



ANIMAL TALK

Summer 2010 • Vol. XXXV, No. 2

PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293

We Lost Our Home Can You Help Us Find a New One?

On a rainy spring day, we received a call from a citizen who had been driving through southeast Portland and noticed a cardboard box on a curb by a vacant lot. Inside the box were three kittens, and there appeared to be another one nearby, deceased; possibly the mother of the kittens. The caller wasn't able to offer any assistance, and she had called all the local rescues and shelters but there was no help available. Eventually she was referred to ARCF.

Our volunteer went to the location and had no trouble finding the cats. Three were still in the cardboard box, and the fourth one was some distance away. She certainly appeared to be dead, but in fact she was just soaking wet and flattened to the ground under some brambles. All four of the cats were drenched, smelly, and petrified in terror. Our volunteer began gathering them into carriers. There were two long-haired orange cats, one solid gray, one tortoiseshell, both short-haired.

Even though she was the smallest, the little tortie was clearly the protector of the tribe, and she hissed ferociously as each cat was picked up. The other three offered no resistance at all, but she wasn't going to give up and go along peacefully. Eventually, she was convinced and all were safely stashed in carriers. It became clear that part of the reason they smelled so bad is that they were too afraid to move away from their little shelter, so they just pottied right where they sat. Combined with the swampy smell from the nearby creek, the stench was potent.

The first stop for this little family was the Cat Hospital of Portland, where they were quickly examined, and then went straight to the shampoo sink. We discovered there were two boys and two girls, all between six and twelve months old, not spayed, neutered, or microchipped—and all very sweet. They started right away on vaccines, and were immediately put on the schedule for spay/neuter surgeries.

None of the neighbors knew anything about how long the cats had been there. We notified the shelters and posted public notices in case the cats had been abandoned by someone other than their owner. The cats clearly didn't have the first notion of how to survive outdoors on their own, even with the fierce little tortie in charge. After several weeks, we had received no responses so we took responsibility for the future of these abandoned cats.

As usual, our foster homes were all full, with more cats already waiting for a spot to open up, so we had to arrange for the cats to be boarded until space became available. This put a huge strain on our budget for this quarter, but our mission is to save the cats who have no one else, and that was our only choice.

As the cats began to recover from their ordeal, their personalities started to come out and, although all are frisky, happy, and affectionate, each has his or her own special qualities.

Sparkle is the small but mighty girl who came to the defense of her tribe when they were alone in the world. Sparkle is a dilute tortie; she looks like a solid gray cat rolled in gold dust. She will often sit back and wait while the other three wear themselves out playing with a toy. Then, like a mom who only eats after the kids have had their fill, she will gently approach the toy and play a bit by herself while the others curl up and snooze. She is a careful observer of all that transpires, watching quietly with her big eyes and dainty purr. The others all look to Sparkle when confronted with something new, and they take turns cuddling with her.

Continued on page 2...



Top: Lorenzo and Maurice play hard, then knock off for nap.

Middle: Sparkle, the leader of her tribe.

Bottom: Daffodil is clean, rested, and fresh as a . . . daffodil!

KITTY CORNER

It's officially spring and we're receiving calls about found kittens each week. Kittens always look so cute and defenseless that we want to rescue them, but remember that they already have a fierce protector—their mother. She feeds them exactly what they need, protects them, and, before she sends them on their way, she teaches them valuable feline life skills.

So unless you are absolutely sure that mom is unable to come back for her kittens, do not touch those cute balls of fur. Instead, monitor the kittens from a distance (too close and you might prevent mom from coming back).

If the momcat returns, provide her with plenty of water and high-quality food (far enough away to prevent predators from being drawn to the cats by the smell of food). This will allow her to stay closer to her kittens, and will ensure that they have the best chance of growing healthy and strong. If she seems socialized, you might try bringing her and the litter inside. Remember not to separate her from her kittens; they need her until they are at least six weeks old.

