

FEATURED CAT Benedict

This handsome blue-eyed fellow is Benedict and he's looking for a home where he can be showered with attention and affection, with no competition from other critters who might try to crowd into his space and touch his stuff.

Benedict loves to perch on a tall cat climber and call his people to come give him chin and ear rubs, which he will repay with kisses on the nose and a bit of friendly gnawing on the hair. Trying to leave too soon? Benedict will reach out his paw for a little love tap—a reminder that he needs a few more head butts.

Although he has lived with other cats and dogs, Benedict has shown that over time, he becomes irritated by having to



BENEDICT

share and he can be a bit of a bully. Sometimes sooner, sometimes later, but eventually he just wants to have his person (or people) all to himself.

But he's a great people person! He loves to hang out on the couch, desk, or kitchen table—wherever the people are. He expects to sleep not only on the bed, but on the person who's in the bed. Cozy cuddles are where it's at, if you ask Benedict! He also loves toys, especially the ones that fly through the air so he can show off his aerodynamic leaps.

Benedict is about 5 years old. He has been neutered, is up-to-date on vaccines, and tested negative for FeLV/FIV. His adoption fee is \$80. To learn more about Benedict or any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

FEATURED DOGS Little Bit & Family

Allow us to introduce Little Bit and her family. The older pups (approximately 10 mos. old) are Billy, Bonnie, and Beauty, and the little ones (about 2 mos.) are Lacey, Letty, and Louise. Their story involves two dedicated rescue organizations working in three states with help from many caring

volunteers along the way.

It began with a plea from our friend Kathie Nelson: fosters and/or adopters were needed for a family of dogs in rural Arizona. Since we know Kathie from her valuable work with the Oregon Spay/Neuter Fund and she lives here in Portland, we asked her about the Arizona connection. It seems a good friend of Kathie's had traveled to a small town in the desert to help her

grandmother move to a care center, and found the family of dogs living with her. There was Little Bit and her new babies, plus three older pups—obviously her previous litter. They needed vet care and new homes, but resources in that area are almost non-existent. Knowing Kathie's connections with the animal welfare community, she asked her where to turn for help.

ARCF doesn't have a dog program, but our friends at My Way Home Dog Rescue have experience with long-distance rescue, including valuable contacts in Southern California. We knew the little dogs would be easily adoptable if they could make their way to Portland. Cheryl at MWH agreed to handle everything if the dogs could somehow get to the Los Angeles area. So we started dialing for drivers!

Our friend Ron Seibel lives in Indio, California, about half-way between the dogs and where they needed to go.



LITTLE BIT

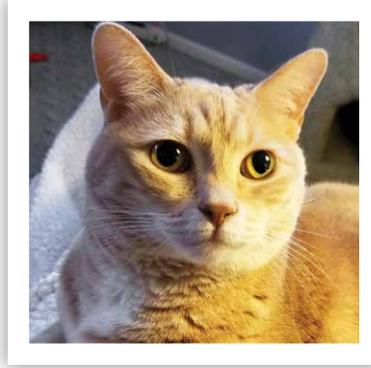


LETTY

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It must be spring: we'll set the clocks ahead this weekend and this year's crop of kittens is starting to trickle in. It's actually been a bit of a slow start—we're halfway into March and have only rescued two litters so far, including the lovely **Amelia**, of the "A" litter.



LEFT: AMELIA; RIGHT: SHERBETTIE

She and the rest of her family—Abigail, Archie, and Adeline—came to us from a small town in the Willamette Valley. We were asked to help a family who suddenly lost their grandmother, and were overwhelmed by the responsibility of caring for her 14 cats, adding another burden to their grief.

We don't have the capacity to take in more than a few cats at a time, but in addition to the "A" family we took a pair of beautiful buff tabby cats, named Tangerine and Sherbert. We were told these "boys" had come to the family about four years ago, and were very sweet and completely bonded to each other. All very accurate—except we soon discovered that Sherbert was actually **Sherbettie!** These cats were clearly loved by their family—they are instantly at ease with all humans they encounter and love nothing more than hours spent curled up on warm laps.

