



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF RESCUE
AND OVER 26,000 LIVES SAVED

Fall 2023

MAUI — HAVE MERCY



Leilani

The Hawaiian Islands have struggled to gain control of their pet overpopulations, in shelters and free roaming. MEOW has been a transfer partner for Maui Humane for both cats and dogs for many years, accepting transfers from time to time. We are happy to do our small part, knowing that they are doing

their best every day to save lives. In June, during a challenging kitten season here, our Shelter Manager, Adolfo, promised to check in later in the summer to let our friends at Maui Humane know if and when we might be able to accept a handful of cats to free up a few cages on the island. On the morning of August 8th, Adolfo arrived prepared to do that check in, to let them know we were still thinking of them but not ready yet. However, early that morning the unthinkable happened. Maui was on fire. At that moment our message to Maui Humane changed. "We're here for you."

Residents in and around the lovely, historic town of Lahaina, human and animal alike, fled for their lives. As the days went on, the numbers of missing and confirmed deceased continued to rise. In the chaos and fury of the flames, countless pets had disappeared. People were frantic to find them or to know their fate. Before the fire, in this very busy season, Maui Humane and other rescue organizations and independent rescuers were already caring for as many animals as possible, in shelters and foster homes, but they quickly assembled pop-up emergency shelters to gather and treat the hundreds of burned and injured



Bob & Milo



Tabby Kitten

animals arriving daily. Here on the mainland, we stood at the ready, watching in horror and helplessness.

When a disaster such as this occurs, the animals in the shelter prior to the event are those who must be transferred to other organizations to make space for displaced pets who have a chance of being reunited with their families. This massive

coordination effort takes time. About three weeks after the fire, late on Wednesday August 30th, MEOW Canine welcomed three Maui pups into Seattle. And then, on Friday September 1st, we welcomed a mercy flight and said hello to nine sweet feline travelers.

We are thankful to those who have come forward to offer foster or permanent homes to transferred kitties and pups. They have made it possible for us to continue to intake cats and kittens from our independent rescuers, to accept litters through our Toms & Moms program, to be available for returns as needed. We are mindful of the fact that ground zero of the next disaster could be anywhere, and we value our partnerships and care deeply about the animals affected. Our hearts are heavy but blessed to have the opportunity to offer mercy and compassion. "We're here for you."

"The quality of mercy
Is not strain'd.
It droppeth as the
Gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath.

It is twice blest:
It blesseth him that gives
And him that takes.

~William Shakespeare



Missy Moo

KITTEN EXPLOSION PANDEMIC POPULATION PROBLEM



Seeing Red (Tabbies, that is)

Summer is always the busiest time for animal shelters, and cats are particularly prolific, some having up to three litters per year. Foster homes often welcome their first litter of kittens as early as March and they may still be sleep-deprived in October, during the

third round. Shelter workers and independent rescuers are exhausted by Fall, particularly this year. Why?

In March of 2020, when the pandemic changed our lives, it also affected the lives of animals across America. Veterinarians were prohibited from performing "elective" surgeries such as spays and neuters, to keep lifesaving medical supplies and equipment available for human hospitals. Pets who were never intended to reproduce – did. Some multiple times. Without options, rescuers who would have been trapping and altering feral and community cats had to suspend their work. In the meantime, cats were having kittens. Then kittens having more kittens. And so on, and so on.

Even though the restrictions have been lifted for almost two years and spay/neuter clinics are performing as many surgeries as possible on a daily basis, the impact of the shutdown has resulted in shelters everywhere being full to bursting. Despite the sheer number of requests, compassion fatigue and sometimes feeling less than hopeful, we all remain committed to saving as many precious lives as possible.

Kittens come and kittens grow. The birth rate will decrease again in time, but until then we'll do what we can and greet each sweet kitten face as if we've never seen one before. We'll welcome and comfort the adult cats who were kittens once, and we'll soothe their broken places. We'll continue to honor our promises to every one who comes to us, because all nine lives are precious.



A NEW LIFE FOR BOYKO



Boyko—Handsome & Home

In March 2023, a feline refugee came to us from Ukraine. Shelters and rescuers there are caring for countless displaced pets and animals who have never known a home. Wow Paw Ukraine chose this young, black, unsocial male because, as they said,

"he will never be adopted in Ukraine". John, a Kirkland man returning from a humane mission, somehow managed to get this unlikely traveler to safety at MEOW.

Boyko was thin and fearful, wide-eyed and suspicious of anyone who approached him. Traumatized. He had been evacuated from the streets of Toretsk, in the Donetsk frontlines. When touched, his body would stiffen and he pressed himself against the back of his hidey-box. But soon Boyko could be bribed with treats in exchange for the privilege of petting. Little by little, day by day, ever so slowly, his tense response softened. He would blink in response to a familiar voice. He began to stand and approach, and to push his head into an outstretched hand.

Then something magical happened. Irina, who had been Boyko's Ukraine-to-US liaison, introduced us to a Seattle couple who wanted to meet him. When Kristina and Stanislav introduced themselves in Boyko's native tongue, it was clear that they would be his forever family. This precious boy, born into war, is loved. Boyko will live the remainder of his nine lives in peace.



