

## Hugo

House panther, anyone? For those who appreciate the regal presence and intelligent companionship of a black cat, Hugo is all that and more. This handsome young gent is loaded with personality and is ready to find the family who will worship and adore him, as he so deserves.

Hugo was adopted from ARCF as a kitten about two years ago. For about a year, all was well, but then something in the household changed and Hugo expressed his displeasure in the clearest language a cat can use—"inappropriate elimination," as the vets call it. There is no underlying medical issue and none of the usual remedies seemed to work, so Hugo came back to us. Sometimes a complete change of environment is enough to reset bad habits, and it worked for Hugo. Since his return to our foster home, Hugo has had no "out of the box" incidents—in fact, he is extremely fastidious in his litter box habits.



Like most black cats, our boy is extremely social and really wants a home where he will be welcome to hang out with the family and be a part of the action. Hugo loves attention and is very affectionate—he will give gentle kisses on the nose and assist with grooming the coiffures of his people. But he has his frisky side, too! Hugo loves toys, especially when he has someone to play with him. His play style includes some "love bites" when he's really into the game and wants his people to stay with

him, so he wouldn't be a good companion for young children or older folks who prefer less vigorous contact. He isn't fond of other cats, but we suspect he wouldn't mind having a respectful dog buddy.

Hugo has been neutered, microchipped, is current on vaccines, and tested negative for FeLV and FIV. The adoption fee is \$100. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please email [arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org), call 503-402-8692, or visit [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).

## Duke

If you think your life would be improved by the addition of a small, devoted couch-spud companion, we suggest you take a look at Duke. His dream is to find a low-key person who spends a lot of time at home with an empty lap that needs filling. He has excellent house manners, and feels safe and secure in his crate when people are busy or away from the house.

Duke prefers to *ac-cent-tschu-ate* the positive, demonstrated by his adorable smile and his constantly wagging tail. He's about eight years old—still spunky and playful but he's outgrown all that crazy puppy nonsense. He is probably a mix of Chihuahua and terrier, but whatever the DNA might

reveal, he came out with the cutest upturned nose and speckled legs!

Duke loves to meet and hang out with people, but he's not crazy about walking on leash—he likes to bark at everything and everybody. So his perfect home will include a secure backyard where he can get a little exercise and go potty in privacy. Duke has been around other dogs but would prefer to be the one and only. He hasn't been tested with kids or cats—we suspect he would do fine with older kids, but probably shouldn't live with cats.

Duke weighs about 10 lbs. He has been neutered and microchipped, is current on vaccines and flea control, and tested negative for heartworm. The adoption fee is \$350.



If you are interested in meeting Duke, call 503-974-4944 or email [mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The first flowers of spring are blooming, we gave up an hour to Daylight Saving Time, we have baby kittens in our rescue, and in the beautiful Pacific Northwest today—it's snowing! Not to mention, everything from public schools to the NBA have closed up shop until further notice. But animals don't know anything about the virus moving through the human population and they still need our help every day.

But first let's go back to those baby kittens! In January we heard from a young couple who had been feeding a stray cat at their home for about a month. The cat was obviously pregnant and very friendly, but they were in the process of moving and were not able to take her with them. Our policy is to spay every adult female cat, with the goal of preventing more homeless litters, but upon exam, the vet predicted she was just a few days away from giving birth.

We watched and waited and watched and waited . . . at last, three weeks later, gorgeous **Fawn** gave birth to six kittens—five girls (including the very tiny **Fajita**) and one boy. These little nuggets will be available for adoption around the first of May. Fawn has been a very good mother, the babies are adorable, and we will make sure they have everything they need to live long and healthy lives with loving, forever families.

We also care for cats at the other end of their lives, including **Eudora**, who recently appeared in a backyard near ARCF World HQ. She is very thin, has terrible teeth, a mass in her belly, and her back end doesn't work very well. Because she is far too old and frail for any surgery, we will make her as comfortable as possible for the time she has left.

In our last issue we told you about **Kitty**, a sweet old cat who had been living outside the same house for the last 24 years. We were asked to provide a heated outdoor bed for Kitty, which we supplied, along with high-quality food, flea control, and dewormer. But a couple weeks later we couldn't get Kitty out of our mind so we took the unusual step of asking a pet owner to give us their cat. After some initial reluctance he agreed.

A thorough exam revealed that Kitty (who turned out to be Mr. Kitty!) is in remarkably good health for his age. He will live out his days with us, safe and warm indoors.

