

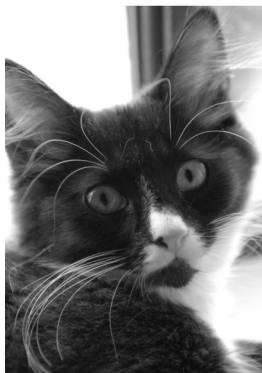


MEOW ~ CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

adoption is for life

CELEBRATING THE SEASON

As we prepare to celebrate the wonder and joy of another holiday season, we pause to reflect on a few of the many cats and kittens who faced impossible odds this year, many who were found and assisted by Good Samaritans, many whose very lives were spared because of people who cared enough to get involved.



Wink

~We remember Renoir, a handsome boy whose side had been punctured by a twig and then the wound had sealed over it. Undetected for weeks, his infection very nearly killed him. The persistence of the veterinarian literally saved his life. ~Spot, a young tuxedo girl, lost a leg after being hit by a car. Her life was graciously spared by the veterinarian who was asked to euthanize her. ~The sweet kitten we named Mila (meaning "miracle") was literally at death's door from neglect. Weeks of intensive care brought her back again. ~Raul, a tiny kitten found entangled in a batting cage, sustained permanent damage to his shoulder in his struggle to free himself. He's all the more precious to us. ~Young mama Pepsi was rescued with her litter of seven from their hideaway in an empty soda carton behind a grocery store. A large parasite called a rodent bot fly larvae had taken up residence under her skin as she protected her kittens from other animals in the alley. This family is enjoying life in foster care today. ~Adam, just three months old, had a strangulated hernia requiring immediate lifesaving surgery. An emergency veterinarian donated her services. ~Zeek was born with a genetic anomaly in his front left



Pepsi with her babies



Filibuster loving a foster kitten

staff and volunteers and finally her foster mom, she's back to perfect health today.

leg which required splinting and therapy to enable him to walk normally. His foster mom has been his therapist and greatest cheerleader. ~Stormy needed immediate intervention to be saved from liver failure. With outstanding care from her veterinarians, shelter

~Terra's botched declaw surgery caused her terrible pain, and in turn she rejected her litter box. She was abandoned by her family. A MEOW volunteer is now giving her another chance at happiness and forever love. ~Tweak, terrified and traumatized, had severe lacerations and missing teeth from an auto accident. She's now confident and pampered in her new home. ~Andy, Wink, Filbert and Filibuster were all born with a neurological disability called cerebellar hypoplasia. It's no surprise that people from our MEOW family have adopted each of these special needs kitties. ~Bella, the Bengal who went completely blind as a teen kitten, was adopted by an understanding family who adores her. ~Whisper bears the genetic deafness gene of some white cats. Adopted now, she has a huge crush on Bugsy, another MEOW cat – who happens to be blind. ~And there are so many, many more stories.



Filbert

Every kitty has a story. Every story begins with an action. Every action then brings together the efforts of so many caring individuals. Thank you to the Good Samaritans who choose not to turn away from an animal in need. Thank you to the great MEOW staff and volunteers who



Bugsy & Whisper

spring into action each time a crisis arises. Thank you to the veterinarians who advise and assist, as well as perform miracles to save the lives of animals which others have cast aside. Thank you to the people who adopt each and every one of our dear furry friends, especially those who choose the senior cats, or those who will take a chance on the cats and kittens with challenges (the ones who may be considered less than perfect in the eyes of many). A special thanks to our donors and supporters who each year amaze us with their generosity. In this season of celebration, we celebrate the village which supports the animals we have the privilege to serve and we appreciate the gifts of joy and wonder that we all receive as a result of loving these amazing creatures.



"Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps; for he is the only animal that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be"

~ William Hazlitt quotes (British Writer, best known for his humanistic essays. 1778-1830)

TREASURES, NOT TRASH

It was late on a Saturday afternoon when the woman stopped at a McDonalds in Kirkland for a quick bite before she would begin her drive home to south King County. In the parking lot, as she approached the dumpster she heard scratching noises. Rats? Raccoons? Then she heard the distinctive meow of a kitten. When she spoke, two little voices answered.

"Could this be possible", she thought? "How could they have gotten into this large deep dumpster?" Those questions ceased to matter when she decided she must do something. With the help of her friend, she climbed into the dumpster, carefully grasped each of the kittens and handed them out to her friend.



What a treasure!

