

FEATURED CAT Pipkin

Sweet Pipkin is the perfect companion for someone who looks forward to a warm, chatty welcome when returning home from the day's work. She is so eager to see her person that she will actually jump into open arms, climb up on a shoulder, and give loud, purry nose and ear kisses. This girl has so much love to give, she can hardly contain herself. Not very many cats give affection so eagerly, but Pipkin gives it in spades. She has a very large vocabulary and it's so much fun listening to her talk about her day.

Occasionally throughout the day Pipkin likes to play a bit (very gently) with her favorite toys, including a fuzzy sheep, a catnip-filled carrot, and a small crinkle ball. She is used to spending many hours by herself, but more than anything she wants to cuddle up on the couch with another warm body, and stay there for a long time. Her ideal family will spend lots of quiet evenings at home basking in mutual adoration while



reading, watching movies, or just hanging out. She also wants to share her person's bed, where she will quietly spend the entire night.

Pipkin is in excellent health. She has a stunning tortoiseshell coat, which she keeps impeccably groomed. Like an elegant French lady of a certain age (about six years old), she has a good appetite but eats only as much as she needs and no more. She is agreeable to having her nails clipped and she loves being combed.

Although Pipkin is tolerant of the other cats in her foster home and enjoys

watching them go about their daily activities, she's really much more focused on her human companions, and would probably prefer to be someone's one and only girl.

Pipkin has been spayed, microchipped, and is up-to-date on vaccines. She has tested negative for FeLV/FIV. Her adoption fee is \$80. To learn more about Pipkin 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 Carson

This handsome little guy is Carson, and he is a very lucky Chihuahua indeed. His first four years were spent in California where life was pretty tough. He and his friend Teddy missed a lot of meals and didn't get much love from the people they lived with. One day they found themselves dumped in a ravine far from their home. The two little guys made enough noise that some kind-hearted people eventually found them and brought them to safety.

Their first stop was a local shelter, where Teddy was quickly adopted. Carson was left behind, and he was a very lonesome and frightened little dog in a big scary place. Shelter volunteers

contacted My Way Home Dog Rescue and before long Carson was in a MWH foster home, receiving regular meals, being fussed over and adored, and learning that people can be trusted and life can be pretty wonderful after all.

Carson is thriving under the care of his new rescuers, where his personality and confidence have blossomed. He loves to cuddle: on a lap, sharing a pillow, in the crook of an arm. Best of all is cuddling under the covers, because being warm is very important to little guys without much fur. He does well on leash, and would prefer a home with another small dog for company, but not a lot of hustle and bustle.



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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Spring has sprung and kitty-cat hearts are turning to thoughts of love. Actually, they got busy with romance a couple of months ago, because newborns are starting to make their appearance. We're already up to the "E" litter and we're only halfway into March.

Our first rescued litter this year came from Albany. A rescue friend saw an online ad placed by a young couple giving away their two kittens before moving to Texas. She contacted them immediately and by the next day, **Andrew** and **Alexa** were on their way to our rescue and their first vet appointment. *Late breaking news: This sweet brother/sister pair has already been adopted—look for an update in our summer newsletter!*

Shortly after that, we received a call from a woman who had trapped a colony of 11 feral cats in her Vancouver neighborhood. There were four kittens in the group who were about eight weeks old, and she had been told that our group might be able to socialize the kittens and find them homes. Our boot camp volunteers were ready for new recruits, so we signed up all four, including **Benita** and **Bliss**.

Another of our rescue friends saw an ad for kittens being given away in the Salem area. The photo in the ad made it clear the kittens were far too young to separate from mom and they looked very unhealthy. Their young owner understood that the kittens needed more care than she could provide, but she wasn't eager to hand over the whole family to strangers. Our friend convinced her that ARCF would give her cats the best care possible and return mama kitty after the kittens were weaned and she had been spayed. The "C" litter is now in our care and will be available for adoption soon. We're working on building trust with the family, hoping they will allow us to neuter their remaining three cats, after keeping our promise to return their beloved mama kitty. Not all members of the community greet our outreach with open arms, so we reserve judgment, keep lines of communication open, and stay focused on the animals that need us. Eventually, our help is almost always accepted and for that we are grateful.

