

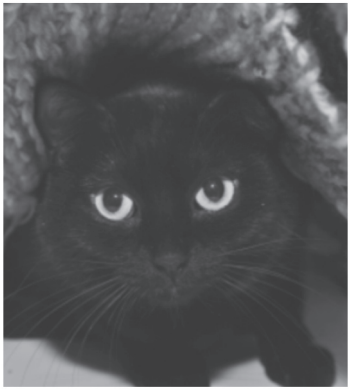


# all nine lives are precious

MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption  
Holidays 2009

## STRENGTH FOR TODAY ~ HOPE FOR TOMORROW

For a great many people, the past year has been difficult. For some in our community, it has been devastating. Rising unemployment and the ongoing home foreclosure crisis are even impacting people's ability to care for their pets. Shelters are feeling the pressure of not only the usual stray and abandoned animals, but also those displaced by owners having to move in with family, move to smaller quarters where pets are not allowed, or take in a roommate (who may be allergic) to make ends meet.



Boo playing peek-a-boo

At MEOW we have always held the door open for cats and dogs adopted from us to come back to be rehomed if need be. In 2009, MEOW has received more "returns" than ever before. Many times we have choked back our own tears while a heartbroken owner hands over their beloved pets, explaining that they can no longer afford to feed and care for them, not to mention the possibility of medical issues that may come with old age. To make matters worse, our adoptions have slowed this year. Instead of our usual, lower winter resident level, we are currently at capacity with additional adoptable cats and kittens in foster care, waiting their turn. Our shelter is full of cats in need of a second chance, many of whom are back in our care through no fault of their own. Some are outgoing and know exactly how to introduce themselves to a passerby. Some are confused by the activity around them and desperately missing the security of their home.

Boo, a demure black cat with lovely green eyes, hides under her covers. She may hiss half-heartedly when first approached but once she feels a hand on her back her apprehension evaporates into a deep purr as she rolls over to accept love. A pair of beautiful Maine Coon mix sisters, Lucy and DeeDee, entice visitors with their sweet voices. Poko, a handsome senior fellow, stretches a paw out of his cage and assumes his cutest positions in hopes someone will notice him. These cats, the sweet kittens featured in this newsletter, and all the other shelter animals deserve a chance at forever.

We hope that this holiday season finds your family healthy and secure. We also hope that, if possible, you will take a moment from your busy holiday schedule to remember the animals. Please do what you can to make their lives just a bit better. Perhaps you will donate some canned food or something else from our Wish List. Perhaps you will stop by the shelter to visit the cats, greet the volunteers, and offer your moral support. We hope you will mention MEOW Cat Rescue to your friends and colleagues who may be animal lovers like yourselves. Maybe someone you know is thinking about adopting a pet this season and would be a perfect fit with MEOW. We invite you to bring someone along to our Open House and Craft Bazaar/Bake Sale on December 6th. Maybe they'll meet their new best friend.

Today and tomorrow we pledge to continue caring for the animals with the same passion we have always had. As the economy begins to show signs of revival, we fervently hope that shelter populations will decrease and adoptions increase. If they could ask for just one gift this season, we're sure that every animal in a shelter would ask for something so simple yet so precious - a home of their very own.

## TAILS FROM THE WILD (NORTH)WEST

*Hopalong and Cassidy are a handsome pair of little buckaroos. Hopalong is dressed in his best bib and tucker and brother Cassidy wears rusty-red chaps. No, neither one packs a six-gun. But they have six legs between them. That's right, Pardner. They didn't start life with a fair shake but you won't hear these cowpokes bellyachin' about that. They had to cowboy-up when they were just little fellers.*

Their story really begins with their young mother. She was hardly more than a kitten herself when her family moved away and left her to make her own way in the world. Being a resourceful cat with a genuine trust for humans, she made friends with a kindly neighborhood gentleman who loves his own indoor cats. Although he couldn't bring another cat into his own home, he fed her each day and made sure that she had a place to sleep in his yard. While he tried to find a new home for her, she suddenly disappeared. When she returned several weeks later, she was



Cowboy Cassidy

followed by two kittens who walked with an interesting gait. When the man discovered that both kittens were amputees, he settled them into a comfortable outdoor enclosure and took care of them until he could get them to the safety of a no-kill shelter.

The kittens were welcomed at MEOW at the age of 12 weeks. Their amputations were exactly alike. Hopalong and Cassidy were both missing the lower half of their right hind leg. This could possibly be due to a birth defect or they may have both suffered the same traumatic injuries as very tiny kittens. Their shortened legs are nicely healed and we're hoping that they'll do just fine in their current state. Sometimes pressure on an amputation site, by walking or even resting on it, can cause infection and pain. In these cases, further amputation at the hip is the best choice. At this time, our vets advise us to allow Hopalong and Cassidy to keep their short legs, provided they stay healthy.

