

## Wilson & Whitney

Wilson and Whitney are a couple of cool cats looking for a warm place to call home. Whitney is a short-haired girl with bangs and a mustache. Her brother Wilson is a medium-haired grey striped tabby with white trim, including impressive ear and toe fluffs.

This pair was adopted as kittens and adored by their family for two years, until a young family member developed severe allergies that grew worse over time and unfortunately forced this family to make a hard choice. Whitney and Wilson came back to us and settled in quickly, though, and now are ready to find their forever home.

Both cats are social, friendly, and well-adjusted. Whitney is a total lap cat—Wilson is about 50% lap, 50% hanging out nearby. He has ceiling-fan-phobia, so prefers fan-free rooms

for his peace of mind. Whitney likes climbing the big pole in the catio at her foster home—being up high is her happy place. They both enjoy birdwatching and whacking the trackball around in circles.

Although Whitney and Wilson are siblings and enjoy each other's company, they both prefer being with their people. Since they aren't deeply bonded, Whitney and Wilson may find separate forever homes.

All of our cats and kittens have been spayed/neutered, are up-to-date on vaccines, and have tested negative for FeLV/FIV. The adoption fee is \$100 for one adult cat, or \$150 for a pair. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email [arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org), or visit [pdx-petadoption.org](http://pdx-petadoption.org).



**WILSON**



**WHITNEY**

## Peanut

Fierce and ferocious Peanut is 5 pounds of pure muscle, looking for a permanent position as a junkyard guard dog. Just kidding! What he really wants is a quiet home with a loving person who will spend most of their time doting on Peanut, giving pets and cuddles.

Petite Peanut is a bit reserved at first and takes time to establish trust with people, which is not surprising, since he was abandoned when his previous owner moved to assisted-living and family members left him behind. But once won over, Peanut is very affectionate and loves gentle chin scratches, and will even paw gently at a friendly arm to ask for more pets.

Although he's not overly playful, Peanut loves going for short walks, followed by long naps. He walks well on

leash and is house-trained when taken out on a schedule. He sleeps quietly in his crate at night. He's been living with other small dogs in his foster home but would be happy as the only pampered pooch in his new home.

Peanut is accustomed to a calm home with a sedentary person, and can be startled by sudden movements and noises, so a home without small kids would suit him best. He sometimes barks at unfamiliar noises, which may not be appropriate for apartment-dwellers.

Peanut has been neutered, vaccinated, heartworm-tested, microchipped, dewormed, and is current on flea control. He has also had a recent dental exam and cleaning. The adoption fee is \$400. If you are interested in knowing more about Peanut, please visit [mywayhomerescue.org](http://mywayhomerescue.org) and complete the adoption application online.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In our summer newsletter we complained about the long, wet spring and here we are in September looking out at hot, smoky skies and wishing for rain clouds to roll in and give everything a good soak. Soon enough we'll put away the lawn furniture and box fans and dig out the hoodies and fuzzy slippers. For now, we're still dealing with the effects of the pandemic on animals and the people who care for them. Read more about that on page 8, but to summarize, the need is overwhelming and resources have shrunk dramatically.

In early spring we were asked to check on a situation where many cats and kittens were seen and the property owner was overwhelmed. We discovered a colony of 20+ cats, including about 13 kittens. Last fall the owner's friendly grey and white tomcat had invited a Siamese lady friend to move in. She soon had seven kittens, and those kittens were now giving birth. Our volunteers swung into action, and within several days all the kittens (including **Wynonna** and **Vanilla**) were trapped and safely installed in our foster homes. The adult cats were trapped, altered, and most of them rehomed to friendly barns, where they will have food, water, and shelter, but no more kittens. The population was reduced from 23 fertile cats to two neutered males, including the one who started it all. We continue to provide food and flea control for those two as needed, and will quickly TNR (trap-neuter-return) any new arrivals so the cycle does not start again.