Now that she had saved the two kittens, what was she to do? The women knocked on a few doors in the neighborhood, hoping someone would recognize the kittens. No luck. So, she got a phone book and began calling veterinarians and shelters.

When the phone rang at MEOW, we were just turning out the lights to leave for the night. A frazzled voice on the other end of the phone begged us to please take these kittens. She told their story. She had already attempted several other calls and we were the only ones who had answered. She was on her way out of town and unless we could take these kittens she'd have to bring them back to the McDonalds where she found them.

"We'll wait for you", was our reply. Minutes later a grateful woman arrived with the four month old tabby siblings purring in her arms. They were uninjured but quite thin, very hungry and full of fleas. After devouring healthy servings of nutritious kitten food they were given the works: flea and ear mite treatment, worming, vaccines, blood work and nail trims. We named them Big Mac and Parfait. The satisfied kittens settled in for the night and we finally went home.

Strays must be reported to King County Animal Services in case an owner might be looking for them. After 72 hours (3 days in which their shelter is open to the public), the stray hold is released and the animal may be placed for adoption. After the expiration of the stray hold, our Big Mac and Parfait were sent to the Feral Cat Spay Neuter Project to be altered. Just days later, the kittens were adopted into a loving home. We wish they could tell us the rest of their story. How did they actually get into that dumpster? Had they somehow managed to climb the metal sides or did someone dump them in there on purpose? There is no doubt that had their cries not been answered that evening, they would have been emptied into a dump truck like trash and surely would have been killed.

Sometimes fate, or whatever one wishes to call it, give us an opportunity to make a difference and then challenges us to do just that. We wish to commend the kind woman who chose not to turn away that day. We also wish to thank our wonderful donors, whose ongoing generosity allows MEOW to answer cries for help each and every day.

VINE LA GENAVINE!

Genavive's calico coloring is vivid, and so is her personality. Her foster mom describes her as an in-your-face love muffin, with a huge purr. She is relaxed around other cats and confident in new situations.

Her confident personality is truly remarkable, when you know her history. This little girl was brought to a local veterinarian with a gaping wound in her abdomen, her insides literally coming out. She had, very likely, been attacked by a large animal. The person surrendering her asked that the kitten be euthanized. Instead, she was befriended by the doctor at Clearview Veterinary Hospital who chose to try to save her as long as there would be a safe place for her to go afterward. Her condition was grave. No promises of a happy ending. Only hope.



Calico girl

The good doctor carefully cleaned her wound, skillfully put everything back in place, performed her spay surgery and stitched her up. He then closely monitored her progress. Amazingly, she began to heal. Once well enough, she was transferred first to friend and foster mom Kelly, who works at the clinic, to continue recuperating. Later, as we had promised, she was brought to MEOW to start a new life.

At the shelter she was introduced to a new friend, Baby Girl, a shy kitten of the same age. Genavive and Baby Girl made a pact from the beginning that they would always stay together. Baby Girl has learned from her BFF Genavive how to relax and trust people and how to play like a kitten. Baby Girl has taught Genavive the joys of having a playmate and friend. Genavive could not be happier, to be alive and to be befriended. Thanks, Doc.



When a friend is in trouble, don't annoy him by asking if there is anything you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it.

~ Edgar Watson Howe

TREE OF LIFE ~ LEAVES OF LOVE
NOW AND FOREVER ~
A TRIBUTE TO THE PETS
IN OUR HOMES
AND THE ONES IN OUR HEARTS

The Tree of Life in our lobby is growing beautiful Leaves of Love. With a minimum contribution of \$200, a bronze leaf, engraved with your sentiments, will be added to the tree. Each leaf will serve as a lasting tribute. The Tree of Life supports our Mercy Fund, designated for emergency veterinary care for injured, ill or abused animals. Thank you for honoring your animal friends in this way. An easy form can be found at <http://www.meowcatrescue.org/fundraisers.html>.

CLYDE – OUR LIFE COACH

Clyde was adopted from MEOW, with his sister, Bonnie, about three years ago, when they were kittens. Unfortunately, a change in their family caused them to be returned to the shelter this summer. They're siblings, but as soon as we saw them we were aware of some startling differences. Bonnie was rather large and sturdy. Clyde, on the other hand, seemed to us to be a bit thin. His eyes appeared sunken. He looked much older than his actual age. While he was always up for a good chin scratch or snuggle, his energy level was low. His appetite was poor. As Jason, our Shelter Manager, put it, "He just didn't look right".



