



MEOW

All nine lives are precious

MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption
Spring 2011

Paolo ~ Breathing a Sigh of Relief

Last December, it became clear to Paolo's foster mom that there was something worrisome about Paolo. Nine weeks old at that time, he was living with his siblings, basically doing kitten things all day – eating, playing and growing. But, for Paolo, playing didn't seem as fun or easy as it should have been. He clearly wanted to wrestle,



Paolo's first outfit
Looking so dapper!

romp and run with the others, but he was just too tired. Paolo had been born with Pectus Excavatum, a concave chest, a genetic malformation of the breastbone, which was causing compression of his lungs and displacement of his tiny heart. As he was growing and being more active, breathing was becoming more and more difficult. Paolo's heart was beating too fast, working too hard, and sapping what little energy he had.



It's a bird! It's a plane!
It's Super Paolo!

There is an expensive surgical procedure which is sometimes effective at correcting this condition. It must be done while the bones of the chest are still soft enough to change. Because of Paolo's significant symptoms, it looked

like surgery might be the difference between life and death.

The surgery was scheduled. On December 14th, at Seattle Veterinary Specialists, in Kirkland Paolo's sternum was sutured to an external splint in an attempt to pull his soft kitten bones into a more normal formation. A few days later, KOMO-TV introduced Paolo to their viewers through a feature called People Helpers. Over the following several days, the response was tremendous and MEOW received donations to fully cover his surgery expenses.



MEOW's soccer star

For the six weeks following surgery, Paolo charmed the staff at SVS during the changing of his body cast. Each week they fashioned a new and stylish outfit using vet wrap, a sort of self-sticking gauze, which comes in many colors.

We're very happy to report that Paolo's surgery has been a success. His heart and lungs now have the room they need to work properly. He is making up for lost time by playing nearly non-stop now that his cast has been removed. He'll soon be joining a family who fell in love with him when they saw him on the news. His new siblings are also MEOW alumni.

Paolo and all of us at MEOW send a heartfelt thank you to KOMO-TV People Helpers and all the kind and generous people who have helped him get well.

WINSTON ~ WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU

Winston will tell you he has heard it all. As a kitten, more than 11 years ago, he heard his family calling his name and laughing while they played with him. As he grew into an adult he listened to the birds on sunny summer days and the pitter patter of rain on the porch roof in winter. Then one day last November he heard the crackle of the flames devouring his home as it was gutted by fire. That was the day his life changed forever. His family had to move to a place where Winston and his two sisters would not be welcome.

Shortly thereafter, the weather turned very cold. There was snow on the ground and it was difficult to find a warm place to sleep. Some days there was nothing to eat. Winston waited patiently for the sound of his family returning, for things to be back to normal. That was not to be.



Winston presurgery

Then one day Winston heard something new. A woman's soft voice was calling, "Here, Kitty. Come, Kitty. Oh my goodness, do you live here?" He walked right up to one of our

MEOW volunteers and introduced himself. The large white cat had black crusty ears. Was it a bad case of ear mites? Frostbite? Had his ears been singed by the fire?

We were able to contact the family who had lived in the home and they gratefully accepted our offer of sanctuary for all three of their senior cats. While his two sisters found their way into the shelter, Winston went home to be fostered by the volunteer who'd rescued him. He was ever so happy to be indoors, warm and clean. He quickly got used to regular meals. In return, Winston nestled lovingly into the curve of his foster mom's neck as she worked on her computer.

At MEOW a few days after his rescue, his ears were examined and the crusty lesions cleaned. Time

confirmed our fears. Years of sunburn on his delicate white ears had created a cancerous condition. The diseased parts of his ears would have to be removed.

The day after surgery, Winston was released from the hospital. Now where his soft white ears had been, there remained only small rounded ridges, bound all around by sutures. Winston looked so sad. Back in his foster home, he refused to look his foster mom in the eye. Perhaps he was concerned that he might be less loveable now.



