



# MEOW

## All nine lives are precious

MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption  
Holidays 2010

### HOPE IN OUR HEARTS

*Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.*  
~ Theodore Roosevelt

The holiday season is upon us—but for some, celebration won't come easy. With the economic downturn having dire effects, many struggling families across the Northwest and our entire nation are forced to face one of the most devastating decisions of their lives—the relinquishment of their beloved pets.

As millions continue to file for unemployment, many families find they can no longer afford the costs of pet care, while others will be evicted from their homes and unable to secure pet-friendly housing. The harsh reality is, with shelter intake rates on the rise, countless numbers of companion animals face euthanasia in overcrowded shelters—but we are here to help as many as we possibly can.

During the Great Depression of the early 1900's, migratory workers and homeless men rode the rails from town to town in search of a better life. To cope with the difficulty of hobo life, they developed a system of symbols, or a code. Hobos would write this code with chalk or coal to provide directions, information, and warnings to other hobos. It should be no surprise to learn that they drew a cat to communicate "a kindhearted person lives here". Kindness to animals and our fellow man go hand in hand.

With your help, MEOW is able to continue to bring hope into the lives of so many animals who have lost their beloved families and reassurance to the broken hearts who will grieve their loss. Thank you for your support, enabling us to do what we do. Thank you for being a kindhearted person, for lending a helping hand to those who need us most – the families and pets with nowhere else to turn.

This holiday season we hope you'll take some time 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.

### NOW AVAILABLE ~ MEOW'S 2011 CALENDAR CAT TALES CELEBRATING THE UNIQUE LANGUAGE OF CATS

Cats have very subtle ways of speaking with one another and use various means to communicate, including vocalization and body language. Any cat caretaker can tell you that their cat makes many different sounds. When speaking with us, cats will often meow and display different body postures. Each meow may differ in meaning by the tone, volume, pitch, rhythm, and pronunciation. Not all cat communication



is understood, even by those who have loved and observed many cats. Humans cannot detect pheromones or read the very subtle movements of their feline companions. Sometimes we observe our cat staring out the window at the stray cat outside. Are they having silent conversations with one another? What factors determine social hierarchies? Many questions are yet to be answered, but at least humans are capable of understanding some basic words in the complex feline language.

Let's suspend disbelief for a time and let the cats speak to us about their thoughts, their lives. Each one has a unique story. Each one has a unique voice. Can you hear the buttery baritone of Butterscotch and the soft sugary sounds of Shania as they share their stories? Look deep into those eyes, open your heart and listen....

MEOW Calendars are available for \$10 at the shelter. We can accept phone orders using VISA or MC or you may mail a check. Calendars may also be purchased on our web site using PayPal. For mail orders please add \$2 for shipping.

## BEN – HOPE UNDERSTANDS

*Love me when I least deserve it, because that's when I really need it.*

~Swedish Proverb



Hello Ben

When he was returned to us earlier this year, ten years after his adoption, Ben was not very loveable. He was truly an unhappy cat. According to his former family, he had developed a split personality. Sometimes he was relaxed, friendly, and playful. Then he would

turn on a dime and be dominant, even hissing and biting, striking out at the people he loved. He was on Prozac but it didn't seem to be doing much good. Ben's litter and scratching habits had remained perfect throughout his ups and downs, but everything else about him seemed to be on a roller coaster.

As a matter of intake procedure at MEOW, we run a geriatric blood panel and urinalysis on every cat over 8 years old. Ben's results were shocking. In addition to having crystals in his urine, his thyroid levels were off the charts. We quickly changed his diet to help manage his pH level to fight the crystal formation. We started him on an oral medication to reduce his thyroid output until we could arrange for him to be treated with radioactive iodine at the Feline Hyperthyroid Clinic in Seattle. Weeks after his treatment, his T4 level remained much too high. The radioactive iodine had to be repeated. As he recovered in foster care, Ben's transformation began. Even the look in his intense round eyes began to soften.

Ben, at 12 years old, likes to play with fluffy mice. He gets really excited about his NekoFlies MiniWand with the kittenator attachment. He likes to lie next to a person and may stretch over onto their lap. He loves to nuzzle under the hair of his foster mom. His diet has changed again to accommodate his developing renal insufficiency, but that's minor in comparison to his past struggles. He feels better now.

The condition of an animal's health can dramatically affect his behavior. This was certainly so in Ben's case. It is difficult for us to imagine how Ben must have been feeling during those months, possibly even years when his thyroid was raging out of control. If only animals could speak. We're thankful that we've had the opportunity to love him through his transformation and hopeful that someone else will understand and give him the second chance he deserves.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In our last issue we introduced you to several cats and kittens awaiting adoption. We're so excited to be able to share some of their happy endings.

