Hope in Our Hearts

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.
~ Theodore Roosevelt

The holiday season is upon us—but for some, celebration won’t come easy. With the economic downturn having dire effects, many struggling families across the Northwest and our entire nation are forced to face one of the most devastating decisions of their lives—the relinquishment of their beloved pets.

As millions continue to file for unemployment, many families find they can no longer afford the costs of pet care, while others will be evicted from their homes and unable to secure pet-friendly housing. The harsh reality is, with shelter intake rates on the rise, countless numbers of companion animals face euthanasia in overcrowded shelters—but we are here to help as many as we possibly can.

During the Great Depression of the early 1900’s, migratory workers and homeless men rode the rails from town to town in search of a better life. To cope with the difficulty of hobo life, they developed a system of symbols, or a code. Hobos would write this code with chalk or coal to provide directions, information, and warnings to other hobos. It should be no surprise to learn that they drew a cat to communicate “a kindhearted person lives here”. Kindness to animals and our fellow man go hand in hand.

With your help, MEOW is able to continue to bring hope into the lives of so many animals who have lost their beloved families and reassurance to the broken hearts who will grieve their loss. Thank you for your support, enabling us to do what we do. Thank you for being a kindhearted person, for lending a helping hand to those who need us most—the families and pets with nowhere else to turn.

This holiday season we hope you’ll take some time to be still, to reflect, to be thankful for the blessings you have and to be generous with those who have less. We hope your kindness will be returned to you and multiplied.

Meow Cat Rescue & Adoption
Holidays 2010

Now Available ~ MEOW’s 2011 Calendar
Celebrating the Unique Language of Cats

Cats have very subtle ways of speaking with one another and use various means to communicate, including vocalization and body language. Any cat caretaker can tell you that their cat makes many different sounds. When speaking with us, cats will often meow and display different body postures. Each meow may differ in meaning by the tone, volume, pitch, rhythm, and pronunciation.

Not all cat communication is understood, even by those who have loved and observed many cats. Humans cannot detect pheromones or read the very subtle movements of their feline companions. Sometimes we observe our cat staring out the window at the stray cat outside. Are they having silent conversations with one another? What factors determine social hierarchies? Many questions are yet to be answered, but at least humans are capable of understanding some basic words in the complex feline language.

Let’s suspend disbelief for a time and let the cats speak to us about their thoughts, their lives. Each one has a unique story. Each one has a unique voice. Can you hear the buttery baritone of Butterscotch and the soft sugary sounds of Shania as they share their stories? Look deep into those eyes, open your heart and listen….

MEOW Calendars are available for $10 at the shelter. We can accept phone orders using VISA or MC or you may mail a check. Calendars may also be purchased on our web site using PayPal. For mail orders please add $2 for shipping.
**BEN – HOPE UNDERSTANDS**

*Love me when I least deserve it, because that’s when I really need it.*

~Swedish Proverb

When he was returned to us earlier this year, ten years after his adoption, Ben was not very loveable. He was truly an unhappy cat. According to his former family, he had developed a split personality. Sometimes he was relaxed, friendly, and playful. Then he would turn on a dime and be dominant, even hissing and biting, striking out at the people he loved. He was on Prozac but it didn’t seem to be doing much good. Ben’s litter and scratching habits had remained perfect throughout his ups and downs, but everything else about him seemed to be on a roller coaster.

As a matter of intake procedure at MEOW, we run a geriatric blood panel and urinalysis on every cat over 8 years old. Ben’s results were shocking. In addition to having crystals in his urine, his thyroid levels were off the charts. We quickly changed his diet to help manage his pH level to fight the crystal formation. We started him on an oral medication to reduce his thyroid output until we could arrange for him to be treated with radioactive iodine at the Feline Hypothyroid Clinic in Seattle. Weeks after his treatment, his T4 level remained much too high. The radioactive iodine had to be repeated. As he recovered in foster care, Ben’s transformation began. Even the look in his intense round eyes began to soften.

Ben, at 12 years old, likes to play with fluffy mice. He gets really excited about his NekoFlies MiniWand with the kittenator attachment. He likes to lie next to a person and may stretch over onto their lap. He loves to nuzzle under the hair of his foster mom. His diet has changed again to accommodate his developing renal insufficiency, but that’s minor in comparison to his past struggles. He feels better now.

The condition of an animal’s health can dramatically affect his behavior. This was certainly so in Ben’s case. It is difficult for us to imagine how Ben must have been feeling during those months, possibly even years when his thyroid was raging out of control. If only animals could speak. We’re thankful that we’ve had the opportunity to love him through his transformation and hopeful that someone else will understand and give him the second chance he deserves.

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**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

In our last issue we introduced you to several cats and kittens awaiting adoption. We’re so excited to be able to share some of their happy endings.

