

FEATURED CAT Simon

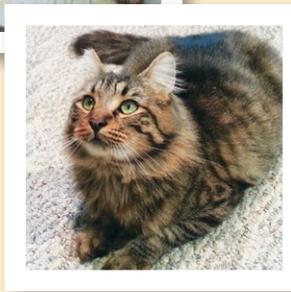
Are you dreaming of a big, handsome, fluffy cat to curl up next to you on the couch and sleep with you every night? Simon could be your guy.

Simon showed up a few months ago at a colony of feral cats cared for by an ARCF volunteer. He was very skittish at first, so we used a humane trap to capture and transport him to the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon for neutering and vaccines. After he was returned, Simon became more relaxed and confident and within a few weeks he was rushing to greet his "food lady" each day. At that point we realized that Simon wasn't feral but had probably strayed from his home as a young tomcat looking for love, and had grown wary living on his own. We brought him to our foster home and started our usual process of attempting to find his owner. After a month with no response to our efforts, we were ready to find the perfect forever family for Simon.

When we first met Simon, he appeared to be about a year old and fully grown. But as the months went by, he just kept growing and growing into those enormous feet and ears. He has the looks of a Maine Coon, a breed that continues to grow for as



SIMON THEN



SIMON NOW

much as a year longer than most other cats. So we think Simon is now about 18 months old, and will probably continue to grow a bit more. He has a very good appetite, but isn't food-obsessed or overweight.

In our foster home, Simon made it clear that he gets lonesome when left alone for long periods.

He loves people, and was a great companion to the foster kittens sharing his accommodations. He played happily and gently with them for hours. Basically, he is just a giant kitten—he loves tunnels, the trackball, catnip mice, crinkle balls, spiders, bits of string, and anything else that might be made into a toy.

He gets along well with the adult cats in his current foster home and is getting to know the big cat-friendly dog who lives there. He is in excellent health and has no bad habits.

Simon has been neutered and microchipped, tested negative for FeLV/FIV, and is up to date on vaccines. His adoption fee is \$80. To learn more about Simon or any of our cats for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

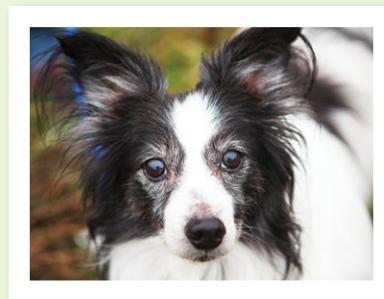
FEATURED DOG Mickey

We don't have to tell you how adorable Mickey is—just take a look at that face! This little Papillon-mix gentleman has spent most of his life with a loving family, but they are no longer able to care for Mickey, so he's in a foster home while we look for his forever family.

Because he has been so well-loved, Mickey will adapt easily to a new home and form an instant love connection (especially if there is a lap available at all times!). His house manners are excellent, and he gets along with dogs, cats, and older kids.

Mickey is 11 years old, and weighs about 20 lbs. As with all senior dogs, Mickey will be a devoted and grateful companion. He just

wants to shower unconditional love on his people and he expects very little in return: good food, a soft, warm bed, and lots of love. His health is excellent except for a thyroid condition which requires two pills a day. He takes them easily in food and the cost is less than \$20 per month.



All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and are current on vaccines. Mickey's adoption fee of \$200 includes:

leash, collar, blanket, food sample, and a copy of *Love Has No Age Limit: Welcoming an Adopted Dog into Your Home*, by Patricia McConnell.

If you are interested in meeting Mickey, contact Cheryl at cayoshioka@aol.com or 503-974-4944.

From the President's Desk

It's been a very busy winter here at ARCF World HQ! We gathered the usual late fall crop of kittens, which helped us have our best adoption day ever: eight kittens adopted on one day in January! They went to their new homes in pairs, but still it was a good feeling to meet those wonderful families and know that our precious charges were going to be loved and cherished forever.

On Valentine's Day we held our first-ever fundraiser, "Whiskers, Wags and Wine," and we're pleased to say it was a very congenial evening and a great success. We have many to thank, first and foremost Olga Tuttle, who organized the event. She and her husband Barnaby are "permanent foster" parents to our little dog Sophie. They also own Teutonic Wine Company, so Olga was able to arrange for the donation of wines and a venue. In addition to Teutonic, wines were donated by Division Winemaking Company, Guild Winemakers, and Love & Squalor. Our venue host was Southeast Wine Collective, who made our guests and us feel very welcome as we enjoyed excellent wines, with all proceeds from the wine sales going to support ARCF.

