




MEOW

All nine lives are precious

MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption
Fall 2010

ROMEO AND MATILDA ADJUSTING THEIR COURSE



Romancing Romeo 

Romeo and Matilda were adopted as kittens in 1997. They were pampered by their adoptive mom, a single woman who adored them. Time passed and she married: a small adjustment for the cats. Sometime later the young couple adopted a dog. The cats were unsure about him at first, but given time they adjusted to the new pet. Then the children came, one and then another. Baby sounds, then toddler noises, then the happy controlled chaos of an active young family. Each new addition brought changes, but again and again the cats made adjustments to

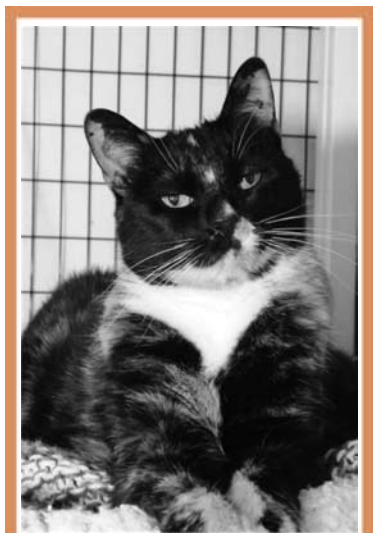
their new busier household.

No one could have predicted what happened in 2009. The husband lost his job and for more than a year was unable to find employment here in the Pacific Northwest. Feeling they had no other options, the family accepted an offer to move in with relatives on the East Coast. Yes, they could bring the dog – but the cats? Well, the household was already inhabited by their relatives' own pets and three young children and it was quite clear that this would not be the best option for Romeo and Matilda, now 13 years old.

The family dropped their cats off at MEOW as they left town, clearly shaken by this devastating turn of events. Matilda, a pretty short haired tortie girl, did not do well with the changes at first. She howled and growled. Within a couple of days, however, she had settled in and allowed us to see the sweetness of her real personality. Romeo, a handsome black and white tuxedo, is a shy boy. His response to new situations is to hide. For several days after arrival, he covered himself completely with his blankets, but when we touched him his body responded by relaxing.

Then the purring began and soon his head would peek out from under his blanket. Now, several weeks later, the two of them share a double cage in the Main Room at the shelter, waiting for that right person to give them another chance - another home.

The family they loved has called the shelter regularly to check on Romeo and Matilda. These cats really were cherished. Both are in perfect health and neither has any behavioral issues. They deserve to be loved again and to live once more in a home, not a cage. Our current economic recession has broken their home, but not their spirits. As they have done in the past, Romeo and Matilda will settle in when given the opportunity, and will be ever grateful to the kind person who offers them a home and a chance, once again to adjust.



Marvelous Matilda 

VENUS & VIZZY

Young sisters Venus and Vizzy both gave birth within days of one another in a big old dog crate inside a junk filled broken down shed. They shared mothering duties and comforted each other. When MEOW was asked to take several cats and kittens from this home, it was evident from the start that these two should remain together always. While in foster care together, they continued to nurture each other and to alternate feeding all eight of the kittens they were raising.



Lovely Venus



Now that they are at the shelter, Venus is the ring leader and tends to do the exploring first. Venus scored as a Personal Assistant on her Meet Your Match Evaluation. This means that she adjusts to new situations

fairly quickly and is a gregarious cat. Sweet Vizzy scored as a Sidekick on her MYM Evaluation. This means that she adjusts to new situations fairly quickly and is a social girl but also likes her alone time. Once adopted, Venus and Vizzy will start to explore their new space fairly quickly. You'll win their affection by bringing them toys and treats. Once they are coming to greet you when you enter their room, it will be time to start introducing them to the rest of the house. One of their favorite sports is window-gazing, so they'd love a comfy sleeping spot with a window view. They will be good hostesses, happy to meet your guests if approached or called. They both love toys and will show off the back flips they have learned trying to catch one of their wand toys. One of their other very favorite pastimes is to be petted and they will thank you with loud purring. They are both quite comfortable being held and would do well in a home with children. Venus and Vizzy would love a home where they can enjoy the company of a kind human companion. They'll quietly entertain themselves and each other while you're away at work. They're very grateful for the new life they've been offered, and we believe, in return they will give themselves freely to any person who extends a loving hand.



