



MEOW

all nine lives are precious

MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption
Summer 2011

It is said that at the end of life, in order for the soul to leave the body, someone has to open a window. Sometimes at MEOW we have to hold the window closed with all our might.

No one in that Lake Forest Park neighborhood claimed the tiny Siamese mix cat, but when she gave birth in a garden to four kittens, one of them stillborn, somebody had to do something. On their arrival at MEOW around 5pm, the kittens were cold and hungry. The mother cat had shown no interest in them. Her own body temperature was dangerously low, she was recumbent and her eyes were vacant. She was rushed to Animal Emergency Services East in Kirkland, already beginning to slip away. An hour later, diagnostic blood work and x-rays revealed a complex and nearly impossible picture. Her immune system was completely shut down and to make matters worse, she was severely anemic. There was a large shadow behind her heart – perhaps a malformation or a tumor. There were gases in her uterus, produced by infection. Dr. Jennifer Kissinger carefully explained each condition, one after the other. She was sympathetic but realistic. This cat was quickly losing her battle. Perhaps it would be best to let her go. If we chose to continue, she needed an ultrasound as soon as possible. She might not make it through the night, no matter what. Regardless of the ultimate outcome, continuing treatment was going to be very expensive.

We had to try to keep the window closed, to keep this precious little one here with us. Around 11pm, the ultrasound revealed a large diaphragmatic hernia, a hole in the diaphragm allowing organs from her abdomen to intrude into the chest cavity and displace her heart. The shadow seen behind her heart was actually her malformed liver. To make matters even worse, her uterus had ruptured, spilling infection into the entire abdomen. She was septic and slipping away. She needed immediate surgery to remove her uterus and cleanse the entire abdominal cavity.

Now we were at another crossroads. Even under much better circumstances, this condition is life-threatening. Because of her severe anemia, she would not survive surgery without a blood transfusion. And without a healthy immune system, even the heavy doses of antibiotics already being delivered intravenously had little or no chance to fight her raging infection. Were we sure we wanted to keep going?

Yes. We would not knowingly open the window for this tiny soul. After 3am the doctor called again. The cross match on the donor blood had not gone well. If transfused, that blood could cause a fatal reaction. Did we have any cats who might qualify as blood donors? Indeed. One of our volunteers delivered two of her own healthy cats. By 6am, each one had been typed and cross matched but the same rejection reaction occurred again and again. If we wished to continue to try, our only hope was to prepare for the possibility of a bad reaction, transfuse the donor blood and hope for the best.



Thankful Merci

Several hours later, Dr. Kissinger called. After the transfusion, she had completed the complicated and dangerous surgery, and by the way, while she was operating she also put the liver and other organs back in place and repaired the diaphragmatic hernia. Her voice was jubilant. Kitty was hanging on but was certainly not out of the woods. Now all we could do was wait and hope. And believe. And with all our strength, hold the window shut.

Today we know this little cat as Merci, which of course means 'thank you'. What could be more appropriate? She will have the opportunity to live a long and happy life in her new home, thanks to the generous support of our Mercy Fund, which ensures that we can continue to provide extraordinary care for these amazing animals. We are ever indebted to the veterinarians who advise and assist, as well as perform miracles to save the lives of animals which others have cast aside. We also want to give special thanks to Dr. Mark O'Hanlon, owner of AES-East, who offers services to MEOW cats at 50% discount. Dr. Kissinger and the hospital staff indeed performed a miracle that night, and for that we are so grateful.

Merci. Merci beaucoup.



NATHAN'S A HEAD TURNER

Nathan was born to a Great Dane breeder, who gave the puppy up because he wasn't perfect. They believed his mother may have sat on him shortly after he was born, injuring his neck. He was saved from being euthanized when a last minute call was made to MEOW's Canine Division. At six weeks old and 17#, Nathan is all floppy puppy, but his head flops to the left a bit more than it should. When excited, he circles to the left, unable to get his bearings. Holding his head in a straight position and moving forward in a straight line is nearly impossible.



Little man Nathan

Neurologist Dr. Sean Sanders at SVS in Kirkland diagnosed him with cerebellar disease, which may be related to injury, birth defect or some form of disease process. Only time will tell whether Nathan's symptoms will improve or worsen. Over the

next 4 to 6 months, Nathan will require lots of physical therapy to encourage his brain to develop the neural pathways necessary for him to understand where he is in space and to help him to hold his head up as he grows into the very large dog he will become. He may require expensive diagnostics, including and MRI and CT scan.