Spring is a good time to take care of some housekeeping chores. If you're receiving this quarterly newsletter in the mail, we hope you enjoy reading it, and perhaps even sharing your copy with friends and co-workers. But if you're trying to reduce paper clutter, we'd be glad to send it by email instead. Our

permanent mailing list includes all of our adopters, volunteers, and veterinarians. Donors are also added to the list, but if we don't hear from you again in three years, we'll stop mailing. And, although we never sell or share our mailing list with anyone, we will remove you from our list completely at your request. Let us know at 503-402-8692 or [arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org).

This is also a good time to review your pets' vet records, get annual checkups done, bring vaccines up to date, and order flea control for the coming season. Because we didn't really have a winter, be prepared for an onslaught of the tiny blood-suckers that can cause such misery. If your pets are not microchipped, please get that done right away. If they do have chips, make sure your contact information is registered and up to date with the company. If you're not sure, any vet can scan your pet in a matter of minutes and implant a chip if needed. It's surprising and sad to learn that only 2% of found cats taken to shelters are reunited with their owners, and only 40%

of microchips are properly registered to their owners. A little effort now can save so much grief if your pet goes missing.

We're doing our best to cope with the restrictions necessary to keep our communities safe during these difficult times, including providing assistance to especially vulnerable pet owners by delivering supplies and transporting pets when needed. Please contact us if you need such assistance and we'll do our best to help.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

—Carma Crimins, President



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:  
FAWN & BABIES; FAJITA, EUDORA; MR. KITTY

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](http://mywayhomedogrescue.org)

503-974-4944

## Murphy

When Murphy first arrived at a public shelter as a stray, he was anxious, unruly, and big; staff guessed he was a mix of St. Bernard and cattle dog. His prospects in that overcrowded, high-skill shelter weren't great. Fortunately, a local volunteer familiar with the mission of My Way Home Dog Rescue initiated the process that brought him to safety in Oregon.

When Cheryl of My Way Home met Murphy, she knew right away that his stay in the rescue would be a long one. He was smart and trainable, but had absolutely no manners and no self-control. At about nine months old, Murphy was in the "danger zone" when dogs reach their full body size, but without proper socializing and training as a puppy, they become hard to manage. Many are surrendered at that age, or simply turned loose to roam.

In his foster home, Murphy began to settle down and learn proper house manners, but there was a lot of unwanted behavior to undo. Progress was slow, but Murphy is treat-motivated and Cheryl is patient. Almost two years later, Murphy was a new doggo—he knew how to behave around people and other animals and he was very eager to please.

David and Lyra had been discussing adopting a rescued dog, and after pet-sitting a friend's dog for a couple weeks, they decided the time was right. Lyra had been around small animals all her life growing up in Singapore but never had a dog of her own. They researched local options and were attracted by the mission and principles of My Way Home. They weren't convinced their application would make a good impression on paper, but Cheryl had a feeling they might offer what Murphy needed, and invited them to come meet him.



**ABOVE: FIRST MEETING FOR DAVID, LYRA, & MURPHY; BELOW: ROAD TRIP!**

It was a hot summer day, and Murphy really wanted to hang out in the shade of a big shrub, but he kept coming back to David and Lyra to work his charm. They all seemed quite happy to be together. Soon after, Cheryl brought Murphy to their home, and it's turned out to be a small miracle for everyone concerned.

David's mother passed away shortly before Murphy joined the family, and his father was at a low point, lonesome and grieving. He and Murphy hit it off right away. His new "granddog" provided companionship during that most difficult time, and it's now a big treat for Murphy to go visit Grandpa's house to run in the big backyard and be spoiled the way only a grandparent is allowed to do.

Murphy has continued to grow in confidence and social skills. David reports that Murphy's "tell" is in his tail, and when he

first arrived, it always drooped. Slowly, it began to rise and now he struts proudly with his tail held high. He is also very smart! He learned on his own to respect the personal space of his two bunny roommates, and he loves joining his family for the frequent road trips they enjoy. "We couldn't have picked a better pet," says David, "and we give a lot of credit to the organization who took such good care of him and was diligent in finding the right fit for Murphy and for us."

Cheryl has visited with Murphy several times since his adoption nine months ago. "I know these things can happen," says Cheryl, "but it is still amazing to see how a dog responds to consistent love and a stable environment. He trusts his new family to always keep him safe. Murphy is in his perfect forever home."

