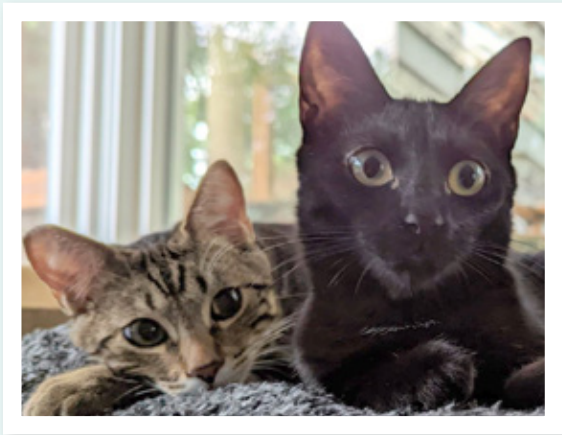


Archie & Annabelle

Archie and Annabelle are sweet 8-month-old siblings ready to meet the family lucky enough to take them home and love them forever. They have never spent a day apart and are closely bonded, so Archie and Annabelle will be adopted together as a pair. (Their brother Arlo has already found his forever family—read more about him on page 6.)



Like all teenagers, these two have lots of energy and are a bit obsessive about their toys. Archie loves his “pup tent” and can amuse himself for hours rolling around in his fort with whatever small object he has captured and carried away. Annabelle prefers the challenge of chasing a flying object through the air, preferably a feathery thing on the end of a string being waved around by a human.

But unlike most teenagers, Archie and Annabelle still like to cuddle with grownups, so you will have warm, fuzzy companionship during couch time. Archie has the mellow attitude typical of most tabbies, while Annabelle has that special spark of mischief that makes black cats so captivating. Both are social, friendly, and well-adjusted. They have excellent house manners and no special dietary or health issues.

As with all of our cats and kittens, Archie and Annabelle have been spayed/neutered, are up-to-date on vaccines, and have tested negative for FeLV/FIV. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit pdx-petadoption.org.

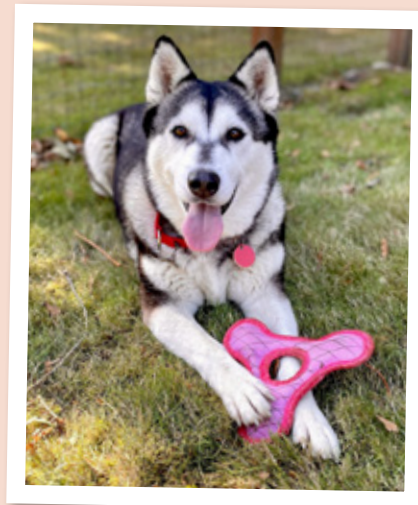
Twyla

This gorgeous creature is Twyla, a Siberian Husky with many appealing attributes, including something unusual for Huskies: low-to-medium energy level! Twyla prefers a calm environment and doesn't need a lot of long walks, just a securely fenced space to zip around and amuse herself for a while every day. Crowded dog parks and outdoor markets are not her jam—Twyla just wants to quietly hang out with her people, and will make a great couch potato companion.

Twyla is comfortable being around the big mellow dogs at her foster home, but she doesn't care for rowdy, excitable dogs or people. Low-key, peaceful vibes put Twyla in her happy place, so she's not a good match for kids under 10 years old. She loves affection and cuddles, and has excellent house manners. She will ask to go out when necessary, and sleeps quietly in her crate at night and when her people are away. Twyla does well walking on leash and rides quietly in the backseat of the car.

Although not specifically cat-tested, Twyla has a high prey drive so needs a home without small animals. Her age is estimated at five years, and she weighs 55 lbs.

Twyla has been spayed, vaccinated, heartworm-tested, microchipped, dewormed, and is current on flea control. The adoption fee is \$400. If you are interested in knowing more about Twyla, please visit mywayhomedogrescue.org and complete the adoption application online.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Friends, it's been a tough year for all of us working in animal rescue. We thought 2021 was challenging, but 2022 really knocked us for a loop. It's going to take a long time to work our way back to pre-pandemic capacity—many of the resources we counted on for accessible, low-cost veterinary care have been severely cut back or discontinued entirely. Staff shortage in the veterinary field is a national crisis, and there is no quick fix. We're going to put our heads together with other small local rescues to figure out how we can join forces to climb our way out of this deep hole. But for now, we're going to make some hot chocolate, listen to Vince Guaraldi Charlie Brown Christmas tunes, and play with kittens.