Life Coach ~ Clyde

MEOW is very fortunate to have three veterinarians who volunteer their time with us and are always willing to consult and advise. They worked diligently to diagnose and treat Clyde's mysterious condition. Time after time, Clyde's blood work came back slightly off. Medications made no appreciable difference. Finally, an ultrasound was arranged.

For more than an hour, Clyde patiently allowed us to hold him on his back while the veterinary specialist performed the ultrasound test in his darkened exam room. He spoke with us the entire time. He talked to Clyde in soothing tones. Then suddenly the doctor became very focused and quiet. "This is the hardest part of my job", he said as he looked up at us. He pointed out a large mass in Clyde's liver. The next step was a needle biopsy. With a very long needle, the doctor penetrated the mass several times. The biopsy confirmed it. Clyde was diagnosed with cancer.

For the next few weeks Clyde stayed at the shelter. We weren't sure what to expect from this disease. We tried to stimulate his appetite, sharing notes on what he ate each day. We discovered his favorite places to be rubbed. We hoped for a miracle. We attempted to make his remaining days as pleasant as possible.

One day Nydia, our Training Coordinator, made Clyde an offer he couldn't refuse. She was ready and willing to take him home for the rest of his life. That was a couple of months ago. Nydia reports that Clyde is doing GREAT these days. He loves to watch the Food Channel and has gained a pound. He runs laps around her house. He makes up games to play with his toys and fantasizes about the birds outside the window. Clyde loves anything catnip! He takes his prescribed medications in a Pill Pocket and Nydia has convinced him it's a treat. He's having a wonderful time.

Clyde has touched so many people in his short life of just three years. His gentle strength has taught us to accept our circumstances with grace and dignity and to enjoy and appreciate every moment. We're sure that if Clyde could speak he'd tell us not to feel sorry for him. He'd say each day of this life is a gift. He'd thank us for loving him and say he loves us right back.

Because of you, our donors and supporters, we have been able to give Clyde the very best veterinary care money can buy. Sometimes your gifts afford us the opportunity to save lives. Sometimes the best we can offer is more quality time. Clyde is living his ninth life and enjoying every minute of it. He joins us in thanking you for your kindness and generosity.

BUNNY AND EMMA UPDATE

Our last newsletter reported on the unfortunate fate of two sisters named Bunny and Emma. They couldn't seem to catch a break. Their "forever" homes turned out to be anything but. These sweet, friendly girls were in our free roaming room for a very long time.



Bunny & Emma

Shortly after the story ran, Bunny and Emma were adopted! They have gone to a wonderful home with two children who can dote on these girls.

Thanks to all of you who contacted us about them and to the many that actually interviewed them. We are hopeful that they are in their final "forever" home.

PUSSYCAT PANTRY

Canned Kitten and Cat Foods (any)
Kitten Kibble (especially Royal Canin brand BabyCat)
Cat Kibble (especially Royal Canin Special 33, RC Selective)
Prescription Foods including: Science Diet dry c/d, Complete Care, d/d, w/d, and canned a/d, m/d & d/d. Purina Prescription Canned O/M
Baby Food - Gerber 2nd brand
(meat only, especially Chicken or Turkey)
KMR formula (Kitten Milk Replacer)
Cat Attract Litter
Printer paper
Postage stamps
Feliway (Comfort Zone) plug-in refills
Bleach
Garbage bags – Kitchen size drawstring
Paper Towels, Hand Sanitizer
New High Power Microscope



New Computer Monitor
– 17" Flat Screen

We feed HIGH-quality foods:
Royal Canin, Science Diet,
Sensible Choice, Nutro,
Precise, etc.

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In loving memory of my Anna 11/14/01 - 7/18/05.
You are very much missed.
Kayoko Nordby

To honor all those who rescue cats. And in memory of
those who aren't found.
Carol & Ray Wetmore

In loving memory of the dearest cat,
my sweet friend Peter.
Dorothy Dutton

In memory of Zeke, a beautiful kitty with an even
more beautiful soul. He is loved and missed by his
mommy, his brother Alex, his sister Rhea, and his
Aunties Lynne and Valerie.
Valerie Schurr & Todd Reidy

In memory of Martha, our beloved kitty. We love you.
Jim & Cheryl King

In memory of beloved Riley. He will be missed by Shelley
and EB.
Sandy Mortinson

In honor of the 70th birthday of Barbara Brock.
Carol Buckingham

To honor and remember Flicka and Shakespeare.
Catherine Duesenberg

To honor the beautiful brown tabby I found dead in the street
this morning. Still warm, hit by a car in a quiet residential neigh-
borhood. A poignant reminder to keep our beloved kitties
indoors where they are safe.
Ruth Laitila