Sweet Vizzy



FINE WINES & FELINES 2010 IS A SUPER SUCCESS



Emcee
John Curley



Cat-ifornia Dreamin' was the theme for MEOW's 5th annual Fine Wines & Felines auction, held Saturday, July 17 to benefit MEOW's general operations and Mercy Fund. This year's event hosted over 250 attendees and was supported by ten local business sponsors, more than 50 event volunteers including shelter staff, volunteers and their friends and family members from our feline and canine divisions, National Charity League moms and daughters and Jet City Roller Girls.

New this year, our attendees were thoroughly entertained by local celebrity emcee and auctioneer, John Curley. Also new this year was a dessert dash with scrumptious desserts donated by local businesses and individuals. Especially exciting were the funds raised: over \$55,000 (including \$11,000 raised for the Mercy Fund), exceeding last year's total by over 25%! Fabulous news for the animals of MEOW!

This year's silent auction featured over 250 unique items, donated by generous individuals, artists, restaurants, hotels, retailers, pet stores, and service providers.

During the live auction, attendees were touched by a video highlighting a few of the special needs animals that have been helped by our Mercy Fund, filmed and produced by volunteer Marc Castillo. John Curley started the live auction with a fun filled "Heads or Tails" game which got bidders on their feet, and kept the competitive excitement flowing throughout the live auction. Popular items included a week stay in Hawaii, sponsorship of the free roaming rooms at MEOW, custom labeled case of wine with the high bidder's pet's picture, a stained glass shar pei, a Mutts comic strip print autographed by the artist, private wine tastings, paragliding and more!

Our wine tasting tour featured wines from popular wine regions of California, personally selected and hosted by Bob Harrison from Pete's Wine Shop in Bellevue. Tasty hors d'oeuvres were again prepared by volunteer Judd Tomson and helpers.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this auction such a success. We're looking forward to what new and exciting moments next year's auction will bring.



Balloon Pop!



NAVIN - HE LISTENS WITH HIS HEART

Navin's striking good looks could be considered both a blessing and a curse. His long white coat and pale blue eyes make him a handsome example of his Turkish Angora roots. Unfortunately, up to 85 percent of cats of this description are carriers of the gene for congenital deafness. We're quite certain that Navin is completely deaf. He does not respond to the sound of his name or to other noises in his environment. He sleeps very soundly and startles easily. But Navin's silent world is still filled with joy.



Handsome Navin 🐾

In his Meet Your Match evaluation, 4-year old Navin scores as a Sidekick, showing the ability to adapt fairly quickly to new situations. He is a social boy but he can also amuse himself when alone. Once settled into a home of his own, Navin will likely greet family and guests with enthusiasm. He'll enjoy interactive toys and games with his human friends. Navin would do best in a home without other pets or small children, who might move quickly or unpredictably.

Although deaf cats like Navin are considered to be "special needs", there is no special care required, just some common sense suggestions to keep them safe and happy.

- Never let a hearing-impaired cat outside. He lacks the ability to hear traffic or other outdoor perils.
- Attach a bell to your deaf cat's collar so you can locate him anywhere in the house. He can't hear you calling his name.
- Alert your deaf cat to your comings and goings by touching him gently when you enter or leave a room.
- Avoid sudden movements and activities which might startle or frighten a deaf cat.
- If you need to wake him, softly shake the bed or chair on which he is lying or turn the lights on and off.
- To get his attention, throw a small ball or toy into his line of sight but not at him, or gently stomp on the floor nearby.

