

FALL 2021 • VOL. 46, NO. 3

PO BOX 14956, PORTLAND, OR 97293

Gabrielle

Beautiful Gabrielle came to us early this spring as a teen mother with newborns, found in the parking lot of a big box store by a Good Samaritan.

Gabrielle was barely six months old herself and was very unsure how to care for her babies. With supportive care and coaching from her foster mom, Gabrielle eventually figured out what she needed to do, and her kittens grew up healthy and strong. All four were soon adopted, and Gabrielle enjoyed time as an auntie/playmate to other foster kittens when their mommas needed a break.

Now those kittens are gone too, and Gabrielle is ready to find her forever family. She is still just a kitten herself, so she needs a playful cat friend in her life. Gabrielle loves toys, especially the trackball and small stuffed things that she can “hunt, catch, and kill.” She is a very loving



companion to her chosen person, and will not hesitate to crawl into a lap, climb up on a shoulder, or curl up at the foot of the bed.

Gabrielle is quiet and calm, has no bad habits or special needs, and she presents no threat to any other cats so they all get along with her. She is looking for a family who understands that some kitties need a little extra time and patience when meeting new people. Strangers make her nervous so she doesn't always make a great first impression, but once she knows everything is ok, and her chosen people are committed to her, she is

as clingy as a dryer sheet.

Gabrielle is almost one year old. She has been spayed, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV/FIV, and is current on vaccines. The adoption fee is \$100. To learn more about Gabrielle, please email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org or call 503-402-8692.

Kiwi

Kiwi is as sweet as the fruit she is named after, and not much bigger! As you can see, she simply could not be any cuter.

Some sad twist of fate caused Kiwi to be left in an “overnight box”—a feature of large public shelters in California where unwanted pets can be dropped off during the night with no information and no accountability. She was lucky enough to hitch a ride to Oregon and found a soft landing at My Way Home Dog Rescue.

This little morsel weighs only 6 lbs. and her favorite mode of transportation is being carried in someone's arms. She also loves car rides, walks happily on leash, and expects to be near her

human at all times, including on the bed at night. Kiwi doesn't like to be crated—her place is with her people! She doesn't mind other dogs but Kiwi's dream is to be the one and only pampered princess in her home.

With no known medical history on their rescued dogs, MWH must start from scratch with all veterinary care. For Kiwi, this included spay and dental surgery, and everything needed



to make her as healthy as possible. She's approximately seven years old, and appears to be a Maltese mix.

In addition to the spay and dental, Kiwi has been dewormed, microchipped, and tested negative for heartworm. She is up to date on vaccines and flea control.

The senior dog adoption fee is \$250. If you are interested in meeting Kiwi, call 503-974-4944 or email mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com.

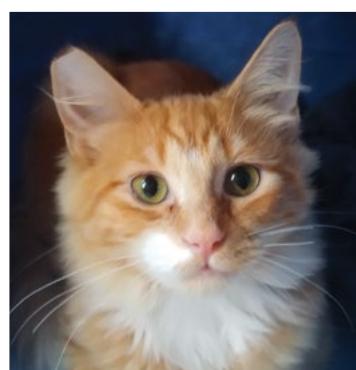
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Just as the light was visible at the end of the tunnel of pandemic recovery, it grew dim again. Our community desperately needs our public shelters and low-cost spay/neuter programs to be fully functional again, but they must prioritize safety for staff, volunteers, and members of the public, which puts much of the load on small private rescues such as ours. Some days we are just overwhelmed with the need for help, but we are doing our best to keep up.

In the last week alone, we have been asked to rescue three stray cats with newborns. One was left in a plastic box on a street corner with her four babies; another was discovered under a tarp in a backyard. The third one had her kittens in a box on the ledge of a second-story landing of an apartment building. It's not easy to care for unsocialized momcats with kittens, but we are lucky to have experienced and fearless volunteers willing to take on this challenge.

In early June a cat with newborn kittens was discovered in a crawlspace by workers who had been hired to insulate and seal the area. They photographed the cats and stopped work until the cat family could be safely removed. The homeowner contacted us for help and our intrepid volunteers Bonnie and Drew suited up for a search and rescue mission. By the time they arrived, momma had already moved her family and they were nowhere to be found. What we did find were many other cats roaming that block, so we organized a TNR (trap-neuter-return) project. Eventually five adult cats were spayed and returned to their caregivers, including the original mom from under the house. We also rescued 13 kittens for socialization and adoption, including the stunning **Tiki**, who will soon be available for adoption with her handsome brother **Toby**.

