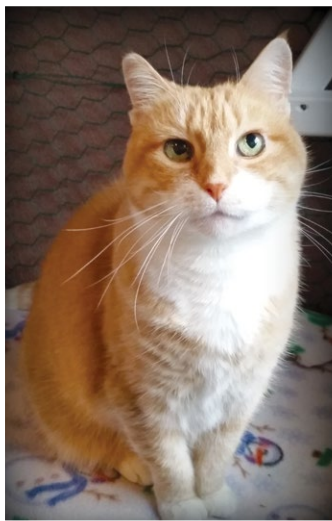


## FEATURED CAT Mango

Before Mango arrived at ARCF, we were expecting to welcome a big tough orange tomcat who would be looking for a job as a barn cat. Well, Mango is orange alright, but she turned out to be a rather delicate little lady “of a certain age” with a personality as sweet as her name. The kind people who had been feeding her in their



backyard for many months weren’t sure what to do when they began making plans to move. Their new home doesn’t have a safe place for an outdoor cat, but they couldn’t leave Mango behind, so they asked us to help.

It didn’t take long for Mango to settle in and show us what she considers her true calling in life: this girl just wants a lap where she can curl up, find an arm to rest her head on, and purr for the rest of her days. She adores being combed, cuddled, and admired. She

especially loves massaging around the chin, cheeks, and ears. If you stop petting a little too soon, Mango will reach up with her dainty white paw and gently guide your hand back to business.

It’s not easy to get a photo of Mango from a distance because she wants to get very close to her person immediately and stay there as long as possible. Once she has her lap spot staked out, Mango goes to her happy place and it is so very relaxing to share it with her. It’s like meditation, only better. When left alone, Mango is very content to snooze, gaze at the world outside her window, and spend a little time playing gently with her toys. She has been living around other cats, and doesn’t care much about them as long as she gets first dibs on the lap.

Mango is about ten years old and is in excellent health. She doesn’t have any special dietary or medical needs, and her litter box habits are perfect.

Mango has been spayed, microchipped, and is up-to-date on vaccines. She has tested negative for FeLV/FIV. Her adoption fee is \$40. To learn more about Mango or any of our cats for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email [arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org), or visit [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).

## FEATURED DOG Jesse

Jesse ended up in the shelter as a little guy just a few months old, for reasons unknown. He was adopted but during his time with that family he became fearful and reactive to other dogs. He was returned to the shelter after three years.

Once again he was adopted, but this family found that living in the city caused his reactivity to be triggered, so again he was returned to the shelter. My Way Home agreed to take Jesse because they know they can find the home where Jesse will thrive and live a long, happy life.

Jesse will need a family with lots of dog experience. He’s doing well in his foster home in the country where he has peace and quiet and lots of space, so we’re looking for a similar situation in his forever home.



His foster mom reports that Jesse is very smart and loves learning new tricks. Jesse will do well with another family dog, particularly a calm female dog who can be a good role model for him. But Jesse is not a guy to take travelling or to the dog park,

and he can’t live with cats or other small animals; he likes to chase too much.

Because Jesse has endured being surrendered twice, My Way Home will be very careful in screening and selecting Jesse’s new home. This time it will be the forever home he deserves, where he will be loved and supported.

Jesse is three years old and weighs 40 lbs. He is a St. Bernard/Labrador mix.

All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and are current on vaccines. Jesse’s adoption fee of \$250 includes leash, collar, blanket, and food sample.

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I wrote our fall newsletter, we were all parched and wishing for gentle rainfall to cool us off and make everything green again. This week the Portland area is receiving record amounts of rainfall, creeks are flooding, and roads are washed out. I'm not going to wish for anything this time!

On one of those hot summer days, one of our volunteers noticed a white blur in the scorched juniper bushes of a freeway median. It took some time to find a safe place to park and walk back, but the white blur turned out to be a cat, sitting next to a pile of kibble someone had left.

We scooped up this friendly guy, got him to a safe place, and decided to call him **Milton, the Freeway Cat**.

We returned the next day to find two people at the same spot with a cart of their belongings, holding a cardboard sign. They were familiar with the cat, but didn't claim him and didn't know where he might belong. We went through the usual process of searching for an owner, but received no responses. Sweet

Milton is an older gent who is now enjoying life in our foster home, toasty on his heated bed with a window view, and ready to meet his forever family.