Some of the kittens currently in our care are the **"J" litter**, Juno, Jamilla, and Josette. They appeared at a location where volunteers have been working hard to TNR (trap-neuter-return) all the cats roaming among several houses. It can be challenging to get all caregivers to agree and commit to a plan, and this case has been a tough one. But our volunteers are persistent and we won't give up until the last one is done.

Fortunately, some caregivers take the initiative to evaluate a problem and find the necessary resources to solve it. Our volunteer Bonnie was asked by a friend to help TNR the community cats on her block, involving multiple caregivers and feeding locations. Bonnie assessed the situation, figured there were about 30 cats and kittens needing help, and came up with the action plan. With her extensive experience in big TNR projects, and the caregivers' commitment to follow the plan, all we had to do was provide some logistical support—lending traps and supplies, providing transportation to and from the spay/neuter clinic, and taking all the youngest kittens into our care. Two of those lucky kittens were **Igor** and **Ivy**—do you see the family resemblance in those fabulous ear fluffs? The final count was 36 cats helped: 27 cats were altered and returned to their caregivers, and nine kittens came to ARCF for taming and adoption.

Sometimes the project is much smaller, but no less important. A young woman contacted us about a stray cat she had been feeding, worried because he had a serious ear infection. She has limited funds and no vehicle, so we lent her a trap and gave handsome orange **Hunter** a ride to the clinic, where he was neutered, vaccinated, and treated for his ear infection. He's now back home,

feeling much better, and almost ready to make the big step across the threshold to become an indoor cat.

Another kind soul was distressed to find a small orange cat in her backyard, wearing a collar and dragging a leash that had tangled up around the deck. The kitty was very sweet, but there was no ID on the collar and no microchip, and the finder was not in a position to foster the cat while searching for the owner. No local shelters are currently accepting strays, so we picked her up started the process of looking for an owner. After a few weeks with no responses, we

named her **Hildy**, and provided all the vet work she needed. Stay tuned for Hildy's happy ending in our next issue!

We'll take this opportunity to remind you again that every pet needs to be microchipped! Any vet can do this, it's a quick and easy process, and the cost is minimal, compared to the agony of losing a pet. If your pet is already chipped, contact the company that registers the chip and make sure they have your current contact information; name, address, email, and phone number. Just take care of this now, please—it's heartbreaking to discover

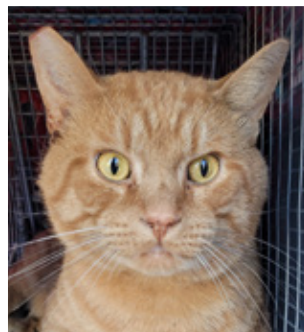
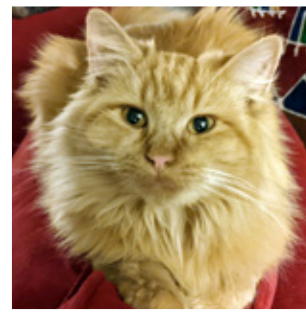
how many pets are never reunited with their families, only because the chip registration is not up to date.

We follow a Greyhound rescue organization in Belgium, and the term they use to describe the perfect home for their dogs translates as "golden basket." It's a lovely image, and we will never stop working toward the goal of providing every homeless animal with the golden basket they deserve.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Please adopt, volunteer, and donate, if you can. Your support makes our work possible.

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

—Carma Crimins



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: "J" LITTER; HILDY; IGOR; IVY; HUNTER

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

Millie, Belle, and the Great Husky Migration

One silver lining that came with the onset of the pandemic in 2020 was a dramatic increase in pet adoptions, particularly of dogs. For a while, there simply weren't enough dogs available for all the potential adopters! Now that most people have returned to their regular work and activity schedules,



MILLIE AND NEW FAMILY

adoptions have dropped dramatically and many "pandemic puppies" are being surrendered to shelters because they require too much in the way of time and resource. Many dogs are difficult to rehome due to improper socialization during long isolation periods and may not have received vet care.