We also helped our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton when they were called to rescue a couple of abandoned momcats with newborn babies. Their foster homes were full and we happened to have openings. The first to arrive were Dora and her baby **Dot**. Sadly, Dot's sibling did not survive, but mother and baby are now doing very well and will be available for adoption soon.

A week later, beautiful **Eartha** was discovered on a street corner with her babies born just that day! Fortunately, the person who found her cared enough to contact Cat Utopia, and Eartha was soon on her way to safety. Those two little dark blobs in the photo are her babies, Evie and Emma. After treatment for a stomach-turning load of parasites, including the worst case of earmites we've ever seen, Eartha is healthy again, and doing her best with the tough job of being a single teenage mom.

We're eager to help the hundreds of kittens who come to our rescue every year, and we especially love helping the moms; they won't ever have to raise another litter, and they'll never be homeless again. Doing right by all these cats and kittens requires hundreds of vet exams, spay/neuter surgeries, and microchips; thousands of vaccines, antibiotic prescriptions, and

flea control treatments; and truckloads of kitten kibble, canned food, and litter. As we kick off another season of kitten boot camp, please consider making a donation to support our work caring for the ones who truly have no one else.

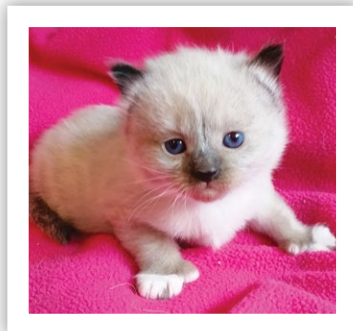
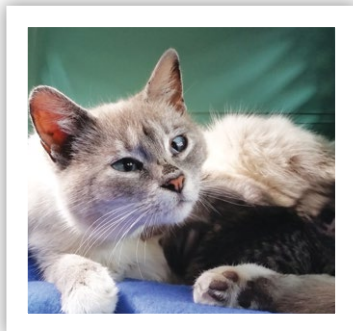
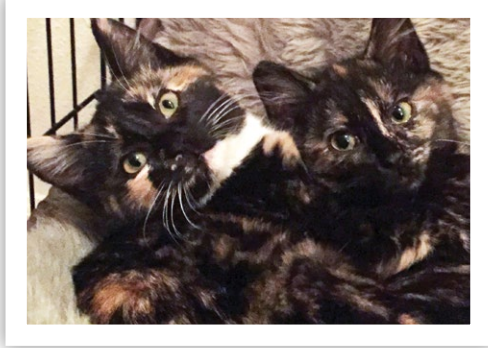
Bronco Billy is an extraordinary cat who was desperately in need of our

help when he came to us two years ago. We had no idea how much he was going to need us, and we've been through a lot together since then. You can read Billy's story and learn about the special event we're planning to help him on page 4.

Every precious life we save is thanks to the compassion and generosity of our supporters. We are grateful for your donations that make it possible for us to say "yes" when called upon to help.

Happy Spring!

— **Carma Crimins**
PRESIDENT



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ANDREW & ALEXA, BENITA & BLISS, DOT, EARTHA

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

Bunker

(formerly Bennie)

In early 2015, Bunker, then known as Bennie, came to My Way Home from a public shelter where he had been surrendered by his former family. He had an ugly tumor the size of a lemon hanging off his back leg, covered up by his horribly overgrown coat. The shelter didn't have the resources to provide the surgery, which would make him more appealing as a candidate for adoption.

With help from a volunteer transport organization, Bunker came to My Way Home.

After recovering from surgery and getting a beautiful new haircut, Bunker was ready to meet his forever family. A nice woman named Alyssa happened to see his photo, and noticed how much he looked like Lola, a lovely puppy belonging to her friends Shawn and Ian Jaquiss and their daughter, Lily. She shared his photo with them, and although Shawn agreed he was very beautiful and did indeed resemble Lola, the family wasn't interested in a second dog. It was never a topic of discussion and Shawn assumed Ian would veto the idea if it had come up. She thought in fact he might divorce her if she suggested it.

