



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF RESCUE
AND OVER 20,000 PRECIOUS LIVES SAVED

Holidays 2015

THE SEASON OF KINDNESS

A split second before he threw a load of debris into the construction site dumpster, he thought he heard something. Could it be a kitten? Where? When he peered down into the darkness his head whirled and his heart sank. How could this be?



Dumpster kitten

It had rained hard the day before and the dumpster had about three inches of water in the bottom. There, in one corner, five kittens huddled together, their heads just above the water. When they saw him they all began to mew. The kind man wasted no time climbing into the dumpster

and one by one he lifted them to safety, put them into a box, dried and warmed them and gave them food. That night he took them home, where he and his wife searched for a safe solution.

He could hardly believe that someone would have deliberately put a litter of six week old kittens into a construction dumpster. Might they have gotten there in another way? Not likely. When he delivered the little ones to the shelter, the kittens were very thin and quite fearful. It was clear they had lived with a shortage of food, a shortage of human touch, and a shortage of kindness.

On the day they were saved from the icy water in the dumpster, everything changed. These kittens will now enjoy full tummies every day. They will sleep in warm beds every night. They will be snuggled in loving arms and stroked by gentle hands. They will come to understand the meaning of kindness.



THE SEASON OF MIRACLES

This was the note...and this is the kitten.



A woman was walking down the street with her dog when they encountered a box, no different from any other box. When the dog sniffed it with interest the woman's intuition told her to check it out. She lifted the flap and found a note pleading for someone to help this kitten who was being mistreated. A tiny and perfect kitten, left at the mercy of whomever found the box. She scooped up the kitten and box and headed home. A quick trip to the vet confirmed that this kitten was actually in very good health, although covered in fleas and a little on the thin side.

The baby is now in a foster home with other kittens of similar age and doing very well. We are so happy to have her. We have more questions than answers, but are forever thankful for the bravery of the person who knew the kitten deserved better and the kindness of the woman who saved the kitten.

It was nothing short of a miracle that the box was found by the curious dog, whose wise person followed the dog's pleading, and that the kitten was not only alive, but unharmed. She's a tiny miracle.



PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Commemorate this holiday season and benefit MEOW with a picture of your pet (and you?) with Santa. For a \$10 donation you will receive a printed photo on site and a digital image via email. For the safety of everyone, please make sure your pet is restrained (either on a leash or in a carrier). We will be accepting pet food donations for the shelter and our Animals Food Drive which benefits the pets of families in need via Hopelink.

Date	Time	Location
11/27	10 - 2	Belltown Mud Bay
11/28	10 - 2	U Village Mud Bay
11/29	10 - 2	Ballard Mud Bay
12/4	4 - 8	Broadway@Pike Mud Bay
12/6	12 - 4	Mercer Island Mud Bay
12/11	4 - 8	Overlake Mud Bay
12/12	10 - 2	Issaquah Mud Bay
12/13	12 - 4	Sammamish Mud Bay
12/18	4 - 8	Uptown Mud Bay
12/19	10 - 2	Redmond Mud Bay
12/20	10 - 2	Greenwood Mud Bay



11TH ANNUAL FINE WINES & FELINES AUCTION FUNDRAISER SAVE THE DATE ~ SATURDAY JUNE 18TH, 2016



Thank you to everyone who responded to our post event survey this year. You provided some great feedback for us. Our 2016 event will be held in late June and once again we will be at the HUB Ballroom. The majority of respondents supported this timing and location. We're already planning what we hope will be a fun, successful and very enjoyable event.

THE SEASON OF UNDERSTANDING

Starting over isn't easy. Ruby and Tanzie had planned to be with their human dad forever. Unfortunately, life had other plans. When he was no longer able to care for them, his good friends understood the girls' importance and ensured that these 10 and 11 year old cats would be safe, no matter how long it might take for each of them to be discovered and adopted.



Tabby Tanzie

There is so much still to do. There is so much time to share and so much love yet to give. Confident and adaptable, these two girls have enjoyed their life together thus far, but each one would be ever so happy to have a person all to herself, or even to share a home with a new feline friend. They seem to understand that their second chance may not be spent with each other.

If you've been afforded a second chance in life you just might relate to Ruby and Tanzie. It's not over. Not by a long shot. It's a new beginning. They're ready. You understand.



With respect and compassion for all animal life, MEOW promotes lifelong relationships between people and companion animals, providing shelter and care for each precious life until adopted into a forever home.

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

Info@meowcatrescue.org
Newsletter@meowcatrescue.org
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

THE SEASON OF GRACE



Grateful Grace

It shouldn't have happened. The young cat shouldn't have been on the busy street, the driver shouldn't have been going too fast to stop, the Good Samaritan shouldn't have had to witness the accident. But there she was, a fluffy brown tabby whose life changed forever that day. Her serious head injuries were obvious and she

was slowly slipping away.

