



Frances

Frances came to us from a tiny town in the mountains of Eastern Oregon, where she was rescued by our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton. She and her four newborn kittens were abandoned along with five other cats when their people moved away and left them behind with winter moving in. Frances hadn't received the best prenatal care and sadly one of her

kittens did not survive his first few weeks. But soon the rest of the family was healthy and thriving. The kittens were adopted (more about them on page 5!) and now that her work as a mom is done, it's time for Frances to meet her forever family.

Although her early life was a bit rough, we know it wasn't all bad because Frances was clearly loved and she is very trusting of people. She purrs when you look at her, and loves all her toys. Frances not only enjoys cuddling with her people, she races down the hallway to make an exuberant leap to the bed when it's time to turn in for the night. Her style of play is what we would call "enthusiastic," so she wouldn't be a great fit in a house full of delicate and valuable objects.

Frances has been trying to fit in with the other cats in her foster home, but they are mostly seniors and aren't thrilled with her energy level. She

definitely needs a playmate—another young cat, or maybe a dog who knows how to play respectfully with kitties. She enjoys watching wildlife and other outdoor activity from her perch in the window, but she is very content with her indoor-only lifestyle.

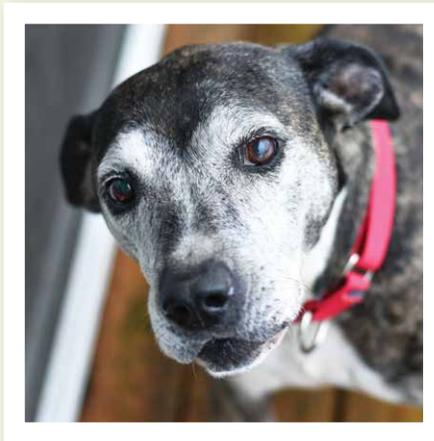


We estimate Frances is about two years old. She has been spayed, is up-to-date on vaccines, and has tested negative for FeLV/FIV. Her adoption fee is \$100. To learn more about Frances call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

Flower

Flower came to My Way Home Dog Rescue from a public shelter on the Big Island of Hawaii, where she was taken in as a stray, and that's about all we know of her history. (For more on the partnership between MWH and Hawaii shelters, see page 3.)

Flower must have had some scary times before she ended up at the shelter, but it's all behind her now and she doesn't hold a grudge! She is a sweet and loving girl who is great with other dogs but would prefer a home without cats—she's a little too interested in small, fast-moving critters. She walks happily on her leash, is comfortable in her crate, and has good house manners.



Although her sweet face shows the "highlights" common to ladies of a certain age, Flower is a bouncy, happy girl who is full of life and love. She is inquisitive, easygoing, and enjoys meeting new people. She is about eight years old, weighs 46 lbs., and appears to be a brindle pittie mix, although no one knows for sure all the ingredients that combined to make this lovely lady.

Flower has been spayed and microchipped, and is current on vaccines and flea control. The adoption fee of \$300 includes leash, collar, blanket, and food sample. If you are interested in meeting Flower, email mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com or call 503-974-4944.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Spring has sprung! Almost everybody we know is talking about the current obsession with tidying up, based on a popular book and TV show. We've been doing some spring cleaning here at ARCF World HQ, and we could use your help with our housekeeping.

If you're receiving this quarterly newsletter in the mail, we hope you enjoy reading it, and perhaps even sharing your copy with friends and co-workers. But if you're trying to reduce paper clutter, we'd be glad to send it by email instead. Our permanent mailing list includes all of our adopters, volunteers, and veterinarians. Donors are also added to the list, but if we don't hear from you again in three years, we'll stop mailing. And, although we never sell or share our mailing list with anyone, we will remove you from our list completely at your request. Let us know at arcf@pdx-petadoption.org or 503-402-8692.

While going through old records, we were reminded of the many cats and kittens (and dogs!) who were adopted since we started in 1975. We'd love to hear from our adopters with updates and photos, even if your pets have since passed on. You can post your photos and stories to our Facebook page, send by email, or by regular mail to the address on page 8.

For the first time in many years, we actually had a short break from kittens during the winter. Our volunteers were grateful for the time to rest up and reorganize, but we know the first kittens of the season will arrive soon—mild weather in December and January means the cats had extra energy for finding mates and starting families.

Recently we were called to help an injured stray cat who was obviously a tom in full hormonal mode. The kind family who fed him had six other cats coming to their porch as well, and needed help with the logistics of trapping and transporting the cats to the spay/neuter clinic. We delivered traps, and showed how pre-baiting works: if the cats are fed only in the open traps at certain times for several days, they get comfortable with the routine and that makes it much easier to trap them in a short time on a specific day. Five of the seven cats are females, including beautiful **Momma** and **Half Face**, so even a conservative estimate would have soon added 15 more mouths to feed had they not all been altered. The injured tom was suffering from an extreme case of earmites, so he received treatment for the mites and an antibiotic to help him heal. We also provided shelters and a new feeding station before we left.

