



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF RESCUE
AND OVER 21,000 PRECIOUS LIVES SAVED

Spring 2017

OUR LITTLE PONI



Giddyup little Poni

How they got there will remain a mystery, but the colony of cats living under a boat launch at Ocean Shores were discovered just in time. They were thin from hunger and parasites, yet surprisingly trusting and friendly. Among the nine of them delivered to MEOW in January, was a tiny little calico we dubbed Poni. Clearly a young adult, weighing in at just four pounds, she was the size of a kitten. She had a poor appetite and gastrointestinal troubles, and we couldn't help but notice her oddly wobbly back legs. As she walked and played, her knees popped out to the side and she clearly did not like having her hind joints gently palpated. Imagine our dismay when the radiology report diagnosed not only bilateral hip dysplasia but also bilateral "very severe" luxated patellas. It would be rather unusual for a cat to have just one joint affected by either of these structural malformations, but poor little Poni was born with four abnormal joints. Hip dysplasia is a predisposition to partially dislocate, due to irregularly shaped bones, which can cause damaged cartilage, microfractures, and potentially crippling lameness. Poni's luxated patellas, or dislocated kneecaps, was rated grade 4, the very worst. Both kneecaps were permanently out of position, and couldn't be manually repositioned. Although she kept a stiff upper lip, we felt this must be addressed as soon as possible.

Thanks to our Mercy Fund, on March 27th, Poni had orthopedic surgery to restructure both knees, to stop the wobbling and relieve the pain. Her surgeon has taken a conservative path on the hip dysplasia. He recommends a "wait and see" position, knowing that if in her later life she should become arthritic in those joints, that will be the time to do surgery. For now, we're happy to report that our little Poni is the bee's knees! She's becoming a kitten again. Soon she'll be running races and jumping like a Lipizzan. That's our little Poni.

IRIS READY FOR ANYTHING



Iris is styling!

In mid-March, a tiny Terrier-mix pup was released to a local shelter after the owner noticed that there was something very wrong with the way she eliminated bodily waste. Her feces exited the body through her vagina. This is a genetic malformation which can't be ignored, as stool in the vaginal tract can cause repeated infections. That shelter was unable to pursue the complicated and expensive surgery little Iris needed, so MEOW Canine Division stepped up to save her life.

Although dogs born with this condition are usually incontinent, this doesn't seem to be the case for Iris. At just 6 – 7 weeks, she was already potty training on puppy pads, a very good sign that she is getting the appropriate signals when she has to go. There can also be other serious birth defects, some of which may not be obvious at first, but so far Iris seems to be otherwise healthy, eating well and gaining weight.

MEOW does not turn away from the severely injured or ill, the special needs cats and dogs. Admittedly, the cost of caring for them is higher, but the rewards are so very great, particularly for those animals whose chances are limited elsewhere and for the people who will eventually love them for the rest of their lives.

Iris' life has been spared and her body has been repaired because of MEOW's Mercy Fund, which exists for just this kind of challenge. We are still seeking Mercy Fund donations to cover some of the expense of her reassignment surgery; surgery that gave her a body that works normally and eventually will allow her to join a family who will love her forever.

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY AID PAYING IT FORWARD

It's the little engine that could. It's the village it takes to get the job done. It's Eastside Community Aid, an all-volunteer non-profit thrift shop at 12451 - 116th Avenue in Kirkland's Totem Lake. The goal of this wonderful place, where one can repurpose gently used clothing and household items, is to support the missions of other non-profit organizations in our area. Every penny generated from the sale of goods, and the good graces of monetary donors, goes back into the community in the form of grants - for the greater good.

Since 2012, MEOW has received three such grants, for \$5000 each, enabling us to help low income seniors provide necessary veterinary care for their beloved pets so that they need not choose between relinquishing their best friend or, even worse, euthanasia. Wrangler, a 15 year old newly diagnosed with diabetes, went from insulin to dietary management with great veterinary care and coaching. When Hopper suddenly became lame, his mom could only afford the exam. Grant funds provided surgery, antibiotics and pain management for his deeply infected wound. He's become an indoor cat. Staff at an emergency hospital contacted us about Joe, a male cat in critical condition with a urinary blockage. Between his dad, the hospital, and the ECA grant, Joe's life was saved. With the generous support of ECA, MEOW has helped save many relationships and many lives.

