On behalf of the more than 15,000 lost, abandoned, neglected, mistreated, injured or otherwise unwanted animals who have been placed by MEOW 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 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, 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 kittens.

...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.

...all the people 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 holiday season and a prosperous new year!

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

MEOW
All nine lives are precious.

Many years ago, before MEOW 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. 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.

MEOW 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. MEOW’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.

MEOW remains committed to our no-nonsense, no holds barred, no-kill policy. We continue to ask that people return MEOW 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 MEOW family, they were safe. We said it then, we meant it then, and we still believe it now...all nine lives are precious.

We are so grateful to those who donate to our Mercy Fund, which helps MEOW 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.

“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

MERCY (noun)
COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT OF THOSE IN DISTRESS

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A MILESTONE FOR MEOW

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 kittens 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.

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. His 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 towards him. He vocalized a lot even for a Snowshoe Siamese cat, and he seemed uncomfor-
table. He hid under the bed and didn’t want to eat. In addi-
tion, he started urinating, actu-
ally spraying, much like an un-
neutered male cat might do.

To make a bad situation worse, his owner read a book on why a male is not a neutered adult males at the shelter for this reason. These men would have smell” of his urine. We don’t house unneutered or newly-
neutered males during mating season and we were now in peated a few weeks after this surgery in hopes that his level which could be expected in a neutered cat. The test was re-
testosterone level was 1.6 ng/mL, significantly higher than that days later, the test surprisingly revealed that Newman’s tes-
inated to his worry and he pretty big eyes which were always looking lovingly at his momma. Miao, Miao Maggi’s Apartment.

In memory of Raye - who we loved and knew for these years, Judy Beaz Schoenfeld, Rich Wilson, Eathra, Ming & Magic

In honor of Chui, beloved boy of Ray and Bob O’Connell, Chui was a special kitty who was loved by all, Joan Harison

In remembrance of our deceased feline companions, Meadows Cat Hospital

In memory of Nean Flinger, a feline cat love.

In memory of Budi, 1990 - 2008, owner Manusha Slater City Kitty, LLC

In honor of Lew Clark, DVM, Juanita Bayview Veterinary for loving, special care of Budi and many more of our pets.

In memory of Mary L. Morrison, Ist Memorial, November 11th

For Tank, conj. Sammy, Boca,-blue, dusty and Sophie - at my little babies over the years. You provided us with so much love and we love you much too. Amanda Whitehead

Happy birthday, Emily

Amy Cirelli

For my brave, courageous mammal cat Rosal. You allowed me to save you and your furry lives. What is smart and lucky girl you are. I know your new owners are truly blessed.

Joyce M. Morgan

In memory of Ciao, beloved pet of Greg & Louise Hatch, City Kitty, LLC

I adopted lucky girl almost one year ago. She’s put up with us! Steph Towe

In memory of Cupcake, Boots and Ruby. We love you still and always.

Mark App & Robert Brea

For Oscar and the eight lucky boys who came before him. To Brea

PREVIOUS PAGE: For Oscar and the eight lucky boys who came before him. To Brea

In memory of Noodle - a feline companion. We love you.

In memory of Maria, dear sweet kitty.

In memory of City Kitty, LLC.

In memory of Tank, beloved companion of Patricia and Dominick. Anonymous.

ON HOLIDAY & REMEMBER

In loving memory of Joe, sweet kitty and mother of our feline pack.

In loving memory of Bob and his many wonderful years with our family.

In memory of Chili, our first adopted cat.

In memory of Jazy, loving feline companion.

In memory of our deceased feline companions.

In memory of Budi.

In memory of John Walcott

In memory of our dear Petly, Bob O’Connell, who came to us from MEOW about 8 years ago. A beautiful, gentle giant that loved life. Rest in peace dear one, Jane Rod

In memory of Dr. 律by, our dear sweet kitty

MEOW’s Holiday wish list

- Dyson Hand Vacuum
- Ionic Breeze GP air cleaners
- Portable DVD player
- Microscope (call shelter for specifics)
- Fellway electric diffusers and refills
- Greensies Pit Poots
- Ionic Breeze GP air cleaners
- Laundry Detergent
- Beach Towels
- Postage Stamps
- Paper Towels
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- Feliway electric diffusers and refills
- Ionic Breeze GP air cleaners
- Greensies Pit Poots
- Laundry Detergent
- Beach Towels
- Postage Stamps
- Paper Towels
- Fabric Softener Sheets

With respect and reverence for all animal life, MEOW promotes per-
manence relationships between people and pets, providing shelter and care for homeless companion animals and protecting their precious lives until each one is adopted.

