

FEATURED CATS Edgar and Emmy Lou

We'd like to introduce Edgar, a handsome tuxedo boy, and Emmy Lou, his little orange tabby sister. They are ready to spread love and joy all over the lucky family who will take them home and dote on them forever. These two are the only siblings in their litter, and they are very bonded. They are about 5 months old, but Emmy Lou is very small for her age—barely half the size of Edgar—and she depends on him to show her the ropes, just like any good big brother would do.

In addition to those stunning golden eyes and spiffy white moustache, Edgar has a unique tail: it takes several sharp turns from one end to the other and it's totally adorable. He has loads of energy and loves every kind of toy, typical of a teenage boy. If no toys are immediately available, he'll happily find a common household object and



EDGAR (LEFT) AND EMMY LOU

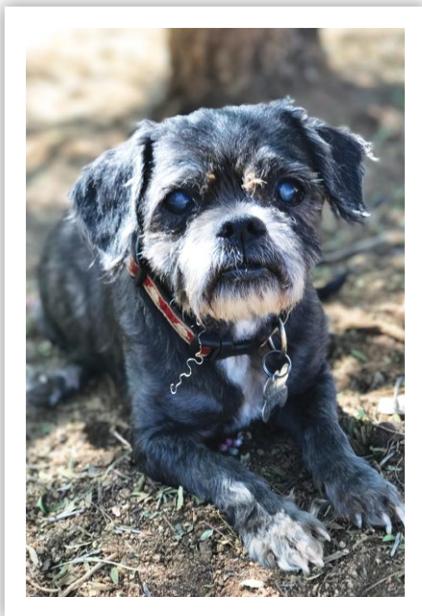
demonstrate how it can be repurposed as a toy.

Emmy Lou is a precious little bundle of ginger goodness. She's a bit shyer than her brave big brother, but she watches and learns from him and her personality is blossoming as her confidence grows. Edgar is a cuddler and does a great job of keeping his little sis warm and cozy at nap time.

Because they are so bonded, we will place Edgar and Emmy Lou as a pair only.

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

FEATURED DOG Zappa



Zappa is one of the lucky pups whose lives are transformed when they come to My Way Home Dog Rescue from high-kill public shelters.

In this case Zappa was left in one of the kennels set up to prevent dogs being abandoned outside the shelter overnight. This means the owners remain anonymous and nothing is known about the dogs' history, but at least they are safely contained until the shelter opens again.

Based on the veterinarian's best guess, Zappa is about 11 years old, part Shih Tzu, and definitely blind—not a likely candidate for adoption in an overcrowded open-intake shelter in a big city with far too many unwanted dogs roaming the streets. Kind volunteers at the shelter wanted Zappa to have a chance at a good life, so they asked MWH for help. After arriving at MWH, Zappa received a thorough exam, including a

dental cleaning. Other than his visual impairment, he's in great shape for a gentleman of his age.

His foster mom reports that Zappa is a delightful companion and very easy to have around. He enjoys having guests and likes to be close to his people, but he's not clingy or whiny. Zappa gets along fine with the other dogs, is perfectly house-trained, and he loves chewies and treats! Once he gets the lay of the land, he can navigate quite well. He's a sweet and easy-going boy, looking for a soft place to land for his golden years.

All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and are current on vaccines and flea control. The adoption fee of \$250 includes leash, collar, blanket, and food sample. If you are interested in meeting Zappa, email mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com or call 503-974-4944.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The summer of 2017 has been very hard on our world, and we're not sad to see it coming to an end. The rains that arrived in the Portland area in mid-September were so very welcome. As the forest fires raged in our area, we were heartened to see the network of volunteers who sprang into action, offering transportation, shelter, food, and supplies to displaced animals and their families. We're grateful to all those who contacted us with offers to help—fortunately, there was no shortage of assistance and all the evacuated families and their pets and livestock are now returned to their homes.

We're often asked, "Where do all these cats and kittens come from?" The answer is: everywhere. Although we have excellent resources in our community, including public and private shelters, low-cost spay/neuter programs, and other dedicated rescue organizations, there are still many situations where animals in need, particularly cats, don't quite fit into the mission of the groups involved.