Sadly, many of those being returned are Husky-related breeds—beautiful dogs who were in great demand partly because of the popular "Game of Thrones" series, where ancient dire wolves were played by dogs resembling Huskies.

Far too many backyard breeders took advantage of the fad, and far too many dogs were acquired by families who had no knowledge or experience with the Nordic breeds. As a result, a huge number of these dogs are now being surrendered to already over-burdened public shelters.

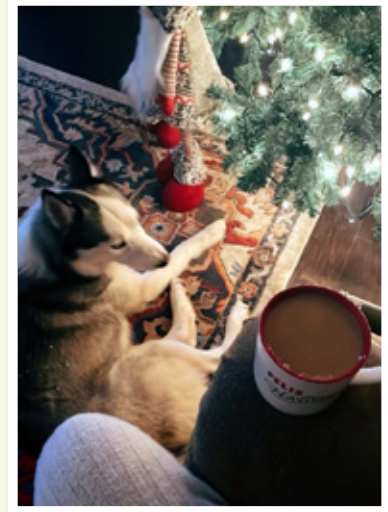
My Way Home Dog Rescue in Oregon has a partnership with California shelters being forced to euthanize up to 50% of their dogs because there is no physical space for the dozens of dogs being surrendered each day. Staff at one shelter were determined to help save more of the dogs in their care, so they organized the "Great Husky Migration." A group of Huskies journeyed north to My Way Home and other organizations to find appropriate homes with owners committed to their dogs for life.

Huskies are smart, funny, and social—they want to be with their people. They are also stubborn, and require training and consistency in their environment. They need physical and mental stimulation to keep

them from amusing themselves by causing mischief. A Husky can make a wonderful family pet, but the family should be seriously committed to meeting the needs of their dog. We suggest that first-time adopters do research and consult experts such as breed rescues and trainers because a Husky may not be the best fit as a "starter dog."

My Way Home volunteers are experienced with these beautiful dogs, and know how to match them with families dedicated to providing the care necessary for a successful lifetime placement.

Here are stories from two of those families:



MILLIE'S FIRST CHRISTMAS AT HOME

Millie

Lisa's family of seven adopted a senior German Shepherd Dog a year ago, and although they spend most of their time at home, the family felt that Thor might benefit from having a canine companion. A search on Petfinder.com produced two-year-old **Millie**, one of the first crew of Huskies to arrive at My Way Home. Lisa's application was accepted, and a meeting was arranged between Millie and Thor and his family.

It wasn't love at first sight! In fact, Thor got a little rough and left Millie with a minor wound on her ear, but everyone else was charmed by her. So Lisa and her family did lots of background reading on Husky breeds, and with some guidance from Cheryl, all agreed to a plan to integrate Millie into the family.

Continued on page 4

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

Sept-Oct-Nov: We rescued and cared for 28 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 17 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$3,957.38

Food/Supplies: \$5,762.31

Newsletter: \$2,214.13

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.

EDITOR

Carma Crimins

GRAPHICS/LAYOUT

Sandra Horrell, @sandrahorrelldesign

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PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293

503-402-8692

www.pdx-petadoption.org

arcf@pdx-petadoption.org

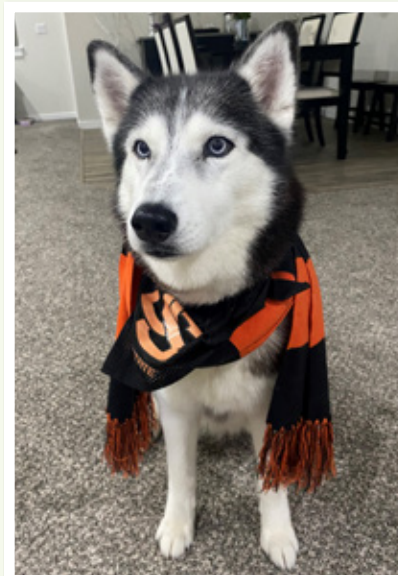
Animal Rescue & Care Fund is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 51-0137768. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used to support our programs, including publishing this quarterly newsletter.

