



MEOW ~ CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

WE HEAR YOU.
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

In the quiet predawn light of a May morning, a Redmond police officer made his way around an apartment parking lot checking for signs of vandalism. From a thicket of ivy and stickers he heard the weak cry of a kitten. Following the sound, he discovered three tiny, wet newborn kittens, icy cold. One can only assume their mother had been young and frightened and had abandoned them. The officer did the right thing. He scooped them up, warmed them in his patrol car and waited until the nearest veterinary office opened. MEOW answered the plea from the veterinary office and began nursing the babies that very morning. Once their body temperatures were stable and their tummies were full they stopped crying.

Elsewhere in Redmond, in another apartment complex, a pair of kittens was reportedly making a lot of noise very early every morning. Some of the residents had even been throwing things at them in an attempt to make them be quiet or go away. This didn't sit well with one young resident. She called MEOW and asked if we would take them if she could catch them. The next day she brought the 12 week old brother and sister to us. They were social and healthy. Most likely someone's cat had kittens and instead of bringing them to a shelter, they were just put outside. At MEOW they were fed, cuddled and reassured that they would never have to cry for food or attention again. This quieted them.



Can you hear me?

Near Mulliteo, one of our volunteers responded to a request for trap-neuter-return in a nice neighborhood. A homeowner had been feeding the area cats for about a week, but then decided there were just too many. Among the colony was an adult female, abandoned when her family moved away. Once caught, it was clear that she was feeding kittens. Within two days, three seven week old kittens were also trapped. Four days later, a kitten was heard near where the others had been found. His howling was a testimony to his loneliness, fear, hunger, and confusion. The little red tabby allowed himself to be picked up and rescued. Once at MEOW, his howls were quickly converted to a deep rumbling purr.

In a Kent neighborhood, the cries of a cat were heard for several days. At last the sound was traced to an empty house. A caring neighbor was able to gain access to find a mom cat and a litter of two week old babies in a closet. She and her babies were starving. Mama devoured every morsel of food offered her. Once satisfied, she closed her eyes and went quietly back to nursing her tiny ones. She was so grateful to be found.

In an Everett business area, several adult cats had been trapped, altered and relocated. Rescuers knew there were kittens out there somewhere. A tip led searchers to a shed, but there was no sign of kittens anywhere. Four days after the effort started, one rescuer finally managed to get into the shed. She began calling "Kitty, kitty." One little runt kitten came tearing out of a pile of old tires, screaming at the top of his lungs as if to say, "Here we are!" He and his family would be safe.

At the shelter, a former mama cat stood up and pushed her paw out through the bars of her cage to greet a passing stranger. When the man spoke softly to her, she softly answered with a muffled meow. He lingered for a moment or two. She watched as he moved on to the next cage. Her eyes dropped and she lay down again. Something in her voice stayed with him, followed him around the shelter. He came back to her again and again. She spoke mostly with her eyes and he with his. They left the shelter together that day.

Listen. There are cries for help nearly everywhere. And there are so many ways in which we can all respond. Some of us can volunteer at an animal shelter. Some may donate items needed for daily operations or make a financial commitment to provide sustaining care of shelter animals. Perhaps someone will offer to spay or neuter a pet for a person who can't afford to have it done. If there are stray or feral cats in our neighborhoods, we can feed them and then bring them to the attention of an organization or individual who can provide trap/neuter/return services to help stop their reproduction. We can all be aware of the plight of homeless animals in our own area and we can make a decision to do what we can, with what we have, to hear their cries and offer help.

To the animals who still need help, we'd like to say, "Don't give up. Help is on the way. We hear you. We're here for you." We look forward to a time when there really are No More Homeless Pets. With your help, our world will become a better place for animals. Thanks for continuing to listen.

HIGH RISE SYNDROME WARM WEATHER WARNING

Every summer, scores of unsuspecting pet parents unknowingly put their beloved pets at risk when they open their windows to the warm summer weather. Doors are opened to allow a breeze from the upper deck or balcony. How can something so pleasant be dangerous? Cats, in particular, may be fascinated and intrigued by a passing bird, a bug, a wind-blown leaf. While many people believe cats have uncanny powers of balance, can judge distance and always land on their feet, this is simply not true.



Cats often fall out of open windows and off of open decks and balconies. Even a short fall of only one or two stories can cause shattered jaws, punctured lungs, broken legs or pelvises – even death. These acrobatic daredevils come crashing down to the ground with such frequency that the veterinary profession has a name for the complaint - High Rise Syndrome (HRS). What pet parents need to know is that, with a little forethought, this is completely preventable.

