

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 15,000 lost, abandoned, neglected, mistreated, injured or otherwise unwanted animals who have been placed by MEOOW in loving adoptive homes in over the years, 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 MEOOW 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, returning messages nightly, interviewing people and completing pet adoptions, and 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, 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
MEOOW WISHES YOU AND YOURS
A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



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MERCY (noun) COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT OF THOSE IN DISTRESS

Many years ago, before MEOOW became a registered non-profit animal rescue charity, we coined a phrase and adopted a motto to underscore our beliefs: "...all nine lives are precious." Since its creation, this motto has been a visible element of our logo and ever present in our daily work. Its message is woven into our Mission Statement and engraved on the hearts of our volunteers and supporters.



Just wanted to say thank you

The words are as quiet and delicate as a kitten's purr, yet the commitment implied could not be stronger....all nine lives are precious.

MEOOW does not turn away from the severely injured or ill, the special needs cats and kittens. Admittedly, the cost of caring for them is often higher, but the rewards are so very great, particularly for those animals whose chances are limited elsewhere and for the people who will eventually love them for the rest of their lives. MEOOW's Mercy Fund helps provide for extraordinary veterinary costs to ensure that we never have to make a decision about the level of care an animal receives based on the cost of treatment. In this issue we'd like to share just a few of the recent happy endings that bring tears to our eyes each time we tell them....all nine lives are precious.



Me too! Thank you!

MEOOW remains committed to our no-nonsense, no holds barred, no-kill policy. We continue to ask that people return MEOOW cats to us if they are no longer able to care for them. It is true that scheduling and making shelter space for our "returns" is often difficult. However, we do our best to accommodate these displaced pets, no matter the reason. What does matter is that we still believe that they have not only a right to live but a right to a loving home. We still believe in our responsibility to provide them that opportunity. We made a promise to them, whether it was yesterday or ten years ago; once they became a part of the MEOOW family, they were safe. We said it then, we meant it then, and we still believe it now....all nine lives are precious.

HOLIDAY 2008

MERCER ISLAND EASTSIDE ORPHANS & WAIFS

We are so grateful to those who donate to our Mercy Fund, which helps MEOOW continue to provide for these deserving animals. We are ever indebted to the veterinarians who advise and assist, who are sometimes called upon to perform miracles to save the lives of animals which others have cast aside. And we thank the people who adopt, especially those who choose the seniors, or will take a chance on those with challenges, the ones who may be considered less than perfect in the eyes of many. Thank you, to each and every one of you, for the mercy you have shown and for continuing to help us to live the words that mean so much to all of us....all nine lives are precious.



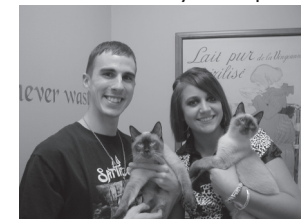
Don't forget us! Thank you!

"The quality of mercy is not strained; it droppeth as the gentle rain from Heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

~William Shakespeare

A MILESTONE FOR MEOOW

We are so proud that in mid-November we completed our 15,000th kitty adoption. The honor went to Mini & Mickey, a pair of beautiful Siamese kittens that came to us from Yakima, having been rescued from a dumpster, only days old. They have found their forever home with Christopher Thompson of Olympia. Christopher and the kitties were presented a welcome home basket of goodies generously donated by Mud Bay Granary and a one year supply of Science Diet cat food from Hill's.



Mini & Mickey
with Christopher & friend

The joy of this achievement is shared by so many: our founders, foster homes, volunteers, and our very small but extremely dedicated staff who oversee it all. We also acknowledge the significant role played by our veterinary partners, our generous supporters and the adopters who have welcomed 15,000 homeless cats into their lives. Our vision remains that there will be a day when every pet born will be assured loving care all of its natural life and will never suffer due to abuse, neglect or ignorance. Until that day comes, our plan is to continue to do what we do best, to ensure that those cats that come to us have the best opportunity to find their forever home.

