



CRUISING INTO A NEW LIFE

Early this spring, a large brown tabby and white cat began showing up near the back door of the shelter some evenings, watching the last of us leave. We thought we recognized him as one of three cats we had TNR'd (Trap-Neuter-Return) when we moved in about five years ago. However it was impossible to see whether his ear was tipped, as he stayed a safe distance away, under the trees along the fence line. The eartip is the universal sign for "already altered" among the feral and free roaming cat population, so naturally we were interested in knowing whether we had encountered him before.



Cruiser

We began putting out food and water and he began visiting on a more regular basis, always waiting for us to leave before enjoying his dinner. We planned to trap him, just to make sure he was already altered. He seemed to be in good health so we thought per-

haps he was a neighborhood resident just getting a late night snack before returning to his real home.

Then late one night in June, as a couple of volunteers were leaving, there he was, much closer than usual, within several feet of the back door, his left eye closed and bloodied. We kept a respectful distance and talked softly to him while we set the only trap we had available. He made no attempt to flee. The trap was way too small for him. He skillfully crouched in, reached across the trip lever, ate the food and backed out without setting it off. In fact, after his snack he curled up on the towel covering the top of the trap and gave himself a nice bath, watching us but clearly not afraid. Perhaps he understood that we intended to help him. His eye must have been painful. He was in obvious need of medical attention.

We called one of our excellent volunteer trappers, who came immediately with two large traps. By 10pm the traps were set but the cat was nowhere in sight. Twenty minutes later, however, the big boy was in custody – and not terribly happy. Carefully maneuvering him around in the trap and peeking up from under the trap, we were able to determine that he was indeed still an intact male and he clearly did not have an eartip. Although he gave a few half-hearted lunges at us and growled softly, Janis, our trapper, counseled us not to eartip this one. "I don't think he's really feral," she smiled. "Just frightened. He needs some time but I think he'll come around." We named him Cruiser and set him up for a quiet night in our bathroom at the shelter.

First thing in the morning, he was taken to Inglemoor Veterinary Clinic, where he was neutered. While sedated, his eye was examined. The third eyelid was badly torn. He had a flap of flesh and fur detached above the eye and a scratch down his face under it. The eye itself, however, appeared to be unharmed. Later that day, Cruiser returned to the shelter and took up residence in our Isolation Room. In order to heal, he would require both oral and topical antibiotics twice daily. At first, he would cringe when being medicated, but he never threatened. Soon his eye was improving and he was coming to greet us as we opened his cage to medicate him and give him a good rub. He found his purr. No telling how long it had been lost.

At last the day came when Cruiser was well and could join the adoptable population in our Main Room. In his Meet Your Match evaluation, he surprised us by scoring as a "Leader of the Band", a very high valiance (the ability to adjust to new situations quickly) rating. What was not a surprise, however, was that it took only a short time before his forever family met him and fell head over heels in love, as the MEOW volunteers had done. We'll miss him, but wish Cruiser the very best as he starts his new life, safe and pampered, indoors.

Thanks for coming to us when you needed us most, Cruiser, and for trusting us to do whatever it would take to get you well. Though you've left the shelter now, you'll always remain in a special Cruiser-shaped place in our hearts.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND MEOW'S HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR & BAKE SALE DECEMBER 7, 2008 2 PM - 5 PM



Once again we will be holding a Open House Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale to benefit the animals at MEOW.

Watch our website in November for all the details. Don't miss out on all the purrfect holiday gifts. If you would like to donate items you have crafted or baked to be sold at our bazaar, please contact Joni at jlcmeow@gmail.com.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ASSISTANT SHELTER MANAGER TIFFANY LUTNICK

We are so pleased to announce that Tiffany has joined our small staff as Assistant Shelter Manager. This is a newly-created position. The Board and shelter staff have been reviewing our needs over the past two years and determined that with our many new programs and protocols an additional staff member is necessary. Our goals with the addition of this position will be to extend our hours, participate in more offsite programs in order to increase adoptions and awareness of MEOW, to expand our roll in public education and to continue to maintain the highest quality of care of the cats in our shelter system.



Tiffany with Emma

Originally from California, Tiffany previously worked at the Humane Society for Seattle/King County in Bellevue as the Cat Program Supervisor. She brings with her a tremendous amount of knowledge about the rescue community as well as feline health and behavior.