Later in the summer a call came from a woman who had observed a car pull up to a park in her neighborhood, where the driver left a cat with several kittens on the sidewalk, then drove away. Passersby were able to grab the kittens, but the momcat skittered away into traffic and hid under a car. As the people with kittens wandered off, this Good Samaritan stayed, determined to catch the mom and get her to safety. This sweet young cat is now called **Zelda**, safe in our foster home and ready for adoption.

Just a few weeks ago a young man contacted us about a very friendly cat that appeared at his new apartment as he was moving in. The cat did not want to leave, and acted as if the apartment had been his home.

The previous tenant didn't claim the cat, and none of the neighbors knew anything about him. The current tenant had

grown fond of the cat, but his lease didn't allow pets, and he didn't have the resources to care for the cat properly in any case. We met **Bruno**, and couldn't believe anyone would abandon such a sweet orange boy, already neutered and in apparently very good health. We set about trying to locate his previous family but he had no microchip or other ID, and after several weeks with no response to our searching, Bruno joined the ARCF family.

And speaking of microchips: please, please make sure your pets all have chips and if that's already done, contact the company to make sure they have your current contact information. This is so important! We recently got a call from a shelter in Colorado, where one of our adopted cats, Finn, had been brought as a stray. Our microchips are always registered to ARCF in addition to the owners. In this case, the owner didn't respond to the phone number or email address on file with the company, so the shelter asked if we had current contact information. Sadly, we didn't. We don't know if Finn was lost, abandoned, or given away by the adopter, and we don't have the resources to bring him back from Colorado. The good news is that Finn is a handsome, friendly guy and the shelter coordinator said they would have no problem placing him in a permanent home.

We have one other housekeeping item: if you have a cat-sized carrier you're no longer using, particularly one that came with a cat adopted from ARCF, and you no longer need it, please let us know. If you're in the Portland area, we'll come pick it up. Those solid older model carriers are no longer available, and the new ones are very expensive, and not nearly as durable. We provide a hard-side carrier with all our adopted kitties and always need more.

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 Fall!

—Carma Crimins



FROM TOP: WYNONNA;  
VANILLA; ZELDA; BRUNO

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

## Coco (formerly Brie)

Our cover girl for the summer issue of *Animal Talk* was a beautiful German Shepherd Dog, called Brie by her



COCO'S NEW FAMILY

rescuers. Brie's first six years are mostly a mystery, but troubling circumstances caused her to be confiscated by animal control and brought to a California public shelter. Her sweet and eager-to-please demeanor soon won the hearts of staff and volunteers, but overcrowding in such shelters means that even sweet, beautiful dogs are euthanized because there is just no space for the many dogs arriving to shelters each day.

Thanks to shelter workers advocating for her, Brie made a lucky connection that brought her to My Way Home Dog Rescue in Oregon, where she would be safe and have as much time as needed to find her forever family.

Another amazing stroke of luck came when Tami decided to search online for an older, adoptable German Shepherd Dog and the ARCF newsletter with Brie's story popped up!

As often happens, they "weren't really looking" for a new dog, but Tami's family have experience with German Shepherd Dogs and had recently lost their senior GSD, Mocha. They decided they wanted to invite an older dog into their home, knowing that the demand for puppies is always high, but far fewer homes

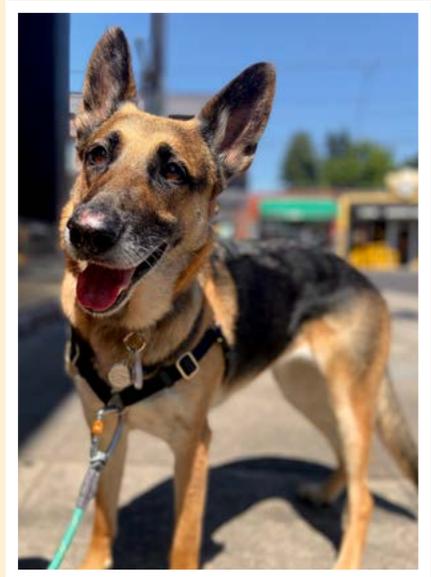
are looking for older dogs. (Maybe Mocha was guiding them from beyond.)