Although we focus our efforts on cats, we care for all animals and are especially fond of The Belmont Goats, an urban herd of 14 goats and their pet chicken, Juniper. The herd and

their caretakers recently completed a move from one Portland neighborhood to another, and as usual with a big move, expenses outgrew the budget. We made a contribution toward building a fence at their new field, and we volunteered to give **Cooper** and Bambi a ride to their new home on moving day. We encourage everyone in the Portland area to pay a visit to the herd. Check their website for location and weekly visiting hours, thebelmontgoats.org.

We have another housekeeping request, this one a bit more serious. Regardless of age or health status, we are all at risk of experiencing a sudden event that might make it impossible to care for our pets. Please take time to think about your wishes for your pets and find someone you trust to make decisions for their care if you are unable. It doesn't necessarily require that this person provide daily care or take ownership, but they should accept responsibility for making sure the animals are safe and making arrangements for future care, whether short- or long-term. Don't assume that your friends or family will step in and do the right thing! Unless you have made specific arrangements in advance, also don't assume that a shelter or rescue will be able to accept them. We have seen far too many situations where pets were left without anyone willing to take responsibility, sometimes with tragic results. Put your wishes in writing, including photos and descriptions of each pet by name, and details of any special needs, if certain pets are bonded to each other, and where vet records are located. Give a copy of this to your trusted person and make sure you review and update everything when things change for you and your pets. Please don't put this off, and if you need help getting started, let us know. We don't want any of our rescued kitties to become homeless again!

Our adoptions were slower this quarter since we didn't have many kittens, but we did find excellent homes for two senior cats who had been with us the longest. We are delighted to share the stories of Benedict and Nina in this issue. We are deeply grateful to all our wonderful adopters who provide the loving, forever homes we wish for every animal.

On behalf of the hundreds of kittens who will soon be coming through our doors, and the seniors who come to us with extra needs and stay a bit longer, we thank all the generous supporters who make it possible for us to provide the care they need until those wonderful adopters come along.

Happy Spring!

—Carma Crimins, President

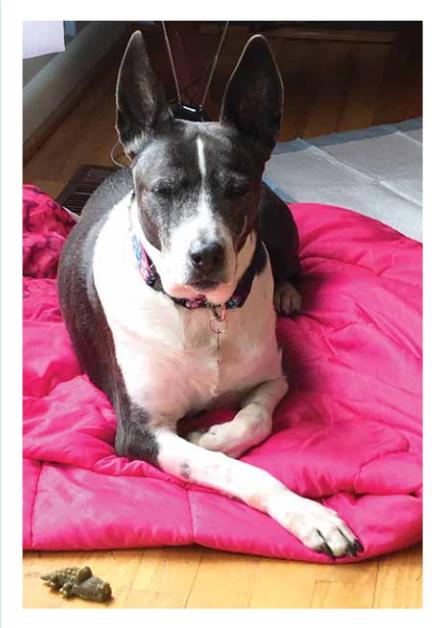


FROM TOP: MOMMA;
HALF FACE; COOPER

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



Georgia (formerly Lily)

The founders of My Way Home Dog Rescue have a special connection to Hawaii and recently one of their dedicated volunteers moved to the Big Island, where she continues to support rescue and adoption of homeless animals. She recognized that some dogs languishing in Hawaii shelters would be good candidates for adoption in Oregon and asked MWH for help.

All public shelters are stressful environments where animals can rarely be seen at their best and, in Hawaii, potential adopter foot traffic is very low. Often the best hope for a

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: GEORGIA;
GEORGIA, MARY & FONZI;
GEORGIA & FONZI

successful adoption is to transport the animal to a rescue in another state. Fortunately, local shelters are able to raise funds for these life-saving flights and coordinate the necessary details.

A partnership was established between MWH and a shelter in Hawaii, and Georgia (then known as Lily) became the first dog to make the 2600-mile journey to Portland. Her

adoption was arranged in advance along with travel itinerary, and Georgia's bags were packed. At the last minute, Georgia's adopter backed out, but a spot was made for her in a flexible MWH foster home and she was welcomed to Oregon with open arms.

Georgia is a very adaptable and easygoing girl who fit in immediately with her foster family, and it wasn't long before Mary saw Georgia on the MWH website. Mary also came to Oregon from Hawaii and felt a connection with Georgia. She asked to meet her and recently sent this update:

We love animals and when my 11-year-old standard poodle Fonzi seemed lonely after my daughter took her two dogs with her to medical school, I began looking for a friend for him. I knew he wouldn't be thrilled with an energetic puppy and wanted to adopt a senior in need of a lot of spoiling. Georgia has been the perfect fit. It's fun seeing her reveal herself a bit more every day. She likes playing "chase," sunbathing (she came from the Big Island after all), cuddling, intensive sniffing when on a walk, and a good bone (even though she had many teeth extracted). We feel very blessed to have her in our family and hope when we return to our home in Hawaii in a few years she will still have some time left to return with us to her birthplace.