For example, our friend Melinda Miller volunteers with Fences For Fido, building fences for dogs living at the end of a chain. At one of her work sites in the Willamette Valley there were so many cats and kittens underfoot she knew right away that spay/neuter services were needed. She asked us for help and put us in touch with the family. We called on our friend and trapping expert Jody, and with her help the adult cats were soon trapped and fixed. The kittens, including **Zorra** and the rest of the "Z" litter, were safely enlisted in kitten boot camp and all have now been adopted.

Another request for help came from Catherine, an ARCF adopter living in Oregon City. The mother cat in this case was probably left behind by a former apartment tenant, and mom was trying to find a safe place for her babies. Neighbors tried to help, but attempts to grab her were unsuccessful, so our volunteer Lori agreed to help and soon had the whole family captured. They became the "D" litter, including **Diego** and his three sisters.

A family in Southeast Portland contacted us when their next-door neighbors suddenly had to move out of their home. They noticed cats, kittens, and a dog seemingly left on their own. Animal Control was contacted, but because the animals appeared to have water, food, and shelter, there was no further action

they could take. We made contact with the tenants, who were distraught and without resources after losing their home. They loved their animals and came to feed them daily at the empty house, but couldn't realistically care for so many and hope to find another rental where all would be allowed. We rescued two mother cats with a total of seven kittens, including one litter just two days old. They became the "A" and "B" litters including **Boris** and **Basil**. We arranged for one kitten and the dog, a young male Chihuahua, to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, treated for fleas/worms, and then returned to the family. With only those two pets, they were able to find a new home where the whole family can be safe and secure.

Another young female had her seven kittens in an alley in

North Portland. A woman who noticed them posted on her neighborhood website asking for help. Our volunteer Jen responded and another neighbor helped capture the little family and held them until we could make arrangements to pick them up. Beautiful orange momcat **Carlene** was doing her best to care for her brood of six orange boys and one tortie girl, but they were all very ill and required around-the-clock care at the Cat Hospital of Portland until they stabilized and were eating well. It doesn't take very long for kittens under one pound to become severely dehydrated and malnourished if they can't or won't eat on their



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ZORRA, DIEGO, CARLENE, BASIL (LEFT) & BORIS

own. Even with the best care from the veterinary staff and our dedicated foster mom, we couldn't save Chester, the smallest of the litter. But the other six are now fit, frisky, and ready to meet their forever families.

We've rescued more than 100 kittens so far this year—that's a lot of food, litter, doctor visits, and medicine. We were looking forward to a little break in the kitten parade, but we're now taking in the second "F" litter of the year—our first kittens of the Fall season!

We couldn't save any kittens at all without the generous support of our donors, and the hard work of our volunteers. Thank you to all who make it possible, from every one of those little furry faces.

Happy Fall!

— **Carma Crimins**
PRESIDENT

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.

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

MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

Agatha Christie (formerly Angel)

When Cheryl at My Way Home Dog Rescue was approached about taking a little old dog named Angel, it was hard to say “Yes”—a foster home was not available, and Angel needed some expensive veterinary work. But it was even harder to say “No.” Angel had been seized as part of an animal hoarding situation, in an area with few resources to deal with such overwhelming need.

Sadly, the hoarding conditions were such that many dogs’ lives could not be saved. Luckily, other than mammary cancer, bad teeth, and a chronic eye condition, Angel seemed to be in good health and, amazingly, she was also in very good spirits.

After her arrival at MWH, Angel received the medical care she needed, including surgery to remove her tumor. She had a desperately needed visit with a groomer, and then settled in with a foster mom who began introducing her to all the wonderful things Angel’s life had been lacking.

Gerry Taylor had adopted two MWH dogs in the last five years, both senior dogs who lived out their golden years being spoiled by Gerry and her crew of kitties. After losing Mickey earlier this year, Gerry decided that was the end—no more adopting dogs. It’s too hard to care for them, and too hard to lose them. As her friends, we all nodded in agreement. And waited . . .

It took a couple of months, then one day Gerry mentioned in passing that it might be nice to have a 90-pound Labrador to sit by her on the couch while she does her crafting, and ride shotgun on her many trips around town delivering kitties to the spay/neuter clinic, picking up books from the library, and getting a hamburger at the drive-up window.

A few days later, Gerry started showing off her new “90-pound Lab”—who looks suspiciously like 10 pounds of Shih Tzu mix, formerly known as Angel. Gerry likes to read old mystery novels, so her new companion is called Agatha Christie.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: AT THE SHELTER; AT HER FOSTER HOME, FRESHLY GROOMED; AGATHA AND HER DRIVER

Agatha is now Gerry’s co-pilot and it’s hard to imagine a more social companion. She loves to go places, meet people, and do things! Her little tail never stops wagging and every face that comes close will get a licking. Once Agatha learned that there would be a crunchy treat waiting after her morning walk, she quickly figured out a shortcut to get herself home to that treat a little faster!