Thirteen year old cats Romeo and Matilda had been returned to the shelter when their family had to move to the East Coast to live with relatives. Needless to say, the transition has not been an easy one for the cats. Their story tugged at all of our hearts, but MEOW volunteers Barbara and Rhoda stepped in and changed their lives. Romeo and Matilda now live happily with four other cats, who have all agreed to allow Matilda to believe that she is in charge.

Venus and Vizzy, a pair of young sisters, mothered their kittens together. They had been through a lot and they clearly loved, comforted and supported each other. We made the decision to wait for a home where they could stay together forever. Today Venus and Vizzy are mending the hearts of a couple who had lost their precious pets to old age.

Navin had been with us, on and off, since last Spring. He had been adopted twice and returned. The first time he had been "too active". He had been caught swinging from a chandelier. Literally. The second time, he had snapped at a young child. Navin is not an aggressive cat but sometimes he has been misunderstood. You see, Navin is deaf. He doesn't always pick up on subtle clues from those around him. This has gotten him into trouble. More than anything, Navin needed someone who could really understand him. At last, his dream, and ours for him, has come true. Navin's new mom understands the challenges he faces. She is also hearing impaired.

We wish all of them every happiness in their new lives.



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.

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

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

## FLANIGAN ~ HOPE HEALS

*Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible.*

~ Anonymous

He had come down with an upper respiratory infection, a head cold. In an effort to treat his fever, Flanigan's owner had given him a dropper full of liquid Childrens' Tylenol. Instead of improving, Flanigan began to shiver and his breathing became labored. Because they could not afford the expensive round-the-clock care he would require, his owners chose to relinquish him to the emergency veterinary hospital. Flanigan's owners had been unaware that Tylenol (acetaminophen) is extremely toxic to cats when they had given him what potentially could have been a lethal dose.



Flanigan relaxes

When MEOW was asked to take responsibility for him, we met a sweet five month old kitten who was just hanging on to life. He was being given intravenous fluids, antibiotics, and immune support. Most importantly, over

the next several days he would have to be treated every few hours with a powerful poison antidote to help spare his internal organs.

Long days and longer nights passed. As we hovered over him, we were hopeful when he lifted his head and looked at us. We were joyful when he gave us a soft "meow" that seemed to say "thanks, I needed that". We watched for improvement and we celebrated each little positive change. In time, his congestion got better, his appetite came back, his kitten energy returned.

Today, Flanigan's bloodwork shows no sign of organ damage whatsoever. It defies logic. Sometimes, on rare and beautiful occasions, we are privileged to witness what appears to be a miracle. Our hopes for Flanigan's recovery have been answered. Now we're hoping he'll have a long and happy life in his new home.

MEOW'S ANNUAL FINE WINES & FELINES  
AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Saturday evening July 16, 2011  
Mark Your 2011 MEOW Calendar



## JEWEL ~ HOPE SHINES

*The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope.*

~ Barbara Kingsolver



Jewel surfs

Jewel was relinquished nearly a year ago. Since the new baby came, she had been anxious, snapping at her brother and avoiding houseguests whom she used to love. She just wasn't herself any-

more. Her family sadly said goodbye and hoped that she'd be adopted right away.

Jewel is a beautiful 4-year old with a short sleek black coat and extra toes on all four feet. Her big paws often reach out from her cage to touch passersby. Her bright emerald eyes watch everything. A chatty girl, she'll carry on whole conversations with anyone who will spare the time. After she explores the desks in the office area she'll give a full report on her findings. Then she'll settle down in a chair and just observe, perhaps giving a suggestion now and then on how we might work more efficiently.

One of Jewel's favorite activities is what we call Shoulder Surfing. When she's comfortable with a person she loves to wrap herself around their shoulders and snuggle. We expect that she may take her time getting adjusted to a new home and becoming acquainted with a new family. She may temporarily need a safe place to hide and watch, but rest assured, she'll soon be back at her job, doing her investigative reporting again. She'd prefer to be the only cat in the family, at least at first, and please, no tiny humans. They're rather frightening.

Hardly a day goes by that a volunteer at MEOW doesn't look at Jewel in her cage and say something like "Jewel, why are you still here? I hope today will be your adoption day." She's such a nice little cat. We look forward to the day we can congratulate someone on their excellent taste in fine cats and bid our Jewel a fond farewell. We hope that happens soon.

