RAY OF SUNSHINE, RAY OF HOPE

For more than four years the shorthaired black cat had lived in a parking lot near an industrial area in Monroe. A kind woman who worked there had seen to it that he was neutered and made sure he was fed each day - until she lost her job early last year.

Several months later, in mid-December, a man called MEOW to report, “There’s a cat here with a bad eye. It’s so cold out and he needs medical attention. What are the options for this cat?” the man wondered. The cat had been seen trying to eat chewing gum off the pavement. He was thin. He seemed disoriented, leaning against the parked cars to make his way in the lot. He needed help.

The Puget Sound was blanketed in snow and ice. Winds howled and temperatures were dipping to record lows. Over the next few weeks, the weather got worse, preventing us from helping this cat. Then at last, a humane trap was set and the cat was easily captured. On examination, we met an incredibly brave and resourceful cat. He hissed half-heartedly when approached at first, and flinched when touched. His left eye was essentially missing. Although his damaged right eye looked relatively intact, he didn’t appear to be able to follow objects in front of him. We named him Ray.

Our fears were confirmed by NW Animal Eye Specialists. Ray is completely sightless. The remains of his left eye would need to be completely removed to prevent recurring infections. His right eye had also suffered traumatic injury and had developed a cataract.

As the days passed, Ray began to respond to our gentle touches by pushing his big head into our hands. His ears would perk up when we spoke softly to him. We learned that he loves treats.

Ray has really blossomed since his eye surgery. In the brief time he has been with us, he has made an indelible impression. Now when he is spoken to, he seems to recognize his name and reacts joyfully. He loves tummy rubs and chin scratches and gives enthusiastic head butts in return. He enjoys being brushed. He’s clearly so grateful to be rescued.

Most cats without vision do very well in an indoor environment where they can gain familiarity with their surroundings. If Ray could speak to us, we think he’d say his future looks very bright.

KICKED TO THE CURB—BUT NEVER AGAIN

One truth about animal rescue is that there’s never a dull moment. This was certainly true on a recent very cold Thursday night. A woman who had adopted her cats from MEOW called us to report an unusual and disturbing situation. She had spotted a large cat carrier on the corner of Stewart and Denny in downtown Seattle. On closer inspection, she discovered it was occupied - and the cats needed help. The woman knew who to call. Within minutes she was at the shelter. A beautiful tortie girl and a handsome but thin red tabby boy emerged from the carrier. After a good meal, they cooperated while we gave them the usual exam, including vaccines, parasite treatment and blood tests. We quickly arranged for the tabby boy, who we dubbed Denny, to be neutered. The girl, Ruby, had been spayed. Both are quite friendly and must have been loved. Someone had apparently abandoned two young adult cats, perhaps in the hopes that they would be taken in. We can only guess that whoever left the carrier in such a conspicuous place must have had good intentions.

As of this writing, Ruby is at the shelter looking for someone to love her forever. Denny is already enjoying his new life as somebody’s “little boy”.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MEOW’S 4TH ANNUAL AUCTION FUNDRAISER
IS SATURDAY JULY 25, 2009 FROM 7 PM – 10 PM

Once again this year we will be hosting a special wine tasting and auction to benefit the cats and dogs of MEOW. This year’s event will again be held at the North Bellevue Community Center. Watch our website in the coming months for details about the event and the list of fantastic items up for auction. If you’d like to donate, please contact Joni at meowauction@gmail.com. See you there!!

“We should remember in our dealings with animals that they are a sacred trust to us from our heavenly Father. They are dumb and cannot speak for themselves.”

