

SUMMER 2017 • VOL. 42, NO. 2

PO BOX 14956, PORTLAND, OR 97293

FEATURED CATS Kittens!



Our foster homes are overflowing with kittens! We share photos and descriptions on our websites to help people find us, but when kitten season kicks into high gear each spring, our selection changes daily and it's impossible to keep everything up to date. We chose Lucy and Lenny to be our spokes-kittens, but we

LUCY (LEFT) & LENNY

have many more, of all sizes, shapes, and colors. If you're ready to adopt, please fill out our online application and we'll get back to you to talk about our current inventory.

Our goal is to make the best match for every cat and every family, and sometimes that means kittens aren't necessarily the best fit. Those who haven't recently lived with baby kittens may not remember the rocket-powered energy, constant mess in the litter box, boundless appetite, sharp teeth and needle-like claws that need frequent trims, and most important—the potential 20-year commitment. Kittens can be irresistibly adorable, but they can also climb, crawl, and claw their way onto everything in the house, and they seem to always find a way to be underfoot just when it's least convenient. Don't be offended if we remind you about these "features" included with each kitten; it's easy to get carried away by cuteness and we want to help everyone find their "happily ever after."

We adopt our kittens in pairs, unless there's already another kitten or young cat in the family as a playmate. Having a pal helps kittens develop good social skills and helps to burn up all that excess mental and physical kitten energy. A kitten left alone all day is likely to spend the day resting, so there's plenty of energy left to keep everyone awake all night. A bonded pair makes life easier for everyone.

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

FEATURED DOG Lady

When beautiful Lady first came to My Way Home Dog Rescue, she was anxious and scared. Her previous life did not include many comforts or kind people, so everything was new and a bit confusing. But since the volunteers at My Way Home began to shower her with love in a safe environment, Lady has come a long way in her confidence and skills in navigating the world.

Lady has learned to walk nicely on a leash, and she is indifferent to strangers she encounters. She loves being around other dogs—they bring out her playful side, which is continuing to develop as she watches and learns by example. She would be happiest living with another confident, playful dog in her pack.

The ideal home for Lady will include a family with shy dog experience and the patience to let her continue learning about the wonderful things life has to offer. She doesn't demand much activity;



Lady is content to lounge around the house and may choose to watch her people from across the room rather than cuddle on the sofa.

Lady is a Jindomix, about 4 or 5 years old. She weighs about 45 lbs.

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 Lady, email mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com or call 503-974-4944.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The kittens are here, the kittens are here! Actually they started arriving in January and the pace has been picking up ever since. We do our best to share resources and support spay/neuter services for cats everywhere, but all it takes is two cats left unfixed to create the next wave of homeless feline citizens, which then grows exponentially. Kittens (including the **"N" litter**) are adorable, but there are only so many homes available. They quickly outgrow that window of adorableness and then there are even fewer potential

adopters. Please spay and neuter your pets, your barn cats, and your neighborhood strays! Encourage your family and friends to do the same. If you need help with resources or logistics to get it done, call us. If you see kittens unattended outdoors and wonder how to help, please see our helpful tips on page 8.

We want to thank the many artists who donated a total of 55 fabulous pieces to our "Art from the Heart" fundraiser auction in April, and more thanks to the bidders who purchased the art. You helped us raise over \$4000! We're also grateful to the Cat Hospital of Portland for donating space and



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NORA & NADINE, SAMMY & FORMEW CRISP, HOME ALONE DEBRAHALLIDAY ID TAG, BEEZUS

refreshments and to the hospital staff members who stayed after hours to host our event. Special thanks to Joey Macca and his family who provided so much to make our event successful.

As part of our fundraiser, we put together gift baskets which included some lovely handmade goodies purchased from an Etsy shop called **ForMewShop**. The catnip-filled crinkly cat toys were a big hit, so we were delighted by a donation of more than 100 "crisps" from the shop owner. These we shared with our foster homes and are including in the "take home" kits we send with each of our adopted cats and kittens. We recommend this shop for high-quality gifts for cats and their people.

We found another item while browsing Etsy that looks like something many pet owners would find useful: a personalized tag for your key ring that lets first responders know that your pets are home alone and providing an emergency contact number. Especially for those who have no other humans in the home, this could provide some extra security for a small price. The one pictured is about \$6 from **DebraHalliday** on Etsy, but there are many similar products available.

