



ANIMAL TALK

Spring 2008

P.O. Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293

“DIFFICULT” CATS

We’ve all had them. Those loving, adorable, wonderful cats -- with one little problem. They bully the other cats. They yowl in the middle of the night. They don’t want to be picked up. One minute they’re purring, the next minute they have their claws and/or teeth in your skin. For most of these cats, there’s no “cure” for the problem, but you can help minimize it. Here are some tips from some of our volunteers.



The Bully



The Shredder



The Ninja Attack Cat



The Chatterbox



The Scaredy Cat

The Bully

Albert thinks it is fun to ambush the other cats and wrestle them to the ground; he doesn’t understand that they don’t find it as fun as he does. The only solution I have so far is to keep them separated when I’m not there. When the bullying gets to a certain point, I intervene, so the more timid cat gets a break to relax and feel safe.

The Shredder

All cats have a need to scratch things. They need to sharpen their claws and mark their territory with the scent glands on their paws. Two things to help with this problem are to keep their claws clipped and to buy them at least one large, steady, good-quality SISAL scratching post (we recommend sisal because unlike carpet, it lasts (almost) forever).

Another thing that can help with this is scratching posts and scratching boxes next to entrances and

exits of places they consider to be their territory. I tried this because I saw a wild animal program that was talking about big cats and how they mark the boundaries of their territory, so I’m giving my kitties a location at the boundary to mark.



The Ninja Attack Cat

Shaq was a huge (over 20 pounds), athletic, unfixed male when we found him in our backyard, lounging with our other two cats, who didn’t seem to mind at all.

After a few weeks, he decided he was staying, even though he still is a feral cat at heart. He can be loving and purring one minute (he likes to sit on your foot), and hissing and lashing out with his claws the next. He will not abide being picked up under any circumstances, and when he rolls over on his back, exposing his stomach in that cute way, he will attack you if you try to pet him. He sleeps on the floor in front of the cat door,

guarding the entry. And if we are in the front yard, he guards the perimeter and will charge at almost any dog that dares come down the sidewalk. He is a handful, but we love him!

The Scaredy Cat

For the first year we had Sachi, she was a mere shadow running through the hall during the night or early in the morning.

She would not eat with the other cats or come out to play. In the second year, she came out more often but would still hug the



farthest wall so she could make a quick exit. This year, she has bonded with our only male cat, Gizmo. The two of them play together, sleep together under the bed, and jump up on the bed together to be petted. Sachi still has that hint of suspicion about her, but she will now let me walk within a foot of her.

Mostly we have left her alone, to do things in her own time. I often wonder what she was like before I got her, but that's a question that I will never have an answer to. What I do know is that she has a good home and is making slow but great progress, and that Gizmo is very happy.

Another Scaredy Cat

We've had Misty since he was four months old (1994). He will forever be a chicken cat, hiding when the doorbell rings, hiding if anyone else is in the house. When we had garage reconstruction work going on for three months, he lost weight because he stayed under the dresser for so many hours a day. I finally plugged up all the holes where he could get under furniture, preferring that he hide in a closet instead.

The Don't-Pick-Me-Up Cat

Misty wants to be near us and flumps on the floor so we can bend over to pet him. But when I pick him up to hold him, he's got the stiff-arm tactic down to a science. He jumps up on the bed and comes near us, but he will not sit in our laps. In bed, I recently have started holding him on my chest and nuzzling my face in his chest fur; he puts up with that for almost a minute. He purrs and kneads but then zoom! — he's gone.

Another Don't Pick Me Up Cat

Mama Cita was definitely feral when I got her, and after six years she has bonded very tightly to me. She goes everywhere I go, but if I turn to move somewhere, she dashes off toward her room. She knows I'm not after her, so she

won't go far unless I move in her direction, but there is no way I could ever pick her up. The really odd thing is that I can scruff her and sort of drag her across the floor, but her feet must never leave the ground. And when I'm lying on the bed or sofa, she will actually walk onto or across me.