-- Harriet Beecher Stowe
MEOW'S CANINE DIVISION Cares 
FOR PUPPY MILL DOGS 
“LOVE KNOWS NO SPECIES”

When we visited the dog kennels at Everett Animal Control, they were full of small dogs jumping at the kennel doors and asking for attention. It was, however, eerily quiet. The dogs appeared to be barking, but their voices were muffled and hoarse. We were shocked to learn that debarking is a common practice at puppy mills. These particular dogs were being held in connection with the recent raid and subsequent shut down of the puppy mills in Snohomish County. Related raids in Skagit County brought the total number of dogs involved to more than 600, many of them in various stages of pregnancy. When rescued, the dogs were living in tiny cages in deplorable conditions. Most of the dogs were matted with feces and urine, their skin raw and broken. Many were very ill. Some had to be euthanized. Criminal charges have been filed against the people responsible.

Their journey to health and happiness began on January 17th, when the first Snohomish County puppy mill was raided. As of February 11th, some of the Snohomish County dogs, as well as the four cats found on the property, were made available to MEOW’s shelter and foster systems. Our Canine Division accepted 18 small dogs, all of them needing medical and/or behavioral intervention and treatment. Kelly Starbuck and her team of dog fosters have vowed to do whatever possible to bring each one back to health and adoptability. We’d like to introduce to you some of these very special animals.

That cold January night when the little Brussels Griffon arrived at the Everett Shelter she went into labor and gave birth to four pups. Momma is so proud now, picking each of them up to show them off, thrilled for the attention. Because Momma’s ears were not cared for, they are cauliflowered beyond repair. Once finished raising her pups, she will need some very expensive surgery on her ears. This sweet lady will be deaf for the rest of her life, but we can help her to be as pain free as possible. This was preventable if only someone had paid attention to her health from the beginning.

Lt. Dan is a Boston Terrier mix puppy. He is a kick in the pants and loves life. Lt. Dan served as best friend and life support to his special needs brother, Forrest Gump. Unfortunately, Forrest succumbed to his congenital defects in early March.

Lois, a Chihuahua, came to us quite pregnant. Days later she suffered complications trying to deliver her two large pups. Only one survived the caesarian section. Although Lois is now doing a wonderful job mothering her little one, we’ve reassured her that this will never happen to her again.

The cost of medical care necessary to bring every one of these dogs back to health is going to be staggering, well over $10,000. With the help and support of animal lovers, we will provide for all of their needs and send them out into new lives to live happily ever after. Please mark donations “Puppy Mill Relief”. Thank you so much.

If you are interested in adopting one of these very special dogs, visit our website, www.meowcatrescue.org, click on the adopt icon and complete the on-line application found under Dogs on the left hand side of the screen.
A TEENAGE MOTHER’S JOURNEY
TO SAFETY AND HAPPINESS

When she was just a teenage kitten, Heidi was abandoned at Bellevue Whole Foods late last summer. Deborah, a concerned employee who fed her, could sometimes pet the head of the little brown tabby while she was eating. Heidi would often sit a short distance away and meow at her. Fall became winter and by the time someone realized Heidi was pregnant, it was too late. When finally trapped in early December, it was evident that she had delivered her kittens just a few days earlier. Fervent attempts to locate the newborns were unsuccessful. Heidi was spayed and promptly returned to tend to her little ones. Now we could only hope that Heidi would bring her babies to the food source when old enough to make the journey.

During the next few weeks, Deborah and our trapper, Janis, walked the area in hopes of spotting the kittens or seeing from where Heidi emerged. By our calculations, the kittens were about three weeks old when Heidi began to give her rescuers some great clues. She led Deborah down the parking lot above a rockery near the railroad tracks. She would walk slowly, then turn to look at Deb, then continue on. A week later, when walking the tracks and scanning the sticker bushes, Janis spotted the mama cat. Heidi could have fled when Janis approached. She could easily have slipped silently away. Instead she just sat there, right in front of a little earthen cave in the rockery. And then she meowed. Heidi was asking for help. Just then a tiny head popped out of the cave, and then another. Heidi looked back proudly at her kittens. Janis quickly made her way to the opening of the cave and was able to pick up three of the babies. An immediate call to MEOW brought volunteer Nydia with a carrier, a heating disk and a trap for Heidi. Because the remaining kittens were deep inside their little cave, Nydia used a long “grabber” tool meant to help reach objects from high places. They poked inside the cave and easily got the last two kittens from right behind Heidi. Although a bit nervous, Heidi flirted shamelessly as if to thank her new human friends. In early February, with her kittens weaned and safely in foster care, she was ready to meet new people and start a new life.