Jewel was relinquished nearly a year ago. Since the new baby came, she had been anxious, snapping at her brother and avoiding houseguests whom she used to love. She just wasn't herself anymore. Her family sadly said goodbye and hoped that she'd be adopted right away.



## 2010 MEOW HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE CRAFT BAZAAR & BAKE SALE

Please join us for MEOW's Holiday Open House, Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale during the weekend of December 4th and 5th from 2 – 5pm at the MEOW shelter in Kirkland's Houghton Village. Do your holiday shopping, meet new friends and greet some old ones while you support the animals of MEOW.



There will be a wide variety of handcrafted gifts perfect for your favorite 2-legged and 4-legged friends and delicious baked goods as well as some very special MEOW Masterpieces, painted by resident kitties. Visit with Santa, join in the raffle, and enjoy the refreshments.

We'll be accepting your donated pet foods for our ongoing Animeals Pet Food Drive to benefit Hopelink in Kirkland. If you'd like to donate your own handcrafted items or baked goods, please contact Jeanine Kanov ([jeanine.meow@gmail.com](mailto:jeanine.meow@gmail.com)) by December 1st. Hope to see you there!

### TREE OF LIFE ~ LEAVES OF LOVE

*Now and forever ~  
A tribute to the pets  
In our homes  
And in our hearts*

The Tree of Life in our lobby is growing beautiful Leaves of Love. This permanent mural offers the opportunity to express your feelings for a special animal in your life, past or present. With a minimum contribution of \$200, a bronze leaf, engraved with sentiments of your choosing, will be added to the tree. Each leaf can have up to four or as few as two lines; character spaces are limited to 18 per line. Your pet's name and a dedication will honor your relationship. You may wish to declare your love for a current pet or to memorialize a beloved pet who has passed on. The Leaves of Love on the Tree of Life will serve as a lasting tribute to your dear friend, the moments you've shared, silly times, sad times. As the Tree of Life grows Leaves of Love, our Mercy Fund will grow from your donations. The Mercy Fund is designated for emergency veterinary care for injured, ill or abused animals. Thank you for honoring your animals and supporting MEOW in this way. An easy form can be found at [www.meowcatrescue.org/fundraisers](http://www.meowcatrescue.org/fundraisers).



## XABU ~ HOPE ENCOURAGES

*When the world says, "Give up," hope whispers, "Try it one more time."*

*~ Anonymous*



Xabu plays

In September a tiny Siamese mix kitten was brought to MEOW by our longtime friends Bill Polk and Joanna Olson. Only three weeks old, she looked more like a fluffy cat toy than a real kitten. Her bright eyes were like little buttons. The kitten was the only survivor of a litter born to a feral cat near their home. Bill and Joanna have been trapping and altering the feral cats in their neighborhood and the mama cat was on their radar. As we completed the intake process, a combo test revealed a faint

positive for feline leukemia, meaning that the kitten had been exposed to the FeLV virus. Other shelters, rescue groups and even many veterinarians would euthanize such a kitten, believing it to be doomed to illness and early death. At MEOW, we prefer to take a positive approach to a positive leukemia test. Statistics show that approximately 40% of cats with FeLV exposure actually extinguish the disease, or seroconvert. When a cat or kitten tests positive on arrival at MEOW, our protocol is to segregate it, support the immune system and retest in 6 - 8 weeks.

Xabu went to a foster home to be bottle fed and nurtured. Her foster mom played with her and gave her as much attention as possible; unable to allow contact with other cats in the home. Xabu was patient, happy, never whiney or demanding. She learned to eat from a plate and to use the litter box. She was delightful. Still, it is in the nature of cats, and especially kittens, to enjoy the company of other cats and there was a certain sorrow in seeing her alone.

Patience is a quality that Xabu could teach the rest of us. But, we couldn't wait. After just three weeks we retested her, holding our breath while waiting for her the results. Much to our delight, she was completely negative! That very day she joined a litter of kittens in another foster home. All of them will soon be ready for adoption.

# TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In remembrance of Emily and Skipper.  
We thank MEOW for our Annie and Bailey. They are all angels to us!  
*Susan Hart*

In memory of Priscilla Hill.  
*June Ann Carson Mills*

With fond remembrance and loving kindness,  
Putty Tat, Garfield, Mom and Dad.  
*Laura Benoit*

In honor of Madison. We adopted her in 2006.  
She is well and will be 13 soon.  
*Susan Payne*

To honor our two year old MEOW cat, Nelle.  
*Joan Hutto*

In remembrance of Angel Kitty.  
Our sweet beloved girl, you are with us forever.