If the momcat returns but is feral, continue providing food and water. Contact the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon at 503-797-2606 for advice on capturing and caring for her and the kittens.

Finally, if the momcat doesn't return after 24-36 hours, you may need to begin caring for the kittens. Caring for orphan kittens is exhausting and time-consuming, and requires many sleepless nights. You don't want to take on momcat's job unless you're absolutely sure that she's gone.

Once the kittens are around eight weeks old and weaned, they can begin their vaccines and mom can be spayed. And remember to spay/neuter the kittens, too, to prevent more litters needing rescue in the future!

OUTREACH

Come visit our booth at
Portland Pride NW Festival
Waterfront Park
June 19 and 20 -- Noon to 6 pm

We Lost Our Home ...

... Continued from page 1

Lorenzo is a handsome gray boy, solid in color and solid in build. He has stunning green eyes and a very lush coat that invites stroking. Lorenzo is still growing into his body and hasn't quite developed the agility skills necessary to operate it. He's so eager for tummy rubs that he'll flop and roll on any surface, even if it's elevated and not quite big enough to hold him. Crash! But he always bounces up and comes right back for more. He has a big, rumbly purr and loves to give head butts and Eskimo kisses. Lorenzo is an adorable goofy hunk. Like all the others, Lorenzo enjoys his daily combing and deep tissue back and shoulder massage.

Maurice is the long-haired orange boy, with the sweet face and personality to match. He was the most terrified of the group when he first came to us, and spent several days hiding in a little box and quivering with fear. But once he warmed up, he got really warm! He's now the first one to come greet a visitor, and reach up to tap a knee to confirm that he's welcome to jump into the lap. Maurice is very vigorous when he plays; in fact, it's a good idea to just stand back and let him go when he gets a wild hair. But he'll take frequent breaks to come back for ear scratches and tummy rubs. If he can get access, Maurice will also perch happily on a shoulder and nibble on a hairdo. He would win the Mr. Congeniality award in his family.

Daffodil looks like a slightly smaller version of Maurice. She was the one under the shrub by herself when we found them, and she still has a little independent streak. She's flirty, feisty, and has fabulous fluffy tufts in her ears. She's a bit of a bratty little sister who doesn't have much patience with quiet lap-sitting at this stage in her life, but she loves social interaction, and will no doubt learn to enjoy it more as she grows up. She's not shy about shoving the rest of the gang out of the way if she wants first shot at dinner or a new toy. Daffodil has a beautiful face, a mind of her own, and a huge purr.

This group has become very bonded through their ordeal, and we will place them in pairs in their permanent homes. They have completed all their veterinary requirements and are ready to meet their new families. Please visit our website or give us a call if you'd like to meet these special kitties.



Maurice isn't too sure about this bath idea.



Daffodil and Maurice warming up after their baths.



The vacant lot and box where our family was abandoned.

Project POOCH

Because we don't currently have a dog rescue and adoption program, we support local organizations that are doing good work to help dogs. Recently, when asked to help a dog in need, we turned to Project POOCH, which agreed to partner with us. Together we found the right solution for Cooper, a yellow lab, who is now safe and happy in his new forever home.

Project POOCH is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that has successfully paired youths incarcerated at the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn, Oregon, with homeless shelter dogs since 1993. The program was founded by Joan Dalton, when she was vice principal at MacLaren's Lord High School. She started with one dog and one youth. Since that time, Project POOCH has changed (and saved) the lives of hundreds of dogs and young men.

The students (guided by professionals) learn to train the dogs, groom them, and find them new adoptive forever homes. The dogs leave the program ready to be great pets, while their trainers re-enter the community with new job and personal skills and increased compassion and respect for all life.

The youths work with their dogs daily, and practice the principles of positive reinforcement and behavior modification. As the trainers manage their dogs, they learn how to manage their own behavior. They also earn school credits, develop good work habits, and acquire valuable occupational skills. Those who demonstrate responsibility, patience, and the ability to train dogs on their own, are given additional opportunities to train dogs for the public.