Ian mentioned he wasn't totally opposed to the idea, which made it open to discussion. Shawn decided to fill out an adoption application, just because he seemed like a nice dog and he really did look like Lola, and... it might be fun to meet him. That



BUNKER (LEFT) & LOLA

was a Tuesday, and by that Sunday Bunker was in his new home! Shawn still didn't think they really wanted a second dog, but couldn't bear the thought of Bunker going to live with some other family.

Bunker initially was quite taken with Lola, although he was 8 years old and she was not yet a year. The honeymoon didn't last forever; sometimes her adoration and energy are a bit much for Bunker, but he has become very gentle, patient, and

tolerant of her youthful exuberance. Although Bunker had clearly been loved by his former people, he had some boundary issues, so Shawn sought help from a professional trainer. Bunker and the whole family benefitted from the training, and he's much better now about sharing his toys.

His new family provided love, food, and security and Bunker was very grateful, but for many months he acted like he

was not quite sure it was for real. He was adopted the day after Valentine's Day, and by Thanksgiving he finally seemed to relax and accept that he was really home for good.

Although it wasn't a whirlwind of love at first sight followed by nothing but magical moments, Bunker has turned out to be the perfect second dog his family didn't even know they needed. They are very grateful for the stroke of luck that brought them together.

My Way Home Dog Rescue specializes in saving senior dogs from high-kill shelters, providing all necessary medical care, including heartworm tests for each incoming dog, and fostering all dogs in loving homes until their permanent forever families find them. Senior dogs naturally have more health and medical challenges. Those that end up in open-intake public shelters often have chronic conditions that were neglected for years. Bringing these dogs back to good health takes time and money, and a commitment to providing as much care as each one needs. If you'd like to foster, adopt, or donate towards the care of a senior dog, please contact mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com.

THE STORY OF BRONCO BILLY

In January 2014, a cat rescue friend in the Willamette Valley asked if ARCF could help find homes for three abandoned cats, and we agreed to take them. Bob and Lizzie were quickly adopted, but Bronco Billy had some health issues that needed attention. Most noticeable was his very large nose.

The cause of that symptom turned out to be *Cryptococcus*, a fungus often found in bird droppings. Treatment required daily medication for at least six months. During that time, Bronco Billy developed several other problems that made him uncomfortable: a respiratory infection (probably triggered by the herpes virus), pododermatitis (sore feet caused by swollen paw pads), intermittent limping, and general discomfort in his back end.

Bronco Billy had been named for the Denver Broncos, who were in the Super Bowl that year. But, like his namesake team, Billy did not seem destined to emerge a winner. Fortunately, ARCF had a wonderful foster home available, where he received the best care possible from his doting foster mom, Bronco Billy's unfailing and stalwart fan.

Billy responded well to low daily doses of antibiotics and pain medication. In fact, he responded so well that he seemed to become a different cat. He had always been social and good-natured, but wasn't very active for such a young cat—we estimated his age at about two years. But with his infection and pain under control, Billy suddenly had the energy and attitude of a kitten! His foster home included many litters of kittens during the spring and summer, and Billy loved playing with them. He enjoyed greeting visitors, who never failed to notice and admire his plush, smoky-colored fur coat.

It was wonderful to see him feeling better, and we had high hopes for at last being able to place him in a permanent home. He was also healthy enough for a dental cleaning and extraction of a broken tooth, so that was scheduled for November 2014.

Shortly after going under anesthesia for dental surgery, Bronco Billy stopped breathing and the doctor quickly woke him up. He started breathing normally, but x-rays revealed part of a bullet lodged in his chest, which had caused the lung to collapse. The films also showed pieces of metal shrapnel embedded in his upper jaw.

Bronco Billy just can't seem to get a break: not only was he born with a less-than-robust immune system, somebody with a gun had been taking shots at him! In spite of all that, his personality remains playful, quirky, and affectionate.