To remember our ornery, lovable Onyx. You kept us
company for 15 years and we will miss you.
Marvinna Crawford

In loving memory of our dear sweet Butterball whose
time with us was way too short. We will miss our loving,
optimistic, paw waving, squeaky purring, short-whis-
pered, stubby fluff-tailed, toe-sucking, little friend and
brother more than we can say.
Jeanine, Judd, Ardene, Maya & Mini Me

In memory of Cisco...we miss you sweetheart!!
Gloria & Robert Benson

We miss you Lady Jane, Mouse and Beau!
Lynda Livingston

Happy 90th birthday to Vernon Slichter.
Sandra Slichter

In honor of 'Scout'. Welcome home!
Judith Sorensen

In loving memory of Sunshine and Blackjack, the
boys from the Bahamas, who brought so much joy to
Regina and Bill.
Gayle & Jack Reidy

In loving memory of sweet Smokey. He was loved by
everyone who knew him and is very dearly missed. May
he be rolling in catnip fields at the Rainbow Bridge!
Valerie Schurr & Todd Reidy

In memory of our foster girl, Stella.
You left this world much too soon but we will never forget your
time with us. You found your forever home with Brookie and
Mike while at our house but no one knew how short that life
would be and how suddenly you would be gone. I'm glad
Montgomery was waiting for you. We'll always remember you.
Bob and Kathy Posner

In memory of Bob Michajla, a second cousin dog
person - but we love you anyway.
Vicki Russell

In memory of beautiful, sweet Tommy.
LaVonne Schott

In loving memory of our amazing acrobat, Oliver.
He always had a mischievous twinkle in his eye and
left us far too soon. Your family misses you and
will always remember you as one wonderful cat.
Until we meet again.
The Laitila Family

In memory of Andrew and Taffy - you are still and will
always be missed.
Sandra Chivers

In loving memory of Chloe, Alice Ann Marie and Tigger Boy.
Mary K. Askins

In memory of Clayton Rich, M.D.
Irving & Naomi Schulman

To honor and remember Robert Woodcock.
Sheila Woodcock

For Zoey and Chloe ~ happy little sprites.
Nancy Schroder & Raymond Serebrin

To honor Heidi's 2nd year with us.
Royal & Kris Goldfarb

In memory of handsome Oscar. A gentle, handsome
kitty who we all love and miss. Wishing his mommy,
daddy and his kitty 'harem' a lifetime of joyful memories
of their sweet boy.
Valerie Schurr & Todd Reidy

In memory of Gizmo, our delightful cat of almost 17 years.
She gave us much love, fun and many scratches.
Erna, Gail, Gina and Greg Soter

In memory of our Kinzie.
Sandra & Don Casto

In loving memory of Philip C. Olson.
Nancy Berger

To honor Tate, my pure white short haired cat from MEOW,
who's been with me 8 years.
Carmen Sherbeck

In memory of Felix, Scamper and Squeaky.
Lavita White

In memory of Tiger Love. I love you always.
Be at peace.
Ann Mizer

In honor of all the cats and kittens who have passed through
our doors this year. A reminder that mystery, miracle and
wonder still exist in this world.
Marilyn & Steve Hendrickson

In memory of Leigh Hosking.
Karen Hill

In memory of our sweet girl, Montgomery.
You were such a part of our life for such a long
time, it's hard to believe you're gone. Say hi to the
others that went before you. We miss you everyday
and will always love you.
Bob and Kathy Posner

In memory of my wonderful husband, Andy ~
a true animal lover.
Lynn Rasmussen

In memory of George Senter - beloved neighbor and
cat lover.
John Blaine & Lauren Davis

For Perry, Hamilton, Max, Chuck and Smokey.
Richard Cooley

Happy Holidays to all our cohorts at MEOW!
Denise & Kathy

For Miss Dagmar Rhubarb ~ Defender of her home.
Elizabeth & W.A. Landrum

In memory of Leona Miller.
Robert & Marilyn McFarland

**Celebrate
the Holidays...**



MEOW OPEN HOUSE CRAFT BAZAAR & BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2007, 4PM - 7PM
MEOW Cat Rescue Shelter
10600 NE 68th, Kirkland
in the Houghton Village shopping center.