We have rescued over 200 kittens since spring, including the **"F" kittens** (our third "F" litter this year!) who just arrived today.

They were born to a barn cat in Oregon City whose caregiver was

overwhelmed by the additional six mouths to feed, and didn't feel confident about taking on the big socialization project required to make them into house cats. She wanted to keep one kitten, so we took the other five and they are already vaccinated, fixed, dewormed, defleaed, and checked into our boot camp, soon to be available for adoption.

There are excellent resources in our area for healthy kittens of domesticated, friendly mothers, but few options for those born to feral cats. They often need extra medical care in addition to the time they spend in our kitten boot camps. **Peanut** and **Picasso** are recent boot camp graduates, now happily being pampered in their forever home.

Kittens consume an astounding quantity of food and litter, and they usually come to us in poor condition. Senior cats typically require special food and medical care, including extra lab work and dental care. We shop the sales, negotiate

discounts whenever possible, and do our best to stretch every dollar to its limit. But we don't cut corners; we believe our rescued animals deserve top-notch professional veterinary care as well as the TLC they receive from our foster families. We want each one to be in tip-top shape when they leave us to embark on new lives with their forever families, fit as little fiddles and ready for love!

One of our TNR (trap-neuter-return) projects connected us with Health Net Oregon. A few employees organized a fundraiser

to support ARCF foster kitties and other recipients of our care and help, and we were overwhelmed by the results. We picked up a whole carload of food, litter, toys, beds, as well as monetary and gift card donations, and were able to stock up our foster homes and share with our friends who need a little help to keep their beloved pets healthy.

We are also very grateful to Dobbles Family Estate winery for selecting ARCF as a beneficiary

of their quarterly Charitable Giving Program. Their generous donation helped us cover some extraordinary veterinary expenses, including an emergency surgery to repair a serious wound, intensive hospital care for a litter of very sick and fragile kittens, and dental procedures for two senior cats in desperate need.

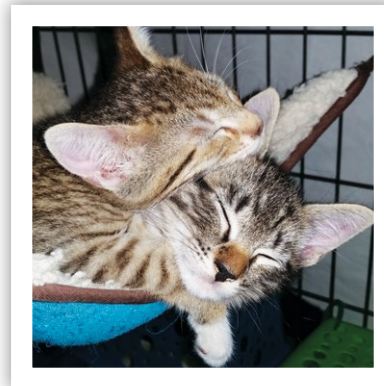
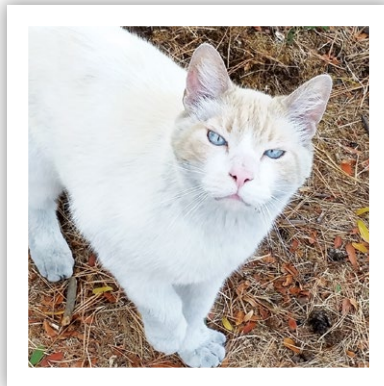
As the year comes

to a close, we hope you will remember ARCF in your charitable giving. We can accept donations of vehicles and, if you shop online, you can easily support our work every time you shop, at no cost to you. Just start your shopping at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), choose ARCF as your charitable organization, and a percentage of your purchases will automatically be donated to ARCF. All donations are tax-deductible. More donation details are located on page 8. Please contact us if you have any questions about how to support our work.

On behalf of Milton, Peanut, Picasso, the "F" kittens, and all the others who depend on us, we send heartfelt thanks to all our supporters. Without you, our valuable work would not be possible.

Happy Winter!

— **Carma Crimins**  
PRESIDENT



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THE "F" KITTENS, PEANUT & PICASSO, MILTON THE FREEWAY CAT

Since ARCF does not currently have a dog adoption program, we are working with other local dog rescue groups who share our goals and philosophies of animal welfare and rescue.

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

# MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

MUTT PAWS PHOTOGRAPHY



## Maeby (formerly Trudy)

Sharp-eyed readers will remember Maeby, then called Trudy, as the cover girl for our fall issue of Animal Talk. Maeby had landed at a high-kill shelter, surrendered following a death in the family that left her homeless. From there she went to a rescue organization that shortly afterward went out of business. Someone familiar with My Way Home Dog Rescue and their mission to save senior dogs saw Maeby advertised on Craigslist and contacted My Way Home asking for help to rescue her again.

