



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF RESCUE
AND OVER 22,000 PRECIOUS LIVES SAVED

Summer 2018

THE FLOWERS OF SPRING



Daffodil

One of the most difficult and heart-breaking aspects of working in animal welfare is encountering hoarding situations. When an individual is housing more animals than they can adequately care for; when they are unable to provide minimum standards of shelter, nutrition, sanitation, and veterinary care;

when they seem unable to see the pain and suffering that is happening right before their very eyes, this is animal hoarding.

Such was the case in rural Snohomish County. When called upon to help 15-20 cats, we were dismayed to find 2-3 times that number, most of them very ill. They suffered from malnutrition, internal and external parasites, feline herpes and severe eye infections, upper respiratory infections and pneumonia, calici virus, dermatitis, wounds, and severe dental disease. Some were later diagnosed with heart conditions, and even cancer. It was a deplorable situation.

The first transport and triage was eye-opening. Over the following month, there were many returns to the property, many negotiations with the owner, many sick, sad, and frightened animals to be evaluated and medical plans to be designed. Some have required extensive hospitalization, many have had long stays in our isolation area, and others are still recovering in foster care. To date, a total of 50 cats and kittens have been removed from this site. Sadly, three of them could not be saved. Another eight, who choose not to interact with people, will be employed as working cats in safe barns. On the bright side, many of the cats came to us well-socialized and a few were actually in quite good health.

We've called them the Flower Family, giving each one a name from nature that signifies a new beginning. We are simply amazed at this large extended family of cats, their incredible response to medication and tender care, and their willingness to trust and accept love. Our hearts swell with joy watching the Flower Family blossom and, one by one, burst into bloom.

A NINTH LIFE FOR CRACKERJACK

Found in a barn on Memorial Day 2005, Crackerjack and his siblings were fortunate to have been discovered. In 2016, his adoptive family had their first child and because Crackerjack was quite vocal at night, they sadly returned him. Crackerjack had a history of chronic irritable bowel issues and, after a thorough medical workup, he was diagnosed with an inoperable mast cell tumor.

Once his digestion and his pain were well-managed, he was taken in by a wonderful foster family for a hospice stay. Crackerjack developed a wonderful friendship with the young boy in the house, chasing DaBird with him after school and snuggling at bedtime. But several months into this relationship, CJ resumed his habit of singing loudly at night. Again, he came back to the shelter.



Crackerjack

MEOW has never turned away from animals with special needs or senior cats who are difficult to adopt. We have always quietly managed to provide safe, loving, long-term care for those who are too old, too frail, or too chronically ill to ever be considered for adoption, or those who need a final refuge. MEOW supports these cats for their lifetimes through our Ninth Life Division, ensuring that all of their needs are met for as long as they live, in a home where love is unconditional.

Apparently Crackerjack had been easy to love in his first two homes, but he might not have been so easy to keep loving. That is, until shelter volunteer Greg became his Ninth Life foster dad for the long haul. After more than two years together, Greg reports that they've got things pretty much worked out. Crackerjack is cooperative about his meds, he gives the best, longest hugs ever, and yes, he still belts out a startlingly loud song now and then. Crackerjack is living his precious Ninth Life to the fullest.

"When I am feeling low, all I have to do is watch my cats and my courage returns." ~ Charles Bukowski.



THE ABCS OF TAMING KITTENS



The word "feral" describes wild behavior, and feral kittens are those who have had little to no contact with humans. They need intervention and some gentle

determination to evolve from ferocious wild things to happy housecats. Tender touch and lots of interaction are imperative. Here are a few taming tips:

A – Age of a feral kitten does not always determine whether or not it can be tamed. Of course, younger kittens often come around more quickly, but if a kitten has it in its genes to be tame, age doesn't matter.

B – Benevolent Dictator, that's you! Even the tiniest feral kittens can be fierce at first, but they will soon learn that you are kind - and persistent. Observe and evaluate to determine the safest way to make contact. Food and toys may be used as deconditioning tools.

C – Confine and cuddle those kittens. Patience and persistence will pay off. Every gentle contact makes a good impression and soon that kitten who was spitting and growling will forget her fears and greet you with a soft body posture and an easy purr.

So here we are again! It's kitten season and shelters everywhere are in need of kitten foster homes, especially for kittens who must be "gentled" before adoption. If you'd like to learn more about what it takes to provide a foster home for kittens



needing help to develop their social skills, please contact us at foster@meowcatrescue.org or call the shelter at 425-822-6369. It is a labor of love, requiring patience and a time commitment, but the rewards are so remarkable. When the hisses turn into purrs and an unpredictable beginning turns into a safe, indoor forever home, you'll know you've really changed a life.

MEOW CANINE DIVISION IT'S NOT ABOUT THE NUMBERS

MEOW Canine—don't let the somewhat puzzling name confuse you. It is all about the dogs for our canine division leader Kelly Starbuck and her foster team. They rescue and place between 15 and 30 dogs each year, taking requests from local shelters who are looking for a better chance for one of their dogs, or from long-distance shelters hoping for help.