ECA depends on the generosity of our community and in turn they pour it back out to organizations fulfilling all types of missions. Please take a look at their web site, www.ecathriftshop.org, and see how they have shared more than \$1.6 million in cash and \$1 million in material donations. Recent recipients include Hopelink, Eastside Baby Corner, Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, and many, many more, each one worthy.

MEOW is proud and humbled to partner with ECA. The next time you have items to donate, consider a short drive to Totem Lake. Who knows, you may find a gem or two to purchase, or perhaps you'll consider volunteering at this warm and welcoming place. ECA is the very definition of the term "paying it forward". And shouldn't we all follow their lead?



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



MEOW DONATION BOXES SMALL CHANGE HELPS CHANGE LIVES

We would like to thank the many retail businesses, pet supply stores and veterinary offices which proudly display a MEOW Donation Box. These boxes help spread the word about the work we do and, of course, offer an opportunity for people to easily donate. Since our first one was placed twelve years ago, our donation boxes have resulted in collected donations of more than \$70,000 to help defray the cost of food, medical expenses and shelter supplies. This success can be attributed to the dedication of the many volunteers and friends of MEOW who have engaged the businesses they frequent to display a box and then taken responsibility for delivering donated funds to the shelter. Small change really can help make big changes for MEOW and the community.

If you know of a business or veterinary practice that might like to support MEOW Cat Rescue by displaying a Donation Box, and you're willing to check the box from time to time, please contact Marilyn at donations@meowcatrescue.org. We are so thankful to be a part of a community which cares so deeply about the animals.

RUTHERFORD SAFE, SOUND & SPOILED



Heartthrob Rutherford

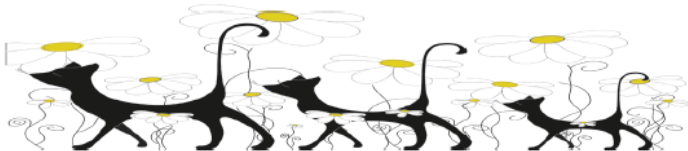
For more than a year, a MEOW foster family had been feeding and befriending a small colony of community cats near their home. Recently, they observed that one of

the cats had an eye injury and a recurring open wound on his tail. They escalated their efforts and soon had him in custody. This handsome Siamese mix, Rutherford, quickly became the heartthrob at MEOW as he soaked up all the human attention.

While we were aware that Rutherford had an unusual gait and some injuries from outdoor life, we were unprepared for the radiologist's report. He had buckshot in his tail, and shrapnel fragments in his vertebral canal as well as scattered in other parts of his body. His left eye had lesions consistent with either a blunt or penetrating traumatic event. That eye was sightless and at risk for developing a trauma induced sarcoma. The eye and his necrotic tail were removed during the same surgery. The rest of the shrapnel was dangerously close to his spinal column and not causing pain so it was thought best to leave it undisturbed. Rutherford was sent into foster care to recuperate with the Vet Tech who helped him through it all. A couple of weeks later, she beamed as she reported on his excellent progress, and we joked "Are we ever going to see him again?" "No", she smiled.

She says he gets along famously with the other cats and dogs in the family and loves to sit on her chest and purr. "My very first cat that I ever adopted from MEOW was a Siamese mix named Nigel. I lost him in November at the age of twelve and a half. I believe he sent Rutherford to me to help me cope with his loss. He has been such a wonderful addition to our family."

Meanwhile, back at the colony, another cat has come in from the cold. Westcott (which roles off the British tongue as Wes'kit) just might be Rutherford's brother. Westcott is accepting visitors in the Library at MEOW and enjoying the occasional cat video until his special person invites him home for the rest of his life.



