

FEATURED CATS Margaret & Heidi

Margaret and Heidi's rescue involved a very long journey with lots of transitions and changing scenery before they landed in an ARCF foster home. They handled it all like champs, with never a complaint. But now these little darlings would like to settle down with a family who likes to stay home a lot and spend time with their kitties.

Although they have very delicate features and dainty figures, these girls are skilled and acrobatic athletes. They love the track ball toy, feathered things on a stick, and anything that can be batted around to produce crackly or jingly noises. They play happily together, and can get pretty rambunctious, but they also love interactive games with human playmates.

Both girls are extremely sweet-natured and affectionate and thrive on lots of petting, cuddling, and combing. They start purring when you look at them, and maybe even when they just know you are thinking about them. Margaret is extremely outgoing and confident, while Heidi is a bit shyer and depends on Margaret for social introductions and guidance.

These lovely ladies have lived with other cats and kittens, a big black dog, and have experience with small, medium, and large kids. They were particularly attached to a big orange male cat who bunked with them for a few weeks. They have excellent house manners and no special dietary needs.



MARGARET (LEFT) & HEIDI

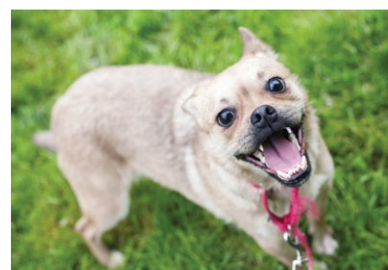
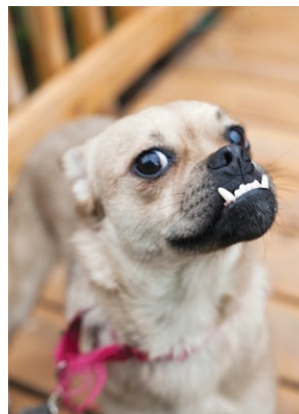
Margaret and Heidi have been spayed, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV/FIV, and are up to date on vaccines. The adoption fee is \$150 for both. To learn more about Margaret and Heidi, or any of our cats for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

FEATURED DOG Mona

Adorable Mona of the Awesome Underbite has quite a story. She, her mom, and three siblings were found living feral in California. No one knows how the little "puggle" family came to be homeless or how long they were out there, but a good Samaritan helped them along the road to Oregon and then to My Way Home Dog Rescue.

Mona's mom (Opal) and her brother (Oscar) had pretty good social skills and they were adopted quickly. Mona and her sisters Leona and Fiona (together known as the "Onas") needed more time in foster homes to learn how to live with people again. Mona has done very well and is now ready to meet her forever family. She is about one year old.

In her current foster home, Mona is living with dogs, cats, bunnies, and rats, in addition to her human family, and she's making friends with everybody. She is still a little shy with new people but she's smart and eager



to please. Mona learns well from other dogs, and definitely needs another dog or two in her home for continued guidance and confidence building.

Mona is a very happy dog who is learning basic commands, and walks well on a leash, especially with another dog along on the walk. She loves sunbathing and is a great gardening companion in a securely fenced yard.

All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, and current on vaccines. Mona's adoption fee of \$200 includes: microchip, leash, collar, blanket, food sample, and a copy of *Love Has No Age Limit: Welcoming an Adopted Dog into Your Home*, by Patricia McConnell.

If you are interested in meeting Mona, contact Cheryl at cayoshioka@aol.com or 503-974-4944.

PHOTOS OF MONA BY LISA TESO

From the President's Desk

Thunderstorms crashed over Oregon this week, making a lot of noise and trying to tell us that summer was over, but we know better: September and October are often the most beautiful months in our corner of the state. Football, corn mazes, pumpkin patches . . . and kittens!

As much as we love them, we'll be relieved when the kitten flood is reduced to a trickle. At last count, we had rescued over 200 kittens this season. This week alone we rescued a feral momcat with seven kittens (the "V" litter), another with four newborn kits ("Y"), and three little fluff balls ("W") whose mom has been avoiding our trap, but will be captured and spayed very soon. We expect the "Z" litter to show up before the week is over.

The kittens we rescue are born to homeless and feral cats, and because they are difficult to handle and not considered adoptable, they aren't normally accepted by other shelters or rescues. Our kitten "boot camp" volunteers are experts at making the little wild things into adorable objects of affection. Because we have so few volunteers and no shelter facility, we work very hard to get the kittens healthy and friendly, then transfer them to local shelters, where they are always quickly adopted.