It’s possible that Agatha’s cancer will return in her lymph nodes some day, and she needs a pill every day to keep her skin from itching and ointment to keep her eyes lubricated. But Gerry doesn’t mind, and Agatha doesn’t worry about these things at all, she’s simply having her best day, every day.

Hattie, Hazel, Hildie, Harper, Hamilton, & Hedwig

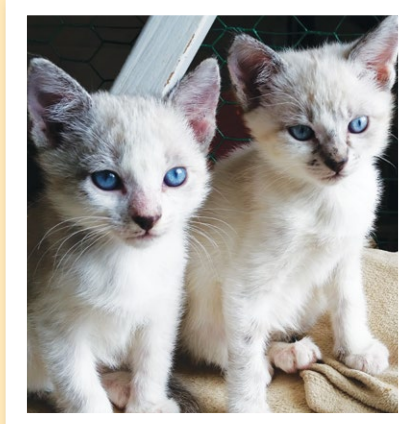
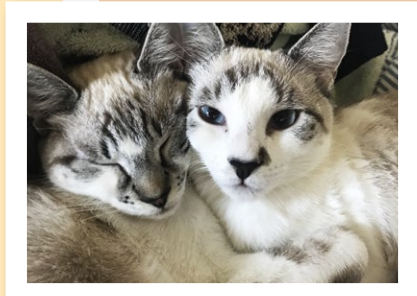
In March of this year we took in a litter of six kittens from our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton when their shelter was short on space. A quick visual exam revealed bald spots associated with ringworm infection. Ringworm is not actually a worm; it's a fungus that affects the skin and scalp, similar to athlete's foot infection in humans. It can be debilitating in very young kittens, but they generally respond well to treatment. Usually within a few weeks the fungus is killed and the hair starts growing back. Even without treatment, it will eventually burn itself out, but is highly infectious in the meantime.

We gave this litter "H" names and started the normal course of oral and topical medications. After six weeks of treatment, the bald spots were gone, the kittens were healthy and happy and, despite all the treatments they endured, totally lovable and eager for affection. We took applications, families came to meet them, and all six kittens were quickly adopted.

Within a couple weeks, the ringworm popped up again. This particular strain proved to be incredibly resilient. The adoptive parents not only had to deal with treating the kittens again, but in some cases had to start treating other pets, kids, and even themselves! We stopped taking in kittens, and tackled the disinfection of all our foster homes with specialized cleaning products, as our adopters were doing in their own homes.

It was a stressful six-month ordeal for everyone involved, and we are very thankful that our adopters were so understanding of the problem and willing to tough it out for the sake of the kittens. We're happy to report that we are back to business as usual, and have learned a lot about how to prevent similar outbreaks in the future.

Here are recent updates from their families:

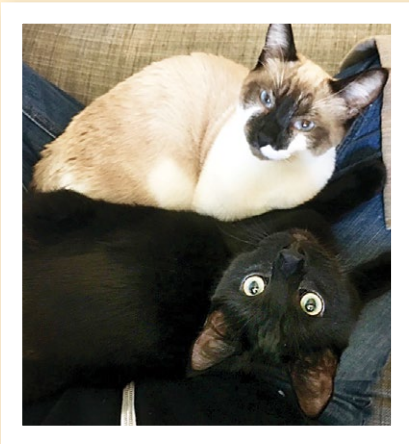


TOP: FRANCES (LEFT) & PIPER. BOTTOM: AS BABIES

Frances & Piper
(formerly Hildie & Harper)

Frances and Piper are doing great and loving life! It wasn't easy to get through the quarantine and treatment, but it was worth it. These sisters are such happy, healthy, and well-socialized kittens. They are incredibly intelligent, playful, and so happy to have each other. They play for hours together every day. Sharing a bed with these cuties is as good as it gets! Thank you ARCF for our furry family!