The doctors of Seattle Veterinary Specialists' emergency department acted quickly to assess her injuries. Surprisingly, her vital signs were fairly good. However, it was immediately evident that her left eye could not be saved. Her right eye was also blind, but only time would tell whether it too would have to be removed. In addition, her jaw was badly broken. The doctors worked to stabilize her while the staff contacted the microchip company to find her owner.

The woman who owned this cat isn't a bad person. She explained through her tears that her cats really loved going outside, they usually didn't wander far and she wanted them to be happy. She was surprised that her cat was more than a block from home. She was even more surprised at the cost of saving the precious life of the cat she had promised to protect. There would be surgery to remove her left eye. Her jaw would have to be wired shut. She would be on a complicated schedule of several medications due at different intervals, 24 hours a day. The woman's head was spinning. To her credit, the woman searched her soul and realized she was not up to the task of bringing her cat back to health. Instead, she would relinquish her cat to MEOW, and thanks to our Mercy Fund, the cat will get all the care she needs.

No doubt, Grace is lucky to be alive, in spite of her blindness and the long recovery ahead. She is living proof that cats should be indoor only and a reminder that it is our duty to protect them. Now in the care of a well qualified foster home, Grace is being medicated, cuddled and reassured. She is learning about her new world and her new way of navigating in it. This precious one is going to be fine. We've promised.

"Courage is grace under pressure."
Ernest Hemingway

THE SEASON OF SURPRISES



The odds were
in my favor

In our nearly 19 years we have cared for more than 20,000 cats and kittens, each one unique. We were recently amazed to meet Pumpkin Spice, a beautiful longhair tortoiseshell kitten who takes unique to the next level. Pumpkin Spice happens to be a male.

Cat coat coloring is all about genetics. There are two types of chromosomes - the X and the Y. Most female cats have two X chromosomes in their DNA, and most males are XY. The genes needed to create a tortoiseshell coat are on the X chromosome. Not a problem because males also have an X chromosome. However, female cats have two X chromosomes, and for a tortoiseshell kitten to be born, there must be special genetic markers on both X chromosomes. Very rarely, Mother Nature creates a male tortoiseshell cat, one with XXY chromosomes. In such cats, the two Xs offer the possibility for a tortoiseshell coat, while the Y means the cat will be male. Cats with XXY chromosomes are usually sterile.

This is a very simplified explanation of the mystery of tortie coat colors. What's so amazing about this? The chance of a male kitten being born with a tortie or calico coat is extremely rare. Just how rare is difficult to ascertain. Statistics say approximately 1 in 3000 torties will be male and 1 in 400,000 cats will be male torties. At MEOW, every cat is special, but we think Pumpkin Spice is one in a million. Surprise!

STOCKING STUFFER IDEAS GIVE THE GIFT OF MEOW



Our MEOW logo says it all, "all nine lives are precious". This holiday season, give the gift of MEOW with a purchase of any of our great MEOW merchandise. New this year we have our commemorative playing card deck filled with great pictures of our supporters' cats and dogs, a tasteful car magnet, and an understated window cling. We also have t-shirts, hoodies, ¾ zip sweatshirts (each in a variety of colors and sizes), license plate frames, travel cups, messenger bags and more. Many of these items will be available for sale at our Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 5th at the Unitarian Church on 4th & State. Or, stop by the shelter anytime and pick up the perfect items to stuff those stockings and help advertise MEOW.

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In loving memory of Karen Sharp.
*Bernice Hogan, Sandy Eyres, Ella Clarke,
Jude Jackson and Pat Hogan*

In honor of Merlin, constant companion of
Pat Butler for 21 years.
Vicki Russell

In loving memory of Janada.
We lost her much too soon.
*Kathlene Lentz and
Janada's Cat Channel family*

In honor of our beloved cat, Sadie.
Jim & Cheryl King

In memory of Theo.
EVA

In memory of Emily, our beloved cat.
We were so blessed to have her as part
of our lives. Thank you, MEOW, for entrusting us with
this precious soul 18 years ago.
We miss her greatly every day.
Jim & Patty Groves

In gratitude and appreciation for my hero,
Dr. Christine Wilford.
Patti Waller

In honor of Constance Mruk.
Leslie Weikert

In honor of Oscar de la Renta (aka "Oscar"),
our tuxedo kitty adopted in October 2014.
Diane Langstraat



In honor of my beloved R.E.
Carol Davidson

In memory of sweet Louie Blue Eyes
and the amazing Pickles.
Patricia Rigali

In honor of my Oma who loved cats
and spoiled hers.
Claire Vossler

In memory of Chewy.
City Kitty

In honor of Copperfield
and in memory of Puck, both MEOW cats.
Randel Hoskins

In loving memory of my husband, Mark.
Vicki Russell

In remembrance of River, who,
like a river, sometimes flowed smoothly
and sometimes displayed turbulent rapids.
Anonymous

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 . . .

- 🐾 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 load after load of laundry, answering phones and returning messages, interviewing applicants and completing 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 & ANIMAL TOGETHER,
MEOW WISHES YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS YEAR!

THE SEASON OF COMPASSION



Just "Noodling" around!