FINE WINES & FELINES 2017 THE GREAT CATSBY SATURDAY JUNE 17TH - 5:30PM TO 9:30PM

Mark your calendars and please plan to join us as we celebrate MEOW's Roaring 20th anniversary and our 12th annual dinner and auction FUNdraiser! The HUB Ballroom on the UW Campus will be cat's meow locale for the evening. If it's raining pitchforks, or if you just prefer to be delivered in style, you'll be comfortably shuttled in covered golf carts from the parking lot to the HUB. For your bidding pleasure there will be more than 200 items total in our silent and live auctions. We'll be hosting a scrumptious vegetarian buffet style dinner, and offering wine, beer and a signature cocktail, as well. Have a good time with friends and hopefully win some great auction items while supporting the cats and dogs whose health and happiness depends on all of us. Invitations will be mailed and online registration will be available in early May. Check our website www.meowcatrescue.org in the coming weeks for more information. Email us at meowauction@gmail.com if you have questions. Put your glad rags on and we'll see you there!



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)

Hours:
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 3 - 7PM
Fri. 12 - 7PM
Sat. 12 - 5PM
Sun. 12 - 5PM

Info@meowcatrescue.org
Newsletter@meowcatrescue.org
www.meowcatrescue.org
Closed Tuesdays and
Major Holidays

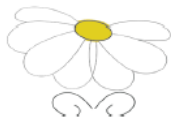
SAVING LIVES IT TAKES TEAMWORK



Proud momma Plum

It was in the middle of March Madness, and the Husky women were making a run of it. The call came into the shelter. After months of negotiating, a woman had finally convinced her neighbor to relinquish his neglect-

ed, unsprayed female cat to her. Knowing the kitty was pregnant she was prepared to give the sweet mama cat and her kittens a home on her farm. When she finally had the kitty safe in a carrier however, everything changed. The poor kitty had an abscess on her face that was so large it made her look like she was holding a ping pong ball in the side of her mouth. The wonderful rescuer didn't have the financial resources this poor kitty so desperately and immediately needed. Could we, would we take her? Indeed, we would. It was that quick. We had just accepted our first pregnant rescue of the year. When she arrived, although she must have been in pain and very uncomfortable, she was gentle, accepting of our attention. From the get-go, we knew she'd be an all-star and therefore named her Plum. She was immediately taken to Eastside Veterinary Associates for evaluation and treatment of the abscess. But surprise! While there, she gave birth to two adorable kittens. The little family spent the first week in the home of Dr. Judy Hung, who provided frequent round the clock wound care for mom and lots of snuggles for the kittens. Now they are busy growing and blossoming in their MEOW foster home. We are so grateful for the diligence of a true humanitarian, the dedication of our veterinary partners, and the commitment of one of our amazing foster families. Because of them, Plum and her kittens will have the chance to be somebody's number one draft pick.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW SHELTER HOURS

Has it been awhile since you've visited us? Our shelter hours have changed. We are now open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 pm to 7 pm, Fridays from 12 pm to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 pm to 5 pm. We are closed on Tuesdays. We hope our new hours will be much more convenient for potential adopters and volunteers.

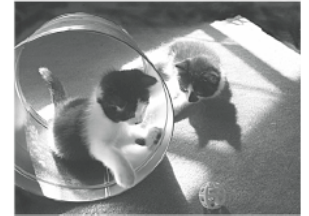
IS ADOPTION NOT AN OPTION? YOU CAN STILL SAVE LIVES



It has begun. The phone calls and pleas have started. Yes, it's kitten season and you can help. Each year from early spring until early fall we are called upon to intervene on behalf of the most vulnerable of cats - the kittens. They are young and tiny, fragile and often very hungry. Sometimes,

if we're lucky, they have a mama cat with them, but sometimes they're on their own. We are there for them, thanks to our wonderful foster families who are willing to open their hearts and their homes to a late stage pregnant, a mama cat with newborns, weaned kittens on their own who still need time to grow and thrive, and our most vulnerable, the bottle babies.