— Jessi Wilcox



TOP: MARPS (TOP) & FLETCH. BOTTOM: AS BABIES

Marps & Fletch
(formerly Hattie & Hazel)

They have such wonderful, sweet, mischievous personalities. We've fallen head over heels and are spoiling them accordingly. We're calling them Marps (Hattie) and Fletch (Hazel) these days. Their namesakes are two wonderful female sleuths, albeit fictional ones: Miss Jane Marple (from Agatha Christie) and Jessica Fletcher (from "Murder, She Wrote"). The names seem to fit, as they certainly get into everything! And they're both very chatty and playful.

The cooler weather has brought about a non-stop cuddle-fest with these two, and they now regularly cuddle up with our older cat. We're building them a catio, which is nearly complete. Once done, they'll have easy access to a secure outdoor area complete with shelves to climb and lay on, and plenty of room to play and roll around.

We simply adore these little ones, thank you for such sweet kittens.

— Elle McKay & Katie Miller

SUCCESS STORIES



THEO (LEFT) & SYLVIE. RIGHT: AS BABIES

Theo & Sylvie (formerly Hamilton & Hedwig)

They're settling into our household very well—still cautious, but not at all shy. They're adorable and playful with each other and so sweet and cuddly with us.

I couldn't be happier!

Thank you both for the work you do and for making this happen!

— Sarah Rinzler

Piper & Dunkin (formerly Lucy & Lenny)

Our regular readers may recognize Lucy and Lenny as the "cover kittens" from our summer issue. They came to ARCF after we received a call from a kind man who asked us to help his blind friend Kyle, who had discovered a very frightened momcat with kittens in his backyard. The project was challenging but our intrepid volunteer Val was eventually able to capture the whole family and bring them to safety. The momcat was not well-socialized so she was spayed and returned to Kyle, with a commitment from him to provide her food and shelter indefinitely. The four kittens were enlisted in our boot camp and within a few weeks they were ready to meet their forever families.

In addition to their gorgeous markings—thanks to the magical combination of Siamese and tabby genes—this pair also sported extra toes on their front paws. Many applications were received, and after careful review, we invited Beth to come meet the kittens. They were soon on the way to their new home.

Dunkin and Piper are almost six months old now. They are the cutest, most loving kittens ever! They love to play, eat and get underfoot in the kitchen. They are both so curious about everything, but always stay close to me. I look forward to our future together and all the fun we are going to have!

— Beth Boyle



TOP: DUNKIN (LEFT) & PIPER.
BOTTOM: AS BABIES

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

June-July-August: We rescued and cared for 55 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 20 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$7,667.80

Food/Supplies: \$2,020.87

Newsletter: \$1,839.00

AnimalTalk

ANIMAL TALK is a quarterly newsletter published by Animal Rescue & Care Fund.

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

Molly Henty, www.mollyhenty.com

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Animal Rescue & Care Fund

PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293
503-402-8692

www.pdx-petadoption.org
arcf@pdx-petadoption.org

Animal Rescue & Care Fund is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 51-0137768. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used to support our programs, including publishing this quarterly newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM



MISS BEE

We were saddened to hear from our friend Mary Dowless that petite, ancient **Miss Bee** passed away. Bee had a very hard life before she was dropped off at a high-kill shelter in California, but through the kindness of volunteers she came to Oregon where she was received and cared for by

My Way Home Dog Rescue. Mary knew that Miss Bee's worn-out body wouldn't last too much longer, but she chose to adopt her anyway and make every day a good one. She fit perfectly into Mary's family of furry and feathered critters of all kinds. Miss Bee's last months were filled with everything she liked: cozy beds, road trips, and best of all, little bites of turkey lunchmeat. Losing tiny Miss Bee left a big hole in Mary's heart.

*This note arrived from Kendra Waddle in Tennessee, along with a donation: "My brother Richard lives in Oregon. He found his sweet pup **Maisy** many years ago while attending college. Or maybe she found him—it's hard to say. Unfortunately, she passed in June of this year. She was a sleek, slender, ebony dream. She loved my brother with every fiber of her being and the feeling was mutual. They moved across the country, Richard got married and had a child, with Maisy by his side every step of the way. They even started getting grey hairs the same week! The hardest part of having a pet is saying goodbye. It's so sad they can't be with us longer! I can't do anything to bring Maisy back, but I would like this donation to help other animals in her memory."*

Ed & Linda Barnes made a donation in memory of **Rosie**, the beloved dog of their neighbors Ray and Cece, who recently passed away at the age of 15½ years.

