



# MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

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

Spring 2013

## COMMUNITY CATS THEY'RE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, TOO



JoLee

When you've seen a cat in your neighborhood, chances are you wondered whether he belonged to someone, or if he was lost, or if he was feral. Regardless, you probably worried that he might be hungry or in need of help. "Community cats" is a term applied to feral cats, abandoned

cats and cats loosely owned by a kind person who puts food out for them.

Whether you've seen them or not, they're out there. They're everywhere. They're slipping in and out of the green belt, peeking from under your neighbor's garden shed, living behind the car dealership down the street. That flash in the corner of your back yard may very likely be a community cat. Some of these cats are indeed feral, which means "existing in a wild state, not domesticated." However, many of the cats which can be seen in our neighborhoods and countrysides are not actually wild. They have known the benefit of human touch, and they crave it again. They belonged to someone once, but have somehow found themselves struggling to survive in this homeless world that has become their own. Perhaps they lived an indoor/outdoor life and lost their way, becoming a stray cat. Perhaps their human companion moved away and decided to leave them behind, in hopes that a neighbor might take them in. Many people hold the mistaken belief that cats can fend for themselves outdoors.



Dixie & Wiley  
lived in a feral colony

Anyone can help a community cat. If you notice cats who seem to not belong to anyone, ask for help. There are a good number of organizations and independent rescuers who are committed to making life better for these animals. Even cats who are truly feral can be helped by TNR, Trap-Neuter-Return, a process in which feral cats are altered and brought back to their home area to be fed by a caretaker, never again fighting for food or mating rights.



Skippy, Skidaddle & Skidoo  
born under a Kinko's

In this issue we'd like to introduce some community cats we recently welcomed into the MEOW family. These are a few of the lucky ones. They have been given shelter from the rain and cold, and medical treatment to heal their injured bodies. Their meager dumpster foraging has been replaced with fresh and nutritious regular meals. Their lives have been changed forever for the good, and all because someone noticed them. Someone saw something. Someone said something. Someone did something. They have been promised a future. Their joy is palpable.



Flip  
ate at a local Mc Donald's



## TASHA ~ WALKING TALL



Tasha relaxing & recuperating

She had found a safe spot for her new family under a model home in Monroe. This seven-month-old kitten was already mother to a litter of six little ones. Protecting and raising a family

on her own was hard. She was thin and her bone structure could easily be seen under her sparse fur. Tasha is a type of Manx mix known as a Rumpy, meaning that she has no tail whatsoever. Some of her kittens share the Manx qualities of their mother. When this little family was rescued and brought to MEOW in late August, we noted that Tasha's right leg had either a congenital deformity or an old injury causing her to walk on that collapsed hock, rather than completely upright. Sometimes she would stumble a bit in the litter box. In spite of these things, she seemed quite comfortable and was an exemplary mother to her kittens. Weeks later, when the kittens had become independent, Tasha was seen by an orthopedic surgeon to determine whether a correction might be possible.

In January, Dr. Mark Engen of Puget Sound Animal Hospital for Surgery in Kirkland performed the complicated surgery to restore stability and strength to Tasha's right leg and foot. Dr. Engen had to free up the fused bones before placing new bone grafts, a metal plate and six screws to ensure proper position and function to Tasha's foot.

She was prescribed cage rest for four weeks after surgery, until her x-rays showed that her bones had healed. Tasha was the very best patient. She didn't complain at all. She is very happy to join her foster mom for cuddle sessions on the bed, never trying to jump down. During her regular splint changes she was calm and cooperative with the hospital staff. She is surely one of the sweetest cats we've ever had the pleasure to know.

So much has changed for Tasha. She has raised her family and bid them a fond farewell, her coat and her bodyweight are now healthy, and now she's strutting her stuff and walking tall.

## HEATHCLIFF ~ IN THE NICK OF TIME

Over the past few months, residents at a large apartment complex had been seeing a lanky grey cat with a limp hanging around. They didn't know who to call, or what to do, so they did nothing.

As time passed, the cat was no longer able to limp. Now his left front leg dangled as he hobbled on the other three. Finally, a woman acted and was able to get help. The cat was soon caught in a trap.

Approaching the covered trap, the strong odor of infection was present. Bad sign. Lifting the towel, the trapper saw the pleading eyes of a thin, silver blue cat. He was most definitely tame. He was clearly in a lot of trouble. She took him straight to Clearview Animal Hospital, where she works.

