



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 17 YEARS OF RESCUE
AND OVER 18,000 PRECIOUS LIVES SAVED

Spring 2014

YAHTZEE ~ A ROLL OF THE DICE



Yahtzee rolling the dice

Sometimes life is like that – a roll of the dice. So it can be with a neurological disorder called Cerebellar Hypoplasia. Within the same litter, some may be affected, some not. The cat with this disorder clearly has balance issues: she walks with her legs widely placed for balance

and places her feet clumsily. She may lean against walls for support. When focused on a toy, food bowl or friendly hand, she may exhibit “intention tremors”, a sign of intense concentration. Still, despite the obvious impairment, cats with this condition are happy, able to feed themselves and use a litter box, and have good quality of life.

In humans and animals, the cerebellum is involved in the involuntary aspects of moving. Chances are you can walk across pretty uneven terrain without falling down or even thinking about where to put your feet. You can thank your cerebellum for that. It receives information from your feet and the vestibular apparatus in your middle ear to tell you where up and down are located and where your body is in relation to up and down. Your cerebellum integrates all this information so that you can not only walk or run without devoting any conscious thought to how to do so, you can turn your head, and maybe even chew gum while you are walking without much chance of falling down.

Yahtzee, a five year old tabby born with CH, came to us as a kitten from a shelter where she would not have had a chance. A few years after being adopted, she came back to us due to her loving family’s financial struggles. Now Yahtzee eagerly welcomes visitors into her Suite at MEOW, wobbling, sometimes rolling across the room and draping her ample tummy across the waiting lap of anyone who will sit on the floor. Despite her significant balance issues, she has perfect litter box manners and is able to feed herself. Yahtzee loves toys, and is proud when she catches and holds a flying feather or rolling ball. That’s quite a feat for her little feet. She loves people even more than toys and is a friendly and affectionate cat.

Yahtzee's won the game! Just before this newsletter went to press, Yahtzee's forever human walked through the shelter doors and claimed Yahtzee as her own. We couldn't be happier for both of them. In the game of life, they've both won.

SAYING GOODBYE TO PLUSHA



Farewell sweet soul

On the morning of Saturday, February 1st, Plusha didn't wake up for his breakfast. We'd like to think that he was escorted directly from his dreams to the Rainbow Bridge. He will be missed by so many admirers, but especially by his foster parents, Kathy and Bob.

Although we had been told Plusha was seven years old when he was relinquished to us last summer, his body condition indicated that he might be much older. In fact, recently his dental specialist's estimate was closer to seventeen years. We'll never know. All that matters is that during his time with us he was loved beyond measure and he will never be forgotten. Sleep in heavenly peace, Plusha.

MUFFIN ~ JUST THE TOPS

Despite being diagnosed with a significant heart murmur, Muffin is ready to scale the highest heights, or at least your tallest bookshelf. She'll have to be on medication her whole life, but that's not even bringing her down. She's cute as can be; all kitten, and ready for anything. We're happy she got her start in life with us, so she has the chance to be the tops in someone's book.



Our sweetheart Muffin

FINDING THE WAY BACK

Often when we are asked to help in a situation where there are a large number of cats, the story accompanying the cats is complicated. This one was no different. It began with a phone call from the brother of a woman who was in trouble. He reported that his sister's cats needed to be rehomed. There were two mama cats with litters and half a dozen teenage kittens in the house; about eight adult "garage cats"; and a few ferals around the property. Only three of the garage cats had been neutered, so the potential for more litters was great.



Finding their way to MEOW

As we began working with this family, their story started to unfold. In a sleepy rural town, life had taken a wrong turn for their sister. She had always been an animal lover and it was no surprise that she had taken into her home a dog, several exotic birds and some cats. What was surprising, and unfortunate, was that over the past few years she had gotten involved with some unsavory people. There had been a lot of drinking, a lot of drugs. Because she owned a large house, people gathered there. Before she realized what was happening, she was in too deep. As things went haywire in her life, the animals, particularly the garage cats, became collateral damage. Although they were fed, they had little human contact, and were relegated to the garage, where they had access to the outdoors. Some disappeared, most likely killed by wildlife. Those which remained became wary of people due to lack of regular human contact.