Pix Pâtisserie and Missionary Chocolates donated exquisite truffles. Gift baskets for the raffle were provided by Furever Pets, Townhouse Pet Care, and Petco Unleashed (Powell Blvd. store). We are grateful to all of our sponsors and encourage you to remember them when making your wine, chocolate, and pet care purchases.

We finished up our TNR (trap-neuter-return) project at Clairmont Mobile Home Park in December, with the capture of **Grandpa**, the wily veteran who had eluded our traps on all previous visits. Kudos to volunteer Courtney Argo who kept changing up her trapping technique until she hit on the right formula, and to Carol De Peel, Grandpa's dedicated caregiver, who yanked the string at just the right moment to drop the trap.

Our next TNR project will be a 260-unit apartment complex in Oregon City. We'll start by going door to door and chatting with people who are feeding outdoor cats. Once we get a rough idea of the number of cats and where they are being fed, we'll coordinate with the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon for spay/neuter appointments and get busy trapping. We'll report back with our results!

We have a feral cat trapper friend in the Willamette Valley who does a great job catching every stray cat needing spay/neuter surgery for miles around on a very tight budget. One of her clients,

Bronco Billy, turned out to be a friendly cat with a very strange looking nose. She described it as a "Durante Schnozz" and asked if we could help provide some vet care to get it checked out. It turns out that Billy has a classic case of Cryptococcus fungal infection. The fungus is found in bird droppings and although somewhat rare, does occasionally affect cats in this way. Fortunately it's not a life-threatening condition, but the treatment requires twice a day medication—for a minimum of four months and possibly up to a year or even more! So Bronco Billy will be with us for a while. Fortunately he is very sweet and he's not contagious to other cats.

And he has the most beautiful and unusual coat—each hair is pure white underneath and black on top.

Sometimes our mission is a sad one: we received a call from Monica, very worried about her cat Sparkles, who was having trouble breathing and didn't want to be touched; not like her at all. Monica's income doesn't allow for any extras, and she didn't have the funds to pay for a vet exam, let alone any treatment. Our volunteer transported Sparkles to the vet, where an exam showed that Sparkles had a large mass pushing on her lungs. Treatment was not possible, so together we made the decision to gently end her life. Monica was heartbroken, but no amount of money could have saved Sparkles and Monica was grateful to know her suffering was over.

We continue to support clients of PAW (Portland Animal

Welfare) Team, the organization providing services to pets of Portland's homeless and very low income population. PAW Team volunteers operate monthly clinics where pets can be examined and receive basic services, but when there's a need for more extensive care, ARCF helps with the cost. One of those patients was little **Cisco**, a senior Chihuahua whose entire mouth was horribly infected and painful. His dental treatment involved extraction of most of his teeth, the remaining ones were cleaned, and Cisco can now spend his golden years pain-free.

Thanks to all who read our newsletter, adopt our cats, and support our mission.

Happy Spring!

— **Carma Crimins**
PRESIDENT



GRANDPA



CISCO



BILLY

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

Mona

Our regular readers will no doubt remember "Adorable Mona of the Awesome Underbite" from our Fall 2013 newsletter. Is that not an unforgettable face? Mona, her mom, and three siblings were found living under an abandoned house in California. No one knows how they got there or what their life was like before they were found, but a Good Samaritan helped them along the road to Oregon and My Way Home Dog Rescue.

Mona's mom (Opal) and her brother (Oscar) had pretty good social skills and they were adopted quickly. Mona and her sisters Leona and Fiona (known collectively as the "Onas"),

needed more time in patient, loving foster homes to learn how to live with people again. Progress came in small increments, but Mona was eager to please and learned well. After a year, she was finally ready to meet the world and let her forever family find her. Mona loves and learns from other dogs and she definitely needed a home with another dog or two for continued guidance and confidence building.



LISA AND DAUGHTER LILLY, WITH MONA AND SADIE

Many applications were submitted for Mona, but none were just right until one day an application arrived from the Snider family. Phone conversations followed, and soon

Mona was taken to meet the family, including the resident dog and cats. It seemed like a perfect match all the way around. Here is an update from her new family:

My husband and I had been thinking of getting a companion for our dog Sadie. She seemed a bit lonely with only the cats for company, and had some issues at the dog park (especially with big dogs). After spending several days

looking online at different dogs and websites I came across My Way Home. I read each bio and the third one down was Mona. Her face is what stole my heart. Mona had everything that we required: gets along with other dogs, cats, and children; housebroken; easy going.