Tracee Larson recently lost her sweet cat **Roger**, a true companion who came into her life at the age of seven weeks and stayed for 16½ years, including several long distance moves together. Roger suffered from kidney disease for the last four years, but with lots of supportive care from Tracee, his life was full and pain-free until the end. Roger is also missed by his feline siblings, Princess, Gracie, Louie, Bucky, and Sophie.



ROGER



SHEA & GUY

Patricia Boyle made a generous donation in memory of her beloved Shelties, **Guy and Shea**. Their losses came so close together—within 48 hours—it was doubly devastating for Patricia to suddenly have no animals bringing their special warmth to her home after a

lifetime of companion pets sharing space with kids, grandkids, and friends from around the world.

From Paul and Brenda Davison came the heartbreaking news that **Rene**, one of the sweet kitten sisters they adopted from ARCF last December, had been diagnosed with Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP). This disease is cruel and capricious; the cause is unclear, there is no vaccine, no treatment, and it's always fatal. Rene was just one year old. She is deeply missed by her sister Rose as well as her human family.



RENE



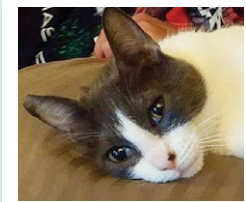
LARRY

In 2009 Ruth and Matt Page rescued a litter of feral kittens in their neighborhood, with the help of ARCF. **Larry**, Mosby, and Curly Sue needed a lot of medical care and TLC, and eventually they were adopted. Mosby found his forever family, but Larry and Curly Sue's new family broke apart and the

kittens came back to Ruth and Matt. After a second adoption also ended in a return, Larry and Curly Sue became permanent members of the Page family. Larry was very chatty, had an adorable pink nose, and liked to snooze at Ruth's head, reaching out to tap her gently with one paw. All was well for four years, until Larry was diagnosed with lymphoma. Treatment bought them a few extra months together, but eventually there was nothing more to be done.

Susan Hay honored the passing of **Belle**, a 21-year-old cat belonging to Patty Davies, with a donation in her memory.

Amanda and Mike McMillen were crushed by the sudden loss of **Bruce**, the best cat in the world. Fifteen years ago, Bruce was surrendered to a public shelter as an unwanted stray, where he was labeled as feral—not a good thing to be in a big, scary, overcrowded shelter. A lucky phone call alerted Amanda to Bruce's situation, and after a quick trip to the shelter, Bruce became the newest member of the McMillen family. He was adored and will be missed by all who knew him.



BRUCE

When the time comes to help our ill and elderly pets leave the world without pain, it may bring comfort for you and your pet to have humane euthanasia administered at home by veterinarians who make house calls for this purpose. Here are some Portland area vets who provide this service:

Compassionate Care, Dr. Lori Gibson
503-880-1172, drlorigibson.com

Vet to Pet, Dr. Laura Chang, 503-757-6124, vettopet.net

At Home Veterinary Services, Dr. Louise Mesher
503-281-1631, pdxhomevet.com

The Feline Good Life: Indoors Only

“But all cats need to enjoy the great outdoors! Why do you want them to have indoor-only homes?”

This is something we often hear from potential adopters. It’s true that some cats are born and live their entire lives outside—the ASPCA estimates there are about 75 million pet cats in this country, and it would be an immense job to bring all those cats inside. But here at ARCF we have seen enough suffering to convince us that keeping our pet cats indoors is the most humane and responsible

policy. We’ve already poured our heart and soul (and resources) into rescuing them once—and once is enough.

Many people who have owned outdoor cats have lost one to a car and we’ve all seen their little bodies by the side of the road. This is so common that veterinary and shelter workers refer to these injuries as “HBC”—hit by car. No matter how street-smart and experienced, no cat is a match for a ton or more of steel, even with a careful driver at the wheel.

Cats can fall prey to other animals as well, including dogs, coyotes, hawks and owls. Even worse are the human predators. Recently, several pet cats were found dead or mortally injured in their own yards in the Portland area. Animal cruelty investigators haven’t been able to determine exactly what caused their deaths. Even other cats can prove dangerous: cats are territorial by nature, and results of a cat duel can end with an expensive trip to the vet, not to mention your beloved pet’s pain from injury and abscesses.

Aside from the obvious dangers, there are hidden costs to allowing a

cat to roam outdoors. Fleas, worms, ear mites, and other parasites thrive outdoors and are just waiting for a chance to jump on a passing warm-blooded critter. Viruses like Feline Leukemia (FeLV), Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper) are

passed via interactions between roaming cats. FIV and FeLV can cause illness in your cat and/or shorten her life; Feline Distemper is typically fatal.

