



# MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF RESCUE  
AND OVER 17,000 PRECIOUS LIVES SAVED

Spring 2012

## Enough Hope to Make You Happy

*"May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, enough hope to make you happy." ~ Anonymous*



Hoping for a home

She had lived with her family for five years, but a hectic household proved to be too much for this quiet little girl, and in February of 2011 she was returned to MEOW. The owners reported that she hid most of the time to remove herself from the children and the dogs, but she took comfort in the other cat in the home.

They said that she had litter box indiscretions. Whenever a cat has incidents of inappropriate urination, the course of action should begin with a urinalysis, which is exactly what we did on her arrival last year. In Hope's case, that test revealed oxalate crystals. Urinary crystals can be caused by stress, diet, urinary pH, and inadequate water intake. Hope's crystals may have been due to a combination of all of these.

She was painfully shy when she arrived. She would burrow under her bedding and peek out at us. Still, as soon as we would reach in and stroke her she would relax, clearly loving to be touched. Hope has really come out of her shell over the year while she has been with us. Her MEOW Buddy, who takes Hope out of her cage for interaction and exercise a couple of times each week, says this about her: "Hope is a very sweet cat, just a doll. She loves attention, and purrs vigorously when petted." She circles and rubs around her Buddy's legs asking for pets. She absolutely loves to be held. She enjoys a scratching post.

Hope has perfect litterbox habits. She is fed a veterinary diet to control her urinary pH, thus she no longer produces crystals. Her inexpensive diet is available through any veterinarian. Although Hope would love the company of other cats she cannot live in one of our community room because of her dietary requirements. We would love to get Hope out of her cage permanently, into a home where she can jump onto a tall cat tower or sun herself in a window, where she can be petted and held in a lap, where she's sure to become a cherished family member. We have hope for Hope. Please consider adopting or fostering this sweet, quiet, well-mannered little girl. She is so deserving of a happy life and we will never give up on Hope.



Playful Hope



## MILLI VANILLI ~ OUR LUCKY STAR

Some might say he was born under a lucky star. Born in Omak to a family with too many cats, he was lucky to become a member of the MEOW family back in 2006. Then in late 2011, when his adoptive family could no longer care for him he was lucky that MEOW offered him a soft place to land. We felt lucky to have another opportunity to help Milli Vanilli find his forever home. But life would take some crazy turns before that would happen.



Milli Vanilli aka Enzo

In mid-December, Mr. Milli ingested the fiberfill stuffing from a large kicker toy. That gastronomic indiscretion seemed to be the genesis of a life and death struggle over the following six weeks. Milli's upset stomach became a serious problem.

After five days of not being able to keep even a bite of food down, his situation was getting serious. He was admitted to Eastside Veterinary Associates. At night he was transferred to Animal Emergency Service. Diagnostics began with barium and x-rays. Inconclusive. A multitude of medications given intravenously for nausea had no effect. He was transferred to Seattle Veterinary Specialists for a gastroendoscopy and placement of an esophageal feeding tube. Biopsies of internal organs showed nothing abnormal. Days later the tube had to be removed as it was causing increased stomach irritation. Over the following weeks his record became a dizzying account of more than fifteen different medications and a very long list of diagnostic tests and procedures. We visited him daily in his hospital bed throughout the Christmas holidays and hoped for a miracle.

Having been unable to eat for more than two weeks, Milli had lost more than two pounds. X-rays and ultrasound revealed no foreign body to remove, so our last hope was that exploratory surgery would find something. He was so weak by this time we were unsure whether he could survive the surgery, but it was his only hope. Just before the New Years holiday, Dr. Judy Hung performed the meticulous 3-hour surgery, exploring him from stem to stern, again collecting biopsies, and still found nothing to account for his serious illness. She placed another feeding tube and closed him up. He was taken off all medications. A day or two later, feedings began with just a few drops of liquid per hour through his tube.