Mona has fit in perfectly. Sadie is in love with her and the two are inseparable. Mona is great with our indoor cats and my daughter Lilly adores her. She's got quite the personality and my favorite thing about her is that when she's completely content (mainly when she's lying on me in bed) she moans. It was the best decision we could have made getting a second dog and we are so lucky to have found Mona. We all love her so much.

— Lisa, Mike, and Lilly Snider

Mona is a *Portlandia* Dog!

During her time in foster care, Mona answered an audition call for *Portlandia*, a TV show filmed on location in Portland. The producers were looking for uniquely beautiful dogs, and Mona not only got a callback, she will appear in an episode airing in May. We'll give you the exact date as soon as we find out!

PHOTOS OF MONA BY LISA TESO

Ambrose & MingMei (formerly Dallas and Delta)

Just before Thanksgiving we were asked for help with a very sweet mother cat, her seven baby kittens, and her two kittens from a previous litter, about five months old. The story goes that their owner was going “out of town for a few days” and asked a neighbor to care for them until he got back. Days went by, and more days went by, and eventually the neighbor got word that the owner had moved to Alaska and wasn’t coming back. We don’t know the real story and probably never will, but no matter where they had come from, it was clear that the neighbor caring for the cats was overwhelmed.

Our rescue friend Jody picked up the furry family and delivered them to the Cat Hospital of Portland, where all were thoroughly examined, tested, and treated. They were a bit malnourished and full of parasites, but otherwise healthy and so very sweet. We were at “D” in our alphabetical naming system, so momcat was named Doreen, and the little ones were Dallas, Denali, Denver, Dublin, Dewey, Dijon, and Delta. The two teenagers were called Elton and Ernie. Sadly, Dewey was weak and fading fast when he arrived at the hospital, and in spite of supportive care, he did not survive the first 24 hours. Doreen was a conscientious and caring mother, but giving birth and raising a family of seven is very debilitating and Mother Nature has a way of lessening the load.

The rest of the kittens responded very well and their next stop was our foster home. After the first of the year, Doreen and all the kittens were spayed or neutered, healthy, and ready for their forever homes. We had no shortage of applications and within a week, all had been adopted.

Recently we received these updates from MingMei and Ambrose and their new family:



DOREEN & THE LITTLE DS



AMBROSE (LEFT) AND MINGMEI



SNUGGLES!

We wanted to give you an update on how we are doing. All told, we settled in very quickly and are very proud and happy with our new domain: great places to sleep, toys to play with, and doting humans catering to our every whim—what could be better? Of course, we are particularly fond of the “penthouse” in the highest part of our new kitty condo, and curl up there often together to sleep.

We also follow the middle sized human (13-year-old daughter Mira) everywhere and we have even become rather fond of the tiny human (4-year-old Alena) who will play “chase the prey on the stick” for hours on end with us.

Having fewer siblings around has made us bolder and less cautious. Whenever we are not playing at 90 miles an hour, we are passed out sleeping—either cuddling with each other, or curled up on human laps which are surprisingly warm and comfortable. Thanks for finding us such a good home!

— **MingMei & Ambrose**

We are so happy with Ambrose and MingMei! Already it is impossible to imagine our home without them. It is so great having siblings that get along so well. They do everything together: sleep, play, grooming, exploring. As indoor cats, it’s so

important to know that they have a constant source of entertainment and affection! Siblings are definitely the way to go!

Thanks for everything.

— **Tabitha, Thomas, Mira, and Alena Marsh**

Bubbles (formerly Wilma)

As part of our National Feral Cat Day TNR project at a mobile home park in Oregon City we trapped, neutered, and returned more than 55 adult cats who were roaming the park. We also rescued several litters of kittens, including the “W” litter, Wilma, Willow, and Wylie. They were barely six weeks old but very food motivated, so they progressed quickly at our kitten boot camp. Wylie grew like a sprout and was off to his forever home, but the girls needed a little more time to catch up.

When they were finally ready, we introduced them to Blair, who had recently lost one of her dogs to old age, and was ready to add some kitten energy to her family. She still had Chase, another mild-mannered senior dog.

The girls were a bit shy at their first meeting, but Blair was patient and won them over. Things went pretty well for a week or two, then Ricky (formerly Willow) suddenly became very lethargic and weak. She was so ill that diagnosis was difficult and treatment nearly impossible. After heart-wrenching discussions, we followed the vet’s recommendation and precious Ricky was humanely euthanized.

