



MEOW

All nine lives are precious

MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption  
Autumn 2011

## GOMEZ – CHANGING HIS LUCK

Gomez, a handsome flirt in a fluffy grey coat, is less than one and a half years old and already he has been returned to the shelter twice. He's not a bad cat. He's been more unlucky than anything else.

In his first home, the older resident cat was not amused with this new kitten. When Gomez was met with aggression, it became clear that this was not going to be a happy home for him. Gomez was returned to MEOW

Soon after, he was adopted by a family with children. This seemed like a perfect match – for awhile. Then Gomez became ill, with symptoms of an upset stomach for several days. His vet did a number of tests and discovered that Gomez had ingested a foreign body, creating a partial obstruction in his bowels. With medication, Gomez was able to remove the offending object all by himself. Then a few months later, it happened again. This time it was more serious. Surgery was required to remove the small piece of plastic which was causing Gomez to be unable to keep his food down. The object appeared to be something which might be used to protect the floor from furniture scratches. What could be causing Gomez to eat unusual objects?

The condition called Pica is defined as “the act of eating non-food items”. Common targets for cats include yarn or string, fabric, wool, phone or electric cords, and plants. Any object may be a potential target, however. This dangerous behavior can be extremely hazardous to a cat's health. Ingested fabric, string, or other materials can lodge in the stomach or intestine. The blockage prevents the passage of food and may cut off the blood supply to these organs. These are life-threatening conditions. Cat's that chew on power cords may be electrocuted. Additionally, many common houseplants are toxic to cats; chewing or eating these plants can cause a wide range of symptoms from drooling to death.

If your cat has a history of ingesting non-food items and becomes lethargic, vomits, or displays other concerning behavior, take him to your veterinarian immediately. No one knows exactly why some cats exhibit pica behavior. Once medical causes are ruled out, behavioral reasons for pica can include boredom, attention-seeking, attractive odors, hunger, and learned behavior. Your veterinarian should be able to give you suggestions on how to keep your cat happy and healthy and minimize the risk of this condition.



Charming Gomez

Dr. Cori Gross of Feline Behavior Housecalls does not classify Gomez' incidents as Pica as he does not seek out certain fabrics or cords or plants. Instead, he plays with anything that moves, like most kittens do. He will pick up small objects and in the course of his play he may swallow what he has taken into his mouth. This kittenish behavior may disappear as he becomes a more responsible adult cat. In the meantime, our job is to keep him safe. Gomez is looking for a home with someone who can be diligent about keeping small toys and other mouth-size objects out of his reach. His toys should be fun to play with but too large to close his mouth around. A treat-dispensing ball would be an ideal way to hold his interest and challenge his ingenuity while rewarding his efforts. Another young energetic cat or kitten friend would make him very happy. For Gomez, we're just sure that the third time will be the charm.



## PETE – ON THE ROAD FROM HOARDING TO HAPPINESS



Happy, handsome Pete

years, the number of cats had grown unmanageable. The family had been unable to give away all of the kittens, which just kept on coming, litter after litter. The people were unable to afford the necessary spay/neuter surgeries to stop it, and now they couldn't even feed them all.

In a very short time, MEOW had taken 27 cats and kittens, almost all of them pure white. Even though there were obviously too many cats in that household, it was evident by the cats loving nature that they all had been loved and cared for by their humans.

Pete was just 11 months old at the time. First stop was the veterinary clinic for his neuter surgery. After that he took his place at the shelter, one of many beautiful long-haired white cats waiting to be chosen. Within a few weeks, he was adopted by a family with children.

Five years later in August 2011, we were dismayed to learn that Pete's adoptive family had fallen victim to harsh economic changes. They had lost their home. They could no longer care for Pete and their other cats.

Back at the shelter, Pete is hoping for another family. Kids would be nice. He doesn't even wince at the loud squeals of little humans and he barely squirms when held in an odd position. Martha Washington said, "The greatest part of our happiness depends on our dispositions, not our circumstances". Pete is just a naturally happy guy.

"Each new kitten becomes its own cat, and none is repeated. I am four cats old, measuring out my life in friends that have succeeded but not replaced one another."

~ Irving Townsend

## FINE WINES & FELINES 2011 PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER

Once again, this year's auction fundraiser was a big hit. Especially exciting were the funds raised: approximately \$70,000, exceeding last year's total by over 27%!! Generous business and individual donors provided over 350 items for bidding. More than 300 guests attended the event at the Don James Center at UW and everyone thoroughly enjoyed local celebrity emcee and auctioneer, John Curley. Delicious and delightful appetizers were provided by Cynthia Lapp of Bacchus & Arianna Catering & Comestible Gifts. We'd like to again thank everyone who donated, volunteered, sponsored or attended the event. We are thrilled to have the most generous and dedicated supporters. Planning has already begun for next year's event. See you there!



