

MULLIGAN GETS A "DO OVER"

It was nearly closing time on what had been a stressful day at the shelter. No adoptions. Full cages. A woman came in with a stylish carrier. It was clearly not empty. We listened as she told us about this cat who had been hanging around at her condo complex for more than a month. Nobody had responded to the "found cat" signs she had posted. It was cold and wet outside and the forecast predicted the weather to get even colder and wetter. We explained that we could not take the cat. "We're full to bursting in the shelter. We have another 80 more cats and kittens waiting in foster care for their chance



to come to the shelter to be seen and adopted. We can scan this cat for a microchip and if he has one, it's his ticket back home. If not, perhaps we can help find another alternative for him. Maybe another shelter will have room."

The carrier was opened and out popped a delightful young fluffy red tabby, maybe 8 months old, with slightly crossed eyes. He was a bit thin and not neutered. The microchip scan was negative. Now what? The woman's face fell.

Mulligan

"Are you telling me that I have to put him back outside?" At that moment one of our foster homes called to say she would not be bringing her kittens in the next day. It seemed as if the message was clear. A cage space had opened at just the right time. We had to help this cat. We named him Mulligan, the term used in golf for a "do over". We had no idea, just how appropriate his name would become.

As he settled into his new space, he purred and chirped gratefully. He rolled around on the big furry pillow in his cage and his big paws literally danced as he ate. Once his immediate needs had been met, we introduced ourselves. Almost immediately we became aware of a problem. When petting him down both sides, we could not help but notice a large bump protruding just past the rib cage on the left side. This was cause for immediate concern.

The next day Mulligan had a thorough exam, x-rays and blood work at Brookfield Veterinary Hospital in Redmond. Although he had not been covered with fleas, he was a bit anemic. The films were sent to a radiologist. There were serious internal injuries. It was quite obvious that the Mercer Island Eastside Orphans & Waifs

left kidney was extremely enlarged. Deep inside the left kidney was a large blood-filled hematoma, explaining his anemia. Mulligan's left lung had two collapsed lobes. His right kidney was also slightly enlarged, possibly from having to compensate. His heart was pushed out of the normal position.

The radiologist pointed out three left ribs that had been broken and were in the process of knitting back together. This cat had surely suffered severe trauma to his left side. This type of trauma is consistent with an extremely forceful kick.

In spite of being abused by a human, Mulligan seems to have forgiven everything. He is just simply one of the most gentle and loving cats we've ever had the pleasure to know. Someone, at some time, took the time to care for him. We can't help but wonder how he came to be homeless, and worse vet, how he came to be so badly injured by a human. His prognosis is uncertain at this time. He may have permanent kidney damage. His left lung will not likely recover. No matter. We're here to see that he gets the best possible medical attention and all the love we can give until he's well enough to be adopted by someone who will cherish him for the rest of his life. It's a Christmas miracle that he has lived through these injuries without immediate veterinary care. It's a Christmas miracle that he came to MEOW at just the right time. It's a Christmas miracle that Mulligan gets a "do over".

MEOW'S 3RD ANNUAL AUCTION FUNDRAISER SATURDAY JULY 19, 2008 AT 7 P.M.

Last year's event, Fine Wines and Felines Too, put the FUN in fundraising! Once again this year we will be hosting a special tasting and auction to benefit the cats and kittens of MEOW. This year's event will be held at the North Bellevue



Community Center located at 4063 NE 148th Ave NE. Watch our website in the coming weeks for details about the event and the list of fantastic items up for auction. If you'd like to donate, please contact Jeanine at jeaninek@myuw.net.

See you there!!



Since each of us is blessed withonly one life, why not live it with a cat? ~ *Robert Stearns*

KATRINA CATS - THEY STILL NEED US

MEOW has recently been contacted by Animal Rescue New Orleans (ARNO), the organization which helped to facilitate our Katrina rescue two years ago. ARNO is arranging another animal transport out of New Orleans to shelters around the country. Although kitten season here in the Northwest is just beginning and we're sure to have our hands full, we cannot turn our backs on those who have been hit hardest by this natural disaster.We'll be seeking foster homes and permanent homes for the cats and kittens we expect will arrive soon. We'll be asking for your support to provide food, litter, and veterinary care for them. We'll be honored once more to have the opportunity to do our part. Let us continue to hold in our hearts and never forget all the people and animals whose lives will never be the same.