Tiffany lives in West Seattle with her husband and three cats, one of whom is a handsome one-eyed boy adopted from MEOW.

If you get a chance to stop in to welcome Tiffany to our MEOW family, please do. We're very happy to have her with us.

SMITTEN WITH KITTENS MEOW 2009 CALENDAR

SMITTEN WITH KITTENS



The 2009 MEOW calendars have arrived. Don't miss out on this special calendar dedicated to the thousands of foster kittens who have stolen our hearts over the years and the dedicated foster families who have cared for them. This beautiful 2009 calendar is available now for \$10, or \$12 if you would like it shipped. Stop by or call the shelter (425) 822-6369 to purchase your calendar. All proceeds from your calendar purchase support MEOW.

SAGE

SHE KNOWS HERSELF AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOU



Looking for her forever home

Hello, my name is Sage and I'm a 6 year old dilute calico (female, of course). I was brought to MEOW by my first family because they introduced a baby into what was my space. When the new baby started crawling and walking, I was not happy. They decided to bring me to MEOW. I was pretty overwhelmed with the change in my environment. First a baby, then a bunch of other cats. Wow! My friends at MEOW offered me a cage break and I jumped at the chance. I went to live with my foster parents Jill and Nate. I love them and they love me too. Unfortunately for me, they also have two cats, Jax and Roxy, with whom I have to share my space.

I have tried very hard to get along (I really have), but I long for a home of my very own, where I can be the only cat in a quiet household. I might act a little bit shy at first, but once I recognize my new family members I will shower you with love and affection. My favorite toys are easy. If it's got catnip, then it's my favorite! I will, however, run and jump for laser pointers and toys on strings, especially "Da Bird". I hope you are faster than my foster dad Nate, because I'm quick and can catch "Da Bird" every time we play!

My favorite spots are (1) laying in the warm sunshine, (2) sitting on foster mom Jill's lap when she plays on the computer, or (3) laying on the futon next to Jill when she won't let me cuddle on her lap when she plays on the computer. I also like to cuddle up on my parents' feet at night so I can stay nice and warm. Sometimes I like to have a little alone time all to myself (that's what cats do, right?), but I like to cuddle just as much. It all depends on my mood at that moment.

I have a sweet voice. I can be very talkative and will come running when I hear you opening my bag of treats. I cannot wait to make some new best friends, human friends that is. I would love a home where I don't have to share my space with any other cats or dogs. I would also prefer if there are no young children, because they just have way too much energy for me to deal with. Just so you know, I may not run up to you, no offense, when you first come to meet me. I just don't know you well enough yet. Hopefully, you will see how affectionate I can be and what a great new addition I will make to your home. I know Jill and Nate will be heartbroken when they have to kiss me goodbye, but they love me enough to let me go when my perfect family or person comes along. Could it be you?

JUNE BUG A LITTLE SURVIVOR

Recently, a very young mama cat and her baby were brought to us. Still a kitten herself, the mama cat was doing the best she could but her baby was in trouble. The kitten was small and thin – and it was immediately apparent that something was wrong with her breathing—her little body shuddered with every breath. She was working very hard to breathe. We rushed this baby to the vet where x-rays revealed that she had viral pneumonia. Additionally, she had Calici virus which resulted



Junebug in her oxygen therapy tent

in blisters on her tongue, making nursing off her mama painful if not impossible. This tiny girl was given oxygen therapy, then sent to a foster home where she would have to have formula dribbled into her mouth every couple of hours. Over the course of the next week, the kitten would spend many days in and out of the veterinarian hospital for oxygen treatments.

We are happy to report that June Bug has completely recovered! She is living it up in her foster home and is running, jumping and playing like the healthy kitten that she is. She is full of boundless energy and has doubled her weight. Her illness is a distant memory. Oh, and her mama? She has been adopted into her forever home.

REQUEST FOR CANNED FOOD DONATIONS

Now that kitten season is upon us, we have a greater need for cans of cat food. Help keep our cupboards from being bare this year by dropping by a donation of canned food. While you're at the shelter please take a moment to say hi to our kitten and adult residents. Thank you for your generous support.