Project POOCH does not accept owner-surrendered dogs. The students are being taught that dogs are a lifetime commitment. Many of these young men have themselves been abandoned by their families, so accepting a dog given up by its family is very difficult. The relationships, emotional support, and mutual trust established between the trainers and dogs are pivotal to the success of the program. For some students and dogs, this relationship is a first experience of unconditional love, and it helps them develop the self-confidence and hope they need to build future relationships.

Dogs available for adoption have all been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. In addition to their obedience training, all Project POOCH dogs have received their AKC Certificate of Canine Good Citizenship, a program that rewards dogs who have good manners at home and in the community.



Casper

One-year-old attractive male Great Dane mix seeks a companion for a lifetime of love and belly rubs. My interests include rolling in the grass, smelling fire hydrants, and drinking from the toilet.

I am looking for someone who enjoys long walks in the morning, hugs in the afternoon, and snuggles at night. I've completed my AKC Canine Good Citizenship Training at Project POOCH and now I am ready for a family of my own.

To meet Casper, or any other dogs available for adoption at Project POOCH, visit the website at www.pooch.org or call 503-982-4492.

Animal Talk is a quarterly newsletter published by Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., and printed locally.

Our Mission: To rescue, shelter, and care for homeless animals and place them in permanent, responsible homes; to promote and support spay/neuter for all companion animals.

Editor: Carma Crimins
Graphics/layout: Kate Davenport

2010 Officers: President - Pam Brooks
Vice President - Lorraine Jones
Treasurer - Chrisi Badrick
Secretary - Leah Goodman
Communications - Carma Crimins

Board Members: Pam Brooks, Lorraine Jones, Carma Crimins, Kate Davenport, Chrisi Badrick, Erin Bergstrom, and Nancy Chavez

Outreach Coordinator: Kirk Kiggins

Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc.
PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293

503-284-8768 • www.pdx-petadoption.org • arcf@pdx-petadoption.org

Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used exclusively for veterinary care, food, and publishing the quarterly newsletter, *Animal Talk*. Volunteers provide good temporary homes until the animals are placed in responsible, permanent homes.

SUCCESS STORIES



Marigold

When Marigold first came home with me, it was quite a challenge as she didn't have any of the qualities that I was seeking: an affectionate, mellow lap cat. She wanted to play all day, would not let me pick her up, and had no experience living in a home with rules! But with patience, an open heart, time, and support from Pam at ARCF, who was committed to finding me a cat that would blend into my life, I have come to love Marigold for the qualities she does possess, and I just can't imagine my life without her. I am just crazy about her! As is

Jasmine, my other adopted cat. They are inseparable and I refer to them as two peas in a pod. Thank you, ARCF!

Kim Gerardi

Tabitha & Dusty

The girls are doing great. They think my big male cat is the best thing since canned food, and he enjoys their company. The three of them generally travel in a mini-cat parade around my feet. They are still wary of the dogs, but getting less so. Tabitha and Dusty recently met a toddler, found her fascinating, and were happy to be petted by a tiny hand. We have decided to keep their names; both of them seem to know their names and we like them, too.

Kristen Furseth



Above: Tabitha

Right: Dusty



Machu & Picchu

(formerly Huey & Louie)

Thanks so much for helping us find these boys. Machu and Picchu are a joy to have as members of our family. They are perfect for us: affectionate, playful, and so sweet.

*Ann Ishimaru,
Zack Semke, and Mika*



Colette

Colette appeared at the home of one of our volunteers during the coldest part of last winter. After a month of searching for her owners, with no success, we were able to find her the perfect new home.

Colette is very affectionate and outgoing. She is active and loves to play. Her favorite game is chasing the laser beam. Even when tired or sleepy, she is eager to accompany me up and down the stairs. And she gets very excited each time I go to the kitchen. When I open the refrigerator, she sticks her entire body in there to investigate. All of my friends are amazed to see how friendly and beautiful she is. We can't believe she was ever homeless.