*How are the little cowpokes now? They're mighty grateful for the chow and the hospitality, but it's time to bid a fond farewell to the boss lady in their foster home and hit the dusty trail (in a car and a carrier, of course!). The boys have a hankering to stay pardners for life, so wherever they mosey off to, it will be together. They'll be kicking up their heels and painting the town red, but they promise not to jump on the kitchen counter. Hopalong and Cassidy are ready to saddle up, pack their gear and move the whole kit and caboodle. If you want to offer them a permanent bunkhouse, don't dillydally. Come on down.*

## GOOD GRIEF! IT'S GREMLINS!

We were shocked to learn that the five tiny creatures with enormous ears and oversized eyes were actually eight weeks old. They were half the size expected for kittens of that age.



A Gremlin cuddle

Their thin faces could only be described as forlorn. Every bone in their bodies protruded, every rib was visible. They had faded, colorless fur often called a "fever coat", which was a sign that they had gone through substantial nutritional or health

challenges in their short lives. Fleas were literally eating them alive. The first order of business was to fill their tummies with something warm and delicious and rid them of the parasites robbing them of their very life force. Then, as the hours passed, their lethargy slowly began to give way to tentative play. Perhaps they would become kittens after all.

This litter of gremlins had been born to a young cat, her second litter in just a few months, and she had no intention of being an involved parent. The kittens had miraculously survived without mom until their owners, just teenage girls themselves, decided they had to "get rid of them". Unfortunately, the girls did not bring the mama cat to MEOW until three weeks later. When they did, lo and behold, there was a sixth kitten as well, even tinier and more emaciated than the other five. By now, the litter was nearly three months old and two of the kittens still weighed barely one pound, approximately one third normal weight for that age.

The early starvation and malnutrition they had suffered was wreaking havoc on their tiny bodies. In their twelfth week, two of the kittens required hospitalization. Andy and Gracie both had internal infections and, to make matters worse, Andy was diagnosed with a heart murmur. Yet despite their significant challenges, they continued to eat and play and study at kitten school.



Sleepy Gremlin Iris

Now ready for their forever homes, they are gremlins no more. Their bodies are supple, their coats are silky and colorful, their eyes are big and bright. They are energetic and confident. They've grown into beautiful kittens – who still have very large ears.

## CUTE AS THE DICKENS

It was late in the day. A woman walked her dog along a busy road in Monroe lit only by the headlights of passing cars. Suddenly the dog stopped and looked into the ditch. Something down there had moved. A tiny kitten, no more than seven weeks old, was struggling to stand. In all likelihood, he had been discarded like trash, thrown into the ditch from a passing vehicle. The woman put the tiny bundle into her sweater and hurried home.



Dickens cute as can be

The next day the kitten was transferred from Brookfield Veterinary Hospital to MEOW. This poor little guy hadn't had a lot of breaks in his short life...until now. He has multiple congenital birth defects. His cleft lip and palate probably made nursing difficult, contributing to his small stature. The bones in his left front leg are bent and twisted, causing him to walk on the top of his overturned paw. His right front leg did not form completely and is much shorter than the other leg, although it does have a small pad.

Can this kitten be saved and go on to live a quite normal life? Absolutely! Dickens is currently sporting a splint to straighten the ligaments and support the straighter growth of the bones in his left leg. Already, with some physical therapy and the influence of a couple of kitten friends his own age, Dickens is learning to walk correctly on that foot. He can run and jump and even climb! He loves to be held and snuggled. He adores the older cats in his foster home and takes every opportunity available to curl up next to one of them. His favorite toy is the track ball. When he plays with the little mice or balls, he sits up like a chipmunk, keeping the toy close to his tummy as he bats it. He is just as cute as can be! He is eating very well and has learned to clean the cleft area of his face. He has certainly proven that he has not only the will to survive, but the will to really live his life.

Dickens wants to be adopted into a home where he will be treated like one of the other cats – and yes, he'd like to have other cats in the family. Mostly he wants to live with someone who can look past his physical differences and see the perfect heart inside.

## MEOW HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE CRAFT BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE DEC 6TH FROM 2 PM - 5 PM AT THE MEOW SHELTER



Please join us at MEOW in Houghton Village, 10600 NE 68th, Kirkland on Sunday, December 6 from 2-5pm for our annual Open House, Holiday Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale to benefit MEOW. You can do your holiday shopping, meet some great new friends, and help two great causes, all at the same time! There will be a wide variety of handcrafted items perfect for gift giving for

your favorite two legged and four legged friends, delicious baked goods, and MEOW Masterpieces for sale. We will also have a raffle, refreshments, visit with Santa, and a pet food drive to benefit Hopelink-Kirkland please share the gifts of the season by bringing a donation of dry or canned pet food for those in need. Visit our website for updates and additional information, [www.meowcatrescue.org](http://www.meowcatrescue.org). If you are interested in donating your own handcrafted items or baked goods, please contact Joni Cervenka at [jlcmeow@gmail.com](mailto:jlcmeow@gmail.com).