Not far from that location, neighbors noticed that a colony of community cats had grown from just a few to at least a dozen. A caregiver arrived to provide food and water daily, but did not take the important step of getting the cats fixed, so our help was requested. Using the spay/neuter services offered by Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, we trapped and returned all 12 cats, including **James**, obviously the patriarch of the colony of all black cats,



FROM TOP:
TIKI; TOBY; JAMES; MORRIS

except for two grays. We'll continue to monitor the situation to quickly TNR any newcomers with potential to start the cycle again.

A sad story came from a cat owner who was forced to leave her home for a long-term care center, where her two senior cats were not allowed to join her. No family member wanted her cats, and the house was scheduled for demolition. We don't usually take owner-surrendered pets, but in this case there was no other option. It was challenging just to find them in the house packed with debris and discards, but after many days of searching we were able to bring them to safety. The cats were traumatized but sweet. Our volunteer foster mom is giving them time, space, and TLC while they gather themselves for the next stage of their journey.

Eight years ago **Morris** and his brother Max were adopted from ARCF as adorable kittens. Recently their adopters informed us they were unable to care for the cats, effective immediately. As always, our foster homes were full and other homeless cats were already waiting for our help, but a new foster home stepped up to offer a spot for Max and Morris. These orange boys were very distressed about the upheaval in their life, but Morris had the confidence to quickly adapt to his new world. It also appeared that he bullied his submissive brother, so we decided to separate them, which seems better for both. After they've settled and any needed vet care is done, we'll find them the forever homes they deserve.

We hope neither of these situations will ever happen to you and your pets—please read our story in this issue about planning for your pets when you are no longer able to care for them. You can make good decisions now to save stress and sorrow later.

These are challenging days for everyone, including our animal friends and those of us who care for them. Your generous support makes it possible for us to carry on our mission, and on behalf of all our volunteers and our rescued animals, we thank you.

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

Happy Fall!

—Carma Crimins

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:
mywayomedogrescue.org
503-974-4944



Abby & Gertie

When Karen's mother Judy lost her beloved black Lab named Jack, they grieved together and then decided it was time to adopt another companion for Judy. Their search led them to My Way Home Dog Rescue and a sweet dog named Abby, who came with a lot of baggage. Abby had medical and emotional issues as a result of spending most of her five years of life tied to a tree. Karen and Judy live in the country and have plenty of experience with animals needing special care. After a successful meeting, Abby was soon on her way home to the farm.

Abby was malnourished and suffered from multiple allergies, including to grass and most other plants and trees. By the time she was rescued, it was clear that she would need ongoing

care for her lifetime. Karen reports that Abby has two kinds of skin wipes and ear drops, a special shampoo, and a prescription diet. "It's a good thing I retired," says Karen. "Abby is a high maintenance girl."

It didn't take long for Abby to decide that Karen was her person, leaving Judy still without a companion. Back they went to Cheryl at My Way Home, looking for another big dog to join the family.

But Cheryl had a different suggestion: a happy little dog named Gertie. Even though she seemed too small to fill the "big dog" position, Gertie's personality was perfect and she wisely chose Judy to be her person, so the family was complete.

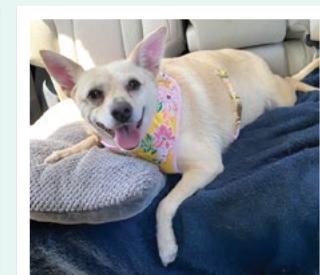
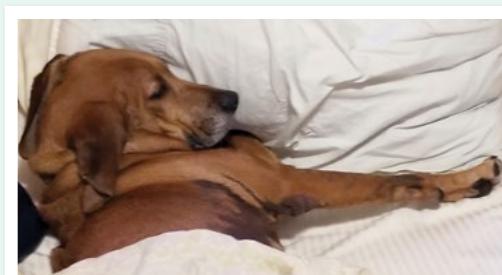
Gertie's early life was much different from Abby's—she was someone's spoiled companion before she was

surrendered to a local public shelter after her person passed away.

Introductions were made gradually, but Abby and Gertie had each other at "Hello." Gertie is a spunky life coach, helping Abby learn about new things, and teaching her confidence by personal example. Because Abby had no childhood, she initially ignored all toys and games, but she's learned to dump the toy basket and proudly carry her very own toys around the house. Eventually Karen will enlist the assistance of a professional trainer to help Abby continue building confidence, but she's already made amazing progress.

Abby and Gertie love walks and car rides together—they can hardly contain their excitement when they see the harnesses coming out. The three cats in the family have trained their canine sisters in proper manners and mutual respect, so cross-species relations are harmonious.