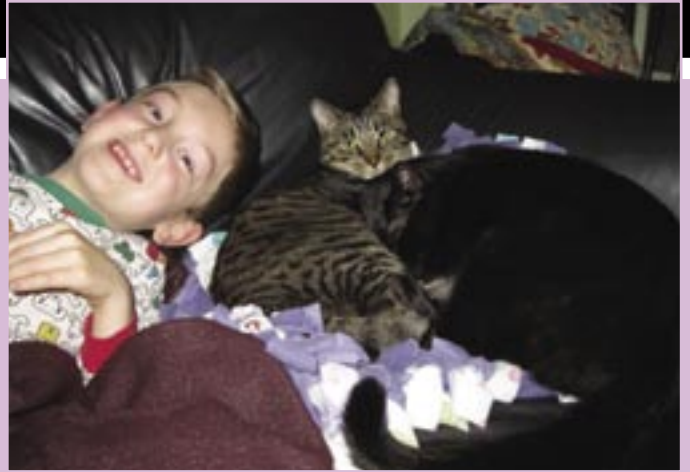
Grace Shim

MORE SUCCESS STORIES

Rocky & Paco

Rocky was left behind when his people moved out of their apartment. He found a friendly family nearby but they were not able to add another cat to their home, so they asked for our help. Paco appeared one day with a feral cat colony, whose caregiver noticed that he had an injured leg which needed immediate attention. Rocky and Paco joined up at an ARCF foster home and quickly became friends. Their new mom reports:

Rocky and Paco are just fine and getting friskier every minute. Paco seems to be de-aging—after two weeks here he began to act like a kitten again. We've agreed on the following names: Rockwell Blackstone and Pacobell (as in the composer) Livingston (or Longstocking). Rocky also goes by Rockstar (makes sense, right?). They have settled in to their new home with great aplomb. They're curious about everything, and can regularly be found carrying around Lego pieces for removal to a secret location. Both are so special, it's hard to imagine when they weren't with us!



Vincent, Paco, and Rocky

Liz Gatti, Ursula (age 8), and Vincent (age 6)

Duncan & Dudley

Duncan was left in a box on a stranger's doorstep. He was taken to a vet clinic, which contacted us for our help in finding him a new home. Dudley was trapped with a colony of feral cats. His coat was so badly matted that he had to be shaved. Our foster volunteer suspected there was a very sweet cat under all that fur, and that turned out to be Dudley's first big lucky day. He and Duncan at first seemed to be a very odd couple, but they quickly bonded at their foster home. Their second big lucky day came when Andrea and Brian came to meet them. Here's an update from Andrea:

The guys are doing very well and have really settled in. We now have a nice routine and if they get a good play before bedtime, they allow me to sleep until 5 am! They are super friendly to visitors and they keep us entertained.



Duncan and Dudley

My job is pretty stressful these days and they are such a nice gift at the end of a long day. I love them very much and feel so lucky to have them in my home.

Andrea Sande

Rosie

(formerly Peekaboo)

Our introduction to Rosie is best summed up by our seven-year-old daughter, Athene: "Rosie is a sweet cat. When we went to find her, she was hissing. I put my face next to hers and she licked me gently on my face. I knew she wanted to come home with me."



Athene holding Rosie

After some initial shyness, she has come out of her

shell. She is affectionate, fun, curious, and a wonderful companion. When we come home, she runs to greet us, and follows us, meowing, until we give her the proper attention. This usually includes belly rubs (she likes to throw herself on the floor and show us where she likes to be scratched) chatting, and brushing. When Stanley talks to her, she readily answers and follows his directions obediently. We are starting to wonder if she really does understand people language!

Thank you, ARCF, for finding our tortoiseshell princess. She was just the cat we were looking for and we are grateful that you brought us together.