Within a week, the plan started working, with some minor tweaks. Because both dogs tend to resource guard, they are fed in separate rooms. Daily walks together are helping them get acquainted and Millie is gradually winning Thor over. The rest of the family is already over the moon. "Millie has stolen everyone's heart," says Lisa. "She is so affectionate! She loves hugs and cuddles and she's so smart. Millie makes us laugh every day."

Belle

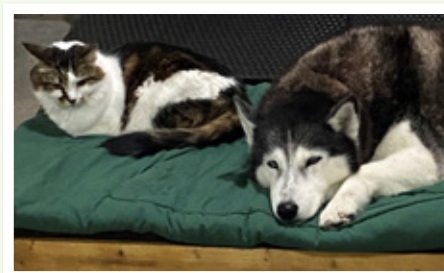
Marcie learned about Belle from her friend Julie, a foster volunteer for My Way Home. Marcie only knew about Huskies as sled dogs from her time in Alaska and it had been 10 years since she had a dog in her home, but something about Belle captured her heart. Marcie researched how to care for (and cope with!) a Husky-type dog, and soon Belle had joined her family, including rescued felines Apollo and Juanita.

When she first arrived, Belle was flabby and could barely manage a one-mile walk. She wasn't sure about the cats, but Juanita quickly demonstrated that the family hierarchy goes like this: people > cats > dogs. To avoid resentments, feline and canine family members are fed separately, the cats have their own "catio," and Belle has her own terrace so there is plenty of space for everyone to feel safe and secure when humans aren't around to supervise.



BELLE, A "BEAVER BELIEVER" HUSKY

Belle has blossomed in her new home. She now gets two walks a day for a total of five miles, and she has regained her girlish figure. Like all Huskies, Belle is very smart and she enjoys the challenge of puzzle toys. She has learned that she is safe and her needs are being met consistently, and she is providing unconditional love and support to Marcie. "We are learning so much about each other. Belle is amazing—I feel like I have won the lottery," says Marcie.

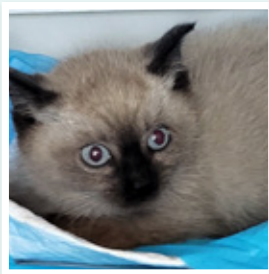
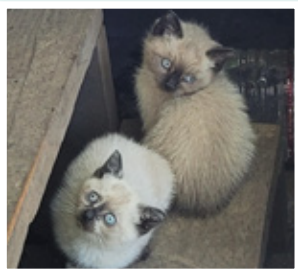


BELLE & APOLLO CHOSE MATCHING OUTFITS

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 rescued dog, please contact mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com.

SUCCESS STORIES

In our fall newsletter we told you about a situation where a friendly tom cat was the source of 23 cats and kittens in less than a year, creating a feral colony of his own. The elderly gent caring for them was overwhelmed. Our mission was to trap, neuter, and return (TNR) the adult cats so they could continue to live in the home they're familiar with, and bring all 13 kittens into our rescue for socializing and placement in loving, indoor-only homes. Four of those kittens were the "V" litter. We are happy to share the following reports:

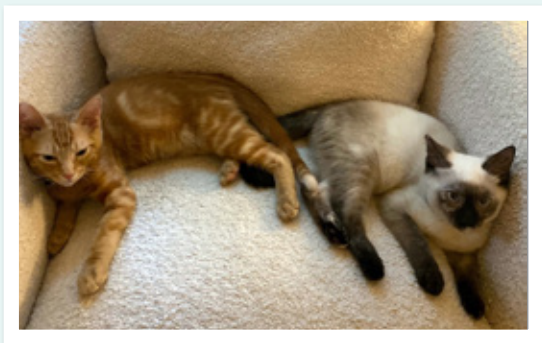


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BABY MACK;
BABY VELA & WILLA; BABY VELCRO

Mackenzie & Willamette

(formerly Vanilla & Vinca)

Mackenzie (aka Mack) and Willamette (aka Willa) have completely settled into their new home. As they grow bigger and bigger so does their curiosity. They love to play keep away with toys and chase each other around the house, while also making sure to schedule lots of time for naps



MACK AND WILLA

and human cuddles. Now that it is chilly outside, they have discovered how nice it is to lay by our wood-burning fireplace.