Dr. Hatfield at Cat Hospital of Portland determined that Billy needs an anesthesiologist in order to be put under general anesthesia again, so we hoped dental surgery could be avoided. But his foster mom noticed him having trouble eating and crying out in pain when trying to eat kibble. A recent exam showed that his teeth and gums are under attack by his own immune system, a condition known as stomatitis. Billy's immune system sure is making his life tough.

The only treatment to relieve severe stomatitis is full-mouth extraction: remove all the teeth and there is nothing left to attack. Cats can manage very well without teeth; once the pain is gone, cats often enjoy eating so much that they tend to become too plump. But with Billy's special circumstances, he needs a dental surgeon in addition to an anesthesiologist.

We know this will take a huge chunk of our budget. It's always difficult to weigh the cost of helping one cat against the cost of helping many. But Bronco Billy has overcome so much in his short life. All of his other conditions are resolved or at least under control, he is finally at a healthy weight, and he is clearly enjoying his newfound energy. He's also won many hearts, especially those of his foster family.

Right about that time, the Denver Broncos headed to the Super Bowl again, two years after we rescued Bronco Billy.

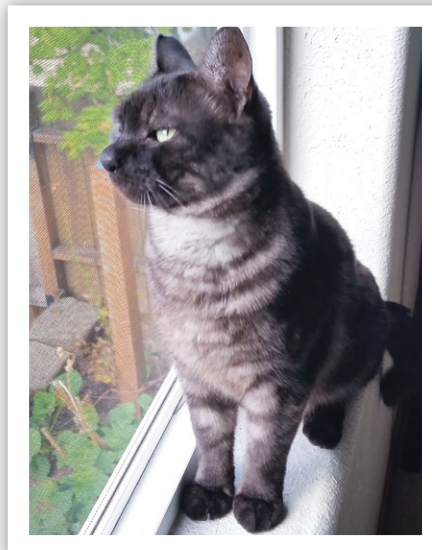
We decided to schedule the surgery. The Broncos won this year, and we think this is finally going to be Billy's year, too.

If you would like to contribute towards this important procedure for

Bronco Billy and help him along the journey to his forever home, please visit www.pdx-petadoption.org, call us at 503-402-8692, or send a donation to ARCF, PO Box 14956, Portland OR 97293. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you very much.

— Bronco Billy and all of us at
Animal Rescue & Care Fund



ART FROM THE HEART: Help Bronco Billy Eat Again

Bronco Billy has made many friends during the two years he's been in our care, including the staff at the Cat Hospital of Portland, his "primary care" doctors. To help us raise funds to cover Billy's special surgical procedure, the hospital offered to host an event we're calling "Art from the Heart."

More than 20 local artists have donated original works, comprising a variety of media and themes. The works will be on display for a silent auction at the Cat Hospital of Portland from April 4 through May 6. Visitors are welcome to view the art and place bids any time during the hospital's regular hours, Monday through Saturday 8 am to 6 pm.

On Friday May 6 from 6 pm to 8 pm the hospital will host an evening reception with complimentary refreshments. The bidding will be closed and winners declared. You need not attend the event to win.

The address of the Cat Hospital of Portland is 8065 SE 13th Ave, Portland, OR 97202, near 13th Ave. and Tacoma St. in the Sellwood neighborhood.

IN MEMORIAM



TOM

A little over two years ago a senior gentleman of our acquaintance was no longer able to stay in his home alone. His family moved him to a care center in another state, where his beloved cat **Tom** was not welcome to join him. Tom was also a senior citizen and had some ongoing health issues, so we were very grateful to our friend Mary Dowless, who offered to provide Tom a home for his golden years. Their time together came to an end recently when Tom took a sudden turn for the worse. It was a doubly sad day for Mary; just that morning she had lost her 19-year-old Pomeranian, TuTu. Mary rescued TuTu seven years ago and although she never overcame her separation anxiety, no one could ask for a more devoted and loyal companion than little TuTu.