While you're thinking of pet safety, now is a perfect time to check your pet's microchip registration and call the company to make sure your contact information is current. If they don't have a chip yet, or you're not sure of the number, your vet can take care of that with a quick visit. Summer is when pet sitters and visitors are more likely to leave doors

> open. Indoor cats get out and can't get back in; outside cats jump into vehicles and end up far from home. A microchip with current contact information is the best way to get your pet safely back home again. You would be amazed to discover how many found animals aren't reunited with their families just because the microchip was never registered, or the last phone number on the record has been disconnected. Make sure to include your cell number and a backup number of someone you trust who will always know how to reach you.

Last winter we were contacted by a man living in his car after a

run of bad luck. He was working to get back on his feet, but in the meantime his dog and 18-year-old cat were suffering from the cold and he asked our help in caring for them until he could provide a home again. We didn't have a foster home to offer but by networking with our rescue friends, we were able to find safe harbor for both. Thank you to Ken Alwine for fostering Otis the dog and to Tracee Larson for taking in **Beezus** the cat. They were very happy to be reunited with their dad in his new home after four months apart. Sadly, Beezus passed away only a month later but she was never without a warm bed, good food, and lots of love.

We are grateful to all the volunteers, friends, and supporters who make it possible to help the animals who need us. Take care of your pets and each other, and safe travels to all. Happy Summer!

> — Carma Crimins PRESIDENT

CANINE CORNER

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

Daisy and Bella

Sometimes rescuers know that the animals we are asked to help have little chance of being adopted any time soon. Their challenges may include age, sickness, shyness, or just downright crankiness—and having more than one challenge makes an adoption even less likely. Foster homes open to such dogs are hard to come by and the veterinary costs are often higher than average. But we say "Yes" to helping these animals and trust our community to step up and support us.

When Cheryl at My Way Home Dog Rescue was approached about Daisy and Bella, she knew they would need a "fospice" home—a family willing to take them in as fosters, knowing they would be providing end-of-life care. She shared their story with the rescue community: Daisy and Bella's dad suffered a heart attack and could no longer care for his beloved pups. When he lost his home and planned to take them to a shelter, a kind person stepped in, knowing the dogs would not survive long

in an open-admission public shelter in their poor condition and advanced age. Through a series of connections, My Way Home was contacted.

Kecia and Billy Wells responded to Cheryl's plea for a soft landing for the elderly pair. Since losing their own dogs to

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 old age, Kecia and Billy were not yet ready to adopt, but were willing to provide a safe and loving home for Daisy and Bella for as many days, weeks, or months as they have left.

The dogs had clearly been loved, although their health care had been neglected since their dad had serious issues of his own. Under Kecia and Billy's care, Daisy and Bella have good food, soft beds, warm baths, and regular walks. They get unlimited love, snuggle time,

> and plenty of treats. Bella has regained some of her youthful energy and brings her leash to Kecia when she's ready for a walk. Daisy is more fragile—she's a bit wobbly and arthritis in her back legs and hips sometimes makes it hard for her to walk. Pain medication helps her get through the bad days; so far there are still more good days than bad. When the time comes, Daisy, and eventually Bella, will leave this world surrounded by love. In the meantime, all their needs are

met and each day is a new adventure.

Small rescues like My Way Home depend on foster homes to fulfill their mission. Kind and compassionate volunteers make it possible to rescue dogs like Daisy, Bella, and many others who have lost so much and ask for so little.

> 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.



DAISY (LEFT) & BELLA



SUCCESS STORIES

How you can help:

Healthy and adoptable kittens don't need rescue assistance; they do just fine without our help. But our little clients invariably need extensive vet care, sometimes including hospitalization, special diets, and multiple rounds of medications. They require an enormous amount of food and litter. Only when they are healthy and thriving can we start the usual kitten vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, and everything else it takes to make our kittens bright-eyed, frisky, and ready to meet their forever family.

Here are some ways you can help us continue to provide top-notch care for the 200+ kittens we care for each year:

- Shop online at <u>smile.amazon.com</u>. Select ARCF as your charitable organization. Your account information and settings will remain the same and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of every eligible item to ARCF. It doesn't sound like much but it adds up!
- Choose ARCF to benefit from your Fred Meyer Rewards Card every time you shop. Go to <u>fredmeyer.com/communityrewards</u> and link to ARCF by our organization number, 89299.
- Donate a car, van, boat, RV, or anything with wheels and a motor. Speed's Supertow will handle the towing and paperwork, and we'll provide a receipt for your tax deduction. Call Speed's at 503-234-5555 and let them know you have a vehicle donation for Animal Rescue & Care Fund. (Portland metro area only.)
- Sell your stuff on eBay and donate some or all of the proceeds, and buy from sellers who donate to ARCF. Go to <u>givingworks.ebay.com</u>, choose ARCF and follow the instructions to buy or sell.
- And of course you can always just send us a check or make a donation online from our website, <u>pdx-petadoption.org</u>. You can use the form on on page 8, but we'll gladly accept your donation without it. We just need your address to send the acknowledgment.