Winston postsurgery

Next morning, he heard a now familiar voice. "Hi Handsome. Feeling better today?" Winston's ears were still working! Yes, they may look kind of funny, but he can live with that. In fact, he seems ready to live a happy life with funny little ears that work pretty well.

Would you like to whisper sweet nothings to this gentle white giant? Winston is waiting to hear from you.

FINE WINES & FELINES 2011
SATURDAY JULY 16 ~ SAVE THE DATE

Volunteers are already busy and plans are well underway for our 6th annual wine tasting and fundraising auction. We are excited to once again have John Curley as our emcee. Mark your calendars and watch your mailbox in early June for your invitation. New this year, we will be requesting RSVPs and reservations. In the upcoming months, check out our website www.meowcatrescue.org for details. If you're interested in donating an auction item, please email us at meowauction@gmail.com. We will send you our guidelines and answer any questions you have. We hope to see you on July 16th!



*If we treated everyone we meet
with the same affection we bestow
upon our favorite cat,
they, too, would purr.
~ Martin Buxbaum*

ROMEO & MATILDA ~ A FAMILY REUNION

You may have read about Romeo & Matilda in a previous issue. They had become victims of the economic recession last summer. Their human dad had 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 had 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.

At nearly 14 years old, and bonded to one another, finding a new home for them was going to be a challenge. As the months passed, their human mom, Kim, continued to contact the shelter frequently to see how they were doing. Having to relinquish her “first children” had nearly broken her heart.

In a recent phone call, there was a different tone to Kim's voice. “My husband has found a job. We've bought a house”, she said. “Would you consider letting us have Romeo and Tilly back?” Needless to say, we were thrilled at the prospect. After the cats passed their health exams without issues, they were given permission to fly. Days later, they departed SeaTac on a red eye flight and were reunited with their mom, dad and two giddy little girls.

Life is certainly improving for Romeo and Matilda. We'd like to consider this reunion a harbinger of many more good things to come in 2011 for animals who have been displaced. Godspeed, Romeo and Tilly!

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

SHERMAN AND MACARTHUR ~ SOLDERING ON



Sherman
at full attention

Sherman and MacArthur spent much of their early lives being passed around from home to home via Craigslist. Both were born with one malformed back leg. Perhaps this was the reason nobody seemed able to make a commitment to these two adorable brown tabby brothers. The kittens, however, were blissfully unaware of their physical deformities.

Once rescued by MEOW, Sherman and MacArthur went to the home of foster mom Chris Conrad until they were neutered and ready for adoption. It was then that we discovered MacArthur's short limb would require surgery to prevent future medical problems.

Chris describes Sherman as a lap kitty. He rolls over and over like an otter for petting. MacArthur defers to Sherman for everything. He purrs and chirps constantly. The two of them take turns being on a lap. They can climb and run like any other kittens. MacArthur has made a speedy recovery from his surgery and these two little Generals are ready to lead a march into someone's heart.



MacArthur
enjoying some R&R

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

We were reminded recently at a Microsoft Giving seminar that Microsoft, as well as many other employers, will match their employees' donations to MEOW dollar for dollar. Many employers will even match your volunteer hours with cash donations. If you don't know whether your employer has a Matching Gifts Program, please ask. It's an amazing way to leverage your generosity and support of MEOW.