Willa follows the lead of her big brother, especially when it comes to chirping at the birds outside the window on the birdfeeder, but is also known to carry around small fluffy objects in her mouth, including a pom-pom attached to a winter hat. Mack is an equally silly boy when he tries to groom my partner's beard. They are so loved in their new home and we couldn't imagine life without them!

—Alison Monahan



IN THEIR FOSTER HOME

Vela (formerly Velveeta) & Velcro

Vela and Velcro are now around seven months old and getting along swimmingly! Their personalities are growing just like they are—Velcro goes wild for wand toys and loves being a shoulder cat, while Vela is a fearless explorer and will do most anything for treats. Now that it's winter, they love snuggling on our bed above the heated blankets. Happy Holidays!

—Wendy Yang & Sen Hirano

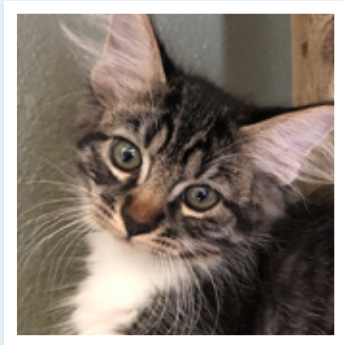


VELA (LEFT) & VELCRO

Dilly & Gouda

(formerly Whitney & Wilson)

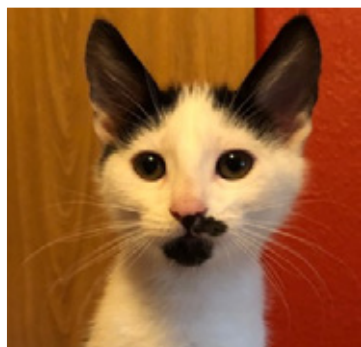
This adorable pair were featured in our fall newsletter. They were adopted from ARCF as kittens two years ago, but sadly a young family member developed severe allergies and they made the difficult decision to return the



BABY DILLY

cats to us. We settled them into a foster home and it wasn't long before we heard from Kortnee and Bryce, who had

recently lost their beloved cat and were ready for new companions. Here is the latest update:



BABY GOUDA

Whitney and Wilson, who now go by Dilly and Gouda respectively, are loving their new furever home and doing great!

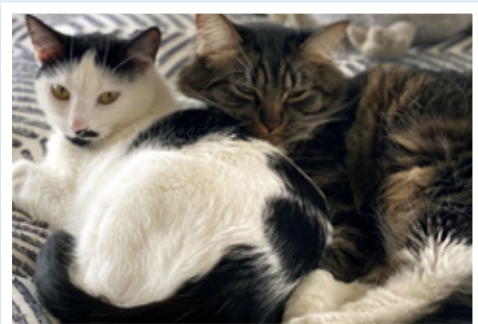
They enjoy

bird watching from their cat tower and window hammock, begging for Greenies anytime we walk near the treat drawer, and love one-on-one snuggle time.

Gouda is getting all the brushing his heart desires, and he and Dilly have found a love for their laser pointer and mouse toy.

They also occasionally sneak a nap snuggled up together!

—Bryce Dillon & Kortnee Gray



DILLY (LEFT) & GOUDA

Arlo

Arlo and his siblings Archie and Annabelle (see page 1!) came to us through a neighborhood connection. A young woman was giving away these unfixed kittens, first come, first served. Fortunately, we had space here at ARCF World HQ and a volunteer who could get there before anyone else. As soon as we met this little trio, we thought of our volunteer Leah, who was looking for a fun and friendly young male cat to balance out the energy of her two female cats. Enter Arlo!

This is how it's going:

Thank you so much for bringing Arlo into my life! He has been such a goofy ball of joy since joining our household. His new sisters, Luna (2) and Blossom (12), take turns observing his antics with amusement and consternation, by turns.