Grandma Kitty was a senior citizen when we first encountered her at a feral cat colony 10 years ago. She was part of a TNR (trap-neuter-return) project involving more than 20 cats. A few years ago, a new property manager declared the cats no longer welcome, so we captured and relocated the remaining few. Although she had never lived indoors and had no interest in being close to people, we knew Grandma wouldn't survive another winter living outdoors. Last fall we brought her to an ARCF foster home where she spent her last few months snoozing on a heated bed and eating whatever she fancied. One day in February she wanted nothing more to eat or drink, and a few days later her mission on earth was completed.



GRANDMA



LENORE, CONNOR, AND SASHA

With great sorrow we note the passing of **Lenore Bijan**, a long time ARCF volunteer and friend to all animals. Lenore was born in Illinois in 1931 and lived in New York, Pennsylvania, Europe, and California before she settled in Portland more than thirty years ago. In addition to nurturing many animals of her own, Lenore fostered innumerable cats and was especially skilled at helping the shy and fearful ones blossom.

Lenore's passions included ballet, opera, symphony, horticulture, and caring for aquatic creatures of all kinds. She wrote books and volunteered as an advocate for elders in medical and legal matters. In her retirement,

Lenore took up yoga and became a Hatha Yoga instructor at age 75. Every inch of her home and garden reflected her creativity and love of beauty.

Just a few months ago, Lenore was looking forward to welcoming her new blind foster dog. Shortly after Charlie came to her home, Lenore began to feel things were a bit "off" and in a matter of weeks it became clear that she had a brain tumor that would not respond to treatment.

In addition to her human companions, Lenore is survived by her dog Sasha, her cats One-Eyed Jack O'Malley, Gemma, and Ava; and three chickens: Max, Barrel, and Betty Lou. Sadly, her cat Al succumbed to cancer on the same day as Lenore and she had recently lost her dog Connor. Lenore had peace of mind knowing that her beloved animal companions had been placed in loving homes with family and friends.

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

December-January-February:
We placed 16 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

Veterinary: \$4,470.72

Food/Supplies: \$1,061.68

Fundraising: \$1,257.32

Education/Outreach: \$1,257.32

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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The "F" Kittens

Last December, we delivered cats to the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon clinic for a woman who needed our help to trap and transport them. While there, we noticed a row of six traps, each containing what appeared to be a ball of fluff with big round eyes. These fluff balls came from a farm, and had been trapped along with their mother by their caregiver. This very kind lady had been close to the friendly momcat but didn't know how to go about socializing the kittens, so at age eight weeks they had not yet been handled. We knew our kitten boot camp volunteers could take these little recruits and turn them into loving lap kitties in no time at all. The kind lady gladly accepted our offer to take them. Mama and one baby returned home with her, and the other five became our fluffy "F" kittens, the last litter we rescued in 2015: Fabian, Finn, Flora, Felicia, and Fiona.



FINN, FABIAN, & FIONA



FLORA & FELICIA



CHARLI & 11

Charli & 11

(formerly Felicia & Flora)

In late January we received an application from Karma, who was referred to ARCF by her friend Nikki, who had adopted a pair of kittens from us in December (read about Werewolf and Winifred on page 8). Karma and her partner Chelsea had been in discussions for a long time about adopting a pair of kittens, and decided the time was finally right. We arranged for them to meet Flora and Felicia. In less than an hour, the girls had a new family and new names: Charli and 11.

Charli and 11 have settled in quite nicely. As "luck" would have it, I broke my elbow a week after getting them, and my partner and I ended up spending the next four weeks working from home. I think this helped in building a fantastic bond with the girls. They're both super loving and playful, in very different ways. Their unique personalities are delightful. Charli is our gentle soul, while 11 is very much the leader of our little pack. Both have learnt to play fetch! I guess that just came naturally to kittens wanting to play with a mom whose broken arm was limiting her movement. They're big fans of their cat condo and toys! We may have spoiled them a bit much in that department. That said, as it usually goes with kitties, their absolute favorite toy is the string from my yoga mat!