Milli Vanilli was released from the hospital on New Years Eve. We held our breath as we gave him multiple small tube feedings throughout each day and night. Miracle of miracles – he was keeping food down. But it would be nearly another month before he would begin eating again on his own. In February the day finally came for his feeding tube to be removed. It seems as though we will never know what caused Milli to become so ill, or what cured him, but we think perhaps when Dr. Judy opened him up she “let the bad juju out”. No matter. He is well.

Just a few weeks after his ordeal was over, Milli Vanilli was adopted. He now goes by Enzo, and he has a crazy fun brother named Cowboy and a fairly sweet sister named Lily. Enzo's mom recently said to her friends in an email message: “The people at MEOW call Enzo the “\$10,000 Cat”. How many shelters, do you suppose, would go to this extent to save a single kitty? I cannot praise them enough.” At MEOW we have never made a medical decision based on cost. He clearly had the will to live and we could not let him down. Enzo and his new family are so thankful that we never gave up hope. We're thankful to all those who played a part in saving his life - and for his lucky star.

SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY AUGUST 25  
FINE WINES & FELINES 2012  
MEOW'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendar! You won't want to miss this one. John Curley, local television and radio celebrity and Auctioneer Extraordinaire, promises to make the evening exciting, interesting, and lots of fun. This year our venue is the beautiful Seattle Design Center in Georgetown, a wonderful place for an event. We'll once again be hosting wine tasting and abundant hors d'oeuvres along with over 300 items up for bid in our silent and live auctions. Have a good time with friends and get some great deals while supporting the cats and dogs whose health and happiness depends on us. Watch our website and your mail box later this spring for registration details and more information. Event sponsorships are still available to businesses and individuals from \$250 to \$1500 and we are now accepting donated items. Sponsors and donors may email us at [mewauction@gmail.com](mailto:mewauction@gmail.com). See you there!

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT FERAL CATS



Unfamiliar with feral cats? Chances are, you have seen a feral cat at some time in your life but just weren't sure what you were seeing. Many of these cats struggle for survival under the most heartbreaking conditions. Because of their fear of humans, they feel safer coming out at night. As a result, many are rarely visible. But they are every-

where: scurrying between buildings and bushes, foraging for food in dumpsters and struggling to survive in greenbelts, on college campuses and in abandoned buildings. An unspayed female lives a very difficult life, spending most of her time pregnant and hungry, only to give what little food she has to her offspring. Many die of starvation, exposure, or they become food to a predator. The unneutered males fight over mating territory, often resulting in debilitating wounds.

A process called TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) has been proven effective in controlling feral cat population growth. Cats are trapped, altered, eartipped, and vaccinated and then returned to their territory or colony, where they are provided regular food and shelter by their caretaker. TNR stabilizes the size of the colony and the cats can live a healthy, safe and peaceful life. Many kittens that come to MEOW are the result of feral situations. When rescued at an early age, kittens born to feral cats become social, outgoing and confident. The feral chain is broken. Their quality of life has been immeasurably improved.

We invite you to be a part of the solution. If you see a feral, stray or free roaming cat in your neighborhood, place of employment, etc., you can help! At MEOW we have humane traps, trapping guidelines, and loads of experience to share. We will be happy to walk you through the process from start to finish. Join us in this exciting and rewarding endeavor and be a part of the movement to end cat overpopulation.

## JOIN THE COMMUNITY CAT COALITION IT'S EASY TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR FERAL CATS

Volunteer with experts from MEOW Cat Rescue, Pasado's Safe Haven, Purrfect Pals, and Feral Cat Spay Neuter Project. You can assist in the spay/neuter of feral cats through humane Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR). The Coalition is recruiting volunteers for classroom and field training. As a volunteer, you may assist with trapping, transportation, overnight care of cats before and after surgery, fostering kittens, public education, or as a caregiver for a managed colony. Your level of involvement is up to you.

Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to you. Join us in this rewarding and worthwhile adventure. With your help, the Community Cat Coalition will save the lives of thousands of cats through prevention. Be a part of the solution. Training sessions are available in Kirkland, Monroe, and Marysville. Email or call MEOW for information.

## PUSSYCAT PANTRY HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

Canned Kitten and Cat Foods  
Kitten Kibble (esp. Royal Canin BabyCat)  
Cat Kibble (esp. Royal Canin Special 33)  
Baby Food - Gerber 2nd brand (meat flavors only)  
KMR formula (Kitten Milk Replacer)  
Cat Attract Litter  
Postage stamps  
Garbage bags - Kitchen size drawstring  
Paper Towels  
Hand Sanitizer  
Liquid Laundry Detergent (High efficiency)

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

# TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In honor of Mousenik,  
much loved by all who knew him.  
*Julia Richman*

In honor of our MEOW cat, Nelle, three years old.  
*Jean Hutto*

In loving memory of Marcus.  
*Sherilyn McGough*

In memory of  
Cyd Dudgeon's sweet Zellie;  
Brian Kauer's Saga;  
Mary and Taylor Ayers' Mokie;  
Sometimes cats come into our lives  
to help us through the tough times.  
May these memories help you through the grief.  
*City Kitty, LLC*

In honor of Lucie, my very special senior kitty.  
*Patricia Miller*

In honor of Steve Gwinn.  
*Deb Pennington, Koko Parke, Bob Knight  
and all of our wonderful kitties!*

In memory of James "Jim" Harnett, cat lover and friend.  
*Karyn & Michael Angulo*

In memory of Gracie and in honor of Brookie.  
*Lisa Havens*

To honor and remember Boogie.  
I so miss you my friend.  
*Brian Hopkins*

In honor of Carol Dixon, lifetime cat lover.  
*Holly Seim*

In honor of Ragnar Black (1991 - 2011),  
who was with me for a third of my entire life.  
*John Black*

I love and miss all "MEOWS" but also miss my chubby  
little Lucy, who passed on 4/12/11.  
*Helga Bajars*

In memory of Allison, D-Mun, Cyra and Bubba.  
*Kristine Larson & Richard Gemmell*

To honor all the staff and volunteers at MEOW.  
*Sheila & James Woodcock*

Remembering Hamlet and Lucas. We miss you!  
*Jen & Nate Anderson*

Amadeo and Thor, we will always love you.  
*Noel and Michael*

In memory of our beloved pets:  
Tigger, Zach and Sheba.  
*Joe & Barbara Giamona*

In memory of Joseph P. Ordos.  
*Elizabeth Ordos*

In memory of Luna and Jasmine.  
*Carol & David Thiel*

In honor of Cherrie Stephens.  
*Linda Urbaniak*

In memory of Marion Scott.  
*Carol Herrick*

In honor of Paul & Dawn Lawson,  
who have welcomed Paolo into their loving home.  
*Mamie Annin*

In memory of Juno.  
*Frank & Maureen Santoni*

In memory of Hank Gordon.  
My brother who had a warm heart for all animals.  
*Jennifer Gordon-Engstfeld*

Amei, our baby cat, we miss you very much!  
*Xiaohui & Chang Luo*

For the love of Freya ~ and rescue kitties everywhere.  
*Alan & Judith Woolf*

Remembering our cat, Wally, who left us too soon.  
*Frank & Jeanne Hackley*

To honor TC.  
*The Stewarts*

In loving memory of my husband, Chris.  
*Merrie Kay Mace*

In memory of the cats who shared my life.  
*LaVita White*

In honor of Amber Knight, cat lover.  
*Anne Harai*

In memory of Claire Thompson.  
*The Hess Family  
Valerie McClung  
Bob & Rachelle Muzistrano*

Dear Sammy ~ we miss you.  
*Milton Cohen*

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

I think I glimpse you  
in your usual places  
and my heart leaps with joy  
to have my gentleman  
back with me again.  
Anatoli 1996 - 2012.  
*Mary Hutton*