"We've always been a dog family," says Tami. "We knew we could provide the compassion, patience, and stability a rescued dog needs to thrive. We read about this beautiful dog, did some research on the rescue organization and decided the time was right after all." Once their application had been submitted, Cheryl at My Way Home agreed, and a meeting was quickly arranged.

Once she arrived at their home, Brie was dubbed "Coco"—a new name to go with her new life. Coco was nervous at first, as expected.

With time and patience, she has learned to relax and enjoy all the good things life has to offer, which were so unfamiliar at first. "We're letting her adjust at her own pace," says Tami. "She loves going on walks with us, she's learning to play, and she has found her voice. And the description of her personality was so accurate—she really is the sweetest dog!"

In the process of adopting Coco, Tami learned a lot about the world of small animal rescue organizations. "We are so appreciative of everyone who works so hard to rescue and care for homeless animals. We could not be more thrilled about adding Coco to our family, and the whole adoption process through My Way Home."



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](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com).

## ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

June-July-August: We rescued and cared for 43 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 18 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

**Veterinary:** \$4,699.77

**Food/Supplies:** \$5,217.59

**Newsletter:** \$2,741.86

## 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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### Animal Rescue & Care Fund

PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293

503-402-8692

[www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org)

[arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto: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.

Julie Davenport was still grieving her cat Dolce when Dolce's sister **Bella** suddenly became ill with cancer and her long life came to an end. After 36 years of sharing her life and home with cats, Julie is missing feline companionship but is ready for a break from the demands of caring for ill and aging cats. Bella was remembered with a donation from her friend Kim Spangler.



**BELLA**



**MEETING 2011**

**Chester** came to ARCF from our local public shelter in 2011 because he had caught a cold and needed a better place to rest and recover. When he was well and Jessica's family adopted him, Chester and her son Kavi were almost the same size. They had 11 wonderful years together, but as he passed the age of 18 years, Chester's body



**PARTING 2022**

wore out and it was time to let his spirit go. Chester never lost his orange tabby sweetness and his passing leaves a very large hole at the heart of his family.



**SCHUSTER**

**Schuster** also came from our local public shelter about 10 years ago. He did not welcome human contact and needed a safe place to live undisturbed. We placed him with a colony of community cats, where he was cared for and appreciated for his unique feline qualities. His recent illness was sudden and serious, and we made the kind decision to end his suffering. He is survived by his colony mates Biggs and Mrs. Schuster.

One of the heartbreaking responsibilities that comes with pet ownership is having to make the difficult choice of when our furry family members leave the world, and us. When the time comes to help your ill or elderly pet leave the world without pain, it may bring comfort for you and your pet to have humane euthanasia administered at home by veterinarians who make house calls for this purpose. Here are some Portland area vets who provide this service:

### At Home Veterinary Services

Dr. Louise Mesher

503-281-1631, [pdxhomevet.com](http://pdxhomevet.com)

### Compassionate Care

Dr. Lori Gibson

503-880-1172, [drlorigibson.com](http://drlorigibson.com)

### Vet to Pet

Dr. Laura Chang

503-757-6124, [vettopet.net](http://vettopet.net)

## Colby, Raven, & Beau

We're very pleased to share the stories of two ARCF families who have moved to Portugal, introducing their adopted kitties to the "Expat Cat" lifestyle.



**COLBY**

Sharie Korter and David Bantz adopted Raven and Colby in 2017 as kittens. Soon after, Sharie and David began considering a move to Portugal and by November 2019, they were on their way. Sharie recently sent us this update from their home in Obidos:

Colby and Raven have definitely adjusted beautifully here in Portugal. The transition has been seamless, aside from Colby's escape from his carrier on the flight over. We didn't know he had managed to free himself until the flight attendant walked down the aisle from the back of the plane with Colby in her arms and said "You're the folks with the cats, right? We prefer they stay in their carrier during the flight." My response was, "Yeah, so do we!"

All was well; Colby was just being his determined self. Our family grew by one more when Beau adopted us about two years ago—he just walked in, found the cat box, and made himself at home. Colby and Raven didn't mind.

