

FEATURED CAT

Audrey

If you were to reach out and pet Audrey with your eyes closed, you might think you had put your hand on a very plush bunny. Her coat is so soft and thick, it's hard to resist sinking your fingers into it. Fortunately, Audrey adores being stroked, massaged, combed, brushed, and fussed over in general. Her favorite place to be is snuggled up close to a warm body sitting on the couch where she will snooze, roll around on her back, and purr for hours.

We think Audrey is about two years old. Although she enjoys some dedicated play time with her people every day, for the most part she is an easygoing companion who would prefer a home with grownup people who have a pretty quiet routine.

Although she adores people, Audrey isn't keen on sharing space with other cats. She tolerates her current feline roommate, but



has no interest in developing a closer relationship and clearly would prefer to have all the hands-on attention. So we're looking for a family who will be content to have only one cat and make her their princess.

Audrey's personal habits are impeccable; she is meticulous about the litter box, doesn't scratch where not allowed, and as a bonus, her plush bunny coat sheds very little! She has no special dietary

needs, except that she tends to put on extra weight, so her new family will need to make sure she gets high quality grain-free food and no extra servings allowed!

Audrey has been spayed, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV/FIV, and is up to date on vaccines. Her adoption fee is \$80. To learn more about Audrey, 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

Ella

Ella is a sweet little girl who wants to share her happy energy with a family who can see through her initial shyness to the cuddly, goofy girl underneath. Ella appears to be part Miniature Pinscher, part Chihuahua, and totally adorable. She's about two years old and weighs 10 lb.

Her foster mom has been teaching Ella how to enjoy some really fun things like walking on a leash, and Ella got the hang of that—she LOVES her walks, and prefers two a day, or even more.

Although she may never be the kind of dog who enjoys meeting strangers, Ella is very loyal to her caregivers and shows them the trusting and

affectionate girl she really wants to be. She is completely potty trained, and does well in her crate, especially with treats and toys for amusement. In fact, it's great fun to watch her jump with joy when she gets a new bone or stuffed animal.

Ella does well with other dogs, and would be happy to find a home with another dog to be her playmate and role model. She's also good with cats, but probably would adjust most easily to a home without fast-moving and noisy young kids.

All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, and current on vaccines. Ella's adoption fee of \$180 includes: microchip, leash, collar, blanket, food sample, and a copy of *Love Has No Age Limit: Welcoming an*



LISA TESO

Adopted Dog into Your Home, by Patricia McConnell.

If you are interested in meeting Ella, contact Cheryl at cayoshioka@aol.com or 503-974-4944

From the President's Desk

This time of year we usually mention something about the arrival of kitten season, and how busy we're going to be. But last year the kittens never stopped coming! We have had kittens in our foster homes without a break since last spring. Now the new crop is arriving, and we barely had a chance to sit down and catch our breath.

One of the most rewarding and important missions we have at ARCF is socializing kittens born to feral cats. If left to roam and breed, these kittens would create many generations of unsocialized cats, who quickly become unwelcome in most communities. If taken to a shelter, the kittens would almost certainly be destroyed because the resources are not available to house and care for them, especially since there are so many fully socialized cats and kittens flooding the shelters already.

We have an extraordinary team of "kitten boot camp" volunteers who take these wild little things into their homes, and with patience and skill, turn them into playful, purring balls of fur.

In March, volunteers from the New York City Feral Cat Initiative visited Portland to present a workshop on feral kitten socialization. Nine of our volunteers attended, and we all agreed it was a great learning experience and very entertaining too. Even our most expert kitten tamers came away with new ideas. Thank you Anne, Courtney, Debbie, Eric, Lori, Paul, Val, and Wilma for giving up yet another Saturday morning for the kittens!

We are always looking for more volunteers to join our kitten team—there is no shortage of kittens needing our services! If you're interested in helping, please contact us. We have the training, supplies, and resources; all we need is your time and some space in your home. It doesn't take much.

Mostly because of those winter kittens, who were quickly adopted, we were able to place 26 cats in the last three months. Of course it's always more challenging to find homes for our wonderful adult cats. A recent rescue involved a group of eight cats left behind when their human family was evicted from the house. The cats were obviously loved, because they are very sweet, and extremely outgoing and affectionate. Carly is one of that group, and so is Audrey, our cover girl. Let us know if you are looking for a well-mannered lap cat who will charm all your friends!