The mother cats are spayed and returned, if there is a committed caregiver. If not, our resourceful volunteers foster them until we find new homes as barn, shop, or outdoor cats. If you need an experienced mouser, we always have a nice selection in stock!

The fifth of July always brings calls from people whose pets panicked and ran away during the fireworks. This year one call was a bit different: Susan F. called to ask how to catch a frightened guinea pig. Her neighbors had suffered a family tragedy and in the confusion, the guinea pig, two rabbits, and a cat had escaped the house. The family was no longer in the area and Susan wanted to make sure the pets were safe. The rabbits were trapped by a rescue group, but little Pepita was still out there. We lent Susan one of our kitten traps (actually intended for squirrels). By the next day, Pepita was captured and safe in a foster home. The cat showed up not long after and was also safely captured. We are grateful for friends like Susan who don't hesitate to step in and take charge when animals need help.

One of those calls about a missing cat came from Katie E. Her family adopted Topanga in May and about a month later she escaped the house. They launched an all out search, and were referred to ARCF for help. Indoor cats often stay nearby, hiding during the day and coming out at night to eat and try to get back into the house. Setting a trap near the door where the cat escaped is usually the best way to capture these frightened

kitties. It had already been several weeks, so the chances were low that Topanga was still there, but we sent Katie home with a trap and our best advice.

A few days later, we were delighted to hear from Katie that Topanga had been found! Missing for 29 days, Topanga had travelled about a mile from home, where a kind woman working in her garden noticed Topanga, and took her immediately to her vet where she was scanned for a microchip. Because she was microchipped and Katie had updated the information as

soon as she was adopted, Topanga was back home in a matter of minutes, a little thinner, but very happy to see her family again. Moral of this story: please microchip all your pets and make sure your registration info is current. And never give up looking!

In the previous quarter, we responded to more than 150 calls and emails asking for help. In addition to our TNR projects and kitten rescue, we provided spay and neuter and other necessary surgeries for pets of people in dire circumstances. We also support them with donations of food and

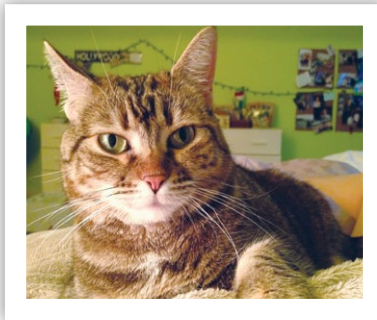
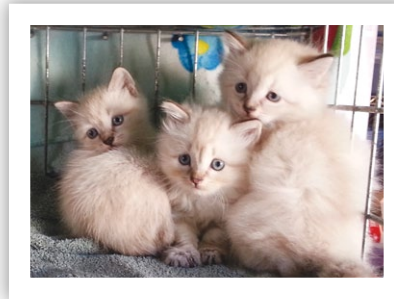
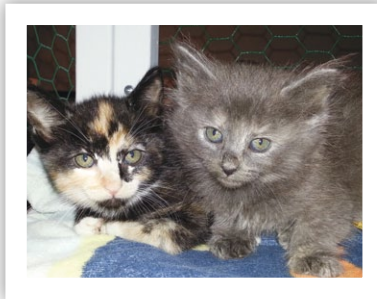
supplies, and we're getting ready for our annual feral cat shelter building project.

We were delighted to receive a photo from Hamid and Mahsa, marking the first birthday of Denise and Nutella, the kittens they adopted from us last year. We'd love to hear from all our adopters with updates and photos!

As always, thank you for reading our newsletter and supporting our mission with your donations.

Happy Autumn!

— Carma Crimins
PRESIDENT



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VERONICA & VELOUR; WYLIE, WILMA, & WILLOW; TOPANGA; DENISE & NUTELLA; PEPITA THE GUINEA PIG

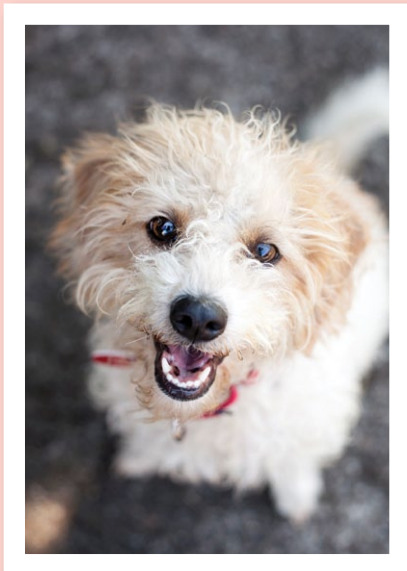
Since ARCF does not currently have a dog adoption program, we are working with other local dog rescue groups who share our goals and philosophies of animal welfare and rescue.

MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
mywayhomedogrescue.org
503-974-4944

Lucky

Lucky was spotted running in city traffic by a senior citizen who was determined to help. She managed to stop traffic and capture the little dog. She called her daughter for help, and together they took this friendly little dog to the local shelter, feeling confident that Lucky's family would soon be along to claim her. It is a high-kill shelter, so when Lucky's time was up and no owner had appeared, her guardian angels rescued her again, and then asked for our help to find her a new home.



LISA TESO

Not long after Lucky came to us, we got a message from the Webber family: Erica and Dominic and their kids, Sarah, Marcus, and Rebecca. They had decided the kids were old enough and it was time to bring a dog into the family. Erica found Lucky on our website, and after an interview, we set up a meeting. It went very well, and the next day, Lucky went home with the Webbers.

Erica recently gave us this update:

Lucky loves being around people! She also loves belly rubs and snuggling and the kids have been having fun teaching her tricks. Rebecca (age 7) is teaching her how to go through



**FRONT: REBECCA, MARCUS, SARAH, AND LUCKY.
BACK: ERICA AND DOMINIC.**

a pop-up tube. Rebecca is convinced she would be a perfect agility dog and Lucky is VERY tolerant of Rebecca's "bossy" directions.

Marcus is really into Lucky. He wanted us to keep her name because he feels that when you get adopted, you should have something from your past. Lucky can be found cuddling with him in bed or sitting with him wherever he is. Lucky has helped to calm Marcus when he gets frustrated with his surroundings. She even brought her bag of treats to our oldest, Sarah, when she was ready for a snack! Cheryl at My Way Home has been an amazing support. She is a go-to person for all of our questions. We are not experienced pet owners and we are very grateful for her!

— The Webber Family



AMY NISSL AT 2012 STRUT

Please join us at STRUT YOUR MUTT on Saturday, September 28 at Sellwood Riverfront Park in Portland!

Sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society, this event raises money for local rescue groups who participate. Only 11 cities nationwide are chosen to host an event. We invite you to join the My Way Home pack. Last year our pack raised over \$2000. This year our goal is \$10,000—please help

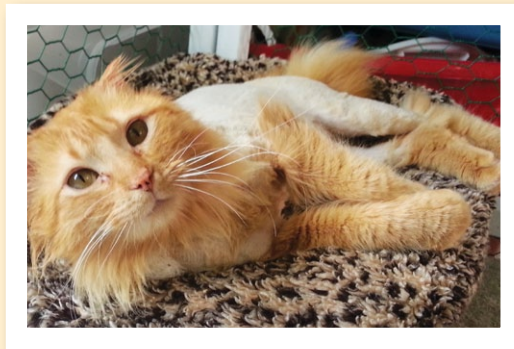
us reach it! Sign up to walk your dog, volunteer to walk a rescue dog, or just walk on your own. After the walk at beautiful Sellwood Riverfront Park, enjoy the festival, featuring contests, photos, refreshments, vendor booths, and more. If you're not in Portland, you can still support us by signing up for the Virtual Walk. To register go to strutyournutt.org and click on the link for Portland. We hope to see you there!

Sherman

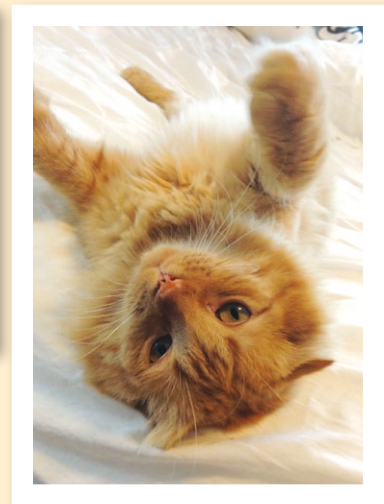
Sherman was rescued by Jody, our friend who dedicates her life to helping stray and feral cats in the Willamette Valley. She was working on TNR (trap-neuter-return) for barn cats on a farm near Albany. Sherman had appeared about six months earlier and the farmer assumed he was feral too. But once Jody got him home, she realized Sherman was somebody's pet who had been lost or abandoned. She utilized all the usual local resources to find his owner, but after several weeks no one had claimed him, so she asked our help in finding Sherman a new home.