The small winter break from rescue activity was very welcome; it allowed us more time to organize our Valentine's Day fundraiser, "Whiskers, Wags, and Love." We joined forces with My Way Home Dog Rescue, and with excellent support from volunteer organizers Danni Duggan and Erin Atkinson, our first combined event was very successful. In addition to some unique and fabulous items in the silent auction, we had a selection of gift baskets as raffle prizes.

Dominique Estlund won the drawing for a coveted basket of dog goodies, which was eagerly inspected by her tablemates, including **Jas Freels**, our youngest guest of the evening. **Joey Macca** was the winner of a cat bed basket full of goodies for his cats and him. A few minutes later, his name was drawn again as winner of the 50/50 cash raffle! For this raffle, all tickets are sold for \$10 each, cash only, with the winner to split the pot with the organization. But Joey generously chose to donate his share of the \$920 back to us! That lifted our evening to an even higher ending note.

We thank all who came to support us, the donors of our

fantastic auction items, and our dedicated team of volunteers who made it all come together. To see lots more photos of the event, check our Facebook page. We hope to see all of you again next year!

We are also grateful to Sellwood Pet Supply, whose staff arranged a Giving Tree over the holidays, with all pur-

chases donated to ARCF. We received a car load

of high quality food, treats, litter, toys, and more. Once again we benefitted from the holiday food drive sponsored by Furever Pets. We're sad to report that after 15 years in business, Furever Pets closed permanently at the end of the year. Their generous support of the animal welfare community will be missed by so many, but we send best wishes to Furever Pets' owners and staff for great success in their next adventures.

As we prepare our foster homes for the hundreds of kittens we'll be helping in the next few months, we have a request of you, our loyal supporters. We know your pets are all spayed and neutered, so we ask you to encourage your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to do the same. If you know someone who needs financial or logistical help to get it done, please contact us! As much as we love kittens and puppies, the world has far too many already and our dream is for each one to have a home with a warm and loving family.

Speaking of puppies, we got to meet some real cuties as part of our rescue effort with My Way Home Dog Rescue. You can read all about it elsewhere in this issue. It's a good thing they are so adorable because in case you haven't had one around lately, there is a lot of time spent cleaning up little piles and puddles everywhere. But they are smart and sweet, and are going to be wonderful companions for some lucky families. We are grateful to MWH and everyone along the way who helped save their lives.

As always, our work for the animals is only possible because of the generous support of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers. Thank you for helping us save lives.

Happy Spring!

— **Carma Crimins**
PRESIDENT



ABOVE: JOEY MACCA
BELOW: DOMINIQUE (LEFT) & JAS

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
 503-974-4944

MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

Continued from page 1

He's retired and he loves animals so we asked if he'd like to take a road trip to Arizona. Ron didn't hesitate to help us, but he didn't have a vehicle suitable for transporting seven dogs in crates. Luckily, his friend Bob Foote had a big truck and was willing to lend it for the cause. Ron would pick up the pups in Arizona and take them to Redlands, California—about 8 hours on the road.

The next call went to our long-time rescue friend Yvonne LeGrice in Pasadena, to ask if she knew anyone willing to meet Ron in Redlands and transport the precious cargo to the boarding facility in Van Nuys, whose staff would care for the dogs and start the vet work necessary to bring them to Oregon. Yvonne kindly volunteered her husband David for this leg of the journey. Because the new puppies were so young, Cheryl arranged separate boarding for them, to limit their exposure to other dogs. An independent transporter was recruited to meet at Redlands and take Little Bit and her babies to their next stop.

Amazingly, the rendezvous took place exactly as planned, and by the end of that day, all the pups were safe and sound in their Southern California accommodations. Vet exams were scheduled and plans made for the next leg, using professional transporters to bring them to Oregon. Two weeks after they started their journey in Arizona, Little Bit and all the young 'uns arrived in Oregon.

