

## GARBONZO ~ LOVING LIFE AT TWELVE

*"I'm happy to report that my inner child is still ageless."  
~ James Broughton*

We admit it. Garbonzo is a rather odd name for a sweet little kitty, but as quirky as she is, her name may just be the perfect fit. Aside from her feet, which happen to have way too many toes (she's polydactyl), she also has a tail that curls back on itself like a paperclip. There's nothing quirky about her disposition though – she's the sweetest lady.



Loving Garbonzo

Garbonzo, also affectionately called Bonzo, came to MEOW in 1999 as a stray kitten. She was quickly adopted and spent the first five years of her life with a loving family. She thought she'd grow old with them, but then an elderly relative who moved in and was extremely allergic to cats. So, Garbonzo came back to the shelter.

A short time later, Bonzo's shameless flirting won her another home – this time with a single man with two other cats and a dog. The extended, blended family was just fine with Bonzo. Not only was she quite tolerant of the other animals, her dad reported that she slept with him from the very first night. All was well with this happy family until recently, when Garbonzo's dad lost his job and his home. After several months of attempting to find a way to keep his beloved pets, he had to move across county to live with family. Bonzo once again came back to MEOW.

Since being back with us, Garbonzo has shown herself to be exactly as she was described – affectionate, mellow, and a real lap cat. She gives loving head-butts, she rolls onto her side and reaches for an outstretched hand. She looks deep into your eyes. She likes nothing better than to snuggle and have her tummy rubbed. Clearly, she has a lot of life left to live and love left to give. And, to those people who may be of the belief that Tortoiseshell cats might have a bit of a "forti-tude" please come meet Bonzo and let her dispel that nasty rumor. She is one of the flirtiest, sweetest cats ever. Could Garbonzo be the little bean you've been waiting for?



*"He has become a much better cat than I have a person. With his gentle urgings, he made me realize that life doesn't end just because one has a few obstacles to overcome."*

~ Mary F. Graf

## REACHING OUT TO END CAT OVERPOPULATION MEOW'S SPAY/NEUTER FUND GETS A HAND FROM HANDSEL FOUNDATION

Exciting news! The Handsel Foundation has awarded MEOW a \$10,000 grant to help fund spay/neuter surgeries for those in our extended community. Funds are available for feral or free-roaming cats, cats belonging to anyone needing financial assistance, and those who qualify for our Toms & Moms program (more information is available on our website under Resources). While



MEOW has often provided spay/neuter surgeries for community members needing financial assistance or those managing feral cat colonies, we realize that with more funding and by getting the word out, we will be able to make a greater impact on the overpopulation issue. The \$5,000 grant we received from The Washington Federation of Animal Control and Care Agencies earlier this year, the \$1,400 raised from our recent Sips for Snips wine tasting at Northwest Cellars and this grant from Handsel Foundation will allow us to provide funding for approximately 800 surgeries, which will reduce the number of litters next year exponentially. If you know someone who could use our help, please direct them to us by phone at (425-822-6369) or email at [info@meowcatrescue.org](mailto:info@meowcatrescue.org).

You can help too! Donate to our Spay/Neuter Fund and join MEOW in our mission to end pet overpopulation.

## 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



## THE PURRRFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT 2012 MEOW CALENDAR

MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION 2012



SAVING PRECIOUS LINES SINCE 1997 MEOW

The 2012 MEOW calendars have arrived. Don't miss out on this special calendar dedicated to fifteen years of rescue. 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.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

This year the craft bazaar and bake sale will be at the former location of Studio East, about 3 blocks north of the shelter at 402 6th Street S. in Kirkland. The space is much bigger so we'll have even more handcrafted items and delicious baked goods. There will also be MEOW logo merchandise available and raffle drawings. Santa will join us for photo ops with your children or pets (pets must be leashed or in carriers, please) for just \$5. Volunteers will be available to do your gift wrapping for a small per package donation of \$1 to \$3 based on size (buy your gifts here or bring them from home). 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 and have some refreshments. Bring a donation of pet food to help support our Animeals food drive for families in need, distributed by Hopelink.



*All nine lives are precious*

MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption  
Holidays 2011

## NOT JUST ANY OLD CAT CELEBRATING SENIORS

*"First you are young; then you are middle-aged; then you are old; then you are wonderful."*

~ Lady Diana Cooper



Snuggle buddies Plum & Chai

Anyone who really loves a cat would tell you that their cat is not just any old cat. Their cat is a cat like no other. A cat above. They would tell you that their cat is a very special cat and they would be absolutely right. Each and every cat almost magically devel-

ops his or her specialness over time. They greet us with affection, they comfort us when we're sad, they calm us when we're upset, and they love us when we're less than loveable.

Sadly, sometimes even exceptional older cats find themselves seeking a new home later in life. Some people believe that an older animal may not be capable of bonding with a new person or family. Not true. Cats will usually form strong relationships with anyone who is willing to spend the time to know them and offer kindness.

We'd like to introduce just a few of the special senior cats who are currently living with us at MEOW. They have so much yet to give. Each one is unique and each one is wonderful.

