

## FEATURED CAT Michael

This handsome gent was left behind in Clackamas County when his people lost their home. Michael and the other cats in the family were left to scavenge a living from garbage cans and occasional handouts, until a kind neighbor started feeding them regularly. One by one the cats were captured and placed in new homes after vet care was provided.

Michael seemed a little worse for wear—even more than the others; he was a raggedy mess and had something wrong with his eyes, but wouldn't allow anyone to touch him to get a closer look. Eventually he, too, was trapped, and Michael's foster mom soon discovered a loving lap cat starving for affection under the alley cat exterior.

The vet determined that Michael is about 10 years old and had some very painful conditions. The problem with his

eyes was entropion, a painful condition where the eyelid rolls inward, causing eyelashes to continually rub against the eyeball. Not only is it painful, it causes weepy eyes and obscured vision. Michael also had some infected and abscessed teeth that needed extraction, and his coat was such a mess that a lion shave was the only way to get him properly cleaned up.

We set about making Michael feel better. After his neuter surgery, we took care of his dental issues, and then he had a third surgery to correct the entropion. Imagine being able to eat without pain and see the world clearly for the first time in many years! His confidence grew, and he seems to be entering a second kittenhood despite his age and battle scars from a rough life. Look at the ear floofs! And the whiskers!

Michael adores being with his people and will run to greet them at the door. He wants a forever family who will introduce him to their friends, play



cool games, and enjoy getting special "Michael kisses" in return. We don't know his history with dogs, but we think he would enjoy the company of another easygoing feline.

Michael has been neutered, is up-to-date on vaccines and has tested negative for FeLV/FIV. His adoption fee is \$80. To learn more about Michael 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 Ellen

Sweet senior Ellen was first seen in desperate straits: she was one of more than 80 dogs discovered in a hoarder situation in California.

Because public shelters in that area are always overflowing with stray and unwanted animals, local volunteers joined forces to rescue dogs from this situation and move them directly to safety, bypassing the high-kill shelter system. My Way Home Dog Rescue committed to providing a safe home and necessary vet care for Ellen, so she began her journey to Oregon.

Ellen arrived safely and found her place among the other oldsters in her foster home. She was a bit overwhelmed by having unlimited food and a safe place to rest for the first time in her life, and she was very polite and careful not to cause any bother. But she was carrying a little secret: her vet exam revealed that Ellen was pregnant with four

pups, at the age of 11 years! Sadly, one of the pups did not survive, but the other three thrived and are living happily ever after in their forever homes.

Now it's time for Ellen to find the family who will make her golden years the best ever. She prefers being around calm and quiet adults, or older kids who will respect her needs. She gets along fine with other dogs, but has not been tested with cats.

Ellen has been spayed, microchipped, and is current on vaccines and flea control. The adoption fee of \$300 includes leash, collar, blanket, and food sample. If you are interested in meeting Ellen, please send an email to [mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com) or call 503-974-4944.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We're fortunate to have good resources in our area for companion animals, including low-cost spay and neuter services, shelters, and rescue groups. But there are many situations that fall outside the mission of those organizations and that's where ARCF comes in to help.

We often work with other organizations to resolve difficult situations, as we did when we were connected with residents of a big apartment complex in Clackamas County who needed help with abandoned cats living around their buildings, including at least five litters of kittens born recently. The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) provides spay/neuter services at their donation-based clinic, but they don't have resources for organizing TNR (trap-neuter-return) projects and transporting cats to the clinic.

Our volunteers met with the property manager to explain the program and obtain approval to come onto the property and trap the cats. Then we canvassed the complex, hanging a flyer on each door and talking to tenants to determine the number of cats we would be handling and where they were being fed. We made appointments at FCCO, set trapping dates, and a couple weeks later all the kittens (including **Gertie** and the rest of the "G" litter) were in our foster homes going through "boot camp" to get them ready for adoption. More than a dozen adult cats were returned to the property after their surgeries, where their caregivers will continue to provide food, water, and shelter for the remainder of each cat's life.