When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005, we knew MEOW had to be a part of the effort to save displaced animals. We were so proud to receive several feline hurricane victims and so grateful to be able to place each of them into safe and loving homes.

Rufus & Jackson

Our tiniest refugees were just two weeks old when they arrived, filthy and emaciated. For the first few weeks they were very sick.

Even though they had good appetites, it took a long time for them to begin to actually grow. As a result of their ordeal, they needed much more comfort than most, and would nurse on each other even when their tummies were full. This was worrisome and frustrating. It was such a relief when they were finally big enough to eat from a plate and felt secure enough to stop the inappropriate nursing. But the ordeal wasn't over. The inappropriate nursing resulted in one of the boys requiring corrective surgery, without which he would have died. All four kittens grew into healthy cats and were adopted in pairs to happy couples.

Recently, in late 2007, we were sad to learn that two of these Katrina kittens, Rufus and Jackson, now two years old, might have to be returned to us as their family situation had chanaed. To make matters worse, Rufus, the boy who had lived through surgery at just six weeks of age, now had stopped eating. His vets were baffled. Exploratory surgery at last revealed that he had ingested a pistachio shell and it was killing him. In a final loving and generous act, his human mom authorized lifesaving surgery to insert a feeding tube and then tearfully signed him over to MEOW. Rufus and his brother Jackson were uprooted once again. They went back to the same MEOW foster home where they had lived early in their lives but they didn't remember the place and they were terrified once again.

Several days after their arrival, the boys were finally ready to accept a comforting hand. Soon they were asking for their favorite treats and toys. And finally, the floodgates to love just opened. Jackson chirped and rolled on his back. He insisted on helping with computer work. Rufus began sitting on laps. They both gave very gentle love-bites to hands and nuzzled necks every chance they got. They even cautiously made friends with the resident cats. They once again adjusted to a "new" place. At MEOW, our role is to find homes for animals. Sometimes, though, when that perfect home presents itself, although we celebrate this happy event for them, we grieve our own loss.

In February 2008, Rufus and Jackson met their forever family. This adjustment will be their last and we rejoice while we wipe our tears.

Today, Katrina still holds New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in its arip. Many residents of the Parishes hardest hit are still looking for their lost pets. Rescuers there report dogs and cats still roaming the streets and foraging in the wreckage. Feeding stations are still being managed for the animals too numerous to admit to the small shelters. In spite of the endless work of the volunteers there, new litters are being born homeless and helpless. But not hopeless.

AM LYOUR PURREECT MATCH?

MEOW is proud to announce the first anniversary of the Meet Your Match Feline-ality adoption program. Developed by Emily Weiss, Ph.D., Meet Your Match is a research-based assessment of a cat's behavior and level of interest in play, exploration, "talking," and being the center of attention. Based on this evaluation, each cat is given one of nine distinct feline personality ("feline-ality") assignments and can then be paired with adopters whose personality and lifestyle fit the cat best. The program's Adopter Survey, Feline-ality Assessment™ and fun color-coding system fit together like the pieces of a puzzle, creating pictureperfect matches for cats and their new owners. Good matches help make strong bonds, and bonding is the key to successful adoptions – for life!

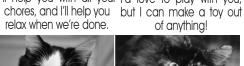
Visit MEOW soon and see how Meet Your Match is helping people find their purr-fect friend.

Mv Feline-ality is Love Bug (purple) I'm looking for someone I'll help you with all your I'd love to play with you, who enjoys quiet times and togetherness.

My Feline-ality is Personal Assistant (orange)

My Feline-ality is Party Animal (green) of anything!







PENNIES FOR PETS

Ben Franklin Elementary 4th Graders had a week long money drive called PENNIES FOR PETS and also held a garage sale held March 7-8t. Students helped customers, took money and kept items organized. One student, Galeen Sagahari, earning a Girl Scout badge, ran a bake sale earning over \$190! PENNIES FOR PETS earned over \$2,000, divided between MEOW and Pasado's Safe Haven.