Arlo is so easygoing and good-natured, and slipped right into our routines like he's always been here (although Luna and Blossom periodically remind him that he is the new kid in town). As I type, he is curled up next to my desk, waiting for me to call it a day. He's just waiting for the moment I leave my home office, at which point he'll run to his favorite toy—THE TUNNEL! — and hide inside to lure me into playing with him.

After learning the lay of the land indoors for a month, Arlo



ARLO (LEFT) & LUNA

was very excited to experience the catio for the first time! He hangs out there all the time, but especially loves being out after dark when all the nocturnal things come out. His adventurous spirit has even helped Luna to discover her braver side... Arlo leads her out from under the bed when she takes a fright.

Thank you so much for finding Arlo and connecting us! It was important to add a calm, fun cat to balance out the personalities already living in the house, and I so appreciate that you took the time to think about the best fit for Luna and Blossom and then find the right kitty. We just love him!

—Leah Goodman

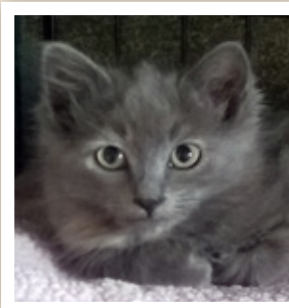
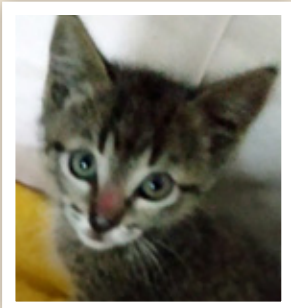
Concrete & Beans

(formerly Wren & Sheldon)

In the summer of 2021 we rescued a stray cat who appeared with her litter of three. A neighbor called us for help but before we could get there, two of the kittens were found dead in the road. We picked up the last kitten and named her Wren. We also trapped the momcat, provided all necessary vet care, including spaying, and returned her to the neighbor, who chose to adopt her as an indoor cat.

Meanwhile, a tiny single kitten was found in a different city and brought to us by a Good Samaritan. No mom and no other kittens were anywhere nearby, so this little boy joined ARCF and we called him Sheldon.

Once we had brought both kittens to good health, we introduced Wren and Sheldon and hoped they would become friends. They did bond very quickly, but both were understandably traumatized and although they learned to trust their foster mom, they were very anxious about meeting strangers and struggled with adjusting to changes



BABY BEANS (LEFT) & BABY CONCRETE

in their environment. We knew they would need a special home, with a patient, experienced cat person. One day we received an application from Jacob, and although it didn't seem like the perfect placement for these shy kittens, we arranged a meeting anyway. It went about as planned—they weren't having it. But Jacob was ready to give them a chance, and it turned out better than we could have hoped for.

Jacob recently sent us an update:

I adopted my cats from ARCF a year ago, right after a tough breakup where I had to move away from six animals I loved with every part of me and I was devastated. I knew I needed cats and when I met Wren and Sheldon (now Concrete and Beans) they seemed as hurt from life as I was.

I spent two months on the floor with them working quietly and offering treats before they came out from under the bed and I got to pet them for the first time. They now sleep with me nightly, have sat in meetings with CEOs and heads of school districts, and follow me around the apartment all day. (For those who are curious, they are named after cats in a



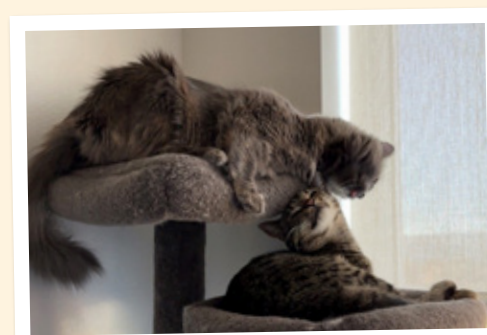
IN THEIR FOSTER HOME

game I've been playing with a buddy for years.)