## KIRKLAND BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT MEOW THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

In the spirit of giving to the community, several of the downtown businesses, led by Simplicity Décor, have created "Days of Giving" for the holiday season this year. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays during December, 10% of purchases at participating businesses will be donated to a selection of local non-profits. MEOW is so excited to be the featured non-profit on Tuesday December 15 and Wednesday December 16. So, mark your calendar and plan a day of shopping in downtown Kirkland. Currently the participating businesses are: Simplicity Décor, Herban Wellness, Belle Tesori, Bella Bambini, Lai Thai Restaurant, Simplicity Salon, Ragamoffin, Lakeshore Gallery, uBRDO, Soul Ease, Park Lane Gallery, Acupuncture & Chiropractic Integrative Clinic, Romax Shoe, Linda Lu's Consignment Boutique, Mu Shoe, and Howard Mandville Gallery. There will certainly be more. Visit our website before you head out, to get the full list.

## TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In honor of all my cats that have gone on before  
and especially to the Mighty Max.  
*Diane Estrada*

In honor of Lily, our 19 year old cat,  
who is a wonderful companion.  
*Marylee Tyler*

In memory of PK, 1995-2009, lovingly owned and cared for by  
Gerald and Maurine Butterworth  
*City Kitty, LLC*

In honor of Bev Hankuah and Pate.  
*Jeffrey Saul*

In memory of Ollie.  
*Mildred Mitchell*

For Henry and Bella, abandoned by their owner  
and adopted by me three years ago.  
*Nancy Wilson*

In memory of Moki, a great little poodle.  
*Judy Anderson*

In memory of Zoe, 1995 - 2009. 'As long as there is a place in your heart  
which is the shape of me, I will always be with you.'  
Loved and missed by Tim and Melissa Reed  
*City Kitty, LLC*

For Amy and her wonderful cats, Elsie and Trigger.  
*Daniel Carey*

To honor 'The Big Dodge' (Savannah)  
for bringing so much joy and happiness to our lives.  
*Gerry and Mary Marsh*

In memory of my husband Mark, my very own government issue  
Capt. Marvel, my loyal companion and the cook.  
*Vicki Russell*

In honor of Deborah Vogel.  
*Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vogel*

In memory of Gracie. We'll all miss you.  
*Judy Anderson*

In honor of M.E. Ingram.  
*Esther Ingram*

In memory of Frodo, March 1995 - October 2009.  
Loved and cared for by Marilyn Sanden and Bilbo.  
*City Kitty, LLC*

In honor of our wonderful beloved cat, Marcus.  
*Kirk & Sherilyn McGough*

In honor of Isabelle's birthday.  
*John & Lisa McConnell*

Praise to ALL who give SO much time, love,  
care and safety for these animal loves.  
*Carla Conrad*

In memory of Sven.  
*Judy Anderson*

In loving memory of our sweet Lulu. You will always be in our hearts  
*Judy Anderson*

Meowy Christmas.  
*Buddy & Zoe DeCoster*

## MEOW'S 2011 CALENDAR CONTEST HERE WE GO AGAIN!

We've had so much fun with our previous Calendar Contests that we're going to do it again! If you think your adopted cat would be a great pin-up, submit a digital



Say cheese!

photo, approximately 8" x 10.5", wide (landscape) with a resolution no less than 300 dpi. Here are some hints to get the best picture. Photograph your cat in great light. Turn off your flash! Turn on the lights in the room. Stage your shots near a window

and shoot in as much natural light or sunlight as possible. It's all about the lighting. Shoot lots of pictures to get one great one. Keep your camera at the cat's eye level. Get down on your hands and knees if you have to. Save images as JPG or TIF files. Submit your entry by e-mail to [meowcalendar@comcast.net](mailto:meowcalendar@comcast.net) or bring a CD to the shelter, attention Denise Schoo. Deadline for photo submissions is March 15, 2010. Along with the picture, please include your contact information, your cat's name, age and year adopted, and a paragraph or two about your furry friend. Contestants will be chosen based upon quality and appeal of the photo and story. Then, and here's the important piece, beginning in early April, log onto our website, [www.meowcatrescue.org](http://www.meowcatrescue.org) and vote for your favorite photos. Every \$1.00 donated results in one vote cast. There is no limit to the donation amount (and thus votes for your cat). You may vote on-line via PayPal.com. There will also be a voting booth at the shelter. The proceeds will help MEOW to provide care to future shelter residents. Voting polls will close on May 15, 2010. Winning 2011 Calendar Kitties (those with the most votes) and their families will be notified by May 30th. Vote early and vote often. Enter your cat and tell your friends and family to vote. You know yours is going to be the best calendar cat ever!