In the light of day, with a clearer mind, the woman realizes that simply feeding the cats was not enough; that she neglected them by not having them altered and by not giving each one the attention they needed and deserved. She is not a bad person. She's a real person who made some bad choices. As she enters a rehab program, trying to find her way back, so do some of the garage cats, who, along with the others, have now arrived at MEOW. They are warm and gentle, like their human mom. And like her, they are learning a better way. They are slowly working their way back, remembering how good it feels to be petted and to hear a comforting voice right up close. The woman is lucky. She has a very supportive family to see her through the rest of her journey back to health. For the cats that are now part of our MEOW family, they are well on their way back to having the lives they deserve. We are hopeful that their complicated story has a happy ending, for everyone.

FRED MEYER COMMUNITY REWARDS SUPPORT MEOW

If you are a Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program member, you can now direct donations to your favorite nonprofit just by shopping with your Rewards Card. You will still receive your reward points, rebates and fuel points. Fred Meyer will donate \$2.5 million to nonprofits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington in 2014 through this new program based on their customers selections. All you have to do is enroll online at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link your Rewards Card to the organization of your choice. MEOW is Non-Profit Organization #80427. Donations to participating nonprofits will be based on the accumulated spending of the Rewards customers linked to each nonprofit. Fred Meyer is making it easy for their customers to support MEOW Cat Rescue just by shopping and it doesn't cost a thing!

SMARTPHONE? OUR WEBSITE? NO PROBLEM

Can you see the cat in this puzzle? Probably not. And yet, MEOW Cat Rescue is there. This is our QR (Quick Response) Code. Typically, a smartphone is used as a QR code scanner, displaying the code and converting it to some useful form (such as a standard URL for a website, thereby obviating the need for a user to type it into a web browser). Go ahead. Try it. If your phone doesn't already have the app, download a QR code reader, such as the one from www.reader.kaywa.com (it's fast and easy). Then, scan the QR Code with your smartphone and ...voila! There you are at MEOW Cat Rescue's web site. You're welcome.



"I believe cats to be spirits come to earth. A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through."

~ Jules Verne

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
Closed Mondays and
Major Holidays

RUFUS AND DOUGLAS HOME AGAIN, HOME AGAIN



Home once more

Sometimes people just don't think it through. Back in October 2004, someone's solution to their "cat problem" was to round them up and abandon them in a remote field. Perhaps the person thought the cats could survive on what they were able to hunt and catch.

When MEOW became aware of this situation, we discovered that many

of the adult cats were much more comfortable with their fellow cats than with humans. Rufus and Douglas, two kittens born into this family in the field, at four months old had never experienced the loving touch of a human. We started from scratch. Literally. Scratch under the chin. Scratch on the back. In time, scratch the little tummies.

In their foster home, Rufus and Douglas thrived, seduced by good food and gentleness. They responded to a soft human voice with tiny purrs of their own. They learned to relax and play. They became kittens again.

Soon they were adopted into what we expected to be their forever home. This couple took the cats when they made cross-country moves. They cared. However, sometimes life takes unexpected turns. Late last year, the couple had gone their separate ways, and neither of them could accommodate their former cats, now nearly ten years old.

Rufus and Douglas were taken to a municipal shelter in a small town near Oklahoma City. Yes, sometimes people just don't think it through. This was a dangerous situation for a bonded pair of shy senior cats. Thankfully, one of the shelter staff there protected them until we could arrange for the boys to be flown back to us.

Today Rufus and Douglas are home again. Honestly. Home again. A few weeks after their arrival back at MEOW, they were visited by their foster family of so many years ago. It was as if this reunion was meant to be and soon they were all in the car. Back to the same house where they learned to trust, back with the familiar loving voices and gentle hands. Rufus and Douglas are truly back home again.