- 🐾 Install snug and sturdy screens on each window so you and your cat can safely enjoy the fresh air of summertime.
- 🐾 When a screen develops a hole, repair or replace it immediately. Cats can slip through or use claws to enlarge tiny spaces.
- 🐾 Before allowing your cat out on a balcony or terrace, check that she cannot fit through ironwork or jump to an unprotected railing. If a cat can fit her head through an opening, her body usually can go through as well.
- 🐾 Use deck netting or wire mesh to ensure safety, and only allow the cat access to the deck when properly supervised. Better yet, use a screen door to secure your deck and always keep kitty inside.
- 🐾 If construction or service work leaves a wall with an opening to the outside, keep your cat out of the area.

Most people who have lost a cat to a fall believed their cat knew her limits or would never venture beyond her boundaries. An accident can happen in an instant. We owe it to our pets to provide a safe home for them. Look around you. Then make the necessary adjustments to ensure your cat's safety so she can amaze you with her indoor acrobatics for years to come.

FINE WINES & FELINES TOO ~ RECAP

Our second wine tasting and auction event was even more successful than our first, thanks to over 175 business donors, 60 individual donors, multitudes of MEOW volunteers, Mercer Island NCL Moms and daughters, Cellar 46, and of course, the over 200 attendees. We netted just over \$30,000 to benefit MEOW; a 50% increase over last year's results! Monies raised go directly to the care of the animals that will come to us this year. We'd like to extend a very special thanks to the auction committee who dedicated countless hours planning and executing this event: Andee Castillo, Joni Cervenka, Jessica Greene, Cathy Harris, Steve Hendrickson, Ardene Kanov, Jeanine Kanov, Roxanne Navrides, Julie Stalzer, and Judd Tomson. MEOW is so fortunate to have the support of so many. Keep your eyes and ears open for details on next year's major fund raising event.

MEOW graciously acknowledges the continued support of Spay Is The Way, Inc. and Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project. Their partnership with MEOW allows us to further the mission of ending pet overpopulation and creating a "no-kill nation" by altering all MEOW cats and kittens prior to adoption.



MEOW CATS ON A METRO BUS?

Not exactly, but you and your cat can help advertise MEOW to our community by sponsoring our Metro bus ad. You've seen ads as you're sitting in traffic behind the buses. Here's your chance to show everyone how proud you are of your cat and help support MEOW at the same time. Since April, we've been using this form of advertising and have had very good feedback. We have a great route from North Seattle, across I-520 to Crossroads, so there's plenty of opportunity for visibility. If you don't have a bus worthy head shot of your feline, one of our great MEOW volunteer photographers will come to your home and capture your cat on camera. A donation of \$400 covers the cost of the ad for one month. Wouldn't it be fun to make your fabulous feline famous? For more information please contact Marilyn at AKH98011@aol.com.



Your kitty's name
and photo here

MEOW CAT RESCUE & ADOPTION

425-822-MEOW
Kirkland

To Adopt or Volunteer, visit: www.meowcatrescue.org

No longer homeless



UNSUNG HEROES MAMA TO THE RESCUE

Many of us remember the story of Scarlett, the homeless mother cat who rescued her five kittens, one at a time, from a blazing building in Brooklyn, NY. How could we forget? It was a story that touched the hearts of people all over the world. Scarlett is truly a hero. What you may not know is that we have many hero mother cats here in our own little corner of the world, some of them right here in our MEOW foster homes.

Mama cats are the unsung heroes of the animal world. They



Our hero ~ Lucy

frequently endure starvation, freezing temperatures, dehydration, predators and injury to save their young. The instinct to 'mother' kittens is an incredible force. Often we see mama cats willing to care for kittens who aren't even their own offspring. Mama cats exhibit so much maternal tenderness. They nurse, groom and love abandoned kittens with ... well... abandon. Each kitten season we watch with amaze-

ment as these stories play out before us. Witnessing these miracles always warms our hearts and renews our dedication to these magnificent creatures.