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

Katya sends her thanks for a good home!
Helen & Wes Phillips

In memory of sweet Xanadu, Fluffles, BJ,
Kalliope and Kitt.
Caroline Rourke

In honor of Harley. I miss you every day!
Monique Wilson

For Puck and Copperfield, feline friends from MEOW.
Dorothy Day

To honor the faithful volunteers I 'work' with on
Wednesdays & Fridays. It is also in appreciation of the
work done by MEOW's staff, including our shelter
manager, assistant manager and shelter assistants.
Last, but not least, are the many wonderful people
I've met in my nearly 10 years with MEOW, including
board members, trappers, foster moms and dads, and
our probono vets. Thank you for being part of MEOW
and for all you do. I wish you a new year filled with joy.
Ruth Laitila

For my brother Kevin and his two cats
who helped him play with his trains.
Daniel Carey

In loving memory of Gandalf.
David Snavelly

In honor of Baby Jack. You are in our thoughts.
With love, your family

In honor of my husband Chris Mace,
who loved all animals.
Merrie Kay Mace

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hilderbrand
who adopted Lola several years ago.
Julie Kirk

Dear Freya, you are in our hearts forever.
We miss you beyond belief.
Alan Woolf

Our kitties, Annabelle and Thomas,
whom we adopted from MEOW are the best.
Thanks for all you do to help the animals!
Byron & Heidi Langley

In honor of our wonderful cat family:
Rebecca, Sebastian, Tulip and Elvis
who taught us about the many joys of cats as pets.
Memmel family

In memory of our beautiful kitty, Cowboy.
In his short 2 1/2 years, he left huge
paw prints on our hearts
Linda Wilson

In honor of Buddy and Zoe DeCoster.
Barbara DeCoster

In memory of Mello Doran, adopted by my sister
and brother in law, Ambika and Paul Doran.
Rohit Kumar

In honor of Jeanne Kreider.
Bonni Sundberg

In loving memory of Millie.
Judy Anderson

In remembrance of Duke.
Don & Sandra Casto

The people who volunteer and work at MEOW
are truly the Christmas angels.
I am in awe of your dedication.
Suzanne Bingham

For Major Grey - nine months at MEOW,
three years in our house.
Megan Pursell

In honor of Leslee's cats and in memory of
Kay and all her cats.
Sheila Dietrich

In memory of our dearly departed cats,
KC and Sebastian who are missed for their
uniqueness and cuddly nature.
Nora Carlson

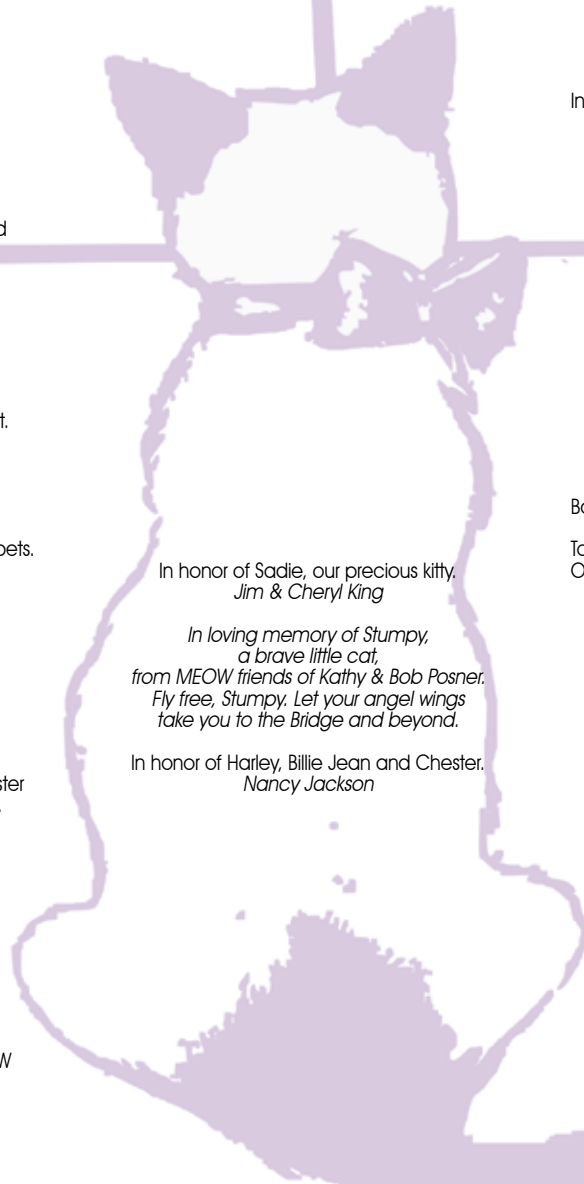
In honor of Rhoda Besecker.
Jeanann O'Brien