Maeby instantly impressed her rescuers with her no-fuss, been-there-done-that attitude. She met dogs, cats, chickens, a pig, and all kinds of people and never complained or even missed a beat. She attended the "Strut Your Mutt" event in September and wore an adorable sunflower get-up for the costume contest. Nothing in the huge crowd of noisy people and excited dogs bothered her in the least.

A couple weeks later, Andrea and Rob saw Maeby in Animal Talk and assumed such a perfect dog would have already been adopted. They applied anyway and set up a meet-and-greet for the first minute everyone was available. They happen to live close to



WITH ANDREA AND ROB

ARCF World HQ in Southeast Portland, and just two days after her adoption, we ran into Maeby and her new dad at our favorite neighborhood coffee shop. What a happy surprise! Maeby was already settling contentedly in with her new family, two-legged and four-legged members alike.

Here's a recent update:

We waited a long time to meet Maeby. Finding a dog that can blend in to a house with cats and chickens (and an extended horse family) isn't easy, so when I read her story in the ARCF newsletter, I just had a feeling that this was it.



WITH HER NEW PAL RILEY

Everyone at My Way Home Dog Rescue was wonderful. Terese (her foster mom) was able to provide so much information that even before meeting her in person, we just knew that Maeby was meant to be with us.

It's hard to remember the exact adoption day as it feels like she has always been a part of our family. Terese had the best description of her as always being on board for a new adventure. That is so true! Whether that means going to the office or barn with me, hanging out on music night with Rob, exploring new territory on our walks, or a quiet day at home—Maeby is happy to do any of it. And we are grateful to be with her.

— Andrea & Rob La Raus

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](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com).

## Violet & Velda

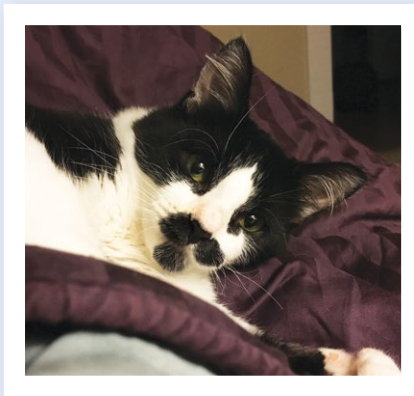
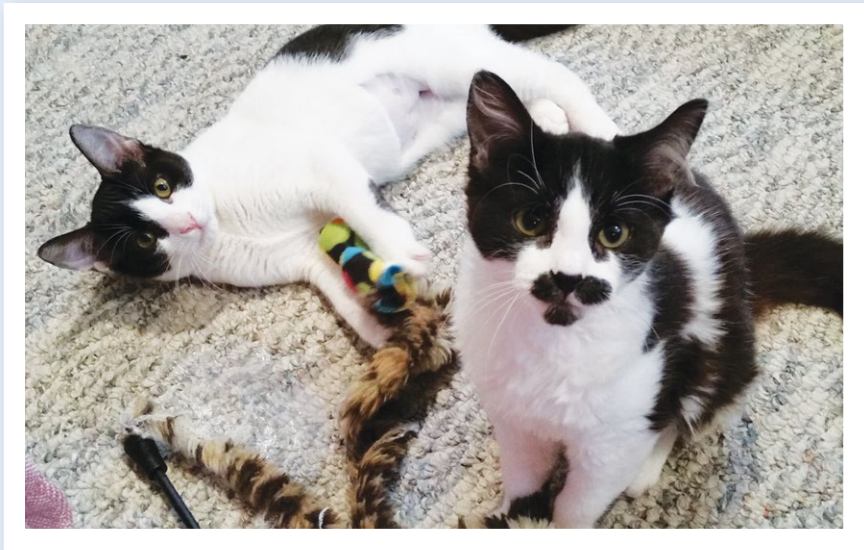
Last summer, we were contacted by our rescue friend Jody who is dedicated to helping cats in her Willamette Valley community. She had seen an ad online placed by a woman who was trying to find new homes for numerous cats, kittens, and puppies. The woman was apparently taking in animals from unknown sources and then giving them away. By the time Jody got there the puppies and some of the cats were already gone, but she was able to rescue three young cats; a pair of adolescent “cow kitten” sisters, and a young adult female with Siamese-y blue eyes. Jody asked for our help with their vet care and finding them new homes. As usual, our foster homes were full, but we agreed to squeeze them in somewhere.