Our other projects this quarter include helping PAW Team clients Rocko, a Chihuahua, and Sugar, a Dachshund, two little dogs in desperate need of many dental extractions. We also helped Cookie,

a Border Collie/Springer who needed surgery to remove painful bladder stones, and Romeanna, a senior kitty who also needed some painful teeth removed.

Several years ago, we helped TNR (trap-neuter-return) a colony of about 15 community cats being cared for by residents of an RV park in the Portland area. One day in March, we happened to drive by and were shocked to see every trailer was gone, and the park was in the process of being demolished. Our sinking feeling was confirmed when we took a walk through the deserted park and saw half a dozen cats sitting by their empty food bowls. We talked to the surrounding businesses, got permission from the property owner, and started feeding the cats daily. Then our intrepid trapping team went into action, and the cats are all now safely in our care, where they will stay until we find them a safe and permanent location to live out the rest of their lives.

We are sad to report the untimely demise of Marvin, a gentle giant of a cat we rescued when his owners moved and left him behind—the far-too-familiar story. Marvin was with us only briefly before he died suddenly of what we later learned is a heart condition common to the Maine Coon breed.

In happier news, we were proud to learn we have fans in Mr. Todd Graham's fourth grade class at Stephenson Elementary School in Portland. This group of enterprising young scholars won a cash prize in a fundraising contest for their PTA. They were allowed to decide how to spend their prize money, and they chose to donate to ARCF. Thank you, Stephenson students, and we hope to meet you soon!

In closing, let us climb up on our soapbox yet again to say: Please spay and neuter all your pets. Make sure your friends and family do the same. If you are feeding stray cats, get them fixed now. We love puppies and kittens, but there are way too many of them for the homes available. If you or someone you

know needs financial or logistical help getting this accomplished, please call us.

To all our adopters, volunteers, and donors, as always we thank you for supporting our mission.

Happy Spring!

— **Carma Crimins**
PRESIDENT



MARVIN



CARLY



ENID, AT KITTEN BOOT CAMP

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

Blue

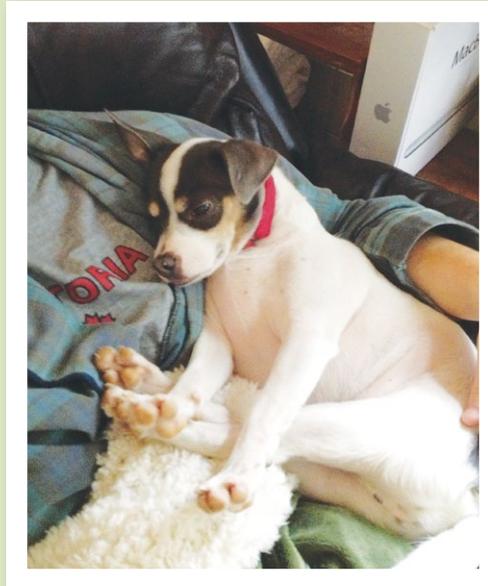
Our regular readers will remember Blue from our winter issue. He was the adorable (but chubby!) Chihuahua with a sweet, shy personality. He had come to My Way Home Dog Rescue in April 2012, after being picked up as a stray and taken to a local shelter. We don't know anything about the first five years of his life before he came to us, but gradually we learned what kind of home was best for Blue, and it turned out to be the home of Kris Grogan and Michelle Rogers, his My Way Home foster parents.

We decided a low-traffic home with no kids would probably be the best fit for Blue, and fortunately we fit the bill. I remember the day he arrived. It was just he and I outside and he was very scared. I sat down on the driveway, leaning up against the fence and just waited for him to come to me. It took quite a while and I was glad it was a nice, sunny day. After about two hours, he finally approached me and we've gotten along like gangbusters ever since.

After a few weeks of feeding him small portions and twice daily long walks, his weight was not going down. He seemed tired and he had almost no hair on his chest. I suspected a thyroid deficiency. We had him tested for hypothyroid and found he was low-normal. We started him on medication and the pounds just melted away. He weighed 17.6 lbs when he came here. He is now holding steady at right around 14 lbs. He has a waist, definition in his hind legs and no more fatty neck roll! That is an enormous weight loss for a dog his size, almost 21%! He has so much more energy, gets sudden



LISA TESO



**TOP: BLUE AND KRIS
 BOTTOM: BLUE AT EASE**

nitro-bursts on walks, and is just a very happy little dog.

