

FEATURED CAT

Wendy

Wendy came to us when her family moved away and left her. She went door to door trying to find another family, but got no takers. For several months, neighbors put out food for Wendy and felt sorry for her, but nobody would take her in. Winter was approaching, and finally one of the neighbors realized that Wendy needed more help than they could give and contacted us.

Because we didn't know the circumstances that left Wendy homeless, her first stop was our local public shelter. There we found that she was already spayed, about four years old, and in very good health. Once it was confirmed that her owners were not returning to claim her, Wendy came back to us. She is a very sweet girl in spite of her ordeal, and has lots of affection for her foster family. Wendy likes to chat, wants lots of petting, and gives head butts in return. It's hard to imagine how anyone could leave her behind, but we know it happens every day.

Wendy loves to play and show off with her toys, including her favorite: Da Bird! She is inquisitive and enjoys observing the



goings-on of her foster family, as well as sitting in her favorite window perch to watch the activities of the world outside. She is also quite content to nap or amuse herself when no one is available to play with her. We find her to be perfect company: affectionate and playful, but not too demanding.

During her time living outside, Wendy learned to be cautious, and she's still a little anxious about being picked up and handled, so we are looking for a home

with no very young children who might forget Wendy's feelings about being grabbed. She gets along with well-behaved dogs, but we believe she'd prefer to be the only cat in her new family. Wendy has excellent litter box manners and no special diet or medical requirements.

Wendy has been spayed, microchipped, is up to date on vaccines, and has tested negative for FeLV and FIV. To learn more about Wendy, please call us at 503-402-8692, send an email to arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit our website, www.pdx-petadoption.org.

FEATURED DOG

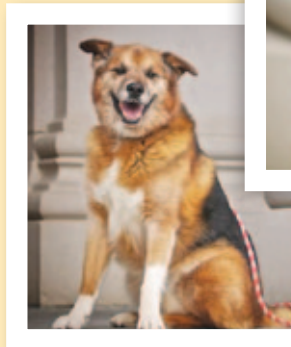
Ernie

This is Ernie, and doesn't he just look like the most happy fella? Ernie has been around the block a couple times in his ten years, but that just means he's got the wisdom that comes along with the gray hairs, and he knows what he wants out of life. Ernie is a spunky senior citizen and you won't catch Ernie touching up his roots, no sir!

Ernie's first family decided he was no longer welcome once the kids went off to college. They gave him to a private shelter, where he charmed everyone who cared for him, but couldn't compete for attention with all the cute youngsters looking for homes. After far too many

months being overlooked for adoption, the shelter asked our friends at My Way Home Dog Rescue to take Ernie and give him a chance to live in a foster home while they searched for his forever home.

Ernie is a very easygoing companion, who would like his new family to have a dog buddy for him, with a similar, mellow personality. He has excellent house manners, has learned to respect the cat in his foster home, and needs a little gentle exercise every day. Ernie is a quiet boy, but will let his people know they are safe in his care when a stranger comes to the door or approaches the car. Ernie's a German Shepherd mix, who weighs about 60 lb.



All adoptable dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered and current on

vaccines. Ernie's adoption fee of \$100 includes: microchip, 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 Ernie, contact Cheryl at cayoshioka@aol.com or 503-974-4944.

From the President's Desk

We're enjoying the mild weather in our little corner of the world, pruning the roses, and trying not to think about how many hours of weeding await us. But we know our outdoor-living cat friends have other things on their feline minds, and in the next two months, the new crop of kittens will be popping up everywhere. Please read and share our advice on page 7 about what to do when a stray momcat has kittens in your backyard. We know all our supporters' pets are spayed or neutered, but we ask you to spread the word to your friends and neighbors. If finances or transportation are a barrier to getting this done, call us; we can help.

For now, our kitten foster homes are enjoying a respite, and we're working hard on finding homes for the more "seasoned" cats in our care, while there is less competition from the youngsters with their amusing antics.