As usual for ARCF kitties, their first stop was to see our vet. All three were as calm and sweet-natured as can be. They all proved to be in good health, and we were happily surprised to find that the Siamese girl was not only spayed, but had a microchip. We called the microchip company right away and discovered her name was Lola and she had been adopted from a shelter in Washington.

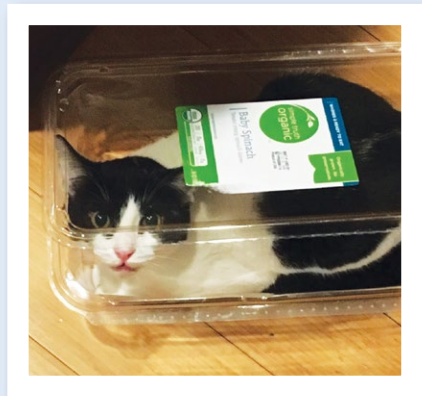
We were looking forward to reuniting Lola with her family, but when we reached them by phone we learned they had moved to Georgia! Lola had been adopted by the family when they were stationed at Bremerton with the navy. After a week in her new home, Lola knocked the new big screen TV to the floor. The TV didn't survive and the husband decreed the cat must be removed from the home, so they gave her to a neighbor. The family was baffled as to how she ended up in Albany, Oregon, and although they wished her well, the family had no desire to be reunited with Lola.

We named the sisters Violet and Velda and once all their vet work was done, we set about finding new homes for them and Lola.

Before long, we heard from Nancy and Duane, who had recently lost a pair



VELDA



VIOLET

of 17-year-old sister cats and were ready for new feline companions to love. We suggested a meeting with Violet and Velda. As expected, they found themselves charmed by this irresistible pair, and soon added them to their family.

We delight in Violet and Velda every day! Multiple times a day, actually. I could go on and on about them, but let me start by saying how sweet and trusting both Violet and Velda have been from the day we took them home. We kept them in the bedroom our first night together and not long after I got into bed that night to read, Violet climbed onto my stomach and fell asleep. We couldn't believe it! Our previous cats that we had for 17 years came from a shelter and it took quite some time for

them to snuggle up. Thanks to ARCF, Violet and Velda were never in a shelter and we see that as a big plus as far as socializing these two goes.

Our favorite game is playing with a bathrobe belt—these kittens can jump high! And they love their Mylar balls, little furry mice, and rattle ball. They are quick to purr and Violet in particular likes to climb in a lap and sprawl on her back, or nestle in the crook of an arm. She also likes to climb in things like bags and boxes (a spinach box, for example). Velda is the fearless explorer.

It's fun watching them play and wrestle together. We're so glad we got two! They are adorable and we adore them! Thanks again for trusting us with the sweetest kittens ever!

— Nancy Kramer and Duane Whitehurst

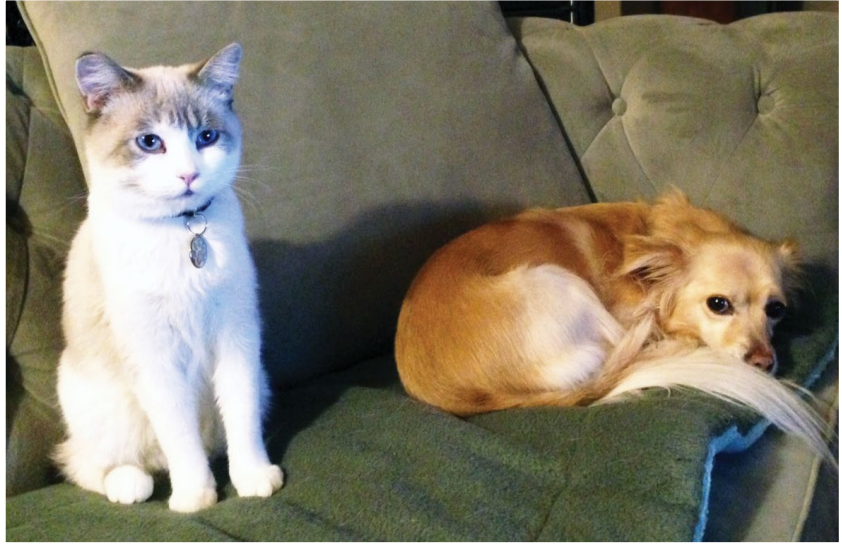
## SUCCESS STORIES

### Lola

*After spending some time with Lola, we understood why she might have knocked over the TV; she's very smart and curious, and we thought she would do best with a feline companion to keep her little mind and body occupied and out of trouble. Because of her quite stunning looks, we received many applications to adopt Lola, and we took our time carefully screening potential adopters.*

