up. Despite her healthy appetite, she wasn't growing or gaining weight. A veterinary exam and chest X-ray revealed a heart murmur and an enlarged heart. Swanzi was prescribed a diuretic, but she needed to see a veterinary cardiologist. Swanzi's echocardiogram showed severe enlargement of her heart, as well as fluid buildup in her chest. No one knew what to expect, what quality of life Swanzi might have, or even how long she might live.

But Swanzi began to grow—and her heart condition did not worsen. The diuretic helped flush out the fluids, giving her more room to breathe. When playing with Beauty, she paced herself, as if she knew exactly what she needed to do in order to build up her strength and improve her health.

Today, Swanzi remains on a diuretic medication, which she takes willingly, and she has grown into an energetic and healthy young lady. She and Beauty play together and roughhouse like any pair of siblings. They are affectionate and curious, always looking to explore new surroundings. Thanks to MEOW, Swanzi was given a chance that so few kittens would have, and through her own spirit, she has made the most of it. Although it's impossible to know for certain, she and her sister are both expected to live long and healthy lives.



"As an inspiration to the author, I do not think the cat can be over-estimated. He suggests so much grace, power, beauty, motion, mysticism. I do not wonder that many writers love cats; I am only surprised that all do not."

~ Carl Van Vechten

YOUR CHANCE TO GIVEBIG TUESDAY MAY 5TH

We are once again excited to participate in Seattle Foundation's one day, on-line charitable giving event designed to inspire people in our community to give generously to the nonprofit organizations who make our region a stronger, more vibrant one for all. Again this year, there will be a stretch pool, making your donations go farther. Watch our website and our e-newsletter, MEOW MEWS in the near future to learn more. Your gift will go farther and help MEOW even more on Tuesday May 5th



PUSSYCAT PANTRY HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

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 those 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 Mother and Baby Cat Kibble
Royal Canin Special 33
Unscented Clumping Clay Litter
Liquid Laundry Detergent HE
Kitchen Garbage Bags
Bleach
Postage Stamps
Paper Towels
Hand Sanitizer
Copy Paper
Costco Gift Cards
Target Gift Cards



10TH ANNUAL FINE WINES & FELINES AUCTION FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY JUNE 20TH



Mark your calendar for our 10th annual Fine Wines & Felines-Catsino Royale! We're celebrating by setting a goal of \$100,000 raised for the cats and dogs of MEOW. We have a lot of fun things planned so you won't want to miss this one. The HUB Ballroom on the UW Campus will once again be our locale for the evening. In case of rain, you'll be comfortably shuttled in covered golf carts from the parking lot to the HUB. For your bidding pleasure there will be more than 200 items total in our silent and live auctions. We'll be hosting a scrumptious buffet style dinner, and offering wine, beer and a signature cocktail, as well. Have a good time with friends and get some great deals on auction items while supporting the cats and dogs whose health and happiness depends on all of us. Watch our website and your mailbox later this spring for registration details and more information. Event sponsorships are still available to businesses and individuals from \$250 to \$1500. If you'd like to donate, we'd love a bottle or two of wine or craft beer, a gift card to a local restaurant, coffee shop, retail store, or something from our Amazon.com 2015 Auction Wish list. Questions? Email us at meowauction@gmail.com. See you there!

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