Another call came from a man whose wife had died, and even after several months her beloved cat remained hunkered under her bed, coming out only at night to eat and use the litter box. No one in the family was able to touch the cat, and they just wanted him gone. No organization would come to help catch and care for him, so our volunteer went to assess the situation and within a few days **Shadow** was trapped and on his way to our vet. He is a sweet boy, about 10 years old, but obviously traumatized by his experience. After his immediate needs were attended to, we found a soft landing for him with our friend Mary Dowless, where he will be allowed to adjust to his new family at his own pace.

In another part of town, a senior gentleman passed away, leaving a young momcat, her two kittens, and a very old male



FROM TOP: **GERTIE**; **SHADOW**;  
**GRANDPA**; **GANG OF 7**

cat to fend for themselves. The gentleman's only remaining family lives abroad, so kind neighbors stepped in to provide food and water for the cats for several months until a probate attorney was retained by the family to settle the estate. The attorney realized the cats needed a more permanent solution, and through a series of connections, she found ARCF. Our volunteer set up a trapping schedule and within a week all were safely off the street.

Momcat was not well socialized, so we helped her find safe placement as a barn cat. The kittens were placed with an adopter who was prepared to invest the time and patience necessary to socialize them to living indoors with people. **Grandpa** cat was a different story; he is a sweet old gent who doesn't really have the street smarts to take care of himself very well. He has only four teeth, some digestive issues, and other conditions common to elderly felines, but he's cleaned up well and is going to make some lucky person a devoted and easygoing companion.

Sometimes the best service we can offer is to connect the right resources and let them finish the job. We received a call from a resident of an RV park about an abandoned cat with seven kittens, roaming the park for handouts. With no local resources available and our foster homes full, we reached out to our friends at The Pixie Project, who would have a foster home available in a couple days. Our friend Tracee was ready and willing to fulfill transportation needs and the cats were quickly settled in temporary custody with us. Just a few days later the momma cat and her **Gang of 7** were off to The Pixie Project and their new life.

Most kittens born outdoors have issues that require multiple vet visits, in addition to the high quality food and supplements we provide. The older cats we rescue often suffer from "deferred maintenance"—the costs of dental care, lab tests, and other diagnostic procedures add up quickly, in addition to the routine vaccinations and spay/neuter surgery each one receives prior to adoption.

We are so grateful to our generous donors, who allow us to take on these projects and help the animals who have no one else. Every success story we share with you is made possible by our kind and compassionate supporters.

Happy Fall!

—Carma Crimins, President

*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

## Rosie, Bubbles, & Lolo

Any rescuer will tell you the worst week of the year is around the 4th of July. Public shelters are already overloaded with unwanted animals and as soon as the fireworks start, terrified animals run from their homes and shelters need to make room for new arrivals brought in by the good Samaritans who find them. In areas with limited resources and low adoption rates, this means many adoptable animals will not be saved.

My Way Home Dog Rescue was contacted by a volunteer at a public shelter about three dogs that had come in just before July 4th. Upon seeing their photo and realizing their lives depended on leaving the shelter immediately,

MWH agreed to take all three dogs. As usual, they needed veterinary care, including spay surgeries. Two months later, each of these lucky dogs has found her forever family.

Amber and her family connected with MWH through Denise, a long-time foster volunteer. They have two other rescue dogs and, although Charlotte is a senior canine citizen who enjoys her peace and quiet, their pup Bailey needed a high-energy playmate. Denise thought Bubbles might be a good fit for their family, and she was right! Husband Nabila and daughter Lila are thrilled, Charlotte is tolerant, and Bailey loves his new buddy.

After losing their beloved yellow Labrador two years ago, Stephanie and Ben felt that the time was right to bring another dog into their family when they moved into a new home. Because they live near water and spend a lot of time there, they asked for a special "sleepover" opportunity to

make sure Rosie would be happy with that part of her new life. She passed with flying colors and her sweet and cheerful energy made her a perfect fit for her new family.