Also, since day one he has been my number one snuggler at bedtime. He sleeps on my left side, snuggles his little face into my neck and makes little snorty noises as he falls asleep. If he were a cat, he would be a Ragdoll because he goes limp and lets you put him in whatever position you want when he's in your lap. He is so affectionate and sweet.

Blue gets along great with the other dogs and never makes trouble. He is very interested in our cat and makes sure she doesn't forget she lives in a house with seven dogs.

We adopted Blue because we fell in love with him and couldn't imagine our pack without him. When I come into the room and sit down, he jumps right up on my lap and gives me tons of kisses before I even know what's going on! He is an oxytocin machine! When he's feeling good about life, he runs like a rocking horse—very cute! He always has such a sweet, soft look on his face.

Blue is one snuggly little Chihuahua mix that I look forward to cherishing for many, many years to come.

I would do anything for this little dude. He is very special and dear to us. He and Freddy are on my lap every night and it is the highlight of my day. It's what I look forward to the most and what I miss when I have to travel for work.

— Kris Grogan & Michelle Rogers

Millie

About a year ago, while on a feral cat trapping mission, our volunteer noticed a little old cat across the street, sitting in the same spot on the sidewalk every day. A resident of the home told us that the cat had been left behind by a former roommate, and no one was caring for her. We scooped her up, named her Millie, and took her straight to our vet. A thorough exam revealed that Millie was suffering from hyperthyroidism, malnutrition, and dehydration, among other issues common to neglected older kitties. Her prognosis wasn't good, so we decided to make her comfortable and place her in a hospice/foster home.

Luckily for Millie and us, Wyonia and Dwight Conkle had adopted a special needs cat from us a few years ago, and we knew that they had recently lost a senior cat and might be willing to help Millie. Wyonia has a soft spot for special needs cats and as a veterinary technician, she has the skills and

experience that made her a perfect foster mom for Millie.

At first Wyonia agreed with our vet's prognosis that Millie would live only a few weeks. But she made sure that

Millie got her meds

every day, kept to her special diet, and got her infusion of fluids twice a week. Millie began to perk up, surprising Wyonia with little bursts of energy and silliness.

Now, a year later, Millie has gained 2 lb., and her health has dramatically improved. Wyonia recently gave us this update:

Millie is a sunbeam seeker! Any sun through the window and on the floor, that is where she will be. She is amazing. When she is hungry, she will wake me up and beat me to the kitchen for a snack. I actually had to figure out how much food she can eat per day. I am going to have to make certain I don't make her fat! Can you believe that? She pushes the boys out of the way when she thinks they are getting something better than she is.

Millie really loves Dwight and follows him everywhere around the house. In the mornings when he is getting ready for work Millie will lie on top of his shoes as if to say, "Don't leave me!"

She has been the perfect addition to our home. She gets along pretty well with the two boys, Ozzie and Ginger, as long as they respect her boundaries. The bed is Millie's territory and she allows the boys to share it with her as long as they behave. If they get too close, or heaven forbid try to take a whiff of her tail, Millie will give them a good swat to let them know who's in charge!

We love her dearly. Thank you for the privilege of caring for Miss Millie. We are the blessed ones to care for such a great cat with a big personality!

— Wyonia & Dwight Conkle

We are grateful to Wyonia and Dwight for the excellent care they provide. But Millie does require a special diet, daily medications, and twice weekly fluids. Even though it's an extra dent in our budget every month, ARCF will cover the cost of these supplies for as long as Millie needs them. If you'd like to help sponsor Millie's care, we would gratefully accept your donations on her behalf.