Karla, Stanley, and Athene Percy-Marston

Flee, Fleas! Choosing the Right Treatment for Your Pet

By Dr. Andrea La Raus, DVM

In the mid-1990s, a new generation of topical and oral anti-parasite products became available that was both safer and more effective than the old powders, dips, and collars. Some of the newer products also treat and/or prevent intestinal parasites, heartworm, lice, and some types of mites. Not all are created equal, and deciding which to use can be confusing.

The most commonly prescribed products include Advantage, Advantage Multi, Advantix, Frontline Plus/Topspot, Revolution, Promeris, Comfortis, Capstar, Program, and Vectra 3D. There are topical products also available over the counter with similar packaging to the prescribed products, but unfortunately these OTC products are neither as safe nor as effective.

Even if your cats don't go outside, it's important to monitor them for parasites and treat them as necessary. Fleas and other parasites can come through open doors and windows, and they can hitch a ride on people and animals coming from outdoors.

While ultimately the decision should be made with the help of your veterinarian, here are some points to consider in choosing the correct product(s) for your pet:

- Where you live, travel, and vacation with your pets is important, since certain parasites are more common in some areas.
- Each product is designed for certain species, ages, and weights; products are not interchangeable. Applying canine products to a cat can have devastating results, including severe seizures and death. Toxicities may also result from using a product meant for a heavier pet on a smaller one.
- Even those products listed as waterproof will wash off with frequent shampooing. Using a soap-free shampoo is best if the pet is bathed more than once a month.
- Some brands are administered as a spot-on (a liquid placed on the skin), and some are given by mouth. Spot-on products should never be given orally.
- Not all products work for the same amount of time. For instance, Capstar must be given daily while others may require monthly application.
- Know what each product does. Most kill adult fleas and sometimes the eggs/larval stages as well, but products such as Program do not kill the adult fleas but only prevent them from developing. Some products work only on fleas and ticks, while others may also prevent



heartworm disease and intestinal parasites. NOTE: Your dog must be current on heartworm testing before safely using a heartworm prevention product!

- Many of these products shouldn't be used on pregnant or nursing pets.
- Kittens and puppies are not just small adults! Some brands can't be used in animals under 8-14 weeks of age.
- Using these products can also safeguard public health: some diseases transmitted by fleas and ticks are contagious to people. Humans are also susceptible to some of the intestinal parasites that affect our pets. Go to www.petsandparasites.org for more information on this important topic.

We are fortunate to have a number of safe and effective choices for parasite control. Most of the commonly prescribed brands have few if any side effects. Be sure to carefully read the package label, and most problems with these products can be avoided. Talk to your veterinarian about the best choice for you and your pets.

Animal Placements

Feb-Mar-Apr 2010: We placed 23 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

*Veterinary Fees: \$21,261.08	Advertising/Outreach: \$166.99
**Food, Special Meds: \$230.008	Newsletter: \$1,389.00

* These expenses include veterinary care for the dogs of Portland's homeless. We also had expenses for injured and sick pets and emergency vet visits.

** Most volunteers pay for food and litter for the animals they care for as their contribution to the cause.

IN MEMORIAM

Gracia Lundy lost her cat Clyde, a cranky but lovable codger rescued years ago when he was found abandoned, scared, and declawed.

Terry Vinocur lost her thirteen-year-old boxer Sarah. She was a therapy dog and lived a long life under Terry's wonderful care.

Gail Simmons lost Kiva, a lovely and wise feline of beautiful character. She will be dearly missed by all.

Laurie Winfield lost her curly-eared cat Sassi, who showed up as a youngster in Laurie's yard thirteen years ago. Sassi shared Laurie's pillow every night, and brought many years of love and laughs.

Bobbie Bacocchini lost her cat Thomas. He was a rescued feral cat who shared Bobbie's life for the last fifteen years.

Jennifer Hart's sweet old dog Annie finally lost her joy in life and rests now in painless peace.

Hannah, the stubborn, feisty, loving kitty of Sue Willis, lost her struggle to an unknown disease that ravaged her little body. Hannah was only ten years old, and should have had many more years of life ahead of her.