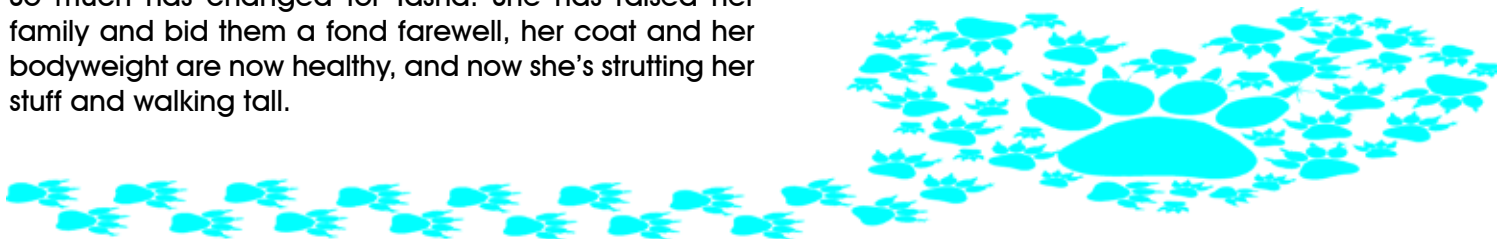


Heathcliff  
King of the cat Tree

This cat, now called Heathcliff, was very cooperative, allowing the painful removal of his collar, which had caused his injury. His collar may have fit him when he became lost or was abandoned. Or, it may have already been too loose. In any case, he had gotten his left front leg through the collar up to his armpit. Over time, the tight collar had cut through his skin from front to back, slicing layers of muscle, until finally the collar was stopped by the underside of his bony shoulder joint. Once

the antibiotic began to take effect, the doctor inserted a drain and made countless sutures, hoping they would hold until the cat's immune system was able to mount a defense.

A few weeks post-op, Heathcliff is doing great. Foster mom Dr. Amy Cottrille calls this boy a "healing machine." Heathcliff had nearly lost his battle with that infection. Another day may have been too late. Up and around again on all fours, Heathcliff shows his appreciation daily to Amy and her family by purring, nuzzling, and snuggling. He seems to know that he owes his life to the kindness of a few caring people who acted in the nick of time.



## HUNTER ~ SOLE SURVIVOR



Hunter at naptime

In the woods above Sultan, the first five years of Hunter's life had been anything but easy. This round-faced red tabby gent grew up as a community cat, loosely owned by the man who was kind enough to put food out for the approximately ten cats who hung around. The man described Hunter as a survivor. Three years ago, a coyote or bobcat had taken the rest of his cat family, leaving

only Hunter. His back still bears the scars. Hunter's left eye had been torn too. He got no medical care. The man tried to take care of him as best he could, sometimes trading his food stamps for cat food. More cats had eventually come along to repopulate the area and now the gentleman was asking for help.

When we first met Hunter, his amber eyes were barely visible, squinting through his swollen lids. The inner eyelid of his left eye was torn and protruding. According to the doctors at Northwest Animal Eye Specialists, this injury may have been due to trauma, corroborating the account of the attack. To make matters worse, Hunter also had a congenital condition called Entropion Eyelids in both eyes. This is the rolling-in of the eyelid, causing the hair on the surface of the eyelid to rub on the eyeball, which is painful and often causes corneal ulcers or erosions. The corneal scarring can interfere with vision. Hunter underwent surgery to repair both lids and the protruding inner eyelid.

In spite of the hardships Hunter had experienced, he immediately warmed to strangers. A tentative touch through the wires of the trap caused his hind quarters to rise up in expectation of a gentle hand. Even before his surgery he seemed to welcome being treated with eye ointment. He now enjoys watching TV with his foster parents. He isn't really interested in exploring or playing—he just wants to snuggle. And what a motor; he's a huge purr box.

Hunter is ready to join his forever home, which is made possible by his will to survive and great fortune of being the sole survivor.

## FORBES ~ GOOD FORTUNE

He didn't know what had hit him. All he knew was that something was very wrong. He had terrible pain in his head. He was struggling to breathe. He couldn't see, and he couldn't move. He was so cold.

He wanted very much to get up and run away when the people gathered around him. A gentle man was talking to someone on his phone. "Please help! There's a badly injured cat here in the street. He's bleeding. We don't know what to do. Please



Fortunate Forbes

hurry!" While this is not our usual mode of "cat rescue," a short time later two MEOW volunteers arrived at the accident scene. They wrapped his battered body in a towel and placed him in a carrier.

Life was about to change for this fluffy young adult brown tabby. The doctors and staff at Animal Emergency Services – East sprang into action. X-rays revealed a severe contusion on the left side of his head, with a large blood clot behind the eye. The impact had caused a condition called pneumothorax, meaning air was trapped between the lungs and the chest wall, making it very difficult for him to breathe. Dr. Tucker used a syringe to extract the air to improve his breathing and he was placed on oxygen. The air continued to seep from Forbes' lung for a time and his pleural cavity would have to be tapped again later.