Abel

One such dog was Abel, who was found tied to a pole outside a local shelter, bleeding profusely from severe wounds to his hind leg. It appeared he had been used as bait for training dogs to fight other dogs. He was close to death. Surgery to amputate his right hind leg was necessary to save his life, but then, this Pitbull mix would need a safe place to

go. When Kelly and MEOW Canine agreed to take him, Abel got his chance to show us all that he's nothing but love. He shows no sign of harboring ill will towards humans - instead showering them with kisses. He loves other dogs too. What an amazing boy! He has now found his forever home and is living the dream life he deserves.

Then, there's Kaya, an eight year old mixed breed who made her way to the Northwest from Hawaii, where her skin sensitivities to the sun were making her life miserable. Now in Seattle, she's loving every bit of her foster family life with two humans, six cats, and as many dogs and people as she can greet on every walk. She is just an amazing dog ambassador.



Kaya

Although MEOW Canine Division numbers may be low by some standards, the passion and dedication that goes into each rescue is sky high.



BORN THIS WAY

A recent transfer of several cats from a rescuer in Chehalis included three who happen to have been born a little bit different, a little bit special. During their intake process, as each one in turn came out of their carrier, we met these unique and wonderful cats.



Sweetie

First there was Sweetie. Her name is perfect for this middle-aged DSH Blue Tabby, who has the appearance and the playful personality of a youngster. Sweetie has a condition called Cerebellar Hypoplasia, or CH, which causes jerky movements similar to ataxic cerebral palsy in humans. CH is non-progressive, and kittens often learn to manage their disability as they grow into adult cats. Sweetie has a relatively mild case, and does very well getting to where she wants to be. She can even jump and climb. Cats with CH can live long, happy, normal lives and may be the perfect addition to a family. Although Sweetie has lived in a multi-cat home all of her life, she would love to be a single cat in her forever home.



Peggy Sue

Next to introduce herself was Peggy Sue. This young cutie-cat, a DSH reddish tortie with big, bright eyes, could not be more loving. She is quick to give head bonks, to rub against a leg, and to enjoy a cuddle. Peggy Sue was born with a foreshortened right front leg which has a small toe pad and just one claw. As is true of most three-legged cats, Peggy Sue's condition does not seem to affect her mobility. She is very active and has even been known to explore a countertop or two. Her perfect family is one who will return the love and affection she gives and provide plenty of playtime, too.



Scooth McFluff

Then came Scooth McFluff, a handsome tuxedo with impressive whiskers. With unmistakable confidence and pure joy he began introducing himself, moving toward each outstretched hand in a "scootching" fashion. His hind legs are bent at the hips and knees and drawn up tight, allowing him just enough flexibility to walk. Scooth greeted us with a rumbling purr and soon flopped over to expose his tummy, begging for a good rub. We're sure his sunny personality will soon be brightening the lives of a forever family who will deem him perfect.

Each of these new residents is very special, not for their needs, but for their potential to bring joy and wonder into the lives of their forever families. We are happy to know them, to have become a part of their lives and to give them the chance at forever love they so deserve.

Greetings, precious ones. You are perfect, just as you are, and you are most welcome here.



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
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Kirkland WA 98033
425 822-MEOW (6369)

Info@meowcatrescue.org
Newsletter@meowcatrescue.org
www.meowcatrescue.org

Hours:
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 3 - 7PM
Fri. 12 - 7PM
Sat. 12 - 5PM
Sun. 12 - 5PM
Closed Tuesdays and
Major Holidays

TIGERCITO - WELCOME TO WASHINGTON

"In ancient Egypt, cats were elevated to objects of worship, but today many are relegated to dark street corners and abandoned buildings. Thousands are born, only to quickly die.

At any time Puerto Vallarta residents and visitors can witness kittens being thrown into garbage pick up areas or along the river, or skinny street cats fighting over scraps of food. It is estimated that there are around 100,000 street cats in the Puerto Vallarta area."

~Louise Holton, founder, Alley Cat Allies



Tigercito

Tigercito was born into the street cat life in Puerto Vallarta. At not quite six months old, he was well on the way to a slow and agonizing death from a badly broken jaw. His fate was nearly sealed. Had food been available to him, he would not have been able to eat. He was thin and dirty, his mouth hung open, and he was in constant pain.

But a human angel noticed him and could not bear to let this kitten suffer. The jaw repair was complicated and his little face would never look quite like it had, but he would be able to eat again and grow into a healthy cat. Tigercito will always have a lower canine snaggletooth, making him stand out from other adorable red tabbies.

Even with his new lease on life, Tigercito's chances of survival in his homeland would be very slim, so as soon as he was strong enough, his angel Suzanne arranged for him to fly to MEOW. Since the day he was rescued in Puerto Vallarta, Tigercito has not stopped purring. After settling in and being treated for some internal parasites, he was quickly adopted.