We couldn't be more thrilled to have their companionship, even though none of us ever thought we'd all be moving halfway around the world! I could not have made the transition to this new country, leaving behind friends and family, AND survived the isolation resulting from the pandemic, without them. It's a beautiful thing!



**RAVEN (LEFT) & BEAU**

—Sharie, David, Colby, Raven, and Beau

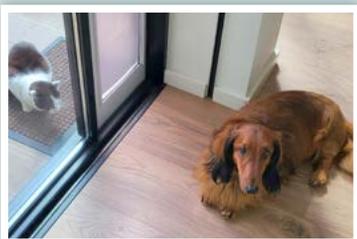
## Nina

Sharon and Joe Durant adopted beautiful, charming, and many-toed Nina in 2019. Nina came to us in very poor physical condition after being rescued as a stray in California and brought to Oregon and ARCF by a Good Samaritan. It took us a year to diagnose and treat all Nina's medical issues, including extensive food allergies and severe dental disease.

Then we began the search for the perfect forever family we could trust to provide the special diet and medications Nina needs to stay healthy for a lifetime. Sharon and Joe fit the bill perfectly and she soon had them properly trained! As for so many in the world, the pandemic caused Sharon and Joe to make some big changes, including retirement and a move to Portugal.

Here's a report on their new life in Braga:

Nina has been with us for over three years now. She has an adorable, distinct personality and continues to surprise us.



**NINA GUARDS THE GATE**

She got a baby brother in February 2020, just a year after she joined our family. Brother Micky is a standard, long-hair dachshund. She made sure to set him straight on who is in charge—her huge mitts made the point

even without extending her claws: Whap! Whap! Whap! He quickly got on board with her agenda—he bows to the queen!

So where is Nina now?

Well, she got a brand-new, airline-approved carrier and a walking harness—the whole family has moved to Portugal! We were met in Lisbon by local tour guide and cat lover Nuno Miranda Alves, who escorted the four of us to our new home.

Nina continues to "own" the dog. Our home in Braga has an unfinished walled-in back yard (huge sandpit for now) and a pet door. Nina can often be found guarding the flap, preventing Micky from entering/exiting. She can be so bossy! During the heat wave, she LOVED basking in the warmth, then finding a shady area to relax and catch up on her sleep.

Our new country is welcoming, safe, and clean. We are very happy and hope to see you here one day!



**NUNO GREETING NINA ON ARRIVAL**

—Sharon, Joe, Nina, and Micky

**Maple, Marshmallow, Macaroni, Mango, & Marmalade**



**M KITTENS, MINUS MANGO**

*Early this spring we received a message about a stray cat with kittens in a neighborhood near ARCF World HQ. Apparently, someone noticed the cats and posted in a local online group asking for help. From there she was referred to a rescue organization in Washington, who referred her back to a local Portland rescuer, who contacted us. Sometimes it takes a village, the internet, a couple of states, and connecting a lot of dots to make a rescue!*

*Momcat Marble and her five kittens were quickly captured and brought to an ARCF foster home. Marble emphatically did not enjoy the company of people and made it clear she wanted to get back home as soon as possible. As soon as the kittens were old enough, Marble*

*was spayed and returned to her home base, where neighbors are committed to providing her food, water and shelter. Then it was time for the kittens to find their forever homes.*

*How it's going now:*

**Bacon & Hambo (formerly Macaroni & Marshmallow)**

Macaroni, who is now Bacon Pancakes (Bacon for short) received his new name from my six-year-old son. Marshmallow, who currently goes by Hambo, was named by my 15-year-old sibling.

Bacon and Hambo are an absolutely wonderful fit for our little family; we are in awe at how serendipitous their joining of our household has been. Bacon and my son, Scout, adore one another; they formed a bond almost immediately. Hambo took an instantaneous shine to my sibling, Delilah.

In the Dubicki house, Hambo and



**BACON & SCOUT**



**HAMBO**

Bacon are the true queen and king. However, they are most certainly benevolent rulers. They reward their human subjects with lots of affection and the occasional impromptu pouncing on our feet in the covers in the middle of the night. Both kitties are very playful, making for hours of endless entertainment for the family. Some of their favorite activities include playing fetch with a ball, chasing the feather wand toy, and playing tag with one another. Their exceptional cuteness can make it quite difficult at times to get things done; however, this is a very small price to pay to have them in our lives.