"We're happy and settled," says Karen. "These girls are now ours."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JUDY, KAREN & THEIR GIRLS; GERTIE; ABBY

My Way Home Dog Rescue saves dogs from high-kill shelters, providing all necessary medical care and home-based fostering. These dogs often have long-neglected chronic conditions. Returning them to good health takes 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 mywayomedogrescue@gmail.com.

SUCCESS STORIES

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 25 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$9,818.69

Food/Supplies: \$3,902.19

Newsletter: \$1,906.72

Animal Talk

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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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.

Three Generations of Community Cats



SIX "K" KITTENS BUG HUNTING IN THEIR CATIO

Just as summer began we were asked to rescue a litter of six kittens born under a porch in SE Portland. With the help of their caregiver, we quickly scooped up the kittens and humanely trapped their parents. Momma cat and the babies spent the next few weeks in our foster home, while Daddy made a quick trip to the spay/neuter clinic, so he could be returned to his home territory to wait for momma to join him when her job was done. But Daddy cat turned out to be Auntie cat! She was helping care for the kittens, while their actual daddy apparently skipped town. Tomcats are so unreliable about child support!

We named momma cat Kiki, and her kittens were Kickstand, Kiwi, Klaus, Koala, Keiko, and Kabob. They quickly became the favorites of their foster family and it was no surprise when all were quickly adopted. Even as tiny babies, each kitten had formed a special bond with one other sibling, so they went to their new homes in the pairs they had chosen for themselves. Here are recent reports from their families:

Cacio & Pepe

(formerly Klaus & Koala)

The boys have settled in just fine. I renamed them Cacio and Pepe. Klaus is Cacio which is so fitting cause he's cheesy and silly, and Pepe for Koala cause he's a pepper! So much energy!

Cacio has turned into quite a lap cat and loves getting his belly rubbed. They carry their toys everywhere and present them to me over and over! They snuggle with me every night.

Pepe has been obsessed with food, but he is calming down. Both are learning that they are never getting human food, although they still try! I started giving them a higher protein cat food which seems to fill them up more.

They are so happy, funny, and sweet. I've had all visitors give them a treat



CACIO (LEFT) & PEPE

when they come through the door so now they love guests and have zero anxiety about strangers. They even seem to show off for them.

Thank you for taking such great care of them in this crucial phase of their life. What an excellent rescue!

—Nicole Harris

SUCCESS STORIES

Razz & Frankie

(formerly Kiwi & Kickstand)

We are so very in love with these little clowns! We have given them new names. Kiwi is now The Great Razzmatazz—Razz for short. He's chill, keeps to himself, but is also very insistent when he's ready for attention and affection. Kickstand is now Frankfurter Hot Dogs—Frankie for short. He is perpetually curious and loves to fall

asleep, belly up, in a warm lap.

They adjusted so quickly and it's clear they have been well loved and trust us completely. We're having so much fun watching their personalities bloom every day. Jerry has some allergic reaction as expected, but he's getting treatment



FRANKIE (LEFT) & RAZZ

and the delight the kitties are bringing us far outweighs any discomfort.

We're so happy to give them a loving home!

—Megan Dowd & Jerry Belich

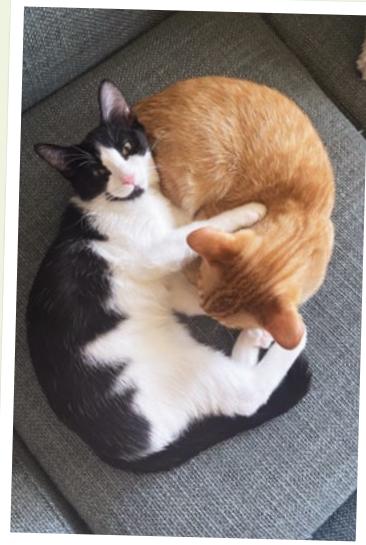
Loki & Leo

(formerly Keiko & Kabob)

Keiko is now Loki and Kabob is now Leo! They adjusted to their new home very well and spend most of their time either playing with each other or snuggling with me.

Where one goes the other is sure to follow—they love being close to each other. Loki's favorite pastimes: sitting on the window sill while gazing outside, snuggling Leo, and playing with her favorite golden ball. Leo's favorite pastimes: exploring every nook of the apartment, playing

with his favorite toys, and looking out for Loki! They are incredibly friendly and affectionate and enjoy waking their mom with kisses and snuggles!