*When we got Laurie's application, we were happy to see she had another cat in her home, but were a bit concerned about Laurie's little dog because Lola's prior experience with dogs was unknown. But because she is very confident and social, we decided it was likely to work out well. Laurie came to meet Lola and she agreed it looked promising.*

We are all smitten with Lola. I'm so glad that I took the chance, even though we weren't sure if she had been around dogs before. Honestly, with so many cats available for adoption, your rescue



LOLA & BABETTE

organization really stands out. Your description of Lola was spot on, and gave so many details. It was wonderful meeting her at Anne's house. This increased my confidence in getting a new kitty and knowing that I was adopting the right one

for my family. She is a very special and loving kitty and always makes us laugh. (And she's the best possible with my 4-year-old granddaughter.) Thank you so much!

— Laurie Armistead



COTTON



CAT SHELTERS

### Here are more stories of how we are helping animals in our community every day:

We are often called on to help kind people who care for community cats (those living outdoors and not well-socialized to humans). Recently we received a call from a woman living on a very small income in an RV park. A young cat appeared in the summer and a few days later gave birth to seven kittens. Unfortunately, no one had handled the kittens so they were not socialized, always hungry, and quickly approaching breeding age themselves. The cost of food was a huge burden, and the cat population was about to explode exponentially.

Because the woman lives in Clackamas County, there are no public services available for cats. She called other private shelters and rescues,

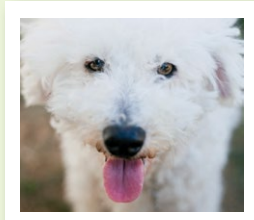
but no one was able to offer help or resources, except to refer her to us.

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon operates a spay/neuter clinic for cats such as these, but their services don't include trapping, transportation, or rehoming. So we made arrangements to trap the cats, take them to FCCO for services, and relocate most of them to new homes. As is often the case, once at the site, we discovered there were more cats needing our help; twelve in all. We found new homes for nine, including this little fluffball we're calling Cotton, and returned three to the caregiver. We also provided shelters for the returned cats, and a supply of food.

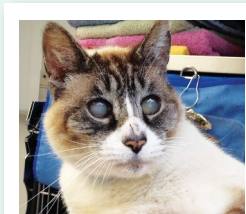
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## IN MEMORIAM

Sweet little **Pierre** was rescued by our friends at My Way Home Dog Rescue in 2012. In addition to the usual “old dog” issues, he was completely deaf, mostly blind, and had a misaligned back end, but his cheery disposition won him many friends. He spent over a year in a MWH foster home and then he was lucky enough to meet Kristin Finstad, a Certified Vet Tech who runs an animal rehabilitation clinic. Pierre soon became Kristin’s assistant, greeting clients and escorting them to the therapy station. It was no secret that he had a few favorites among the patients; he would get quite excited when he sniffed them at the door. Pierre recently suffered a sudden decline in his health and Kristin helped him leave his worn out little body, which had served him well.



**PIERRE**

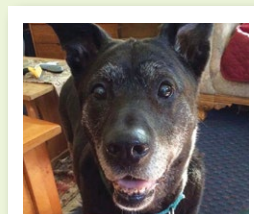


**HELIUM**

In the summer of 2014, we helped a sweet geriatric blind cat named **Helium** who had been surrendered to our local public shelter. Our friend Mary Dowless has a special way with blind kitties and she agreed

to adopt Helium, knowing their time together would not be long. To our delight, Helium spent 18 months basking in the love and warmth of Mary’s home, until a recent evening when he curled up to sleep and just didn’t wake up again.

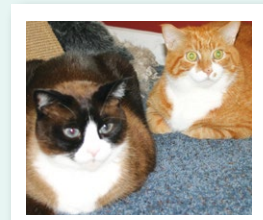
Janice LaJoie shared the sad news that her beloved dog **Macy** came to the end of her days at the age of 15-½ years. Macy had been doing well recently but in the space of a couple days, let Janice know it was her time to go. Her feline companion Blackie was at her side for her final hours and respects were paid by her canine companions Heidi and Toby. Macy is also missed by her housemates Sally McKendrick and Leon Kitty.



