

FEATURED CATS Wallace and Wisteria

Wallace and Wisteria are two of the busiest and happiest young cats we've ever met! They aren't littermates but they are definitely best pals and are looking for a home where they can live together happily ever after.

Wisteria is named after an exotic vine, and her sweet little grey tabby face looks like sugar and spice and everything nice, but this girl is rock 'n roll all the way. She loves a good workout, starting with some stretching exercises on the cardboard scratcher, then a few rounds on the trackball, followed by some high flying aerobatics chasing Da Bird. Wisteria keeps up that pace for hours on end, but she does take breaks to kiss and cuddle with her human cheering squad. She is also ruthless when it comes to attacking furry mice, crinkle balls, and the laser dot.

Wisteria is about 7 months old, so she has some growing to do but will probably always stay petite.

Wallace on the other hand is a strapping tuxedo teenager who will be a big handsome guy when he finishes growing into



WALLACE, TOP, AND WISTERIA

his long, lean frame and big feet. Wallace also loves a workout at the kitty gym. He and Wisteria have spent many happy hours chasing each other up and down the cat trees, back and forth through the tunnel, and through the air in pursuit of mouse-on-a-wire. Wallace also loves a good long lap cuddle between workouts.

This pair will thrive on lots of interaction with their people. They purr with delight at pretty much everything they encounter. Eventually their kitten energy will subside, but they will do best in a home that isn't filled with delicate, valuable objects. They have good experience with young kids. They aren't dog tested, but because they are so outgoing and confident, we believe they could live happily with a respectful canine friend.

Wallace and Wisteria have been neutered/spayed, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV/FIV, and are up-to-date on vaccines. The adoption fee is \$150 for both. To learn more about Wallace and Wisteria 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 Princess

Our friends at My Way Home Dog Rescue asked us to share this message from a petite princess of their acquaintance:

Hi! My name is Princess and I have never met a lap I did not like. I am slightly over ten years old and the most gorgeous miniature Dachshund you will ever see. I love to be petted and taken on short walks on a leash or in a stroller. My foster mom really knows how to treat royalty.

I currently live with several other dogs but would be happier living with only one other dog. I would do better with no children and no cats. Those cats get sooo confused

about who is the real royalty!

I love rides in the car and I get so excited at meal time that I jump and bounce around—just so happy to be alive! I also love companionship and if you are home a lot that would be ideal. If you think you are ready to meet real royalty, please send an application. I will have my subjects review it and then set up a time for a personal interview.



All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and are current on vaccines. Princess has also recently had a full dental exam and cleaning. Her adoption fee of \$250 includes leash, collar, blanket, and food sample.

If you are interested in meeting Princess, email mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com or call 503-974-4944.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We're happy to report that our 2nd Annual "Whiskers, Wags, and Wine" fundraiser was a great success. We brought in over \$2500 and made lots of new friends. If you were able to join us, thank you for coming! If not, we hope to see you next year at the 3rd Annual event. Our host again this year was SE Wine Collective in Portland. The wines were donated by Teutonic Wine Company, Chehalem Winery, Division Winemaking Company, Fausse Piste Winery, Cliff Creek Cellars, and Vino Wine Shop. Thanks to all our sponsors and volunteers for creating such a fun and fruitful event.

After a winter that almost failed to appear, we know what the outdoor cats have been up to during these long, warm days. All that obnoxious racket is leading to an early bumper crop of kittens, so our kitten boot camp volunteers are busy getting the barracks ready for the incoming recruits. If you encounter cats and kittens living outdoors and need help with the next step, please see page 8 for advice and feel free to share our contact information with others who may need our help.

We actually have rescued our first litter of the year, **Amanda** and **Ariel**. These girls didn't need boot camp, just some overdue medical care and a foster home with lots of room for kitten acrobatics. Amanda and Ariel are available for adoption; please contact us if you're looking for a perfect pair of tabby girls.