Anyone familiar with Husky-type dogs knows they have energy to burn, and without regular exercise, that energy can be expressed in less desirable ways. Josh was looking for a running buddy, which was asking a bit much of their Dachshund, Elzie. The family came to meet Lolo and she hit it off with Elzie, as well as Josh, Emily, and daughter Adeline.

Lolo and Josh are logging about 3 miles

a day, and gradually she is learning to leave behind the habits of the old life, including testing everything's edibility, such as acorns, shrubbery, and mulch.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BEFORE RESCUE; NABIL & LILA, WITH BUBBLES, CHARLOTTE, & BAILEY; ROSIE; ELZIE, ADELINE, & LOLO**

My Way Home Dog Rescue specializes in saving dogs from high-kill shelters, providing all necessary medical care and fostering all dogs in loving homes until their permanent forever families find them. Dogs from open-intake public shelters often have chronic conditions that were neglected for years, presenting health and medical challenges. Bringing them 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 dog, please contact [mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com).

## Punkin Kitty Podkova

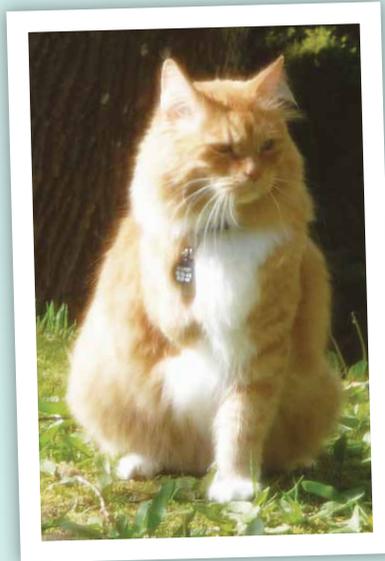
One rainy day in 2001, a bedraggled long-haired orange tabby came walking down the driveway of my mother's home in the hills of Woodland, Washington. She had seen him before and knew he did not belong to any neighbors, so she started feeding him. I explained the responsibilities in the state of Washington when feeding stray animals. She understood; we both had stray senior kitties with health issues in the greater Los Angeles area when we lived there.

My mother made an appointment to have **Punkin** neutered. Two days prior to the appointment he disappeared, leaving a trail of blood on her porch. We spent the next four days searching for him. Temperatures were plummeting, it was raining, and we knew he was injured and bleeding, an attraction coyotes and raccoons probably could not resist. On the fourth day, Punkin gathered the strength to make it back to his protected hutch on her porch where she discovered his injured front leg. She scooped him up and they were off to North Portland Veterinary Hospital for medical attention.

Following an x-ray, Dr. Shanks determined that Punkin's right front leg had been shot with a pellet gun. Dr. Shanks felt the best option was to amputate the leg and contacted ARCF for funding assistance. Punkin came through the surgery beautifully and was neutered at the same time. My kitty of 17 years passed away the evening of the day that Punkin came home from the hospital. My mother

lost her 17 year old kitty six weeks later. Neither of us felt ready to open our hearts to another kitty but we knew no one else would understand Punkin's story.

We made a home for Punkin as our "share kitty." My mother's property adjoined mine and I was still working so he spent weekdays with her and had



**PUNKIN**

weekend sleep-overs at my house and we shared financial responsibility.

My mother passed away about six and a half years ago. I brought her home with hospice care. She was with us for seven days and Punkin Kitty stayed with her constantly. He was at her side when she took her last breath. It was such a comfort to have him with her.

He didn't realize when he hooked up with this family that he would have to travel. But he really took to it. He traveled in a motor home all over this country, including Alaska, and Canada. When we were in Virginia for the funeral of my parents at Arlington National Cemetery, I took him to the cemetery to visit their gravesite. I set him down near the grave. He approached and sniffed the flowers and then immediately walked toward the beautiful pin oak tree just behind their grave. He looked up and shot straight up the tree about six feet. Being three-legged, tree climbing was almost impossible. On this day it was like he had helping hands holding him up.