His first stop was at our vet, for an exam, shampoo, and shave. Sweet Sherman was not meant for the outdoor life because his coat was dirty and matted, and he obviously had come out on the short end of a few battles. But he was a perfect patient, and soon was back in our foster home, happy, healthy, and starving for affection. We were captivated by Sherman's all-over "perm;" he has curly ears, curly whiskers, and a short curly tail. With his lion cut hairdo, Sherman was soft as a velvet pillow. He quickly made himself at home and charmed everyone with his cheerful and loving disposition.

A few weeks later we were contacted by Jessie, who was looking for a black female cat to join her family of two rescued greyhounds and three chickens. She knew that black cats are often the last to be chosen, and she definitely didn't want an orange long-haired male cat because she was still mourning the loss of her adored Gnocchi, a big fluffy orange boy. We arranged



SHERMAN ARRIVES AT ARCF



AT EASE IN HIS NEW HOME

for Jessie to come meet a sort-of black female cat we were fostering.

But . . . Sherman happened to be lounging close by. Their eyes locked, Sherman reached out a big orange paw, and we were pretty sure the deal was sealed right then. But we carried on as if we didn't notice.

About a week later, Sherman was on his way home with Jessie. Here is a recent update:

Sherman has been the most delightful surprise I've had in a very long time. When I first met the little guy I was actually visiting a black female kitty who was his roommate at his ARCF foster home. Upon walking in, I made eye contact with Sherman and it was all over. He leapt up out of his bed and raced over to me, then promptly rolled onto his back so I could rub his tummy. It was like he already knew me! I took it as a sign that this was the little guy for me, with his precious folded ears and kinked little bob tail. Completely shaved due to matting issues from his days as a street urchin, Sherman was a tiny little ball of adorable love who immediately took to sleeping in my arms from his first night in my house.

He has so much personality that anyone who meets him can't help but stop and love on him for a little bit. He even has his own fan page as "Sherman Meow" on Facebook! He comes running when I call his name and loves nothing more than snuggling for hours.

We have been fostering kittens lately and Sherman is so good with the babies! He grooms them and shows them the ropes, and I give him a lot of credit for what wonderful little kitties they're turning out to be. I feel so lucky to have been connected with Sherman through ARCF. He's most definitely one in a million, and I can't imagine life without him!

— Jessie Ryan

Mr. Pearl

Mr. Pearl was left behind when his mom died suddenly about a year ago. Our friend Jim Sutherland was looking for a companion for his big orange cat, Macaroni. None of us knew much about Mr. Pearl, but



somehow we felt it was just going to work out, so off he went with Jim to Bellingham, Washington. On his one year "gotcha" anniversary, Jim sent us this photo of Mr. Pearl and his pal Mac.

Leopold & Sidney (formerly Garfield & Griselda)

Early this year we rescued a kitten whose family had lost their home to foreclosure. As often happens in this situation, the family was combining households with other family members where pets are not allowed. Sweet Sidney was well-behaved and totally charming, so we expected she wouldn't be with us long.

Shortly afterward, we were alerted to a family giving away most of their pets to anyone who came to the door and asked for one. By the time we arrived, most of the cats and kittens had been given away, but they still had one small orange guy who seemed to be terrified. We took him to the vet for a routine checkup and vaccines, and the vet discovered poor Leopold was very malnourished, possibly due to a sore in his mouth that must have made it very painful to eat. He also had a very high fever and was terrified of everything.

Because he was too contagious to share accommodations with our other kittens, Leo stayed at the vet for awhile. He received tender loving care from the technicians, and it didn't take long for him to turn into the orange ball of love we suspected was hidden underneath his pain. When he was back to good health, we brought him home and introduced him to Sidney. They quickly became fast friends and rowdy playmates. They were so cute, friendly, and fun, we thought for sure they would be adopted instantly.