Cats from Puerto Vallarta, such as Tigercito, must be flown in the cabin, accompanied by a passenger. If you'd like to help transport a precious carry-on from your next PV vacation, please contact us for details. You can help us change lives - one at a time - forever.



KIRKLAND OKTOBERFEST 9/21 - 9/23 ATTEND OR VOLUNTEER - OR BOTH!



Mark your calendar for Kirkland Oktoberfest, a three day authentic München-style Oktoberfest Biergarten held at Kirkland's Marina Park. There will be live German music, traditional foods, games, contests and of course, northwest craft and German import beer. Once again this year, MEOW is delighted to be one of the charity beneficiaries of this event. This event's success is due in large part to the volunteers. If you'd like to be part of that success, which directly benefits MEOW, and have some fun please consider volunteering. There are a wide variety of volunteer shifts, ranging from 2 to 4 hours long. You'll receive a t-shirt and admittance to the event. Why not get a group of friends or co-workers together and have some fun while benefitting MEOW? We'll keep you posted on how to sign up as the event approaches.

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
Fred Meyer Gift Cards



TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In memory of Charlie, aka Robby Bobby,
adopted December 2016.
Lori Salin

In memory of Cinnamon.
A most amazing and gentle feline.
Cleo Schacker

In memory of Lulu, Pip and Poppy,
dearly loved cats.
Nora and Lara

In honor of Alvin, Jasmine and Ted.
David Dempster

In memory of Mia, who left her mom
Kelly after only 1-1/2 years.
Barbara Lui

Farewell Tasha, our lion-heart.
Aly & Bill Shelby

In honor of Calvin.
Debra & Keith Ronnhalm

In honor of my dear friend,
Jolie Scheibe.
Lori Hendry

In loving memory of my kitty Charlie,
far from my arms but
always close to my heart.
Erin Whitty

In memory of Filbie and Cocoa Puff, two
angels who earned their wings.
Eva Sipos

In honor of Fig and her three
beautiful babies. Thank you MEOW
for saving them.
Linda Yelinek

To celebrate the life of the husband of a
good friend of mine,
Bobby Holcomb.
Jan Rettig

In memory of Blanche.
We know that she will be dearly missed
and never forgotten.
Gloria Santamaria

In honor of Enzo and Dolly.
Cindy Smith

In memory of Garnet
and Thomas Jefferson.
Hannah Richards

In honor of Finn and Marceline,
who have found a purrfect
place in our hearts.
Mike & Jessica Henn

In loving memory of Larsen, Lilly, Taffy,
Anthea, Evie and Pookie.
Cynthia Lapp

In memory of Teddy DeFusco,
a sweet boy who loved us all.
Jean Stewart

To all the wonderful cats
and people in my life.
Daniel Carey

In memory of Che,
loved by Ben Puarica & Sunnie Lewis;
In memory of Mishi,
loved by Carolyn Strong;
In memory of Smiley,
loved by Elena Shair;
In memory of Franny,
loved by Marilyn Overton;
In memory of Basil,
loved by Caroline Rourke.
City Kitty

In loving memory of my husband, Mark.
Vicki Russell

GIVING THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVEBIG

We are so grateful to and awed by all those who donated during the giveBIG campaign, raising over \$38,000 for the animals on May 9th. Many donors included very special dedications to those they love. Thank you so much for sharing your love.

In honor of

Ashley, Scottie, Stu, Luca & Summer;
Binky, Beauty & Sam; Bruce & Brian;
Charlie, Paulette, Peanut & Tripod; Cleo;
Dr. Anita Shafer; Holly & Henry; Jake; Jan
Newman; JellyBean; Kaspar; Kate Colter;
Kaya; Lulu; Luna & Oliver; Moose & Loki;
Neelum, Sadira & Jahnu; Pochi, Ichigo, Jun,
Koume, Minam & Momiji; Patches & Petunia;
Pepper & Peanut; Snowflake;
Toby & Roxie; Tuco; Tux & Sable; Zizi;
and MEOW's awesome volunteers!



In memory of

Angelboy; Bella; Bernard; Calvin;
Checkers; Grace & Stella; Gracie; Harley;
Holly; Jack; Jasper & Moschka; Jojo Bug;
Kona, Java & Susie; Lizzie, Alex, Annie
& Fozzie; Michelle Profant; Moo; Nadia;
Olive; Randy; Romeo; Romi; Simcoe;
Simm & Dimm; Stottle; Sunny B;
Tess & Abby; Tourette & Pandora; Watson;
and Zacky.

FINE WINES & FELINES 2018
TAKE MEOW TO THE BALLGAME
SATURDAY JUNE 23RD - 5:30PM

Registration for our annual auction and dinner fundraiser will be available until June 17th. We'll once again be the home team for the event at the HUB Ballroom on the UW Campus. If the roof is closed (i.e. it's raining), 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 Visit our website www.meowcatrescue.org to learn more, register, or view our auction catalog. Email us at meowauction@gmail.com if you have questions. We are hoping to match last year's record results and raise \$126,000 for the animals. Let's hit this one out of the park!



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