Heidi has reminded us of the amazing instinct and resourceful nature of mother cats. Although she had never been a mother before, in spite of the fact that it was December and we were in the midst of the coldest, snow-covered winter in decades, Heidi had raised five healthy, fat, plush-coated little kittens and when the time was right, had led us directly to them. We’re so proud to know Heidi and to have played a role in her journey. A couple of weeks after her arrival at the shelter, when Heidi was chosen by her forever family, we followed her example and gracefully let go.

MILO THE MAGNIFICENT

More than a year ago MEOW was asked by another organization to consider accepting a young cat who had been labeled unadoptable. We were told that Milo had a history of explosive behavior in new situations and he had worn out his welcome with them. Jason and Tiffany, our shelter management staff, brokered the deal. They placed him into a foster home with no other animals and an experienced cat lover. Foster mom Sylvia was perfect. She allowed Milo to have his space while he became his confident self. They quickly formed a bond. Sylvia learned how to read Milo’s heart, to understand his need for attention and also for quiet time. Milo was very happy in Sylvia’s home but we realized he needed to be seen to be adopted. He had to come to the shelter. It was not an easy transition for Milo, but several weeks have passed and now he’s ready to love again.

Milo’s heart is as golden as his very gold eyes. He will greet you with deep purrs when you come home, and sleep at the foot of your bed at night. He enjoys watching your activities and the outside world from a comfortable lounging place. He plays with all things wiggly and really enjoys diving into a towel or newspaper page placed on the floor. Milo doesn’t demand much attention; as long as there is quiet activity going on around him, he is mostly content to just be with you.

Once Milo has settled into a new home, he will show just how playful and fun he is. He has a soft, little meow, adores neck, cheek and chin rubs, and really, really, really loves his catnip!

If you are the gentle soul who is destined for Milo, please come meet him.

SHARING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

On December 7th, we again celebrated the season with our annual open house, craft bazaar and bake sale. Our volunteers and supporters amazed us with their crafting and baking skills. We were able to raise over $4,400 to benefit the residents of MEOW. This year we also hosted a pet food drive which we kicked off at our open house. At our last tally, we had collected over 1,100 pounds of pet food for local families in need, to be distributed by Hopelink in Kirkland. Many thanks to those of you who baked, crafted, volunteered, donated and attended our open house. You are invited to continue bringing your pet food donations for Hopelink to MEOW. Your support is vital to help keep pets in their homes.

Milo the Magnificent

Magnificent Milo

Milo the Magnificent

Magnificent Milo
**SAVING SHEREKHAN**

Sherekhan came to MEOW after he ran out of time at another shelter. Although the staff there loved him, the one big strike against him was his age. Sherekhan, a tall and handsome fellow in a brown tabby and white coat, is soon to be 17 years young. Although he certainly qualifies as a senior citizen, he is in good health. He became homeless when his person became ill and could no longer take care of him. Nobody would describe Sherekhan as a shrinking violet. In fact, he’s a one-cat welcome wagon, easily extending a confident paw to make a new acquaintance. He reminds some of us of a favorite elder family member, maybe a warm and wise uncle who listens without judgment. We invite you to come visit Sherekhan at the shelter. He’s never met a stranger – and you’ll soon have a friend.

**PUSSYCAT PANTRY**

**HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES**

Gerber “2nd” Chicken, Turkey or Beef Baby Food
Royal Canin Baby Cat
Canned Kitten Food
Canned Cat Food
Royal Canin Special 33
Laundry Detergent
Bleach
Paper Towels
Postage Stamps
Drawstring Kitchen Garbage Bags

MEOW would like to express gratitude to all those who have made donations of money and supplies. Without your support the work we do would not be possible.