I got **Ophelia** when she was about 9 months old. When she first lived with me, I couldn't pick her up without many minutes of chasing her around the house. (I had to medicate her, otherwise I would have left her alone.) Once I got hold of her she would melt into my arms and purr. Now, after six years, I can pick her up easily, but only if she is in an elevated sleeping basket or if she has crawled onto my lap on the sofa.

The Chatterbox

Amanda came into my home with a lot to say and hasn't been quiet since. She tells me what she's thinking, when she's thinking it, and what prompted her to think it.

As soon as I walk in the door after a long day of



work and school, she demands to know exactly where I've been all day. Of course, as soon as I begin to tell her, she interrupts to tell me about her day. There are times when I wish she would talk less, especially at 2:00 am when she's been startled awake by my neighbor and feels the need to tell me (and my neighbor) all about it. Of course, there are probably times she wishes I would talk less, too, like when she's in the middle of her mid-morning nap and I'm reading an essay out loud for her editorial comments. But in the end, it's nice to come home to someone who's always interested in what I have to say and always has so much to say herself!



The Yowler

Monkey will cry hysterically at random times, always with a toy in her mouth. The best guess I've heard was from a vet who said it is an aborted

mama cat behavior, when they bring food and call to their kittens.

In her case, I just say, "Monkey!" in the same tone as she is using, every time she cries, because she will come to me if I call and she usually stops when she sees me. It usually ends up being a chorus of "MEOW!!" "MONKEY!!" "Meow!" "Monkey!" "Meow?" "Monkey?"

Donate using *PayPal*

ARCF now offers you the convenient option of donating with a credit card online through PayPal, a leading internet payment service established in 1998 (and known well by eBay users). You can access this option from our website: from our home page, click on "Donate" in the left column under "You Can Help." On that page, find the "PayPal Donate" button and click on it. You will be taken to PayPal's website, where you can fill out your credit card information or log into your PayPal account.

MICROCHIP

Fund Drive

What is a microchip? It's a small metal chip, inserted under a pet's skin, that contains an electronic number that's stored in a national database. The database then connects that number to the owner's name, phone number, and address in the database.

Why should we microchip? The short answer is: People aren't perfect. As well-meaning as we are, we make mistakes. We leave a door open, or a window open, or a gate open, and suddenly a pet finds itself lost in the big, big world. With a microchip, a pet's chances of being reunited with its family are vastly improved.

Why is a microchip needed, if the pet has a collar and tags? Once, a helpful person found a stray dog and brought it into her yard. She removed the dog's collar and took it inside, to call to the owner. The dog then escaped again--without the collar. A microchip can't be removed, lost, or destroyed. Collars can fall off or get caught on things, and tags can become unreadable.

We currently do not have the resources to microchip the pets that we adopt out, because it is expensive (\$25-60 per chip). But this is a vital service that we should provide to the animals and their adopters. To meet this need, we decided to create a separate fund that will pay only for microchipping. This is where you come in: any donation that you earmark as "for microchipping" will be put in that fund and will pay directly for microchips. On the back page of this newsletter you can see the box to check on our donation form. You can donate any amount.

Microchipping saves lives and ends heartache. We think this is an important program and urge you to participate.



The Kitty Corner

There are many things to think about when adopting a cat or dog for the first time. Give some thought to what type of animal and personality would be a good fit for you and your family. Investigate the various breeds and keep in mind that mixed-breed animals are often healthier than purebreds.

Some other things to think about are:

- If a new person appears in your life, how loyal will you be to your pet if that person doesn't care for animals or is allergic?
- Many people surrender their pets because they have to move and can't take their pets with them.
- Some people give up their pets because there's a baby on the way and they don't think they can handle having a pet and a child.
- Students often want pets in their lives because they spend many hours studying alone. Then they graduate, and what happens to the pet? Quite often, the pets are abandoned when the students graduate and move on.
- Give some thought to what veterinary hospital you will use. The price of the office visit or the vaccines is not nearly as important as the quality and reputation of the vet.