Here's one such story. In April, the Cat Clinic at Canyon Park asked us to accept a mom and litter of five 3-week olds. Foster mom Debby reported that Lucy was a wonderful mother. Near the end of May, when her own kittens were eating well from the plate, Lucy came to the shelter for "spay day". The plan was that she would be returned to her kittens for a few more weeks. However, fate had another plan. Before she could be picked up, two 3-week old kittens arrived at the shelter. They were abandoned by their feral mom and they were very hungry. When Lucy heard their loud cries, she stood up and looked at us as if to say, "Please bring them. They need me." We offered her the kittens and she immediately began cleaning them. They nursed joyfully. (Incidentally, a lactating female is capable of producing milk after being spayed, as long as nursing continues.)

Then it happened again. Another litter of five 3-week olds arrived. These little ones had been found in a batting cage, one of them tangled in the webbing, sustaining an injury to his right front shoulder. As they were being examined, Lucy was nearby, chirping and calling to them. Would she take this litter too? Of course she would. She was thrilled. Seven kittens. No. Not done yet.

Almost simultaneously, a single kitten, slightly older, was delivered to us from The Cat Clinic. Lucy beamed and pulled him into her bosom. She and all eight of the little ones went that day to a new foster home. Several weeks later, foster mom Andee reports that mama Lucy has raised all of these step-kittens as if they were her own.

But wait, there's more! As we put the final touches on this story, Lucy has signed up for a third tour of duty. Incredibly, the day after Lucy had been brought back to the shelter for adoption, Humane Society delivered to MEOW a litter of five orphan kittens about 3 weeks old. Two of them were tiny, lethargic and fragile. Hearing them, Lucy lay down and offered herself, beginning to purr before we had even completed introductions. When one of them wandered weakly to a corner of the cage, she gently picked the baby up by the scruff and carried him back to bed. Although we have a few dedicated and qualified bottle-feeding foster moms in our human volunteer ranks, there is no substitute for mothers' milk and a mother's love. Lucy may not consider herself a hero, but we certainly do.

It is with mixed emotions that we bid a fond farewell as kittens are adopted. While we're overjoyed to see loving people making a long-term commitment to kittens, we can't help but feel sad for the real heroes of kitten season, the mama cats. They are often overlooked and left behind after all their kittens have been adopted. If you are thinking of adopting, consider one of these wonderful young mama cats. You'll be rewarded with a love that is unconditional - and you'll be her hero.

MEOW CAT RESCUE IS PART OF EBAY GIVING WORKS MILESTONE

Recently, MEOW Cat Rescue played a pivotal role in a significant eBay milestone. eBay recently announced that the eBay Community has raised over \$100M for charitable organizations, from listings worldwide!

Sandy Byers (eBay user ID: biscuitgravy), a self-representing artist in Washington, listed an item with eBay Giving Works, eBay's dedicated charity listing program, and elected to donate a portion of the final sale price to us. In Massachusetts, a buyer named Marcia purchased the painting. After she paid Sandy for the painting, Sandy donated a percentage to MEOW. This donation pushed the total amount of funds raised for nonprofits on eBay over the \$100 million mark!

We're thrilled to have been a part of this transaction and would like to thank all of the eBay sellers who support us. Remember, you can support MEOW every time you sell on eBay. Just go to the "Donate Percentage of Sale" field in the Sell-Your-Item form and select us! eBay shoppers can also support us. We often have items up for auction under meowcatrescueshelter. Whether selling or buying, eBay offers a great way to support MEOW.



A cat can be trusted to purr when she is pleased, which is more than can be said for human beings.

~ William Ralph Inge



MEOW ANNOUNCES OUR VERY FIRST KITTEN SHOWER & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SUNDAY AUG 26 FROM 12 PM – 3PM
AT THE SHELTER

Come join us Sunday, August 26 for our Summer Kitten Shower and Ice Cream Social from noon to 3pm in the MEOW shelter parking lot. It's raining cats and kittens, so to raise awareness about MEOW, promote cat and kitten adoptions, and to request some much needed shower gifts (donations), we are holding a baby shower with a feline flair. Come see some of our adorable kittens, play some fun games, get your face painted and cool off with yummy ice cream sundaes or root beer floats. If you need ideas for gifts, check out our registry below.

- 🐱 KMR Kitten Milk Replacer, powder formula is the best value
- 🐱 Dry Kitten and Cat foods - We prefer Royal Canin Baby Cat and Special 33, Science Diet Kitten and Hairball formulas and other high quality foods available at pet supply stores.
- 🐱 Canned Kitten and Cat foods - Any brand or flavor
- 🐱 Gerber 2nd Baby Food - Especially chicken or turkey flavor
- 🐱 Paper towels
- 🐱 Clorox bleach
- 🐱 Hand sanitizer

ADOPT AN ADULT

To shine a light on our great adult cats, MEOW's adult adoption fee has been reduced to just \$45. Even better, each cat has been evaluated by our Meet Your Match program. Each cat is given one of nine distinct feline personality ("feline-ality") assignments, helping us to pair adopters with cats best fitting their own personality and lifestyle.