In September 2008, at the end of a summer of sagging adoptions, a wobbly black kitten with a condition called Cerebellar Hypoplasia, or CH, was featured on KOMO TV news. The next morning the reporter called MEOW to say that the world seemed

to have forgotten about the election, the economic crisis, the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast, everything but Noodle. KOMO's switchboard had been flooded with calls about her. CNN and AP picked up her story. Calls and emails came in from all corners of the US and indeed, the world. Noodle was adopted and later her family adopted a second CH kitten, a tabby boy called Teeter.

Have you ever considered adopting a CH cat? Cats with this disorder clearly have balance issues: they walk with legs widely spaced and feet placed clumsily. They may lean against walls for support. Sitting still, they may appear fairly normal but once focused on a toy, food bowl or friendly hand, "intention tremors" begin, getting more pronounced as concentration becomes more intense. Still, despite the obvious impairment, cats with this condition are happy, able to feed themselves and use a litter box, and are felt to have good life quality.

Noodle's story opened hearts and homes for many special needs and harder to place cats. Senior cats, Feline Leukemia positive kittens, a deaf cat: these and so many more found homes. Now, seven years later, life changes in their family have brought Noodle and Teeter back to the shelter. Today these two middle aged special needs cats are asking for the same kind of compassion created by a wobbly kitten several years ago. Noodle's story paid it forward for those who needed a boost. Now, from their shared suite at the shelter, Noodle and Teeter watch and wait for the reward they so richly deserve and for their next chapter to begin.

"Compassion is the keen awareness of the interdependence of all things."
Thomas Merton

YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING CAN HELP MEOW RETAIL & ETAIL PARTNERSHIPS

This holiday season (and all year long) your purchases can help bring prosperity to the pussycats! Linking your Fred Meyer rewards card to MEOW Cat Rescue, Organization 80427, will benefit MEOW every time you shop there. If you're shopping on-line, www.smileamazon.com, www.igive.com, www.fashionproject.com, and www.picssavingpets.com will all make donations to MEOW based on your purchases. It costs you absolutely nothing to register or use these sites. Thank you for allowing MEOW to share in your holiday giving.

PUSSYCAT PANTRY HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

Today the cats' fondest wish is for canned food, a staple at MEOW. Every day we open dozens of cans. Some of our cats are fed canned food exclusively. It's vital for introducing kittens to the plate, it's a symbol of kindness to our frightened newcomers, it's helpful for cats with finicky appetites or fussy stomachs, it's necessary for those recovering from dental procedures, and it's the best diet for overweight and diabetic cats. If you can donate a case of food, or even a can or two, any brand, any flavor, the cats at the shelter would be ever so grateful. Other items on our Wish List would be much appreciated as well. Thank you.

Canned Kitten and Cat Foods
Royal Canin Mother and Baby Cat Kibble
Royal Canin Special 33
Unscented Clumping Clay Litter
Liquid Laundry Detergent HE
Kitchen Garbage Bags
Bleach
Postage Stamps
Paper Towels
Hand Sanitizer
Copy Paper
Costco Gift Cards
Target Gift Cards



Wishing everyone, humans and animals alike, a season of kindness, miracles, understanding, grace, compassion and wonderful surprises.

Happy holidays from MEOW Cat Rescue.

GIVING TUESDAY ~ DEC 1ST



After you've survived Black Friday, supported your local sellers on Small Business Saturday, got a great on-line deal on Cyber Monday, you could use a day to really make a difference with Giving Tuesday. MEOW will be working to raise \$5,000 for our public spay/neuter no-cost voucher program. Since 2011, we have been fortunate to secure \$50,000 in grant funds

to provide spay/neuter vouchers for more than 2500 pets whose owners needed help to #DoTheRightThing. MEOW has contributed an additional \$15,000 to keep the voucher program running between grants. Raising \$5,000 on #GivingTuesday will provide another 250 spays and neuters. How many litters will that prevent? We're not exactly sure, but we know this: it's the best gift we can give to #BeTheChange for those 250 cats. Help us provide this critical service to help others #DoTheRightThing. Join us on December 1st for #GivingTuesday and #BeTheChange. An on-line donation link will be available on our website and on our Facebook page.

MEOW'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR & OPEN HOUSE

ONE DAY ONLY. SATURDAY DECEMBER 5TH

FROM 12 PM ~ 5 PM



Join the fun at the MEOW Open House

You won't want to miss this one! The Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale will once again be in the Chapel at the Northlake Universal Unitarian Church, located about 3 blocks northwest of the shelter at 308 4th Ave S in Kirk-

land. As always, we'll have beautiful handcrafted items and delicious baked goods for sale, generously donated by our volunteers and supporters. There will also be MEOW logo merchandise available and fun raffle drawings. Come on by, do some holiday shopping and then head over to the shelter to enjoy refreshments with volunteers, adopters and MEOW feline residents. Your donation of pet food will help support our Animeals food drive for families in need, distributed by Hopelink.

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