NEWMAN BECOMES A NEW MAN

By the age of five, Newman had worn out his welcome in his home. He and his brother had been adopted from MEOW when they were kittens. Now he had developed some bad behaviors – and they were becoming worse. Newman, who had always loved his brother, was increasingly aggressive to-



New man Newman

wards him. He vocalized a lot, even for a Snowshoe Siamese cat, and he seemed uncomfortable. He hid under the bed and didn't want to eat. In addition, he started urinating, actually spraying, much like an unneutered male cat might do. To make a bad situation worse, his urine had an unusually pungent odor.

His owner, who really loved both of her boys, took Newman to her veterinarian in March. Although his bloodwork and urinalysis showed no infection or crystals, he was prescribed antibiotics. Other methods of calming intervention were also employed, but alas with no benefit. Because Newman's urine smelled like that of a cat whose neuter may have left behind a retained testicle or part of one, an exploratory surgery was performed. Three veterinarians participated. Each of them probed for an answer and no one was able to identify a physical problem. This was disappointing news to his owner. In April, on the advice of her veterinarian, she relinquished Newman to MEOW when she could no longer afford to continue diagnostic research.

Once at MEOW, we immediately noticed the strong "boy smell" of his urine. We don't house unneutered or newly-neutered adult males at the shelter for this reason. These terms didn't describe Newman, but the symptom most certainly did. He was placed in foster care while we studied his medical records and contemplated our next logical move. Our volunteer veterinarian, Dr. Cori Gross, referred him for a surgical consult with Dr. Michael Mison at Seattle Veterinary Specialists in Kirkland. A second abdominal exploratory surgery was performed, with additional doctors looking on. All potentially problematic tissue in the area was removed and a baseline testosterone test was sent to the laboratory. A few days later, the test surprisingly revealed that Newman's testosterone level was 1.6 ng/mL, significantly higher than that which could be expected in a neutered cat. The test was repeated a few weeks after this surgery in hopes that his level would have decreased. It had actually risen to 1.9. But why? Apparently, testosterone is produced at higher levels in unneutered males during mating season and we were now in mid-summer.

Mature males which have not been neutered normally have testosterone levels between 1.0 and 6.0 ng/mL. No wonder Newman was acting this way. But he had been neutered five years before and had recently undergone two surgeries in which six veterinarians had participated. Despite our efforts, we were still no closer to an answer. What would become of Newman? If this issue could not be resolved, he couldn't be an indoor cat. Newman had always lived indoors and would not be a good candidate for an outdoor life. He was much too unsure of himself. He would not survive. What's more, would finding him an outdoor home really solve his problem? We didn't think so.

Weeks passed and Newman remained in foster care. Dr. Mison consulted with colleagues around the country. In July, he called to ask whether MEOW would approve an ultrasound? Of course. At last, as a result of the ultrasound, an abnormality was discovered. Newman's left adrenal gland was enlarged. In fact, it was 2 – 3 times the size of his normal right gland. An adrenalectomy, very rarely done in cats, was performed on July 23, 2008, revealing a cancerous testosterone-producing tumor. The good news was that it had not metastasized to other areas of the body. After the surgery, Newman was put on cage rest.

A final testosterone test completed three weeks post surgery confirmed the success of the procedure. His level was down to .04 ng/mL. In addition, Newman was becoming a different cat. He was relaxed, he was eating well and gaining weight and his urine no longer reeked!

In September, Newman was adopted into a loving home with another cat. They get along like brothers and his mom reports that Newman has perfect litterbox habits. What's more, his medical history will be documented in veterinary medical journals. His experience and the knowledge gained from it may save the life of another cat one day. Thanks to donations made to MEOW's Mercy Fund, we were able to continue searching for an answer to Newman's mystery. Giving up was never an option. The result was worth every penny. Newman is literally a "new man".

IGIVE.COM CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE TO HELP MEOW

If you enjoy shopping online, now your purchases can help bring prosperity to the pussycats! By registering with iGive.com and shopping through our portal, www.iGive.com/MEOW, from 2% - 26% of your purchase price is donated to MEOW by the participating business. There are over 700 businesses in iGive.com, including pet supply stores, department stores, travel sites, booksellers, office supply stores, ebay, etc. The amount of the donation varies by business. It costs you absolutely nothing to register or donate. Check it out. If you like the idea, tell a friend.