Navin is open to all of these ideas, and he's ready to try them out in a brand new home. Permanent hearing loss cannot be reversed, but cats are extremely adaptable and will use their other senses to compensate and continue to enjoy a good quality of life. Some people have reported teaching their deaf cat sign language. We think Navin might already be reading lips. He seems to understand perfectly when we say to him, "Navin, you handsome boy, we love you."

GOODBYE AND HELLO



Tiffany and adorable Sebastian 🐾

At the end of June we had to bid a very fond farewell to Assistant Shelter Manager Tiffany Lutnick. On July 11th, she and husband Anthony welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Sebastian, into their family. Their four cats are adjusting well to sharing their home. Tiffany promises to come back to MEOW once Sebastian's ready for some time away from Mom.

We're very happy to welcome our new Assistant

Shelter Manager, Annie Baskett. Annie and husband Mike live in Kenmore with their 11 special needs cats, as well as a number of foster cats rescued by their own organization called Troopurrs, which focuses mostly on purebreds. Annie is particularly fond of Cornish and Devon Rex, Sphynx and Bengals. In her spare time, she competes in banked track roller derby on a team called Tilted Thunder Rail Birds, skating under the name "Catti La-Belle". Annie comes to us with a wealth of experience in veterinary clinics, most recently working at Northwest Animal Eye Specialists.



Annie and MEOW guest Cuttlefish 🐾

Please join us in saying "hello" to Annie. To Tiffany, we don't want to say "goodbye", maybe just "see you later!"

WEEKEND HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & CRAFT BAZAAR
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
DECEMBER 4TH & 5TH (2PM - 5PM)

Mark your calendar for this year's holiday open house, bake sale and craft bazaar. If you'd like to donate hand made crafts or baked goods, please contact Jeanine at jeanine.meow@gmail.com for more information. More details will be available on our website in November.

SEYMOUR FROM FERAL TO FAMILY

On a damp and windy evening in spring 2009, we caught a glimpse of a big brown tabby with huge and terrified eyes as he darted into the bushes in our yard and then ran away. We called to him, but he only ran faster. We began putting food out each day and he nervously gobbled it up and left quickly. He was very frightened, jumpy and cautious. The sound of the door opening or voices would send him running. After a few weeks of this, we were able to trap him and have him neutered and ear-tipped, the procedure to indicate that a feral cat has been altered.

We continued to feed this handsome boy. In fall the weather turned cold, wet and windy. A glimpse of us through the window caused him to disappear for days. He refused to go near the shelters, fleece, and blankets we provided. Watching him struggle in the bitter winter air was heartbreaking. Still, we tried to gain his trust. Near the end of winter, he began to linger just a bit, taking the time to groom himself after feeding. He still ran, but only a few feet away. When he heard our voices, the look in his eyes softened.



The life of Seymour

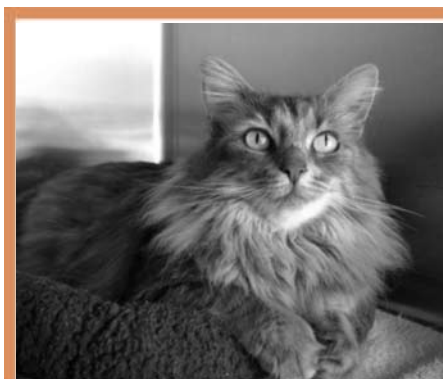
Then early this spring, we heard a meowing sound at dinner time. Could it be? It was! He was sitting nearby waiting for us! We spent hours outside talking to him and he sat quietly, listening intently. Our big day came in May when we were able to touch

him for the first time. It was brief, but oh so satisfying. In time, light touches became petting and rubbing and at last he rolled over and offered his belly to us.

Today, Seymour lives with us – inside the house! He lounges on the furniture, winds all around our legs asking for pets, plays with and grooms our other cats, sleeps in sunbeams on his back (and only snores a little) and is in charge of backyard surveillance through the window.

It took more than a year, but given time and patience, this sweet boy decided that humans are okay after all. Seymour is like so many of the free-roaming cats in our communities who, given half a chance, could be happily and successfully integrated into a home. Could there be a Seymour in your neighborhood?

