

## FEATURED CAT Milton

This handsome blue-eyed gent is Milton the Freeway cat. Just over a year ago, in the midst of a brutal heat wave, we spotted him living under some scorched shrubbery on a freeway median. We would love to know the story of how he arrived there, but we did figure out that Milton is very happy living indoors with lots of personal attention.

We also learned that Milton gets a little cranky when certain other cats invade his personal space, but as long as he can command the castle as the only feline, he's a very benevolent ruler. At age ten (or so), Milton is not terribly interested in toys or other kitten-like activities. He takes great pleasure in more mature pastimes, including bird watching, binge-viewing reality TV shows, and napping. He prefers to have a lap available for these activities, but can manage with a padded perch on a window seat or cat tree.



He has his own heated bed and asks that it remained plugged in at all times during the cooler months. Heat is very soothing on tired bones.

Milton is incredibly smart and very confident. He loves meeting new people, and he's a big flirt. Nothing seems to rattle his nerves—except other cats. We haven't tested Milton with dogs, but we suspect he'd be fine with a kind, calm, and respectful canine pal. He has been thoroughly vetted, including senior health screening, and has no special needs other than vet-recommended kibble to promote healthy kidney function. He's a very low-maintenance dude, ready to take on

a permanent position as devoted companion and sidekick.

Milton has been neutered, microchipped, and is up-to-date on vaccines. He has tested negative for FeLV/FIV. His adoption fee is \$40. To learn more about Milton or any of our cats for adoption, call 503-402-8692, email [arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org), or visit [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).

## FEATURED DOG Reuben



Reuben is a black Chihuahua surrendered to a shelter in an area where there are far too many Chihuahuas of all shapes and colors and far too few homes for them. He was terrified at the shelter, cowering at the back of his kennel, and his prospects weren't good. A woman whose dog had recently died came to the shelter and wanted to help rescue another dog in his memory—a dog who was not likely to be adopted without a rescue group to accept him and funding to make it happen. She chose Reuben. He was named after her beloved dog who had passed and My Way Home Dog Rescue agreed to take him.

Once in his foster home, Reuben's personality blossomed.

He's sweet and funny and he photo-bombs every picture he can wiggle into. Reuben loves people and other dogs and he can do tricks! He's looking for a family who will include him in lots of activities, including lap and cuddle time.

Reuben is just over a year old, and packs a lot of cuteness into his 8 lbs. He is leash- and crate-trained and ready to meet his forever family.

All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and are current on vaccines. Reuben's adoption fee of \$250 includes leash, collar, blanket, and food sample. If you are interested in meeting Reuben, email [mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com) or call 503-974-4944.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This summer brought us another bumper crop of kittens. More than 200 have passed through our boot camps since the first "A" litter arrived in February. We're on the second time through the alphabet—the new "I" litter just arrived yesterday! They came from our rescue friend in the Willamette Valley who has been working to trap-neuter-return (TNR) a colony of 50+ cats at a county park. Our three "F" kittens, including **Filbert**, also came from that location. Somehow they tamed themselves overnight, so boot camp wasn't necessary, but they had a really powerful respiratory infection that frustrated our best efforts to cure.

Although every single kitten is a precious snowflake in our world, we did come across an extraordinary snowflake recently. The "T" litter, including one orange, one black, and three tortoiseshell kittens were rescued from under a mobile home in SE Portland.

They were all fighting a particularly nasty intestinal bug, and it took a number of vet visits and treatments to get them strong enough to move on. Tanya, the smallest tortie, lagged behind the rest in her recovery so she stayed with us a bit longer. Finally she was big enough for her spay surgery and imagine our surprise when the technicians at Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon discovered that Tanya was actually a boy! For those not familiar with cat genetics, male tortoiseshell cats are extremely rare—estimated to be about 1 in 10,000. He's now known as **Tony**, and you can read more about him on page 4.

**Vernon** is another special little guy who needed our help. A call came from a woman who found him scampering in the road near her home in Milwaukie. She had no idea where he had come from and asked our help in finding him a home. He was missing part of a back foot, but that doesn't slow him down a bit. It's very unusual to find a 6-week-old kitten all alone, so after bringing Vernon to safety, we took a little walk. Two doors down we spotted a carrier in the yard with a momcat and a few more kittens inside, all of whom scattered when we came close. We didn't need Sherlock Holmes to deduce the mystery of Vernon's appearance!