We adore kittens; they are sloppy, loud, unruly, and constantly hungry, but finding good homes for them is not difficult, so the little darlings don't stay with us for very long. Much more challenging are the cats that come into our rescue who have left all those bad behaviors behind but have other qualities that cause them to be overlooked; extra miles on the odometer, dents and scratches, maybe some periodic "mood swings." But these special cases need us most of all. It's so rewarding to watch them respond to our tender loving care, and to help them find the perfect family to continue that care for the rest of their lives. We can proudly point to Pearlie and Squeaks as two perfect examples; read their stories on page 4.

Another favorite is **Large Carl**. He came from a kind lady who was worried that Carl was bullying the members of the little family of cats she feeds and shelters on her porch. We agreed to trap Large Carl, get him neutered, and find him a more welcoming place to live. He was raggedy, cranky, and smelly but somehow seemed more bewildered than mean. We decided to keep him in a recovery cage for a few days and see if we could make friends. Sure enough, within a week, Large Carl was purring, head butting and rolling back his giant head for chin rubs.

A complete exam revealed a horrible ear infection which had caused him to scratch his ears raw, and a condition called entropion, where the eyelid rolls inward, causing the eyelashes to rub against the eyeball constantly. Carl also had many missing and broken teeth, which is common among cats chewing inedible things because they are so hungry. All these things are very treatable but there are at least three surgical procedures involved, which are taking a huge bite out of our budget this quarter. Donations towards his care would be much appreciated by us and especially by Carl, who is now feeling great and ready to find his forever home. Main requirement: a warm lap available for Large Carl to lounge upon for hours on end.

As usual, this quarter we have contributed to the care of pets of Portland's homeless population through our partnership with PAW Team. We provided dental care (including extractions of many bad teeth) for a Yorkie named Gidget Marie, another Yorkie called Angus, a cat named Stella, and a Dachshund named Penny, all of whom are finally able to eat without pain.

On behalf of Large Carl, Pearlie, Squeaks, Amanda, Ariel, and many, many more, we thank you for supporting ARCF with your generous donations.

Happy Spring!

— **Carma Crimins**
PRESIDENT



FROM TOP: LARGE CARL, AMANDA, AND ARIEL

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

Cassie

We first saw Cassie's picture last March when My Way Home Dog Rescue shared information about the "skip a cup of coffee" donation program for START (Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team). START's mission is to help animals move from high-kill shelters to safety with private rescue organizations.

We followed the link to Cassie's photo and story, which said she had little or no chance for adoption due to her age, her cherry eye, and all her lumps and bumps. We thought that was such an awful excuse; one of our senior dogs had lumps and bumps all over and we loved every inch of her. One look at Cassie's face behind those bars just melted our hearts so we donated what we could towards her release.

We did not hear if Cassie made it out and we were so worried, we donated some items to the START eBay sales program and mentioned that Cassie had inspired us to donate. We still did not know Cassie's fate at that time but we hoped our efforts helped her get a seat to safety.

To our surprise and relief we saw Cassie's picture show up last fall on the My Way Home website as one of their adoptable dogs. It was all we could do to refrain from scooping her up but our house was already FULL with five senior dogs and a senior cat. We watched and hoped that Cassie would find a forever home.

This January we lost our beloved 14-year-old Catahoula Leopard dog named Magic. We missed her and all her lumps and bumps so dearly. We quickly realized that we felt an empty space and that we surely had room for Cassie. We called Cheryl at My Way Home and she moved



heaven and earth to help us adopt Cassie quickly. My Way Home even followed through on some medical procedures already in progress, to make sure Cassie was as healthy as she could be.

