



MEOW

all nine lives are precious

MEOW Cat Rescue & Adoption
Spring 2010

SPECIAL CARE FOR A VERY SPECIAL CAT

Gizmo was rescued two years ago from a life of physical abuse, the details of which are too horrific to share. Since then he's been lovingly cared for by a Seattle woman. MEOW was asked to take him when his behavioral issues, assumed to be caused by the previous abuse, became too much for his savior to handle. Despite everything, Gizmo is holding it together.



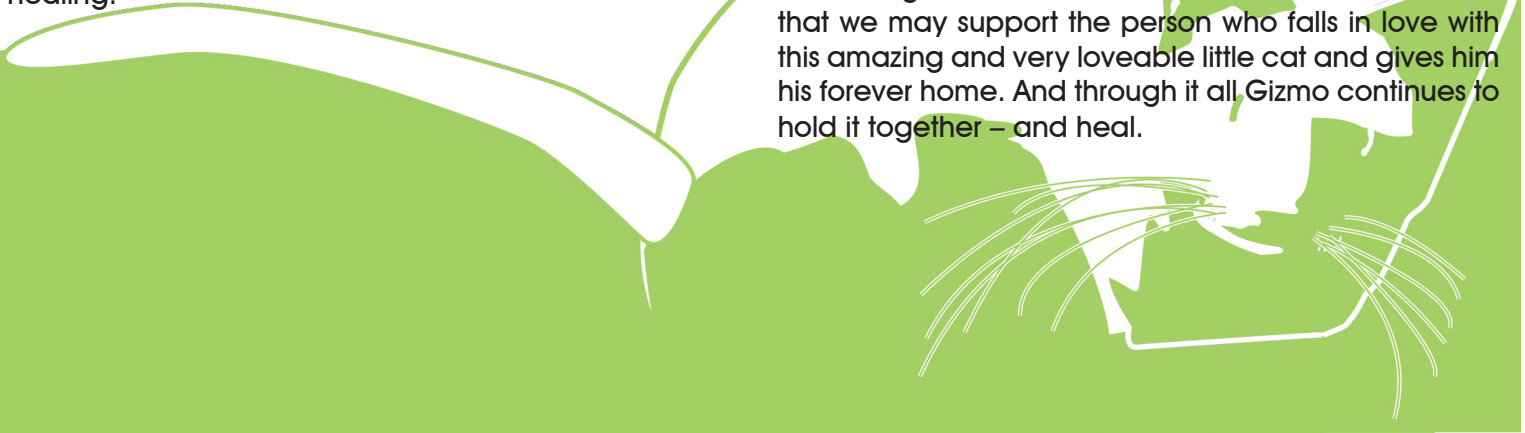
The amazing Gizmo

That's a big statement under the circumstances. Gizmo is a tiny 4 year old longhaired black and white cat with a prominent overbite. He settled into his new MEOW surroundings surprisingly quickly and soon became the darling of the shelter. We noted a multitude of scars under his sparse fur, and sores in different stages of healing.

His soft coat had lots of small mats and knots. It appeared that grooming had vigorously created open sores on his back and around his neck. When he became a MEOW kitty, his medical history and his anti-anxiety drugs came with him. We wanted very much to help him feel safe and loved. It was a volunteer's gentle brushing that surprisingly opened not only his delicate skin, but also the door to a diagnosis for Gizmo.

Gizmo has Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder affecting the manufacture of collagen, causing the connective tissues in his body to be extremely weak. In Gizmo's case, the result is that his skin is paper-thin and can tear away very easily. The effects of the disease are also evident in his floppy joints. Sadly, there is no cure – not even an effective treatment for Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Supportive care and gentle handling is absolutely essential and the only treatment available. Gizmo must be handled ever so gently to avoid opening his fragile skin.

But, there is good news. Gizmo is now in foster care and is a very happy little guy. He'll soon be having surgery to remove some of his criss-crossed teeth to make his mouth more comfortable. He seems blissfully unaware of his rare condition. He loves playing with fly toys, uses his scratch post and litter box like a gentleman, and enjoys being held. He's so affectionate and welcoming whenever he is offered attention. We are currently weaning him off of his anti-anxiety drugs and continuing to learn all we can about his condition so that we may support the person who falls in love with this amazing and very loveable little cat and gives him his forever home. And through it all Gizmo continues to hold it together – and heal.