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In memory of Nell Finger, a fellow cat lover.
Marylee Tyler

In memory of 8-Ball, 1990 - 2008, owner Marsha Slater.
City Kitty, LLC

In honor of Lew Clark, DVM, Juanita Bay Veterinary Hospital for loving, expert care of Babe and so many more of our pets.
Dorothy Pierce

In memory of Mary L. Morrison.
Lisa Morrison

For Tank, Joey, Sammy, Boots, Blue, Dusty and Sophie - all my little babies over the years. You provided us with so much love and we love you so much too!
Amanda Whitworth

Happy birthday, Emily.
Amy Cervenne

In memory of sweet Gladys. She was the apple of her mommy's eye and her brother Edward's best friend. We will all miss her sweet purr and her pretty, big eyes which were always lovingly looking at her mommy.
Valerie, Metro Moggie Kityitting

In memory of Petey - who we loved and knew for three years.
Judy Bess Schoenfeld, Rich Wilson, Earthya, Ming & Magic

In honor of Chui, beloved boy of Kay and Bob O'Connell. Chui was a special kitty who was loved by all.
Joan Harrison

In remembrance of our deceased feline companions.
Meadows Cat Hospital

In loving memory of Zoe, sweet kitty and muse of her daddy Mitch for all 14 years of her precious life. Sweet, playful, and loving - we will all miss darling little Zoe.
Valerie, Metro Moggie Kityitting

In honor of Chui O'Connell.
Kelly Weber, Anne & Jon Nelson & Barbara Weber

In loving memory of Tank.
Patricia Crisp

To Wolfgang - the greatest cat that ever lived. We miss you so much. Thank you for spending your life with us for twelve years.
Phillip, Jennifer, Stephanie and Alexander

In loving memory of Cinnamon and her human mother, Dorothy Patterson.
Laura St. George

In honor of the adoption of Noodle.
Larry & Judith Zydek

To my brave, courageous mamma cat Rosie. You allowed me to save you and your four kittens. What a smart and lucky girl you are. I know your new owners are truly blessed.
Paula Morrow

In memory of Cleo, beloved pet of Greg & Laurie Hatch.
City Kitty, LLC

I adopted Starr almost one year ago. She's purr-fect!!
Stephanie Rowe

In memory of Cupcake, Boots and Ruby.
We love you still and always!
Mark Hawk & Robert Ross

For Oscar and the eight lucky boys who came before him.
Tia Scarce

In memory of Norma Walsh
John Walcott

In memory of our dear Pretty Boy Floyd, who came to us from MEOW about six years ago, a beautiful, gentle giant we all loved. Rest in peace dear one.
Jane Ward

In memory of Maria, dear sweet kitty.
MEOW Cat Shelter Staff & Volunteers

In loving memory of Maddie, 'the supermodel of cats. After 15 years of bringing love and joy to the lives of her mommy and sister Pieces, she is now at the Rainbow Bridge watching over her family with lots of love. Maddie was an exceptional kitty and will be dearly missed.
Valerie, Metro Moggie Kityitting

In honor of Calvin and Hobbs - MEOW adoptees who have been with us 11 years.
Andrea Lorig

To honor my beloved Max, who left us way too soon.
I miss you Max.
Diane Estrada

To honor my wife's birthday. Happy 54th, Lori.
Kevin Kean

In memory of my husband, Mark. It wouldn't be Heaven without cats.
Vicki Russell

In honor of Rosalyn Annin.
David & Marnie Carrithers

In memory of Tank, beloved companion of Patrick and Denice Town.
Anonymous

MEOW'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE CRAFT BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 2008 FROM 2 PM – 5 PM



What's under your tree this year? Find the perfect gift to put under your tree for your furry and not so furry loved ones at MEOW's Holiday Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale. Volunteers have been busy baking and crafting to help ensure that you'll find that special something for that special someone. Come early to have your choice of unique water-color artwork, MEOW Masterpieces created by former shelter kittens. When you've finished shopping, share in some holiday cheer with MEOW's current resident cats and kittens, volunteers and staff.