IGIVE.COM ONLINE SHOPPERS CAN HELP MEOW

If you enjoy shopping online, now your purchases can help bring prosperity to the pussycats! By registering with iGive.com and shopping through our portal, www.iGive.com/MEOW, from 2% - 26% of your purchase price is donated to MEOW by the participating business. There are over 700 businesses in iGive.com, including pet supply stores, department stores, travel sites, booksellers, office supply stores, ebay, etc. The amount of the donation varies by business. It costs you absolutely nothing to register or shop. Check it out. If you like the idea, tell a friend.

CHAMPAGNE ET CHOCOLAT POUR LES CHATS TRES MAGNIFIQUE

On a lovely Saturday evening in July, over 250 MEOW supporters got together for the third annual MEOW auction fundraiser, this year with a French flair: 'Champagne et Chocolat Pour Les Chats.' We are amazed and ecstatic to report that we raised a record breaking \$35,000 at the event for the cats and dogs of MEOW, well exceeding our goal and last year's results of \$30,000! We were also pleased to welcome the hard working volunteers from the K9 division this year.



A kitty Masterpiece up for bid

The evening's refreshments featured tasting of wines from various regions in France, sponsored in part by Grape Choice of Kirkland; tasting of Theo Chocolates, the only organic, free trade chocolate maker in the US; artisan bread from Great Harvest Bread Company in Factoria and a delicious array of tasty cheeses and appetizers.

We were so proud to host our first live auction! A highlight was when we asked bidders to Fund-a-Wish to support our MEOW Mercy Fund, which helps fund extraordinary medical costs for animals that might not have a chance elsewhere. There was not a dry eye in the house while we watched a brief slide show featuring three of the many MEOW residents helped recently by our Mercy Fund. It was a very exciting moment indeed when the Fund-a-Wish bidding began with two \$1,000 bids! Thanks to all of our generous bidders, we raised over \$7,000 for the Mercy Fund.

Also new this year was the opportunity for businesses to sponsor our fundraiser. We had five major sponsors whose cash donations helped defray the costs of creating our event. Many thanks to the generosity of Dr. Mark O'Hanlon and Animal Emergency Services East - Kirkland, Johnine Larsen & Gaile Fitzgerald of Real Estate Gals – Seattle, Jim & Amy Walen of Ford of Kirkland, Kris Gulbran, CLU, New York Life – Bellevue, and the Kiwanis Club of Mercer Island.

Along with their auction winnings, guests took home a reusable MEOW tote bag with a few gift items to thank everyone for their participation.

We would like to express a huge thanks to everyone who participated in making this auction our most successful to date. This auction was made possible by the dedication and hard work of the auction committee and volunteers, and the generosity of our sponsors, donors and bidders. Thank you one and all! Merci beaucoup!

WELCOMING KATRINA REFUGEES PAUL, CLIFF & ANGELO

Three years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Gulf Coast areas hardest hit are still dealing with the aftermath. When MEOW received a plea for help last spring, we could not turn away.

In June, volunteers from the Pacific Northwest transported several animals from Louisiana to shelters here. MEOW received a trio of young brothers, Angelo, Cliff and Paul. They were born sometime around the end of last January, and survived their first three months amidst the wreckage until they were brought into a shelter. The shyness that lingers today comes from having lived first on their own and then in a cage in a shelter where there was little time for volunteers to provide anything but basic needs: food, shelter, and safety. To this day in those hurricane ravaged places, it still has to be about saving lives. The socialization must come later. And it is coming. These boys are doing so well. At first they were shy and distant in their cages. However, now that they have graduated to our Romper Room, they have blossomed into big handsome teenagers. They love each other and get along just great with other cats. Any of them would be a good companion for another cat who might want a young well-traveled friend.

Angelo is a sleek black cat who is really finding his personality. He's curious about visitors and ready for some gentle companionship. He loves toys. He's also a flirt. If one is patient, especially sitting on the floor, Angelo will sidle up just close enough for a stroke or two, then walk away, only to come back and do it again and again. He wants so much to be touched.



Angelo

Cliff, a brown tabby, is quiet and watchful. He enjoys gentle petting and seems to be coming out of his shell, slowly but surely, now that he is in a free-roaming room with other cats. He will accept treats offered from an outstretched hand and

he will play with a toy. Time and kindness will encourage his personality to continue to bloom. Cliff thoroughly enjoys the company of other cats, particularly his brothers, Angelo and Paul, and would love to live with a cat companion.