Russell is the best lap warmer. What he wants more than anything is to be in your lap. He greets and treats everyone like a long lost friend.

Nanook gives the biggest, hardest head butts. In fact, he gets so excited it's more like a head bonk! He craves attention and adores being petted.

Princess, a demur little Siamese mix, gets along well with small dogs. She's in great health and has stunning blue eyes that look right into your heart. Her gentle nature will soothe you, even on your most stressful days.

Vaco is a big talker. He wants to share the news of his day with you. He loves to hug and be carried around. He wants to be your best friend.

Zizi is a quiet, gentle soul; a perfect companion on cozy winter days as you read a book or watch an old movie. She participates in quiet conversations and she's a great listener.

Sophie likes to play catch with small balls. She especially likes games which require her to put her paw into something. She enjoys grooming and lying on windowsills. She's looking for a likeminded friend who understands the need for quiet time to restore life's balance.

Chai & Plum are happy, well-adjusted brothers who adore everyone. Calm and loving, they're just all around great guys and handsome as the dickens too.

Our fervent hope for each of these cats, and all homeless animals, is that they are blessed with the opportunity to become irreplaceable to someone again, that they have the chance to reveal their best qualities to their special someone, to prove once more that they are not just any old cat.



*"Rescue animals are not broken, they've simply experienced more life than other animals. If they were human, we would call them wise. They would be the ones with tales to tell and stories to write, the ones dealt a bad hand, who responded with courage. Don't pity them. Do something. Help to rescue. Donate. Volunteer. Foster. Adopt. And be proud to have their greatness by your side."*

~ Anonymous

## THREE OF THE WISEST

*"Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made."* ~ Robert Browning

Wise Men. Well, sort of. At seven years old, brothers LeRoi, Sanders and Cooper have become quite wise. They have always been together and have shared their home and their love with a family which included children, another cat and a very large dog. Cats have to be pretty wise to navigate a large busy life like this. But now, their primary caregiver has been diagnosed with a serious illness and will soon be unable to care for the animals. The three Wise Men, because they were adopted from MEOW as kittens, have been offered a soft place to land back at the shelter. But Wise Men? Well, maybe they're more like a trio of wise guys in fur coats.



LeRoi

LeRoi, a fluffy red tabby, is large and in-charge. He takes responsibility for patrolling the indoor perimeter, checking out closed doors and quiet corners, making sure all is secure before his brothers are given the high sign. Once he's fulfilled his daily duties as Agent of Activities and Adventures, he enjoys a good catnap.

Sanders wears a long soft coat too, in a buff, sandy color, a shade or two lighter than his brother LeRoi. Sanders is easygoing and open-hearted. His demeanor is gentle and sweet, mellow and loving. Sanders served his family as Leader of Love and Laps. He loves catnip and interactive wand toys. Sanders and LeRoi have requested to be adopted together so that they can ensure that their new family is safe and well loved.

Cooper, who coined the phrase "black is beautiful", is confident and poised. He likes being held and brushed and he's all about attention. Cooper performs quite properly in his position as Chief of Laser Lights and Water Bottle Caps. Although he is fond of his brothers, he's willing to strike out on his own. He does, however, enjoy the company of humans, large and small, if they take the time to get to know him. And, he finds dogs quite interesting.

LeRoi, Sanders and Cooper – each one is wise in his way. Clever and sensible, intelligent and astute, they have always been good citizens of their world and their family. Now they wait for their next, hopefully permanent assignment. They have each pledged to serve their new families honorably and admirably. Wisely.

## SHARING YOUR LIFE WITH A SENIOR CAT

If you are blessed with having a long-lived cat, here are a few simple tips that may help keep her stress-free and comfortable, add years to her life and life to her years.

### Go Looking For Trouble

In these days of shrinking budgets, many pet owners are questioning the value of routine check-ups. Cats are particularly prone to hiding weakness, pain or illness, and it might take a veterinarian's experienced touch to pick up on early symptoms of manageable conditions like arthritis or kidney failure -- both of which are considerably easier and less expensive to treat before they've advanced too far. A vet will be honest and objective about your pet's health.

### Exercise your pet's mind and body

Cats need to move around to keep their bodies as limber as possible. Encourage her to keep active. Get out your cat's toys or a laser pointer and get her involved in a gentle game of chase.

### Embrace routine

Try to preserve cherished routines with older cats. Consistent feeding times, regular grooming and play, the addition of steps or a ramp to help her climb into bed with you at night – all of these may help your cat feel happy and content while she navigates the changes which age brings.

### Control pain

Nothing can make an old cat young again, but eliminating chronic pain comes pretty close. Veterinary pain management has advanced so much in the last few years that even longtime pet owners might not be aware of all their options, from acupuncture to drugs and supplements.

### Find a house call vet

Veterinarians who make house calls can make life a lot easier for you and your elderly pet. If you're not sure where to find one, ask your regular veterinarian; many of them have a vet on staff, or with whom they share clients, who can handle routine care at the client's home.