In memory of Chloe; you will always be remembered.
Duane Oswald

In memory of Mr. Blue Eyes and Savannah.
Whitney Mason

Barney and Kit Carson - forever in our hearts.
Julie Morgan

In honor of Nydia White.
Lisa Burns



In honor of Sadie, our precious kitty,
Jim & Cheryl King

In loving memory of Stumpy,
a brave little cat,
from MEOW friends of Kathy & Bob Posner.
Fly free, Stumpy. Let your angel wings
take you to the Bridge and beyond.

In honor of Harley, Billie Jean and Chester.
Nancy Jackson

In honor of our beloved Egypt and Sundae, and to all
who cared for them until we found each other.
Thank you!
Christy Reynolds

In memory of Paki, beloved cat of Holly.
Judy McBeath

In honor of my sweet foster kitty, Bug
and my long time buddies Pallie and Bert.
You were the bestest!
Erin & William Reetz

In memory of sweet Jazzmine, who was adopted at
MEOW in 2002 with her sister Kiki.
Jazzie is truly missed.
Debbie & Todd Rosenfelt

For Payton Ashton's birthday!
Amy Cottrille

In memory of Buddy, Jackson, Wilson, Sam and T.J.
Cathy Neir

In honor of Claire Vossler, who asked that her friends
donate to MEOW instead of giving her gifts on
her 8th birthday. Yeah, Claire!
Stella Batzel

Thank you to Sandy Winkler.
Wendy Milner

In loving memory of Carol Reynolds, who tolerated my
cats in her beautiful yard.
Ernestine Whittemore

In memory of:
Muffy Gilmon, lovingly cared for & missed by
Sue Gilmon. 1996 - Nov 2010;
Ellie, loved and cared for by Christina Pluschke.
May 1997 - Nov 2010;
Sophie, cared for and adored by Wendy West.
She will be dearly missed. Jan 1994 - Nov 2010;
Speedy, lovingly owned and cared for by
Juanita Grimm. Full of personality and love!
Downy, 1988 - 2010. Loved and adored
by Judy Stavshoj.;
PoPo, loved by Jan Mikus and Bill Holman.
Born in 1990, PoPo lived a great life;
Kreskin, he fought a long, brave battle.
Much love to Josephine Lee;
Bailey, owned by Shelly Rounds. Bailey was so loved by
Shelly and will be missed by all;
Tommy was a beautiful cream and white Persian born
October 2000. He was loved and cared for by Vicki
White. Vicki and Oliver will miss you;
Jasmine, loved and owned by Ruth Van Dyke.
April 1995 - Summer 2010.
City Kitty, LLC

In honor of Payton Ashton's 10th birthday.
She has requested donations in place of gifts.
Robyn Ashton

In memory of Jack.
Jim Beckmann

For Sadie and Molly.
Susan Day

In honor of Claire Vossler.
John Schoenstein

In Victoria Kramer's honor.
Francie Kramer

In honor of Sara the cat.
Jessica Greenway

To honor Ziggy Stachowicz.
Donna Stachowicz

REFLECTIONS ON 2010 SO MANY REASONS TO BE THANKFUL

During 2010, thanks to our amazing adopters, supporters, foster families, shelter volunteers and staff we were able to accept 920 cats into our care and find forever homes for 850.

Last July, our annual Fine Wines & Felines 2010 auction was a tremendous success, with more than 250 attendees. MEOW raised over \$55,000 to help sustain the highest level of care for each of our residents, no matter how long they stay with us while awaiting adoption. This year, on July 16th, we invite you to join us at Fine Wines & Felines 2011 with auctioneer John Curley, for an evening that will feed your soul. We are so excited to have this occasion to enjoy with you once again.