No matter what the future holds for Nathan, we are there for him. In the rescue community, feline and canine alike, MEOW is known for our unflinching commitment to all animals, but especially those who have special needs and challenges. Since MEOW began, we have never made a decision about an animal's medical treatment based on cost. Your donations to our Mercy Fund ensure that this extraordinary medical care will always be there for animals like Nathan.

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.

10600 NE 68th St., Suite F
Kirkland WA 98033
425 822-MEOW (6369)

Meowcatrescue@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

FOLLOW MEOW ON FACEBOOK



Are you on Facebook? Did you know that MEOW is too? MEOW has a page where you can keep up with our happenings - special events, adoptions, and promotions. Check out our photo section to see pictures of current MEOW kitties as well as happy endings - MEOW kitties in their new homes. To find MEOW's facebook page go to www.facebook.com/MEOWCatRescue.

WHAT IF YOU FIND A LITTER OF KITTENS?



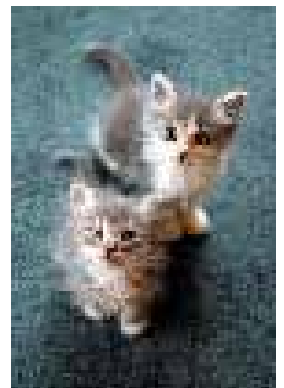
If you find a litter of kittens, they were likely born to a free roaming or feral cat, not to someone's pet. Time is often of the essence. The kittens need a food source, warmth, so-

cialization, and possibly even medical attention. Once the kittens are safe, their mama needs to be located and spayed. MEOW has an experienced team to provide services and care for cats and kittens of any age. Contact us - we're here to help.



PUSSYCAT PANTRY
HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

Gerber "2nd" Chicken or Turkey Baby Food
Royal Canin Baby Cat
Royal Canin Special 33
Canned Kitten or Cat Food
KMR - Kitten Milk Replacer
Baby Wipes
Drawstring Kitchen Garbage Bags
Liquid Laundry Detergent
Bleach
Paper Towels
Postage Stamps
Hand Sanitizer



MEOW would like to express gratitude to all those who have made donations of money and supplies. Without your support the work we do would not be possible.

KITTEN IN A HAYSTACK

The term 'needle in a haystack' refers to something difficult, if not impossible to find. But what about a kitten in a haystack?



Haystack relaxing

It was a cold April day in Tri Cities when a farmer purchased hay. He loaded the hay truck and made the slow journey of more than 100 miles back to Ellensburg. Days later, while peeling off a layer of hay to feed his livestock, he thought he heard a tiny sound from deep inside the huge bale. There it was again. A muffled meow led the gentleman to a nest of kittens. Unfortunately, it was too late for all but one of them. Imagine the heartbreak of the mama cat who came back to find her home, her haystack, and her precious babies gone.

Although the little survivor was emaciated, there was still hope. The man contacted a friend whom he knew would do her best to help the kitten. Knowing the kitten needed more than she could give, she reached out to a local cat rescuer. As luck would have it, MEOW Cat Rescue had already agreed to take a few other cats from Ellensburg that week. This kitten could come to MEOW too. The precious cargo was delivered the next day.

When she arrived, the tiny buff and white kitten, already being called Haystack, was very thin and dehydrated from diarrhea and starvation. For days she lacked the strength to nurse from a bottle and had to be fed with a tube delivering kitten formula directly into her stomach.

Finally the light returned to her eyes. Her personality emerged and what a personality Haystack has. She is smart and silly and has an unusual zest for life. The most striking thing about Haystack is her incredible connection to people. She makes eye contact and gently reaches out to touch human hands and faces with her soft paws. In her foster home, she plays hard with her four slightly older surrogate brothers. Sometimes she gives them a look that says, "Hey, try to keep up. You guys are no match for me!"

Haystack has put the past behind her and will soon be ready for her very own forever home. This kitten in a haystack was certainly difficult to find and was almost lost forever, but now she's safe, never to be lost again.