WINTER

Late last Fall, a small blue gray tabby cat began peeking out of the bushes at a feeding station near the Kirkland McDonalds. Finally, on a cold and rainy night just after Christmas, she introduced herself to her caretaker. Although she had been sharing meals with the feral cats, once she was safe inside at MEOW, this 1-year old beauty revealed that she is not only tame, but exceptionally loving, in spite of the fact that life has been very unkind to her.



A cheery Winter

When examining Winter, we could not help but notice that her beautiful fluffy tail hung lifelessly behind her. Radiographs revealed a

significant injury to two vertebrae high up in the pelvic area. This type of injury is generally indicative of human mistreatment, possibly a tail-pulling or swinging incident. Because the connection between this part of her spine and her brain is damaged, she needs help emptying her bladder.

Winter has become accustomed to having her bladder expressed a few times each day to maintain her health. Although she would rather not have to go through this, she is very cooperative and forgiving. She immediately goes back to purring, playing, or offering her tummy for rubbing. Her lovely tail has been amputated to prevent further stress on her spine. Now she twitches her little bunny-tail with delight as she plays.

Life has dealt Winter such a difficult hand. In addition to her spinal injury, she has tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). In spite of all of this, we're absolutely certain someone will adopt Winter. There is someone who will see past her challenges and offer her the home and the love she so richly deserves. The way we see it, humans have a lot for which to apologize to her. Amazingly, she doesn't hold a grudge. She gives herself without reservation to anyone who will extend a kind and gentle hand.

If you'd like to learn more about this type of spinal injury, about FIV, or about this special little cat, please come to MEOW, talk with us and meet Winter. She will surely touch your heart.

MEOW'S 2010 AUCTION FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, JULY 17 CELEBRITY AUCTIONEER JOHN CURLEY

Volunteers are already busy planning MEOW's 2010 auction and wine tasting fundraiser, which promises to be our most exciting fundraiser yet, with many new surprises. New this year – local celebrity John Curley will be our emcee and auctioneer for the evening. He's known for bringing excitement, fun and surprises to every auction - you don't want to miss this! The event will be held the evening of Saturday July 17, at the North Bellevue Community Center. Our goal is to raise \$45,000, but we can't reach that goal without your help. Mark your calendar. Tell your friends. Watch our website for details. If you'd like to donate an item for the auction please contact Joni Cervenka at meowauction@gmail.com. Thanks for your support! We look forward to seeing you there.

2009 KIRKLAND DAYS OF GIVING CAMPAIGN

The holiday spirit was alive in downtown Kirkland last December. Many merchants donated a portion of their proceeds on special days during December to local non-profits. MEOW was excited to be one of the beneficiaries. We'd like to extend our thanks to the following businesses for their generosity and community spirit. We'd also like to extend a very special thank you to A at Simplicity Décor for organizing the campaign. We're looking forward to next year.

Many thanks to: Simplicity Décor, Simplicity Salon, Herban Wellness, ACI Clinic, Linda Lu's Consignment Boutique, Ubrdo Cycle and Mountain Supply, Lai-Thai Restaurant, Bella Tesori, Mu Shoe II, Romax Inc, Parkland Gallery, Lakeshore Gallery, and Ragamoffyns.

THEY'RE BACK!!!!



The happy couple, Malcolm & Mallory

For several years, MEOW has been hosting a bonded pair of Mallard ducks throughout the Summer months. They arrive in Spring and then go south in the Fall. Malcolm and Mallory

greet us at the back door of the shelter and bid us farewell when we close each day.

LIVING WITH FELINE LEUKEMIA

Every year MEOW takes in a few cats and kittens with Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). Thanks to adopters who are educated about this virus, we have been extremely fortunate to place these cats into permanent homes. We'd like to share with our readers the answers to some common questions about FeLV.

What is feline leukemia virus and how do cats get it? Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV), a retrovirus, is so named because of the way it behaves within cells. Cats persistently infected with FeLV serve as sources of infection. The virus is shed in very high quantities in saliva and nasal secretions, but also in urine and feces. Cat-to-cat transfer of the virus may occur from a bite wound, during mutual grooming, and (though rarely) through the shared use of litter boxes and feeding dishes. Transmission can also take place from an infected mother cat to her kittens, either before they are born or while they are nursing. FeLV doesn't survive long outside a cat's body under normal household conditions.

How common is the infection?

In the United States, approximately 2% to 3% of all cats are infected with FeLV. Rates rise significantly—to 13% or more—in cats that are ill, very young, or otherwise at high risk of infection.

What should I do to support my FeLV+ cat?