On July 23, 2018, Punkin Kitty passed away peacefully with me in the same home where he kept vigil over my mother six and a half years ago. Punkin was almost 19 years old as best as we could determine. He has been the greatest companion and I will miss my buddy. He enriched my life so and taught me so much. His paw prints will forever be on my heart.

The journey began with ARCF and the support you have given over the years to help animals like Punkin Kitty. I wanted you to know his story and to know how appreciated your work is and to give you satisfaction from a life well lived. Because of your work, this kitty enriched our lives immeasurably. Thank you.

—Sincerely,  
**Debora Podkova**

Debbie Norr and Hammad Khan lost **Paris**, the beautiful queen of their tribe. Throughout her 19 years, she was a classy cat that always did things her way and was respected by all others. Her intelligence, bravery, and skill made her a quick favorite of all who met her. Listening to her strong purr while stroking her luxurious silk coat was the best cure for daily stress. Every comfy, sunny spot will forever be a reminder of her.

Joei Lattz remembered her sweet kitties **Maris** and **Mercedes** with a donation in their memory. They were adopted from ARCF in 2004 (at that time named Iris and Annie.)

Neena Peterson sent a donation in memory of her gray tabby cat **Sammy**, who passed away recently at the age of 18 years.



Julie Davenport shared the sad news that her beloved **Ralphie** lost his battle with an unknown disease that started with dramatic weight loss and ended with his decision to stop eating entirely, no matter how many flavors of gravy-soaked delicacies Julie offered. Ralphie was rescued by ARCF in 2007 as a kitten and adopted soon after. He adored Julie and was her constant companion through some very tough times, including the sudden and devastating loss of her husband Brian eight years ago. Ralphie is deeply missed by Julie and his feline sisters Bella and Dolce.

We've had a great loss here at ARCF World HQ with the passing of **Eddie Puss Rex**.

Eddie was the only cat in my life that I actually sought out and officially adopted. That was January of 2000 when he was 3 months old. My other cat Henry was lonesome and needed a little pal. Or so I thought; Henry hated him instantly. But within 48 hours Eddie won Henry over and they became best buddies.

I started to rescue cats when Eddie was about two years old and he was such a great helper; he made friends with all the wild ones and showed them how to enjoy the finer things in life and not be afraid. All the cats and kittens loved him, but his best feral friend was Chance, and they had a moment of fame as cover models on the Oregon Humane Society magazine when I used their photo to win a photography contest in 2007.



**BOTTOM: EDDIE & CHANCE**

Tinker, Evers, and Chance were triplets who taught me all about feral cats when I brought them home at six months old, never having been touched by human hands. I had them in my bathroom which seemed like a great idea until they scaled the walls and perched on the overhead light fixture and the shower curtain rod. Eddie helped talk them down and, working together for the next 16 years, we

helped many hundreds of kittens learn to feel safe and calm, so they could move on to their forever families.

Eddie would have been 19 years old in October, but the combo of heart disease, hyperthyroidism, and lymphoma were too much. We are grateful to our friends Ruth, Lorraine, and Roz who made donations to ARCF in Eddie's memory.

—Carma Crimins

## ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

June-July-August: We rescued and cared for 40 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 21 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

**Veterinary:** \$7,877.72

**Food/Supplies:** \$1,402.06

**Newsletter:** \$1,997.50

## 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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## Lydia, Lulu, & Liam

In early June we heard from a man in NE Portland who discovered a mother cat with three kittens living behind his garage in a jumble of old tires, car parts, and other unwieldy junk. He was unable to touch the cats, who weren't claimed by neighbors, and he had no interest in giving the cats a permanent home. Our volunteer Bonnie went to assist and was able to extract the three kittens from the pile of stuff. Using the kittens as "bait," momcat was quickly trapped. She was named Lilac, and the kids were Lydia, Lulu, and Liam.