Enjoying a new view

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

In honor of Vinny.
Thanks for taking care of him.
Sharon Cox

Thanks for my great Archie.
Love the boy.
Thanks also to Kathy Posner
Jim Kesi

In recognition of Brianna Mark. We
admire, respect and honor your
countless hours of service, limitless
dedication to the health and welfare
of the cats no matter their age, and
your profound love of these animals.
Your passion runs deep and we
salute you, friend!
Lovingly, your SHW Team

In memory of Madeline
*The Ladies of Spy Glass Ridge
Book Club*

In honor of Vinny and to give him
some great food.
Thomas & Lisa Tangen

In memory of our beloved Raita,
Theo and Bob, and our friend
Jim Harnett
Karyn & Michael Angulo

In memory of my cats
Valentino and Misty
Mark Blitzer

In memory of Dave Linse
He loved his cats.
Carole Linse

In memory of Thor
Andee & Marc Castillo

In memory of Sabrina who loved
cats and the literature
which celebrated them. RIP.
Bridget Dacres

In memory of Maddie Goldsmith.
Lisa Gaul

In honor of Ms. Madeline Goldsmith
and her genuine care
for all living things.
The Singletary Family

In honor of Madeline Goldsmith.
Michelle Heilman

In memory of Manny
Friend of MEOW

In honor and thanks to Andee for
taking such great care of Jack Ryan,
and to the wonderful adopter who
gave a forever home to Vanna,
Dougie, and Jazzy Jeff.
Rebecca McQuade

In honor of Harold Sund's birthday
Mimi & Dick Zorn

In memory of Sadie
Sept 2011 - July 2023
Shelly & Larry Abner

In memory of Nina, the best kitty
ever! She is loved and missed.
Angela Morgan

In honor of Toshiba, a gorgeous
13-year old rescue from the streets
of Bothell, cherished and loved for
many years by Mac and Karen.
Lorien Wendt

In honor of Vinny, determined to live,
and in thanksgiving
for his rescuers
Joyce Ramee

In loving memory of our sweet Tulip
and her family who predeceased her
- Elvis, Sebastian & Rebecca.
The Memmel Family

In memory of Madeline
Aiden Munson

Thank you for all you do!
Jim Block

Alisa Khokhlova chose a gift to
MEOW for her birthday

Blessings to you for all you do for
the cats and dogs.
Patricia Miralda

In honor of Vinny. Many thanks to
the kind gentleman who rescued him
and to MEOW for taking
such great care of him.
Beth Schlansky

In honor of Christopher Noto
Stephen Oglesby

In Memory of Bonnie Fletcher.
Megan Turner

With respect and compassion for all animal life,
MEOW promotes lifelong relationships between
people and companion animals, providing shelter
and care for each pre-
cious life until adopted
into a forever home.

MEOW Cat Rescue
10600 NE 68th St., Suite F
Kirkland, WA 98033
425-822-MEOW (6369)

info@meowcatrescue.org
Newsletter@meowcatrescue.org
www.meowcatrescue.org

Adoption Open Hours:
Thursdays, Fridays,
Saturdays, & Sundays,
1-5 pm
Closed to Public:
Mondays—Wednesdays
and major holidays

DONATE IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE

We all find comfort in community, whether that
means honoring a special friend or occasion, or
sharing our grief by commemorating the life of a
loved one. At your request, MEOW is proud and
humbled to publish those tributes in each newsletter.
For a minimum donation of \$50,
you may use this QR code or, if you
prefer, you may donate by check or
credit card, enclosing a note with
your special dedication.



Scan and Donate

MEOW HOLIDAY BAZAAR & BAKE SALE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 2023

Mark your calendar! Our annual Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale is a wonderful opportunity for our talented MEOW supporters to craft and bake in support of MEOW, and an amazing shopping experience for all of us looking for gifts for friends, family and ourselves. Our sale will once again be located at St. John's Episcopal Church at 105 State St. in Kirkland, just down the road from the shelter. Watch your email as the date approaches as there may be an opportunity for early shopping on Friday evening. (Shhh!!!!) We hope you'll be able to join us to shop for unique and special items and gifts while supporting the cats and dogs of MEOW. If you are interested in crafting or baking this year, please contact bazaar@meowcatrescue.org to discuss.



all nine lives are precious®

MEOW'S 2024 CALENDAR PRE-ORDER YOURS TODAY!

 *all nine lives are precious.*



MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION 2024

Every year we commemorate several of our rescue stories in our 12-month calendar. It's a wonderful way to be reminded that there are indeed happy endings. Calendars

make great gifts for cat lovers and those who recognize the critical work that MEOW Cat Rescue is doing each and every day of every year. The calendars will be available soon. You may pre-order/purchase on our website with payment through PayPal (\$13 with shipping) or at the shelter (\$10 each). MEOW is open to the public Thursday through Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm.



Scan and order
yours today

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