Students worked on their math skills by counting and graphing money. They read stories featuring animals by author Pea Kehret. Students had a field trip to MEOW to see where the financial donation went to work and hear more about volunteering.



Pennies are purr-fect!

Thanks to teachers Carrie Webster and Dave Condon, who oragnized this event and to these areat students.

In memory of Pooka. Vivien & Cliff Olofson

In memory of Sweet Lilly, Karen Beale's kitty who left too soon. *Mary Rose Smith*

In loving memory of sweet Odie. He was loved by everyone who knew him and is dearly missed. May he be rolling in catnip fields at the Rainbow Bridge. *City Kitty Cat-Sitting*

> In loving memory of Katsuko. Susan Payne

In honor of Leslee Picone and her cats. Sheila Dietrich

To remember all of our little 'Meows' for the last 58 years, with love. *Roger & Janet Block*

> For Zoey - a loveable scamp. Nancy Schroder

For Morrie, Mollie & Sweetheart II, the very best friends. Dorothy & Kevin Mahoney

In memory of my sister, Roseann McFall, and all the animals that passed through our lives - bless them. Nancy Wilson

> For Vern Slichter. Sue Button

In memory of Dorothy Springwater. Brad Hampton & Lynne Chafetz

> In memory of Lizzie. *Adrienne Kawamura*

You are always in our thoughts Baby Simba. See you at the rainbow bridge. *Love Karen & Gordy*

> In loving memory of Emma. Judy Anderson

In loving memory of my Mom, Virginia, who always found a way to keep the strays I brought home. Joni Cervenka

In honor of Cee Cee McCray and Jim Keller. Emily Bishton & Conrad Uno

In remembrance of Mr. Winston for a decade of unconditional love and tenderness of spirit. You are in my heart always! *Tanya Oshatz*

In remembrance of Dorothy, who certainly loved cats! Jay & Terry Ackley

> In memory of Shy Shadow. Claude Benavides & Dace Trence

For Elijah Blue Chip - Stray - found sick - condemned - rescued by MEOW - cured - displayed - adopted - indoor/outdoor - raccoon - BIG vet bill - indoor fat & sassy - much loved. *Bill & June Becker*

> For all my beloved pets. Elaine Smillie-Busick

To all those who work at or with MEOW. You are the angels these kitties need. My heart goes out to you. *Susan Grace*

In memory of Ginger. Judy Anderson

In memory of Blackie Niesen, 1993 - 2008. *Adrienne Kawamura*

In memory of beautiful Violet. She was a sweet and gentle kitty who is loved and missed by all. May her pretty tortie face smile down on her beloved Mommy and kitty brothers and sister. *City Kitty Cat-Sitting*

To honor our wonderful adopted feline friends, D'amanda and Rockie, now in their second great year! *Cathy Davis*

> In honor of Jade. *Claudia Kertzer*

SHOULD I TAKE IN AN ABANDONED KITTEN?

Please be certain kittens are really abandoned before you disturb a nest. A momcat can be harder to spot than a stealth bomber, but just because she's invisible doesn't mean she's not around. If the kittens are clean, plump and quiet, they've likely got an attentive mom. Abandoned kittens will be chilled and the nest may be soiled. They may cry continuously because they're hungry.

If you're certain the kittens are orphaned, keep them warm while you contact MEOW. We have trained foster

parents to care for them. If you'd like to help raise this season's kittens, contact us. You'll find fostering orphan kittens so rewarding. If you think the momcat is homeless, contact us for information about spay/ neuter and adoption options. Each spring we are remind-



In memory of Roxie's birthday. Cynthia Okun

In memory of Ret Butler, beloved friend and companion for 18 years. It was the kind of relationship that comes along once in a lifetime. We knew what each other was thinking. How blessed I was to have him in my life. *Adrienne Kawamura*

> In honor of Rob Roy Smith. Susannah Carr

In loving memory of Thatcher, Therapy, Talula, Tess & Abby. *Marilyn Sylvester*

> To Mikey, our kitty, who was with us for 9 years. She came to us from MEOW. Janice Teshima

For my husband, Fred Duesenberg, a wonderful man who had a great love for all animals. *Catherine Duesenberg*