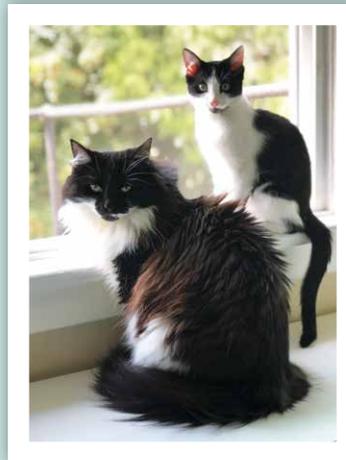
Lilac was a very good and beautiful mom but clearly didn't enjoy being in close proximity to people. Once the kittens were weaned and she was spayed, we found a perfect home for Lilac where she can live safely indoors without being expected to participate in the social activities of the household. She may decide to join in at some point, but that will be her choice.

In spite of being born outdoors and not being handled, the kittens had a sweet nature and quickly became very comfortable with people, thanks to their foster family's patient and loving care. Lydia and Lulu were very bonded and we decided they must be adopted together.

Liam was more of a mama's boy, so when we received Mandi's application, we thought he might just have hit the happy-ever-after jackpot. Not only

was she looking for a young kitten as a companion for her female cat, they both had Irish names and striking black and white coats. It was love at first sight for Mandi and Liam, but Moira still had to be won over. Mandi sent us this update:

*My 5-year-old cat Moira is a huge lover who still enjoys a lot of play and was clearly in need of a playmate, so I decided to adopt a companion for her. My vet recommended ARCF. I sent an application and we had a great conversation about Moira and Liam, a 3-month-old mama's boy whose mom was feral and whose sisters would be adopted together. Liam loved to play but his sisters weren't as into it, and when I met him I knew he'd fit beautifully into our family. Sure enough, he did. A month later, Moira and Liam are playmates and friends, chasing each other around the house and up and down the cat tree. Moira loves to give Liam baths and Liam loves to receive them! He is an absolute sweetheart and a huge cuddler. All you have to do is touch him and he purrs—loudly! I am so delighted to have Liam, and to see both cats so happy. Thank you to Carma and Bonnie at ARCF for taking such good care of Liam and for all the work ARCF does finding loving families for animals who need them.*



**TOP LEFT: LILAC & HER KITTENS  
ABOVE: LYDIA (LEFT) & LULU;  
BELOW: MOIRA (LEFT) & LIAM**

—Mandi Hood

Lulu and Lydia have the exotic looks and blue eyes of Siamese-type cats and, as usual with such kittens, we received many applications. Most were not suitable for one reason or another (we are very picky!) but the application from Paul and his family stood out, and our interview confirmed the initial good impression—Paul had taken his cat along when he moved to China years ago, and with that level of dedication we felt sure our kittens would have a home for life. The family came to meet the

girls and even though Lulu and Lydia weren't on their *very best* behavior, their kitten charm was irresistible, and they were soon off to their new home.

*Lulu and Lydia are doing great and have quickly integrated as the 5th and 6th members of our family. Our 10-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter love spending all their free time with the kittens. Each child does all that they can to make each of their bedrooms most attractive so Lulu and Lydia want to spend time there. They absolutely love to jump all over our beds in the middle of the night and then come over and purr and snuggle up. They've been at our house about five weeks and have doubled in size. We are all very grateful to have Lulu and Lydia in our lives. Thank you for making that happen.*

—Paul, Christina, Hazel, and Alex Saydak



**"F" KITTENS, JUST RESCUED**

**Freckles, Feather, Figaro, & Fernando**

In another case of "I just found kittens in my yard, please help!" we heard from Mike in April when he opened his shed for the first time

since winter to get the lawn mower. There he discovered a nest of newborn kittens and watched the mother cat skedaddle out a gap under the door. His dog was too interested in the little family and Mike knew they wouldn't be safe there for long. Our volunteer went right over, put the 2-day-old kittens in a carrier and set a trap for momcat. Before long she was captured, and by that evening they were all safely tucked into a foster home. They became the "F" litter: mom Florence and her kids Fabian, Figaro, Fernando, Feather, and Freckles. Florence was very clear in her preference to be left alone by people, so as soon as the kittens were weaned, she was spayed and moved on to her new life as a permanently kitten-free barn cat.