Their first stop in Portland was to Dr. Val Johnson at her brand new Buckman Veterinary Clinic. They were among the first patients to be seen on the first day of business, and one of the older pups, Beauty, had the honor of being the first surgery patient when she was spayed.

Another of the older pups, Bonnie, needed a course of antibiotics for Ehrlichiosis, a blood infection transmitted by ticks. Otherwise, all the dogs were in good shape—very squirmy, tail waggy, and affectionate. They were taken to MWH foster homes to rest up from their journey and wait for their spay/neuter appointments. Once those are done, Little Bit and all the pups will be ready for adoption.

Many of those involved in this rescue project are volunteers, but many expenses are incurred: veterinary care, boarding, professional transporting, food, and supplies are not free.

Some would question why we spend valuable resources on animals from so far away—surely there are dogs closer to home who need help. Yes, there are, and we are incredibly lucky to have so many resources available in our area—private and public shelters, and rescue organizations focusing on specific breeds, senior dogs, small dogs, special needs, and more.

But these dogs were not so lucky—they didn't choose their situation and the other available options were not good. They may eventually have been taken in by sympathetic neighbors—with no local low-cost options for spay/neuter, it's likely the breeding cycle would have continued endlessly. Or they may have been lost to the coyotes who patrol that area. We were willing and able to use our resources to help these seven precious little dogs, who will now have the best life possible. And that is why we rescue.

Adoption applications are available at mywayhomedogrescue.org. Contributions toward their rescue and care can also be made from the website, and would be greatly appreciated.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
 BEAUTY; LACEY; BILLY;
 BONNIE; LOUISE**

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth and Matt Page have been fostering rescued cats for ARCF for many years, including quite a few with multiple health and behavior challenges. Most of those sickly ones ended up as permanent members of the Page family, and recently they lost two beloved feline companions.

Ziggy came to the Page household in 2012 from Jody Harmon, a rescuer who has helped thousands of cats in the Willamette Valley. Ziggy was a geriatric guy in rough shape from his life on the streets. In spite of his ongoing medical issues, Ziggy was always loving and sweet. He filled the role of Grandpa to all the other cats in the family. Last winter his immune system finally gave out and he was given the gift of a peaceful transition.

About 10 years ago, Ruth and Matt found Curly and her littermates, all very ill. With the help of ARCF, the kittens were rescued and adopted, but when Curly's family divorced a few years later, she and her brother Larry were returned to the Page family. Curly's beauty was matched by her sweet and sensitive personality. Her big blue eyes were the first to greet all visitors and she happily took up residence on any lap. She slept near her mom's head, purring into her ear. Unfortunately, Curly's rough start in life caused chronic health issues. After the recent loss of her feline siblings Larry and Ziggy, Curly just couldn't bear any more. Curly was put to rest peacefully in the home where she was so very loved.



LEFT: CURLY
BELOW: ZIGGY



SWEET PEA

couldn't leave her in that condition, so we brought her to one of our kitten experts, Wilma Perez-Leon.

Back in 2004, a tiny calico and her littermates were left at a local franchise of a national pet supply chain. The employees were giving the kittens away to any willing takers. Freebie was the last kitten left at the checkout counter when we paid for our merchandise, probably because she looked awful—scrawny, dirty, with crusty eyes and a snotty nose. We

With lots of TLC from Wilma, Freebie recovered her health, but she definitely needed some help with her social skills. ARCF connected with Lori and Paul Sharp through Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO), and they agreed to foster Freebie, who became Recruit #1 for the kitten boot camp Lori has been running ever since. Lori and Paul got pretty attached to their little project; they changed her name to Sweet Pea and she stayed with them for the next 14 years. Sweet Pea was the feline queen of her family and always retained a little of the attitude we know and respect in calicoes. We are grateful to Sweet Pea for bringing us all together, helping us learn how to rescue and care for scared, sickly kittens who are left alone in the world, and inspiring our ongoing kitten boot camp. Many, many kittens have Sweet Pea to thank for leading the way.