Cassie is such a lovable character; she does something every day to make us smile. When she wakes up it's as if she

just swallowed a happy pill—she leaps up with a smile, her tail wagging, and insisting on a kiss hello. Her foster mom told us to keep a look out for her slow motion walk; it did not take long before we witnessed her in action. When she sees something of interest or runs her head under something that will flow across her back to scratch it, she does her famous sloooooow motion walk, that we now call the "Cassie Crawl." It is so funny! We love every inch of her and her "Lovely Lady Lumps," in the words of Fergie. It was fate for Cassie to end up as part of our family one year after we first saw her. Thanks to Cheryl and My Way Home and START for helping Cassie find her "Way Home" with us!

— The Debs (Debbie Paxon and Debbie Florke)

Pearlie and Squeaks

In our fall issue we told you about two lovely senior ladies we rescued when their families couldn't care for them any longer. Pearlie's elderly gentleman went to the hospital and never returned. Squeaks had lived all her 10 years with a lady who was facing serious obstacles with her health, making it impossible for her to care for herself, let alone a pet. Although it can be challenging to find homes for senior pets and our foster homes were full, we couldn't turn away from these sweet cats who were soon to become homeless. We expected they would stay with us for many months, if not years.

But the stars must have been aligned for our girls, because we soon heard from Andrea LaRaus who was looking for a sweet lap cat for her retired parents. She came to meet Pearlie and we sealed the deal within minutes.

Then we heard from Bibi Momsen, who was looking for a spry but mature cat to be a companion for her and her senior Dachshund, Ebony. We didn't think Squeaks had any experience with dogs, but she was getting tired of living in a cage and Bibi was willing to give it a try, so Squeaks went for a meet and greet. Cat sniffed dog, showing no reaction; dog sniffed cat, tail wagging madly and looking at mom with pure delight at having a new friend. It really couldn't have gone much better.

Here are updates on both:



Pearlie

Pearlie has been a really nice addition to our household of cat and dog lovers. Pearlie adores being held and stroked and has taken to sleeping with us on our bed at night as well as using it for her daytime naps.

We live on a golf course with ceiling-to-floor windows where Pearlie enjoys sunbathing and watching birds, squirrels, and golfers. Overall Pearlie has adjusted well, eats well, purrs, and even plays with her pet mice and bookmark tassels. She is a contented happy camper.

— Barbara Wade and Coleman Payne



EBONY, BIBI AND SQUEAKS

Squeaks (formerly Mrs. Partridge)

Things are going very well. Squeaks is now at ease all over the apartment, she loves to be brushed and sleeps on the bed at night. When I lay down on the bed to do leg exercises, up she comes, and purrs, kneads, and head butts, enjoying being loved.

She and Ebony seem to be getting along. Squeaks sits on the back of the love seat while Ebony and I share the seat. I have hopes that in time we can rearrange ourselves so there is room for her too.

She doesn't like to be picked up but now every time she is fed, I pick her up for a short cuddle before letting her eat. Sometimes she runs away, and then the food disappears until such time as I can cuddle her before she gets to eat. She sleeps by my feet at night and likes to be patted, with many purrs (except for the mealtime ritual!)

— Bibi Momsen



Harrison and Hazel

Regular readers of Animal Talk will recognize Harrison and Hazel as the cover models on our winter issue. Harrison came to us with his brother Hugh last fall along with their mother and her new litter of seven newborn kittens (Greta and the G babies, for those keeping score). The boys were not terribly fond of each other so we decided to place them separately, if we found the right families. Hugh was adopted shortly after he arrived (read more about him on page 6) so Harrison was alone until we rescued Hazel. It was a classic matchup of a brilliant, beautiful girl and a handsome, adoring lunk. We began looking for the perfect home for this perfect pair. Soon we heard from Claire, who had plans to be gone over the holidays, so wasn't quite ready to adopt. She decided to come meet them anyway. Here's a recent update:

I found Harrison and Hazel when I was looking on petfinder.com for a big orange cat. I have always been partial to big orange guys and the photo and description of Harrison was so perfect I emailed ARCF right away. I met the kitties shortly after and decided that I was ready to adopt right now! It was a decision a long time in the making. I had been thinking about adopting for about three years and now that I finally have kitties I have no idea why I waited so long. They have both been the most amazing addition to my life.