MEOW AWARDED \$5,000 GRANT FOR SPAY/NEUTER

We are so excited! The Federation of Animal Care and Control Agencies has awarded a \$5,000 grant to MEOW to help fund spay/neuter surgeries for feral or free-roaming cats, low-income residents and anyone who currently needs financial assistance to get their cats altered. While MEOW has often provided monetary support for community members needing financial assistance or those managing feral cat colonies, these additional funds will help us do more. If you know someone who could use our help, please have them call the shelter (425-822-6369) or email us at info@meow-catrescue.org.



Funding for this grant is made possible through the sale of "We Love Our Pets" license plates. We encourage you to consider this "cause" plate. The message it sends is clear and the fee will provide future grants for spay/neuter surgeries. For more information, go to <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/splovespets.html>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – JUNE 23, 2011
AND GROW YOUR GIFT TO MEOW THROUGH
SEATTLE FOUNDATION'S GIVEBIG CAMPAIGN



On June 23, 2011 from 7 am til midnight, Seattle Foundation is hosting giveBIG, an online donation campaign designed to support local nonprofits in a BIG way. Seattle Foundation will be matching, on a pro rata basis, up to \$500,000 in donations received that day through the Seattle Foundation website. For example, if donations to MEOW comprise 1% of the total donations received by Seattle Foundation on that day, then MEOW will get 1% of the matching funds available.

To be a part of give BIG, log on to www.seattlefoundation.org anytime from 7 am to midnight on June 23. Click to make a donation to MEOW Cat Rescue, help us earn part of the \$500,000 matching funds and be part of giveBIG!

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In memory of my beloved husband Andy,
a true animal lover!
Lynn Rasmussen

Happy birthday to Judy Hill,
Thank you for sharing your kitties with me!
Judy Sorensen

In memory of Magoo, Shashay and Bubbac.
Fern Rickman

In honor of Gracie, adopted January 2010!
Jane Stevens

In memory of Terry Lane,
a special father and cat lover.
Chris & Christina Meyers

In memory of Max,
who was loved by Vivien and Cliff Olafson.
Susan & Michael Bell (and) Vivien & Cliff Olafson

In honor of the recent birthday
of the fabulous Ian Cotrille.
Kathleen Miller

In memory of Joey, a very persistent cat.
Marnie Annin

In loving memory of Alvin & Simon. Miss you!
Kathy Perry

In honor of my precious
Sadie Marie Elizabeth Bella.
Sharon Roger

For Petunia, a dog as sweet as her name.
Judy Anderson

In memory of Meowzwers (aka Buddy)
and to help support you in your loving
mission of saving Seattle's homeless kittens.
God bless you all!
Aimee Roy

In memory of:
-Jasmine, 1992-2011, cared for by Kathleen Taylor
-Scooter, loved for 18 years by Dan Abrams
-Blance, 1990-2011, loved by Dana Kluever
-Tobi, missed by Aline & August MacPherson
-Mr. Socks, 1998-2011, loved by Jamie Prantil
City Kitty, LLC

In honor of the volunteers who help find forever
homes for our fabulous friends.
Kathy Miller Parrish

I adopted my boy Oliver from MEOW two years
ago and he's brought me nothing but
love and joy everyday since!
Thank you for all you do.
Kimberly Weber

In loving memory of Monster ~ a gentle cat
who knew no strangers!
You will be missed big boy!
The Hendrickson's

In loving memory of our dear friend Lisa Weaver.
Your light shines brightly each and every day at
MEOW. We miss you more than words can say.
You will always live in our hearts.
MEOW Volunteers & Staff

To honor Pandora, the best companion.
Elaine Johnson

In remembrance of our beautiful kitty,
Nikko Robbins Arizumi.
You were the sweetest cat ever.
Thank you for sharing your life with us.
We miss you.
Marty & Dan Arizumi

Best wishes to Wendy and John
on the occasion of their marriage.
Carol Goodwin

In memory of Dorothy V. Bennett.
The Bagley Family

In loving memory of Thomas Paul Bleakney.
Hillary Lipe

In memory of Bev's honorable Winston.
Sandra Sichter

For Johanna Anderson. Your family misses you.
Judy Anderson

In memory of Baby Girl,
who left this world far too young.
Margaret Weikert

In honor of Maddie and Emmie,
who were lovingly fostered with their kittens by
Nydia White and at MEOW by the wonderful
volunteers. Our kitties are the best!
Susan & Gordon Nelson