**Piper & Peanut**

(formerly Freckles & Feather)

Taryn and Nick were looking for a pair of kittens to join their family after the loss of their two elderly cats. They came to meet Freckles and Feather and all soon went home together.



**PEANUT (LEFT) & PIPER**

*We are completely smitten! We have renamed them Piper and Peanut and they are settling in great and growing fast. They have their own Instagram account ([piper\\_n\\_peanut](#)) which you can follow if you would like to see lots of adorable photos of them. Thank you for our precious girls!*

**—Taryn & Nick VanderPyl**



**ESME & BABIES**

**Elliott, Elaina, Erika & Fabian**

Esme had her four babies in a garage in the Willamette Valley at the end of March. Our rescue friend Jody was con-

tacted by the homeowners who had been feeding Esme, but did not get her spayed, and were not interested in taking on the whole family. The "E" kittens came to us at about three days old: Emmett, Elliott, Elaina, and Erika. The "F" kittens joined them at the same foster home and much kitten craziness ensued!

**Figaro & Fernando**

Figaro and Fernando were adopted but within a few days all agreed that kittens were not the right fit for that situation and Figaro and Fernando returned to our foster home to regroup. Within a few days we heard from Maia and Adam, who were looking for a pair of kittens who could live happily with their toddler. It's only been a short while, but we think this is a better fit for the boys.

*It's going great so far. We're calling them Fig and Fern. They are playing well with each other and with us. They don't seem to mind our baby and either ignore or tolerate him. They haven't made even the slightest of aggressive or defensive gestures towards him (no hissing or clawing) so that's great. He's very interested in them but also in their toys so he doesn't bug them much.*



**FIGARO (LEFT) & FERNANDO**

*They're eating well and using the litter box perfectly. We still have them just in the downstairs of our house but will gradually allow them upstairs over the next few days. We are so happy to have them, thank you!*

**—Maia & Adam Hixon**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



ELLIOTT  
(LEFT)  
& ELAINA

### Elliott & Elaina

Amaney and Gordon were looking for a pair of kittens to grow up as companions to their two kids. They had to wait a bit while Elliott and Elaina grew big enough for their spay/neuter surgeries, but it was worth the wait.

*Our kittens are doing great! We kept their names with some additions: Professor Elliott and Elaina Fluffy Ninja. They had their first checkup and shots with their new vet and both are healthy and growing well.*

*They are so big now and the perfect addition to our family. We love how they run around the house chasing each other! I'm so glad we decided to adopt them. Thank you!*

—Amanda & Gordon Galbraith

### Gadget & Gizmo

(formerly Fabian & Erika)

We always place our kittens in pairs to make sure they are never lonely or bored, even when their people are busy or away from home. With five in the "F" litter, solo Fabian found his lifetime buddy from the "E" litter sharing the same foster home. We received an application from Chris, who lives by himself and works from home. He was looking for playful and cuddly cats to keep him company. Chris came to meet Fabian & Erika, and decided they were the ones for him. There were a few adjustment issues, as usual when kittens move to a new environment, but his patience paid off.



GIZMO (TOP) & GADGET

*Gadget and Gizmo (new names!) are adjusting well. Gizmo was more shy and didn't like being touched very much, but she's become much more comfortable/vocal in the past few weeks, led by Gadget's example! Gadget had an eye infection when he first showed up, but we hit the vet and got some antibiotic cream that seems to have cleared it up pretty quickly.*

—Chris Stobing

## YES! I want to help

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

***Make a secure online donation using a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account. Save time and postage!  
Visit our website for more details: [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).***

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.

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