It was a particularly harsh blow to Blair, still recovering from the loss of her dog. Also, we were worried that Bubbles (formerly Wilma) might suffer from whatever had claimed Ricky, so we have been monitoring her health carefully. She is doing well now and Blair sent us this update:

My dog Stuart passed away last November. I’d always had two dogs around, so things were pretty lonely and I decided to look for a kitty to help fill the hole Stuart left. One night while perusing the internet, I stumbled across Willow and Wilma and instantly fell in love.

When the girls, now named Ricky and Bubbles, first came home, Ricky was the curious, outgoing kitty while Bubbles was more quiet and reserved. It wasn’t unusual for Ricky to hang out all day on the couch with Chase and me while

Bubbles kept to herself in the “kitty room.” Unfortunately, the girls had some serious tummy trouble that turned out to be far more serious than just tummy trouble in sweet Ricky’s case. Ricky passed away a couple weeks after coming home.

We were so worried how Bubbles would react, since she and Ricky were so close and since she had always been the shyer kitty. It was a rough start, but after a couple of days she really started to come out of her shell and lean on me more to keep her company without her sister around. I’m

proud to report that these days she is as kooky and energetic as any other kitten. She has really made the house her own.

She loves to tease Chase, the poor old guy. Chase is mostly indifferent to this furry little creature that loves to crawl all over him and sneak his food. Bubbles is an excellent snuggler and so talkative! She is

certainly not shy about giving me the business when she sees her food dish getting a little low.

It started out as a really sad story, but now that she’s the only kitty, Bubbles is really coming into her own. I call her my little beauty—you can see why. She is such a gorgeous kitty. And I can’t help but laugh at her antics. We miss Ricky and Stuart every day, but are overjoyed to have Bubbles as part of our family.

— Blair McCrory



BUBBLES (LEFT) AND RICKY: DAY 1 OF BOOT CAMP



BUBBLES AND HER DOG CHASE

Max & Morris (formerly Percy & Perry)

Last spring we were called to help TNR a colony of about 70 feral cats in southeast Portland. Soon after we started trapping, a litter of 5-week-old kittens appeared. They didn't look like any of the other cats in the colony and they immediately ran up to our volunteers to be picked up and fed. A neighbor told us that a passerby had dropped the kittens there a few days before, assuming



MAX & MORRIS ARE RESCUED

that because there were already so many cats that they would be fed and cared for.

We had already rescued litters "A" through "O" at that point in the year, so we gave this litter "P" names and hustled them off to the vet. After undergoing exams and the usual rescued

kitten treatments for parasites and goopy eyes, Parker, Paisley, Percy, and Perry settled in to our foster home. In our Fall 2013 issue we told you about Parker and Paisley, and now we have this update from Max and Morris, kindly transcribed and sent to us by their new parents, April and Jerry Swan.

Just wanted to let you know we are doing fine. We rule this place. Mom and Dad changed our names and we are answering to the new names now. Mom and Dad are taking good care of us. We have a scratching post and toys. Dad got Da Bird toy for us and we play with it every night for about fifteen minutes before lights out.



MAX & MORRIS ARE ADOPTED

Thank you for taking care of us. We think we will live well here.

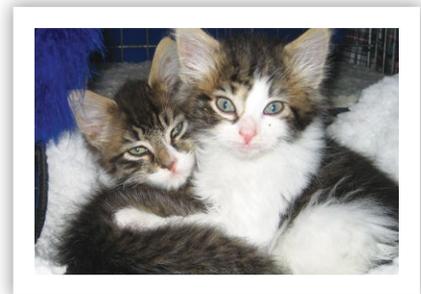
Love, Max and Morris

**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



ROGER & DENISE

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 time-consuming 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:
<http://bit.ly/1pBKk2H>

Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon:
503-797-2606
www.feralcats.com

IN MEMORIAM

Jackie Morrow lost her treasured Golden Retriever **Tulip** to cancer at the far-too-young age of eight years. They were both lucky that Tulip was allowed to come to work with Jackie for most of her life. Tulip was sweet, beautiful, and devoted. She is deeply missed and left a huge hole in her small family.



TULIP



SAVANNAH

Savannah came to ARCF almost four years ago when she lost her home and family to job loss and foreclosure. Her medical care had been terribly neglected, but Savannah was still a very spunky senior citizen, and rather fussy about her housemates—she wanted nothing to do with children and tolerated absolutely no other cats within sight, sound, or smell of her highly refined self. It took almost three years in our foster home, but Savannah finally found the perfect home with Catherine Chilton. Sadly, they only had about nine months together before Savannah became ill with kidney failure and faded very quickly. But those months were truly golden for both Catherine and Savannah; we could not have hoped for a better match.