Cliff



Paul

Paul, a grey tabby and white, was quite withdrawn on arrival. He would accept attention but could not find the courage to welcome it. He would give little sideways glances that would show his fear and perhaps his longing to feel safe enough to

enjoy being loved. Within just one week of his arrival, Paul began to open up to our loving overtures. We have a video clip of him on Petfinder showing him happily playing with a favorite toy. He seems to be actually smiling as we encourage him. Now, in the Romper Room, Paul will sometimes position himself just close enough for a stroke or two, inviting you with his eyes. Once you begin petting him he'll stretch out and expose his beautiful belly for a good long rub. When he's just about overwhelmed with the happiness of it all, he'll walk away, only to come back to repeat and repeat.

We cannot know what they have endured; we can only make it better for them from now on. Angelo, Cliff and Paul need calm, reliable, peaceful homes to reassure them and heal their hearts. If you're the gentle person who reaches out to one or all of them, your heart may find some healing as well.

THEY MAY SEE ...

They may see the good you do as self serving.
Continue to do good.

They may see your generosity as grandstanding.
Continue to be generous.

They may see your warm and caring nature as a weakness.
Continue to be warm and caring.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.
It never was between you and them anyway.

Author Unknown

With respect and reverence for all animal life, MEOW promotes permanent relationships between people and pets, providing shelter and care for homeless companion animals and protecting their precious lives until each one is adopted.

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Meowcatrescue@hotmail.com
www.meowcatrescue.org

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Denise Schoo

Meownewsletter@comcast.net MEOW is a Non Profit No Kill shelter

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

- For our Daisy, who is now 9 years old and our dog's 'best buddy'.
Judith & Garland Berns
- In memory of Dazi.
City Kitty, LLC
- Happy birthday, Chieko! 'Beast' wishes from Judi and Miss Yazhi Farouche.
Judi Sorensen
- In remembrance of my precious kitties, past and present.
Sandy Heidebreder
- For Perry, Hammy, Smokey, Chuck and Max.
Rick Cooley
- In memory of Pokey Stoner.
Laurel Taylor
- To all my cats and dogs I have loved and lost.
Elaine Smillie-Busick
- In memory of Felix, Squeaky and Scamper.
LaVita White
- In memory of my dear cousin, Connie F. Felix. She was an avid cat fan and dearly loved them all and cared deeply about their welfare.
Glynis Golden
- In honor of Billie.
Eric Upton
- Happy Mother's Day Littlest!
Anna Hackenmiller
- For Miiniver, Meggi and Puffy - my wonderful companions who brought much joy to my life.
Vicky Pecetti
- In memory of Muffy and Fuzzy.
Jill & Don Day
- For Sparky, the most mellow of boys.
Nancy Schroder
- In memory of 'Baby Girl', whose time with me was much too short.
Margaret Weikert
- In memory of Puffy.
City Kitty, LLC
- To honor Jordan on her 9th birthday. Instead of gifts, she asked her friends for donations to animal shelters.
Sandra Morlison
- In loving memory of Margery Myra Mendenhall.
Gary Mendenhall & Sandra Carrick
- For Elsie, Trigger, Samantha and Tiger—all good cats.
Daniel Carey
- In memory of Sammy.
City Kitty, LLC
- In honor of my Willow, who is still going strong.
Bill DeJong
- In memory of 'Spirit' Sorby. She only knew how to love.
Jennifer Engstfeld
- In honor of our old friends, Thumper and Dooley.
Michelle & Max Stocek
- In memory of Virginia Fasset.
Barbara Omahen
- Thank you for bringing sweet Annie into our lives!
Marilyn & Rudy Bowen
- In memory of Charlie.
John & Sadako Matsumoto
- From Su-ling, Felix, Hobie, Zoe and Buddy for their less fortunate brethren.
Bobbie DeCoster
- In loving memory of Dorothy Springwater.
Roxanne Springwater
- To honor my two beautiful pets, Willow and Beannigan.
De Calvert's
- In memory of Kally.
City Kitty, LLC
- In loving memory of Lance Harrison Brown.
Heidi Harris
- In honor of Ruby, who we adopted from MEOW last year. She is a wonderful little girl!
Claire Huehnerhoff
- In loving memory of Esya, for the seventeen years.
Alex and Deidre
- In memory of our dear sister-in-law, Virginia Fasset.
Richard & Mary Fasset
- In memory of Cha-Cha, Lulu and Lumpy. See you at the Rainbow Bridge.
Robin & Dave Smith
- In memory of Margery Mendenhall, a strong advocate for animal rights.
Janet Fogle
- To honor and remember Jack, my bottle baby from MEOW 1997-2007. I can't get over losing you.
Judith Lipton
- In memory of Luna, owned and loved by Carl and Sandy Stonebreaker.
City Kitty, LLC
- In memory of our beloved pets Martha, Muffins and Tiger too.
Jim & Cheryl King
- For our beloved cats Peaches, Percy and Wilson.
Judy & Jay Hiestor
- In celebration of my two Balinese orphans of the storm, Tom and Geri.
Vicki Russell
- In loving memory of Virginia Fasset.
Ryan Larson
- In honor of my two cats, Dexter and Spot.
The Smiley family
- In honor of my sister's cat Ming, age 17, a grand old Siamese who died April 7, 2008.
Anne Jess
- In loving memory of Jasper and Kirby.
Marilyn Pheasant
- For Sam and Blond Frodo, our two red MEOW cats who are loveable and so playful!
Carol Ricard
- In loving memory of Lizzie.
Cliff & Vivien Olofson
- In memory of Judith. Casey Ann's faithful, loving sweet, gentle kitty. Judy will live in our hearts forever.
Sue & Gary Stock