The first couple of days they hid under my couch, but that didn't last. They adjusted quickly and now enjoy socializing with guests. They also love to be rowdy and wrestle and chase each other all over my apartment. In their calmer moments they enjoy cuddling and grooming each other. Another favorite activity is lounging near the window to closely monitor the happenings in the tree outside; Hazel has an ongoing feud with a squirrel that taunts her mercilessly. Harrison never tires of belly rubs and loves to have his beautiful orange hair combed. Hazel is mischievous and is fascinated by all things that involve water including my bathtub, kitchen sink, and any water glass she can find. She is also the best little snuggle-bug, consistently sleeps all night with me and has been known to wiggle her way underneath the covers. I'm looking forward to spending the next 20 years with these guys, they could not be any more perfect! Thank you ARCF for bringing them into my life.

— Claire Horton

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

December-January-February: We placed 19 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

Veterinary Fees: \$7,725.82*
 Advertising \$0
 Education/Outreach: \$891.00
 Food/Supplies: \$1,135.51
 Newsletter: \$891.00

* 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.

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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Handz (formerly Hugh)

Handz is the brown tabby brother of Harrison. Shortly after they arrived at our foster home, we heard from Stephanie and her partner Ryan, who were looking for a sweet and social kitty companion for their cat Zink and their dog Lulu. They came to meet Harrison and Handz, were charmed by both, but Handz won their hearts. We weren't sure how the family dynamics would work out, but agreed to give it a try. It wasn't smooth sailing from the first day; Handz (so named for all those extra toes on his front paws) was anxious, hid a lot, and sometimes bullied Zink. But Stephanie and Ryan were patient, followed their vet's advice about behavior modification, and over time, Handz settled in and learned how to play nicely with others. We received an update recently:

Mr. Handz has come a long way. We were definitely worried those first few months when he would run away at the sight of us. He once got his collar stuck in his mouth and freaked out when we removed it. He's still skittish about some things, like being groomed; nonetheless, he has found his place in our family. With each day he has become more affectionate and



HANDZ, RIGHT, WITH HIS PAL ZINK

sweet. In the mornings, he greets me in the kitchen and sits in my lap purring while I eat breakfast. We found a great toy: a clear stick with balls inside and a tassel at the end. As soon as you move it, he hears the balls and comes running. It has been a great tool to get Zink and him to play. Zink and Handz are still not the best of friends like we had envisioned but they get along just fine. In either case, they definitely enrich each other's lives. Thank you for helping us find him!

— **Stephanie Marson**



ZUKO



KAMINA

Zuko and Kamina (formerly Tiki and Tango)

Three days after Christmas we received a call from a woman who went out early in the morning to fetch the newspaper from her porch, and was very distraught to find four kittens cuddled up in the small shelter placed there for her old "porch cat." As she approached to get a better look, she noticed another cat nearby, clearly their mother, crying but too afraid to come close. Our volunteer responded immediately, captured the momcat with a trap, gathered up the kittens, and by the end of the day they had been vaccinated, treated for fleas and worms, and tucked safely into an ARCF foster home. They became the T litter, four handsome boys and their mother. As usual, we had no shortage of kitten adopters, and we knew they wouldn't be with us for long.

Mariah Federow came to meet Zuko and Kamina, took them home that day, and started sending us adorable kitten updates that same night. Here is a recent report:

The kittens are doing very well. They alternate between galloping through the

house and sleeping on their cat tree. They're very snuggly in the morning, which is nice, and pretty good at settling down for bedtime.

We just got them their second toy-on-a-string, which happened to have some catnip, to which Zuko was particularly partial, but they also really enjoy the crinkly paper and boxes that their toys came in.