## ANIMEALS FOOD DRIVE FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

Throughout this holiday season MEOW will once again be hosting a pet food drive to help families in need. Please stop by the shelter with your donation of dry or canned pet food. Last year we collected over 1,000 pounds of food for local pets. Sometimes all that is needed to keep a pet in his or her home is a little food and a little help. Donations will distributed by Hopelink in Kirkland.

## MEET ME ON FACEBOOK

For shelter news, promotions, updates and events,  
please check out our Facebook page!



## FLOWER GETS A ROSY RECEPTION AT MEOW

Picture a lovely five year old Siamese mix with pale blue eyes. Now, imagine Flower on the day she arrived at MEOW. For the past four years or so, she had been hosting a 24/7 all-you-can-eat buffet for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of fleas. Her coat was so sparse that it was easy to see the predators running around on her. Her skin



A blossoming Flower

was broken and bleeding. In fact, there was not a single square inch of normal skin on which to apply a topical flea medication. We had to begin by giving her an oral medication and a soothing oatmeal bath. We were amazed at how patient she was with us while we worked to make her more comfortable.

We offered an entire can of food and watched while she very politely but purposefully cleaned the dish. A second can disappeared equally as fast. About an hour later she consumed a third can and she nibbled at some dry kibble as well. Flower purred softly as she leaned into the hands that reached out to pet her thin frame. She was so underweight.

Flower should never have been allowed to live outdoors. She is FIV positive. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus affects the immune system and can make a cat more susceptible to the hazards of outdoor living. If Flower's challenges weren't already great enough, she was diagnosed with a mild heart murmur and nystagmus, a neurological condition which causes her eyes to "wobble" slightly from side to side. Upon her arrival at MEOW, Flower has been promised an indoor life, where her FIV status will not be an issue. FIV+ cats can live long and healthy lives and this is just what Flower intends to do.

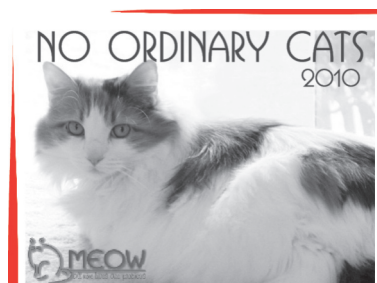
Now Flower's coat has filled in with soft new fur, free of the flea infestation she endured for years. Her skin is becoming healthy again. She has gained almost three pounds. She is loving everything about her new life – a comfortable indoor foster home and regular nutritious meals, topped off with a generous serving of snuggling several times a day. She is very easy to please. She doesn't demand anything but expresses her thanks for everything. She does have just one wish this holiday season and that is a home of her own.

Flower is blossoming into the lovely cat she was always meant to be. Once in her forever home, she is sure to bloom right where she's planted.

## MEOW 2010 CALENDAR

The 2010 MEOW "No Ordinary Cats" calendars have arrived, featuring some very remarkable cats from MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption. Each has had challenges to endure and overcome. All of them are worthy of our commitment

and care. This beautiful 2010 calendar is available now for \$10 (\$12 if you would like it shipped). Stop by or call the shelter (425) 822-6369 to purchase your calendar.



## YOU CAN HELP MEOW WIN THE \$100,000 SHELTER+ CHALLENGE

Together with Petfinder, the Animal Rescue Site is awarding \$100,000 in grants to eligible rescue organizations to help animals. The grand prize is a \$20,000 grant, and there are many other prizes! Visit [www.theanimalrescuesite.com](http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com) to vote every day for MEOW. It's easy. You don't have to register, and voting is free. Rock the vote!! Thank you!



## OUR WISH LIST FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND EVERYDAY



MEOW appreciates your gifts of high-quality cat foods, both canned and dry, Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup> Baby meats, KMR formula for orphaned kittens, paper towels, laundry detergent and bleach, kitchen garbage bags, hand sanitizer and postage stamps. We also currently need a new 17" computer monitor and a high power microscope. Please see a more complete list on our web site, [www.meowcatrescue.org](http://www.meowcatrescue.org). Thank you from the bottom of our paws!



## MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

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

[Meowcatrescue@hotmail.com](mailto:Meowcatrescue@hotmail.com)  
[www.meowcatrescue.org](http://www.meowcatrescue.org)

Hours:  
Tues., Wed. 12PM - 5PM  
Thurs. 3PM - 7PM  
Fri. 12PM - 7PM  
Sat. 11AM - 5PM  
Sun. 12PM - 5PM  
Closed Mondays and  
Major Holidays

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 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 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 HOLIDAY SEASON AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



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