- Keep your FeLV positive cat indoors to reduce his exposure to other infectious agents carried by animals, and to prevent the spread of the infection to other cats.
- Feed him a nutritionally complete and balanced diet.
- Alert your veterinarian to any changes in your cat's health.

How long can I expect my FeLV+ cat to live?

It is impossible to accurately predict the life expectancy of a cat infected with FeLV. With appropriate care and under ideal conditions, infected kittens can remain in apparent good health for two or three years. Most succumb to a FeLV-related disease. Although eighty-five percent of cats with FeLV infection die within 3 years of the diagnosis, some cats, especially those acquiring the disease as adults, may live several years.

Can people become infected with FeLV?

Feline leukemia is specific to felines and cannot be transferred to humans or pets of other species.

WISHING AND WAITING FOR AN ANGEL

Sergio and Daisy are looking for one good Angel. They don't need a perfect Angel, just one who is kind enough to give them a home and the love they deserve. That Angel should like to play with kittens and enjoy a good snuggle after play is done. Most of all, that Angel should be willing and able to kiss them goodbye when the time comes for them to cross the bridge and become angels themselves.



Sergio

Daisy and Sergio are teenage kittens who were born with Feline Leukemia Virus. Rescued from a bad situation, they have never known the freedom of a house to investigate, real furniture to sleep on, or a person to cradle them as they sleep all night long. Although they would

enjoy the company of other cats, they cannot become residents of one of the shelter's community rooms because of their FeLV status. And so, they are growing up in a cage. Volunteers take them to a small Meet & Greet room and give them short play periods, but that's not enough. Daisy and Sergio are getting long-legged and they need to run and jump and climb like any other kittens. They want a normal life, even if it may be a short life. Each day spent in a cage is a lost opportunity for them. They need their Angel to come soon.

These kittens are currently very healthy and active and hope to stay that way for a long time. They have the same wants and needs as any kittens their age. Sergio loves a good long massage after he rids the area of toy mousies. He has an exceptionally deep purr. Daisy would love it if her Angel enjoyed the occasional game of 'chase the feather toy'.



Daisy

She'd also like to sit quietly with her person and watch television. These kittens have lived with dogs and are open to that again. FeLV is not contagious to humans or pets of other species.

MEOW can offer support to a special Angel through our Long Term Foster Program. Long Term Fosters provide a loving home environment to certain special cats and kittens without the potential financial responsibility of owning them. Taking on the care of a special needs animal is truly a selfless act of mercy toward the animal, but the experience cannot help but feed one's own soul. If you could be Sergio's and Daisy's Angel, please call the shelter for more information or come in and meet these two kitty angels in training. It may just be one of the most rewarding things you ever do.

ANIMEALS 2009 ~ ANOTHER GENEROUS YEAR

In 2008, MEOW launched AniMeals, a holiday pet food drive to support pets and families in need through HopeLink in Kirkland. The drive was so successful and felt so right, we just couldn't stop giving. The food bin in our lobby is now available for donations year round. With the generosity of our volunteers, adopters and supporters, MEOW delivered a total of 3,564 pounds of pet food in 2009. Please help us match and exceed that amount in 2010 by dropping off a bag or a case of pet food the next time you're in the neighborhood. No need to wait for a special season or occasion. After all, just like us, pets need to eat each and every day. Thank you!

PUSSYCAT PANTRY HELP STOCK THE PANTRY SHELVES

Gerber "2nd" Chicken, Turkey or Baby Food
Royal Canin Baby Cat
Royal Canin Special 33
Canned Kitten Food
Canned kitten or Cat Food
KMR - Kitten Milk Replacer
Baby Wipes
Drawstring Kitchen Garbage Bags
Laundry Detergent
Bleach
Paper Towels
Postage Stamps

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.

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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Meowcatrescue@hotmail.com
Meownewsletter@comcast.net
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

PAUL AND ANGELO FOREVER SHELTERED FROM THE STORM



We've previously shared the saga of Cliff, Paul and Angelo, brothers born on the streets of New Orleans in January 2007, fifteen months after Hurricane Katrina, as that city continued to struggle. These lucky boys were feral teenagers when rescued and

taken to a local shelter. They were safe at the shelter, but there was no time to socialize them. In June of 2008 they were flown to MEOW in hopes they might find a better life. It was a difficult time for them. Because they had not had contact with people early in their development, they remained fearful and untouchable. As time passed, they began to warm to gentle human voices and soft petting in small doses. We worried about them. We wished and hoped that someone would see their potential.