Last September, Elisa Jaffe, KOMO TV's People Helper, heard that our canned food supply was running low and decided to help. As soon as the story hit the airways, the phone started ringing, with animal lovers asking what we needed. Over the following days we received cases and cases of canned food as well as many bags of kibble. Several people made generous monetary donations to help keep the cupboards full in future months. We're so grateful to receive such amazing support.

In early December, we celebrated the holiday season with our annual Holiday Open House and Craft Bazaar. It was wonderful to reconnect with old friends and share the amazing handy work of our volunteers. We raised over \$5,000 from the crafts and baked goods sold.

Our ongoing AniMeals program provides donated food for companion animals for the clients of Kirkland's Hopelink food bank. Since beginning during the holidays in 2009, MEOW supporters have helped us to donate more than 6,000 pounds of pet food, allowing many people to care for their pets while going through difficult times. The AniMeals program will continue as long as the food donations keep coming. We're so happy to share.

Throughout the year, we were amazed and so thankful for the ongoing generosity of the businesses that display our donation boxes, the veterinarians who provide services at reduced rates, the supporters who write checks or donate food and shelter supplies, our friends who pass the word about our shelter and the work we do, and our volunteers and staff who work so hard to ensure that our shelter is as good as it can be.

We are so fortunate to be a part of this animal loving community, where people are not only concerned, but committed. We're committed too and we'll continue to do our best to make you proud.

RUMBLE - IS IT MY TURN YET?

In October 2009, a large handsome Maine Coon lookalike, appropriately named Rumble, came back to MEOW when his family members decided to go their separate ways. Rumble was reported to have issues with other cats. For his first several months at the shelter he lived in a cage, unable to make the transition to a community room. But finally Rumble let us know that he had figured out how to get along. He moved into the front community room and demonstrated that he could be a good citizen. He has his favorite nesting spots and the other residents respect his space. He's getting along just fine. Still, he seems to have a wistful look in his eyes.



Handsome Rumble

Rumble currently holds the dubious distinction of being the resident who has lived at the shelter for the longest time, over a year now. At nearly 11 years old, this is not a title that he relishes. We know that Rumble would love nothing more than to be adopted again, to live in a real home once more, hopefully as an only cat, but he appears willing to share his people with another

cat or dog if that's part of the deal. He doesn't ask for much. A good chin scratch will bring forth a rumbling purr from the depths of his chest. Rumble would enjoy watching sports with you, helping you read the Sunday paper or your favorite book, and he promises not to complain if you're late getting home from work. When you're ready to give this relationship a try, he'll be waiting for you in the community room, being a really good cat citizen, but hoping that his turn is coming soon.



You will always be lucky if you know how to make friends with strange cats.
~ Colonial American proverb

FIONA ~ CUTE & QUIRKY

When a little black kitten was abandoned at Mud Bay Granary, MEOW was called for help. Just moments after her arrival at the shelter the poor baby had a grand mal seizure. Subsequent seizures came frequently until she became stabilized on daily medication.

Now that Fiona is a teenage kitten, she's ready to start a new life. Her seizures are now under control. She likes to play chase with other kittens in her foster home as long as they respect her space. No tackling please. She would get along with a dog, as long as there was no chasing involved. Fiona enjoys food, and she willingly takes her anti-seizure medication with her meal. It's a tiny and inexpensive pill.

Special needs? She doesn't see herself that way. In fact, she doesn't see very much at all. Because of the severity of her early seizures, Fiona has limited vision. She has poor depth perception, so she climbs very carefully. She loses her toys frequently but is overjoyed when she finds them. She enjoys playing with shadows and air spirits.

To meet this quirky little kitten, please call the shelter to set up a "get to know you" date.



Fiona
Cute & Quirky



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