MEOW’s Holiday Open House

Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale Sunday December 7, 2008 from 2 PM – 5 PM

MEOW’S HOLIDAY WISH LIST

If you enjoy shopping online, now your purchases can help bring prosperity to the cat lovers! By registering with iGive.com and shopping through their portal, www.IGive.com/ MEOW, from 2% - 20% of your purchase price is sent to MEOW by the participating business. There are over 700 busi-
nesses in iGive.com, including pet supply stores, department stores, travel sites, bookstores, 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.

If you have a veterinarian participated. Each of them probed for an answer and no one was able to identify a mystery.
The call came from a veterinary hospital. A cat brought to them for euthanasia was already under anesthesia but the doctor was struggling with the decision. He couldn’t bring himself to end his life. Here was a young unaltered Siamese mix with severe facial injuries and he had tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. Trut, the vet felt the cat’s life should be spared. Who would come to his rescue? The hospital was asking MEOW to accept this cat so they could interrupt this process – right now.

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. Unfortunately, his challenges were far from over. Uninhibited antibiotics, he was suppressed, suppressed,

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When the call came in to Metro Animal Services in Puyallup on Halloween night, the officers suspected it was a prank. A starving dog needed immediate attention. When they got to the address they were horrified. A female Shar pei had wandered into an apartment complex on October 31st, and then followed a man right inside. She was terribly skinny and bones, weighing only 26 pounds on a frame that 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. It she had worked on the farm, 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? Someone on that night she was free – and she knew 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 regained her weight back. Daddly, 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.

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What can you do to 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 sown. But a family cat is not replaceable like a winter coat or a set of tires. Each new kitten becomes its own cat, and none is repeated. I am four years old, and my mother is five. In that time we have shared our lives together with two other pets, as well as the older foster, who is a retired dog with whom I grew up. We have also been in the care of a group of friends who have succeeded to but not replaced another.” ~ Irving Townsend

**MEOW’s Mission Statement**

Although we are lucky here in the Northwest and we 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 need 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 trend 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 stressed as those in our community are forced to make very difficult choices.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FOR YOUR CATS**

Happy Holidays for Your Cats

Although the winter holidays are festive, they usually bring 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 tips. 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 possible paw prints in the hirs d’oeuvres and hairballs on the houseguests.

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

Cats areabout to be given 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.

It’s a petlife! 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 awaken refreshed, ready to tackle the next busy day.

“We treated everyone we meet with the same affection we bestow upon our favorite cat; they, too, would purr.” ~ Martin Bubbaum

**WEATHERING THE STORM**

“Annie – Love Knows No Species

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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 the next few months of Annie’s loving life with Kelly and her husband, John, as well as the other foster, who is a retired dog with whom I grew up. We have also been in the care of a group of friends who have succeeded to but not replaced another.” ~ Irving Townsend
Doorstop was adopted a short time after he came to MEOW. Unfortunately, he lost his home just weeks later, when his elderly neighbor 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 in with a grain of salt, especially if it comes with a warm lap and lots of soft words and petting.

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. Not to mention 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 the shelter. 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.

Ensuring Morris Gets His Nine Lives

Morris arrived at MEOW with two littersmates 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.

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. Animal Hospital in Isa- saquah 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 Alfie for “the Mor- ris 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 dozen states and our worst fears: Morris tested positive for a disease that affects thousands of kittens every year. Morris was declared healthy enough to be placed in a foster home.

The families that experienced Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath may carry the scars with them forever, but with time to heal and to get away from the people who loved 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.

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 too young and too scared to find other humans, these boys can be wary of people. When they ar- rived 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 determine just how much they can give back. Angelo, Cliff and Angelo really do rely on each other for comfort and security, and would like to adopt them together.

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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 collecting 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 online or by phone and she will be happy to send you one!