Dr. Edward and Linda Barnes remembered their friend Steve Morris with a memorial donation to ARCF. Steve loved gardening, fishing, and rescued dogs. In addition to his wife Donna and two sons, Steve is missed by his beloved dog Jackson, the last of his many rescued canine companions.

Heather Rosenwinkel sent us a donation in memory of Dusty, her friend Isabel McDonald's beloved cat, who passed away at the age of 17 years. Dusty was a handsome long-haired gray gentleman cat who was always up for a cuddle. He won the hearts of all who met him with his warm personality.

Glenda Hughes remembered Pumpkin, beloved cat of Anne Bisio, with a donation to ARCF in his memory. Pumpkin was the last of the Bisio cat family of six and his loss leaves a big hole in the center of his human family.

When the time comes to help our ill and elderly pets 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:

Compassionate Care,
Dr. Lori Gibson 503-880-1172,
drlorigibson.com

Vet to Pet, Dr. Laura Chang,
503-757-6124, vettopet.net

At Home Veterinary Services,
Dr. Louise Mesher, 503-281-1631,
pdxhomevet.com

SUCCESS STORIES

Eliza, Edgar & Emmy Lou

Last fall we accepted this little family from our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton, where Eliza had shown up as a stray with her two kittens. They were a beautiful trio, but we were baffled by Emmy Lou: she was perfectly healthy but only about half the size of her brother, Edgar. He kept growing and she stayed tiny. She was completely adorable, but it took months for her to reach 2 lbs., the minimum for spay surgery.

Eliza was a good mom, but she was clearly pleased to be relieved of her duties. She enjoyed the company of the male cats at her foster home. Our friend Amanda had a young male cat named Zero, who seemed like he might enjoy having a feline friend when the humans of the household were away. We talked about Eliza, and Amanda brought her young son along for a meeting. Eliza was a bit standoffish but we felt she would quickly warm up if given a chance, so we agreed on a foster-to-adopt plan, if all went well. And fortunately, it did! Although it wasn't love at first sight for



ELIZA

Zero, Eliza is a very persistent flirt and she is gradually winning him over.

Eliza is doing great! She is such a sweetheart and we really love her. Sometimes she and Zero have pleasant interactions (nose touching, tail sniffing, eating peacefully side by side). There is less hissing, unless she startles him or he jumps on the bed and finds her cheekily lounging in HIS spot. I wish he wouldn't be such a curmudgeon, but she just keeps trying!

—Amanda Gerace



EMMY LOU (LEFT) AND EDGAR

Meanwhile, Julie and Mike had been looking for a pair of kittens to join their family of three active young boys. We were a little concerned about Emmy Lou being comfortable in such a lively household, but her confidence grew along with her body, and we thought it could be a good match if everyone agreed to be patient during the initial adjustment period.

Edgar and Emmy are doing great! They sleep on my 9-year-

old son's bed every night. They are very intrigued by our three kids and often run after them when the kids run upstairs, or make sure to be in the same room as the kids to be a part of whatever they are doing. Emmy started out being very timid, but now actually seems to be more social with the kids than Edgar, although Edgar is the more affectionate of the two and often hops up to sit near us and cuddle. They have settled in very well and are a perfect addition to our family.

—Julie Strande

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

December-January-February: We rescued and cared for 39 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 24 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$6,040.07

Food/Supplies: \$2,061.68

Newsletter: \$1,868.33

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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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.



SAMMY (LEFT) AND WALLY

Wally & Sammy

(formerly Wally & Waffle)

In the summer of 2012 two sickly kittens were found in a grocery bag in a parking lot in Southeast Portland. A Good Samaritan took them to Cat Hospital of Portland, just a few blocks away. The hospital staff asked if we could take them in rescue and of course we did. Fortunately, with good nutrition and antibiotics, Wally and Waffle were soon healthy, adorable kittens, and were adopted by a semi-retired couple who were eager to take them home. Somewhere along the way, Waffle became known as Sammy.