FREE ROAMING CATS THEY NEED MORE THAN FOOD

The shelter phone rings. We answer and, especially this time of year, this is how the conversation often begins. "I've been feeding a bunch of cats in my neighborhood", the caller says, apologetically. "I know I shouldn't have, but I couldn't let them starve. Now there are kittens. It's getting out of hand and I can't afford it anymore. Can you help?" As we ask questions to learn more about the specific situation, we reassure the caller that feeding the cats is a good thing, but in order to really help the free roaming cats, it's just the beginning.



Springtime at MEOW

Last spring, a cat-loving gentleman surrendered to us kittens born in his home to a feral cat who was accustomed to going in and out an open window. He had several altered cats of his own and was also feeding

several more outside. Their numbers had recently grown considerably due to the destruction of safe habitat in the neighborhood. We accepted the kittens and sent him home with traps and instructions. Our goal in such situations is to remove, tame and socialize any cats and kittens who have a chance to become adoptable and TNR (trap/neuter/return) the ones which are truly feral. With our guidance, we felt he could significantly reduce the number of cats he was feeding and stabilize the colony through spay/neuter.

The trapping project stretched on. Two more litters came to us, hissing and spitting, scratching and biting. At just 7 weeks and 9 weeks old, they had already decided humans were up to no good. Their foster mom had to work so hard during each socialization session to pull a reluctant purr out of them, only to have to start all over again and again each time. We rejoiced in the tiniest signs of progress. Eventually it happened. The kittens forgot about hissing and began greeting humans with enthusiastic playfulness.

As spring awakens the reproductive season, we feel compelled to put out this reminder. Feeding stray cats is indeed a kindness, but it's not enough, and waiting until there are kittens only makes problem resolution more difficult. To affect their futures in the most positive way, we must alter each and every cat and ensure that they have shelter and a regular food source. Ask us for help right away. We're here for you – and for the cats we all care about.

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In honor and memory of much loved kitty,
Nathan 'Naters' Schafer.
Crystal Carvolta-Brown

In memory of Hansel & Gretel.
Marnie Annin

Dedicated to our wonderful guinea pig, Sylvie.
We will remember her sweet face & cheerful chirp!
Cheryl Ulle

In memory of Bertha Harvey, who loved all cats,
especially feral cats no one else wanted!
Donald Harvey

In memory of our bachelor tabby, Mr. Grady,
and in appreciation for Trixi,
our adorable MEOW rescue cat.
Art & Karin Grice

In honor of my sister, Jan Carroll.
Linda Shuger

In honor of precious Mugsy, twin of Buggy
and son of Agatha.
Mary Askins

In honor of our feline, fur-mily, past and present.
Luana Doulas

In fond remembrance of Zoe Spohrer,
a MEOW kitty who spent her eight years of life
with "Mama Michelle".
John Black

In memory of our beautiful Lily.
Kori Barnum

I'm thankful for one more time around the sun
with my beloved Boo and Atticus.
Marti MacPhee

In honor of five happy years
with our MEOW cat, Nelle.
Joan Hutto

In memory of my wonderful siamese boy, Purkins.
Vicky Pecetti

In memory of Margie Squifflet.
Edmond Squifflet

In memory of Sapphire Jewel,
my friend's senior rescue cat.
Patricia Miller

In remembrance of Andrew and Taffy.
Sandra Chivers

Happy 2014 to Joy Gulmon-Huri,
ailurophile extraordinaire!
Judi Sorensen

For my little black guardian, Miss Daisy,
who passed away on February 28, 2013.
Patty Edwards

In memory of Indy Chenoweth.
Amy Gwynne

In loving memory of Louie.
Valerie Monis

In honor of my precious Clara Bow.
Norma Hobbs

To honor Lucy, my rescued companion cat.
Phyllis Albrecht

In honor of Christi Robinson,
who is passionate about finding homes for cats!
Steve Robinson