Throughout this holiday season MEOW is hosting a very special pet food drive, not for shelter animals but to help pets of local families in need. Please consider bringing a donation of canned food or an unopened bag of dry food for cats or dogs and share the gifts of the holiday season with others. Your pet food donations will be distributed through HopeLink. Let's not let any animal go hungry. Let's open our hearts and fill their tummies.

MEOW'S HOLIDAY WISH LIST

- Dyson Hand Vacuum
- Ionic Breeze GP air cleaners
- Portable DVD player
- Microscope (call shelter for specs)
- Feliway electric diffusers and refills
- Greenies Pillpockets
- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Postage Stamps
- Paper Towels
- Fabric Softener Sheets



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)

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Meowcatrescue@hotmail.com
www.meowcatrescue.org

MEOW is a Non Profit No Kill shelter

TELLY – A MERCIFUL INTERVENTION

The call came from a veterinary hospital. A cat brought to them for euthanasia was already anesthetized but the doctor was struggling with the decision. He couldn't bring himself to end this life. Here was a young unaltered Siamese mix with severe facial injuries and he had tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. Yet, the vet felt this cat's life should be spared. But who would come to his rescue? The hospital was asking MEOW to accept this cat so they could interrupt this process – right now.



Telly

That was Telly's lucky day. When he arrived we understood the gravity of his condition. He had a raging fever. The entire right side of his face was hugely swollen. Because his eye appeared to be threatened, he was quickly taken to NW Animal Eye Clinic. After an exam, Dr. Jones ordered him admitted to Animal Emergency Services East with the support of IV fluids and antibiotics. The next morning he was transferred to Brookfield Veterinary Hospital for surgery. Because Telly's immune system was suppressed, they knew he'd be unable to recover without major intervention. A drain was placed in his right cheek to open the large abscess that was making Telly so sick.

A few days later, back at the shelter, Telly still looked a bit like the FrankenCat monster, but he was absolutely charming. He was so grateful for every word offered to comfort him, for every hand extended to scratch under his chin. He responded by closing his good eye and letting his deep purr rumble.

Over the weeks which followed, Telly's facial wounds healed. Unfortunately, his challenges were far from over. His appetite waned, his neck swelled from enlarged lymph glands and he became anemic. He grew increasingly lethargic and required force feeding and daily subcutaneous fluids and more antibiotics. Still, he cooperated and seemed to thank us with his eyes.

Cats with FIV have to try harder. It's harder for them to heal from a wound or illness and it's harder to get adopted. But Telly knew he had to try, and he did. Once recovered, he went to work introducing himself to anyone who'd look his way. Finally it happened. Telly was indeed irresistible. He went home with his new mom to live a happy and healthy indoor life. It was a bittersweet goodbye for those of us who had given a piece of our hearts to Telly. We are indebted to the thoughtful veterinarian who mercifully spared Telly's life at the very last minute. Surely, Telly was shown mercy by each of the veterinarians, staff and volunteers who helped during his long road back to health. Finally, MEOW's Mercy Fund saved the day, and created a future, for yet another great cat.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FOR YOUR CATS



Although the winter holidays are fun-filled, they usually bring a some stress and changes in our routines. Here are some tips to help avoid mishaps and make your holidays memorable for all the right reasons.

Party tip. Keep your indoor cats from door-dashing as guests come and go. Put the cats in a separate room with their food, litter, bed and a few favorite toys while the party is in progress. This will also prevent paw prints in the hors d'oeuvres and hairballs on the houseguests.

Limit treats. Changes in your pets' diet can cause digestive upsets. If you offer your cats ham or turkey, give only a few bites and place them in their own dish to discourage begging or jumping on the table.

Cat-safe decorations. Avoid tinsel and angel hair on your holiday tree and keep breakable ornaments safely out of reach. Metal ornament hooks can be deadly if ingested. Keep your decorations simple and safe.

Ribbons and strings. Choose wider ribbons or none at all. Narrow ribbon, especially curling ribbon, and wrapping string are easily swallowed and can tangle in your cat's intestines. This could result in very expensive surgery – or worse.