In honor of Cosmo Caldwell, Mar & Squeak Hoppin. *Elizabeth Buden*

For Mittens, my beloved friend of 13 years who helped me through those years. I love you forever. Sandra Greer

In honor of Tony and Suzanne Bamonite, who have taken responsibility for an entire feral cat community in Spokane. *Edward & Lorna Aites*

In loving memory of my beloved Kira. Gone, but never forgotten. Daddy Stan

In honor of all shelter staff, volunteers, foster families and cat lovers. *Whitney Mason*

In loving memory of 'Whitey', my little feral who came to live with me 16 years ago. She will live on in my heart. *Rose Smith*

In honor of our special cats, Lucy and Tajar. Jean Muir



Kissame, Hugame and Luvame

ed that ending pet overpopulation requires us all to be aware and get involved.





In honor of Rajah, who marched right in from MEOW to take over the household and for Tux who came to the door for help and found love as well. *Sue & Bill Mooseker*

In honor of my mother's birthday, February 8th. LaFay and family

> In honor of Ms. Nydia White. *H. Thomas Greer*

> > In memory of Maui. *City Kitty*

Our angels Cupcake, Boots and Ruby are together now, playing somewhere in heaven, while our adoptees Olive and Monkey have brought us great joy back at home! *Mark Hawk & Robert Ross*

In honor of Dudley, formerly known as Jazzman and in loving memory of Duncan. Beth Harvey

> Happy 2008 to the dear animals. Lavonne Schott

In loving memory of Elinor Pini. Elizabeth McKinnon

In loving memory of Toby, Smokey, Ching and Minkey, each in their amusing playfulness thought they were 'helping' us decorate our Christmas trees. You are all missed and loved. *Nancy Mason*

> In honor of Willow, who is the best ever. *Bill Jong*

> In memory of Dorothy Springwater. Mary Donovan & James Sloan

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

> For Euclid, our dear neighbor. Sheila Woodcock

our adoption counselors with the primary goal of providing consistent information and message to our volunteers, adopters and the public. We are hopeful that this program will continue to increase the quality of our adoptions and help us retain our great volunteers. We are pleased with the results so far as we've received favorable feedback from the volunteers who have attended the sessions.

But we need your help. Currently we have to rent or borrow a projector each time we host a training session or fundraising event. In the long run, it would be more cost effective to purchase our own projector. We anticipate the cost for a new projector to be about \$1,000. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of a projector

or if you have a new or gently used projector you'd like

to donate, please contact our Shelter Manager, Jason

Thompson.

In honor of Dilemma, who brings us joy and love every day - and thanks to the folks at MEOW for your great work! Don & Linda Elman

> In memory of Ms. Kitty. Adrienne Kawamura

In honor of Megan and Cindy. Judy Anderson

Happy 2008 to all the good cats and cat lovers. Elsie and Trigger

In memory of handsome Milo, a sweet kitty man who we all loved. He is loved and missed by his Mommy and his Aunties Valerie and Janel. *City Kitty Cat-Sitting*

> In honor of our family cat, Aragorn. Ed and Denise Fleischer

In memory of Jamaica H. Prowser, first cat, gentle spirit, and best friend - you'll live in my heart forever. *Judy Sorensen*

In honor of Isabeau (formerly Coconut) and her younger companion, Sam. *Jan Yamamoto*

> In memory of Dorothy Springwater. Bonnie & Alan Weiss

> For Beanie, our beloved cat for 20 years. Donna & Dave Long

With a grateful heart for saving the life of my darling Maggie - whom you knew as Sundie. Bless you! Jane Jones

In loving memory of my beautiful Birman cat, Sadie, whom I adopted from the Bellevue Humane Society. We were together for 14 years. Sharon Roger

To Boonee, who was rescued by MEOW 4 years ago. We love you! Don, Sandy and Garet Wirth In memory of Punk'n one of the original MEOW adoptees. Missed by her Mommy, Susan Jarvis. *Bill & Joanna*

Love to all the bro's and sis' - Paddingon Jr. and Daisy. *Peg Hawkes*

In honor of Sara Kitty, who died in December 2007. Sharon Holt

> Nigel, you left us too soon. We miss you. We weren't done with you yet. *Rita & Robert Moore*