They don't seem to have learned their names yet, though we're confident that will come with time. Zuko comes to greet me when I get home from work. He also likes to follow Francis around, which is adorable. This is not behavior one expects from a cat, but it's quite nice! They are particularly fond of trying to lay down on top of my laptop.

They are a constant and absolute joy and there is not a day or a minute where we regret having them. They are the sweetest things, huge lovers of belly rubs and they sleep next to us purring, and wake up purring more.

— **Mariah Federow**

IN MEMORIAM



BOB

Ruth and Matt Page lost their handsome cat Bob suddenly a few months ago when he didn't wake up after a surgical procedure. Bob was the last of the eight pets that made the trek from Texas to Portland. He was born as a stray and always

had that wild side. Bob refused to be confined and spent most of his life outdoors. He could be found lounging in the sun on the front porch or in the cool shade of the bushes. He would run to the front door when it opened for treats and his special dinner. His mom misses brushing his long, soft fur and would have given him a big hug when she left him at the vet that day, if she had known he wouldn't be coming home. His porch lounging buddy Alfie misses him, too.

Vicki Norr lost her big tabby, Tiger (aka "T"), in December. After a prolonged illness, he passed away in her arms in his favorite place—out on the deck in the sunshine. His loud purr and big cheeks will be missed by his brother Spike and all who knew him.

The Grinnells sent us a generous donation in memory of their beloved Bozie, along with this note from Bozie himself:

My life and luck began with ARCF when Kathrine and Tom Grinnell came to meet me and took home three of us! Their home was great for me with curtains to climb and then slide down. Gosh, I had fun chasing the other cats around the house. I mellowed with age. My favorite spots to lie, when not curled up in a cat bed, were on pillows on the heated bathroom floor and under a halogen lamp next to Kathrine. I outlived the other two cats, but midway into my 18th year my body just ran out of steam. It was time.



BOZIE

Wendy Oliver lost her adored dog Lhasa to cancer at the age of 16 years.

Jo Bomser made a donation in memory of her cat Wicked. She was adopted at age 12 years, and died two years later from cancer. Wicked is deeply missed by Jo and by her feline sister Isabella.



CHANCE

We received very sad news from Leah Goodman recently. Her adored kitty Chance finally lost the battle he had been fighting with lymphoma for three years at the age of 12. Chance was gorgeous, goofy, and so full of love and good cheer that he

was universally beloved by all who knew him.

He started life as part of a trio of feral kittens rescued by our friend Jim Sutherland after their mother had been hit by a car in front of his house. The kittens came to ARCF at the age of six months, never having been touched by human hands. Chance was so terrified at his first close encounter with a person that he scaled the bathroom wall and clung for dear life to the ceiling light fixture. But deep in his heart, he just wanted to be loved; once he came close enough for petting, he found it so pleasant that he started purring, moved in for a head bump, and never looked back.

Chance moved through several foster and adoptive homes, but none was just the right fit. Chance was a sensitive boy who needed a quiet and calm environment with a doting servant, which he found with Leah. She had just moved into her first home and he claimed it as his own, later taking two adopted sisters under his wing. He had a special fuzzy toy he latched onto as a kitten which we called "Furby." He carefully tended to Furby, setting it near his food bowl as he ate, and hiding it in special places known only to him. Just when it seemed that Furby was gone for good, it would appear again in a place of honor, to great relief all around. Furby stayed with Chance through all the moves in his life and was with him to the very end.

Chance is deeply missed by Leah, his feline sisters Melody and Blossom, and many devoted friends.



MAYA

Yvonne LeGrice lost her beautiful calico cat Maya at the age of 17 years. Yvonne first saw her at an adoption event where she cowered under a blanket in her litter box, for days on end. When she could bear it no longer, Yvonne took

Maya home and allowed her to blossom at her own pace. Maya was dearly loved and slept on Yvonne's pillow every night. She is especially missed by her feline companion, Baby Bear.

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 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

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.

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