## IN MEMORIAM



**MITZI**

Sweet, indomitable Mitzi came to ARCF in 2013 with a large colony of cats left behind when a mobile home park was demolished and many residents abandoned their pets. We didn't know her exact age or history, but Mitzi was already a senior kitty. After a short stay in our foster home, Mitzi went home with Marian Kerr where she rarely left Marian's lap for the next six years, until her recent illness. Mitzi was a calm, quiet, and devoted companion who caused no trouble and asked for little in return. Her petite, perfectly-groomed presence will be deeply missed. She also leaves behind her feline sisters Tallulah and Inez.



**BOODA**

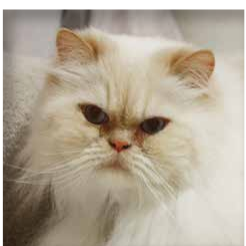
We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Booda, cat companion of Dianna Fisher and Brenda McComb, at the age of 21 years. Booda was remembered with a memorial donation to ARCF by their friend Glenda Hughes. Booda was taken to a shelter as a stray 10 years ago, where he was scheduled for euthanasia due to being "too mean." Dianna and Brenda soon discovered he was the world's most pacifist cat. He wished no harm to any living creature, including the mice who ran circles around him unmolested. Among Booda's favorite foods were butter, bacon grease, and guacamole. (Perhaps he had done some reading on the benefits of the Keto diet.) In his last days, Booda preferred cheese—but only Beecher's Extra Aged Cheddar. He was sent off to the next stop on his life journey accompanied by a small slice of butter and the best wishes of all who were lucky enough to know him in this life.

Two years ago, ARCF was called to rescue a small family of cats left behind when the elderly gent who fed them passed away. Grandpa Cat, a senior citizen with multiple health issues, responded well to our expert medical care. Susan Ferguson thought he might be a good companion for her other elderly cat, and with Susan's help, Grandpa knew only caring touch, heated beds, and delicious food for the last months of his life. He is deeply missed by Susan and his feline companion, Lil Fluff.



**GRANDPA**

Almost exactly 10 years ago, Cartman was adopted from ARCF by Sophia Kang, along with his best feline friend, Roxy. They were among five cats we rescued from the home of a woman who died suddenly, leaving behind many pets. Cartman and Roxy were very bonded and they were adored and pampered as the king and queen of the Kang household. Until his recent diagnosis of kidney failure, Cartman was the senior four-footed member of the family and his loss leaves a great hole in the hearts of all. He is especially missed by his long-time companion, Roxy.



**CARTMAN**

We recently received a donation from Theresa LoMonaco in memory of Max, 20-year-old feline companion of her friend Patty Davies. Like so many of our elderly feline friends, Max succumbed to kidney failure.

Miss Bea was left at a high-kill shelter at the age of 10 when her people grew tired of her. She was literally paralyzed with fear, so shelter staff begged My Way Home Dog Rescue to take her. Her rehabilitation was slow, but she recovered and the most wonderful family fell in love with her. Anna and Tami wrote that Miss Bea recently passed away, after five years together. "We are forever changed, in all the best ways, for having known and loved her."



**MISS BEA**

## Theo & Vinnie

(formerly Taz & Toby)

*Last autumn, we got a call from a vineyard owner in Clackamas County who had recently found two teenage kittens on his property, apparently left by someone who assumed that everybody who lives on a farm has unlimited capacity to care for pets no longer wanted by city folks. The kittens were shy but sweet, and clearly had no outdoor survival skills. We were still overloaded with the summer crop of kittens waiting for adoption, but we made room for these two who had no other good options.*

*Once necessary vet care was complete and the boys settled into their foster home, their quirky personalities began to emerge. Theo was definitely the adventure seeker and he had mad fetching skills. Vinnie was more reserved and likely to go for a cuddle instead of chasing crinkle fish across the floor or Da Bird through the air. Because it was peak kitten season, the boys were with us longer than usual, but just before Christmas we heard from Tim and Bob who were looking for cats that are "shorthaired, happy, and in need of two loving human parents." Score! We arranged a meeting and by New Year's*



**VINNIE (LEFT) & THEO**

*Eve, two homeless kittens had two loving parents.*

Theo and Vinnie (quite a loquacious pair!) are very connected and often call out to each other as if one is far away, though they're only 12 feet apart. They sleep cuddled up to each other throughout the night and during their daily naps.

Theo runs, jumps, and bounds around our apartment with infinite excitement and abandon and is more likely to investigate something new without hesitation. His brother Vinnie is more observant and allows the action come to him.

Besides eating, chasing, window watching, napping, and joining us whenever we sit down, Theo and Vinnie love watching bird feeder videos. They are inquisitive, comical, and truly sweet. Thankfully they seem to dig us as much as we dig them. Theo and Vinnie are a real joy in our lives and we are exceedingly happy to be their human companions.