Beans is still a bit shy with new people but Concrete runs the damn house like an absolute menace to society. If she doesn't get her meals on time or I sleep in too late, she will pick up her metal food bowl and drop it on the floor until I wake up. Beans thinks it's funny to bite my toes then run away. They both sleep under my arm or on my back every night. They wait for me to get home from the office, and when I am home they're on their heated pad, in my lap, or in their cat tree. They're extremely comfortable with their vet as well so normally it is very little stress on them to go.

They have brought so much light into my life and once they get older I think I'll get another kitten for them. I love the both of them so much it's crazy, they have saved me as much as I've saved them. It still hurts sometimes but the way these two look at me and love me has helped fill that hole. They helped me in more ways than I thought possible. I can't thank you enough for the pleasure of adopting these two amazing little balls of joy, their lives are filled with love and treats and more toys than they know what to do with. Nothing is spared when it comes to these two. Thank you so much.

—Jacob Fuchs



IN THEIR FOREVER HOME

THINGS WE LIKE

This time of year “Top Ten” lists pop up everywhere—the best books, movies, office chairs, video games . . . At the top of our list every year at ARCF are the volunteers who make it possible to carry on the work of this small but mighty organization.

Our foster volunteers are the backbone of our program. Because we have no shelter or facility, we count on our fosters to be on duty every day, all year long. Their homes also serve as adoption venues and we deeply appreciate their willingness to be generous and flexible with their personal time and space.

Anne Malinowski has provided a warm and welcoming space for many, many kittens on their journey from street rescue to forever family.

Lori and **Paul Sharp** provide the care that allows us to rescue feral momcats and their babies. Not many people are willing or able to take on kitties fresh off the streets, but Lori is a miracle worker who is always up for the challenge. Paul has also made road trips for us when cats and supplies needed safe and reliable transportation.

Bonnie Williams and **Drew Flowers** also run a boot camp for the little “wildies.” Bonnie tackled a couple of big TNR (trap-neuter-return) projects this year, in very challenging conditions, and Drew provided a critical assist in capturing a very ill feral cat who needed an immediate trip to the emergency vet.

Lauren Magnee and **John Miskey** share their home with our rescued cats, and

are especially welcoming to those being returned to ARCF when circumstances take a turn in their adopters’ families.

Erin and **Jay Gaskill** joined us as fosters at the end of 2021, and soon afterward had their first “foster fail,” bonding quickly with handsome Jarvis. After a few more fosters were adopted, they “failed” again with Maple. They’ve decided to pack up the cats and leave Portland for warmer latitudes, and although we will miss them as fosters, we wish them all the best in their new home.

Jennifer Hansen and **Roger Anderson** have also welcomed many kittens and adopters to their home, providing loving care for as long as it takes to find the perfect forever family for each one.

Janet and **Erik Blackstone** have a busy travel schedule but always make room for a foster cat or two when they are home. Wilma Perez-Leon came through for us, as always, when we needed help placing a colony of displaced feral cats into safe barn homes.

Val Walker is our “East County” rep—always willing to tackle a new TNR project, and keep an eye on the old ones, to make sure the cat population is kept under control.

Gina Chirillo donates her time to do our bookkeeping every month and **Leah Goodman** provides professional editing and proofreading for this newsletter.

Veterinary practices continue to face extraordinary challenges to keep clinics staffed and patients safely treated. We are very grateful to **Cat & Dog Hospital of Portland**, **The Pixie Project**, **Willamette Valley Animal Hospital-Gladstone**, **Homeward Bound Spay Neuter Clinic**, **Vista Pet Hospital** and **Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon** for providing top quality care under difficult conditions. **Oregon Dog Rescue** allowed us to bring kittens to their pop-up spay/neuter clinic. **Premiere Pet Dentistry** helped us with a special case. **Gabriel Park Veterinary Clinic** has been a placement partner for some of our kittens. **Pets on Broadway**, **Happy Tails Pet Center**, **Healthy Pets NW** (Woodstock location), and **Sellwood Pet Supply** support us with donated supplies. We encourage everyone to shop at locally-owned pet supply stores, where staff can offer expert guidance in choosing appropriate products for your pets.

And finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our generous and compassionate donors and all the wonderful people who provide the loving homes that make it all worthwhile.

ARCF Board of Directors

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!
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