In memory of Ray Rosatto.  
*Joe & Janet Wisen  
Carol McCourt  
Donna Helzer*

In memory of Ms. Marion Scott.  
*Nancy Mason*

In honor of Jill Keeney,  
a staunch supporter of MEOW.  
*Colleen Allen*

In loving memory of Chloe.  
*Gann family*

In honor of Don & Lynn Blanchette.  
Two Hawaiian pet lovers!  
*Gina Blanchette*

In memory of Mama.  
*Jerry Boatright*

In memory of my sister, Frances Black.  
*Mary Burns-Haley*

Happy Anniversary MEOW.  
I hope you have many more.  
Thanks for bringing Koko into our lives. We love him.  
*Outer Reaches Books & Games*

In memory of my cat, Sam.  
*Susim Chen*

In memory of Samantha.  
*Susan Loewus*

In honor of Sara the cat.  
*Jessica Greenway*

In loving memory of Glenn,  
and our cats Angus, Fergus, Baker and Taylor.  
*Patricia Bice*

In honor of Grace Tyerman's 9th birthday.  
She wanted nothing for herself,  
requesting that donations be sent to MEOW :)  
*Gary Sterling*

In loving memory of Bertha Harvey.  
*Donald R. Harvey*

In honor of Jocelyn Jensen from the Winkler family  
with love and support for her passion to help animals.  
*Winkler family*

In loving memory of our special little boy, Henry.  
*Laura Theodore*

In loving memory of Buddy, Wilson,  
Jackson and Sammy Neir.  
*Cathy Neir*

In honor of Sherry McLaughlin.  
*Claire Huehnerhoff*

In honor of Nicole Keating's birthday!  
*Carrie Claire*

To honor Mikel Ruebel  
for choosing MEOW  
as her Christmas charity donation.  
*Janis Newman*

Happy anniversary to my wife, LaVonne.  
*C.C. Schott*

Still enjoying Sabrina (dilute tortie)  
and Muffin (buff tabby and full of nonsense).  
*Dawnell Lamb*

In honor of Gracie Lynn, rescued on 1/2/10.  
*Jane Stevens*

In memory of our beloved Egypt.  
Your larger than life personality is very much missed.  
*Love always, Susan, Christy, Grandma and Sundae*

In loving memory of Barney  
and Kit Carson, forever in our hearts.  
*Julie and Brooke*

In honor of Copperfield and in memory of Puck,  
both MEOW rescue cats.  
*Dorothy Day*

In honor of my favorite Kitty Missy,  
who my late Grammy loved unconditionally.  
*Charis Kubrin*

In memory of Mary Bowder, a friend to all kitties.  
Her dear RB, family and friends will miss her deeply.  
*Randy & Rose Wagers*

In memory of Scott Eyer.  
*Tara Daniski  
Michael Peters  
Rehabilitation Options of Issaquah*

Honoring Anna Sabey who volunteers at MEOW :)  
*Smiles by Design*

In memory of my husband Mark. And happy birthday to  
the spoiled darlings, 18 years old on January 24th!  
*Vicki Russell*

In honor of Abby, 1997 ~ 2012.  
*Anne Ferrel*

## BUNNY & SHAR – PERFECT IN OUR EYES

At six months old, these two sisters act like other kittens their age. But their story is a little different. A few months ago, a local feral cat rescuer had trapped some kittens and oh, their eyes were a mess. The first step was an evaluation at NW Animal Eye Specialists. Bunny, a super soft white and blue girl, had an eye infection so severe that it had caused her left eye to rupture. As a result, that eye was not only painful but blind. It would have to be removed. Her right eye had significant corneal scarring. All signs indicate that she is blind



Shar so sweet

in this eye as well, but she may see some shadow and light. Shar, Bunny's lovely blue sister, was diagnosed with conjunctival adhesions, a condition in which the soft tissue inside the eyelids grows attached to the covering of the eye. As a result, she has permanent corneal cloudiness. Although her eyes aren't clear, she has no discomfort and will not require surgery. Amazingly, her vision appears to be very good.