In honor of Hank, the friendliest and bravest cat ever. *Cathy McDonald*

To thank you for our sweet Ziri, whom we adopted in December 2005. Jane & Dave Haug

To honor my sisters, Sally and Shelley for providing wonderful homes for EB, Buddy, Marco Polo and Jade. Sandy Mortinson

> In memory of Dorothy Springwater Lida M. Sigg & Betty Moretti

Thank you to MEOW for the gift of fur wrapped love! Giving thanks for Jeter and Roxy who hare celebrated their 2nd Christmas at HOME! *Teri Jo Bala*

Thanks MEOW, for my special friends, Zoe and Buddy. Bobbie DeCoster

In memory of Dorothy Springwater, who loved cats and adopted her cat Daisy from MEOW. John & Carole Ball

For Lois McCuan (Helping Hands for Animals), who is my sister. *Maxine Trevethen*

In gratitude to Janis Newman, who works tirelessly to help the cats. *Jan Rowe*

OUR VOLUNTEER TRAINING NEEDS A TECH BOOST Recently we successfully launched a training program for

	10600 NE 68th St., Suite F Kirkland WA 98033 425 822-MEOW (6369)	Hours: Tues., Wed.12PM - 5PM Thurs. 3PM - 7PM
	423 622-IVIEOW (0309)	Fri. 12PM - 7PM
	Meowcatrescue@hotmail.com	Sat. 11AM - 5PM
	www.meowcatrescue.org	Sun. 12PM - 3PM
		Closed Mondays and
	Board Members:	Major Holidays
	President - Joni Cervenka	
	Vice President - Kelly Starbuck	Newsletter editor:
	Treasurer - Bonne VeVea	Denise Schoo
	Secretary - Steve Hendrickson	Meownewsletter@comcast.net

MEOW is a Non Profit No Kill Shelter If you would like to be removed from our newsletter mailing list, please send us an email at meowcatrescue@hotmail.com

MOOSHIE - MAKING HER YEARS COUNT, NOT COUNTING HER YEARS

Mooshie is a gentle soul who asks nothing, is happy with anything and would not dream of complaining.

In January, one of our volunteers headed down to King County Animal Care and Control in Kent to pick up a



Mooshie

number of cats and kittens they had asked us to take. While our soon to be new kitties were being put in carriers, our volunteer locked eyes with those of a lovely senior kitty. Mooshie had been picked up as a stray and her owner had never come forward so she was now available

for adoption. She had been passed over for quite a long time, possibly because of her age the and the fact that she doesn't demand attention as prospective adopters pass her by. The staff at KCACC were afraid she might never get a home. They were delighted when we said we'd take her. The truth is, our volunteer could not have left without her.

On examination at the shelter, we discovered that she is declawed, perhaps fifteen years old or more, and when she walks her hind quarters tend to collapse. Radiographs at the veterinarian's office showed a complete dislocation of her right hip. This is an old injury and she has compensated in the best way she knew, without complaint.

In February, Mooshie was prepared to undergo an expensive reconstructive surgery. We had hopes that this would reorient her hip joint, heal it properly and allow her to walk normally and without pain. Instead, the specialists determined that surgery could not repair Mooshie's damaged joints. In addition, they discovered that she has several degenerated disks in her spine. Now we must move in a different direction – maintenance and management. She will be on medication to help make her as comfortable as possible. She seems to be enjoying life. Her bright green eyes seem to say "I'm okay. And thanks."

We're certain she'll be adopted one day. She is truly irresistible, like a little loving grandmother with perfect manners, a knowing smile and the ability to make you feel that everything is alright. She'll be a best friend to someone with a warm lap. She'll enjoy listening to soft music and helping turn the pages of someone's book. Mooshie has stolen our hearts and we have willingly given ours in return.



When I'm discouraged, he's empathy incarnate, purring and rubbing to telegraph his dismay. ~ *Catherine Jakobson*

NOT SO EXTREME MAKEOVER AT THE SHELTER

Every year in late winter and early spring we make preparations for the upcoming busy season to follow. The rest of the year we make lists of our needs and dreams for the next year. This year we are so excited because we've been able to make a few improvements at the shelter that will make the upcoming kitten season just a bit easier for our staff, volunteers and most importantly our residents.