Tulip is a beautiful, sensitive, six-year-old cat who hasn't been lucky enough to find the perfect home yet. Her first family moved away and left her outdoors to fend for herself. She was rescued from that situation, but then her second family split up and neither side wanted Tulip. This time we are looking for the true forever home for Tulip, with a kind family who will be patient enough to regain her trust and never abandon her.

Norma Jean appeared one day at the home of a long-established feral cat colony. She was hungry, dirty, and missing most of the fur on her back half due to a severe allergy to flea bites. But she kindly let us pet her and pick her up, so off we went to the vet. We were delighted to find she had a microchip! But when we contacted the owner, he told us he didn't want his cat any more, and had left her at the feral colony because he knew someone would feed her there every day. So Norma Jean is now in our care. She's about four years old, playful, easygoing, and very eager to make friends with people and find a home where she will be loved and pampered forever.

We're always saddened to find abandoned cats wandering the streets, but it's especially hard to understand when the cats are senior citizens who have obviously been part of a family. While on a feral cat trapping mission, volunteer Eric Phelps came across a little old tortoiseshell cat who was very thin and weak. She was always seen sitting in the same spot on the sidewalk. A resident of the nearest house reported the cat had been left behind by a former roommate, who refused to come get her. There was always a dish of kibble on the porch, but Eric knew that wasn't going to be enough for this sweet old girl.

A visit to our vet confirmed that Millie was suffering from hyperthyroidism, malnutrition, and dehydration. She appeared to be about 15 years old. Millie was given fluids, good food, and other basic treatments. She responded well, and she's now in a cozy foster home, getting the very best of care. We know that Millie doesn't



NORMA JEAN



TULIP



ERIC AND MILLIE

have a long time left, because her untreated conditions took a toll on her organs, but we'll make her as comfortable as possible, and she'll stay with us until her days are done.

Through our new partnership with PAW Team, we were able to help a 2 lb. Chihuahua named Peaches with a broken leg, and another senior Chihuahua named Meemaw, who desperately needed some bad teeth extracted and a small mammary tumor removed. These are pets of homeless or very low-income people who would otherwise not have any vet care. Both are doing well now.

We also helped a cockatiel named Ariel, whose owner was distraught about her bird's illness, but had no funds for a vet visit and no way to transport her. Our volunteer drove Ariel to her appointment and returned her home, along with the medicine and food she needed.

Another of our volunteers was helping some feral cats when she was approached by a neighbor who asked if there was some financial help to get her two pit bulls altered before they produced another litter of pups. Working with Oregon/Spay Neuter Fund, we quickly made arrangements to get them fixed. Later that day, we received a phone call from a relative of the neighbor, who asked if we could stretch our funds to help get her pit bull spayed also. We agreed, and are happy to report that all three dogs are now out of the puppy-making business.

Thanks to all of you who support our mission and make these happy endings possible.

Happy Spring!

— **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
503-974-4944

MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

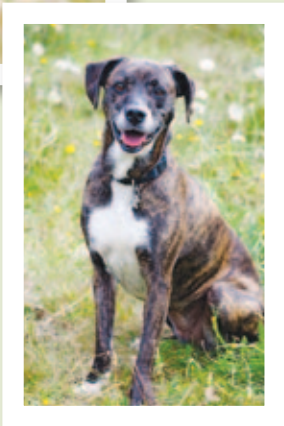
Maia (formerly Delilah)

You may remember Maia as the cover girl on our winter issue hostessing the Christmas tree fundraiser. We don't know about Maia's early life, but we do know she ended up at a public shelter as a stray, where she did not cope well with the environment. But she was so sweet and eager to please, the volunteers there asked My Way Home Dog Rescue for help. They were able find a suitable foster home to help her gain confidence, with the goal of finding a forever home. Maia needed a family experienced with dogs who could provide a dog buddy for Maia without cats, since Maia's prey drive is very strong. It took a while, but Maia hit the jackpot when the Wallin family came to meet her. They gave us this update:



the top dog (not surprising since she weighs 44 lb. and Chloe weighs 21 lb.). We're currently desensitizing her to the llamas in our neighbor's field and the squirrels, both of which she finds very "interesting," shall we say.