In memory of Jasmine.  
*Carol Thiel*

In memory of 'Cool Charlie', 1994-2010.  
He will be dearly missed by Muriel A. Scott, loving owner  
and all of us at City Kitty.  
*City Kitty, LLC*

In honor of Carol Verga's birthday!  
*Kathleen Hogan*

Zorah ~ much loved, for too short of time.  
*Inalou Cates*

To remember Patricia Veryan, a local author,  
who loved cats and included them in her books.  
*Phyllis Van Winkle & Lorna McCormick*

In honor of the life of Earl Kawamura.  
*Collette Chan*

In memory of Russell, a black,  
kitty who would purr when I sang to him.  
*Shirley Seemer*

In honor of Dr. Mike Pfeifer and Dr. Jessica Vammen  
of Inglemoor Animal Hospital.  
*Luellen Lockwood*

In honor of Max and Morris' one year anniversary.  
*Kathryn Armberg*

In memory of Sterling, a very fine cat.  
*Ellen Blackstone*

In memory of Puddy Tat.  
*Valerie Alexander*

In honor of Sandy Winkler.  
*Wendy & Tom Milner*

In loving memory of  
Sammantha & Sheba.  
*The Gann Family*

In memory of Tiffany.  
*Jan Fohrell*

In loving memory of Big George. You are so very dearly missed.  
*J & M*

In memory of Squeek, Pumpkin, Lady and Domino.  
*Lee Klastorin*

For Dee and Peter. We honor you for your tireless care of all the elder  
cats that you adopt and lovingly care for each and every day.  
*Staff & volunteers of MEOW*

Remembering Earl Kawamura who had a huge,  
giving heart that he shared with so many. Thank you Earl.  
*Darlen Moses*

In loving memory of Angus, the neighborhood cat cared for by  
Ann and Steve.  
*Sheila & James Woodcock*

In memory of our Matilda, our first love.  
*Donna Stachowicz*

In memory of Shirley Rapp, who adopted two cats from MEOW.  
I now have them in addition to the two I recently adopted from  
MEOW.  
*Debra Ough*

To honor our feline joys Ally and Zane ~ cats from A to Z!  
*Kathi Jones*

In remembrance of Shredni, Julie's beloved feline companion.  
*Jeff & Jeff*

In loving memory of Oscar. When he purred,  
it was like a room full of sunshine. Prrr...  
*Anonymous*

In memory of Raven, who for 16 years was loved by  
Stephen and Joan Cauha. He will be missed.  
*City Kitty, LLC*

In memory of Olivia ~ we love you!  
*Hannah Anderson*

Thank you Sophie for all your love and affection.  
We miss your beautiful spirit.  
*Leona Ansley*

In memory of Benjamin, beloved cat (and MEOW rescuee)  
of Edmund and Sophie.  
*Stephen Wilson*

In memory of Jeter, lovingly owned by  
Dan and Jenny Goldfarb.  
Nov 2006 - Oct 2010.  
*City Kitty, LLC*

In loving memory of Timmy.  
*Judy Anderson*

In memory of our lost friends.  
*Meadows Cat Hospital*



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?  
IN HAPPY ENDINGS? IN NEW BEGINNINGS?  
IN JOYOUS REUNIONS? IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?

On behalf of the many lost, abandoned, neglected, mistreated, injured or otherwise unwanted animals who have been placed by MEOW in loving adoptive homes in this past year, we wish to express a very sincere and heartfelt "Thank you!" to all who have played a part in making these miracles a reality.

A Very Special Thank you To . . .

B the individuals, businesses and grantors who have so generously supported the mission of MEOW and contributed financially to keep the work going.

B the veterinarians who have performed services at much-reduced rates and dealt with emergencies as well as routine matters.

B our amazing shelter volunteers who work so willingly on behalf of the animals, keeping the cages and common areas clean, doing load after load of laundry, answering phones daily and returning messages nightly, interviewing people and completing pet adoptions, participating in raising public awareness concerning the plight of homeless animals.

B our fabulous foster homes who have selflessly given of their time and energy, their living space, their own resources and sometimes their sleepless nights caring for orphaned or ill kitties.

B all who have generously contributed cleaning supplies, pet foods, litter, bedding and other materials to help defray the everyday expenses at our shelter.

B all the individuals and their families who have adopted shelter pets this year, who have made a commitment to take seriously their pet's health, happiness and safety.

B cat and dog owners everywhere who spay or neuter their pets, helping to put an end to the cycle of homeless and unwanted animals that fills the shelters across the country.

WITH ONE VOICE, HUMAN AND ANIMAL TOGETHER  
MEOW WISHES YOU AND YOURS  
A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID KIRKLAND, WA PERMIT NO. 58
---