That first night was a rough one. Although the x-rays and ultrasound showed no broken bones, would there be neurological consequences? He thrilled us all when in the early morning hours, he stood up. He tasted his food. His breath began coming a bit more easily within the oxygen chamber. He gave us reasons to hope.

Days later, a fragile but very fortunate cat, now named Forbes, was released from the hospital into the loving arms of his foster mom. His motorboat purr lets us know that he loves to be held and cuddled and is so happy to be safe. He takes his seemingly constant medication doses without a blink of his damaged eye. He's getting better. We don't think that his near death experience will slow him down at all. In a few weeks he'll be interviewing people for a very important position, that of Forever Family. Forbes is so grateful for his good fortune.

# TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In memory of our beloved Bigolo (1998 - 2012).  
*Raffaella Geremia*

In honor of Til.  
*Merry Obrien*

In loving memory of Rosa.  
*Katherine Hall*

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

In honor of Jan Carroll.  
*Linda Shuger*

Barbara & Missy ~ Happy new year.  
*Sheila & James Woodcock*

In honor of Roxie Navrides.  
*Amy Hartwell*

In memory of Margie Squifflet.  
*Edmond Squifflet*

We love and miss you Sadie.  
*Cheryl King*

In memory of Bertha Harvey,  
who cared for all cats!  
*Donald Harvey*

In honor of Stuart ~ a faithful companion.  
*Phyllis Albrecht*

In memory of Toni V. Ripley,  
1944-2012, devoted friend of all animals.

In memory of Johnson and Whitey.  
*Richard Wagner*

Thank you to MEOW for my beautiful and loving friends,  
Guy Noir, Garbo and Sonic,  
all three are healthy and the loves of my life!  
*Carol Huber*

In memory of Latte and Mocha Ryan.  
*Marie Good*

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

In honor of Jethro, Mojo and Ellie May.  
*Bryan & Priscilla McCarty*

In memory of Arthur Beresford,  
who passed away recently.  
He loved and fostered many cats.  
*Kathy Andeway*

In honor of Mister Maxter Motormouth,  
our operatic MEOW cat.  
*Linda & Jay Bruce*

Happy birthday, Mom!  
We are having a tile made in honor of Logan & Max.  
*LaFay Dillon*

In honor of TC.  
*The Stewarts*

In memory of Mama.  
*Dieter Schafer*

In honor of Jordan and Bailey.  
*Love mom, Jackie Cunningham*

Remembering Zoe MacDougal.  
*Sherry McKinnis*

In honor of Lizzie and Ben.  
*Janet Mills*

Oliver Neir, we miss you so much.  
*Mom, Dad, Jazz, Rex, Nala and the kids*

In honor of my wonderful Willow.  
*Bill DeJong*

In loving memory of our sweetest, funniest,  
handsome and most loving friend,  
Sampson (2002 - 2012).

We miss you greatly and forever.  
*Randy, Rose, Pooka, Dusty and Minka*

In honor of Evelyn Knetzger.  
*Reed Knetzger*

In memory of Stella.  
*Chris Grossman*

Thank you to MEOW from Boo and Atticus!  
*Marti MacPhee*

In honor of Jolie Scheibe's birthday.  
*Bob & Barb Batdorf*

In honor of Bill & Elwanda Bryant,  
who fostered for six months for a total stranger.  
*Vicki Russell*

In memory of Janine Mecallef's dear parents.  
*Bonne*

In memory of Sheila H's cat.  
*Pamela Kiesel*

In honor of Stella and Blanche,  
still fun loving, and frisky after 4+ years  
(you knew them as Baby Face and Baby Girl).  
*Gene Freedman*

Thanks to Kelly and MEOW for helping with Brutus.  
*Luana Doulas*

In memory of Tau Ceti Bright Angel ('Sprite')  
and all those who went ahead.  
*Sue Schankel*