WYONIA, MILLIE AND DWIGHT



Beezus

We met Beezus and her kittens in October of 2011 when we were helping to trap, neuter, and return (TNR) all the roaming cats in a mobile home park in SE Portland. One of the residents who was feeding many outdoor cats, told us about Beezus and her new kittens, and asked if we could take the little family, to lessen her load. The kittens were quickly adopted, and it wasn't long before Carol and William came to meet Beezus. They recently sent us this message:

Just wanted to let you know that we've now had Beezus for just over a year and have enjoyed every minute with her. She is extremely playful, even bringing toys into our bedroom early in the morning, waiting for us to wake up and play with her. She and Kinko, our five year old cat, sleep close to each other and take care to notice where the other one is at all times. My husband has said that Beezus is the best cat we've ever had! Thanks to ARCF!

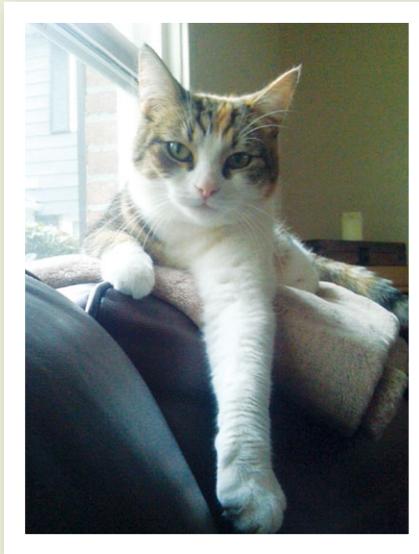
— Carol & William Gaynor

SUCCESS STORIES

Abby (formerly Sally)

About two years ago, Abby came to us in a familiar scenario: she and another young cat were left behind in an apartment when the tenants moved out and refused to return for them. We named the two cats Sally and Sumner, and they were soon adopted. After about a year, for whatever reason, Sally began to find Sumner very annoying and eventually made it clear that she could no longer tolerate living in the same house with him. We agreed that Sally should come back to us to give everyone a break from the stress. Both cats seemed to be much happier away from each other, so we decided to find another home for Sally.

We were very happy to receive an application from Tomas and April, since they had adopted a cat named Maggie from us in 2002, and saw her through a good long life. They had recently lost their other cat, who had a challenging personality to say the least, and were ready for a new feline family member. They came to meet Sally and decided to take her home.



Later that evening, we received the first update from Tomas:

I guess we were acceptable because she waltzed out of her carrier, sniffed a few items, and then gave us head butts and kisses all evening.

Recently we received another update:

We named her Abby, after both my favorite author Edward Abbey, and my favorite style of beers, Abbey ales. She's quite a little character. She loves everyone and greets everybody who comes in the door. She chose two strings as her favorite toys and will grab them and drop them at your feet when she feels it's time to play. And

when you pick them up, she loves to impress people with her feats of aerial agility.

Abby is the sweetest little cat we have ever had. She loves lap time and sleeping right by us. She will purr and look up and want kisses on her nose. She will even try to nibble our nose and lips if we let her.

— Tomas & April Sluiter

Maia (formerly Zara)

Maia came to us with her mom Zoey and six siblings when they were just four weeks old. Their human family also had new babies to feed, and knew they would not be able to care for the little cat family, so they asked for our help. Zoey

was happy to find a quiet room with plenty of good food at our foster home. She was a great mom, but raising seven kids is hard work, so as soon as they were weaned, Zoey was spayed and got some well-deserved rest.

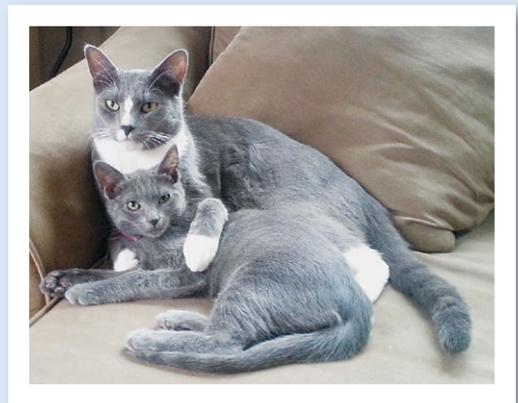
The kids are all just as sweet and beautiful as their mom. Six of the kittens went to their new homes in pairs, but Oliver and Maria were looking for a companion for their young male cat, and Maia seemed like she might be the right girl for their family.

They recently sent us this update. Doesn't it look like these two were born to be together?