ESTELLE

Just look at this sweet girl. Estelle is 12 years young, and has had a rough life. As you can see, her right ear has suffered the consequences of years of untreated ear-mites while living as a homeless cat. She has also been shaved as she had debilitating matts covering most of her body. She may look a little rough—but she's never felt better! She has the most satisfying purr which she uses at every opportunity. Estelle has such a beautiful, gentle and sweet soul—she is so thankful and appreciative of everything we do for her. It is believed that Estelle is either deaf or nearly deaf—but she doesn't mind. She is in very good health and is just looking for a cozy place to call home and a human whose lap she can keep warm. Could you be that special someone?



Estelle

PUSSYCAT PANTRY HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

Gerber "2nd" Chicken, Turkey or Beef Baby Food
Royal Canin Baby Cat
Canned Kitten Food
Canned Cat Food
Royal Canin Special 33
Laundry Detergent
Bleach
Paper Towels
Postage Stamps
Drawstring Kitchen Garbage Bags



MEOW would like to express gratitude to all those who have made donations of money and supplies. Without your support the work we do would not be possible.

ADOPT AN ADULT CAMPAIGN 2008



Doorstop ~ a wise gentleman

In the summertime, shelters are spilling over with fresh faces. We're all smitten with kittens. They're cute and cuddly, amusing and adorable. But what of the kittens who have grown into cats? The tall thin tabby boy with a torn ear who pretends not to notice as you

walk by, the longhaired lady who waits patiently in her cage for someone to speak her name, the pair of siblings who want desperately to be allowed to stay together.

At MEOW, we value every precious life equally. That's why we've launched our annual Adopt an Adult Campaign. We have reduced our adoption fee for cats over the age of one year to just \$45. There are some very good reasons to choose an adult over a kitten. Several of those reasons are listed on our web site, www.meowcatrescue.org. We hope you'll take the time to read them and to encourage your friends who are thinking about adopting a new pet to consider an adult.

Most adult cats in shelters are there because of a change in their home or family situation, not any fault of their own.



P.O. BOX 58
KIRKLAND, WA 98083-0058

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

These were the kittens that someone found irresistible last year or maybe several years ago. They all have a story. They all wait to be chosen once again, to be special to someone, to be accepted just as they are. If you're thinking of adding a pet, please consider giving your love to one of the wonderful and worthy adult cats who want nothing more than to love you right back.

CAT HAIKUS

Please carry me home
Open your heart and love me
I won't leave you alone

Oh no! Big One
has been trapped by newspaper!
Cat to the rescue!

Most problems can be
Ignored. The more difficult
Ones can be slept through.



Cuddle up a little closer

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