You've improved our lives exponentially and we can't thank you enough!

—Tim O'Connor & Bob Surette

*Three years ago, Colby and Raven were adopted by Sharie Korter and David Bantz. A few months ago, the whole family moved to Portugal. Sharie reports that all is well in their new home.*

Our two love bugs are such a gift! I couldn't have made this transition without their love, antics, and companionship that provide such joy and sweetness.

—Sharie Korter & David Bantz



**COLBY (LEFT) & RAVEN**

## ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

Dec-Jan-Feb: We rescued and cared for 25 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 18 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

**Veterinary:** \$2,674.66

**Food/Supplies:** \$2,243.62

**Newsletter:** \$1,802.27

## 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.

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**Dolly**

(formerly Sterling)

*Dolly was found in a Milwaukie apartment when her person moved out and left her behind. She was sweet, healthy, and already spayed, but not microchipped. We knew we could find her a new home, but it's so heart-breaking to see how many people are willing to abandon their pets. The manager confirmed Dolly's owner wasn't returning for Dolly and asked us to help, because there are no public shelters or services for stray and abandoned cats in Clackamas County.*

*With our usual thorough vet work complete, Dolly happily settled into her foster home and we quickly received an application from Joyce, who shares her home with her 90-year-old mother. They were looking for an affectionate, well-behaved companion to join their family after the recent loss of their elderly dog.*



**DOLLY**

*Dolly wasn't immediately smitten with Joyce, but Joyce was confident the relationship would blossom if given a chance. We received this recent update:*

Dolly is doing great! We love her so much. She's totally adjusted here. She jumps in my lap and lays on my bed when I'm at my desk working. Her bed is in the living room by my mom so she can snuggle up to Mom. She seems to love her bed as well and she loves to play. When I'm not home, Dolly will jump into Mother's lap. She's very social when we have company, doesn't run away from people or hide. She's more than what I had hoped for.

**—Joyce Dunn**



**Saffron & Sabrina**

*The beautiful "S" kittens came to us at six weeks old from our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton. They were so sweet and smart; we loved having them in our foster home. Sabrina is particularly talented: she insisted on moving the fuzzy beds from the top of the piano to*

*her preferred spot on the floor. We could have left them there but it was so much fun to watch her rearrange them every night before bed, we just kept putting them back! When it was their turn for adoption, we knew there would be a very lucky family in their future.*

Saffron and Sabrina are such fun, lively cats! They are very adventurous, they love exploring closets, batting around any toy they can get their paws on and sitting in open screened windows. They spend afternoons sleeping on our bed, but are very affectionate and purr almost instantly when pet or picked up. Saffron is the cuddler of the two; I think she'd let us hold her all day. Our toddler and kindergartener think the kittens are hilarious; it's very funny to throw crinkle toys for them to chase and to use the little fishing

toy for them to jump at. I can tell that they have been well loved and cared for, they are already very relaxed and at ease in our home.

**—Nicole Woodfill**



**LEFT: BABY SISTERS  
ABOVE: SAFFRON (LEFT) & SABRINA**

**Cord (formerly Corduroy) & Delilah**

*Around Thanksgiving last year a family in Molalla asked us for help providing shelters for their 14 outdoor cats. The adult cats were trapped, neutered, and returned, and we took their three kittens into our boot camp. About that same time we took another litter of three kittens from our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton when their foster home needed some extra help. They became the “C” and “D” litters. Corduroy and Delilah became fast friends and made an irresistible pair. Their new family gave us this update:*

Cord and Delilah are doing great! They are wonderful company; especially on the



**TOP: CORD & TRICIA; DELILAH**

nights my husband is at work. I have a little call for them at bedtime and they run up to my room so we can settle in for the night. I wake up every morning with Cord sleeping either on my chest or curled up to my neck and shoulder. Both lay on my lap purring while I drink my coffee in the morning and snuggle up to my boys on the couch during their lessons or when they are reading. They have found a great warm spot on sunny days behind part of a blackout curtain and are often found taking morning naps there. They still chase each other and wrestle and play, providing us daily entertainment. They are a perfect addition to our family.