Surprisingly, Cliff, the most reclusive of the three, was adopted just five months after their arrival. He went home with two kittens to keep him company and provide him an example. His family reports that Cliff has continued to blossom in his forever home.

For Paul and Angelo, the wait was much longer. This March, nearly two years after their arrival at MEOW, the boys have finally found their own forever home. Early reports are very promising. They've settled in to a comfortable routine and there is no doubt that they belong in this family.

We consider this proof positive that there is a home for every cat, as long as nobody gives up. Thank you, Paul, Angelo and Cliff for giving us the opportunity to know you as you made your transition from



Angelo

feral and frightened to friendly and trusting. To all of the animals and people whose lives have been forever changed by Katrina or other natural disasters, we wish you Happy Endings!

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In memory of Penny and Ed,
our beloved companions and superb lap sitters.
Alice & John Poinier

In honor of Joan Klyn's milestone birthday.
Kay & Mel Chavinson

In loving memory of our dear sweet Stanley,
5/18/07 -1/5/09.
Susan & Peter Conrick

To honor our MEOW cat, Nelle.
Joan Hutto

In memory of Sophie, whom I ruined with
spoiling and treats. She was a perfect cat.
Patricia Fullerton

In loving memory of Doorstop.
Paula Burgess

In remembrance of my beloved husband,
Chris Mace.
Merle Kay Mace

To honor Janis Newman for her amazing work
with spaying/neutering.
Nancy Bacon

In memory of Roland Benito.
Cynthia & Mark Bennett

In honor of Sharon L's 75th birthday!
Pat Miller

In memory of Nora, my shelter buddy.
Laurie Nelson

In honor of Leslee's cats, Cappuccino and Cocoa.
Sheila Dietrich

In loving memory of Jackrabbit and Fuzzy Bob.
Elizabeth Rhodes

In honor of Lorraine Lagerstadt.
Jodie Harwood

In memory of Ouzo, who was and always will be
my best friend ever!
Lynne Madrigal

In honor of Joshua and F'ght.
JoAnn Mattson Coney

For Sassy and Mr. Snoop, my two orphans.
Emily Roberts

In honor of the ongoing kindness of my
long-time friend, Barbara Baugh, and her devotion to
MEOW, and the animals and families that MEOW serves.
Lisa Rice Wheeler

In memory of Wayne Strang.
Bob & Ruth Smiley

In honor of Clementine.
Whitney Mason

Thank you MEOW for my new baby brother, Teeter.
Love, Noodle (and my parents Larry & Judy Zydeck)

In memory of Merlin,
December 26, 1994 ~ September 26, 2009.
Carolyn Adams

In memory of Mark H. Russell and Merlin,
who I am sure are enjoying each other's company.
Patricia Butler

To honor and remember Michael & Bette Arendt.
Elizabeth Arendt

In memory of our beloved cat,
Arnold Schwarzenegger. We miss you dearly.
Tony & Toshimi Martinez

Thank you to MEOW for my good buddies,
Boo and Atticus!
Marti MacPhee

To remember my mom and Uncle Max.
Jan De Felice

In honor of our MEOW friends, Lucy and Tajar.
Love, Jean & Ian

In memory of Bertha Harvey, who loved every cat.
Donald Harvey

To honor and remember Zoe, Tai and Mischa.
Sherry McKinnis

In remembrance of our sweet (most of the time) Gabby
and in honor of our two MEOW furballs, Vinnie and Violet.
Paul & Cathy Boorman

In honor of Boomer, a great cat.
Michael & Shari Hovanes

I have never stopped missing you, dear Bonnie.
Norma Hobbs

In loving memory of Sammy, Buddy, Wilson, Jack and T.J.
Cathy Neir

In honor of Sean Sigvartsen.
Jeffrey Lincoln

In memory of:
Bobby, loved & missed by Mike and Andy Corona;
Caesar, forever loved by Mr. and Mrs. McNeill;
Manchas, 1990-2010, loved by Carolyn Echelbarger;
Bekka, 1991-2010, missed by Mark, Ann and Caitlin Jenes;
Capt. Meriwether T. Lewis,
loved by Katherine & Saul Segura.
City Kitty, LLC

To honor and remember all of the kitties
that need help this year.
Linda Wilson

In memory of our beautiful Alixandra.
Elizabeth & John Rogers

To honor our loving MEOW kitties, Bella and Luna.
Anne & Tom Ottersburg

In memory of Gayle Marble.
Patricia Fox

In memory of Bill and Joanna's special kitties,
Binky and Denny and our own sweet Tangerine
whose stay with us was all too brief.
Patricia & James Rigali