Five years later the couple contacted us to report that they were moving across the country and intended to drop Wally and Sammy at their local public shelter because they felt the move would be too stressful for them! We discussed options for safely transporting cats on road trips and the fact that many families have moved long distances and wouldn't dream of leaving their pets behind. But they were determined to go without them. Of course we would never let ARCF rescued kitties be surrendered to a public shelter, but we didn't have a foster home open at the time, so we arranged for them to be dropped off at the vet for temporary boarding.

The whole experience was so traumatizing for Wally and Sammy that they stopped eating. Sammy was paralyzed in fear and Wally was lashing out at him in anxiety and distress. Their health was still good, but we knew it would be challenging to find a home for two five-year old cats with something like PTSD.

After a couple of months in our foster home, Wally and Sammy were a bit less anxious and we could see their sweet personalities starting to emerge as they realized the world had not come to an end for them. Still, Sammy especially was easily frightened and hid from everything new or different, including strangers.

We received an application from Barbara shortly before Christmas. She was recently retired and looking for a bonded pair of cats to share her home. At first, we discussed available kittens, but soon mentioned Wally and Sammy. We knew they wouldn't "show" well, so Barbara agreed to take them as fosters, to give them time to get to know her.

I was missing the companionship of a cat, but knowing that I would be doing some traveling, it seemed best to adopt a bonded pair so they would have each other for company during my absences. I visited some shelters but didn't find any pairs. I was first attracted to the kittens I saw on the ARCF website, but after thinking it over, older cats seemed a better option. When I heard about Wally and Sammy, I thought we might be a good match for each other. It didn't take very long fostering them to decide that I would be happy to adopt them, especially since I was lucky enough to find a reliable cat-sitter. I'm able to travel without worrying about them.



WALLY & SAMMY

At first they were timid and spent a lot of time hiding, and Wally seemed to be picking on Sammy again. But they have adjusted well, and seem very happy in their new home. They cuddle on the couch with me, and we enjoy each other's company. Wally has a hunter's instinct and loves playing with toys. Now Sammy has even started to join in the games, even though he's a bit of a klutz.

We are getting along very well and they will never have to worry about being homeless again.

—Barbara Byrd

**BELOW: ROB (LEFT) AND JOLENE IN QUARANTINE
RIGHT: JOLENE (FRONT) AND ROB AT HOME**



Rob & Jolene (formerly Jonas & Joelle)

In early April of last year, our friend Jody Harmon asked if we could find homes for a few cats left behind by a tenant in a nearby apartment. We agreed to take two female cats, one with a litter about a month old. That night the second (solid black) cat surprised us by producing two little carbon copies of herself! Fortunately our foster moms are very flexible and new mom Jamila and her newborns Jonas and Joelle were soon safe and settled.

After a rocky start, probably due to Jamila's stress, the kittens began to grow and thrive. Jamila moved on to her new home, and soon the kittens too were ready for spay/neuter and adoption. The day before their surgery appointments, we noticed little bald spots on their ears, then another spot on a nose, and another on a paw... Ringworm—which we thought we'd eradicated after a previous litter had brought it in—had struck again! J and J went into quarantine and six weeks of treatment. Ringworm is just a skin fungus like athlete's foot—it's not fatal and always dies out eventually but treating and controlling it in the meantime can be very frustrating.

At last the kittens were cleared for adoption, but only after growing from darling fluffballs into rowdy teenagers. There is never a shortage of black cats waiting for adoption; they are always last to be chosen, even though everyone who lives with black cats will tell you about their brilliant, charming, and quirky personalities. These two were no exception but as teenage black cats, we knew that they would not be easy to place.

However, Amanda had recently lost her dear old black cat, Mr. Skinny, and we thought she and Paul might like some amusing and cheerful kittens to "foster for a couple weeks"—wink, wink.

After Amanda's cat Mr. Skinny died at the ripe old age of 21 last spring, Paul's cat Red Socks was left living with only four dogs, five chickens, and a snake, so we felt he might enjoy having another cat or two around. Having fostered

many times before, and not yet sure if we were ready to adopt, we felt we could at least provide a happy, comfortable place for foster kittens to thrive while waiting for a permanent home. Into our lives came Jonas and Joelle, who quickly became known as Rob and Jolene.