In loving memory of Carmine.
Clark & Lisa Wallin

In memory of Sara the cat.
Jessica Greenway

In honor of Toonces and Heidi Lynn.
Kris & Royal Goldfarb

In memory of Jesse, a dog who loved his cats.
Kelly & Arthur Trumble

In memory of Ebony.
Thank you sweet boy for 16 wonderful years!
Bob & Gloria Benson

In memory of Elizabeth Ann Hustad.
Overlake School

To all the Tau Ceti cats from the
Leopard's Lair cats.
Lori & Susan Schankel

In memory of Lola B. missed dearly by Susan Loo,
Dan Coppersmith and all at City Kitty.
City Kitty

In loving memory of Shirley Roselle.
She was a wonderful caretaker of cats.
Peggy Boone

In memory of Mama.
Dieter Schafer

In honor of TC.
Pat Stewart

We miss you Sadie.
Jim & Cheryl King

In memory of Mookie.
Lawrence Plummer

In honor of Dr. Stanley Coe.
Christine Grossman

In loving memory of my cousin, Barbara Bonnell.
She loved cats, especially calicos.
Marilyn Sylvester

In memory of my cousin Dana, who volunteered
her time caring for cats and dogs.
Julie Merken

To honor my Tiger Lily who helped me heal from
surgery by sitting on my lap.
Debra Prentice

In honor of Willow, who keeps me grounded.
Bill DeJong

For Maggie Baker's kindness.
Ileana King

In memory of Sam and Toot-Toot.
Anonymous

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

In remembrance of Spirit and Elvis.
Chandra Miller

In honor of Calvin and in memory of Hobbs.
Andrea Long

In memory of MEOW member Roxy,
who passed from cancer at age 6.
We miss you little black panther.
Terri Bala

In memory of Token "Toki", our drama queen,
whose heart just grew too big.
Dace Trence

In memory of my husband, Mark H. Russell.
Vicki Russell

In honor of Mikel Reubel and Kathy Bailor.
"Thanks for your support and
understanding of what I do."
Janis Newman

In honor of Stacia Roslander Hedin Jordan.
Clint Hedin

In loving memory of Shirley Roselle, an advocate
for feral cats. God bless you.
Evie & Mike Parks

In memory of my sister Nancy Teague Lee's
kitty, Libby.
Amy Teague

In honor of all MEOW volunteers and staff.
Lovisa LeRose

For Kosta, adopted from MEOW 11 years ago.
Best cat I ever had ~ smart, loving and beautiful
Cynthia Wilson

In honor of Chance, a beautiful kitty in
South Carolina, who passed recently
Linda Kriss

In honor of Barney, you are forever in our hearts
Julie and Brooke

To celebrate my growing bond with Samantha
adopted from MEOW two years ago.
Tom Costantini

In honor of Hector, for 11 years of unconditional
love & affection.
Margaret Severson

In remembrance of my loving husband, Chris.
Merrie Kay Mace

For Alleycat, great friend of Marcella and Sienna
Marya Barey

In loving memory of Oliver.
Ricca Ben

In honor of MC and Embla.
Francina Noordhoek

In honor of Jill Kenney's birthday.
Colleen Allen

In memory of Linda Roberts.
Kathy Calvin

NEW KNEES FOR NOLAN



Nolan recovering nicely

Nolan was recently relinquished back to MEOW when his loving family was faced with the prospect of very large, unexpected veterinary expenses. He had begun running with an odd skip and was having intermittent lameness. He played less and rested more, with his back legs bent at odd angles. He just wasn't himself. The family vet diagnosed him with Bilateral Luxating Patellae, a congenital condition which can develop during the first year of an animal's life. Just

one floating kneecap is unusual in cats, but both of Nolan's back legs were already Grade 3 out of 4 in severity. In addition, Nolan also had hip dysplasia on one side. He needed surgery right away to stabilize his knees and prevent the early development of painful arthritis.