Have you considered the differences between cats and kittens? Here are ten reasons why you may want to adopt an adult cat.

1. What you see is what you get. Adult cats already know who they are.
2. Adult cats aren't as "chewsy." Kittens have a tendency to chew things, lots of things. Most adult cats don't chew inappropriately at all.
3. If your current cat would like a friend, another adult cat may be the best choice. A playful kitten could upset your cat instead of providing companionship. Your resident cat may be more annoyed than amused.

4. After a long day at the office, you may want to come home and curl up with your furry friend. An adult cat will greet you at the door and be happy to curl up and watch your favorite shows on TV.

5. At bedtime, a cat is likely to fall asleep at the foot of your bed, under the bed or in another cozy spot. Adult cats are generally happy to sleep when you do - and probably won't try to attack your toes through the blankets.

6. Adult cats won't be climbing your leg or your curtains, swinging from your chandeliers, knocking down knick knacks or just running full speed ahead for no good reason.

7. Adult cats are usually a better choice for families with small children. Kittens are sharp-- all teeth and claws. Generally speaking, adult cats are more mellow, more patient with young children. The experience should be a good one for both the cat and the child.

8. Adult cats are quiet companions. They have well-developed manners, use the litter box and the scratching post without constant reminders.

9. Many adult cats end up in shelters due to no fault of their own. Separated from their loved ones, surrounded by other cats, confined, confused and frightened, many are emotionally devastated by their misfortune. Older cats sit by and watch, as one loving family after another passes them over for a cute kitten. Adopting an adult cat is a way to say to a deserving animal "I believe in you."

10. When properly cared for, cats often live well into their late teens and even longer. Typically, they will remain active and even playful throughout most of their lives. Once a cat adjusts to a new home where they can feel safe and secure again, they'll offer years of faithful companionship and unconditional love.

Make a purrfect choice. Adopt an adult.

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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TO HONOR & REMEMBER



To remember our beloved Kit Carson. You are forever in our hearts.
Julie and Brooke Morgan

In loving memory of Julia Olson.
Nancy Berger and Phillip Olson

To honor Alison Bruns.
Peggy Reynolds

In memory of Merrill H. Johnson.
Ray & Bette Rosatto

In memory of Dr. Clayton Rich.
Patricia Forni

In memory of Mrs. Astrid Carlson.
Nancy Currie

In memory of a cat loving friend, Merrill H. Johnson.
Frances Black

In loving memory of Bonnie, the first MEOW adoptee in 1994 at age 4. We were so fortunate to have her for 15+ years. She went very peacefully and is now at the Rainbow Bridge with the other sweet pets we have all lost. She was the best kitty ever and we miss her so much. But it was with kindness and love that we let her go.
Karen & Mike Girven

In memory of Merrill H. Johnson.
Marjorie Rasnack

In loving memory of Junior.
Sally Halela

In loving memory of Diggy - a magnificent cat who brought great love, joy and companionship to Gregg and Carrie.
Michelle Eager

For Lily.
Joni Griffis

In remembrance of Reggie, Tristan & Casey.
Sherry McKinnis

Gweenbies, to honor all your help with all the kitties. Merry Christmas in July.
Teri & Bill

Happy 4th birthday Bella & Widmer, we love you!
Maddie & Ralph

In loving memory of Clayton Rich.
Peter & Judith Levin

For our wonderful Maine Coon Molly's birthday - born May 14, 1997 at MEOW.
Judith & Ernest White

In memory of Peter Todd.
Sue & Gary Stock

For 19 wonderful years with Soo-Ling and Felix.
All the DeCosters

In memory of Gigi, our beautiful red tabby from MEOW. We miss you.
David & Nancy Lee

In memory of my sister, Roseann and her great love of all animals.
Nancy Wilson

In honor of our first beloved 'Kitty' ~ a very petite and beautiful angel
Claire Huehnerhoff

Remembering Bump, best cat in the world...Linda, Nestor & Dulce - you're filling big paws.
Lynn Terpstra