Animals with diminished or absent vision do surprisingly well. They quickly learn how to navigate in a dark or cloudy world and then seem to never give it another thought. They surprise us by doing things we hardly believe possible, such as judging distances, following toys, and having excellent litter box habits.

In our eyes, Bunny and Shar are perfect. Neither requires special treatment or medication. Bunny uses her nose and whiskers to explore her surroundings. While in her foster home, she quickly mastered the ability to accurately gauge the exact height of the couch, the location of the doorways, and she had no problem finding the litter box or food dish! She likes toys that make noise so she can more easily track their location. Both of these beautiful girls love belly rubs and like to introduce themselves to humans by giving them soft face rubs and sniffs. Bunny relies on Shar for comfort and direction.

Earlier this month, these soft, sweet sisters caught the eye of a thoughtful and compassionate young couple. Now, in their new forever home, Bunny and Shar look forward to a bright future, loving what they see.



Soft Bunny

## FREE SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES AVAILABLE

Kitten season is quickly approaching. Thanks to a generous grant from the Handsel Foundation and a partnership with Feral Cat Spay Neuter Project, MEOW is able to provide vouchers for free spay and neuter surgeries. Do you know someone who would like to alter their cat but can't afford it? Email [bonne@meowcatrescue.org](mailto:bonne@meowcatrescue.org) for more information or call MEOW.

## WATSON ~ MENDING A BROKEN HEART



Watson, I presume?

In 2002 a tiny kitten was found abandoned in a shopping bag at a Park & Ride and adopted soon after. Nine years later, Watson's dad tearfully returned him to MEOW due to family allergies.

For several days we tried to explain to Watson that he was safe with us, but he could not be consoled. He would not come out from under his blankets. He refused to eat or drink. He answered our loving words with a hiss and if we came too close he would lunge, warning us to keep our distance. We were unable to provide supportive fluids to rehydrate him, to syringe feed him the calories he needed, nor to administer an appetite stimulant. As the days passed it became evident that if he didn't begin eating he might actually die of a broken heart.

Watson's former dad agreed to come plead with him – and it worked! Upon hearing dad's voice Watson's body softened, and he uttered a tiny "meow". The magic that happened in that moment probably saved Watson's life. From that day on, Watson began to allow touching, first by Shelter Manager Jason Thompson, then gradually by the women of MEOW.

Watson graduated to the Front Room at the shelter, a community of mostly seniors who accept the company of other cats. He proved to be gentle and affectionate. His favorite thing is to sit in a lap, for which he rewards his person with his loud purr and his soft, high pitched meow.

We're certain that Watson believes, as we do, that life is a series of second chances. His broken heart has healed, he has been rediscovered, and is once again a cherished member of a real family.

SIPS FOR SNIPS II ~ A SPAY/NEUTER FUNDRAISER  
WINE TASTING ~ APRIL 7, 1-5PM

We're doing it again! Northwest Cellars in Kirkland will be hosting a wine tasting to benefit MEOW Cat Rescue's public spay/neuter fund on Saturday, April 7 from 1 to 5pm. Five of their sumptuous wines will be available for tasting. Guests may purchase, at \$18 each, two custom MEOW labeled wines: Madrigal (a blend of Grenache, Mourvedre, & Syrah) and the new Sonatina (a blend of Viognier, Rousanne, and Semillon). 40% of these wine sales will be donated to MEOW as well as your \$10 tasting fee.

Join us for a sip or two, benefiting MEOW's public spay/neuter fund. Make sure you get your custom labeled wines. They make great gifts! You may order now at [northwestcellars.com](http://northwestcellars.com). Enter "MEOW" in the comment area at check out. Deadline for ordering is April 4th.

You may pre-register for an afternoon of good wine and good works at [www.northwestcellars.com](http://www.northwestcellars.com). We hope to see you there!



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