LOKI (LEFT) & LEO

—Mackenzie Thibault

Wren & Cora

Several months after the "K" kittens were rescued, their caregiver called us to report that the grandma of those kittens had suddenly reappeared after a year. She was the mom of Kiki and Auntie Cat (born last year) and had now returned with a new litter in tow. Sadly, two of the kittens didn't survive, but we were able to rescue the third, along with her mother. We call the kitten Wren, and she will soon be available for adoption.

Grandma cat was spayed and returned to a neighbor, where she will live the rest of her life as a pampered indoor cat. Her name is Cora. She'll no longer wander the neighborhood looking for a safe place to raise yet another litter of kittens. This one little cat was the source of at least 11 new cats on that one block in less than one year, through no fault of her own.

Please, if you see cats roaming in your community, take steps to get them altered before the population explodes and suffering ensues. If you don't know where to start, give us a call and we'll do our best to help.



LEFT:
WREN



RIGHT:
CORA

SUCCESS STORIES

Buddy (formerly Indie)

Buddy showed up where so many others have appeared in the past—an apartment complex with a tenant population in constant flux, with loosely owned and frequently abandoned pets. One young family keeps an eye on the cat population there and has helped us rescue many of those roaming and unclaimed felines.

Nancy had lost her dear feline Fig and was ready for a new companion. Our mutual friend Nena Baker referred Nancy to us—we owe Nena a ton of loyalty points for her referrals to so many excellent adopters. We told Nancy about Buddy and agreed on a foster-to-adopt (or not!) situation.

It wasn't all smooth sailing—Buddy is a teenager with a lot of energy, curiosity, and a boundless appetite. He is very entertaining, but also makes some bad decisions.



BUDDY IN A RARE QUIET MOMENT

Nancy hadn't been around such a wild child before, but his big personality eventually won her over.

Buddy is very comfortable here. He has claimed his own spots in every room, including the laundry room. His toys are everywhere and he tries to climb everything, and is still trying to launch himself onto the fireplace mantle. He has already destroyed four laser dot toys, beheaded the toy mice, and chomped the plastic balls to get the bells inside.

I keep the bathroom door closed because

he wants to chew open the tubes of anything he can find in there. Maybe he'll settle down some day and I'll get a good night's sleep, but for now he's a perfect little hellion and I adore him!

—Nancy Bates

Cindy (formerly Bugsy)

In January we were asked to rescue Cindy (then called Bugsy) when her person passed away with no family willing to take her. Cindy had been alone in the house for three months, with neighbors stopping by to check on her, so she wasn't used to being around any people. We also discovered that she was underweight, dehydrated, and had a severe UTI along with a few badly infected teeth, so no wonder she was cranky and skittish! When she had gained enough weight to undergo surgery, Cindy's dental care was completed while several rounds of extra-strength antibiotics knocked out the UTI that had been plaguing her a long time.

When at last Cindy was healthy and ready to move on to her forever retirement home, we thought of Marcia and Walt, who were looking for senior felines to share their home after the passing of their beloved cat, Taffy. We discussed Cindy's medical history and personal quirks. Marcia and Walt have many years of experience with cats of all sizes, shapes, and personalities, and were not concerned—they wanted to give Cindy a place to live out her life in comfort.

After first hearing about Cindy in early June, we learned she had medical issues to be addressed before her adoption. Not sure of her status, we adopted Pixie, a senior kitty from a local shelter. Some rescue kitties come with more baggage than others, and I guess we are the baggage handlers. Cindy is 14 years old and has a right to feel nervous and unsure. We are very careful not to approach her from certain angles, and



CINDY

try not to pat her back end. We changed her name to Cindy for Cinderella, because of her "stepchild" history and her dark tortie coloring.

She may always be a little quick to take offense, but she definitely wants a lap on her terms. For now, our office is also her room where she can retreat and look out windows. She has learned to paw and chew the metal blinds to let us know she prefers them open. I believe that when she was alone in a house for three months with few visitors, the blinds and curtains may have been kept closed and she couldn't see the world. Ours are old blinds and Cindy is a senior cat, so she wins—now we leave the blinds open all the time with lots to see: trees, bushes, birds, squirrels, deer.

Pixie's cat companion died unexpectedly the day before we were to adopt that bonded pair. Pixie wants a friend but is not yet sure that Cindy won't swat or growl.

Someone in the dark past declawed Pixie's front paws, but Cindy is not declawed and never will be. Thus, we're being very slow and cautious with their relationship. We don't want Pixie's sweet behavior to change or to risk injury in a boxing match. These two rescued senior ladies have supervised time together and separate time with us. They like homemade catnip toys, the red dot pointer, old chiffon scarves, and paper handles off grocery bags. Our hope is that they will sooner than later tolerate each other amiably even if they do not become co-snugglers.