WHERE'S WINTER?



Happy Trails
Winter

You may remember reading about Winter, a young cat who's suffered a life-changing spinal injury, rendering her incontinent but still able to walk and jump, like any other cat. She also tests positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. Because MEOW does not have the

type of facility which could offer Winter a comfortable and spacious place to live out her life, we were very fortunate to secure a place for her at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah.

In May, two MEOW volunteers accompanied her on the flight to Salt Lake City and the six hour drive to the sanctuary. Winter was the perfect passenger, relaxed, patient and quiet. At SeaTac Airport, she enchanted other travelers as she sat contentedly on a chair or stretched her legs on the carpet. She wore a bright red walking jacket harness with matching leash. Throughout the trip, she was cheerful and calm. After more than 14 hours spent mostly in her carrier, she was so happy to be allowed to sleep on the bed the hotel room. Now she lives in Kitty Motel, where there are other FIV+ cats, most of them males. We're told that Winter is very happy there, and that the boys like having a feminine touch around the place.

To repay the kindness extended to Winter, MEOW is assisting in the placement of a group of cats lovingly called The Outlaws. These are big guys who do not take kindly to any other cats, but love people, so they will be adopted as "only" pets. To learn more about The Outlaws, please see them on the home page of our web site, www.meowcatrescue.org. Best Friends places animals in appropriate homes all over the country and would be happy to consider applications for any of these big boys.



Meanwhile, back at the ranch, 'Winter Meow' still posts occasional entries on Facebook to her nearly 5,000 friends. She continues to enchant staff and visitors at Best Friends. It's our hope that one day she may be adopted, but even if not, she certainly is living her very best life. We could not be happier for her. We miss you, Miss Winter!

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In honor of MEOW, all the cats and kittens
and all the volunteers!
Sally Verrinder

In memory of Priscilla Hill.
Myra Carson

In honor of Shadow, the loving kitty of
Becky Summers and John Long.
Alan Denson

In memory of my husband, Mark. Tom and Geri and I are
conducting a scientific experiment to see if it's possible
to actually love a cat to pieces.
Vicki Russell

Remembering Rajah, our feisty old fat lady cat
who had it her way always. We miss her so.
Sue & Bill Mooseker

In loving memory of Pepe.
Judy Anderson

In honor of Sylvia Hoffmann. Your work with
feral kitties in Oregon is to be commended.
Cecil the cat and your SNBF.
Sandra Finn Whitney

In memory of my wonderful, kind, animal-loving parents,
Don and Nellie Holder. We miss you each day.
Mary Holder-Marsh and Gerry Marsh

Spencer and Griffin - our sweet sailor boys whose antics
aboard the boat are fondly remembered.
Lynn & Neal Parker

In memory of our beloved cat, Lily.
Marylee & Bob Tyler

We lost 3 cats from our family in 6 week's time.
In loving memory of Tigger, Rusty and Tolley.
In gratitude to Brookfield Veterinary Hospital for the
kindest of care both to cats and people.
Lauren Davis

In memory of our sweet, gentle Gracie, the ultimate
cuddle-cat. We miss you and will remember you always.
John & Teresa

In memory of 'Murphy' Grande.
Marcy Bauer

In remembrance of Doc War, animal advocate
and veterinarian extraordinaire.
Mary Warsinske

In loving memory of Sergio and Daisy.
A heartfelt thank you to Janis for rescuing these
two little fur babies and to Al for opening up
his heart and home to them.
Staff & volunteers of MEOW

In loving memory of Cory Schott.
Al & Co Brotherton

Thank you Charlotte for the many years
of companionship.
Stan & Mary Hills

Remembering Tsunami and honoring her loving mom,
Janine Micallef. Old friends are the best friends.
Bonne

In honor of Mr. Bean and Sheba.
Temple De Hirsch Sinai

In honor of Judy Anderson, our talented gardener.
Thank you for creating our memory garden and bringing
beauty and nature to our shelter.
Staff & volunteers of MEOW