Margretta Pfeffer lost her dear Mimi to cancer. Mimi was fifteen years old, a demure kitty with quiet, endearing ways. She will be missed every day.

Terry and Dana Petersen lost their Labrador Lexi, to cancer as well. She was a sweet, gentle girl who loved everyone and was loved by all. She will never be forgotten.

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Labhard are grieving the loss of Donner, the big orange long-haired tabby they adopted from ARCF ten years ago.

Audrey Jean the Beauty Queen, former *Animal Talk* cover girl and housemate of Carma Crimins, grew tired of her aches and pains and went on to her next life. She showed up unannounced about ten years ago, and chose to stay and take the position of Queen, which had recently come open. She served well and honorably.



Goodbye to an Old Friend

Watson came to us in August 2006. Our volunteer responded to a call from a mobile home park in Clackamas County to rescue a pregnant cat and there was Watson, hiding under the house. He was being fed by the residents, but he was very shy and didn't fare well against the neighborhood cats. Our vet determined that Watson had been neutered at some point, but most of his teeth were rotten and had to be extracted.

Our volunteer fostered him for six months while he recovered and learned to love the indoor life. He was extremely shy and we knew it would be hard to find him a home. Then we thought of Helena Heartt. She did not disappoint us: hers was the perfect home for dear Watson. She adored him and the feelings were mutual. She fed him top-notch food and groomed him daily, which he began to demand each day after breakfast. He in turn kept the house mouse-free, bringing her a few of his conquests as a show of affection. With Helena's help, Watson sent us regular updates which were shared and treasured by all of us at ARCF.

Recently we received the following note:

Dear Animal Folks,

Well, this will be my last letter written to you. Last week I went into the ether. Momma and the doctor decided I was getting too uncomfortable (which I was).

I worry a little about Momma. The mice might start coming in again, and her feet will be cold at night without my fur. But! "Needs must," as you two-leggeds say. Momma will keep in touch with you as always. Must go nibble some catnip.

Bye, Watson

Thank you, Helena, for providing a warm and loving home for Watson. It is generous and caring people like you who make it possible for us to carry out our mission.

YES! I want to help

Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., depends entirely on your donations. Our work includes rescue, medical aid, food and shelter, humane education, neutering/spaying, and more. All workers are volunteers. Your contribution goes directly to help the animals. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Make a secure online donation using a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account. Save time and postage!
Visit our website for more details, www.pdx-petadoption.org.

- I enclose _____ for humane work. (\$35 sponsors an animal, but we appreciate any amount)
 Sponsors can check here to receive a story and a photo about the animal being fostered.
 I'd like to contribute \$ _____ for the ARCF Microchipping Program, for adopted animals to have microchips.

I'm interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at _____.

Name _____

Mail to: Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc.
PO Box 14956
Portland, OR 97293-0956

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

A FEW MORE SUCCESS STORIES



Mezza

(sometimes known as Hairy-it)

We adopted Mezza over a month ago. She is an older, wiser kitty of nine years and has lots of stories to tell us. When we first met her she seemed a little aloof but she warmed up as soon as we got her home. By the end of that day she was on her back between us getting her (very hairy) belly rubbed.

She is a very social cat who enjoys meeting our friends who come to visit. I am very glad we were able to provide a home for an older cat. She is a great companion and addition to our home.

Shannon Fuller

Roxy & Cartman

(formerly Misty & Truman)

Our regular readers will recognize Roxy and Cartman from the cover story of our last issue. We are happy to report they have found their perfect forever home.

Roxy is like a guardian angel who watches over my family and me. Cartman is Roxy's other half. They have been such a joy and we couldn't have asked for sweeter cats than these two. Thank you, ARCF and Pam for such sweet and loving companions.

Sophia Kang



Left: Roxy
Right: Cartman



Misty

(formerly Toffee)

Misty now has us both wrapped around her tail so well we could never give her up. She sleeps with us every night at the foot of our bed. Thanks so much for our very loved kitty!

Virginia and Keith Kugel