



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF RESCUE
AND OVER 18,000 PRECIOUS LIVES SAVED

Holidays 2012

COMFORT AND JOY

As 2012 comes to a close, we look back in gratitude and wonder at the many miracles we've witnessed this year. When we stop to consider it, all of our lives are filled with little miracles, nearly every day. There are almost unnoticeable coincidences; circumstances coming together at just the right time, in just the right way that can only be called miracles. At MEOW, we believe that each animal who comes to us has miraculous potential. They may come to us cold, hungry and dirty. Often they're too frightened to eat and too nervous to accept consolation. Some have been abandoned and others have just lost their way. Many are injured or ill. They come to us because they have nowhere else to go. Some are suffering from geriatric frailties, some are newborn, struggling for an opportunity to fulfill their potential. Many others fall somewhere in-between. Most are confused, bewildered, upset, perhaps flattening themselves against the back of a carrier or hiding under their bedding. They come in need of a new start. Whether they are perfectly healthy or have permanent challenges, whether their lives are just beginning or they are in their final years, each one is equally valued. All will have access to a clean, warm and safe place to call their own, good nourishing food, the finest veterinary care, the love and respect of the deeply committed staff and volunteers at MEOW, and perhaps most important of all, the best chance of a forever home. They come in need of comfort and joy. They've come to the right place.

At MEOW we're so happy to be able to offer the same level of care to each cat and kitten entering our doors. It is only because of the generous support of the people and businesses who know us and believe in our mission that we are able to carry out that mission. Perhaps you've given the gift of your precious time either at the shelter, in your home as a foster parent, or helping with a fundraising event. Maybe your gift was a donation of food, litter, cleaning supplies, beds, toys, office supplies, or a generous monetary donation which helped us provide for the daily needs and the special medical needs of each precious one. Regardless of how you have given, you have made a difference.

Over the past nearly 16 years, your kindness and goodwill have helped to save and enrich more than 18,000 lives. During this season of comfort and joy, we'd like to offer our most sincere thanks to all of you who have helped. You have offered courage to the fearful, patience to the withdrawn, endurance to the weak, intercession to the forgotten, hope to the hopeless, and compassion to all who enter here. In this season of love, of angels and miracles, we hope you'll be moved to continue giving needy animals the comfort and joy they so richly deserve.

MEOW'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR & OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY & SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST & 2ND, 2 PM - 5 PM

It's once again time for our annual bazaar and open house. This year the craft bazaar and bake sale will once again be at the former location of Studio East, about 3 blocks north of the shelter at 402 6th Street S in Kirkland. We'll have handcrafted items and delicious baked goods for sale, generously donated by our volunteers and supporters. 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.



BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE



As chilly morning fog announced a new day, there was icy dew on the grass surrounding Lake Stickney. In the shadows of the overgrown grass and shrubbery, something moved. A spindly kitten crept into the daylight from his hiding place. The young kitten was bone thin. His black and white tuxedo coat was thin and dirty, further testament to his harsh surroundings. He shivered and looked back over his shoulder. Another cat came, and then another and another. An older red tabby emerged, his ears torn from

fights and so scarred from ear mites that they had become just nubs. One after another, five scrawny young tortie moms appeared, some of them seeming to signal their young ones to stay behind. Ten, twenty, perhaps thirty in all; either out in the open or peering from the brush. Many of the cats could hardly open their infected eyes and their noses were crusted with discharge and dirt. They greeted each other with nuzzles and soft chirps. To them, it seemed to be a day like any other. So cold, so hungry, so sick. But this wasn't any other day; it was the day that would change their lives forever.

Concerned neighbors had reported this feral colony. MEOW volunteer Janis Newman, and others like her, take on sites such as this one and systematically and humanely do TNR (trap, neuter, return) until the entire colony is altered, brought back to health and returned to safe and comfortable conditions where they will be fed and managed. Tame cats and young kittens are generally taken into rescue to become indoor pets.

At Lake Stickney, the trapping was easy. One of the first to venture into a trap was Robbie, the dirty little black and white kitten. He would become a tame kitty without much prompting. With a full tummy and warm bedding, he looked into the eyes of his rescuer and reached a frail front leg through the carrier door. Many of the Lake Stickney cats were removed and relocated. Others were returned to the site to be cared for by a kind neighbor. Ten kittens were welcomed into MEOW foster homes. Janis housed and medicated dozens of the adults until they were well enough to be altered and placed into approved barn or shed homes. Little Robbie and his brother stayed with Janis, enjoying warm naps with the family dog, until they were adopted together.

As winter nears, we can't help but look into the distance on chilly mornings and wonder about the community cats lurking in the shadows. If you notice community cats in your neighborhood, please contact a rescue organization for help. Working together for their health and safety, we can change their lives and prevent others from having to bear these conditions in the future.