New Pets. Holiday season may be a stressful time to introduce a new family member to your current pets. Plan ahead. Make sure there is a quiet place for your new pet so he can acclimate and adjust, away from the frenzy of holiday festivities. Allow plenty of time for proper introductions. With the right planning this time of year can be a wonderful time to extend your home and your love to a new pet.

Hire a pet-sitter. If you're planning a trip during the holidays, hire a reputable pet-sitter. Your pets will be most comfortable in their own surroundings and less likely to experience stress-related illnesses.

Unwind. During this hectic time, be sure to set aside some quiet time at the end of each day. After some quality time, you and your cat will be more relaxed and will awake refreshed, ready to tackle the next busy day.

"If we treated everyone we meet with the same affection we bestow upon our favorite cat, they, too, would purr."

~ Martin Buxbaum

ANNIE – LOVE KNOWS NO SPECIES



Sweet Annie

should support 55 pounds.

MEOW's Canine Division was contacted. (That's right, MEOW's Canine Division. Love knows no species.) Kelly Starbuck saw the emailed photos and could hardly wait to get the dog home. She was given the name Annie, because she appeared to be an orphan. Annie must have had a family at one time, as she is extremely loving, social and well behaved. She displays perfect manners when offered treats. She doesn't even beg. She LOVES all humans and is frightened of no one.

How did Annie come to this state of health? Kelly estimates that she had been without a food source for 1 – 2 months. If she had been wandering, lost, surely this friendly dog would have approached someone, as she did on Halloween night. Could she have been tethered in a yard, forgotten? Was she locked in a home or garage waiting for a person who never came back? Somehow, on that night she was free – and she knew just what to do. She befriended a couple who could get her the help she desperately needed.

Annie is about 4 years old. She's a purebred black brushcoat Shar pei, very correct in her conformation, and Kelly is sure she'll be stunning when she has gained her weight back. Oddly, Annie has been shaved in a straight line on her underside from her chin to her groin. Another triangle-shaped bare spot appears on the back of her neck above the shoulder blades. Her nails had grown so long that her toes curled sideways when she stood up.



Annie

What does all of this mean? We don't expect to ever know the truth about Annie's past, but we can pretty reliably predict her future. Annie is being treated for a minor intestinal parasite, probably from drinking dirty water, and she's eating well. In a few months time she'll hardly resemble the pictures taken after she was rescued on Halloween night. Only her bright eyes and happy dog smile, which she never lost, will be familiar. For now, Annie is enjoying life with Kelly and her husband, John, as well as the other foster and resident dogs in their home. Our wish for Annie is that she'll one day be adopted into a responsible and loving home where she'll be a valued family member and her orphan days will be forever behind her.

WEATHERING THE STORM

Although we are lucky here in the Northwest and aren't susceptible to hurricanes, the current global financial storm has certainly touched down here as everywhere. MEOW has already begun to see some of what will most likely become significant fallout by those impacted the hardest. Recent adoptions are down and returns are up. The number of cats and kittens in our care remains at a level similar to that of the end of summer when kitten season was in full swing. We've also heard that some people are opting to save money by not spaying or neutering their pets; a worrisome rumor given the significant impact unaltered animals have on pet overpopulation.

Although we believe MEOW will weather this storm, thanks to solid financial planning and the amazing ongoing support of our donors, we will surely be impacted and stretched as those in our community are forced to make very difficult choices.

What can you do to help?

Spay/Neuter: If you know of someone who has an unaltered pet and doesn't feel they can afford the surgery, please refer them to a special page on our website (<http://meowcatrescue.org/lowcostspayneuter.html>). We have compiled a list of low cost facilities in the local area. If they don't have internet access, please ask them to call the shelter for help.

Food Drive: Stop by the shelter and drop off an unopened bag of dry cat or dog food or some canned food. Throughout the holiday season, MEOW is hosting a pet food drive to help support our community members in need through Hopelink food bank in Kirkland. If you know someone who needs help providing food for their pets, please tell them about our food drive and Hopelink.