So if you want to be an animal parent, think about your motive for adopting a pet and how settled you are. How committed will you be in six months or six years? Cats can live to be 20 years and beyond and some dogs can live almost as long (which for many of us is not long enough), but no matter how long they live, it is a long-term commitment, and it takes a lot of thought.

-- Pam Brooks, President

Welcome to ARCF's Dog Foster Program!



In July, ARCF decided it was time to re-establish its Dog Foster program. With a volunteer on board as the foster coordinator, ARCF has opened its doors to helping homeless dogs in need. At this time it is still

a fledgling program. We currently accept dogs only from our placement partners; we cannot accept owner-surrendered dogs. The program is gradually building, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead.

Since its debut last summer, the ARCF Dog Foster program has rehomed nine loving dogs, and placed one fabulous dog with Project Pooch.

One of our success stories is Tubbs, a young cocker spaniel who was dropped off at the county shelter. The shelter couldn't release him for adoption because of an eye problem. As it turned out, all he needed was some minor surgery and a few weeks to recover. ARCF paid for the surgery, and a terrific foster home took care of him until he healed. He is now thriving in a new loving home.

Of the dogs we've helped so far, some are old and some are young, some are big and some are small, some are purebreds and some are not. All are wonderful pets, and have settled in well with their new families.

Currently, we have several dogs in foster care, including:

- Gidget, 3 mos., Australian/Shepherd mix puppy
- Lula, 2 mos., Pitbull puppy
- Hansel, 8 yrs., fun-loving dachshund
- Murphy, lovable Pitbull mix

- Midge, gorgeous Chessie/Lab mix
- Dyson, mother Dachshund and her four roly-poly puppies

Fostering a dog may not be as difficult as you think. Do you jog or run? Running with a dog is fun and gives it some great training and exercise. Have a spare bathroom or bedroom? It might be the perfect quiet space for a mom and her puppies. Children make great foster companions, and fostering pets can teach them important lessons about respect for life and helping others. Many people worry that they will get too attached to a foster and will end up keeping it. That is a risk, of course, but the joy of seeing one of your foster dogs unite with its perfect family is unparalleled.

If you're thinking about fostering a dog in need, please contact us through the dog webpage on the ARCF website.



In Memoriam

Jan Cook

A very special woman who helped us so much over the years was Jan Cook, who died in her sleep on Dec. 4, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. She was a true friend to every animal in need and never turned down any request for help. Her passion was to reduce overpopulation and the resulting needless deaths of thousands of cats and dogs by making spay/neuter services accessible to all, regardless of income. To honor her memory and carry on her legacy, we ask all our supporters to join us in spreading the word about this vital step in reducing the number of unwanted cats and dogs in our world. If you know someone who needs help with spay/neuter for a pet, please contact us.

Emma

Jan Lucky lost sweet little Emma.

Greta

Susan & Gordon lost Greta: "After 15.5 wonderful years, sweet Greta passed away in November. She had been in a slow decline with controlled hyperthyroidism, some kidney decline and arthritis. After 15 years of so much joy, it was one of the hardest things I've had to do. I adopted her from ARCF in 1993. She was a great cat."

ANIMAL PLACEMENT UPDATE

In November, December, and January, we placed **27 cats** and **4 dogs** in permanent, responsible, loving homes.

Our major expenses for those three months were:

Veterinary fees: **\$35,770.13**

These expenses also include veterinary care for the pets of Portland's homeless.

Food, meds, supplies: **\$1,433.43**

Advertising to find new homes: **\$495.54**

Newsletter *Animal Talk*: **\$903.23**

This number increases as we increase our mailing list.

Thanks to the extreme generosity of our donors during the holiday season, we were able to help a number of cats and dogs with lifesaving surgeries this past quarter.

Ellen & Barty

Lorraine Jones lost her dear sweet Ellen and her loyal companion Barty.

Truman

Jim Sutherland lost his beloved Truman.