Find the perfect holiday gift among the unique craft items and delicious baked
goods, homemade by our MEOW volunteers and MEOW supporters: meet old
friend and new while celebrating the holidays with our favorite feline friends.
For more information visit: www.meowcatrescue.org

TRES – GRATEFUL FOR THE VILLAGE

The young girl had found a badly injured kitten. He was dragging his front left paw, literally by a thread. This injury was the stuff of nightmares. Upon his arrival at MEOW, we immediately transported Tres (Trace) to Brookfield Veterinary Hospital, where they were prepared to remove his left leg at the shoulder. After an exam and diagnostic x-rays, the doctors made a decision to remove just the paw, in hopes that the small bit of pad remaining at the end of the leg would provide enough support to allow



Tres recuperating

him to walk nearly normally. The recovery process is a bit slower than we had hoped, but at MEOW we're all about hope. Each day he makes progress, reports his foster home. His surgery site is healing and he's putting some weight on his little leg. Several times each day his foster mom does physical therapy with him in an attempt to awaken his atrophied shoulder muscle. Most importantly, he's playing with toys and purring constantly and contentedly. Cats have amazing powers of renewal and healing. We have faith that he will use his leg again.

How could this terrible injury have happened? How did he not perish from blood loss or infection? How did he find his way to the young girl and her mother, people who knew



Tres enjoying R&R

instinctively that they must do something to help this kitten – immediately. The courage of a kitten, the hope of a child, the charity of a mother, the mercy of our support system at MEOW, all of these have saved the life of our Tres. No, he's not out of the woods yet. There is a possibility that Tres's leg will one day have to be removed at the shoulder. Even if that should become necessary, he will always be perfect in our eyes. Tres's journey has just begun and soon he'll be looking for a lifelong loving home, a family who will recognize the significance of where he's been and love him just the way he is.

MEOW AUCTION 2008

We will be hosting our third annual auction event next year. If you are interested in donating to this event, please contact Jeanine at jeaninek@myuw.net. Watch our web-site and your mailboxes for more details.

MEOW 2008 CALENDAR

The 2008 MEOW calendars have arrived. Don't miss out on this special edition, featuring MEOW kitties in their forever homes. All pictures were submitted as part of a contest held earlier this year, which raised over \$4,000 for MEOW's general fund. This beautiful 2008 calendar is available now for \$10 or \$12 if you would like it shipped. Stop by or call the shelter (425) 822-6369 to purchase your calendar. All proceeds from your calendar purchase support MEOW.



CAT HAIKU, ANYONE?



My adopted cat
Keeper of deepest secrets
I love you dearly

Comfort is a cat
Sleeping, purring in my lap
Troubles fade away

Georgia and Brandy
romp around on seven legs
quite the playful pair



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@hotmail.com
www.meowcatrescue.org

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DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?
IN HAPPY ENDINGS? IN NEW BEGINNINGS?
IN JOYOUS REUNIONS? IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?


On behalf of the more than 1500 lost, abandoned, neglected, mistreated, injured or otherwise unwanted animals who have been placed by MEOW in loving adoptive homes in this past year, we wish to express a very sincere and heartfelt "Thank you!" to all who have played a part in making these miracles a reality.

A Very Special Thank you To . . .

 the individuals, businesses and grantors who have so generously supported the mission of MEOW and contributed financially to keep the work going.


 the veterinarians who have performed services at much-reduced rates and dealt with emergencies as well as routine matters.

 our amazing shelter staff and volunteers who work so willingly on behalf of the animals, keeping the cages and common areas clean, doing laundry, answering phone calls daily and returning messages nightly, interviewing people and completing pet adoptions, participating in raising public awareness concerning the plight of homeless animals.

 our fabulous foster homes who have selflessly given of their time and energy, their living space, their own resources and sometimes their sleepless nights caring for orphaned or ill kitties.

 all who have generously contributed cleaning supplies, pet foods, litter, bedding and other materials to help defray the everyday expenses at our shelter.

 all the individuals and their families who have adopted shelter pets this year, who have made a commitment to take seriously their pet's health, happiness and safety.

 cat and dog owners everywhere who spay or neuter their pets, helping to put an end to the cycle of homeless and unwanted animals that fill the shelters across the country.

WITH ONE VOICE, HUMAN AND ANIMAL TOGETHER
MEOW WISHES YOU AND YOURS
A HAPPY SEASON AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



P.O. BOX 58
KIRKLAND, WA 98083-0058

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