In loving memory of Harry and Geraldine Hoy.
Janet Hoy

In honor of Jeanine for taking care
of Max and Morris until I adopted them!
Kathryn Arnberg

In memory of Bruno, a very good cat.
Christina Brugman

In honor of our two fabulous felines from MEOW,
D'amanda and Rockie.
Cathy Davis

For Squeak, Belltown's most unforgettable cat.
Susan & Peter Jarvis

In honor of Kiki and Jazzie, our two loving kitties,
and in memory of Mitzie, Marie's loving,
warm-hearted kitty who lived 19 wonderful years.
Debbie & Todd Rosenfelt

We miss you Parker.
The Engsfeld family

In memory of Sweet Pea.
Barbara Tochiura

In honor of Janis Newman for finding Sabrina and Muffin
and letting me adopt them together.
Dawnell Lamb

In loving memory of our dear Barney and Kit Carson.
You are forever in our hearts.
Julie & Brooke

In celebration of Barb's friendship
and in remembrance of her much loved cats,
Bogie and Hildie
Joni & Paul Cervenka

In honor of Bucky, our beautiful dog-cat who came to us
9 years ago from MEOW. Bucky was in his element with a
house full of people - always the center of attention.
He liked to take catnaps on his back,
legs up in the air, confident in his world.
Ken & Mavis Goetsch

In memory of Zipper, 1991~2010.
Craig Weishaar

In memory of Jerry, former member of the
Jeannine Sieler and Jay family.
You will be missed.
Nahni Freemanson

In honor of Shiva.
Margaret Lie

In loving memory of Tommy,
May 4, 1988 ~ April 2, 2004.
Chris Grossman

'Cisco' - it's been seven years since you left us,
but you are still sorely missed.
You will always be the love of our lives.
Bob and Gloria

In memory of Toot-Toot and Sam.
Adams family

In honor of Vicki Russell and the spoiled darlings.
Patricia Butler

To honor Marjorie Ferris
for her personal efforts with cat rescue.
Renee McIver

In memory of Sophie, beloved cat of the Mayes' family.
Bridget Dacres

In memory of Don Miller,
Steph's true love for almost 50 years.
Vicki Russell

Remembering Gilbert, a cat by which to measure all cats.
He was loved.
Marla Baker

Doorstop, we expect you to be there when we arrive,
holding open the door to Heaven,
on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge.
Love from all of us at MEOW

THE JUICE ON MANGO



Sweet lady Mango

It's me, Mango. I grew up in Eastern Washington with a nice lady. She let me outsidies during the day and that is pretty much where my troubles started. One really cold day I was sleeping in a warm cozy place and somethings horrible happened. A big noise – and then a big hurts. My lady took me to a vet doctor. They figured I got caught in a Car fan-belt thing. My lady did not have much moneys so she had to give me to the vets so they could save

my life. When I woke up one of my legs was gone away. Once I was better the vet let me go to live at a place with lots of other cats and some dogs too. It was a good place but I was still outsidies and now with one less leg that was risky, even for a savvy Cat likes myself.

Then one day I went for a long ride with some other cats and a few doggies too to a place called MEOW. The hoomans there checked us all carefully. We each got our owns little apartment. Comfy. One of the nice MEOW hoomans told me that she was sad because I has something called Feline Leukemia. I don't really know what that is but I don't feels any differently.

All of my friends from Eastern Washington got to go to new homes really quickly. I did a three-legged happy dance and said a special prayer that they would always be safe and happy. But I had to waits for my forever home. One of the MEOW hoomans even helped me set up my own Facebook page on the interwebs. I got to make many new friends all over the world and tell my story to help finds me the purrfect home.

One day in February a very nicely hooman girl named Tracy came to visit me. She was gentle with me and not scared of my germs. I gave her lots of headbonks and she scratched my ears and chin. I really liked this hooman a LOT!! But I figured she would put me back in my MEOW apartment soon. Then the most amazingest thing happened. I heard that word – that word that we all long to hears – ADOPT!! They was talking abouts ME! Me and my new Mom went home that day. Now I has windows to look out and soft furnitures to lie on. Best of all, there's Mom – and a big bed that I can share with Mom. She takes really goodly care of me and loves me lots.

If you wants to learn more about the Leukemia thing that I has you can go to the interwebs : <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/brochures/felv.html>. And if yous has a Face-book page and wants to be my friend, look me up – Mango Cat – and sends me a friend requests.



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