Maia had her first bath about two weeks ago. I went with her into our walk-in shower, and she was quite calm while I used the hand sprayer to bathe and rinse her. No fuss, no mess!



Today was her first day home all day with Chloe and with access to the yard via our pet door. She greeted us enthusiastically when we came home!

Maia's learned to sit on the throw rug or to lie in her bed while we eat our meals. We haven't taught her any tricks as we're still focusing on the basics.

We love having her as a member of our family!

— Tim and Camille Wallin

Maia is fitting in fine with Chloe, our wire-haired Dachshund/terrier mix and has established that she's

Rudy (formerly Corky)

We believe that Rudy started his life on the reservation in Arizona. He landed at the Fredonia Humane Society, and when that facility was closed, Rudy came to Oregon through My Way Home Dog Rescue. He was already approaching doggy middle age, but his good nature and easygoing style quickly won him a new family. Sadly, six months later, his new mom had to take a new job requiring so much travel that Rudy was going to be home alone almost all the time. It was a hard



GERRY AND RUDY

decision, but everyone agreed that Rudy would be better off with a family who could spend more time with him.

About that time, Gerry Taylor lost her trusty companion Sampson to kidney disease, the enemy of so many elderly pets. She was heartbroken and didn't think she could bear to have any other dog.

We suggested she think about fostering Rudy. Well, you know how this story goes: less than 24 hours after taking Rudy home, Gerry called to ask if she could adopt him immediately. Gerry is retired from her "real" job and

now volunteers every day for a number of rescue groups, including ARCF. One of her volunteer jobs is for the Spay & Save program. She picks up and delivers cats from all over the Portland area to low-cost spay/neuter clinics for owners who don't have their own transportation. And guess what? It turns out that Rudy loves nothing more than to jump in the car and go for rides all day long! And he's not the least bit bothered by sharing the car with any number of cats in their carriers, even if they hiss and spit at him.

It's clear that Rudy adores Gerry and the feeling is mutual. Gerry says, "I love Rudy so much! He's kind of fat and he snores, just like an old husband, but even better, because Rudy never talks back."

Teddy (formerly Carlyle)

Teddy, known to us as Carlyle, was one of the C kittens rescued last summer when they were found in a box by the side of the road, only five weeks old and nearly dead from hunger and dehydration. Teddy was the weakest of the litter, and stayed with us to recuperate even as his siblings were adopted. But he was also the sweetest of the bunch, and quickly made friends with every feline and human he met. Once he was healthy, Susan came to meet him and fell in love. She sent us this photo and update:



TEDDY

Teddy is a sweet, special boy who has made his way into our hearts. He has the softest fur and a long body like a stretch limo. At nine months old he already weighs 12 lb.! I often forget that he's still a kitten until he goes wild, chasing his favorite mouse-on-a-wire toy and plowing over everything in sight to catch it. He bonded quickly with my 5-year-old female cat, Kallie, and together they

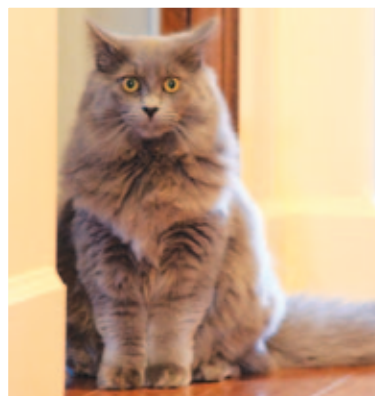


WILSON (TOP) AND TEDDY

romp, wrestle, watch birds, hang out in the kitty condos, and groom each other as they bask by the fireplace. Teddy's special qualities are so dear, like the way he plays with his water and ends up with a cute watermark on his nose after drinking. It's delightful to hear his high, musical voice, which doesn't seem in sync with his big-boned frame. Another amazing thing is his ability to go all limp and cuddly in your arms. He also has a way of sliding on his back off the couch onto the floor which reminds me of a sea otter doing back dives. Hilarious! Thank you, ARCF, for the great gift of Teddy!