Thank you so very much, on behalf of all the kittens whose lives you are helping to save.

Alice & Willetta

Last winter a woman asked if we could take some cats living with her family member in rural Clackamas County. She told a familiar story: the man had been feeding a stray cat who had three kittens in his yard. He enjoyed having them around, until the kittens started coming to the bowl and demanding more food than he could offer.

Our volunteer quickly trapped the whole family, and got the momcat spayed and returned to her home. The kittens were enlisted in kitten boot camp and, at about 12 weeks old with no previous handling, their



stay there was a little longer than usual. Annabelle and Abby graduated first, but Alice needed extra time to develop her social confidence. Willetta came to us from

ALICE (LEFT) & WILLETTA

a kind person who found her outside during a cold snap, trying get into her house in Corvallis. Willetta was so sweet and social, her rescuer knew someone must be looking for her, but Willetta had no microchip or collar. As weeks of posting and searching lost-and-found ads passed, still no one stepped forward to claim Willetta. We had a foster home available, and fell in love with Willetta the minute she arrived in it.

So did everyone else who met Willetta, and she was soon adopted. Then something triggered a problem in her guts. Her adoptive family adored Willetta but couldn't figure out how to help her and found keeping up with the litter box mess was too much. Willetta came back to us, and our vet tried everything she could to help her. She was happy and healthy in every other way, but even with supportive care and medication, she just wasn't getting better. We consulted experts and did every kind of diagnostic test suggested, but all results were normal.

Willetta started improving, with the help of a special diet of hydrolyzed protein kibble. We also found a friend for Willetta: Alice was getting more comfortable with people, but she really needed a well-adjusted kitty friend to boost her confidence level. We introduced them and, although Alice was still shy, they made a very sweet pair, so we hoped for a family who would want to give them a forever home together.

Sarah contacted us, looking for a pair of young cats to join her family of three people and one cat. They were charmed by Willetta, of course, and Alice responded well to their calm demeanor. A match was made!

Things are going well so far. Willetta has been adjusting to everything really well and Alice has really come out of her shell! I think she just needed some time to get comfortable somewhere. Willetta still has some digestive issues but we are working with the vet on helping her get better. The two of them are quite sweet and entertaining!

- Sarah Munly

SUCCESS STORIES

Juno (formerly Bridgit)

Anyone perusing online sites such as <u>craigslist.org</u> has seen many heartbreaking posts from people attempting to sell or give away their pets. We have responded to many such posts, shar-

ing information and resources to help people safely rehome their pets, but it's a frustrating and never-ending battle—for some reason our motives are rarely trusted, even with our long history as a reputable rescue.

In January, a kind person in the Salem area saw an ad for a mother cat with four young babies and a teen kitten to be given for free, with no prior vet care provided. She was able to convince the owner to give her the entire cat family, although one kitten had already been given away. She then contacted ARCF and asked if we could provide needed vet care and find new homes for the new family.



BABY JUNO



JUNO & MISHKA

Fortunately, the momcat Bree and all her kittens were in good health and very sweet. Teen kitten Claire was quickly adopted and we told her story in our spring issue. Bree went next to her forever home and the three baby kittens were ready to be adopted next. Bella and Bitsy were very bonded and adopted together, so Bridgit was looking for a home with a built-in feline playmate for her.

Around that time, Jackie Morrow contacted us, thinking it was time to find a new companion for Mishka after the loss of her beloved Cryptic kitty. We suggested she come meet Bridgit and to no one's surprise they went home together. It didn't take long for Jackie to realize that Bridgit needed a name more suited to her, shall we say, commanding personality. For a wee tabby girl, she showed no fear and little respect

> for authority. She is now known as Juno Juniper. Mishka, being a bit of a timid soul, didn't take immediately to the new housemate, but over time, she and Juno have developed a relationship that works—mostly.

I suppose they are now friends, in a female cat way. Juno commonly cuddles up next to Mishka to sleep, and Mishka

> lets her. Also, much of the time, when Juno is running around, Mishka is often stalking her or they are chasing each other in play. These are the Ying/ Yang of felines, Mishka being the sweet angel most of the time (is that Ying?) and

Juno being the tormenting little demon (Yang, I assume.) What a contrast!

Juno is berserk for fetching those brightly colored mice. If I throw one from across the room she will jump about 3 feet in the air trying to catch it in her mouth. She then comes barreling back at me with enough force to cause injury when she leaps onto the couch and smacks into me. Although her coat pattern says tabby, I really think this monster has some Bengal genetics. She's a weirdo from whisker to tail—the excitement never ends!

— Jackie Morrow

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

March-April-May: We placed 20 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

Veterinary \$5,066.05

Food/Supplies \$1,316.53

Fundraising \$2,041.74

Education/Outreach \$1,252.89

(Education/Outreach and Fundraising categories include newsletter expenses.)



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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IN MEMORIAM



Debbie Norr and Hammad Khan are grieving the loss of their big orange tabby, Sydney, who succumbed to complications from diabetes at the age of 15. Syd joined the family at an adoption event by climbing up on Debbie's shoulder the minute his cage

door was opened and making it crystal clear that he was going home with her. Known as "the Dog" for coming when called (then complaining about the interruption in his schedule), he was very adept at typing on keyboards and supervising and instructing all visitors that came into the home, never met a lap he didn't like, and always hogged Hammad's side of the bed, allowing no more than two hits to the snooze button. Syd was adored by his brothers and sisters whether he liked it or not. His big, gregarious personality could only be defined as "Sydnacious." To say that he will be missed and never forgotten is a monumental understatement.

Beautiful Benita came to us as a baby with her three siblings from a community cat colony in Vancouver, Washington. After a few weeks at kitten boot camp, they were ready for their forever homes. Then viral testing showed Benita carried the Feline Leukemia



Virus, although her siblings did not. Because the virus can be transferred to other cats, FeLV kitties must live separately from others. Fortunately, our friends at House of Dreams were able to take Benita, who became a beloved member of the FeLV community at their shelter. Exactly one year after arriving there, Benita suddenly became very ill, with symptoms very familiar to the volunteers at House of Dreams. Benita was provided a painless transition to her next life, surrounded by those who loved her. In addition to all who cared for her at ARCF and HoD, Benita is missed by her special friends Rainbow and Max.



Sweet old Lenny was rescued from a hoarding situation by a team of volunteers who saw his plight and knew he needed help. Years of neglect had taken a toll on Lenny's health but he still loved a good snuggle, and was especially fond of a good meal. His time

with Ruth and Matt Page was not long, but Lenny spent the best 15 months of his life in their home.

Sheba came to ARCF 10 years ago, when she was about five years old. In spite of her senior status, she had a lively personality and was quickly adopted. Unfortunately, a family member developed an



allergy, so Sheba came back to us. Once again she was adopted—and yet again returned, this time because the resident cat in the family didn't take kindly to her presence. We hoped the third time would be the charm, and indeed when Sheba met Margaret, it seemed she had finally found her true home. For six years all was well, until Margaret's health required her to move to a care center which does not allow pets. Her family let us know the situation and our hearts sank at the prospect of trying to find yet another home for a now 15-year-old cat with a dislike for other cats, or any people other than her Margaret.

When we retrieved Sheba, we found out that Margaret had died the night before, not long after finding out that Sheba would not be moving with her. Apparently Margaret didn't want to move anywhere without her Sheba.

We are ever grateful to foster mom Gloria Garbutt who accepted Sheba into her home, knowing that another adoption was unlikely. Although she missed her person taken so suddenly from her, Sheba was safe and loved, and lacked for nothing. She succumbed to a fast-growing cancer a few months later.



Gerry Taylor lost her devoted companion Mickey to complications of doggie old age. Mickey came to My Way Home Dog Rescue when he lost his home in 2014. He needed an emergency

foster home so Gerry took him home "just for a few days." For the next three years, he never left her side, even as Gerry drove around Portland picking up kitties and delivering them to the spay/neuter clinic. The co-pilot seat is now empty and Mickey is missed by all who knew him.

Michelle Stagl lost her beloved cat Kirby, who was 17 years old. Kirby was remembered with a donation from her friends Meryl and Will.

Flee, Fleas, Fleas!

Why do fleas exist, when all they do is create misery? We can't answer that question, but we can tell you how important it is to treat your pets with safe, effective flea control products.

Why?

We all know that fleas cause itching, but fleas can also cause serious problems for animals and their humans. All that itching leads to scratching. Constant scratching can cause the skin to break open, making your pet more uncomfortable and allowing infection to set in.

In addition to skin irritation, fleas can cause internal issues you may never have thought of! Tapeworms are parasites that reside as larvae inside fleas and are transmitted to pets when swallowed during grooming. Tapeworms cause weight loss and itchy discomfort around the anal area.

Flea bite anemia is a risk for all young or small animals infested with fleas. This occurs when fleas feed so much on your pet that her red blood cell count decreases and she gets anemic, which can lead to an emergency trip to the vet.

Fleas aren't just hazardous for your pets—they can be dangerous for you, too! Fleas can carry certain diseases that can spread to humans, including bartonella (Cat Scratch Fever).

Ok, got it! What do I need to know to treat my pet for fleas?

First, it's always easier to prevent fleas than to get rid of an infestation. Treat preventatively using flea control products that are safe to use all the time.

Second, choose your flea medication method very carefully, and with guidance from your veterinarian. There are many medications out there that, at best, simply don't work. At worst, you can use a medication that causes your pet harm! TIP: Always read the label! After the EPA received tens of thousands of reports of harmful reactions and deaths related to flea treatment, legislation was passed requiring better labeling on flea products. But that only helps if we read the labels!



EDDIE JUST SAYS NO TO FLEAS

Here are medications to avoid:

- Flea products with Amitraz, pyrethrin, permethrin, or pyrethroids (found in over a thousand different pesticide products)—At toxic levels in the bloodstream, these chemicals can cause seizures and even death.
- Cheap flea collars—These are generally ineffective and can pose a choking/hanging hazard. We have rescued more than one cat with a lower jaw or leg caught in a toxic plastic collar.
- Flea dips and shampoos containing any of the ingredients listed above are just as hazardous as other application types.
- Essential oils—Not only are they completely ineffective at killing fleas, they often have phenolic compounds that the feline liver cannot tolerate. Tea tree, eucalyptus, and oregano

oils found in "organic" topical parasiticides are dangerous for both cats and dogs.

 Cats Only: Flea medications designated for DOGS ONLY can cause irreversible neurological damage or death or cats. For many of these medica-

> tions, it isn't even safe for the cat to have contact with a dog who has been treated. Flea treatment residue left on shared bedding or spread by physical contact or grooming can be just as hazardous.

So which products are safe to use?

Products sold by veterinarians typically undergo either FDA- or EPA-reviewed clinical trials to establish safe dosage and document potential adverse effects as well as kidney and liver tolerances for pets.

Use these vet-recommended medications as directed, as even these can be deadly if applied

incorrectly or in a larger-than-recommended dose. In addition, your veterinarian can tell you which products have lost effectiveness due to resistance developed by fleas in certain areas.

For cats, one way to try to avoid dealing with—and worrying about flea treatments is to keep your cat indoors. Many indoor-only cats will never get fleas. However, fleas are tenacious little buggers. They can jump up to 7 inches, and are happy to piggyback into the house on human clothes and shoes, as well as other pets that go in and out. So even if your cats stay inside, it's a good idea to check for fleas periodically.

Long story short, we recommend that you work closely with your vet to ensure you use the right medication in the right way for your pet. This can save both you and your pet significant discomfort and prevent serious illnesses for both of you!

FROM THE HELP DESK

I found baby kittens! Now what?

Now appearing in a backyard, shed, or crawl space near you: the first spring crop of kittens born to outdoor-living cats. Often the first instinct is to grab the kittens, take them inside, and start making phone calls for help. But before you do this, remember that unless you are absolutely sure the mother is dead or removed from the area, she will probably be back shortly to care for her kittens. She may be eating, hunting, or hiding, hoping you'll leave so she can come back to her nest.

Kittens need their mother until at least six weeks of age. She feeds them exactly the right food, keeps them clean, and teaches them valuable feline life skills. If the momcat senses you intend to move them, she'll probably do it herself and you may not find them again. So don't disturb the kittens, no matter how irresistible they look. Leave food in the area of the nest but not right next to it, so predators aren't drawn to the babies by the food. Keep an eye on the kittens from a distance. If the momcat hasn't returned and the food is still untouched in 24 hours, give us a call and we'll help you through the next steps. It's expensive, tiring, and timeconsuming to bottle feed a litter, so you don't want to take



that on unless the kittens are truly orphaned.

If the momcat does come back, give her plenty of high-quality food and fresh water. If she seems friendly, you may be able to bring her and the litter inside. We can also help with fostering if needed. If the mother isn't approachable, continue to provide food and water and contact the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon for advice on capturing and caring for her and the kittens.

If you don't have time to help or can't decide what to do, please call us at 503-402-8692.

RESOURCES:

Excellent online guide to orphan kitten care: <u>www.feralcat.com/raising.html</u> Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, 503-797-2606: <u>www.feralcats.com</u>

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.

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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 _____

Name ____

Address _____

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