SIDNEY (LEFT) AND LEOPOLD

Six months later, we still had no applications for this fantastic pair and no one could figure out why. Then one day in August we heard from the Korytkowski family, Elizabeth, Lyle and 5-year-old

Eva. They had lost their elderly cat some months earlier and were looking for a pair of youngish cats, who would be playful and affectionate. We had a feeling this was exactly what Sidney and Leo were looking for. We arranged for a meeting and it immediately became clear that the long wait was definitely worth it! Sidney was in ecstasy having a small playmate get down on the floor with her to try out ALL of her toys, and shy Leopold sidled up to Lyle and flopped over for a belly rub. The cats jumped into their carriers in their eagerness to go home with their new family.

Here's the report after just a few days:

The cats are doing just great! They are both such balls of fun and sweetness. We've renamed them Sidney (was Griselda) and Leopold (was Garfield). Today Lyle nicknamed Leopold "Leo the Love Bug" because he's just such a big ball of cuddles. He climbs up on the bed (or a lap) anytime we stop moving so that he can snuggle. Sidney has completely charmed Eva and they became fast friends, playing together all the time. Eva calls out to her "Hey, Girlfriend!" when we get home and Sidney follows her and plays with her for the whole evening. We awaken in the morning and laugh as we hear them bounding and playing, and we look forward to returning to them in the evening. They have embedded themselves so deeply into our lives already. We just love them both so much. Thank you!

— Elizabeth Korytkowski



EVA AND LEOPOLD

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

June-July-August: We placed 9 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

Veterinary Fees: \$6,753.34*
Advertising/Outreach: \$0
Food, Special Meds: \$1,901.67**
Newsletter: \$1,482.00

* These expenses include veterinary care for the pets 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.

AnimalTalk

ANIMAL TALK is a quarterly newsletter published by Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., and printed by Natural Press in Portland.

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.

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Parker & Paisley

In our summer issue, we told you about a big TNR project where we trapped 60+ cats and kittens in an industrial area of Portland. During our trapping, we discovered a litter of 5-week-old kittens, dropped there by an anonymous passerby who had seen all the cats being fed every day and decided to add a few more to the colony. The kittens were very friendly and we quickly grabbed them and they became the “P” litter.

In a few weeks they were big enough to be spayed and neutered, and shortly after that we received an application from Catherine, who was looking for a pair of kittens to join her family, including Logan (age 9) and Conor (age 6). They went to meet Parker and Paisley at an outreach event, and then made a longer visit with them at our foster home. Kids and kittens were quite happy to meet each other, so they all went home together.

Catherine sent us an update:



PAISLEY (LEFT) AND PARKER

Parker and Paisley are doing fabulous! They have gotten quite comfortable and are starting to settle into normal routines. They have even stopped waking me up chewing on my nose and purring at me in the middle of the night. They now wait quite politely until I get up before starting the thunderous morning affection.

They are such joyful little additions to our household. They are so well adjusted and behave just as I expect normal, rambunctious kittens to behave. Foster



LOGAN AND HIS NEW BEST FRIEND

mom Anne did a great job with them. Now, I just need to buy one of those cat water fountains, so Parker will stop coming to me with a wet head from the bathroom faucet.

Every day my kids used to greet me first and tell me, “I love you mommy!” Now when they greet me, they look for a kitten and say, “I love our kittens!” I think I can handle sharing the love. The little fur kids give me plenty in return!

— Catherine Darklock



Hans and Hector

About a year ago, our friends at Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon called to ask if we had room to take in two kittens brought to their clinic that day. The kittens were too small to be neutered, and the feral colony caregiver was hoping they could be socialized and placed as indoor pets (when doing TNR, the goal is to remove all kittens and friendly adult cats, so the only cats returned to the outdoors are those who aren't socialized to humans).

We were happy to take in this little pair with their adorable folded ears. They were nervous at first, but within days began to enjoy being petted, and gave us lots of purrs to prove it.

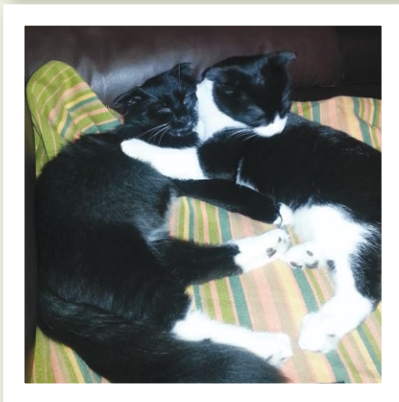
Shortly after posting them on our website, Harpreet saw their photo and contacted us to find out more. The boys were shy at

their first meeting, but Harpreet was very patient with them, and we all agreed it looked like a good match.