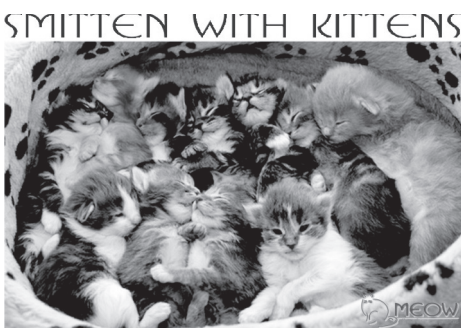
The experts say it may be awhile before things improve. If we all work together and help where we can, perhaps we'll be able to lessen the storm's damage. Maybe we can even change the weather.



"Another cat? Perhaps. For love there is also a season; its seeds must be resown. But a family cat is not replaceable like a wornout coat or a set of tires. Each new kitten becomes its own cat, and none is repeated. I am four cats old, measuring out my life in friends that have succeeded but not replaced one another."

~ Irving Townsend

SMITTEN WITH KITTENS
MEOW 2009 CALENDAR



The 2009 MEOW calendars have arrived. Don't miss out on this special calendar dedicated to the thousands of foster kittens who have stolen our hearts over the years and the dedicated foster families who have cared for them. This beautiful 2009 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.

DOORSTOP
SEEKING PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT

He had taken up residence at the woman's front door. Unfortunately she wasn't interested in adopting a cat. At first she would walk past him and gently tell him to go home. He didn't. Each day he would greet her, as she came and went. She began calling him "Doorstop" as he obviously wasn't moving. After trying unsuccessfully to find his owner, the woman made arrangements to surrender him to MEOW. He quickly became the darling of the shelter. This huge red tabby is simply irresistible.

Doorstop was adopted a short time after he came to MEOW. Unfortunately, he lost his home just weeks later, when his elderly new dad had a bad fall and had to move into assisted living. Once back at the shelter, Doorstop started to exhibit signs of depression and stress. He began "over-grooming", removing large patches of fur from his legs. The next several rounds of blood work and urinalysis revealed that he is experiencing renal insufficiency, or early-onset kidney disease. Luckily we were able to put him in a foster home and eliminate the shelter stress he was experiencing. After several weeks in foster care, Doorstop is feeling like himself again, active and happy. He's being given subcutaneous fluids a few times each week and he eats just what the doctor ordered without complaint. He takes it all with a grain of salt, especially if it comes with a warm lap and lots of soft words and petting.



Doorstop - oh so handsome

Doorstop is a big boy with an even bigger heart. His 20 pound frame is easily large enough to hold a door open, but at only about 8 years old he's much too active for that responsibility full time. He loves to play and is very good at tossing fuzzy toys into the air and then jumping after them. He's inquisitive and interested in exploring cabinets and cubby holes. Once he's comfortable and gets to know you he has shown himself to be a true lap cat. He wants to be petted, held and hugged. He's partial to tummy rubs and back scratches. He has excellent litter box and scratching post manners as well. With proper care, cats with renal insufficiency often live normal happy lives for several years after diagnosis. We would be happy to coach Doorstop's new family in how to administer fluids if they have not previously had the experience. His prescription diet is readily available through veterinarians and costs about the same as any premium diet. He's so worth it all.

There are other cats in his foster home, but Doorstop is certainly the man of the house. While he doesn't exhibit his status in any damaging ways, he may be happiest living as an only cat or with a cat who is willing to let him take the lead.

Doorstop has demonstrated outstanding qualities in his job as a "greeter" and would like to return permanently to that line of work, but this time he wants to do it from the inner side of the door. Of course, he expects a full benefit package with time off for play and cuddles. If you think you have a heart - and a lap - big enough for this gentle giant, please contact MEOW Cat Rescue so that we can arrange an interview.

MEOW DONATION BOXES
SMALL CHANGE = BIG CHANGES FOR ANIMALS

Thanks to the many retail businesses, pet supply stores and veterinarians who proudly display a MEOW Donation Box, in the past year we have collected donations of over \$5,000 for our Mercy Fund, helping to defray some of the extraordinary veterinary expenses we have incurred. This success is possible because of the many volunteers and friends of MEOW who have asked the businesses they frequent to display a box and then taken responsibility for checking the box as needed and delivering the funds to the shelter. The cooperation and generosity of many really does make miracles happen for those animals who so badly need them.