Maia is a loving companion for my wife and me, and of course for Peter



ZOEY AND HER KIDS



PETER PARKER (TOP) AND MAIA

Parker, our other cat. They make each other's life a lot more fun, and provide countless hours of entertainment to us as well! Our days would be a lot emptier without Maia and Peter Parker around.

— Oliver Weilandt & Maria Ibarra

IN MEMORIAM

Carolyn McAlear sent us a donation in memory of Ellsworth and Emily, brother and sister cats she adopted from ARCF in 1993.



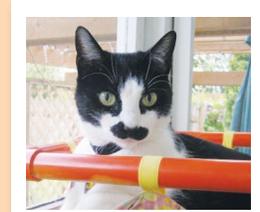
BONNIE

Bonnie was rescued by ARCF about two years ago. She had been abandoned by her owner, and after many months of sporadic feeding by neighbors, someone finally contacted us for help. Bonnie had lost one front leg at some point

in her life, and the other leg was caught in her collar, causing a painfully infected wound. Under the care of our vet, blood tests showed that Bonnie suffered from hyperthyroidism and would need daily medication. Bonnie went to live with our foster volunteer Nell Brownell. Her physical wounds healed, but we learned that Bonnie was understandably anxious about many things in the world. She had other health issues, including asthma and seizures. In spite of all that, Bonnie won Nell's heart, and she decided to adopt her. Gradually Bonnie's health continued to decline and in February came the point where there were no more good days and Nell made the humane but heartbreaking decision to end her suffering.

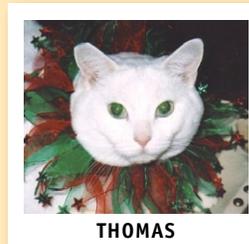
Claire and Curtis Westover lost two of their precious cats on the same sad day in December. Charlie had been Claire's companion for many years. He had cancer, complicated by kidney failure, and finally reached the end of a good long life. Niblet was a member of a feral colony tended by Claire's mom, Claudia Stewart. After about six years living with the colony, Niblet became very friendly. Claudia took her to live with Claire and Curtis, where she learned to love being a pampered housecat. Sadly, she became ill with feline leukemia and the end came very suddenly. In addition to Curtis and Claire, Charlie and Niblet are missed by their feline brother, Fritz.

Ruth and Matthew Page are mourning their cat Moustache Montgomery, who succumbed to a mysterious auto-immune disorder. Moustache was adopted with his brother Goatee from a shelter in Texas about 12 years ago.



MOUSTACHE

Moustache was Ruth's very best friend, and taught her all she needed to know about the wonders of living with felines. Musty is also missed by his feline siblings Bob, Astral, Sparky, Pickles, and Ziggy, and his canine pals Daisy and Dexter.



THOMAS

Thomas appeared in the backyard of an ARCF volunteer in 2003, shortly after July 4, when so many cats and dogs run away in panic from the terrifying noise of the fireworks. Thomas was skinny, dirty, and had run into something that banged up his face and shaved a squiggly strip of fur from his side. We soon discovered he was not only neutered, but also had been declawed. We were sure it would be easy to find his family—how many all white, declawed cats could there be? But after a month of no response to our many notices, no family stepped forward. Marian Kerr came to meet Thomas, and although he still looked a bit raggedy, he convinced her to take him home. Thomas gained confidence along with his health, and soon stepped up to a position of management in the family. He was demanding, affectionate, quirky, and amusing. Recently Thomas was diagnosed with lymphoma. The cancer grew quickly, and one day in February he lay down and did not get back up. Thomas is deeply missed by Marian, and by his feline companion, Tallulah.

Did you know that ARCF can accept donations of unwanted vehicles? If you're tired of looking at the clunker in your driveway, give us a call and we'll help you make it disappear. We'll arrange for Speed's Towing to pick up your vehicle and sell it at auction. They'll send us the net proceeds and we'll send you a receipt. 503-402-8692 or arcf@pdx-petadoption.org.

HOUSEKEEPING NOTICES:

- In early November, just before the last newsletter was completed, our mailbox at the US Post Office was vandalized, along with many others. If you have sent us mail through the USPS and haven't received an acknowledgement, please let us know.
- We mail this newsletter four times a year to our adopters, volunteers, and those who support us with donations. We never rent, sell, or share our mailing list with anyone. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know. We will also remove you from our list immediately upon request. For a donation of \$35, we'll mail a three-year gift subscription along with a note acknowledging your gift. Just let us know the name and address of the recipient and we'll take care of the rest.