Thirteen year old cats Romeo and Matilda had been returned to the shelter when their family had to move to the East Coast to live with relatives. Needless to say, the transition has not been an easy one for the cats. Their story tugged at all of our hearts, but MEOW volunteers Barbara and Rhoda stepped in and changed their lives. Romeo and Matilda now live happily with four other cats, who have all agreed to allow Matilda to believe that she is in charge.

Venus and Vizzy, a pair of young sisters, mothered their kittens together. They had been through a lot and they clearly loved, comforted and supported each other. We made the decision to wait for a home where they could stay together forever. Today Venus and Vizzy are mending the hearts of a couple who had lost their precious pets to old age.

Navin had been with us, on and off, since last Spring. He had been adopted twice and returned. The first time he had been “too active”. He had been caught swinging from a chandelier. Literally. The second time, he had snapped at a young child. Navin is not an aggressive cat but sometimes he has been misunderstood. You see, Navin is deaf. He doesn’t always pick up on subtle clues from those around him. This has gotten him into trouble. More than anything, Navin needed someone who could really understand him. At last, his dream, and ours for him, has come true. Navin’s new mom understands the challenges he faces. She is also hearing impaired.

We wish all of them every happiness in their new lives.

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.

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

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible.

~ Anonymous

He had come down with an upper respiratory infection, a head cold. In an effort to treat his fever, Flanigan’s owner had given him a dropper full of liquid Children’s Tylenol. Instead of improving, Flanigan began to shiver and his breathing became labored. Because they could not afford the expensive round-the-clock care he would require, his owners chose to relinquish him to the emergency veterinary hospital. Flanigan’s owners had been unaware that Tylenol (acetaminophen) is extremely toxic to cats when they had given him what potentially could have been a lethal dose.

When MEOW was asked to take responsibility for him, we met a sweet five month old kitten who was just hanging on to life. He was being given intravenous fluids, antibiotics, and immune support. Most importantly, over the next several days he would have to be treated every few hours with a powerful poison antidote to help spare his internal organs.

Long days and longer nights passed. As we hovered over him, we were hopeful when he lifted his head and looked at us. We were joyful when he gave us a soft “meow” that seemed to say “thanks, I needed that”. We watched for improvement and we celebrated each little positive change. In time, his congestion got better, his appetite came back, his kitten energy returned.

Today, Flanigan’s bloodwork shows no sign of organ damage whatsoever. It defies logic. Sometimes, on rare and beautiful occasions, we are privileged to witness what appears to be a miracle. Our hopes for Flanigan’s recovery have been answered. Now we’re hoping he’ll have a long and happy life in his new home.

JEWEL ~ HOPE SHINES

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope.

~ Barbara Kingsolver

Jewel was relinquished nearly a year ago. Since the new baby came, she had been anxious, snapping at her brother and avoiding houseguests whom she used to love. She just wasn’t herself anymore. Her family sadly said goodbye and hoped that she’d be adopted right away.

Jewel is a beautiful 4-year old with a short sleek black coat and extra toes on all four feet. Her big paws often reach out from her cage to touch passersby. Her bright emerald eyes watch everything. A chatty girl, she’ll carry on whole conversations with anyone who will spare the time. After she explores the desks in the office area she’ll give a full report on her findings. Then she’ll settle down in a chair and just observe, perhaps giving a suggestion now and then on how we might work more efficiently.

One of Jewel’s favorite activities is what we call Shoulder Surfing. When she’s comfortable with a person she loves to wrap herself around their shoulders and snuggle. We expect that she may take her time getting adjusted to a new home and becoming acquainted with a new family. She may temporarily need a safe place to hide and watch, but rest assured, she’ll soon be back at her job, doing her investigative reporting again. She’d prefer to be the only cat in the family, at least at first, and please, no tiny humans. They’re rather frightening.

Hardly a day goes by that a volunteer at MEOW doesn’t look at Jewel in her cage and say something like “Jewel, why are you still here? I hope today will be your adoption day.” She’s such a nice little cat. We look forward to the day we can congratulate someone on their excellent taste in fine cats and bid our Jewel a fond farewell. We hope that happens soon.

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XABU ~ HOPE ENCOURAGES

When the world says, “Give up,” hope whispers, “Try it one more time.”

~ Anonymous

In September a tiny Siamese mix kitten was brought to MEOW by our longtime friends Bill Polk and Joanna Olson. Only three weeks old, she looked more like a fluffy cat toy than a real kitten. Her bright eyes were like little buttons. The kitten was the only survivor of a litter born to a feral cat near their home. Bill and Jo-anna have been trapping and altering the feral cats in their neighborhood and the mama cat was on their radar. As we completed the intake process, a combo test revealed a faint positive for feline leukemia, meaning that the kitten had been exposed to the FeLV virus. Other shelters, rescue groups and even many veterinarians would euthanize such a kitten, believing it to be doomed to illness and early death. At MEOW, we prefer to take a positive approach to a positive leukemia test. Statistics show that approximately 40% of cats with FeLV exposure actually extinguish the disease, or seroconvert. When a cat or kitten tests positive on arrival at MEOW, our protocol is to segregate it, support the immune system and retest in 6 - 8 weeks.