Our Treatment Room has long needed improvements. This is where we examine cats and kittens as they come into the shelter and again before they are adopted. It's where we perform blood draws and administer subcutaneous flu-

ids. It's the medical heart of the shelter. It also acts as a kitchen for preparing foods for the animals and washing their dishes. Until recently we have had to sterilize food and water dishes manually, using a bleach solution to ensure germs are not passed from cat to cat. Our old counter top almost always had dish drainers dripping



Thank you!

into both of the sinks and was therefore perpetually wet. Recently it had begun to get moldy. We are thrilled because we've now installed a beautiful new laminated counter top, a dishwasher and garbage disposal. These improvements have made our Treatment Room function so much better, not to mention how much easier it is now to make certain our cat dishes are perfectly sterile. The cost for this minor remodel was approximately \$1,500.

MEOW's Isolation Room is our hospital. This is where cats and kittens stay while recovering from such things as upper respiratory infection, various viruses, injuries, and sometimes even more contagious and serious diseases. About a year ago, we adopted a new cleaning protocol which has been vital in keeping the spread of illness in the shelter to a minimum. However, there will always be shelter residents needing special care and they will always need a safe, guiet and healing environment in which to become strong and well. This year, with seed money of \$1000 from one of our most committed volunteers, we have made a great leap of faith and purchased a beautiful, large, state of the art Isolation cage. It has six spacious units, each with its own separate small litter room. This is a unique concept which will help to keep each cat's living space clean, comfortable and free of tracked or spilled litter. The cost for this major improvement to the lives of the ill and injured animals in our shelter is about \$4,000.

We're so very proud of these improvements. Although these are areas of the shelter not usually visited by the public, we invite you to stop in for a tour. If you wish to help defray the cost of these vital upgrades, you may designate your donations to our Shelter Improvement Fund. We thank you kindly and as always appreciate your very generous support.

UMBERTO - EYES ON THE PRIZE

A streak of deep orange would shoot across the deck to the cat food bowl accompanied by hissing and growling to ward-off any would-be competitors. The food in the dish would disappear so quickly! This wild-acting cat had my husband worried for our other cat visitors. When he and this cat would meet, my husband would wave his arms and shout to drive the tabby intruder away.

But the thin tabby would return. He seemed so focused on eating, that I decided to risk petting him while he was distracted by the cat food. Although my actions may have been risky given our previous interactions with him, it was worth it. I was pleas-



Umberto

antly surprised to learn that Umberto, as I named him, turned out to be merely a very hungry homeless domestic cat. Not only was he hungry for food, but also attention and love.

Umberto squinted at me through eyes that looked sore and enflamed so I hurried his introduction into my house. My husband reluctantly consented. Umberto's eye problem was evaluated through MEOW, and on January 17th he had entropian eye surgery at NW Animal Eye Specialists. Entropia is a congenital condition in which the eyelids turn inward, causing the eyelashes



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to scrape the surface of the eye with each blink. Although his corneas are permanently scarred, the surgery made Umberto's eyes more comfortable. Following his surgery, he returned to my home for medication and recuperation.

About a month after surgery, Umberto officially started his second life. He is now thoroughly enjoying all the comforts of the indoor house cat experience. After living through his outdoor ordeal, Umberto wants it all. He enjoys the food, the beds, the windowsills, and love from people. Umberto will race up and throw himself into the waiting arms of his humans 3-4 times a day for a few minutes of undivided, uninterrupted love. Then off he goes to monitor the windowsills for outside activity. He loves to be held and has come to enjoy the comfort of a lap. He sleeps on the bed. Umberto went without for so long. He endured the daily pain in his eyes. He got by with whatever he could sneak from an outdoor dish. Now he blinks his "thank you" with eyes that no longer hurt. He no longer devours his food for fear it will be his last meal. He takes great pleasure in having twenty-four hour access to his family. Umberto has hit the jackpot.

Melody, Umberto's foster mom



I believe cats to be spirits come to earth. A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through. ~ Jules Verne

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