Denise and Nutella

Nutella came to us with her four siblings (the N litter) in September of last year. A kind person had found the litter and tried to care for them but it became so overwhelming, she asked for our help. They were pretty scraggly and hungry, but some good food, baths, and a visit to our vet got them going in the right direction.

Denise was found in a trash dumpster by a passerby who took her to a private shelter. She was too little and too sick to be accepted there, but one of our



THE N KITTENS AS BABIES

volunteers happened to be there at the time and knew that we could help Denise. She was a very sick girl and it took a variety of treatments and prescriptions to get her little tummy working like it should. When she was recovered, we introduced her to the five N kittens, and she fit in from the first minute, so that litter became "Denise and the Ns."

We always place our kittens in pairs, unless there is already a single cat or kitten in the family. Hamid and Mahsa were looking for a pair and they chose Denise and Nutella. Here's the latest update:



BABY DENISE

We recently married, and Denise and Nutella are our first pets as a couple. We brought the step-sisters in together to look after and care for them. Now they are part of the family and have their own character. Nutella always catches the fake bird in her mouth and walks around the room growling, trying to scare Denise off.

And Denise scares off Nutella when she tries to get into the cat tunnel, which Denise considers her own territory.

But it's not all about the playful fighting! They are very fond of each other and sleep hugging each other every night. They can't stand to be apart from each other. We hope the family lives together happily for a long time.

— **Mahsa & Hamid Mohammedi**



NUTELLA (TOP) AND DENISE

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

December-January-February: We placed 26 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

- Veterinary Fees: \$7317.08*
- Advertising/Outreach: \$0
- Food, Special Meds: \$1230.30**
- 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.

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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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

Since we currently have no dogs in residence at ARCF World HQ, we asked a guest reviewer, Danni Duggan, to tell us about two new products making her life with dogs easier.

Hear Doggy!™ Plush Toys

If your dog goes wild with a squeaker toy the minute you get on the phone or sit down to enjoy a movie, then you need to know about these colorful ultrasonic toys. They contain a squeaker that only your dog can hear. We were admittedly skeptical. The first time we squeaked it, it didn't sound like much, but our dog came running from the other side of the house to investigate what new fun we had brought home to share with him. Now he can "squeak" away during the most important conference call without anyone being the wiser. He does not seem to know that we are oblivious to the sound. All squeaky toys in our house will soon be replaced with Hear Doggy toys! About \$6 and up, available at local pet supply stores and online.

**NO-SQUEAK
TOYS BY HEAR
DOGGY!**



FUR Dry™ - The Wet Dog Solution

I admit it: I wash my dog less frequently in the winter months in part because it is cold outside, but also because I do not look forward to an entire day full of wet dog smell throughout the house. Sometimes there is a battle of wills between the dog, who has been outside splashing through Portland's ubiquitous puddles, and me, who insists he not shake off all over the living room furniture. I was thrilled to find the FUR Dry wrap and even more thrilled to find that it works! Its fast-drying, wicking capabilities are impressive. Wrap the dog up for about an hour, and he is considerably drier when the Fur Dry comes off. Even better, I do not have a giant stack of towels to launder and the wet dog smell is greatly reduced. It is a win-win for the dog, the people, and the furniture. Available in sizes XS-XL, starting at \$15, also available locally and online.



RILEY GETTING HIS FUR DRY

Felted Wool Cat Beds

These handmade felted wool cat beds are a hit with our ARCF alumni. The felt is soft and woolly, and kitties seem to enjoy being inside a soft cave. When a snugly cave isn't quite right, they also like to curl up on top of the bed for a snooze. The "entrance" can be enlarged as needed. The beds are hand washable, and easily compacted for travel. We found this bed online at [Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com). Search for "felt cat bed" and you'll find many to choose from. Prices run from about \$60 to \$100. Most of the sellers are in Europe, so shipping can be slow and expensive. We think it was worth the wait, but we'd love to see some of our talented local crafters making and selling these.



**MELODY LOVES HER
WOOLLY CAT CAVE**

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'm interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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