The kittens are now a year old and we recently received this update:

The kittens are doing great and have adjusted very well. They have indeed grown a lot bigger. They really enjoy each other's company and comfortably sit, play, and sleep with me. They haven't had any health issues and run around and play a lot. They are pretty energetic. Hans is friendlier and adjusts to new people easily. Hector on the other hand is more reserved and takes longer to open to new people. Everything is going great and I'm really happy to have them.

— Harpreet Brar



**TOP: LITTLE HANS (LEFT) AND HECTOR;
BOTTOM: BIG BOYS NOW**

IN MEMORIAM

Tom Badrick said goodbye to Holly, a quirky lady about 14 years old who had come to ARCF in 2006 when fate intervened at the veterinary clinic. The Badricks were at the vet with their foster kittens when someone called the vet to ask if their cat could be euthanized right away. They had recently saved her from a neighbor who'd kept her locked in a laundry room for the first six years of her life because they had a dog that didn't like cats. After they took her, she'd stopped eating and lost a large amount of weight in short order. She was unhappy and didn't want to interact with the new family. They'd put a collar on her, which she didn't like, and it became too loose due to the weight loss.



HOLLY

That evening she'd gotten it stuck around her jaw trying to remove it. She'd gone crazy trying to get her jaw free, growling and screeching in a panic until they were able to get her into a carrier. Believing she was dangerous, they were looking for a vet willing to euthanize her immediately. This vet had a feeling there was nothing wrong with Holly, and agreed to take her if they would relinquish ownership so that she could be evaluated and placed with a rescue. They did; Holly stayed overnight for observation where she purred, ate, and passed her health exam with flying colors.

She came to ARCF the next day, and was soon adopted by Marion and Joyce, true cat people who accepted Holly despite her lack of social skills. She was never a cuddler and would often walk around the house grumbling under her breath. This was a little unsettling to visitors, but it was just Holly being Holly.

In her new home, Holly had a huge basket of toys, a cozy bed, good food, and unconditional love. After a change in housing circumstances, Holly came back to live with Tom and her foster brother Jackson, a Maine Coon, five years ago. She lived her golden years in comfort, and passed away in her sleep. A ceramic cat statue marks where she was laid to rest, outside her favorite window where she loved to sit in a sunbeam and watch the sparrows.

Wilma and Lou Perez-Leon lost their senior cat, Boots. He was a rough, tough, feral cat who showed up at their house years ago sporting a broken foot, a broken tooth, and some nasty looking abscesses. It was a challenge to trap him, but eventually it was done, and after receiving necessary vet care, Boots came home to recover. Wilma was out of town for a few days and left her mom, Dora, in charge of feeding Boots, the ferocious feral in the outdoor enclosure. Her instructions were to set down the food, clean the box, and stay out of his way.

Wilma returned a few days later to find Dora watching TV in her living room with Boots stretched out on her lap, purring. He quickly learned to love the good life, although he never tolerated confinement of any kind and insisted on having an exit available at all times. Boots became the official household greeter from his station at the garage door. He began slowing down a bit in recent years but it was shocking for Wilma to find him in the yard one recent summer morning, deceased of unknown causes. Boots' presence was vital to the household and he is deeply missed.

Courtney Argo and Bryce Charchenko were devastated to return from a short trip and find their big orange Julius cat had died during their absence from an unknown illness. Julius was what we in rescue call their "starter cat;" he started Courtney and Bryce on their rescue journey about 10 years ago. He wandered into their lives from somewhere in their California neighborhood, and showed them how much their energy was needed to help the many other homeless cats who had been invisible to them. Julius came along to Oregon a few years ago and, in true rescued stray fashion, was totally devoted to his people and followed them everywhere.

Carrie Fagerstrom has been through some tough times this summer: in a short stretch she lost four of her four-legged family members. Because she adopts the ones who are least likely to be chosen by others—too old, too sick, or too shy—Carrie faces more challenges and more frequent losses in her critter family.