— Susan McDonough

(We'd also like to share this photo of Teddy's littermate Wilson, sent to us by his new family, Tom and Gail Gregson. What stunning cats these little guys grew up to be!)



WILSON



GINO AND THE KITTENS

Gino

Gino was a stray whose rescuer asked for our help getting him neutered when he appeared a year or so ago at her house. A couple of small dogs joined the family who didn't care to share their home with Gino, so we were asked to find a new home for him. Since we knew Gino was a perfect example of the loving, mellow, orange tabby, we agreed. At the time, we had a room full of kittens and Gino kindly agreed to share their room and provide babysitting services.

Suzanne was a recent empty-nester, working from home and wanting some quiet companionship and a pal to sit with and talk over the day's happenings. She came to meet Gino, and although she wasn't 100% sure it was a good match, she decided to take him home and give it a try. Not long afterward, we got this report:

Gino is an absolute LOVE! He's been sleeping with me, using his litter box just right, and exploring the house. I couldn't be happier.

And a few days later, this update:

The love fest between Gino and me continues. I've mastered the litter box routine, and he's decided he's king of the house. I really couldn't have asked for a more mellow and affectionate cat. Thanks again for bringing this handsome guy into my life!

— Suzanne Bigelow

SUCCESS STORIES

Sailor and Lula

Sailor and Lula were rescued as very sick, very tiny kittens four years ago from a feral colony being cared for by a kind senior citizen who asked for our help to trap, neuter, and return them. We kept the kittens, nursed them back to health, and found them new homes. Sailor and Lula were adopted, and for four years life was good. Then a baby came into their family, and Sailor and Lula were no longer welcome in the house, so they came back to us. They were confused about what was happening in their life, but Sailor and Lula are very sweet and forgiving, and they have never failed to charm everyone they meet.

Kirsi and Tony had recently lost their two cats, at ages 17 and 18 years, and were ready to start a new "cat family." They came to meet

Sailor and Lula and, like everyone else, fell under their spell. Kirsi recently wrote us:

I just wanted to touch base and thank you again for matching us up with Sailor and Lula. I'm not surprised that they have so many admirers. They both greeted me at the door tonight when I came home from work. I was so happy to drop to the floor and give them both lots of love and attention!

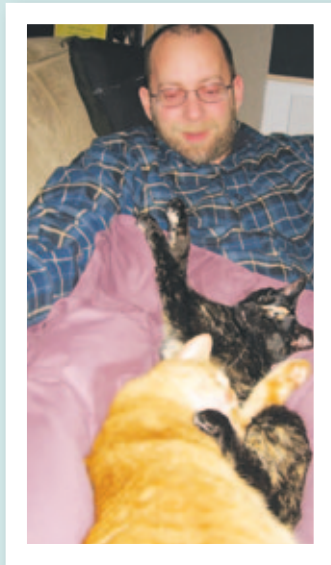
Currently they are both snuggling on top of Tony on the couch. Lula is cleaning Sailor's ears. She is trying to clean herself, but he keeps sticking his head under her face. His little "How cute am I?" pose just kills me when he rolls over to show his belly and holds up his little arms with his happy purr face. I didn't realize how cat-deprived we were until they wooed us!

We are really enjoying them sooo much!

— Kirsi and Tony Barber



LULA (LEFT) AND SAILOR AS BABIES



TONY, LULA, AND SAILOR



ANNA AND HARRY

Harry

Harry and his littermates were rescued by one of our volunteers last winter, when he spotted someone giving away a momcat and her three kittens because they were unable to care for them. After a trip to the vet for neuter surgery and some other needed care, Harry found his perfect forever home with the Humphrey family. They recently sent us this note:

We wanted to thank you so much for the help and care given by ARCF, which has made the adoption of our kitten, Harry, possible. We are incredibly grateful and are thrilled to have Harry in our family.