**MACY**

*We recently received this note from Amy Martinez Starke:*

In September 2000, our family adopted two kittens from ARCF and named them **Aries** and **Orion**. Orange tabby Orion looked very much like the Orion who carried a galaxy on his collar in the movie, *Men in Black*. He was an affectionate lap cat, content to soak up anybody’s body heat. Aries, who looked Siamese, was the more adventurous of the two and the usual instigator of numerous escape attempts to the tantalizing but forbidden outdoors, one of which landed them both trapped on a hot aluminum roof one summer night.



**ARIES AND ORION**

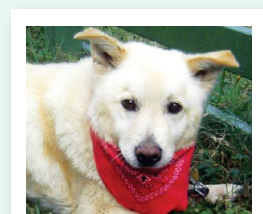
They were later joined in the family by Boris the Dog, whom they mostly tolerated but were willing to give an occasional tap on the nose when he became too frisky or annoying.

Both Boris and Aries departed us in the past 18 months, leaving Orion to rule the house. At first he roamed the house at night calling for his brother, but he eventually seemed to resign himself to his situation.

Orion spent his remaining months in declining health mostly on our laps listening to Dad write music or helping with email correspondence, always giving his approval with his constant purr.

John Briggs and Jeff Feiffer made a donation in memory of **Nikki**, Shelly Jones’ sweet gray tabby tripod kitty. Nikki overcame multiple challenges in her early life and had been through at least two homes before fortune turned and brought her to Shelley. Nikki is also greatly missed by her feline brother Jeffster.

**Conner** is another dog rescued from a high-kill shelter by My Way Home at the age of about 13 years. He was battered and bruised, and although Conner wasn’t likely to live many more dog years, MWH agreed to take him in and make his remaining days as comfortable



**CONNOR**

as possible. One day after arriving at the rescue, Conner met Lenore Bijan and her dog Sasha. It was love at first sight for all, and Conner blossomed in the best retirement home he could have hoped for. Sadly, less than a year later Connor collapsed while out on a walk and that turned out to be his last day in this world. His loss leaves a large hole in his little family.

## SUCCESS STORIES



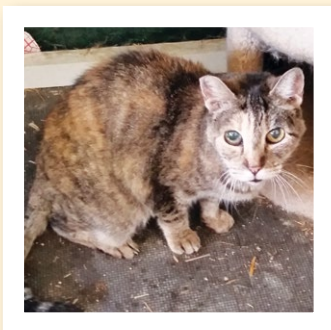
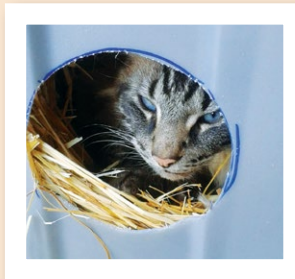
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A similar situation came to our attention in another part of Clackamas County, however at this location there were 30+ cats being fed by several tenants. There were two litters of kittens, including the “C” litter, born under one of the buildings. Our volunteers explained the trapping

process and trained the caregivers in “pre-baiting”—feeding in the traps to get the cats acclimated prior to actual trapping. With the enthusiastic support and cooperation of the caregivers, we were able to catch all the cats within three days.

We transported the 26 adult cats to the FCCO clinic, including holding and caring for them overnight before and after their appointments. After recovery, they were returned to their caregivers, and the seven kittens stayed in our boot camp. Soon they will be placed in happy homes as pampered indoor pets. It’s not hard to imagine how much the cat population would have grown without our assistance. If you know someone feeding a stray cat or two (or 20!) please get in touch, we want to help.

A young woman contacted us asking for flea treatment for her cat. Her money had run out before the end of the month, and her cat was miserable. We arranged to deliver the medicine, and discovered her kitty still needed to be spayed. We connected her with Spay & Save, a program which offers free or very low-cost services in our area. She also cares for a sweet male cat who isn’t allowed inside because of his poor house manners. We brought flea treatment for him too, as well as a small shelter to tuck away on the front porch where he likes to hang out. Within minutes, his happy owner sent us this photo of RickyBobby enjoying his new bungalow, out of the wind and rain.



Many years ago, we helped a caregiver in SE Portland TNR (trap-neuter-return) the large colony of cats that roamed between his apartment building and others nearby. No new kittens were born after that, and over time the colony dwindled from 20+ to just a few.