COMMEMORATIVE TILES ~ \$50 A GREAT GIFT IDEA



The shelter is growing and you can be a part of it. We are expanding into the space next door to add a separate intake and initial housing area, a bit of additional office space and some very special suites to allow our longer term residents, or those not suited to the community rooms,

a more comfortable living space. Your purchase of a personalized tile will help us with remodeling expenses. Complete the form below and return it with your payment of \$50 for each tile in the donation envelope. If you prefer, you may request an electronic version of the form at donations@meowcatrescue.org

Commemorative Tiles \$50 Each Helping MEOW Expand the Shelter

Select a Dedication:

In Honor of In Memory of Donated by
Add Personalization (up to 20 characters including spaces)

Select a Color Palette for the paint splash:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blues | <input type="checkbox"/> Red/Orange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greens | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange/Tan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/White | |

Your Name:

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

The tiles will become a very special part of the shelter; a tribute to the generosity of MEOW's supporters and the ones they hold dear.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

Lucy has never asked for much. Given away in front of a grocery store as a kitten, Lucy was lucky to be chosen by a kind person who brought her to MEOW. Once adopted, she was perfectly content with her family until they decided to get the dog. That's when things began to change. Her relationship with the dog became so tense that Lucy finally had to live in a bedroom, separate from the dog and secluded from everyone most of the time. Her family felt this was not a good quality of life for Lucy and in August of 2010 they brought her back to MEOW.



Lucy is not one to complain, but shortly after her arrival, a lump was discovered near the base of her tail. Tests determined she had a pre-cancerous condition. To keep her healthy, her tail was removed. Lucy looks adorably stylish as a cute little man-made-Manx kitty.

Lucy could never be called demanding. She is content to occupy her favorite bed and wait until you notice her. When you first introduce yourself she will be coy and demure. Once she feels safe she will happily accept petting and offer her softest purrs of thanks.

Lucy is not impatient. Having called MEOW home for the past two years, she lives peacefully in our Front Room with several other cats, but this is not what she considers home. She wouldn't mind a family with another cat but she'd prefer no little children and please, no dogs. Oh, and she'd like a few of those little fuzzy mice to bother when she's feeling spunky. Other than that, she'll be content with the occasional long cuddle with her head on your shoulder. If she could sit on Santa's lap, she would certainly say she'd been a really good kitty all year long and she would tell him that all she really wants for Christmas is you.



THE PURRRFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT 2013 MEOW CALENDAR

MEOW *all nine lives are precious*



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION 2013

The 2013 MEOW calendars have arrived. Don't miss out on this special calendar dedicated to sixteen years of rescue. These beautiful 2013 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 wonderful and practical holiday gifts.



A CHRISTMAS POEM

If under the Christmas tree you see
A poorly wrapped package from me
Remember that I have a cat
and upon your package he has sat

If the ribbon on your package is tattered
and the rest looks a little splattered
Remember that I have a cat
Who wore the bow on his head like a hat

If the paper on your package is shredded
and the gifts inside are now dreaded
Remember that I have a cat
and let's just leave it at that

~ Margaret Fine

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In memory of Bella, from Annabelle.
Vickie Easterling

From the friends and colleagues of
Marcee Kerr, in memory of her mother,
Linda Kerr, who recently passed away.
Jeff Natter

To our best friend, Pnurf. Not only a friend, but also family.
We love you and miss you.
James & Julia (aka dad and mom)

Soiling, Felix and Hobie ~ we follow in your paw steps.
Zoe and Buddy
Barbara DeCoster

Thank you MEOW for your incredible work
for our special 'friends'!
Mary MacGregor

Thank you Lisa, Sandy and Wady.
Tom Milner

In loving memory of Rosa, who probably outlived
the car that hit her before she came to MEOW.
RIP Rosa, 2004 - 2012
Kathy Hall

In memory of our loveable, funny Jr.
who was taken away from us much too soon.
We miss you so much.
Marvinna Crawford & Bit Snead

In honor of Max and in memory of Logan.
LaVonne Schott

Thank you to Art Arnaz, Dr. Stonewater and the staff at
Seattle Veterinary Specialists for their compassion,
generosity and sensitivity shown to all four-legged
creatures & the humans who care for them.
Nora Carlson

In memory of my friend's cat, Miss Moxie.
Brenda Higley

In memory of Tom of Spoiled Darling fame.
1/23/94 ~ 8/15/12. Cats will steal your heart in the
first 20 minutes. Then they will break it when they die.
Vicki Russell

In honor of Spartacus I.
Tim Carey

In memory of the stunningly beautiful Katera,
loved all of her life by Kathy and Bob Posner.
from your MEOW friends