With thanks,

— David, Rachel, Johnny, Daniel, Anna, and Noah

Hermione

The astute reader may have already surmised that this kitten is related to Harry, above. She was rescued at the same time, and it didn't take long for Hermione's forever family to find her. Here's the note we received from the Fernee family:

Thank you all for your help in making our new kitten, Hermione, a part of our family. All of us are looking forward to her coming home from the vet today, so that we can love, and be loved by, her for the rest of her life.

— Jerry, Adair, Ali, Zyna, and Xander



ALI AND HERMIONE

IN MEMORIAM

The McLagen family lost their sweet cat Millie. She was remembered with a donation from her friends Glenda Hughes and Bill Gollhofer.

Nancy and Carlos Chavez lost their precious tortoiseshell cat Abigail to lymphoma at age 12 years. Abby overflowed with that typical tortie personality and loved to personally greet all visitors to the house. She shared the bed pillow every night and Nancy would often wake up to find her hair damp and sticking straight up from careful grooming by hairdresser Abby while she was sleeping.



ABIGAIL

The Feinstein family was devastated by the loss of their sweet dog Ally. She was remembered with a memorial gift from the Rabie family.

Phyllis Thorne lost her cat Fluffy, a feline lady “of a certain age,” who was much loved and is deeply missed. Her friend Isabel McDonald sent us a donation in her memory.



TAI

Carrie Fagerstrom said goodbye to her beautiful cat Tai, who was part of her family for six years. His cancer finally made his life here too painful.

Mary and Tim Mostad lost Thor, their Golden Retriever/Chow mix. He was a gentle bear of a dog, loved by everyone. Ginny and Tank Barry let us know of Thor’s passing and sent a donation in his memory.

Ruth and Matt Page said a sad goodbye to Albert, a tuxedo cat with a gentle soul and a big heart that just finally got tired of pumping. He was rescued about a year ago, in such bad condition that he was given just a few weeks to live. With lots of TLC, good food, and medicine, Bert made a miracle recovery and spent his last year with the very best of everything. He leaves a big hole in the Page family.



ALBERT

Bud Garrison and Danni Duggan lost Spike, their rescued Boxer. Spike’s friend Tom Badrick made a donation in his memory.

Steve Budreau was heartbroken by the loss of Sarah, a homeless husky who Steve first met when he was working on Mt. Hood, and Sarah was trying to survive in the woods. Steve began feeding her, but Sarah wouldn’t let him get close. When she started lingering near businesses on the mountain waiting for Steve to show up, some residents wanted her removed. Steve was able to convince them to spare her life, but then she disappeared briefly. Eventually she showed up at Steve’s gate, after somehow finding the way to his house over many miles of mountain roads, and that is where she stayed. Over six years, Sarah and Steve developed a very close bond, but she remained wary of everyone else.



SARAH

Gerry Taylor lost her big dog and best friend, Sampson, to kidney disease, at age 11 years. She rescued Sampson five years ago when his family moved away and left him and their cats behind. Sampson got into her car that day, and never left. He was happy to spend his days helping Gerry drive cats all over town, keeping her yard free of unwanted strangers, and sharing a hamburger from the drive-up window.

The family of Teresa Liu was saddened by the loss of their Hobie Cat, after 16 well-lived years. Bill and Jocelyn Cox sent us a note and donation in Hobie Cat’s memory.



NOLA

We were saddened to lose our dear old Nola. She was taken to our local public shelter as an unwanted stray. Her right ear tip told us she was a graduate of FCCO, but she wasn’t feral at all. Nola was very sweet, even though she must have been in a lot of pain. She enjoyed her first few weeks here, but we suspected her big belly was hiding some cancer. One evening after she had been with us about a month, she seemed to have more trouble moving and wasn’t so interested in her dinner. We spent a long time combing and petting her, while she purred as usual. The next morning she was clearly shutting down, so we went straight to the vet and sent her off to a new life. We expect a little tabby kitten with extra toes will show up this summer and tell us her name is Nola.