Thank you so much for helping us to find and adopt our little darlings. We can't imagine life without them.

**—Christina, Delilah, and Scout  
The Dubicki Family**

**Mango & KitKat (formerly Marmalade)**

Mango and KitKat are doing great! Being first time cat parents and introducing them to the dogs were the biggest challenges. The fact that they were litterbox trained and had each other helped so much. We kept them separate from the dogs for a week so that they could just get used to their new home. We were very careful to slowly introduce them so that it was a positive experience.

Now Mango and one of our dogs are best friends. KitKat puts up with them but doesn't join in the play time. I am learning more about cats and they are so much more curious than dogs. They are interested in everything! One day I didn't see Mango for about an hour and I heard cries but kept thinking it was KitKat. Finally, I was standing in the kitchen and heard a rustling sound. Mango had climbed in a drawer while I was putting groceries away and I shut it not knowing.

Our dogs go in and out multiple times a day and both cats REALLY want to join them, but we are careful not to let them escape. We have had no real problems, just some adjustments. It was touch-and-go with Kitkat and the dogs as she was very defensive initially but everyone is fine now. We feel so lucky to have such playful, easygoing kitties! Thank you!



**KITKAT (LEFT) & MANGO**

**—Dana Sexton**

## SUCCESS STORIES

*Jay and Erin joined ARCF as foster volunteers during the pandemic. They had recently lost their cat Veronica at age 17 and, although not ready to commit to adopting, they wanted to share their home with cats in need. That was a great plan—until they met Jarvis. They continued to foster—until they met Maple. We're sorry to lose them as a foster home, but now their family is complete, and we couldn't be happier for their cats.*

### Maple

After adopting Jarvis from ARCF last year and spending some solo time with him, Erin and I were ready to continue fostering. We loved helping new cats get acclimated to human affection, and Jarvis proved to be a very welcoming foster brother. He was always so excited to meet new cats and make friends with them. Though we cared for each of those fosters deeply, we always knew each of them would need to find their forever home somewhere else.



JARVIS (LEFT) & MAPLE

Fast forward to this summer and Jarvis told us he was ready to find his forever friend and we asked Carma to help us find the perfect cat to complete our family. Enter Maple.

Maple looks like Jarvis's mini me with her nifty tuxedo (although she has fewer thumbs!), so we were immediately intrigued. She came into our house very confident and ready to explore her new home and her new humans. Jarvis was a perfect gentleman welcoming her in, but she wasn't so sure about him at first. As we all got to know each other, we began to fall for Maple. We love her sweet affectionate ways, her playfulness, and her predilection to be right by our side helping us through our day. The sound of eight paws skittering across the hardwood floors became commonplace and as soon as we caught Jarvis grooming Maple under the couch we knew we were a family.

Thank you so much for everything!

—Jay, Erin, Jarvis & Maple

## HOW TO HELP

Even if you can't adopt, volunteer, or make a donation right now, you can still support our work. Here are a few ways to contribute that won't cost you anything:

ARCF is eligible to receive donations from the Oregon BottleDrop program for returnable cans and bottles. We can provide you with blue bags pre-tagged to our account, so you just fill them up and drop off at your nearest BottleDrop location. Many more drop locations for green and blue bags have been added, so it's much easier to make returns than when the program started. If you already have a green bag BottleDrop account, you can direct your refunds directly to ARCF. Let us know if you want to participate and we'll help you get started!

For Fred Meyer/Kroger shoppers, choose ARCF to benefit from your purchases every time you shop. You need a Shopper's Card and a digital account. Sign in to your account online, choose Community Rewards and link to ARCF using our organization code, **EQ279**. It costs you nothing, and every quarter ARCF receives a check based on your purchases.

If you shop online, start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Select **ARCF** as your charitable organization. Your account information, history, and settings will transfer over and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of every eligible item to ARCF. It doesn't sound like much but it adds up!