In memory of Jack,
beloved cat of Raney & Judy Wright.
Sheryl Stock

In loving memory of Nikko, who was originally
adopted from MEOW by Jack Robbins and
then, upon his passing, moved to Colorado to
live with and love Marty Robbins Arizumi and her
husband, Dan.
John Robbins

To honor Lisa, one of the kindest women
anywhere. May you join your friends across the
Rainbow Bridge and frolic in the wildflowers,
free of pain forever.
Ruth Laitila

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

In memory of:
-Monster Kitty, missed by Josh & Sarah Romoff
-Juliet, 1996-2011, loved by Anita Lawson
-Tang, who appeared on Evening Magazine,
loved & missed by Janet & Chuck Finley
City Kitty, LLC

In celebration of Ian Cotrille's 9th birthday.
Ethan Vrhel

Happy 17th birthday to my Spoiled Darlings on
1/24/11. There was a party with copious amounts
of recreational catnip.
Vicki Russell

In memory of our lost feline family members.
We will cherish their memories.
Meadows Cat Hospital

On behalf of my kids Cleo, Nova, Madeleine
and Muffin to your kids.
Kathryn Mueller

In memory of a very special kitty named Loki.
Marissa Turner

In memory of my husband, Mark.
Vicki Russell

In honor of John Taylor.
Susan Taylor

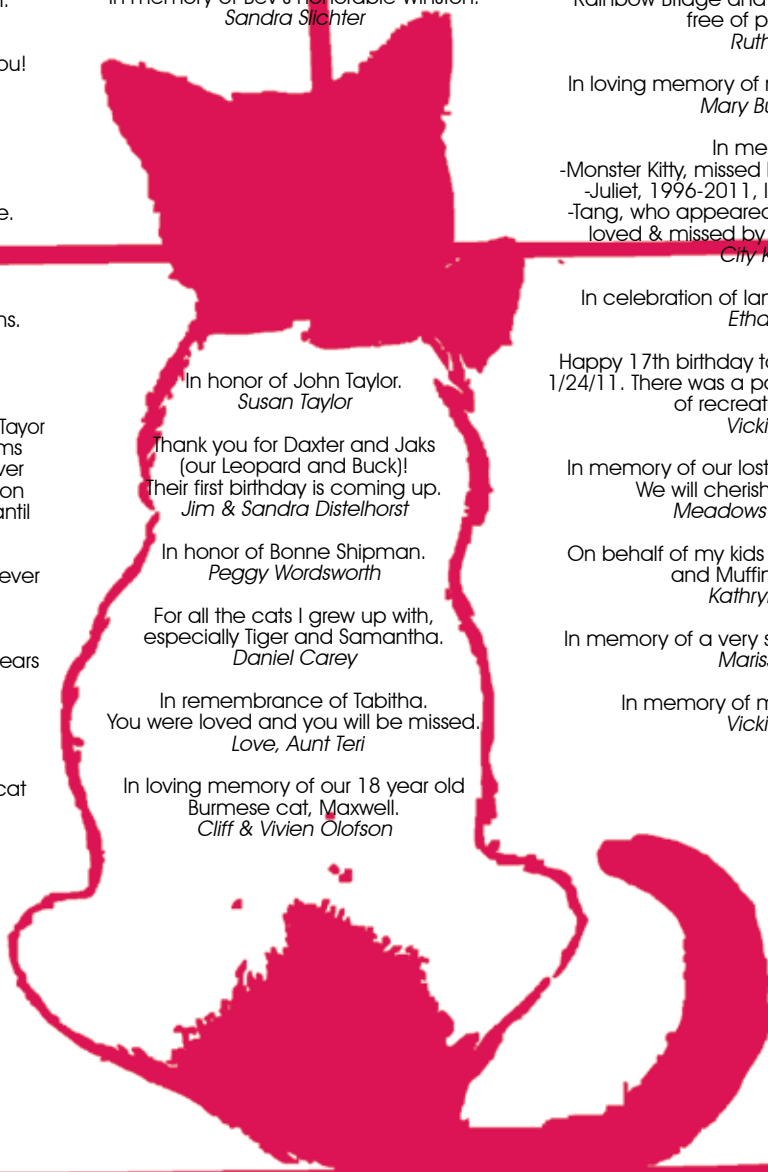
Thank you for Dexter and Jaks
(our Leopard and Buck!)
Their first birthday is coming up.
Jim & Sandra Distelhorst

In honor of Bonne Shipman.
Peggy Wordsworth

For all the cats I grew up with,
especially Tiger and Samantha.
Daniel Carey

In remembrance of Tabitha.
You were loved and you will be missed.
Love, Aunt Teri

In loving memory of our 18 year old
Burmese cat, Maxwell.
Cliff & Vivien Olofson



BIGGEST LOSER – MEOW THIS IS BIG LOVE

It could happen to any cat. A few extra servings of beef and gravy (every day). Several treats when they're good (and they're always very good). And their exercise of choice has been the good old fashioned power nap. Ahhhh.....