**Five Eyes, Five Ears, Eleven Legs**

Chase is a big kitten now but when he was very young his life changed forever. Chase was living on the Tulalip Indian Reservation as one of many free-roaming cats. Life was not easy. He was often hungry and sometimes cold. He had no way of knowing that the trap he entered on that fateful day was not a humane one or that it would sever his left rear leg at the knee. Somehow he escaped the trap but there was no help for him. By the time he was rescued at the age of about three months, the wound had healed. However, to prevent pain and potential infection the remainder of his leg was amputated at the hip. Chase was welcomed into a MEOW foster family where he has become friends with Satin, a lovely young black female. Both are now available for adoption, either together or separately.

**SWITNESS**

Dad was rescued and placed by another organization many years ago. Over the course of his life, he had suffered such a severe ear infection that his entire left ear had to be removed and the canal sutured closed. Recently we learned that Dad was no longer wanted in his home and we felt we must offer him a safe place to land. When Dad came to the shelter for an exam he was a perfect gentleman, allowing us to move him about in any way we wished, to poke and prod, to nuzzle and coo over him. Dad has found his forever home and has politely introduced himself to the resident cat, Angel.

Winkie is a sweet little kitten who showed up on the doorstep of some kind people, very hungry and suffering from a serious injury to her right eye. Cats often know JUST the people to go to when they really need help, and this was no exception. They saw to it that Winkie received veterinary care. Unfortunately, her injury was so serious that her eye had to be removed. Now she greets everyone with a permanent wink. She loves people and she is fascinated by other cats. Affectionate, personable, bright and curious, this is a busy little cat person who wants nothing more than a house to oversee. She may only have one eye, but it misses nothing!
In memory of my dear white cat Kit, who passed away in late November at the age of 20 years.

In honor of my buddies, Zoe and Buddy.
Bobbi DeCaster

In loving memory of Bob Baker, beloved father of Nancy Bacon.
Janis Newman

To honor our MEOW adoptees, Olive and Monkey, the joys of our lives - and they are keeping our elder cats young.
We love MEOW!
Mark Hawk & Robert Ross

In memory of Anita’s beloved Truman and to welcome two new fur children into her home and heart.
Jan Wiley

To honor and remember my mom and dad,
Ruth and Waidson Adams Jr.
Karen Thomas

Happy 2009 to all the good cats and cat lovers.
Daniel Carey

In loving memory of sweet Sophie. She was her mommy’s best friend and a dedicated lap warmer and cuddler. She lived a long, happy life with her mommy and kitty siblings before leaving us to join her brother Charles at the Rainbow Bridge. We will all miss her big, beautiful eyes and gentle purr.
Valerie, Metro Moggie Kittysitting

In honor of Pat Killam, patron of fine felines!
Roxxanne Springwater

In memory of my friend, Joy Caldwell, who loved all animals.
Susan Wiseman

Hello from MEOW graduates: Carlos, Santino and Isabella Rossalini
Ginny Clarke

In memory of Kitty Lucy, best friend and roommate for 15 years.
Chrisie Fx

In memory of Blossom, lovingly owned by Janet Bayett.
City Kitty, LLC

To Aragon - a tiger who eats from our hands.
Denise & Ed Fleischer

To honor and remember Whitney Wagner-Ingram, forever in our hearts.
Esther Ingram

To honor Lucille, the light of my life in all her gorgeous calico glory. Her presence in my life and others changed everyone for the better. You are missed.
Trisha Nemsey

In memory of Puffy,
City Kitty, LLC

In memory of Kit, beloved cat of Nora Carlson.
Jan Ebi-Deprey

For Princess Spike, Ma, Squeak and Mar.
Elizabeth Burden

In loving memory of my husband Gerry, who loved cats... big and small.
Yoshiko Mason

Honoring Calvin and Hobbes - the dynamic duo at Park Place farm - adopted 11 years ago.
Andrea Long

In loving memory of Kit Carson.
Four Paws Tender Care

For our babies who have gone ahead to save our place:
Dudley, Tasha, Guido, Bandy, Pebbles, Damon, Theo & Riley.
Shaun Miller

Boo and Atticus - you bring joy to my life every day!