A quick

look at lost-cat ads on community bulletin boards, telephone poles, and online websites gives a good idea of how many cats go missing every day. National shelter and rescue statistics indicate that fewer than 2% of lost cats are reunited with their owners. Most of those are easily identified using

microchips, tattoos, or collars with tags, but even ID doesn’t help if a lost cat is too terrified to let anyone approach and capture it.

Aside from the dangers your cat might encounter while outdoors, there are additional downsides to allowing your cat to roam. Although your cats are adored at home, your neighbors may not welcome their garden beds being used as litter boxes. Cats love a freshly dug latrine, and will not respect property lines in search of

one. Even neutered males and female cats can spray to mark territory, and nobody ever wins a spraying war. Again, your neighbors may not appreciate having siding, doors, plants, fences, and furniture left smelly and corroded by cat spray.

Cats are pretty low on the predator chain, but they do hunt birds and small mammals. Nobody worries much if cats catch and kill rodents, but some cats are determined to prey on birds. Although humans do far more damage to songbirds by encroaching on their territory, keeping cats indoors will help protect birds and other wildlife.

So, after all that, you decide you want to keep your cat inside. Hurray! But how do you keep your cat happy indoors when she’s used to going out? Essentially, cats need you to provide them with plenty of mental and physical stimulation. Include cat-climbing furniture, high and low places to perch and hide, and plenty of scratching posts or cardboard pads. Put perches by windows, and hang bird or squirrel feeders outside. Try a variety of toys to determine your cat’s prey

preference; feathered, furred, flying, crawling, etc. Set aside time every day for active play with Da Bird, the Cat Dancer, a laser pointer, or whatever gets your cat moving.

We highly recommend creating a “catio”—an enclosed outdoor area where your cat can get fresh air without being turned loose to roam. This can be as simple as a mesh extension built



FRAMING IN PLACE



ALMOST FINISHED

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out from a window, an enclosed deck or balcony, or as elaborate as a series of walkways and tunnels leading to free-standing enclosures separate from the house. A quick internet search for catio ideas will provide a dazzling array of designs.

In addition to providing safe access to the outdoors, many catio owners report that having the extra space and opportunity for stimulation and contemplation reduces personality conflicts and behavior problems among feline family members.

Matt and Melanie Klym designed and built a catio at their Southeast Portland home which was recently featured on Portland's 5th Annual Catio Tour, sponsored by Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon and the Audubon Society of Portland. Their catio provides a comfortable place for Matt and Melanie to sit and enjoy the company of Garnet, Onyx, Jet, and Arkose, the tuxedo kitten they adopted from ARCF two years ago.

We asked them to share some pro tips and photos for potential DIY catio builders.



NEW TENANT INSPECTION

We built a catio to enrich the lives of our cats without endangering them or wildlife (though the occasional mouse, rat, or bird has found its way into the catio). The cats want to be out there in all weather, though we do block access in extreme heat and during the heavy smoke from recent forest fires.

This catio is actually the third one Melanie has built. She started with a simple one at an apartment. The second, at her condo, used chicken wire and a plastic roof. This one is fully enclosed with 2" x 4" wire fencing and includes a double-door "airlock" to prevent accidental escapes. We built it ourselves

over one summer using materials available at local hardware stores. We chose untreated pine lumber since the cats will scratch/bite/chew on it and we didn't want any chemicals to harm them.

We learned from prior catios to use screws rather than staples or nails. When it's time to disassemble the catio—whether to paint the house, make repairs, or remove the catio, if the next buyer isn't into it—it's terrible to take apart a nailed structure. The only thing we'd change is to reconfigure the shelves to avoid "dead ends"—there are a couple of spaces where a cat can be cornered and forced to jump down.

For those without engineering and carpentry skills, there are many sources for purchasing ready-made enclosures, plans for building them yourself, and some companies will even come to your home and build an enclosure to your specifications. Here's a good place to start your search for resources: www.catssafeathome.org/catio.

If you have a catio, or intend to build one, we'd love to hear about it. Send your stories and photos to arcf@pdx-petadoption.org.

YES! I want to help

Animal Rescue & Care Fund depends entirely on your donations. Our work includes rescue, medical aid, food and shelter, humane education, neutering/spaying, and more. 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'm interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at _____.

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