Recently a new property manager prohibited the tenants from feeding the cats, so they asked for our help in trapping and relocating the remaining few. Grandma Kitty was already a senior lady when we trapped her the first time, and we

didn’t think she’d survive another winter living outdoors, even with her own insulated shelter. She also wasn’t terribly fond of her colony mates who tended to push her to the back of the chow line. So we brought her to an ARCF foster home, where she has her own enclosure including a heated bed, maid service, and meals delivered twice a day. She’ll stay with us until she decides her work here is done.

## ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

September-October-November: We placed 20 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

Veterinary Fees: \$9,115.59\*  
Food/Supplies: \$1,705.97  
Fundraising \$905.44  
Education/Outreach: \$985.43

\* These expenses include veterinary care for the pets of Portland’s homeless. We also had expenses for injured and sick pets and emergency vet visits.

## 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.

### EDITOR

Carma Crimins

### GRAPHICS/LAYOUT

Molly Henty, [www.mollyhenty.com](http://www.mollyhenty.com)

### 2015 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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### Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc.

PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293

503-402-8692

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

[arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org)

Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used exclusively for veterinary care, food, and publishing the quarterly newsletter, *Animal Talk*. Volunteers provide good temporary homes until the animals are placed in responsible, permanent homes.

## THINGS WE LIKE

After 40 years as a registered charitable organization, ARCF continues to depend on dedicated volunteers and generous donors to provide care for homeless, helpless, and voiceless animals in our community.

Most of our time and resources are spent helping cats in the community who have no other options, and that requires a team of resourceful cat wranglers and kitten tamers.

Sometimes the trickiest part of helping stray cats is catching them, and we are lucky to have **Courtney Argo**, **Lori Sharp**, and **Val Walker**, our “have traps, will travel” experts. We also count on these three to run our feral kitten boot camps. Our furry little recruits go in feisty and come out finely tuned and ready for their future positions as pampered indoor pets.

**Joey Macca** and **Terri Hass Rise** stepped in to help with a couple of crucial trapping projects. Our team took a big hit when **Eric Phelps** moved away, but we know his skills are being put to good use at Brother Wolf Animal Rescue in Asheville, North Carolina.

In addition to their valuable role fostering kittens and representing ARCF at our outreach events, **Jen Hansen & Roger Anderson** helped us build a desperately needed new website. If you haven't seen it yet, take a look at [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).

**Jess Lundie** and **Amanda Ferguson** joined our kitten foster team just when the incoming wave reached its peak and we really needed their help.

We rely on **Anne Malinowski's** skills and experience as a foster mom for kittens and adult cats, and she joined us this year as a board member. **Kirk Kiggins** heads up our outreach team, with help from **Heidi Hart-Zorin**, **Dave Zorin**, and **Leah Goodman**.

Some of the feral cats we trap and neuter can't be returned to their homes for various reasons. **Wilma Perez-Leon** helps us by caring for those cats while we work on finding safe homes where they can live out their lives.

Special thanks to **Scott Tobias** who built a couple of feeding stations that made a world of difference for the community cats who now enjoy dining under cover during our long, wet winter.

We count on **Debbie Norr** and **Gloria Garbutt** to help with the not-very-glamorous work of getting 1000+ copies of this newsletter stuffed, sealed, labeled, sorted, and mailed every quarter. **Sally Needham**, **Susan Phipps**, **Nancy Schroeter**, and **Roz Simon** help deliver the 1000+ copies that go directly to locations in our community. **Marian Kerr** is another member of the “paper route” team. Marian and Debbie are both joining us as board members for the coming year.

Our friends at **Furever Pets** and **Healthy Pets NW** (Woodstock location) support us with food drives, donations, and outreach events.

We also depend on these excellent

veterinarians who support our work: **Cat Hospital of Portland**, **Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon**, **VCA North Portland Veterinary Hospital**, and **Stark St. Animal Hospital**.

**Dr. Paul Schertie** and his ophthalmology team at **VCA Southeast Portland Veterinary Hospital** donated surgeries that changed the lives of two of our rescued cats, Bert and Large Carl.

And finally, we are grateful to **Nancy Chavez** for her years volunteering with ARCF as a dedicated rescuer, foster mom, and board member. She is stepping down to a well-deserved retirement. We know her cats will enjoy having Nancy all to themselves again.



FIRST DAY OF BOOT CAMP  
AT AMANDA'S HOUSE

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