We met the kind residents who were feeding Vernon and his extended family of two moms, three toms, and six kittens. In short order we had completed TNR for the whole family, with the exception of Marbly, Vernon's mom. She proved to be very

determined to avoid capture—we tried every trap, every bait, and every trick. After a couple weeks of futility, we called in our champion trapper Courtney. She sized up the situation and noted that Marbly had learned to recognize our vehicles, so she knew exactly when to disappear and when it was safe to return—after the trapper had given up for the day and gone home. Courtney decided to coach the caregiver on the finer points of using the drop trap, and a few days later, Marbly was on her way to spay surgery and a life free of endless kitten-raising. Our thanks to Courtney, and deep gratitude to caregiver Karen who showed nerves of steel at crunch time.

Not far from Vernon's street another homeowner had been feeding a couple of cats in his backyard and was overwhelmed when the population exploded to 10 adults and 13 kittens. He asked for our help with TNR

and hoped we could take some of the kittens for socializing and rehoming. Our trapper Joey was on the job and two weeks later the entire colony had been captured. We kept 11 kittens and were happily surprised to find they tamed themselves very quickly. **Erma** and **Estelle** were two of that clan, and

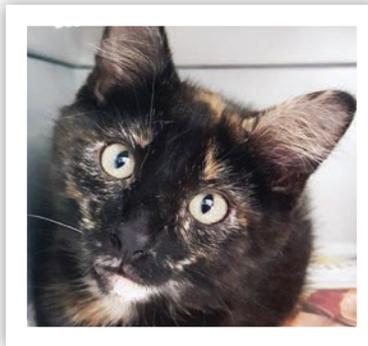
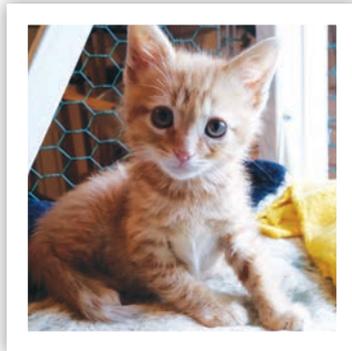
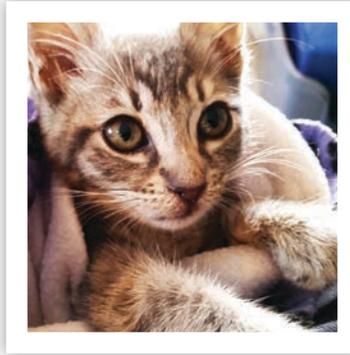
you can read more about their cousin Edith Ann on page 4.

We're very grateful to have received a grant of \$1000 from Maddie's Fund®. We agreed to participate in their Shelter Animals Count program, which requires monthly reporting of our intake and adoption numbers. The goal of the program is to gather accurate data on the number of animals entering shelters in the USA each year, and how many are adopted, claimed, transferred, or euthanized. We're happy to report that no animals are euthanized at ARCF, except in cases of extreme illness or injury that cannot be reasonably treated.

The grant has been applied to the costs of caring for kittens, especially those who are very ill and need extra vet care, medicines, and special food before we even start with vaccines, spay/neuter, and microchips. We appreciate the generous supporters who make it possible for us to help Filbert, Vernon, Erma, Estelle, Tony, and so many others who need us.

Happy Fall!

— **Carma Crimins**  
PRESIDENT



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: FILBERT, ERMA & ESTELLE, TONY, VERNON

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](http://mywayhomedogrescue.org)  
 503-974-4944

## MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

### Nori

Nori was found with her mom and siblings roaming the desert east of Los Angeles. They came to Oregon because they had no chance at the overloaded public shelters in that area. My Way Home focuses primarily on senior dogs, but agreed to take Nori and help find her forever family.