Donate a car, van, boat, RV, or anything with wheels and a motor. It doesn't have to run; you just need the title and keys. Speed's Supertow will handle the towing and then sell the vehicle at auction, and we'll provide a receipt for your tax deduction. Call Speed's at 503-234-5555 and let them know you have a vehicle donation for **Animal Rescue & Care Fund**. (Portland metro area only.)

And you can always mail us a check or make a donation online at our website, [pdx-petadoption.org](https://pdx-petadoption.org) using [PayPal](#) or [credit card](#). You can use the form on Page 8 but we'll gladly accept your donation without it—we just need your address to send the acknowledgment and your receipt.

All donations are tax-deductible. Our federal tax ID is 51-0137768. Thank you!

## HOW IT'S GOING

Ask any animal rescue or shelter worker about the current state of the rescue world, and you may be surprised to hear that this has been the worst year in recent memory for the seemingly unlimited number of animals needing help and the lack of resources available to help them. We've certainly seen this at ARCF—the need has been overwhelming with no signs of getting better soon.

### **HOW DID WE LOSE SO MUCH PROGRESS, AFTER DECADES OF HARD WORK BRINGING DOWN THE NUMBERS OF UNWANTED ANIMALS?**

In March 2020, veterinary clinics were required to stop providing most services to preserve scarce supplies for human health care needs as COVID spread across the globe. Only emergency veterinary procedures were allowed and spay/neuter surgeries were not considered emergent. High-volume and low-cost clinics that small rescues like ours rely on were forced to close entirely. Add in the many pets adopted during the pandemic, and a huge backlog had accumulated when spay/neuter surgeries resumed months later.

As clinics opened again and surgeries got scheduled, many staff members chose to leave vet medicine for a variety of reasons. New Covid regulations made all services more complicated and time-consuming; clients were not allowed inside buildings so every appointment was conducted curbside, requiring multiple phone calls to the doctor with staff running

back and forth with pets in carriers. If a staff member contracted Covid, despite all precautions taken, a clinic could unexpectedly close for weeks to prevent further infection.

It was frustrating for everyone involved. Combine the exposure risk from working with the public in a pandemic and the stress of dealing with poorly behaved clients who didn't adjust well to new protocols and procedures, and staff and doctors left the field in droves. All the clinics and programs we work with are currently short-staffed and booked up for weeks, if not months, in advance.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ARCF AND OTHER SMALL RESCUES?**

Because of lack of access to spay/neuter surgeries, cats who didn't get fixed two years ago have been reproducing unchecked—a female cat can give birth every 62 days, and those kittens can begin reproducing at only five months of age. Calling it a population explosion is not an exaggeration.

The daily number of calls for help has doubled and tripled from recent years. In addition to the typical situation of an unwelcome stray cats with kittens, there are many more requests to surrender pets because of an owner unable to access vet care, afford it, or both.

Because we must wait longer for spay/neuter surgeries, cats and kittens stay in our care much longer prior to adoption, limiting our ability to take in more animals.

As with everything else in the world, costs have increased dramatically for food, supplies, and veterinary services. There is no one to blame—this is the new reality of our world and we have to plan accordingly. All of our rescue partners are facing the same challenges.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?**

We advise all pet owners to make sure they have an established relationship with a vet they trust. Many vets have stopped accepting new clients, so it's important to establish a relationship while your pets are healthy.

Emergency vet visits are even more challenging than standard clinic appointments. Most ER clinics have cut back hours due to staffing shortages—call ahead to confirm intake status, expect very long waits, and plan to be patient.

If you need help, reach out! We're worn down and weary, but we're plugging away, doing all we can with the resources available. And if you have resources, remember that there are lots of rescues and animal support groups who could use just a little of your time, effort, and generosity.

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!  
Visit our website for more details: [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).***

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ for humane work. (\$35 sponsors an animal, but we appreciate any amount.)

I'm interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Mail to:**

Animal Rescue & Care Fund  
PO Box 14956  
Portland, OR 97293-0956