— Karma Swanepoel & Chelsea Dixon



Ser Pounce (formerly Finn)

Our usual policy is to place kittens in pairs, especially when they are very bonded, like Flora and Felicia. But we noticed that the other three “F” kittens did not seem attached to each other; in fact, they were more relaxed and confident when separated. We received an application from Shelly, who was looking for a companion for her six-month-old calico kitten, Ariya. She came to meet Finn and we agreed he was just the kind of brother Ariya was looking for.

Oh, my gosh! It’s been less than two weeks and the two of them are inseparable. I am so very happy Ser Pounce has found his forever home and I just feel so fortunate that it is mine! He is truly adjusting very well. Little Ser Pounce is so playful and no longer shy when I have company over. Thank you so very much for keeping in touch with me during my kitten search and letting me know about him.

— Shelly Crum

Brooklyn (formerly Fiona)

Next we heard from Tracy, whose family had recently lost their beloved 17-year-old cat. She was looking for a single kitten to become her daughter’s new best friend. Gemma had learned to be gentle and respectful growing up with an elderly cat who wasn’t always in a cheerful mood. We had a feeling that our little Fiona might be a good match for Tracy’s family, so we arranged a meeting. Fiona went to her new home that day and soon acquired her new name: Brooklyn.



GEMMA & BROOKLYN

After a first week spent mostly hiding under beds, Brooklyn has moved to take her spot in our family with all of her kitten energy. She has us constantly giggling with her playful spirit and very vocal approach to communication. She purrs so loud it is almost comical. Such a little personality! Her “big sister” Gemma adores her and likes to build her forts out of pillows and blankets to hide inside, where the kitty then promptly scampers inside to play and then usually ends up falling asleep.

— Tracy Pendergast



Fabian

That left Fabian, who had been slowest to graduate boot camp. But drill sergeant Lori kept showering him with love and eventually he decided to soak it up and pay it back. About that time, we received an application from Amy, a friend of Karma and Chelsea, who referred her to us for her kitten search. She was also looking for a single kitten, and Fabian seemed to thrive once all

his siblings were gone, so we talked about it at length and Amy decided to meet him. He was shy at first, as we knew he would be, but he really just wants to be loved and we could see Amy would be really good at that.

Fabian and I are doing GREAT! He’s totally warmed up to me. He’s full of meows, purrs, and sooo much play. He’s totally confident in his new space and even gazes out the window at the people, cars, and dogs who visit the coffee shop down below.

Things we’re working on? These will come in time: not being scared of guests (he likes to hide under the bed), brushing, and clipping his nails. I need to slide in at the perfect moment like after a nap when he’s calm.

Thanks again for everything. I’m having a blast with Mister Fabian Deubré!

— Amy Williamson

(For an explanation of Fabian’s middle name, look up Deubré in your favorite search engine. Hint: Amy works for a well-known sneaker company.)

SUCCESS STORIES



WEREWOLF (LEFT) & WINIFRED

Werewolf & Winifred (formerly Carter & Chloe)

The "C" kittens were rescued as part of a large TNR (trap-neuter-return) project we completed in Clackamas County last year. In addition to the 30+ adult cats we trapped at this

location, this litter was found underneath one of the buildings. They were about six weeks old at the time. After a few weeks in our care, they were ready to meet the world and find their forever homes. Nikki and her husband Andrew came to meet Carter and Chloe. They are now known as Werewolf and Winifred by their new family.

Things are going really well! Initially Werewolf and Winifred had some GI issues and weren't gaining weight but I've taken them to the vet and they are much better—getting chubby actually. They like their new home and are definitely bonding with each other. My husband and I love them to pieces.

(I also referred my friends Karma and Chelsea and you helped them with new kittens as well.)

— Nikki Wieghard

Captain & Carmella

Another pair of the "C" kittens was adopted by Roger Phillips. He reports Captain and Carmella are happy, healthy, and doing very well.



CAPTAIN (LEFT) & CARMELLA

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.

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