MWH soon received an application from Ben Moon and his girlfriend, Whitney. Many in our community are familiar with Ben as a filmmaker and adventure photographer. He created a beautiful and heart-wrenching film telling the story of his cancer diagnosis, treatment, and recovery from the perspective of his beloved and devoted dog, Denali. The film was also a memorial to Denali, visiting all their special climbing and surfing places one last time, as Denali reached the end of his 14+ years with Ben.

Ben was in no rush to adopt another dog. He took time to grieve, rest, and start work on a memoir about Denali. He moved to the Oregon Coast. After a couple of years, including the loss of Whitney's dog Sadie, Ben began thinking about another dog. As he tells it in an interview with *National Geographic.com*:

I had been opening up to the idea of looking for another dog and had been visiting the Humane Society a bit, but was a little disheartened with the process as there are so many amazing dogs that need homes, and it's hard to bring just one home. I also wanted to feel a real connection and not rush it. Then one morning Whitney was at the Denver airport trying to stay awake to catch a flight and texted me the link to a pup she saw on Petfinder. I kind of rolled my eyes at first, but when I opened the link and saw the photos,



WHITNEY, BEN, & NORI

my heart exploded, and I just knew right then that Nori was the one. I emailed the contact right away, and her foster mom called me and talked to me about how special Nori was. I and decided to go see for myself later that day.

We drove out to My Way Home Rescue, a little farm out by Mt. Hood. When Nori ran out, I could tell right away that she had a great personality. I played with her in the yard for a few minutes and then laid flat on the grass, and she crawled on top of my head and just laid there, super confident and comfortable. I think that I had already made up my mind to bring her home that morning when I first saw the photos; there was something about her eyes that just melted me. Like Denali, there was a bit of an old soul in there; it's hard to explain, but when it feels right, you know.

At this point, Nori is a puppy so she needs me more than she will when she's fully grown. A healthy bond with a dog forms over time, and a lot becomes

unspoken. They witness our good days and our really low points, and the best part is they don't hold any of it against us or remind us of our mistakes. Denali definitely let out a few knowing sighs over the years, but overall they just support us through it all.

A month after I lost Denali, I couldn't understand why the feeling of grief was so intense. My acupuncturist mentioned that it's because the love we share with our dogs is so pure. We love them, they love us. No strings attached, no baggage—just pure support no matter what. Now that I have Nori, I've realized a lot of the things I hadn't realized were missing, and how much I needed this for my own healing and closure. Life just feels a lot more complete now.

— Ben Moon

Ben's film "Denali" can be viewed at this site: <https://vimeo.com/channels/staffpicks/122375452>



LYLE & POPPY



GIDGET



YERTLE

### Lyle, Poppy, Gidget and Yertle (formerly Q-bert, Quesadilla, Edith Ann and Tony)

*Last spring we answered a call to help a man who was feeding a couple of cats in his backyard. We got busy trapping what turned out to be eight adult cats and two litters of kittens. Three of the cats were nursing moms, so we kept in touch with neighbors in the area, and sure enough three more litters popped up in the next month or so. The “Q” litter included Q-bert and Quesadilla (Q names are hard!), a precious pair of tabbies.*

*Edith Ann belonged to a colony of 23 cats and kittens we helped TNR in August. She was very scared the first day in our foster home, and plastered herself at the back of the kennel whenever we approached. But within 48 hours she was coming to the front, purring with her tail up in the air, and giving head butts. We introduced her to other kittens in our foster home and Edith Ann quickly established her credentials as Miss Bossy Pants Supreme. The Qs mostly just stayed out of her way, but Tony got right up in her face and challenged her to a smack down. That was the beginning of a beautiful relationship.*

*Tony is one of the rarest creatures in the cat world, a male with tortoiseshell coloring. This creature is so rare in fact, that even though he had multiple vet visits and multiple foster moms, we had named him Tanya—none of us thought to check his undercarriage since we had never seen a male tortoiseshell before and never expected to. One of his vets had never encountered another male*

*tortie in all her years of practice, and even the crew at Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon who have spayed or neutered more than 80,000 cats in the last 20 years have only encountered one other male tortie. The reason they are so rare has to do with color patterns carried on male and female chromosomes, and it’s a teeny extra bit of DNA that turns an XY into an XXY to create the tortoiseshell color in a male. It’s assumed that such cats are also sterile, but that’s not been proven in all cases.*