In memory of Fremont.
Michael Gaynes

In loving memory of Priscilla Hill.
Jim & Jean Weir

In loving memory of my mom, Betty McGraw.
Christine Grossman

In loving memory of Casey Adams.
Geri Schnitzer-Newton

In loving memory of our friend and classmate of 1959,
Sally Chism Settles.
North Little Rock High School

In loving memory of my sister and our friend
Margie Mendenhall.
Gary Mendenhall & Sandy Carrick

In loving memory of Mattie,
a loyal friend and constant companion.
J and M

In memory of Casey, my big boy always. We love you!
Love, Carolyn, Simone & Weebee

In loving memory of Romeo.
Janet Smith

In honor of Marya Barey.
Wellspring Family Services

In memory of my friend's father, Don Groves.
He loved animals!
Martha Arizumi

In honor of Wally, Andy and Statter.
Jessica Garcia

In memory of my sister Carolyn's cat, Casey.
We will miss you very much.
Love, Christine, Cary and Mika

In honor of Chip and Prince, our two new family members
adopted from MEOW on July 3rd.
We love our new kitties!
Craig & Jan Hall

Remembering Earl... The earth is a better place for having
had you here, and we're better people for having known
you. So very sorry you had to go so soon.
Jeanine and Judd

In loving memory of Priscilla Hill.
Hazel Crijenko

In honor of Juliet, who was rescued from living outside
Whole Foods Market in Bellevue. She is now a happy
member of a loving family thanks to MEOW!
Cindy Campen

In memory of:
Sugar, May 1996 - February 2010;
Maxine, lovingly cared for and missed by Julie Crowell;
Pacer, 1992 - 2009, lovingly cared for by Bill Turner;
Sarge, cared for by Scott & Katy Gilberts.
He lived a good life! May 1992 - 2010;
Harry, beautiful red persian lovingly cared for by
Brian Dunphy and family. 1995 - 2010;
Buffy, Dec 1989 - July 2010. Lovingly cared for by
Nancy Bishop-Harvey. May you find peace in memories;
Scruffy, loved for 20 years by Marian M. Hueffed.
City Kitty, LLC

In loving memory of Angus.
Patricia Bice

To honor and remember the Hurst family critters
Luci, Murphy and Tai.
Jan Hurst

In memory of my husband, Sheridan S. Cannaday,
our 59 years of marriage and
all our loving pets through the years.
Ina Cannaday

In honor of Topaz.
Gretchen Browne



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@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

KOMO PEOPLE HELPERS REALLY HELPED US KITTIES BY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR, CUTTLEFISH

When Elisa Jaffe of KOMO TV heard that MEOW's canned food supply was running low for all of us cats here at the shelter, she enlisted the People Helpers. Perhaps the help came from the Kitty Helpers division.

As soon as the story hit the TV and radio airways, the phones at MEOW started ringing, with animal lovers asking how they could help. We resident cats watched as cases and cases of canned food and many bags of kibble were delivered to our door. In addition, several Kitty Helpers made generous monetary donations to help keep our cupboards full in future months.

The cats and kittens at MEOW wish to thank Elisa, KOMO People Helpers and all of the kind folks who responded to our need. We are so grateful for your support!

With thanks from the bottom of our tummies,

CUTTLEFISH

USE YOUR MOUSE TO HELP MEOW WIN THE PETFINDER SHELTER+ CHALLENGE!

In the first Petfinder Shelter Challenge, MEOW won \$1,000 for the most votes in the state. With your help we can do ever better this time. Here's how!

Go to www.theanimalrescuesite.com, click on the Shelter+ Challenge tab on the right. Type in MEOW Cat Rescue, Kirkland WA, and follow the steps to place your first vote. The next time you vote, MEOW will come up for you automatically. It takes just a minute of your time and a few clicks of your mouse each day to help the animals.

Be sure to vote each and every day for your favorite shelter. MEOW Cat Rescue.



2011 CALENDARS ARE COMING SOON!



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