Alex is nearly 23 pounds, a big brown tabby hunka-hunka burnin' love. Looking younger than his ten years, he's working on getting that athletic body back.



Alex aka Mr. Big



Chery & LeDoux

Calico Chevy and her tortie sister LeDoux have asked that we don't publish their real weights, but let's just say they're young full-figured girls. They're supporting each other while they slim down for summer.

Desiree is a stunning senior girl. She has begun working her way down from her incoming weight of 17 pounds. She'd prefer that you just think of her as 'fluffy'. She's been working out with her MEOW trainer and feeling really good about herself.

Extra weight can cause the same health issues in cats as in people. It's important that overweight cats slim down slowly and that their weight loss is closely monitored. At MEOW, we prefer the Catkins Diet, heavy on the protein, light on the carbs. In addition



to portion control, a cat needs to have a good workout once a day. Playtime also serves as bonding time, so it's very important. Weight loss really is all about diet and exercise, and here at MEOW we're committed to helping to get our fat cats back into their svelte cat suits.

It's hard to lose weight when your exercise area is a cage. If you have room in your heart and your home for one or two of these plus size kitties you can help them transform their figures and change their lives, please stop by the shelter and meet them (but please, no treats). They're waiting for you.

HIGH RISE SYNDROME~ WARM WEATHER WARNING

Every summer, scores of unsuspecting pet parents unknowingly put their beloved pets at risk when they open their windows to the warm summer weather. Doors are opened to allow a breeze from the upper deck or balcony. How can something so pleasant be dangerous?

Cats, in particular, may be fascinated and intrigued by a passing bird, a bug, a wind-blown leaf. While many people believe cats have uncanny powers of balance, can judge distance and always land on their feet, this is simply not true. Cats often fall out of open windows and off of open



decks and balconies. Even a short fall of only one or two stories can cause shattered jaws, punctured lungs, broken legs or pelvises – even death. These acrobatic daredevils come crashing down to the ground with such frequency that the veterinary profession has a name for the complaint - High Rise Syndrome (HRS). What pet parents need to know is that, with a little forethought, this is completely preventable.

- Install snug and sturdy screens on each window so you and your cat can enjoy the fresh air of summertime.
- When a screen develops a hole, repair or replace it immediately. Cats can slip through or use claws to enlarge tiny spaces.
- Before allowing your cat out on a balcony or terrace, check that she cannot fit through ironwork or jump to an unprotected railing. If a cat can fit her head through an opening, her body usually can go through as well.
- Use deck netting or wire mesh to ensure safety, and only allow the cat access to the deck when properly supervised. Better yet, use a screen door to secure your deck and always keep kitty inside.
- If construction or service work leaves a wall with an opening to the outside, keep your cat out of the area.

Most people who have lost a cat to a fall believed their cat knew her limits or would never venture beyond her boundaries. An accident can happen in an instant. We owe it to our pets to provide a safe home for them. Look around you. Then make the necessary adjustments to ensure your cat's safety so she can amaze you with her indoor acrobatics for years to come.



HAVE YOU RSVP'D?
FINE WINES & FELINES 2011
JULY 16 AT 6:30 PM

This year's event will be at the Don James Center at Husky Stadium. Reservations are required and will be accepted through June 30th (as space permits). Register on line at www.meowcatrescue.org. We will be sampling wines from our own Washington State this year and enjoying appetizers from Bacchus and Arianna Catering. Stroll and sip while you bid on a few of the more than 200 items, including certificates for one of a kind experiences, dining and other local services, pet themed items and beautiful art objects. Join in the fun with local celebrity auctioneer John Curley and help us raise \$60,000 to provide food, shelter, spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and any necessary veterinary care for our shelter and foster residents as they await their forever homes.



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