In memory of Sheila Carter.
Carole Blasingame

In memory of our beloved Raja.
Don & Sandra Casto

In memory of Howie White and his mom Pam.
Howie was a MEOW kitty.
Lee Klasterin

Katya sends her thanks for a happy home!
Wes & Helen Phillipis

In honor of Carol Verga's birthday,
Bonnie, Sandy, Jude, Pat, Ella & Kathie

In memory of Johanna Current.
Kim Current

In honor of Marnie Annin.
Bellevue Police Benevolent Association

In memory of Magickal Mystical Merilyn.
Rebecca & Jim McQuade

In memory of adorable, Dixie, sweet little girl loved by all.
Mom & Dad

In memory of the great orange cat, Myles Janzen.
He lives on in our hearts.
Jean McAlpine

In memory of my friend and neighbor, Thelma Tiffany.
Janet Elmore

In memory of Butterscotch, precious golden boy
who loved everyone, and in honor of Marilyn and Steve
who will miss him forever.
from your MEOW friends

In memory of Gregg Henn
and in honor of the cats he loved, Willie & Chester.
Bonne & MEOW Staff

In memory of Jerry Garcia ~ age 16.
He was a laid-back cat who lived up to his namesake.
We will miss you terribly.
The Shelton family

In memory of Ben, lovingly fostered by Andee and Marc.
We will miss your intense eyes and your playful heart.
from your MEOW friends

In memory of Jan Senter.
Bubu (Judy), Bess and Wendy

In loving memory of Boogie.
Brian Hopkins



FINE WINES & FELINES 2012 WHAT FUN! WHAT RESULTS!

This year's auction was one for the record books, with more fun, more excitement, more attendees and more funds raised than ever before. If you donated items for the auction, thank you. Your donations filled the auction tables with interesting and unique items causing people to bid up a storm. If you were a business or individual sponsor, thank you. Your generosity, our event sponsors, provided enough funding to cover the event expenses, which meant that 100% of the auction proceeds will directly benefit the cats and dogs of MEOW. If you attended the event, a huge thank you. You helped us raise over \$84,000 this year, including \$30,000 for our Mercy Fund which provides funding for emergency and specialized veterinary care so that the decision to help an animal is never a financial one. If you volunteered, thank you so much. You did an amazing job planning, procuring, decorating, organizing and staffing the event. You proved once again that our volunteers are the cornerstone of MEOW's success.

Richard Ward from Kapchur.us took many wonderful photos which you may view at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/woodi68/sets/72157631248880764/with/7862517988/>.

Plans are already underway for next year's event! We surely hope to see you there.

PUSSYCAT PANTRY HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

Today the cats' fondest wish is for canned food, a staple at MEOW. Every day we open dozens of cans. Some of our cats are fed canned food exclusively. It's vital for introducing kittens to the plate, it's a symbol of kindness to our frightened newcomers, it's helpful for cats with finicky appetites or fussy stomachs, it's necessary for recovering from dental procedures, and it's the best diet for overweight and diabetic cats. If you can donate a case of food, or even a can or two, any brand, any flavor, the cats at the shelter would be ever so grateful. Other items on our Wish list would be much appreciated as well. Thank you.

Canned Kitten and Cat Foods
Royal Canin BabyCat
Royal Canin Special 33
Cat Attract Litter
Postage stamps
Garbage bags – Kitchen size drawstring
Paper Towels
Hand Sanitizer
Liquid Laundry Detergent HE

UP ON THE ROOFTOP

Kittens on a restaurant roof? What was mama cat thinking? She had given birth to her wee ones near the heat exhaust fan. For a while her five kittens were warm, safe, clean and well fed. Mama had kept them her secret. But then mama was late coming home. She was gone all night. All the next day and night again.



The kittens' hungry cries rang through the parking lot, catching the attention of a restaurant employee. He followed the sound of their distressed meowing right up to the rooftop. He gently placed them into a box and brought them to the ground.

Restaurant employees had seen mama cat regularly, but not for a few days. Judging by the robust condition of the kittens, he knew that if she was able she would surely have come back to them. They were not abandoned. They were orphaned.

At three weeks old, all five kittens were fat and healthy. They adapted easily to the loving touch of their new human foster mom and to nursing from the bottle. Now in their forever homes, the kittens are all living safely indoors, no longer having to sing from the rooftops to be noticed.

People often ask us where MEOW cats and kittens come from. Each one has a special story. Who would expect to find kittens on a rooftop? We so wish we could have found and saved their precious mama, but we're thankful that an alert gentleman listened with his heart when he heard a choir of tiny kitten angel voices from above.

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.

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Kirkland WA 98033
425 822-MEOW (6369)

Info@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

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 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.
- 🐾 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 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!



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