Thank you for bringing Georgia to us!

—Mary Scalone

My Way Home Dog Rescue specializes in saving dogs from high-kill shelters, providing all necessary medical care and fostering all dogs in loving homes until their permanent forever families find them. Dogs from open-intake public shelters often have chronic conditions that were neglected for years, presenting health and medical challenges. Bringing them back to good health takes time and money, and 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 senior dog, please contact mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com.

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

December-January-February: We rescued and cared for 24 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 15 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$4944.55

Food/Supplies: \$1437.83

Newsletter: \$2117.50

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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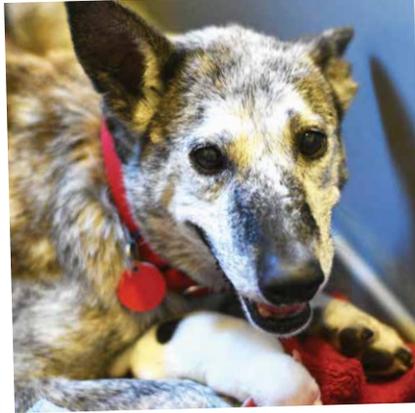
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Animal Rescue & Care Fund is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 51-0137768. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used to support our programs, including publishing this quarterly newsletter.



My Way Home Dog Rescue volunteers were sad to lose senior dog Ellen, who came to their rescue last summer at the age of 11+ years. To everyone's surprise, Ellen soon gave birth to four puppies. In addition to the burden of pregnancy at her advanced age, Ellen's life had been very stressful and her health suffered. Although she learned to love a soft bed of her very own, unlimited good food, and tender loving

care, she remained wary of strangers and preferred to spend her time in a quiet room with other mild-mannered old dogs. She was deeply loved by her caregivers and her gentle spirit will never be forgotten.

Every year a few of the hundreds of kittens we take into our rescue arrive with serious medical conditions that can't be corrected, no matter how hard we work to save them. Each little life is precious and we remember Chevy, Clarice, Forrest, Marabel, Viluria, and Yale, the angels who left us too soon over the last year.



Lorraine and Henry Tobeck made a donation in memory of Petey, their sweet old black cat who recently succumbed to kidney failure. His symptoms were sudden and severe, and there was no treatment available to help him. Petey was a gentle giant who is deeply missed by his family, including his devoted feline brother, Buddy.

Susan Hay and Randie Reed recently lost their beloved dog Rowdy, a wonderful Pug who came to them with extraordinary medical needs. Rowdy was adored by his family and under their loving care he lived almost 14 years. Rowdy was remembered with a donation from their friend Patty Davies.

Elaine Mathies sent us a donation in memory of her mother Gloria, a long-time supporter of ARCF. Gloria's cat Kady was adopted from us in 2006 and will spend the rest of her days with Elaine.



**TOP:
EDEL
(LEFT)
& FIONA**

**BOTTOM:
ENJOYING
DINNER
WITH BIG
SISTER
JACK**



Fiona & Edsel

Last November we helped rescue a sweet momma cat and her four newborn kittens when they were abandoned by their family. We named momma cat Frances (our cover girl!) and her kids became Finley, Felicity, Fiona, and Forrest. Sadly, we lost little Forrest to FIP (feline infectious peritonitis) soon after they came to us, but the rest of the family grew healthy and strong. Edsel belonged to the "E" litter, but he was the "odd" one in his litter of seven, so we introduced him to the three "F" kittens. He and Fiona hit it off so they became a pair. Finley and Felicity were already a bonded pair.

Angela's family includes one 9-year-old cat and a kindergarten-age human, and they were looking for a fun, playful kitten. Julie was looking for a pair of sweet, quiet kittens to be her snuggly companions. On one auspicious day in February, all four kittens went to their forever homes.

We are so happy to have Fiona and Edsel join our family! We had planned on getting one kitten, but after meeting this pair we couldn't say no to two. Fiona settled in right away. She is a total lap cat and will snuggle all day long. Edsel is a bit more of a loner, but does have his share of snuggles to share—especially if you look like you may have some food for him. Do not get in the way when those two are having one of their epic sessions of tag! Their new big sister, Jack (9-year-old feline), is still not sure what to think of the new fur babies yet. Their other new big sister, Abby (5-year-old human), loves every minute of it. Abby will play with those two all day long—finally someone can keep up with her!