*We had quite a few parties interested in adopting Tony, but we didn’t want him to be acquired as just a novelty, so planned to take our time finding the perfect home for him.*

*And then we got a message that put a happy twinkle in our eye: our friend Andrea found herself cat-free for the first time in 26 years, after losing her last senior guy to cancer. She and her husband Rob were ready to meet some new felines and start filling up those litter boxes again! We had originally met Andrea when she was working as a veterinarian at Cat Hospital of Portland, where she took care of many of our rescue kitties. So we thought this would be the perfect home for Tony and his pal Edith Ann! But Andrea has a soft spot for tabbies, so she really wanted to meet the Qs. Fortunately, all four kittens were in the same foster home so they could meet all four on one trip—which made it much easier for them to adopt all four!*

*Somehow we knew that, with more than one pair of kittens available, we’d be leaving with a few. At roughly three months old, it is exciting to see their personalities emerging apace with the square footage to which we allow them access. Plump and malleable Gidget (Edith Ann) was at first timid around people, but with time becomes an enthusiastic instigator among her peers. Yertle (Tony), a very rare male tortie, was the first to discover the pleasures of lap-sitting and is the best at it. Lyle (Q-bert) is the wrestler of the crew, and his littermate, Poppy (Quesadilla), is the gymnast.*

*Having graduated from their cozy bedroom (by which I mean they jumped the gate), they are also moving on from packing boxes with holes cut out to real furniture to play on. They are also contending with, and being contended by, a pre-existing family member. Our Shepherd mix Maeby, a recent adoptee herself, is handling the new residents with some aplomb, provided enough assurances that we haven’t forgotten about her. The kittens should probably be more prudent, but our gentle giant is a merciful beast, and knows these creatures are here to stay.*

*It’s a delight watching them explore and grow. We are grateful to have them as part of our family.*

**— Andrea and Rob LaRaus**

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Sophia (formerly Dora)

*Dora and her one-week-old baby Dot came to us from Cat Utopia in Pendleton. Sadly, Dora's other kitten didn't survive, so when little Dot was old enough we introduced them to Eartha and her two kittens, also from Eastern Oregon. The moms tag-teamed on childcare duties and the kids had a blast. But Dora seemed quite relieved when Dot was weaned and she could get on with her life.*

*Rachel and Sterling had recently lost their beautiful Goldie cat, adopted from ARCF about five years ago. Their other cat Mario Catotelli was bereft and Rachel asked if we knew of another young female cat who might be a good companion for him. They needed some time to grieve the loss of Goldie, but decided to come meet Dora. They were captivated by her charming personality, silky fur, and extra toes, and decided the time was right to bring her home.*

*It wasn't love at first sight with Mario and the first few weeks were stressful. But we recently received this update:*

Carma and ARCF connected us with the perfect cat for our family! This spring, one of our beloved cats died unexpectedly, creating a dark cloud over us and Mario, our remaining kitty. Carma and Anne the foster mom introduced us to Dora, now known as Sophia, and we were instantly drawn

to her curious and friendly demeanor and adorable face.

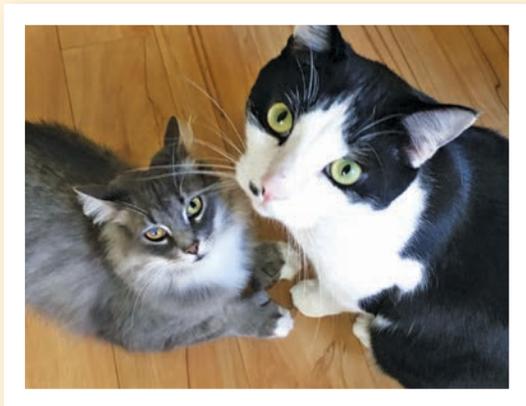
Our first month with Sophia and Mario was not magical—it was our first time introducing two adult cats, and it was a lot harder than we anticipated. Thankfully, Carma and Anne coached us through the difficulties and offered their experience and support which got us through those rough

weeks. Now, things have reached a smooth pace with all of us getting along happily. Sophia is a ray of light that has increased the joy in our home. Mario has adjusted to no longer being the baby of the cat duo and appears to be enjoying his role of “big brother” to Sophia. We are so grateful to ARCF for bringing us all together and for offering us their wisdom and cat “matchmaker” skills.