Fostering is not always an easy job. It requires a time commitment and a secure space (such as a second bathroom or spare bedroom). There is food and litter to be provided, and lots of laundry to do (kittens can be very messy). There are vaccine appointments to be kept and regular weigh-ins to make sure everyone is healthy. You may need extra strength (and a lot of Kleenex) when it's time to take them back to the shelter for adoption. But, there are also many, many cuddle and playtime sessions. Kittens provide endless hours of joy and entertainment. And most importantly, there is the knowledge that you saved lives and gave these precious babies a chance to live and be loved in their forever homes.



If you are interested in becoming one of MEOW's fabulous foster families, or you'd like to learn more, please visit our webpage, <http://meowcatrescue.org/volunteer/fostering/index.html>, or call us at the shelter. Don't be afraid, we'll be there to guide you every step of the way. Why not give it a try? You'll be glad you did.



TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In honor of the staff of MEOW.
Sheila Woodcock

In memory of Margo Anne Skidmore.
Polly Miller

In memory of Miles,
adopted 17 years ago from MEOW.
James Shibayama

Thank you to MEOW Cat Rescue for everything
you do. You are all such special people
in my eyes.
Kristine Hanson

So happy Bear's surgery was a success!
Ladonna Strickland

In celebration of Mychal Miller's birthday!
Stephanie Hibner

In memory of Alice Roddis.
Lee Melhado

In memory of our beloved Peepers.
Bob, Kathy & Cady

In remembrance of Chucky and Chelsea.
Rowena Verdant

In memory of all previous pets.
Bill & Linda

In honor of Filledokke. Sleep well.
Ron & Janice Waude

In memory of Margie & Edmond Squifflet.
Edmond Squifflet

In memory of my daughter, Val Vallejos.
Joan Soderquist

In honor of Joyce Ramee and
Rodger Burnett.
Joan Schwartzman

In loving memory of Saffron.
Ann Payne & Gary Baxter

In memory of Tiki, Tofu and Tiger.
Minna Levitt

For Mike and JoAnn's good cats,
Snowball and Rocco.
Daniel Carey

In honor of our lively,
funny and loveable Kiana (formerly Hillary).
James Bredfeldt

In fondest memory of our mom, Marian,
who loved animals.
Marlex & Gail Memmel

In loving memory of Crouton.
Michael & Liz Bennett

Tessy, you were the sweetest kitty ever.
Miss you, mom and dad.
Angie Dorgan

In honor of Springs, Cruz, Specter, Rosemary,
Lavender and my glorious Racecar,
my very first foster. My heart still holds you,
although my arms can't.
Diane Smith

In honor of Mary Charlton and
Gaile Bryant Cannon.
Joan Marsh

In memory of my Magi. Miss her tiny meows
and how she'd curl up under the covers.
Cindy Wilson

In memory of our friends, Tigger and Tucker.
Lisa Losh

In memory of Stanley. We miss you each day.
Susan and Peter Conrick

In honor of my partner, Greg,
for his loving companionship
and my 20 year old cat Maggie,
who sleeps next to my pillow every night.
Jackie Faucette

In honor of our eight year old cat, Nelle.
Joan Hutto

In honor of lovely Lily,
adopted from MEOW 11 years ago.
Kristin Olson

In loving memory of our babies,
Toot-Toot, Sam, Crazy and Spike.
Robert & Charlotte MacNelly

In honor of my beloved companion, Cody.
Evelyn Knetzger

In memory of Frosty
and all our sweet MEOW cats over the years.
Margaret Mariger

In honor of Buzz, Bear, Sweetey Pie & Sparkles.
Miss them sooo much.
Geraldine Hodges

In honor of our precious companions,
Maxine & C.J.
Jessica Greenway

In memory of our sweet kitty, Scout.
Thank you for 14.5 wonderful years.
Janan & Alan Carter

In honor of our son and daughter in law,
Martin Jung and Jana Torbenson.
Don & Marie Ibsen