—Marcia Petty & Walt Gorman

Making Plans for your Pets After You're Gone

It's hard enough to face losing our pets during our lifetime, but at least we as humans understand the circle of life and the process of grief and recovery. Imagine your pet's confusion and anxiety were you to disappear suddenly.

Even for young and healthy people, there is no guarantee of tomorrow. Sadly, an estimated 500,000 pets are euthanized each year simply because their owners pass away or are otherwise incapable of caring for them and made no arrangements for their care.

While painful to think about, making time now to arrange for someone to care for your pets in case of your incapacitation is worth it. Here are steps you can take now to ensure that your beloved pets will never be left to the mercy of someone who does not know and love them as you do.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE

If you do not identify a caregiver for your pets who outlive you, a stranger may determine if and how your pets will continue to receive care.

Identify the person who will care for your pets in the hours, days, or weeks after an emergency, as well as those who would be willing to adopt your pets should you die or become incapacitated.

Check with friends, relatives, and neighbors to serve as potential caregivers. As a back-up, local pet-sitters or members of animal rescue groups may be able to help. Do not assume that your friends or family will step in when the time comes! We have seen the sad results of this assumption far too many times; your neighbor might move away, your grandkids get busy, and your best friend might have too many pets of her own.

I need two insulin injections every day



Not everyone loves animals as we do—pet care takes time, space, and money. Does your dog need a yard? Does your cat need a special diet? Is your bird likely to live for 50 more years? They are counting on you to make sure their needs will always be met.

Your backup person doesn't necessarily have to be the one to take permanent ownership of the pets but must be trusted to step in immediately and make decisions for short- and long-term care.

Have a real discussion with this person about the commitment, then go through the same process to find a second person to back up your backup. Yes, it's a lot of trouble, but you are the only one who can do this for your pets.

PUT IT IN WRITING

If no one knows there's a plan in place, your pets may get relinquished to a shelter.

Once you have your backup caregivers, prepare written instructions outlining exactly what you expect. Include contact information for everyone. Make copies and give them to your immediate family members, close friends and neighbors, and your veterinarian.

Document instructions for the care of your pets. What kind of special care do your pets require?

Do you want your pets to stay together? To make sure your wishes are followed, write everything down and let others know where the instructions are located.

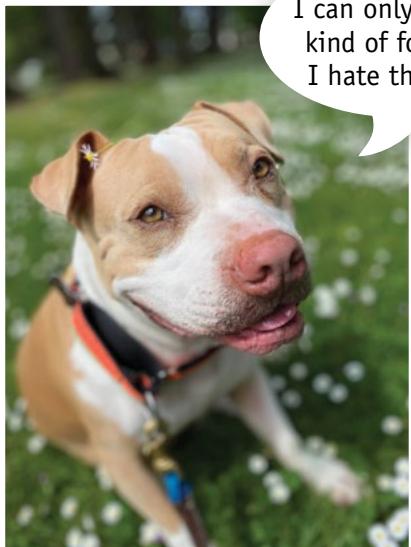
I need daily baths for my skin



I plan to live another 50 years



FROM THE HELP DESK



I can only eat one kind of food &
I hate the vet

If your pet is microchipped (which we highly recommend!), contact your chip company to confirm all contact information is up to date and provide your backup person

as an alternate contact with a phone number. Shelter data show that 60% of microchips are never registered to owners, or have outdated contact information. Don't let this be you! If your pets aren't microchipped yet, get that done immediately.

Take photos of your pets and write a bio for each one. Describe personality, habits, daily diet, medical conditions, bonds to other pets, and anything else a future caregiver should know. Include the name and location of your veterinarian. If you have a return agreement with the breeder or shelter where you adopted your pet, include that as well, but don't assume that every shelter will accept animals adopted from them in the past—ask first and get that commitment in writing, and make sure you clarify whether a donation is expected or required if your pet is returned.

Make it Legal and Leave Some Money

You pay for food, supplies, and medical care for your pets. Even if anything happens to you, these expenses will still need to be covered.

Take into consideration the amount you spend each year on your pets as well as their life expectancy. You may want to leave cash, life insurance, stocks and bonds, or other assets to provide funding for care. We recommend you ask an attorney or qualified professional about the best way to ensure your pet's future, based on your personal circumstances and financial situation.

For more information and resources to help you plan for your pet's lifetime care, please contact 2nd Chance for Pets, an organization whose mission is to reduce the number of pets that are euthanized in the United States due to the death or incapacitation of their human companions. They have an online library of extremely helpful tools, documents, and general information. 2ndchance4pets.org, or email info@2ndchanceforpets.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.

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