In honor of Chanuvah Cat, our daughter.
Jeff & Bev Saul

In memory of our beloved Tex - we'll never forget you.
The Vance family

In memory of Cosmo Bruya on behalf of Gabby Bruya.
Todd Hanamoto

There will never be another cat like you Dee Dee. We love you still.
Jan and Robert DeFelice

Thanks for introducing Thomas and Buddy into our home. They are great guys who keep us laughing!
Jeff Natter, Jeff Buchan

In loving memory of my sweet Chloe.
Mary K. Askins

Beau, Mouse and Lady Jane ~ we miss you!
Lynda Livingston

In memory of Camille's kitten.
Judy Anderson

In memory of Dr. Clayton Rich.
Thomas & Lois Godkins

In loving memory of Julie Kerr.
Marjorie Bagley

To honor & remember Kirin, Zamba and Morgan and appreciate Teddy, Timmy, Tommy and Pico. *Vicki Haneckow*

Thanks very much for your support!
= ^.. ^ = St. Hilaire Cellars

In memory of Kismet.
Cathy Schwartz

In honor of Kevin & Lori Moak-Kean's 25th wedding anniversary.
John & Harriett Kean

In memory of my wonderful in-laws, Vivian & Clark Rowe
Jan Rowe

In loving memory of Gus.
Jan & William Fohrell

In loving memory of little Olivia, who in her short span on earth, brought so many people together. We were honored to have been a part of your life.
Marilyn & Steve Hendrickson

In memory of Roz Annin.
Clifford & Vivien Olofson

Thanks to Dr. Norton for the wonderful care of Gabby.
Mami Morohoshi

In memory of Clayton Rich, he was my friend.
Carol Davis

In honor of Tabby, a charming and much loved kitty.
Patricia Fullerton

PAWS TO PONDER TORTOISESHELL AND CALICO

The Tortoiseshell and Calico cat are also known as a Calimanco cat, and by the nickname "tortie". A tortoiseshell cat is randomly patched over with red (or a dilute form thereof), black (or a dilute) and cream, mottled throughout the coat. Also, the cat may have white spots in its fur, which will make it a "tortoiseshell and white" cat or, if there is a significant amount of white in the fur and the red and black colors form a patchwork rather than a mottled aspect, the cat will be called a "calico". All calicos are tortoise are tortoiseshell (since they carry both black and red),



Pepper ~ a tortie girl

but not all tortoiseshells are calicos (since they require a significant amount of white in the fur and patching rather than mottling of the colors).

Throughout history, many cultures have considered the calico cat to be lucky. At one point in Japan, a calico cat was thought to bring good luck in the house and to protect sailors on their ships. The calico cat was adopted as the Maryland state cat on October 1, 2001 because its colors of black, white, and orange are the same as the Baltimore Oriole and the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly; the state bird and insect, respectively.

BUNNY & EMMA



Bunny

Bunny and Emma are two current MEOU residents that haven't had very much luck in their short 1 1/2 years. They were 7 week old sisters when they came to MEOU with 16 other cats taken from one home.

All the cats had eye problems and were all treated but some had permanent damage. Five months after arriving at MEOU Bunny and Emma were adopted. Shortly after their adoption their new Mom left them with a friend and moved abroad, never to be heard from again so they were returned to MEOU. They were then adopted by a young man who seemed to truly love the girls.

In March of this year MEOU received a phone call from a woman who found one of our kitties in a parking lot at Northgate. She checked for a microchip and got our information. It turned out to be Bunny! We tried in vain to contact Bunny's new Dad but our calls weren't returned. Several days later the same woman called because another cat showed up in the parking lot. It was Emma. Both cats had been abandoned by their new home and left in a parking lot by a free-way ramp. Everyone at MEOU was so glad they were alive and reunited.



Emma

We are forever grateful to the woman who found both kitties and took the time to check for a microchip and to bring them from Seattle to us in Kirkland.

To this day we have not heard from their former Dad. Bunny and Emma are truly sweet, wonderful girls and they deserve a forever home. They do need an owner who is committed to keeping these girls forever. They're in MEOU's Romper Room, accepting visitors and conducting interviews now.

CAT HAIKU, ANYONE?

*"Pregnant stray" they said,
They speak softly to me here,
I just ate. I'm tired.*

*(to a precocious kitten)
You are wise beyond
your years, Grasshopper, and I
can't teach you a thing.*



*I need a new toy,
Tail of black dog keeps good time,
Pounce! good dog! good dog!*



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