In loving memory of Bertha Harvey, who always loved cats, from her son
Don

For Boonie, who is the best cat ever and was adopted from MEOW in 2002.
Sandra With

In honor of Vinnie & Violet, the two most gifted cats that ever lived - both came to us from the wonderful safe haven of MEOW.
Paul & Cathy Boorman

In memory of Maxie, Pretty and Catherine.
Carmen Armoodor

In memory of Spotty, lovingly owned by Sandy Smith.
City Kitty, LLC

In honor of Jan and her ‘Fab 4 Felines’.
Megan Moholt

For Monty, formerly known as Monkey – my six toed black cat.
Patricia Kibbe

To honor Linda Calhoun for her continued love and support of homeless cats.
Anonymous

In celebration of all cats saved and loved by Bill Polk and JoAnna Olson.
Susan Jarvis

In memory of my sister, Roseann McFall.
Nancy Wilson

In honor of Suki and Farra, our charming and funny MEOW cats, now three years old.
Kristin Henry

In memory of Mark Russell, who has ‘gone off to see the wizard’.
Patricia Butler

In loving memory of handsome Buzz the Bunny and lovely Spaky Lewis - the first dragon I had the honor of knowing. Sweet Buzz was a fine old man of a bunny who loved his carrots and treats. Spaky had a gentle wisdom about her and the most beautiful eyes.
Valerie, Metro Moggie Kittysitting

In memory of Glenn Bice
Eva Anderson

To honor our friends, Suzanne and Tony - who care for a feral cat community in Spokane.
Edward & Lorna Aites

In remembrance of our lost feline companions with deepest sympathies.
Meadows Cat Hospital

To honor and remember Mac and Sissy.
Patt Ayers

In memory of my beloved MEOW cat, Simon.
Marion Ward

In honor of Leslee, Martini, Bear and Violet.
Sheila Dietrich

In memory of my dear white cat, who passed away in late November at the age of 20 years.
Nora Carlson

To honor Ray and Lisa at Hairdyes for their commitment to kitty welfare and to my beloved housemates, Matti MacPhoe

In memory of Mister Puppets, our loving miniature Schnauzer for over 14 years. We’ll always remember you.
Your family, Markes Memmel

In honor of Jazz, Roxy and foster sister Sage.
Denise & Ed Scapa

To honor Jazzie and Kiki who were adopted in December 2002. They are alive and healthy in a loving home because of MEOW.
Debbie & Todd Rosenfelt

In loving memory of Glenn Bice. We miss him.
Patricia, Emilie and Furbie

In honor of Auntie Valerie (Metro Moggie) - we love you!
Hannah and Murphy Go

In loving memory of Kit Carson. You’re forever in our hearts.
Julie & Brooke Morgan

In memory of K.C., lovingly owned by Penny Fukui
City Kitty, LLC

In honor of Diesel and Oliver.
Susan Day

In honor of ShuShu. You were a beautiful, wonderful cat.
We will all miss you.
Ellen Kaspi

In memory of Fred, I miss you.
Joyce Loveland

In honor of friendship to Claudia and Bill Strickland.
Steve & Ellen Wilhelm

In loving memory of Basil, long loved cat of John, Naomi and Chris Barry.
Pat Crisp

In gratitude of Jeff and Irene Anderson for creating the magic of Cat Haven.
Jannis & Martyn

In memory of Cecil, beloved feline of Chris & Stacy White.
Sharol Apolko

To remember Sarah, my very good friend for 18 short years.
Hazel Russell

In honor of Ptolemy, beloved pet of Gail Goldberg.
He will always be in the heart of his family.
James & Rebecca McGuade