John Curley

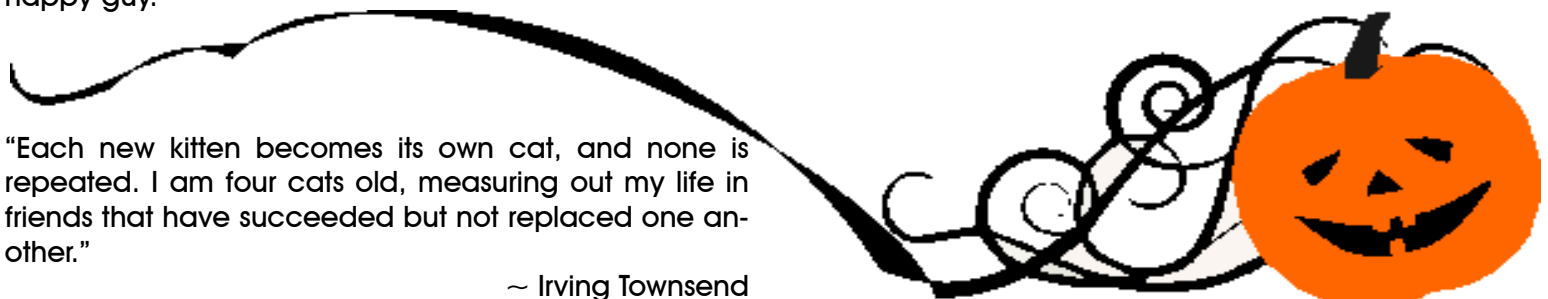
## LAUNCHING MEOW MEWS OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER

We are so excited to announce the launch of our first email newsletter, MEOW MEWS. Our hope is to share the good things that are happening at MEOW with our volunteers, supporters and adopters in between our quarterly newsletters.



Have you heard the Mews?

If you didn't receive our first edition it means we don't have your current email. To make sure you receive the next MEOW MEWS, sign up on our website or send an email to [reply@meowcatrescue.org](mailto:reply@meowcatrescue.org).



MEOW'S HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR,  
BAKE SALE & OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD & 4TH  
FROM 2 PM – 5 PM



Once again, MEOW's talented volunteers will be offering their baked goods and crafts at our annual Holiday Craft Bazaar, Bake Sale & Open House. This year, the sale will be at the former location of Studio East, about

3 blocks from the shelter at 402 6th Street S. 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. Bring a donation of pet food to help support our Animeals food drive for families in need, distributed by Hopelink. If you are interested in donating baked goods or crafts, please contact Jeanine at [Jeanine.meow@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanine.meow@gmail.com).

PUSSYCAT PANTRY  
HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

Canned Kitten and Cat Foods (any)  
Kitten Kibble (esp. Royal Canin BabyCat)  
Cat Kibble (esp. Royal Canin Special 33)  
Baby Food - Gerber 2nd brand  
(meat flavors only, especially Chicken or Turkey)  
KMR formula (Kitten Milk Replacer)  
Cat Attract Litter  
Feliway (Comfort Zone) plug-in refills  
Copy paper  
Postage stamps  
Garbage bags – Kitchen size drawstring  
Paper Towels  
Hand Sanitizer  
Liquid Laundry Detergent  
New High Power Microscope



Is dinner ready?

SAVING THE FIRST OF NINE LIVES

Each Spring, as sure as the flowers bloom, as sure as the sun comes out to dry the rain (even in Seattle), surely there will be more kittens born than the world can possibly care for. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of orphan kittens are relinquished to open admission shelters which are unprepared and without resources to raise and re-home them. In many shelters “underage” orphan kittens, those unable to feed themselves from a plate, must be euthanized.



Early this Spring we received a plea for help from Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society. They had decided to make this “The Year of The Cat”. They had vowed to make an extra effort to find rescue situations for un-

derage orphan kittens. For the next several weeks, they contacted us regularly and delivered litter after litter to us.

MEOW is so fortunate to have a strong team of experienced and capable bottle-feeding foster homes. Each Spring marks the beginning of the season where these special fosters work around the clock, feeding, potty-ing, bathing and cuddling their precious charges. It's an exhausting job but the rewards are incredible! Fragile newborn kittens grow bigger and stronger every day. There is such joy in watching them reach milestones and then finally be adopted into homes of their own. Some of this season's lucky ones have been adopted. Others are ready and waiting:

Mac and Cheese are the color of the comfort food for which they are named. Mac is the fluffy big brother to his demure little sister Cheese. They want to be adopted together.