— Rachel Krokus



SOPHIA



SOPHIA & MARIO

### ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

June-July-August: We placed 32 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

**Veterinary** \$5,736.20

**Food/Supplies** \$1,631.00

**Fundraising** \$934.49

**Education/Outreach** \$969.47

(Education/Outreach and Fundraising include newsletter printing, layout and mailing supplies)

## 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.

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**Figaro and Josette** (formerly Fancy)

*Figaro and Fancy also came to us from Eastern Oregon. A beautiful golden tabby cat had six kittens in a barn near Echo, and they were rescued by Cat Utopia volunteers. We named her Francine and her kittens became the "F" litter. Each one was more adorable than the next, and it wasn't long before we had many applications to adopt them.*

*Christine and Drew were looking for a pair of kittens to make their family complete. Figaro and Fancy caught their attention and it's worked out well.*

They are both doing great! We kept Figaro's name because we felt like it really fit him and we changed Fancy's name to Josette (Josie for short). We've been having so much fun with them and they settled in great. Figaro is such a little love and Josie is very spunky, so they balance each other out well. This photo was taken recently when we took them to work with us. I think they were exhausted from all the attention they were getting at the office.

Thanks again for everything!

— Christine Stamm



**JOSETTE & FIGARO**



**BABY FANNY & DOT**



**DOT**



**FANNY**

**Dot and Fanny** (formerly Emma)

*Dot And Emma were all ready to be adopted until at their last pre-adoption exam, the vet found spots of ringworm on both kittens. It's just a skin fungus and always goes away, but it's annoying because it's contagious and the treatment for a complete cure is six weeks. That means a valuable foster home is tied up for way too long, but there's nothing to do but wait it out.*

*Courtney and her husband had recently lost their cat and were looking for a pair of kittens to join their family, which includes a two-year-old boy. They came to meet another pair of kittens but we all agreed those were too tiny to be a good match for a toddler. Since Dot and Emma were going to be four months old when their treatment was done, we thought they might be a better fit. They also had some experience with small humans at their foster home.*

*A meeting was arranged, and all went well. As soon as Dot and Emma were cleared for adoption, they had a home waiting for them!*

*We recently received photos and this update:*

We love our sweet kitties so much and they bring us so much joy every day. They are super snuggly and social and are great with our two-year-old. They love empty paper bags and rubber bands. They also love being wherever we are! We are so glad they have made their home with us.

— Courtney Freed

Karynn McKinnon lost her beloved cat **Frasier** to a rare condition called



**FRASIER**

Paraneoplastic Alopecia. Sadly, his condition was misdiagnosed for several months and by the time he received a correct diagnosis, it was too late to help him. She adopted Frasier from ARCF in 2009 but as Karynn tells it, “Truly it was Frasier that rescued me, not the other way around. Frasier was the love of my life. He was so affectionate. He was the best companion ever. I won’t ever be the same without him.”



**LUCY**

Cheryl Yoshioka adopted **Lucy** in 2009 when a shelter in Arizona

was closing down and many of their rescued “desert dogs” headed north to Oregon. Lucy was intended to be a foster, but she never left Cheryl’s side and in fact inspired her to start her own organization, which became My Way Home Dog Rescue. Lucy was an excellent “right-hand man,” and helped soothe many an anxious foster dog during their stay at the rescue. Lucy’s health had been failing in the last year, and recently there were more bad days than good ones. Lucy’s loss has left a big hole at the center of her human and canine family.

In early 2004, while driving down a busy 4-lane highway through an industrial area in SE Portland, I was surprised to see a fluffy white cat grooming herself in the grassy strip just a few feet from the heavy traffic whizzing by. The sight was so out of place that I pulled off at the next exit and made my way back to the building where I had seen the cat. I pulled into the parking lot to the even more startling sight of at least 25 cats lounging about and at least a dozen kittens scampering circles around their moms. That was my trial-by-fire introduction to the world of cat rescue and community cats in particular.