Sebastian and Lionel

Linda Anderson lost two elder ARCF kitties this year, adopted in 1989: "Sebastian and Lionel, whom I adopted from ARCF in Sept. 1989, have both passed away. Sebastian died at 13 and Lionel at 17.5 years. They were fun and I loved them a lot, as did my two other cats and my dog – all rescue animals. Thanks for all of your work."

Diesel

Stan and Georgia lost Diesel, a handsome and mellow guy they adopted from ARCF.

Princess

Sylvia Caro lost her lovely Princess.

Pippa & Luna

Erin will miss her Pippa, a 6-month-old tuxedo kitty. "She was a true blessing and a bright spirit." Erin will also miss her beloved dog, Luna, who was tender and true.

Alumni & Su



JACK & LOUIE

In May 2006 we adopted Jack and Louie, the two most beautiful, playful, and loving kittens anyone could ever hope for. Jack is skinny with short hair and runs from here to there in a flash (we sometimes call him “Jumping Jack Flash”). Louie has long hair and a round belly, and takes his time in all he does. They are always with us, no matter what we’re doing. If I’m cooking, they are playing under the kitchen table. If we’re watching TV, they are sleeping on the couch. When I take a shower, they lie on the bath mat and wait for me to step out. They are our constant companions and bring so much joy and happiness to our lives that I don’t know how we ever managed without them!



LUCY CAT FELLER

I was 10 months old when I was brought home by my new adopted family, Don and Mary Feller, on October 27, 2003. My mom, Mary, has a plaque in the kitchen that says, “Dogs have masters, cats have staff.” That certainly is true around my house! If I want to eat, I sit by my bowl. If I want to play hide-and-seek, I make very strong eye contact with my dad, Don. He loves to run upstairs and find me. Of course, I always make it easy for him to find me! Mary knows that I like to sleep on top of her when she reads in bed. However, I have not been able to train her to let me sleep on her all night. She does let me sleep next to her with my body tight against her side.

Thank you again for my wonderful home!

Lucy Cat Feller



Success Stories



EVA

As requested in your newsletter, we are sending an update on the kitty we adopted through you last July, who we named Eva (she was formerly Patches). She is doing very well, gets along with our pug just fine, and is a joy to have as a member of our family. I've also included a picture that I took shortly after her adoption.

Thanks so much for the opportunity to give a home to a beautiful, soft and loving lap cat.

Lori & Samuel Johnson



FOXY & LILY

Foxy and Lily are doing great. Their personalities are really developing and they are total opposites. Lily is real laid back, loves to be petted and held. She also loves to carry her toys around in her mouth and play fetch. Foxy is very curious and is always exploring new things. She is just starting to like being petted, but she likes to lie on you and sleep.

When Foxy and Lily get in "play mode" (as we call it) watch out! They play chase through the whole house, attacking each other. They are very entertaining. They are still very close, but also enjoy their own space apart. They are also getting big. Lily is a little bit bigger than Foxy, but Foxy is the tougher of the two at playtime.

We are all doing great!

Thank you!

Jerry, Holly, Brooklyn and Jackson Stone

SPAY AND NEUTER COUPONS

On request, we can provide coupons for spaying and neutering cats and dogs. These coupons make this procedure very affordable. Several good, full-service vets participate in this program. For coupons, call ARCF at 503-284-8768.



HAVE YOU ADOPTED FROM US?

We are asking all ARCF alumni to check in and give us an update on your pets, no matter when you adopted from us. Send us an email, a note, a photo, whatever. We want to run some “where are they now” features in the newsletter. If you adopted kittens from us, it would be fun to see baby pictures and grown-up pictures. Email us at arcf@pdx-petadoption.org or write us at P.O. Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293-0956.

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Animal Rescue & Care Fund depends entirely on your donations to help the animals. 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.

- YES! I'd like to make a contribution of \$_____ for the ARCF Microchipping Program, which will pay for all adopted animals to have microchips.**
- I enclose _____ for humane work. (\$35 sponsors an animal, but we appreciate any amount!)
- Check here to receive a photo and story about the animal.
- I'm interested in being a volunteer. Please call me at _____ or email me at _____.

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