GRADY

Geriatric dog Grady was already ancient when Carrie adopted him years ago, so although it was hard to see him go, it was clearly his time. Celeste was Carrie's super-shy cat who only recently started to enjoy human contact. That was most likely because she wasn't feeling great, and one evening she simply took a deep sigh and died in Carrie's arms. Casper was also a super-senior feline citizen, whose loving heart just could not keep his frail body going any longer.



BILLY

Just when she thought the worst was over, her adored number-one cat Billy was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer that couldn't be treated. Billy was the youngest of the gang and in comparatively good health, but he was no match for the cancer and it took him in a matter of days. They are all deeply missed

by Carrie, and survived by their canine pack Laguna and Griffin, and feline pals Harriet, Emma, and Milo.

Glenda Hughes and Bill Gollhofer sent us a donation in memory of their precious cat Drew. Those who have won the trust of a very fearful stray cat will understand the special bond that develops when he finally lets down his guard and learns to give and accept affection. Glenda spent many months trying to win him over, and the rewards were worth every minute. Drew could have been the poster boy for all stray, feral, or abandoned cats who become the most devoted of companions, when given the chance. He not only won Glenda's heart, he inspired her career as a volunteer dedicated to helping other cats like him. Drew was six years old when a terrible accident took his life and left Glenda's heart in little pieces.



DREW

THINGS WE LIKE

MEOW Foundation Yarn Collection

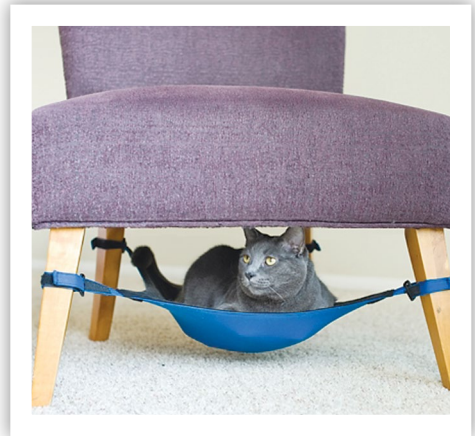
Our crafty friends were very excited to discover this collection of hand-dyed yarns in hues inspired by feline colors and patterns. The collection includes wool, silk, nylon, and blended yarns in a variety of shades including calico, tuxedo, Siamese, and every kind of tabby. Create an accent from cat eye colors of cobalt, green, and gold. A portion of the proceeds from each sale is donated to The Meow Foundation to benefit stray and abandoned cats in Calgary, Alberta. Prices from \$24 per skein. Available at ancientartsfibre.com. If any of our readers buy this yarn and create something from it, please send us a photo!



CALICO CAT (TOP)
TUXEDO CAT (BOTTOM)

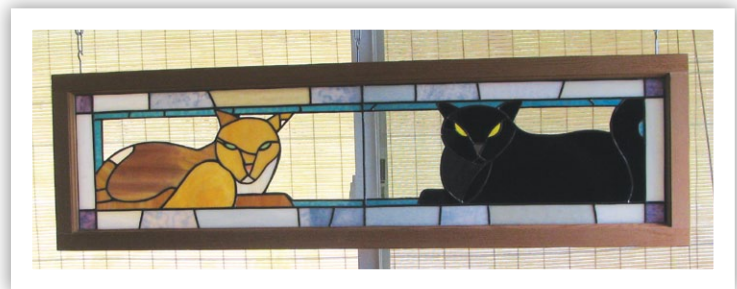
Cat Crib Hammock

Although we haven't had a chance to try the Cat Crib yet at ARCF World HQ, we have never met a cat who didn't love snoozing in a hammock. This is a very clever design: you can sling it up by the easy-to-attach rubber straps under any chair or table with four legs, and your cat has a cozy spot that doesn't take up any more floor space. The hammock is machine washable and is available in three colors for \$29 from catcrib.com.



Memorial Stained Glass Window

Here's something that's not available anywhere, at any price, but we wanted to share it anyway because we love it. This stained glass window was made by Michael Goldberg to memorialize his two cats Andy and Nacho. The cats moved from San Francisco to Portland in 1991 with Michael and his partner Jim Sutherland. After Andy and Nacho passed, Jim and Michael adopted Truman, a funny little Persian cat, from ARCF. They were never without at least one feline in the family and those were very lucky cats indeed. Michael was an artist and author, and a man devoted to his cats. Sadly, he passed away in 2003.



YES! I want to help

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