Our Annual Reminder: The Kittens are Coming! The Kittens are Coming!

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, we'll already be answering calls from concerned citizens who have found a litter of kittens and want to rescue them. 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 by the smell of the food to the babies.

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 coach you on orphan kitten care. It's 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.

Once the kittens have been weaned (at about eight weeks of age), the momcat can be spayed, and the kittens can be started on needed vaccines and treatments. When our foster homes are already full, we can help with advice and referrals for getting them adopted.

If the mother is not 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.

RESOURCES:

For an excellent, detailed kitten care guide: bit.ly/FNOUC

FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON:
503-797-2606; www.feralcats.com

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

December-January-February:
We placed 22 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

- Veterinary Fees: \$15,121.90*
- Advertising/Outreach: \$41.63
- Food, Special Meds: \$1,608.18**
- Newsletter: \$1,389.00

* 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.



ANIMAL TALK is a quarterly newsletter published by Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., and printed locally.

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.

THINGS WE LIKE

In past issues, we've shared many practical and clever items for enriching the lives of your pets. This time, a few things to tickle the fancy of those who care for the pets:



Pet Portraits by Marilyn

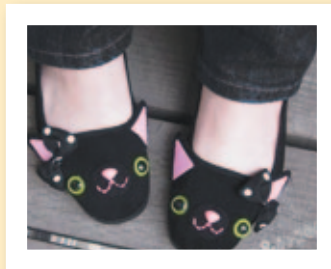
About three years ago, Karynn MacKinnon adopted our handsome, tenderhearted Frasier, who quickly became an adored member of her family. Karynn's mother is a pet portrait artist and she recently sent us this photo of a painting made from a photograph of Frasier. Her portraits are done in acrylic artist paints and varnish on stretched canvas, sized for ready-made frames. We love this portrait, and we were very happy to learn that Marilyn contributes 20% of her commission fees to an animal rescue or refuge of the buyer's choice.

Prices start at \$175 for a 9 in. by 12 in. portrait. See more on Marilyn's website, www.petpainterlady.com, or call her at 805-937-5668.

Black Cat Flats

We found these darling shoes on Etsy, the internet marketplace for handmade goods of every kind. These little black flats from seller

Em & Sprout are made of cotton or velvet, with metal or Velcro buckles, rubber soles, and hand-stitched kitty faces. The shoes are sized for adult women, not kids! Each pair is made

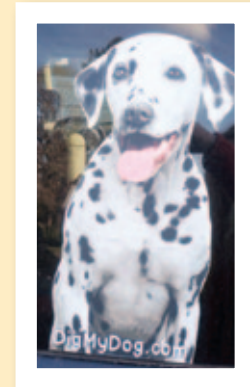


to order and costs about \$25. Many other critters are available from this Etsy shop, including dogs, bunnies,

bears, and yes, even vampires. See the entire selection of shoes at www.etsy.com/shop/emandsprout.

DigMyDog Custom Window Decals

If you want to share your special critter with the world, here's a great way to do it. DigMyDog will take your high-resolution photo and make a vinyl decal that you can apply to the outside of your car window. Dog is not your critter of choice? Not to worry! DigMyKitty,



DigMyHorse, and DigMyBuddy decals are also available. Decals come in two sizes: 7 in. tall for \$20, and 12 in. tall for \$28. For an extra \$10, your pet's

name can be added. And the best part: 100% of the profits from sales of the decals go to Indigo Rescue, a local non-profit animal rescue organization. To order: www.digmydog.com. For more information on Indigo Rescue, visit www.indigorescue.org.

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'd like to contribute \$ _____ for the ARCF Microchipping Program, for adopted animals to have microchips.
- I'm interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to:

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Portland, OR 97293-0956