To honor Karen Rosener and Sneakers.
Martha & Dan Arizumi

In honor of Chrissy Muffin and Ginger.
Ruth Bishop

In honor of Tucker,
adopted from MEOW in 2008.
Barbara Fristoe

In memory of Calvin & Hobbs,
1995 - 2015, and in honor of Odie.
Andrea Lorig

In honor of Isis, Biggy, Cisco,
Poncho, Zena and Gizmo.
Susan Richins

In memory of Katie, Woody, Wally,
Amelia, Charlie and Yeager.
Ruth Chandler

In memory of Squeaky.
Lisa Murr

In loving memory of Boo Boo Carlson.
We miss you sweet boy.
Becky & Scott Carlson and Hannah Fenske

In loving memory of my dearest Tiger Lily.
Norma Hobbs

In memory of my husband, Mark.
Vickie Russell

In loving memory of Tai,
adopted from MEOW 11 years ago.
Sherry McKinnis

In memory of Ruffles.
Angela Timpone

In honor of our sweet Sundae
and in memory of her "managerial"
sister Egypt, beloved MEOW
kitties adopted in 2003.
Christy Reynolds

In honor of Bella (Blueberry)
who brings joy and shares in my adventures.
Lynn Schnapp

In memory of my uncle Clemett Phillips,
a great appreciator of cats.
Elizabeth Phillips

In loving memory of my mom.
Christine Grossman

In honor of my niece Laura,
a MEOW volunteer, and sister in law,
June Hanley-Wendt, a loving cat lady
and a MEOW mom as well!
Lorien Wendt

In honor of David Smiley.
Ruth Smiley

For the love of Oliver,
who really thought he was a dog.
Nicole Sams

In memory of Nora Kristjansson's Princess and
Vicki Arbini's Precious.
Also in memory of Tiki and Sampson.
City Kitty

Happy birthday Jamie W!
Jordan Martinez

In honor of Sherry Smith,
who recently lost her friend, Smokey.
Christine Grossman, Steve Coats & Lil Pabon

In honor of Evelyn Knetzger.
Reed Knetzger

In honor of The General
and the Kitty Cat Collection.
Pullar Productions, Inc.

In honor of Janis Newman's birthday.
Nancy Bacon

In loving memory of beautiful Maggie,
loved so very much by Jaquie.
Friends of Maggie

In honor of Mikiko Patzwald's birthday.
Melody Wiegel

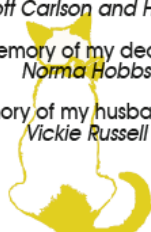
In memory of Paul & Robin Wells' 21 year old
Athena. She is missed.
Valerie Ray

In loving memory of Dr. Penny Olson's Nacho,
who was such a big presence in their lives!
Judy Soong

In honor of Kathi Jones and Luther Haugan.
Sara Fisher

In memory of Dakota,
MEOW kitty loved for 14 years.
Mike Martel

In honor of Joni for her kind service in helping
a random cat parent caller!
Ashley Thomas



PSST!

**Hey Kiddo,
You in for the auction on June 17th?
Don't be a wet blanket,
we'll have a swell time.
It's going to be the cat's meow!
Ya Follow?**



**GIVEBIG - NOW MORE THAN EVER!
WEDNESDAY MAY 10TH**



We are once again excited to participate in Seattle Foundation's one day, 24 hour, on-line charitable giving event designed to inspire people in our community to give generously to the nonprofit organizations that make our region a stronger, more vibrant one for all.

New this year, Dollars for Change. Donors will be systematically chosen throughout the day and their contribution to an organization will be generously boosted with a \$2,500 award. Last year, you, our amazing supporters, donated over \$32,000 to help the precious ones we serve at MEOW! The stretch dollars added an additional \$2,200! Seattle Foundation has a new web-donation partner this year. Hopefully all will run smoothly. Watch our website and our e-newsletter, MEOW MEWS, in the near future to learn more. Your gift will go even farther and help MEOW even more on Wednesday May 10th. Do you have other plans that day? No worries. You may make your giveBIG donation as early as April 27th. Here's the link. <https://www.givebigseattle.org/meow-cat-rescue-adoption>

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