### Make every day count

Don't walk around in a state of impending loss, imagining that each day is her last. Rather, you should not miss any opportunities to enjoy your pets. Cherish every moment. None of these tips will hold off the end forever but they may give you more time together. And surely, they can improve the quality of the time you have left.

## MEOW MEWS SHARING THE GOOD NEWS DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR E NEWSLETTER

If you aren't receiving our MEOW MEWS online newsletter it means that we don't have your current email. We are so excited to be able to share the good things that are happening at MEOW with our volunteers, supporters and adopters in between our quarterly newsletters.

To make sure you receive the next MEOW MEWS, sign up on our website or email [replymeow@gmail.com](mailto:replymeow@gmail.com).



## PLEASE SHARE THE BOUNTY OF THE SEASON

*"When we share - that is poetry in the prose of life."*  
~ Sigmund Freud

Once again, the cupboards at MEOW are getting bare. For many of the cats at the shelter, their afternoon canned food treat is often a highlight of the day so we worry when our supplies start to thin. If you could help by donating a case or a few cans of cat food, we'd sure appreciate it and the resident cats will be ever so thankful.

"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)

## STROLLING INTO A BRIGHT FUTURE MERCY FUND SAVES KITTEN'S LEG

*"The quality of mercy is not strained;  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath.  
It is twice blessed-  
It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes."*  
~ William Shakespeare

It's times like these when we take a deep breath and thank you, our MEOW family, for your commitment to our Mercy Fund, which allows us to make the very best choices for the future of each and every animal in our care. Recently, a kitten named Whistle became the fortunate beneficiary of your generosity. Here's how:

Kitten transferred to MEOW from another overcrowded shelter . . . . . No Charge

Badly broken leg requiring orthopedic surgery . . . . . Approx \$5000

One happy kitten with four healthy legs . . . . . Priceless

Whistle is a normal, active teen kitten, just seven months old. Tragically, she sustained a severe spiral fracture running the entire length of her left femur. Something had to be done for her as soon as possible.



Give a little Whistle

We had two choices. The first and less expensive option was amputation of the damaged leg at the hip. While this would remedy the problem, it would also affect her mobility, her balance, and possibly even her adoptability. The second option was a very expensive orthopedic surgery followed by six to eight weeks of cage rest. According to Dr. Kirkby, orthopedic surgeon at Seattle Veterinary Specialists, the bone's growth plates were undamaged which meant that Whistle and her leg had the potential to become whole again.

For us, thanks to our Mercy Fund, the decision was simple. Several hours later, the delicate procedure was complete. Whistle's broken bone was reconstructed and reinforced with a metal plate and seven screws.

Back in her foster home, Whistle is resting and healing. She'll soon be good as new. We are so grateful to you, our generous supporters, and we're quite sure that Whistle will be forever grateful too.

# TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In memory of Diane L. Tanner, who passed at the tender young age of 52 in August 2011. She was a peacemaker who loved everyone (two and four-legged) unconditionally.  
*Barbara Horton*

We are happy to adopt River and Simon in honor of a true cat lover, Joan Kerns.  
*Megan, Molly, MC & Michael Jenkins*

In memory of grandkitties, Stinky and Browser and grandpuppies, Zoey and Sophie. Loved and missed by all.  
*Patricia Fullerton*

In fond appreciation of Auntie Valerie of Metro Maggie Kitty Sitting.  
*Kristen Dahlquist*

In honor of our baby cat Amel. Our 4-ever baby! We love you!  
*Xiaohui & Chang Luo*

In memory of Juno and Jack. We love you and miss you every day. Thank you for the love and companionship.  
*Meadows Cat Hospital*

In loving memory of Lisa Weaver. Your kindness and zest for life lives on.  
*Linda Calhoun*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all cats and cat lovers!  
*Daniel Carey*

In memory of our sweet little furry friend Cleo.  
*Love Norah and Jim*

In honor of Valerie Schur, a fantastic cat companion who truly understands our cats despite their neurosis! Keep up your good work too!  
*Ann Buzaitis*

To remember Clemmie Hawken, a dear British cat.  
*Sheila & James Woodcock*

In memory of Cutie. We loved you with all of our hearts.  
*Kyle and Alex*

In memory of Fred, a goofy, loveable cat.  
*Judy Anderson*

In honor of Mary Stelton, the woman who would adopt all cats if only her husband would let her.  
*Anonymous*

In memory of James Harnett.  
*V. Schmutzier*

In honor of Dr. Allen Matson for your work with MEOW and for your generous support when I needed it.  
*Renee McIver*

In memory of Bubba, who loved Debbie and was loved unconditionally in return.  
*Sandra Wirth*

## 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 . . .

- 🐾 the individuals, businesses and grantors who have so generously supported the mission of MEOW and contributed financially to keep the work going.
- 🐾 the veterinarians who have performed services at much-reduced rates and dealt with emergencies as well as routine matters.
- 🐾 our amazing shelter staff and 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 and returning messages, interviewing applicants and completing adoptions, and participating in raising public awareness concerning the plight of homeless animals.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 all who have generously contributed cleaning supplies, pet foods, litter, bedding and other materials to help defray the everyday expenses at our shelter.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 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 fill the shelters across the country.

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