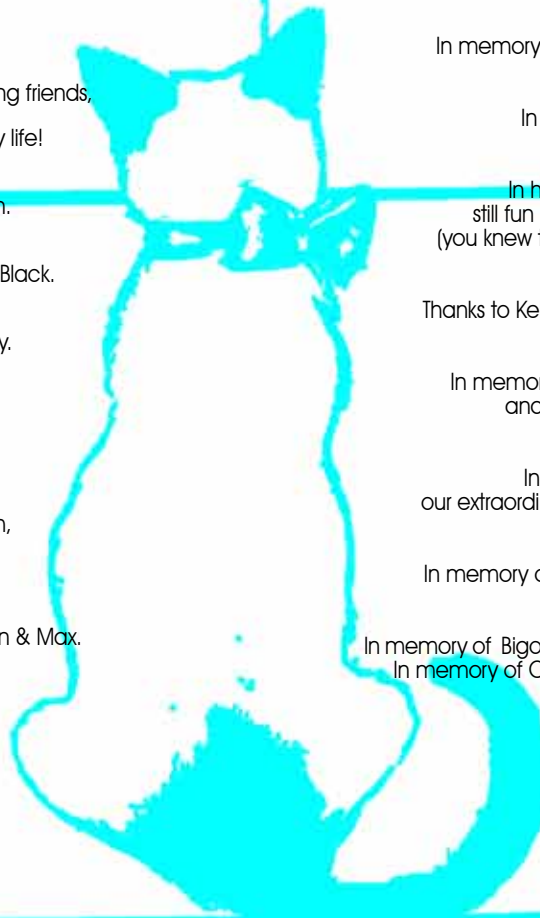
In honor of Calvin & Hobbs,  
our extraordinary MEOW adoptees 17 years ago!  
*Andrea Lorig*

In memory of Tootsie, a rascally little tuxedo kitty!  
*J. A. Buehler*

In memory of Bigolo, lovingly cared for by Raffaella Geremia.  
In memory of Cassie, beloved cat of Shirley Vanderbilt.  
*City Kitty*

In memory of Heidi.  
*Royal & Kris Goldfarb*

In honor of Jill Keeney.  
*Colleen Allen*



## 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/donate/fundraisers](http://www.meowcatrescue.org/donate/fundraisers).

## HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!

Zabel was heard crying in an air duct at a local motel when the winter air was bitterly cold. He was, no doubt, looking for a place to stay warm – and he found one! He was healthy, but it was apparent right away that his left eye had suffered some sort of trauma. We could only see a very small portion of his iris and pupil through a haze of white. Northwest



Zabel looking good

Animal Eye Specialists identified the condition as a tag of symblepharon attaching the lower and upper lid to each other. After surgery and treatment with eye ointment for several weeks, he is as good as new today!

Full of life, love and happiness, on a scale of 1 to 10.... Zabel is about a 100.

## PUSSYCAT PANTRY HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

Canned Kitten and Cat Foods  
Royal Canin BabyCat  
Royal Canin Special 33  
Unscented Clumping Clay Litter  
Postage stamps  
Kitchen drawstring Garbage bags  
Paper Towels  
Hand Sanitizer  
Liquid Laundry Detergent HE  
Bleach



**REGISTER TODAY**  
WINE TASTING OPEN HOUSE – APRIL 21, 2013  
SIPS FOR SNIPS ~ A SPAY/NEUTER FUNDRAISER

We're doing it again! Northwest Cellars in Kirkland will host a wine tasting to benefit MEOW Cat Rescue's public spay/neuter fund on Sunday April 21st from 1 to 4 pm. Five of their sumptuous wines will be available for tasting. You will also have the opportunity to purchase two custom MEOW labeled wines: their Chardonnay (\$16) and Merlot (\$19). 40% of these wine sales and 100% of the tasting fee (\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door) will be donated to MEOW.

Please stop by and have a sip or two, to benefit MEOW's public spay/neuter fund, which allows us to provide no cost spay/neuter surgery vouchers to pets of our community members who need help. Make sure you get your custom labeled wine (they make great gifts). Order now by going to [www.northwestcellars.com](http://www.northwestcellars.com), select the wine you'd like, and enter "MEOW" in the comment area as you check out. Deadline for ordering is April 14th. If you can't attend the wine tasting, you may pick up your wine order at Northwest Cellars after the event.

Register for the event and learn more about Northwest Cellars at [www.northwestcellars.com](http://www.northwestcellars.com), Northwest Cellars is located at 11909 124th Ave NE in Kirkland. We hope you can join us!

## MEOW MEWS & CANINE CONNECTION E ~ NEWS UPDATES ~ ARE YOU ON THE LIST?

Every month or two we issue a fun, newsy email to update our supporters on current goings on at MEOW. If you aren't receiving either the MEOW MEWS or CANINE CONNECTION (new in 2013) and would like to, please let us know. Send us an email at [reply@meowcatrescue.org](mailto:reply@meowcatrescue.org) and indicate to which list you would like to be added. Maybe you'd enjoy receiving both!

SAVE THE DATE ~ SATURDAY JULY 13  
 FINE WINES & FELINES 2013  
 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, along with Jackie and Bender, morning radio hosts, promise to make the evening exciting, interesting, and lots of fun. This year our venue is once again the beautiful Seattle Design Center in Georgetown, a wonderful place for an event. We'll be hosting wine tasting and abundant hors d'oeuvres along with over 300 items up for bids 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 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. Interested sponsors and donors may email us at [meowauction@gmail.com](mailto:meowauction@gmail.com). See you there!

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



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