If you know of a business that would like to support MEOW Cat Rescue with a Donation Box, and you're willing to check that box from time to time, please contact Marilyn at akh98011@aol.com. We are so thankful to be a part of a community which cares so deeply about the animals.

ENSURING MORRIS GETS HIS NINE LIVES

Morris arrived at MEOW with two littermates at just about six weeks old. Although they had been outdoors, they appeared healthy. The kittens went through the usual intake procedures: examinations, vaccinations, treatment for parasites and then placement in a foster home. Three weeks later they received a second vaccine. A few weeks later, Morris began showing signs of an upper respiratory infection. We made him comfortable in our isolation room to be medicated and observed. Within a day or two his symptoms worsened and included loose stools and loss of his previously healthy appetite. We became worried.



Morris

An in-house test confirmed our worst fears: Morris tested positive for Panleukopenia, also known as feline distemper. This is a contagious disease, easily contracted by unvaccinated cats and kittens. But Morris had been vaccinated - twice. How

could this kitten be stricken with the very disease for which he was immunized? Yet, there it was, confirmed also by a blood test. Morris was very sick and would most likely get much sicker. Unfortunately, most kittens don't survive this disease. His only hope was hospitalization for intravenous fluids, antibiotics and intensive care. Alpine Animal Hospital in Issaquah agreed to treat Morris. They warned us up front that his prognosis was guarded and his hospitalization would be expensive. Did we wish to proceed? Yes, please.

For each of the next five days, we called Alpine for "the Morris Report". He was so very sick and we continued to worry. We just could not bear the thought of losing this little red ball of fluff. On the fifth day Morris was released from the hospital, but with continued intensive care and isolation at our shelter. We were only to handle him for routine cage cleaning and medication and we were to wear protective garments to prevent the disease from spreading to other cats or kittens.

Infected cats are considered contagious for up to six weeks. We watched his health and spirits improve as we counted down the weeks- and finally the days. At last, Morris was sprung from Iso! News of this brave survivor had traveled to a young man who works at Cats Exclusive Veterinary Hospital. When they met, there was an immediate and undeniable response to each other. "You're the one for me."

We may never know why Morris contracted this horrible disease despite being vaccinated, but because of your generous donations to MEOW's Mercy Fund he can grow up and live a long, healthy, and very happy life. Make that several more lives.

PAUL AND ANGELO
STILL WAITING TO BE RESCUED

Three young boys, Paul, Angelo and brother Cliff, are now safe from last year's risky kittenhood on the streets of New Orleans, but two of them have yet to find the forever homes they so much deserve and desperately need. Because they started their lives homeless and then spent their adolescence in a shelter where they were safe and fed but had little other human interaction, these boys can be wary of people. When they arrived at MEOW after a long plane trip and car ride, they were so traumatized. After 6 months, yes it's been 6 months since they arrived, Cliff, perhaps the most shy of the three, was adopted to live with two kitty sisters. Still at the shelter, Paul and Angelo have made significant strides in socialization. They have comfortably settled into one of our free roaming rooms, but have yet to feel completely relaxed with people. They do enjoy gentle pets and chin scratches and will reward those patient enough to approach on their terms with purrs. They do love wand toys and laser beams with humans attached and interaction with other cats. Although at MEOW they are safe, cared for and well loved by the staff and volunteers, we would like nothing more than for these boys to find their own family, one that will be understanding enough to let them



Paul

Do you have a hurricane free home? Determine just how much they can give back. Angelo and Paul really do rely on each other for comfort and security and we'd like to adopt them together.



Angelo

Looking for a home safe from high winds

The families that experienced Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath may carry the scars with them forever, but with time to heal and understanding from those who love them, it seems possible they will once again flourish. We hope that someday the same will be said of Cliff, Paul and Angelo, our Katrina survivors.

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Am I in your way?
You seem to have this backwards.
This pillow's taken.