**FANCY**

I helped the business owners TNR more than 50 cats over a few weeks. There was a steep learning curve involved, but eventually we had captured every last cat and kitten. All were shorthaired orange, black, or tortoiseshell—except for the fluffy white cat. No one could remember exactly when she showed up and, although it had been several years, she had never given birth, unlike all the other female cats in the colony.

White Cat clearly had some mystery in her past, but because of her delicate looks and sophisticated manner, we assumed she would welcome our offer of a foster home and eventual permanent indoor home. White Cat had other ideas. She was so deeply insulted by our feeble offer she reacted by striking out so hard at the carrier door from the inside that she was able to scoot it across the floor. She thoroughly trashed every accommodation we offered and made some truly frightening threats of bodily harm against anyone who came near.

We eventually gave in and took White Cat to live outdoors with our friends Amanda and Mike, who cared for community cats at their apartment complex. There was plenty of food and shelter, and since no one could get close to her, we simply let her go at her new location and wished her well.

She was seen often, looking very healthy and happy. Eventually it was discovered that she had made her way to Charlie the maintenance man’s apartment and they had become fast friends. Charlie called her **Fancy** and treated her accordingly. She allowed him to hold, pet, and even brush her.

All was well for a few years, but then Amanda and Mike moved from the apartments and Charlie was retiring and moving to another state to be near family and couldn’t take Fancy with him. She still wouldn’t let anyone else come close, so we turned to our friend Mary Dowless, who has offered refuge to so many kitties who aren’t welcome anywhere else. She agreed to take Fancy into her home and let her choose how much she wanted to be involved with the rest of the family, including felines, canines, and other furry and winged creatures.

Fancy eventually warmed to Mary and the other critters, but never to any other person. In the last few years, she became more affectionate as her defenses wore down. Several times as the weather turned, Mary felt that Fancy was headed into her last winter, but she always bounced back when spring came around again. Until this summer, when one day she crawled into her favorite window seat, went to sleep and just didn’t wake up. We guess that Fancy was about 16 or 17 years old, but she never told and we never asked.

Without Fancy’s introduction, I probably never would have found the rest of the colony, or the many hundreds of cats I was able to help after those. I certainly wouldn’t be writing this newsletter and sharing these rescue stories. Thank you, Amanda & Mike, Charlie, and Mary. RIP fierce Fancy. You made a difference in so many lives.

— Carma Crimins

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Scout (formerly Opal)

Whenever we have an extra bunk or two open at our kitten boot camps, we try to help other rescues who may be overloaded. Opal came to us from our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton, and although she arrived with Otis and Orchid, Opal was intimidated by them and we suspect they weren't actually littermates. Otis and Orchid moved on quickly to their new homes, but Opal was one of those tenderhearted souls who need more TLC to grow strong enough to face the world. When she was ready, we received an application from Sandra and Teresa, which was the most detailed and satisfying application we have ever received. They were looking for a playful companion for their one-year-old cat Boo. Their older cat Pablo was willing to wrestle and chase with Boo, but not quite enough to keep her happy.

We thought Opal might be a good match for their family, and arranged a meeting. It went very well, and shortly afterward Opal had become Scout. (Yes, Boo's full name is Boo Radley.)

Boo and Scout are getting along really well—chasing each other, playing together, but not wrestling yet. Scout has a bottomless pit and is eating a lot. Boo has licked Scout's head at least twice. Pablo isn't that interested in Scout. He's a mellow cat and seems to be happy that someone besides himself has to entertain Boo. Scout is an absolutely wonderful kitten. We are so happy to have her in our family!

— Sandra Moreland and Teresa Mantese



TOP: ORCHID, OTIS, & OPAL  
BOTTOM: SCOUT, WITH BOO RADLEY

## YES! I want to help

Animal Rescue & Care Fund depends entirely on your donations. Our work includes rescue, medical aid, food and shelter, humane education, neutering/spaying, and more. All workers are volunteers. Your contribution goes directly to help the animals. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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