Xabu went to a foster home to be bottle fed and nurtured. Her foster mom played with her and gave her as much attention as possible; unable to allow contact with other cats in the home. Xabu was patient, happy, never whiney or demanding. She learned to eat from a plate and to use the litter box. She was delightful. Still, it is in the nature of cats, and especially kittens, to enjoy the company of other cats and there was a certain sorrow in seeing her alone.

Patience is a quality that Xabu could teach the rest of us. But, we couldn’t wait. After just three weeks we retested her, holding our breath while waiting for her the results. Much to our delight, she was completely negative! That very day she joined a litter of kittens in another foster home. All of them will soon be ready for adoption.
In remembrance of Emily and Skipper.
We thank MEOW for our Annie and Bailey. They are all angels to us!
   Susan Hart

In memory of Priscilla Hill.
   June Ann Carson Mills
With fond remembrance and loving kindness,
   Putty Tat, Garfield, Momm and Dad.
   Laura Benditt
In honor of Madison. We adopted her in 2006.
   She is well and will be 13 soon.
   Susan Payne
To honor our two year old MEOW cat, Nelle.
   Joan Hutto
In remembrance of Angel Kitty,
   Our sweet beloved girl, you are with us forever.
   Carol Thiel
In memory of 'Cool Charlie', 1994-2010.
   He will be dearly missed by Muriel A. Scott, loving owner
   and all of us at City Kitty.
   City Kitty, LLC
In honor of Carol Verga's birthday!
   Kathleen Hogan
Zarah ~ much loved, for too short of time.
   Inalou Cates
To remember Patricia Veryan, a local author,
   who loved cats and included them in her books.
   Phyllis Van Winkle & Lorna McCormick
In honor of the life of Earl Kawamura.
   Collette Chan
In memory of Russell, a black,
   kitty who would purr when I sang to him.
   Shirley Seemer
In honor of Dr. Mike Pfeiffer and Dr. Jessica Vammen
   of Inglemoor Animal Hospital.
   Luellen Lockwood
In honor of Max and Morris’ one year anniversary.
   Kathryn Armberg
In memory of Sterling, a very fine cat.
   Ellen Blackstone
In memory of Puddy Tat.
   Valerie Alexander
In honor of Sandy Winkler.
   Wendy & Tom Milner
In loving memory of
   Sammantha & Sheila
   The Gann Family
In memory of Tiffany.
   Jan Fohrell

In loving memory of Big George.
   You are so very dearly missed.
   J & M

In memory of Squeek, Pumpkin, Lady and Domino.
   Lee Klastorin
For Dee and Peter. We honor you for your tireless care of all the elder cats that you adopt and lovingly care for each and every day.
   Staff & volunteers of MEOW
Remembering Earl Kawamura who had a huge, giving heart that he shared with so many. Thank you Earl.
   Darlen Moses
In loving memory of Angus, the neighborhood cat cared for by
   Ann and Steve.
   Sheila & James Woodcock
In memory of our Matilda, our first love.
   Donna Stachowicz
In memory of Shirley Rapp, who adopted two cats from MEOW.
   I now have them in addition to the two I recently adopted from MEOW.
   Debra Dought
To honor our feline joys Ally and Zane ~ cats from A to Z!
   Kathi Jones
In remembrance of Shredni, Julie's beloved feline companion.
   Jeff & Jeff
In loving memory of Oscar. When he purred, it was like a room full of sunshine. Prrr...
   Anonymous
In memory of Raven, who for 16 years was loved by
   Stephen and Joan Cauha. He will be missed.
   City Kitty, LLC
In memory of Olivia ~ we love you!
   Hannah Anderson
Thank you Sophie for all your love and affection.
   We miss your beautiful spirit.
   Leona Ansley
In memory of Benjamin, beloved cat (and MEOW rescuee)
   of Edmund and Sophie.
   Stephen Wilson
In memory of Jeter, lovingly owned by
   Dan and Jenny Goldfarb.
   City Kitty, LLC
In loving memory of Timmy.
   Judy Anderson
In memory of our lost friends.
   Meadows Cat Hospital
Do you believe in miracles? In happy endings? In new beginnings? In joyous reunions? In love at first sight?

On behalf of the many 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 . . .

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

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

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

B 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.

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

B 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.

B 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 fills 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!

 дополнительно, обращаясь к подписчикам, излагается благодарность за софинансирование и вклад в работу MEOW, а также спасибо всем, кто помогал в содержании и уходе за животными в шаторных условиях, в том числе волонтерам, сделавшим многое на благо бездомных питомцев. Благодарность также выражена всем, кто взял на себя заботу о бездомных животных, кто спас их от забвения и ненадобности, и те, кто помогал в финансировании работ MEOW. В заключение, выражается надежда на новое счастливое и процветающее будущее, которое принесет радость и счастье обитателям не только наших домов, но и всем бездомным животным, которым мы помогаем.