We first met him last summer when a Good Samaritan found a mama cat and her five little ones, Nolan among them, abandoned in a carrier at the Houghton Park & Ride. Their story appeared in our Summer 2013 newsletter. The sweet little family grew big and strong in their foster home and, in good time, Nolan was adopted to be a brother for another playful boy kitty. Now, a few months shy of his first birthday, this tall, handsome young cat with a stunning brown tabby coat, and very bad knees, was back at MEOW.

Puget Sound Animal Hospital for Surgery operated on Nolan on St. Patrick's Day. He'll be on cage rest for several weeks. Because he is young and otherwise healthy, we expect he'll recover well. Nolan and his former family are thankful to MEOW for accepting him back into our family and providing the costly care he so desperately needed. We, in turn, are so thankful for our Mercy Fund and to all who have contributed to it, making it possible for cats and kittens like Nolan, who require extraordinary medical care, to get exactly what they need. Even if that happens to be a good pair of knees.



"Only cat lovers know the luxury of fur-coated, musical hot-water bottles that don't go cold."

~ Suzanne Millen

SIPS FOR SNIPS ~ A SPAY/NEUTER FUNDRAISER WINE TASTING TO BENEFIT MEOW

Northwest Cellars in Kirkland will be hosting a wine tasting to benefit MEOW Cat Rescue's public spay/neuter fund on Sunday June 22 from 1pm to 5 pm. Five of their sumptuous wines will be available for tasting. You also have the opportunity to purchase two custom MEOW labeled wines: 2010 Merlot (\$18) and 2012 Chardonnay (\$16). 40% of these wine sales and 100% of the tasting fee (\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door) will be donated to MEOW.

Please join us and enjoy a taste or two, all to benefit MEOW's public spay/neuter fund. Make sure you get your custom labeled wine (they make great gifts). Order now by going to www.northwestcellars.com, selecting the wine you'd like, and entering "MEOW" in the comment area as you check out. Deadline for ordering is June 21st. 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, order your custom labeled wine, and learn more about Northwest Cellars at www.northwestcellars.com.

We 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 those 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 Mother and Baby Cat Kibble
Royal Canin Special 33
Unscented Clumping Clay Litter
Liquid Laundry Detergent HE
Kitchen Garbage Bags
Bleach
Postage Stamps
Paper Towels
Hand Sanitizer
Copy Paper
Costco Gift Cards
Target Gift Cards



GIVEBIG 2014 ~ TUESDAY MAY 6TH

We are once again excited to participate in Seattle Foundation's one day, on-line charitable giving event designed to inspire people in our community to give generously to the nonprofit organizations who make our region a stronger, more vibrant one for all. Once again there will be a stretch pool, making your donations go farther. Watch our website and MEOW MEWS in the near future to learn more. Your gift given on Tuesday, May 6th, will do even more for MEOW.

FRIO ~ HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?



Frio ~ "You talking to me?"

We think people must not have heard that Frio is still searching for his forever home. Sure he's special needs, as he's on a restricted diet. Yes, he's deaf and therefore not all that comfortable around other cats. But really, he's just the sweetest, most loving boy. Please come meet him. If you let your heart do the talking, he'll hear every word.

SAVE THE DATE ~ SATURDAY AUG 16 FINE WINES & FELINES 2014

Mark your calendar! You won't want to miss this one. We're bringing back many of our favorite elements of last year's event along with some new and exciting changes.

The newly remodeled HUB Ballroom on the UW Campus will be our locale for the evening. For your bidding pleasure there will be more than 200 items in our silent and live auctions. We'll be hosting a buffet style dinner and offering wine, beer and a signature cocktail, as well. Have a good time with friends and get some great deals while supporting the cats and dogs whose health and happiness depends on all of us.

Watch our website and your mailbox later this spring for registration details and more information. Event sponsorships are still available to businesses and individuals from \$250 to \$1500. If you'd like to donate, we'd love a bottle or two of wine, a gift card to a local restaurant, coffee shop, retail store, or something from our Amazon.com 2014 Auction Wish list. Questions? Email us at meowauction@gmail.com. See you there!