**—Tricia Oberhelman**



**TINY Q BABIES!**

*Last summer as we were trapping a colony of about 15 cats in SE Portland, we discovered a momcat with six brand new babies in the backyard of a vacant home. They became Queen Bey and the “Q” litter: Q-tip, Quest, Querida, Quint, Queso, and Quintana. Sadly, Querida didn’t survive, but not long after her passing we were called to rescue a young kitten abandoned in a motel room. We introduced her to the Q kittens, called her Quiche, and she immediately became one of the family. Here are a couple of updates from their new families:*

**Bellatrix LeStrange & Luna Lovegood** (formerly Quest & Q-tip)

Both kittens are doing so well. They are growing so fast they hardly look like kittens anymore! We named them Bellatrix LeStrange and Luna Lovegood (or Bella and Luna). Luna was eating so much she made herself sick, so now they are on a regulated eating schedule. They are not thrilled but she is feeling much better. Bella was doing too many acrobatics and hurt her hip a couple weeks ago. An x-ray showed no broken bones but she had to spend a week with restricted movement. She is all healed now and very excited to be able to roam the

entire house again. They are such sweet cats. We love them more than anything!

**—Hannah Nohrenberg**



**BELLA (LEFT) & LUNA**

**Zoe & Wash**

(formerly Quiche & Quint)

After much deliberation their new names are Zoe and Wash (or Washburne), after two characters from the

show *Firefly*. Our other cat (Pippin) is named after one of the hobbits from *Lord of the Rings*, so we’re continuing our nerd status. They’re doing great! I just weighed them today and while Zoe is still a petite 5.5 pounds, Wash has grown dramatically and is now 10.25 pounds! When he and Zoe play/fight I don’t think he’s quite aware that he’s twice her size now. They are still very bonded, snuggle and play together, and groom each other. Pippin is still not quite sure about them but he’s warming. All three play-chase at least every other day, and while Pippin won’t quite snuggle yet, you can see from the photo that he’s at least willing to get close.

The kittens are a joy and we’re so glad to have them! Thank you for taking such good care of them until we could meet them and bring them home.

**—Amanda Thomas & Paul Atkinson**



**WASH, ZOE, & PIPPIN**

## THINGS WE LIKE

Technically, this topic doesn't fall under "Things We Like," but it's a fact of life when you live with cats in your home: those "outside the box" experiences that cause such stress and anxiety for all family members.

We don't have statistics at hand, but would bet that the most common reason for cats being returned to shelters, or worse, dumped outdoors to fend for themselves, is failure to use the litter box consistently. Cats naturally want to dig in loose material and bury their waste, so when they choose not to, it means something isn't right in their world and they are trying to let somebody know. We don't have all the answers, but we can share some tips learned from years of observing cats.

First, if your cat has always used the box and suddenly doesn't—make a vet appointment. There may be a treatable medical condition causing the problem. If there are no physical issues, think about what has changed in your cat's environment. It may be something totally inconsequential to the average human, but trauma-inducing in your cat.

We recently had two instances of adult cats (in separate homes) with perfect litter box habits who suddenly chose to go in very unexpected places. In the first instance we discovered that the vacuum cleaner had been stored in the bathroom next to the litter box, rather than returned to its usual location in the closet. Once the vacuum was properly stored, the problem was solved. In the second instance, our investigation revealed there was also a vacuum cleaner playing the role of Big Scary Thing. It was subdued by the human and the litter box was safe again.

Abruptly changing litter type, litter box location, and additional traffic to the area (or something scary being stored there!) can all trigger enough anxiety to change established habits. Make litter changes gradually, and if you need to move the litter box, add one in the new location and

make sure it's being regularly used before you take away the old one.

If you're just starting out with a new cat, we have a few tips to keep your litter box(es) clean and welcoming for your new companion. Cats are very fastidious, and they aren't kidding.

- Scoop at least once a day, more often if you have multiple cats.
- Dump and scrub the box often enough that it always stays clean and dry.
- Don't use a covered box—consider how you would feel about stepping inside a used porta-potty on a warm day.
- Use only unscented litter. A cat's nose is just inches away and what they want to smell in their box is nothing.

We don't recommend many specific products, because if you don't keep the box clean, nothing else really matters. But we have found a couple of items that are helpful, especially with multiple cats and boxes.

Skout's Honor Litter Box Deodorizer is a clear, unscented spray that immediately knocks down odors and helps limit dust. We use this every time there is activity in the box, just after scooping. For reinforcing litter box training for kittens or adult cats transitioning to indoor life, we recommend Dr. Elsey's Cat Attract™ litter. It contains some secret herbs and spices which really do attract cats and it's been a lifesaver for many of our adopted cats and kittens.

Above all, don't take it personally if your cat develops litter box issues, and don't punish them! They are trying to tell you there's a problem and need your help to solve it. We don't want any cats to lose their loving home, so if you need more advice or suggestions, please ask! If we don't have the answer, we'll try to help you find it.

## 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](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).***

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