In loving memory of Taffy, who came to us from MEOW in 1994.
Mary, Stan & Charlotte Hite

To honor Molly, our beloved Maine Coon who came to live with us in Mt. Vernon nine years ago.
Ernest & Judith White

For Grey and Grey and kittens and the happiness they give to four families!
Stephanie Myers

Elke Ferguson

In memory of Tatiana, the tiger who died too young.
Bonnie Clark

In honor of Crockett.
Kevin Stanton

In loving memory of handsome Beaujolais. He brought so much love and joy to his mommy, his sister Bella, and to all who knew him. We will miss him so very much.
Valerie, Metro Moggie Kittysitting

In honor of my wife Lavonne’s birthday.
Clarence Schott

To our beloved Betty Gray thanks for 18 wonderful loving years!
Bob & Vonnie Marsic

In loving memory of Abba Zappa.
Rest in peace gentle feline friend
TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In loving memory of Max, a fine orange tabby who crossed the Rainbow Bridge.
Pat Crisp

In honor of Thomas and Buddy. You keep us laughing.
Jeff Natter

In loving remembrance of Mary, companion to Joyce and Morgan Margraf.
Rob Roy Smith

In remembrance of my beloved Earthya, who was with me for 16 purrfect years.
Judy Schoenfeld

In honor of everyone who has loved and lost a pet.
Mary MacGregor

Our sweet Ziri ("Missl") is spending her 4th Christmas with us. Thank you!
Jane & Dave Haug

In honor of Brandy and Ming.
Carol Campbell

Thank you Dianne, from Burt and Birdie.
Eric Upton

To honor a stray cat we named Rosalie. “He” who came to our door too sick to rehabilitate and we had him euthanized out of kindness. Someone most likely dumped him in nearby park.
Joan Ruud

To honor Audrey.
Nancy Jackson

Happy 2009 to Chieko Kali and Bluu from Judy, Yazhi and Scout.
Judith Sorensen

In loving memory of Riley T. Cat.
Barbara Tochiura

In memory of Toby, a once in a lifetime dog adopted from MEOW in June 1999 as a tiny pup. He is missed every day.
Mary Rose Smith

City Kitty, LLC

In loving memory of Harry Dickens on behalf of Tip.
Patrina Vecchio

In loving memory of sweet Crack, the self-proclaimed ‘Queen of all Kitties’. She was a beautiful tabby with sassy cattitude, and she was the apple of her daddy’s eye. She was dearly loved and will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.
Valerie, Metro Maggie Kittysitting

In loving memory of Simba and Lucy, beloved cats of Karen Givens.
Mary Rose Smith

To honor Barbara Thrall and Polly Wood.
Dorothy Thrall

To honor and remember Suki and Pepsi.
Charles & Lois Lawrence

To honor Jake, my MEOW kitty. Adopted November 2002 - left me November 25, 2008.
Zoe Allen

To honor Vicki Russell, to whom Tom and Geri give great joy.
Patricia Butler

In honor of my beloved cat, Buffy, who lived with diabetes with dignity.
David & Joyce Leff

To honor my great cat-sitter, Brookie Judge and all the good work she does.
Lisa Havens

In honor of Diane and Bob Carino’s kitties.
Doug and Sharon Button

We miss you Pilloydi.
Lynda Livingston

To all cats and kittens - best wishes in finding your forever home.
Sherry, Mindy and Erica McKinnis

In honor of Katie McGifford.
Katherine McGifford

In loving memory of a handsome, dapper tux of a kitty man, Schroeder. Always dressed in his finest and tiskly in spiff, he brought so much love to his family and kitty sisters…and his Auntie too! He is now happy and well and is romping with his sister Ariel at the Rainbow Bridge. We all miss him very much.
Valerie, Metro Maggie Kittysitting

In memory of Baby Girl, whose time with me was much too short.
Margaret Weikert

Remembering Punkinella, Grace and Tuftums with great affection.
Janet Hoy

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KIRKLAND, WA 98083-0058

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED