



## Derek & Gilbert

We could have named these two Bert and Ernie or maybe Laurel and Hardy . . . or maybe even Siskel and Ebert. They aren't related and their personalities fall on opposing ends of the feline spectrum, but they are as inseparable as any of those famous pairs. Derek and Gilbert landed in our foster home at the same time and quickly chose each other as BFFs.

These boys have some typical teenager traits in common: they love to play, eat, play some more, and then eat again. They are sweet and affectionate and enjoy sharing window seats and high perches with the resident cats in their foster home, as well as sharing the bed at night with their people.

So, what's up with this complementary duo? Brown tabby Gilbert is the Social Butterfly with the confidence of a fancy restaurant maître d'. He enjoys greeting visitors, ushering them to their seats and checking back to

make sure everyone is having a good time. Even casual acquaintances get an invitation to rub his belly. Tuxedo Derek is our Resident Introvert, observing the action from a safe space behind the door or under the bed while he evaluates the trustworthiness of his new guests. He will need patience, guidance, and support (and Gilbert nearby) to settle in to his forever home. Once comfortable, Derek transforms into the Resident Cuddler, wanting to be next to his people at all times.

Derek and Gilbert have been neutered, are up-to-date on vaccines, and have tested negative for FeLV/FIV. The adoption fee is \$150 for the pair. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email [arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org), or visit [pdx-petadoption.org](http://pdx-petadoption.org).

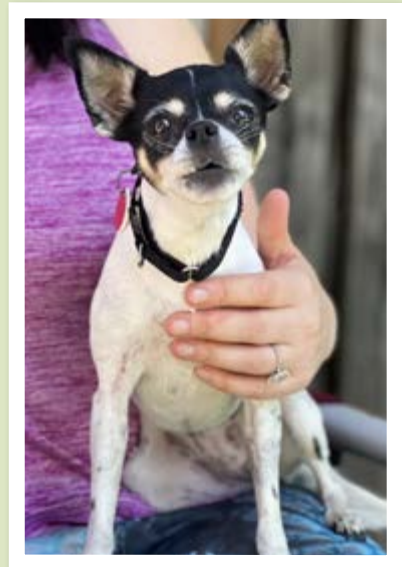
## Daisy

This dainty little flower is Daisy, who is ready to meet a family who will provide the calm and stable environment she craves. Because she is so small—only 7 pounds!—Daisy prefers calm dogs close to her own size; she doesn't do well with small children or big dogs. Daisy could also be very happy as an only pampered princess.

Daisy was rescued as a stray and really appreciates the comforts and security of home—her perfect family will be homebodies with a little backyard to run around. She walks well on leash, although she will bark at scary things. She also barks at new sounds and unfamiliar people, so a home without shared walls is best.

Although she's a bit shy at first, Daisy warms up quickly. She's a sweet and affectionate girl who loves being with her favorite people. She's not much interested in playing, and keeps herself busy without complaining. Daisy loves treats and is willing to learn some new tricks to get rewards, but mostly she just wants to hang out on the back of the couch and keep an eye on things.

Daisy is about seven years old and is house trained. She has been spayed, vaccinated, heartworm-tested, microchipped, dewormed, and is current on flea control. She's also recently had a dental. The adoption fee is \$400. If you are interested in knowing more about Daisy, please visit [mywayhomedogrescue.org](http://mywayhomedogrescue.org) and complete the adoption application online.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Summer's here! All those kittens born in the spring are now showing up in woodpiles, sheds, and window wells everywhere—the numbers are overwhelming and some days it feels like we are bailing water with a teacup from a sinking rowboat. But we're not giving up! Our foster volunteers are the very best, and we don't ever ask them to take on more than they can safely care for—but we will always do the best we can with the resources available.

**Lincoln** came to us with his mom and four siblings as newborns. Although living indoors, the kittens were not safe—momcat did her best to protect her babies but the other adult cats were not accepting of the newcomers. It was a very stressful situation for all concerned. The whole family is now safe and cared for in our foster home and will be available for adoption later in the summer.

Baby **Quimby** and his siblings were born outdoors to another fierce momma. Our volunteer was able to safely capture her and the kids, and although momma doesn't care to be in contact with people, we'll have her spayed once the kittens are weaned, and she'll return to her caregiver, who will continue to provide food and shelter with no more worry about future litters.

We provide support to these community cat caregivers when possible. Many of them have taken on the responsibility of caring for cats abandoned by others, without being asked, simply because it was the right thing to do. We may help with trapping and transportation to the spay/neuter clinic, donations of food, shelters, and other supplies, and financial assistance for vet care.

**Monte** belongs to a cat community where many have long hair that gets matted in the winter. Monte and his feline pals don't let anyone touch them, so we helped fund a vet visit for a lion shave and vaccine updates, under sedation of course. Monte's now cool and comfortable with his summer 'do.

Kitten rescue can be challenging—good thing they're so cute!—and we know they'll be adopted quickly. Sadly, more and more often our help is requested for older cats who once had families but have become homeless, through no fault of their own.

Recently a call came from a local vet clinic, asking us to take a cat that had been relinquished to them. The cat's elderly owners moved to assisted living, and the family requested the vet euthanize their 12-year-old, one-eyed, beautiful calico cat, **Chloe**. Vet exam and lab work showed

she was very healthy, other than arthritis making it hard for her to jump. Chloe's sweet nature charmed everyone at the clinic and they simply couldn't bear the thought of ending her life just for the family's convenience. We recruited a long-time ARCF adopter to foster Chloe and we'll keep her safe while we search for her forever family.

Which brings me to my soapbox yet again: Please, *please*, think about what will happen to your pets when you are no longer able to care for them. Don't assume that your family or friends will step in and take over caring for them the same way you would! Chloe is very lucky because we had a place for her, but many others are not so fortunate.

There is much to consider when making these arrangements and a good place to start is an organization called 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance 4 Pets. Their mission is to address the issue of the 500,000+ companion animals surrendered to shelters every year due to the death or disability of the humans that care for them. Their website ([2ndChance4Pets.org](http://2ndChance4Pets.org)) offers a wealth of resources to help you through the decisions and planning to ensure your pets have the care that YOU would choose, when you are no longer able to make the decisions. Yes, we will keep nagging, so you may as well do it now and check that off your list.

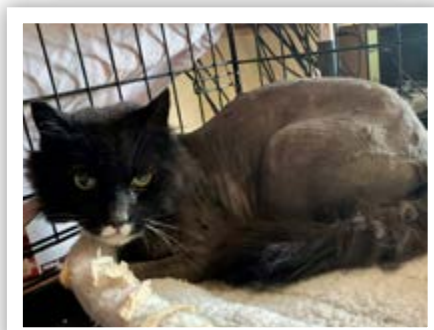
And one more reminder: please leave water out during the summer months for all the passing critters who need it—shallow bowls for bees, baths for birds and squirrels, and big, deep bowls for all the others. Water is life-saving, and they will be grateful.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Please adopt, volunteer, and donate, if you can. Your support makes our work possible.

Be careful, be well, and please be kind to all creatures.

Happy Summer!

—Carma Crimins, President



FROM TOP: LINCOLN;  
CHLOE; QUIMBY; MONTE

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.

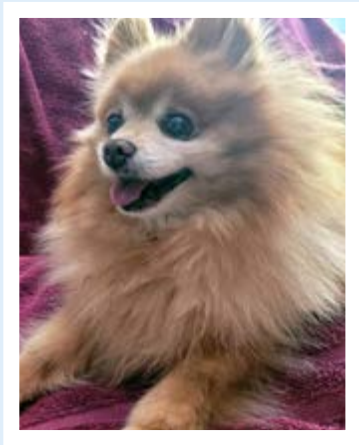
## MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[mywayhomedogrescue.org](http://mywayhomedogrescue.org)  
503-974-4944

### Benny and PeaPod: Gerry's Geriatrics

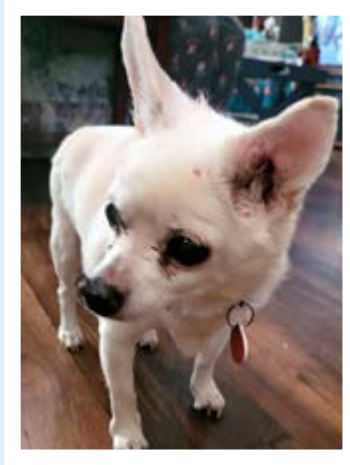
Many of us in the local animal welfare community have known Gerry Taylor as the ultimate Cat Lady—she has spent many years volunteering for multiple organizations, and thousands of cats around Portland have Gerry to thank for saving their lives. She has put many, many miles on her little car, driving cats to spay/neuter appointments, delivering food, and responding to other cat ladies with her phone number taped to their fridge.

Gerry usually had a dog as her co-pilot on those missions—a series of very tolerant doggos who accepted that the backseat was usually full of cats. Their reward was a hamburger or a puppuccino at the drive-thru on the way home.



**BENNY**

Upon officially retiring from her volunteer shelter job, Gerry cared for her house full of cats, those left behind when their people moved on. But she still had room for a dog or two and because she loves to be helpful, Gerry volunteered to foster for My Way Home Dog Rescue.



**PEAPOD**

"I'm a terrible foster mom," says Gerry. "I just keep them all." Cheryl at My Way Home has learned what to expect when she delivers a new foster dog to Gerry. "In about half an hour I'll get a call, and—surprise, surprise—Gerry wants to adopt her new foster dog. She takes the old, broken ones that nobody else wants. We love her."

More than a few of those special dogs have come and gone through Gerry's life, including dearly departed Agatha, the best co-pilot ever. Current occupants include PeaPod and Benny, both rescued from high-kill public shelters and living their best lives with Gerry and the cats.

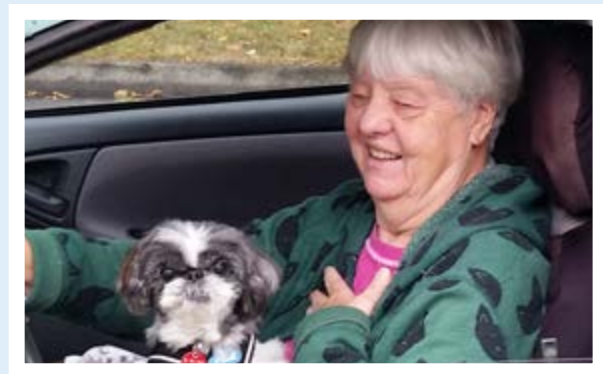
PeaPod was dropped at a local public shelter as a stray, though the mystery is how this tiny, ancient, handicapped dog survived as a stray. Her prospects for adoption were not good, so when Cheryl saw PeaPod,

she immediately requested a transfer to My Way Home.

She contacted Gerry and described PeaPod: 14 years old, completely deaf, mostly blind, can barely walk. "Perfect," said Gerry. "I'll take her." In a matter of weeks, with a good diet and Gerry's loving care, PeaPod is a different dog. "She's still not much to look at," says Gerry, "but I love her. We spend a lot of time on the couch together. I watch TV and knit while she naps."

Benny's story is similar, also picked up as a stray. Although in better condition than PeaPod, he was at least 10 years old with a mouthful of rotten teeth—not a good candidate for adoption in a shelter with hundreds of young, healthy dogs already waiting for homes. Turns out, Benny could fill the still-open spot on Gerry's couch perfectly! My Way Home arranged for necessary dental work and Gerry signed on the dotted line to make Benny a permanent member of her family.

"Benny is adorable and everyone loves him," says Gerry. "He's so happy and always has a smile on his face. Don't tell anyone, but PeaPod is my secret favorite—she needed me more and I'm so happy to have her."



**GERRY & AGATHA IN 2017**

# IN MEMORIAM

## ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

March-April-May: We rescued and cared for 27 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 15 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

**Veterinary:** \$2,554.66  
**Food/Supplies:** \$3,360.40  
**Newsletter:** \$2,449.21

## 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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Carma Crimins

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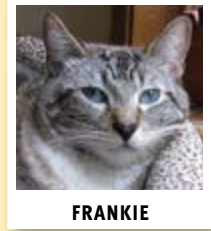
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Animal Rescue & Care Fund is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 51-0137768. A board of directors makes decisions on policy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

Sally and Paul Needham donated to ARCF in memory of their beloved cat **Frankie**, who recently succumbed to complications from kidney disease. Frankie was adopted from ARCF in 2009, and a short time later rolled off a cat tree and broke his leg. An excellent surgeon repaired the break, and Sally and Paul nursed him back to health. Frankie was a very social guy who loved all people (and tolerated other cats) but he had a special bond with Paul. Frankie was the center of their family and will be deeply missed by Paul and Sally, and by his feline brother, Rusty.



FRANKIE



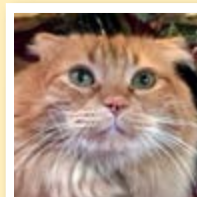
LULA

We were saddened to hear from Kirsy and Tony Barber that their beautiful tortie **Lula** reached the end of her struggle with kidney disease. Lula and her brother Sailor came to ARCF as very sickly kittens in 2008. They were adopted but returned several years later, which was a hard adjustment but Sailor and Lula soon found their forever home with Kirsy and Tony, who adored them completely. Lula charmed everyone who came to their home and was always cuddly and chatty, even when she became very ill. After 15 years together, Sailor is missing his loving companion and needing lots of extra snuggles.

**Tippy** came to ARCF from a shelter where she wasn't thriving. Her elderly owner had passed away and surviving family members didn't want her. Tippy was depressed, irritable, and very overweight after her time in the shelter. We worked to improve her physical and mental health, and were delighted when Jessica and Colin chose to adopt her. They loved Tippy and her "cranky grandma" ways, and were devastated when she suddenly became very ill and succumbed to a mysterious ailment.



TIPPY



SHERMAN

Exactly 10 years ago, **Sherman** was rescued from a colony of outdoor cats after he showed up dirty and bedraggled, with few survival skills and the sweetest disposition ever. When we introduced Jessie Killbourne to Sherman, she fell in love with his adoring face, curly ears, and pigeon purr. A few years ago, Sherman and his family made the cross-country move to Florida—a multi-vehicle, multi-pet adventure. He took it all in stride, but couldn't overcome the lymphoma that recently reared its ugly head. Sherman's fan club is large and devoted. His loss is felt deeply, and he will never be forgotten.

Our volunteers Lori and Paul Sharp shared the sad news that their sweet cat **Jasmine** lost her battle with kidney disease. Beautiful Jasmine was found many years ago by their grandson in the middle of a city street on a dark and stormy night. With much love and TLC, Lori nursed her back to health and Jasmine ruled their home for many years with a firm but loving hand.

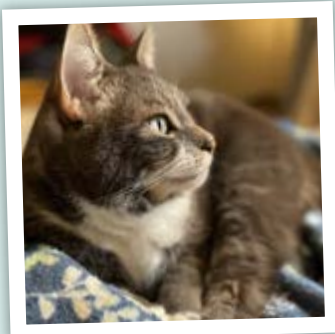


JASMINE

## Minnie

*In early March, ARCF received a message from a family in a far corner of our state—the town of Nyssa, Oregon. A momcat and her young babies had appeared in a barn and needed help. Fortunately, we had space in a foster home and their rescuer was willing to make the 7-hour drive to deliver them to us. More about that little family later, but their rescuer asked us to also take an older cat she had rescued a few years earlier who had never been accepted by the resident cats. This rescued kitty, Minnie, lived in a separate part of the house and wanted much more attention. There was room in the car for Minnie to make the trip, so we made room for her as well.*

*We were delighted to meet Minnie, who made herself at home right away. She enjoyed meeting people, but we could tell she would be happiest living without other cats. We thought of our friends Jessica and Colin who had an empty space in their hearts and home and invited them to a meeting. Minnie needed some painful teeth removed, so we took care of that and then Minnie became the*

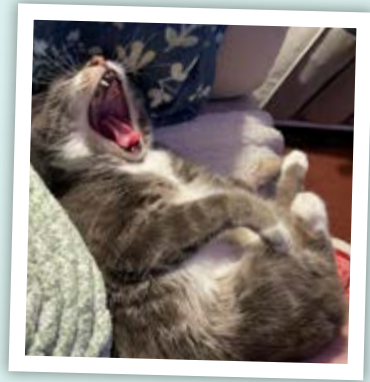


**MINNIE**

*newest member of their family.*

After we had to unexpectedly say goodbye to our sweet 12-year-old tabby Tippy, we were heartbroken and sorely missing our feline companion. When ARCF contacted us a couple months

later about a cat in need of a home, we were excited but unsure if we were ready to welcome a new kitty yet. Seeing Minnie's precious photo tipped the scales quickly in favor of "Yes, let's get her!"



**POST-DENTAL**

It's been a joy to see her sweet little face every day when we return from work, wake up to her polite but increasingly desperate meows for breakfast, and share heartwarming moments cuddling with her after she crawls into our laps. We both were amazed at how quickly she settled in, and have cherished her loving, affectionate personality since her first few days with us. Tippy was affectionately known as our "grumpy grandma," but Minnie has been our "sweet little baby" since Day One. Every friend and family member who has met her has fallen in love within minutes, and we're proud to call her our kitty.

We are so glad that ARCF reached out to match us with little Minnie, knowing now how special she is and how much she has helped us move forward through the grieving process. Our lives have been made so much richer by both companions ARCF has now given us, and we can't thank them enough for the essential work they do.

**—Jessica Gomez & Colin Misich**

## Philip R. Halibut, aka Mochi (formerly Levi)

*Last winter our friend Patricia noticed a new visitor hanging around her home. The handsome black-and-white cat seemed hungry and lost, so we were relieved to find that he had a microchip. We contacted his owner, who acknowledged he was their cat but was unwilling to take him back, for reasons unexplained. Our foster mom discovered that Mochi was a happy, healthy youngster and before long we heard from Amy, who was looking for a playmate for her frisky young cat, Oliver. In short order, a meeting was arranged and Mochi was on his way to his perfect forever home.*

Mochi is doing great! He has fit in here so well, and is completely adored. He and Oliver chase each other all over the house and teach each other new tricks. He has bonded with our daughter Lottie, and just after we decided his new name would be Mochi, she gave him a huge proper name: Philip R. Halibut. The "R" is for rocket launcher, which suits him—he launches sneak attacks on Oliver, and we have so much fun watching them have fun! So I guess he has an official name, but mostly goes by Mochi and also answers to Phil.

Mochi loves his toys! He chases and carries them all around the house in his mouth. He has even got our old kitty Echo to play a little, and our dog Frankie has totally accepted him into the family.

We love Mochi so much! He fits in completely here and we're so grateful to have him. Thank you for rescuing him and for everything you've done.



**MOCHI**

**—Amy Bain**

## Munchbox (formerly Jamila)

Three beautiful girl kittens were found in a backyard last winter. We never move kittens unless we know the momcat is not returning, so we kept watching for her. We finally brought the kittens in from the cold and, although we kept monitoring for weeks, their mother never returned. We named the kittens Juno, Josette, and Jamila. They grew healthy and



**BABIES JUNO, JOSETTE, & JAMILA**

strong under the care of our foster volunteers. When it was time for their spay surgeries, Aimee was on duty at the vet and before the day was over, we received Aimee's message declaring her love for Jamila and desire to adopt her.



**MUNCHBOX & SNACKY CHAN**

Of the three sisters, Jamila was less bonded with her sisters and we suspected she might prefer a mellow dog companion like Aimee's. As soon as Jamila recovered, we did the paperwork to make it official.

She is doing absolutely great! I'm so glad I was the surgery assistant when she came for her spay. She's still just as cuddly and sweet as she was that day! The vet team renamed her Munchbox (like lunchbox) to go with my dog, Snacky Chan. They get along well, and she absolutely loves playing in the shower—she'll climb up to my head when I'm trying to shampoo and bite at the water! She never figured out how to meow and communicates through tons of clicking and velociraptor noises. I'm absolutely in love with her, she's my heart.

—Aimee Dockum

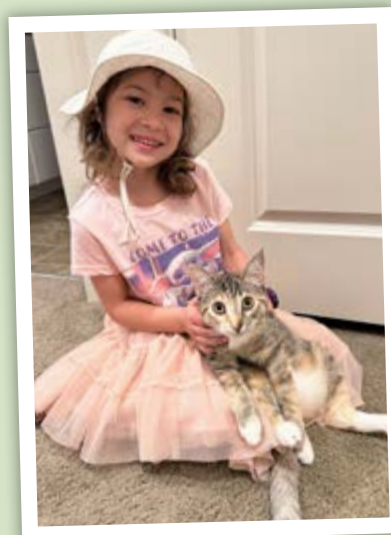
## Jojo & Izzy (formerly Juno & Josette)

The remaining two sisters, Juno and Josette (now Jojo and Izzy), are closely bonded so we were pleased to receive an application from Joshua and Jessica looking for a pair of cuddly kittens that would be good with their two young kids. We had a feeling it would be a good match for everyone and recently got this report:



**IZZY, JOJO, & FRIEND**

They have been the perfect addition to our family. Jojo and Izzy (short for Isabella from "Encanto") spend their days sitting on our laps while we are working and cuddling with the kids while they are reading or watching TV after school. They truly love each other and spend their free time playing or giving each other baths. They are simply the best!



**IZZY & FRIEND**

—Josh & Jessica McDonald

## THINGS WE LIKE

### The Feline Good Life: Safe Outside with a Catio!

*“But all cats need to enjoy the great outdoors! Why should they be stuck indoors looking outside through windows?”*

This is a question we often receive from potential adopters. It’s true that some cats live their entire lives outside, but here at ARCF we have seen enough suffering to establish an indoor-only policy for all our adoptions. Once we rescue a cat or kitten, we bring them inside and the door is closed. We’ve already poured our heart and soul (and resources) into rescuing them once—and once is enough.

#### Why It’s Important to Keep Cats Safe Indoors

While cats are naturally predatory, their hunting and defensive skills are not designed for today’s world:

- Cars and other vehicles pose a risk to suburban and urban cats—we’ve all seen their little bodies by the side of the road, waiting for an owner to find them.
- Cats fall prey to other animals, including dogs, coyotes, hawks, and owls.
- Cats are territorial by nature, so another cat interested in your cat’s space may initiate a duel, resulting in pain, suffering, and an expensive trip to the vet.
- Some cats hunt wildlife, endangering birds in the area. Cats that do hunt are at risk of ingesting pesticides and poison commonly used in their environment.
- Neighbors rarely welcome having their gardens used as litter boxes, and many cats spray to mark territory, leaving smelly and corroded siding, doors, plants, fences, and furniture.

#### How to Enhance Your Cat’s Indoor Lifestyle with a Catio

One way to enrich your cat’s indoor life is by creating a “catio,” an enclosed



ELLIOTT ENJOYS HIS CATIO PERCH

outdoor area where your cat can play outside safely. In addition to providing safe access to the outdoors, many catio owners report that having the extra space and opportunity for stimulation reduce conflicts and behavior problems among feline family members. Sometimes all we need is a nice snooze outside in the sun to get along better.

A catio can be as simple as a mesh extension built off of a window; an enclosed deck, balcony, or porch; or as elaborate as a series of walkways and tunnels leading to free-standing enclosures. A quick internet search for

catio ideas provides a dazzling array of designs.

ARCF foster volunteers Jen Hansen and Roger Anderson have cared for hundreds of our rescued kittens. They decided their cats would love having a catio, so they began the process of design and building.

“We already had a 12'x12' deck so we decided to enclose the whole thing to serve as a catio,” says Roger. “I wanted to avoid it feeling like a big cage so I used pet-proof screening that didn't affect our view of the back yard



SIX KITTENS ON A BUG HUNT

Continued on page 8

## THINGS WE LIKE



ASPEN NAPS IN THE LOWER BERTH

as much. The cover uses clear panels so it's usable in the rain and still lets natural light in.”

The catio was an instant hit with their resident cats Elliott and Aspen. In 2020 the pandemic suddenly made it very challenging to continue in-person adoptions, but thanks to the catio, potential adopters were still able to safely meet kittens by accessing the catio from the backyard. There were some chilly days when the humans had to bundle up and the meetings went quickly, but it worked!

We now have the option of indoor meetings again, but the catio continues to provide space for the cats to run, climb, and relax. They access it through a flap in the kitchen door, which can be closed when needed. The cats love watching birds, bugs, and squirrels outside, without the danger of causing

harm to the native wildlife. This catio has ramps and shelves as well as a secret “crow's nest” that only the larger cats can access. There are also beds, tunnels, and boxes, and pots of cat grass for snacking.

Roger built the catio himself, making modifications as necessary. His protips:

If you have a choice, go big—the more space, the better. Nooks and crannies collect dust, fur, and spider webs so a simple design is easier to keep clean. Wide eaves and a gutter system keep the space from getting soaked during sideways rainstorms. Using a variety of materials like wood, cement, plants, and sisal keeps a variety of cats interested. Make sure there are no gaps in the structure—a determined kitten will make use of the tiniest escape route. Don't ask us how we know!



ACCESS FROM THE YARD

Once you think you are done building, get up on a ladder, get down on your knees, and check all the corners and connections to make sure everything is tight and secure from all angles.

Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon and Cats Safe at Home™ will present the 11th Annual Catio Tour in Portland on September 9, 2023. Catos will be open for in person visits and an online version of the tour will be available as well. The tour is an excellent opportunity to see catios designed and built for a variety of spaces and budgets. You can talk to the owners about their projects, and you'll get a guidebook with photos and details about each catio. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [catssafeathome.org](https://catssafeathome.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](https://www.pdx-petadoption.org).**

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ for humane work. (\$35 sponsors an animal, but we appreciate any amount.)

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