Four sisters, Zoey, Zara, Zinnia and Zulu spend hours chasing and ambushing one another until they sleep in a heap at the end of the day.

AlCee and CeCe Pitterpat are adorable girls, one dressed in a tuxedo, the other in a sleek black fur coat. Under those sophisticated outfits, we know they're plotting something silly.

Each Spring we rise to the challenge. We cherish and safeguard each precious life entrusted to us. We do our best to prepare each one to be an integral part of someone else's life. And, when the day comes, we hold back tears as we gently nudge them out of the nest and into the arms of their new family.

# TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In memory of Lara Zook and Margery Mendenhall,  
the best of friends and lovers of cats.  
*Gary Mendenhall & Sandra Carrick*

To honor Auntie Valerie at  
Metro Moggie Cat Sitting - we love you!  
*Hannah & Coco Go*

In memory of Noel Hackett, a much loved kitty  
of Maggie and Gerry Hackett.  
*Susan Loewus*

Thanks to MEOW for bringing Domino  
into my life!  
*Whitney Keyes*

In memory of:  
-Max, loved & missed so much by Valerie Naai  
-Monster, a great friend to Judd Thomson and  
Jeanine Kanov. He will always be by your side.  
-Zoe, 1994-2011, lovingly owned by  
Arlene Junkers  
*City Kitty, LLC*

In honor of Carol Verga, a long time MEOW  
volunteer, for her birthday.  
*Love, Bonnie, Sandy, Joyce, Ella, Jude,  
Pat and Kathie.*

In memory of Nikolai, one cool cat.  
*Karen Hill & Sheldon Rosen*

In loving memory of Beamer, our sweet kitty  
who passed away on July 26, 2011.  
Forever in our hearts.  
*Michelle and Andy*

In honor of Queen Mum and Fern, Ivy,  
Guppy and Boo.  
*Luana Doulas*

Happy birthday to our Tootsie Toe White (aka  
Harlow) and Rosa Parks (aka Madison).  
We are 3 years old now!  
*Christine & Edward Gray*

In memory of Cowboy, one of the funniest kitties  
I've ever known. I miss you.  
*Linda Wilson*



Dad, you were one wonderful cat.  
Thank you, Dee & Peter, for  
giving him the very best last chapter.

In honor of 'Pierre' Pederson.  
*Seattle Veterinary Specialists*

In honor of Kiky and Tobey.  
*Amy Petri*

In memory of a very special kitty named  
Squeaker. Miss you!  
*XiaoHui & Chang Luo*

In memory of Tom LeBear.  
*Bellinda Sherwood*

In memory of my husband Mark.  
*Vicki Russell*

In remembrance of our beloved Pebbles,  
"The cutest dog in the universe".  
*Richard & Eunice Grubb*

In memory of:  
-JJ, owned by Gary and Sandy Rousseau, May  
1999 - June 2011. Rest in peace little guy  
-Jesse, owned by Peggy Swain and Don Smith  
-Mr. Bob was one of those very special cats,  
such a personality, almost human at times. He  
will always have a special place with us.  
Much love to Jim Paul and Dee Wells.  
*City Kitty, LLC*

Together, Raleigh and his loving pet parent  
Adrienne, bravely fought to continue his life.  
Now he is happy being with Earl.  
In memory of little Raleigh.  
*Darlene Moses*

In memory of Joseph Fowells Sr. and in honor of  
his great friend, Kitty.  
*Pat Habeck*

FALL 2011 CAT SUMMIT WORKSHOPS  
FOR SHELTER PERSONNEL  
AND OTHER CAT LOVERS  
OCTOBER 21, 2011 - 9:30 AM TO 3:30 PM

Dr. Cori Gross, one of the wonderful veterinarians who volunteer their time at MEOW, is participating in the Federation of Animal Care and Control Agencies upcoming Fall 2011 Cat Summit. She will be speaking on the topic "Keeping Cats in Homes: Solutions to Common Feline Behavior Issues". Other sessions include: Creative Cat Marketing, and Foster Care 101. The summit will be held at the 2100 Building, 2100 24th Ave S in Seattle (Community Rooms A&B). If you are interested in hearing Dr. Cori, you may attend just her session (from 9:30 am to 11:30 am), or sign up for the entire day. Registration is \$40 for one session or \$65 for the full day, lunch included. Reduced fees are available to Federation members. More information is available at [www.wafederation.com](http://www.wafederation.com).



Everyone loves a snuggle

"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."