Monkey was another ARCF foster cat who kept getting passed over for adoption after she came to us in 2006. She was not a traditional beauty and was a little obsessive in her habits, but Monkey was a great companion and caretaker for the other foster cats in her home. She eventually became a “permanent foster” with Kate Davenport, who was heartbroken when Monkey succumbed to sudden kidney failure. Monkey had a huge personality and was a troublemaker to the end. She is sorely missed by everyone in the house, which is annoyingly peaceful without her.



MONKEY



MILLIE

Dear old **Millie** was rescued two years ago when our volunteer saw her sitting day after day on a sidewalk near a very busy street. She was very old and not well, but our friends Wyonia and Dwight Conkle were ready to take Millie into their home and provide care for whatever time she had left. We didn't expect it would be more than a few weeks, but under their expert care, Millie made a miraculous turnaround. She gained weight and energy, and she thrived until just before Christmas when her system began shutting down. Millie was brave and determined, and thanks to

Wyonia and Dwight, she lived her last years in peace and comfort, surrounded by love.

Our friends at My Way Home Dog Rescue lost sweet **Phoebe**, a blind, ten year old Shar Pei dog. Her former family left her at a public shelter because they no longer wanted her in her old age. Volunteers at the shelter mobilized resources to get Phoebe to a safe place to live out her golden years. Phoebe's trusting and easygoing nature captivated all who met her. Sadly, her time with My Way Home was unexpectedly cut short but her foster family is deeply grateful they were able to lavish her with love and attention during those last few weeks, and that she did not die alone in a shelter.



PHOEBE

We were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of **Stretch**, a rescued Greyhound who was the constant companion and co-therapist of Richard Nudelman. Not only did Stretch provide a grace note to every occasion with his elegant presence, but Richard is convinced that many of his clients came for counseling services only because they wanted to spend an hour visiting with Stretch. His loss is enormous to Richard and his family, and to all his friends and clients who can't imagine seeing Richard without Stretch at his side.

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

December-January-February: We placed 17 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

Veterinary Fees: \$6,538.78*
Advertising/Outreach: \$219.66
Food/supplies: \$660.83**
Newsletter: \$1,469.00

* 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.

** Most volunteers pay for food and litter for the animals they care for as their contribution to the cause.

AnimalTalk

ANIMAL TALK is a quarterly newsletter published by Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., and printed by Natural Press in Portland.

Our Mission: To rescue, shelter, and care for homeless animals and place them in permanent, responsible homes; to promote and support spay/neuter for all companion animals.

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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.

Winter Wardrobe Accessories

When we came across this photo of gorgeous dogs in adorable reindeer hats, we had to find out more about them. The hats, as well as collars, coats, and other accessories, are sold to raise funds for an organization in Belgium called Greyhounds in Distress. Their mission is to save abused and abandoned greyhounds after their racing or hunting careers are over. We immediately inquired about how to purchase the reindeer hats, and were told that because the photo had gone viral on the internet, the knitters were overwhelmed with orders and could not promise

delivery any time soon. But the demand was so great that they agreed to translate the pattern into English for customers here. Since then, they have caught up with their orders and the reindeer hats are once again available to purchase. Orders are accepted and filled through their Facebook page, facebook.com/pages/Coll-your-Dog/481672018562164. We highly recommend a visit to this site, if only to see photos of gorgeous rescued dogs in stunning attire.

PHOTO BY PAUL CROES



DIY Project: Cat Puzzle Box

Here's a great find from a blog called The Glam Cat. This puzzle box is easy to make, and costs only a couple dollars. Basic instructions: cut a few holes in the top of a plastic food storage container, put some of your cat's favorite toys, treats, and maybe a little fresh catnip inside and then watch him try to figure out how to extricate them. Make sure to include one or two toys that make noise, like a crinkle ball or something with a bell attached. We've seen store-bought variations on this theme, made of cardboard or even real wood, but we think it's more fun when the cats can see the goodies inside the box and the price can't be beat. Also this version can go in the dishwasher when needed. For more detailed instructions, see theglamcat.blogspot.com.

YES! I want to help

Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., depends entirely on your donations. Our work includes rescue, medical aid, food and shelter, humane education, neutering/spaying, and more. All workers are volunteers. Your contribution goes directly to help the animals. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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.

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

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