They immediately fit into the pack as if they had all always been friends and we fell in love with them. Red Socks enjoys their never-ending admiration of his elder cat wisdom. Rob is a walking ball of goofiness and curiosity, with a healthy amount of mischief that is hard to get upset about, because of his sweet, laidback, harmless nature. Everyone who meets him can't help but love him—even those strange people who don't like cats.

Jolene is the sweetest cat we have ever met, and is just adorable from head to tail. From her cute little wisps on the tips of her ears to her perfect tail curl, she is just a perfect little princess. Her hobbies include: hunting pens and pencils and parading them proudly through the house, watching the bird feeder "TVs" placed in windows for her convenience, and attempting to destroy house plants.

Rob's hobbies include: attempting to eat anything edible he can get his paws on, finding the worst time possible to climb into your lap or desk to purr with the volume of an airplane, and strategically sprawling himself directly in your path in an attempt to get a belly rub. He also enjoys gracefully belly flopping into his hammock to nap several times a day. Hey, unraveling an entire roll of toilet paper and distributing shreds of it throughout the house in one night takes energy!

Rob and Jolene bring us so much joy and laughter, we are so glad to have them as a permanent addition to our family.

—Amanda Ferguson & Paul Burdette

SUCCESS STORIES

Honey Bunny & Charlie

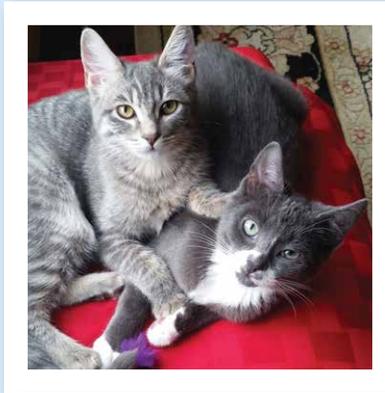
(formerly Harriet & Harpo)

Honey Bunny and Charlie were orphaned at just a few weeks old when their mom was hit by a car. Their family didn't know what to do with the seven (!) babies, so they started giving them away. Only these two were left when rescuers arrived to help. They had clearly been loved by their people—they were the most affectionate kittens we ever met! They spent time in several foster homes, and each one had a very hard time letting them go. But we finally ran out of excuses and it was time for them to meet their forever family.

Marisa was looking for a pair of kittens to join her family, which includes her husband, toddler, and a senior dog. We thought of these two, and invited everyone to meet. It went well!

Honey Bunny (Harriet) and Charlie (Harpo) are the sweetest, most loving cats! From the moment we brought them into our house, they were completely at home. There wasn't even a glint of hesitation when they met our dog and, likewise, our dog acted as if they'd been there for years.

Over the course of the first month, we noticed that Charlie is actually the dominant sibling. Honey Bunny is definitely more outgoing—demanding to be in your lap, draped over



TOP: HONEY BUNNY (LEFT) & CHARLIE
BOTTOM: HONEY BUNNY & CHARLIE

your shoulders, or even perched on your head (!), but Charlie is also extremely affectionate and demanding of snuggles. Honey Bunny never bites; Charlie takes lots of love bites. Honey Bunny is very athletic, and Charlie—well, he's a bit more plump and not as agile as his sister. Still, it's Charlie who rouses his sister, forcing her to play-fight with him, and Charlie who pushes Honey Bunny out of the way when it's time to eat, even though they have separate bowls.

The thing I'm the most impressed by is their patience and gentleness with our toddler. She is an only child and I genuinely think of the kitties as little siblings to her. They will sit right next to her as she plays and she can talk to them and pet them and hug them and they just love it! They love attention and our little girl is happy to shower them with all her affection.

These kitties have brought us so much joy—they are loving and funny and curious and gentle. We couldn't have asked for better pets. Thank you for bringing these darling little creatures into our lives.

—Marisa Cantu

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. 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 _____.

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