10600 NE 68th St., Suite F  
Kirkland WA 98033  
425 822-MEOW (6369)

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

[Info@meowcatrescue.org](mailto:Info@meowcatrescue.org)  
[Newsletter@meowcatrescue.org](mailto:Newsletter@meowcatrescue.org)  
[www.meowcatrescue.org](http://www.meowcatrescue.org)

## MARCUS – MORE PRECIOUS THAN EVER

In February 1997, when MEOW was just coming to life as a rescue organization, perhaps Marcus was a newborn kitten or maybe he was becoming a young cat. Perhaps he had a loving family who adored him. What had happened to so reverse the circumstances of his life between then and the spring of 2009?



Handsome Marcus with the emerald green eyes

It was still cold and rainy when a trap had been set for a cat which had escaped in a business district of Lynnwood. What we know now about trapping cats is that one can expect to successfully trap cats nearly anywhere, nearly anytime. They are invisible in daylight, but there are cats trying desperately to survive in the most unlikely places.

Hoping to trap the missing cat, no less than 15 cats were trapped over the next several weeks. One of them was Marcus.

He was bone thin. His ears were frostbitten. He was being eaten alive by fleas. But he looked out through the bars of the trap with the most stunningly beautiful green eyes. No fear. Pure love. So thankful to be there. Marcus appeared to be at least 13 years old. Surely his family was missing him, searching for him. But when every effort to locate his people failed, Marcus became a MEOW cat. Before placing him for adoption, he had a dental to repair the damage to his teeth which may have been caused by trying to eat gravel to stay alive. By the time he was adopted by an elderly woman, Marcus had captured our hearts.

Sadly, just two years later his human mama was struck with cancer and recently had to enter a nursing facility. True to our promise, MEOW invited Marcus back into our loving safety net.

Marcus' bright emerald eyes are looking at the future. At the age of at least 15, his senior lab work is remarkably normal. We've treated him to another dental. He is still as warm and loving as ever. When spoken to, he stretches out a hopeful paw and looks deep into the eyes of his visitor. When picked up, he wraps his long front legs around the person's neck and nuzzles in. He would like nothing more than to have a lap to love again. He's ready to get started. These next years could be the most precious years of his life.

## SIPS FOR SNIPS

OCTOBER 23 FROM 1 TO 5 PM  
A WINE TASTING EVENT SUPPORTING MEOW'S  
SPAY/NEUTER FUND

Northwest Cellars in Kirkland will be hosting a wine tasting open house to benefit MEOW Cat Rescue on Sunday October 23, 2011 from 1 pm to 5 pm. The cost is \$10 and 100% of this will be donated to MEOW. We will be tasting five wines and two sparkling/champagnes from Northwest Cellars. Additionally, we will be selling two custom MEOW labeled wines, the 2009 Madrigal (a blend of Grenache, mourvedre, and syrah) and the 2009 Chardonnay. 40% of these wine sales will benefit MEOW's spay/neuter fund. Please stop by and enjoy a sip or two. To make sure you get your custom labeled wine (they



make great gifts) you may order now by going to [www.nwcellars.com](http://www.nwcellars.com), selecting the wine you'd like, and entering "MEOW" in the comment area as you check out. Deadline for ordering is October 17th. If you can't attend the wine tasting, you may pick up your wine order at NW Cellars after the event. The Madrigal is \$18 per bottle and the Chardonnay is \$14; reasonable prices for exceptional wines. There is a 10% case discount. NW Cellars is located at 11909 124th Avenue NE in Kirkland. We hope to see you there!

Many thanks to local artist Fran Downs, who donated the art work for the label ([www.francesdowns.com](http://www.francesdowns.com)).



2012 MEOW CALENDAR  
IT'S HERE!

MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION 2012



The 2012 MEOW calendars have arrived. Don't miss out on this special calendar dedicated to fifteen years of MEOW. These beautiful 2012 calendars may be purchased at the shelter for \$10 or ordered by phone (425-822-6369), or through PayPal on our web site. Please add \$2 for shipping. They make lovely and practical holiday gifts.

MEOW KITTEN FEATURED IN CHILDREN'S BOOK  
"PAOLO'S ADVENTURES"  
MEET THE AUTHOR  
OCTOBER 8TH, 2 - 5 PM

Please join us at the shelter on Saturday, October 8th, from 2 - 5pm, to meet author and MEOW volunteer Carolyn Banguero who will be signing copies of her new book, "Paolo's Adventures". You may remember Paolo's story in our Spring 2011 newsletter.

"Paolo's Adventures" is the tale of a very brave little kitty who was born in the wild. He and his siblings were rescued and brought into a MEOW foster home. When this small kitten played, he ran out of breath very quickly. This was due to a concave ribcage, pushing his heart and lungs to the side. After Paolo had surgery to correct this condition, he wore a body cast while he healed. Along the way, Paolo learned how to trust people in his journey of healing.

Guest of Honor, Paolo himself, will be joining us to greet his fans. A percentage of the net proceeds will be graciously donated to MEOW.



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