—Angela & Daniel Koerner

Jack & Annie (formerly Finley & Felicity)

Jack and Annie are doing great! They were a little shy at first, but are now showing lots of personality. They love playing with toys and chasing each other up and down all the stairs in our townhouse. They love to snuggle on the bed. They don't like to be held, but will let us pet them and rub their bellies. They love to sit on the window sill to watch the snow or sunbathe! We have debated what to rename them, but we think Jack and Annie are the names that will stick. (My husband likes to call them Darryl and Darryl but they are too sweet for those names, I think!)

We really love them and really appreciate how well they were treated by their foster families and what a positive experience the adoption process was. Thank you!

—Julie Beardall



JACK (LEFT) & ANNIE



TOP: NATASHA (LEFT) & MARMALADE
BOTTOM: SISTERS IN THEIR NEW HOME

Marmalade & Natasha

(formerly Autumn & Apricot)

Our rescue friend in the Willamette Valley does amazing work and we like to help her by taking kittens she has rescued to foster and place for adoption whenever we have room. Usually the kittens have feral moms and need some time our “boot camp” before they can be adopted. But the “A” litter were already happy little kittens who loved everyone and just needed time to grow and get healthy. We had plenty of applications to screen when it was their turn for adoption, including one from Lisa. She came with a very positive recommendation from a previous adopter and before long, two beautiful kittens joined her family.

Marmalade and Natasha are amazing kittens! I love them so much even when they are using me as a springboard to pounce on each other. Marmalade loves to play fetch with her little fuzzy mouse. She brings it back to me better than any dog I have ever had. Natasha is a cuddler and loves racing up and down their cat tree and batting the hanging mouse around and around. They are such a gift! Never a dull moment—it’s either cuddle time or they are running through the apartment like crazy.

It is so nice to come home each night and have them chatter at me in greeting when I come through the door. I can’t tell you how glad I am that I got them! They are my fur babies.

—Lisa Justice

Benedict

Benedict came to us with his three siblings in 2013 when their caregiver passed away and they lost their home. Benedict and his sister Beatrice were adopted by a family who adored them. About a year later, Benedict suffered a minor injury and required weeks of cage rest. He recovered physically but his attitude towards his feline sister and the family dog had changed—he was very agitated by their presence and began acting out. His family tried everything their vet recommended to help Benedict resolve his anxieties, but things got worse instead of better. He also became very stressed by visitors coming to the house, especially small children.

After six months of heroic efforts to help Benedict reintegrate into the social order with no success, we all agreed that he should come back to ARCF. It was heartbreaking for his family, but it was obvious that Benedict needed a complete reset for his physical and mental health. He settled into our foster

home where he had his own space and lots of quiet time.

Over the next three years, we talked to many people who were interested in adopting Benedict, but the situation was never quite right. Finally last November we heard from Caroline and Mary Ellen, retirees with a quiet lifestyle and lots of patience for shy cats—just what we dreamed of for Benedict. After two months, we received this update:

Benedict is the best cat ever! He is so very affectionate that we have to trade off with each other to provide him with enough lap time. He spends a major part of each day patrolling the sliding doors to the deck in search of birds and squirrels to glare at. And if he’s not on patrol, he is in his chair next to the computer keeping me company while I’m doing online chores or he’s on top of (and completely covering) one of the heating vents.



Oddly, another one of his favorite spots is the glass coffee table in front of the fireplace. One of his signature moves is to come up to you meowing and looking for some affection but then just short of arm’s reach, he throws himself down on the carpet and wriggles back and forth. We are so pleased to have him with us—he has really filled a void left by the loss of our previous cat. Thanks to ARCF volunteers for doing such a great job.

—Caroline Mann & Mary Ellen Kenreich



**LEFT: FREDDIE & LEO
RIGHT: GROWN UP LEO**

Leo (formerly Lewis)

In the winter of 2017, we were asked to help capture a beautiful calico cat that had just brought her third litter of kittens to the porch of the family who fed her. The family members had managed to grab and give away the earlier kittens, but they didn't know how to take the next step of getting them fixed. This time, momma cat seemed to be injured and they knew she needed help.

Our volunteers quickly trapped the family, momma was spayed, her injury was treated, and she was returned to her home. The three kittens went to our foster home where two were quickly socialized and adopted. But Leo wasn't growing as expected—he ate well but it all came right back out. We tried many types of food and treatments, but nothing helped. Our vet confirmed that Leo had no parasites or infection, but his guts just wouldn't accept any food we offered. He continued to lose weight and was in danger of dehydration.

Foster mom Bonnie had similar experience with her French Bulldog, Freddie, and he improved greatly with a raw diet, so we decided to try it with Leo. Luckily he liked the food, and he began to improve, literally overnight! He immediately had more energy, and as he grew to normal weight and size, it was finally his turn to find a forever home.

One of our board members had recently lost a beloved orange cat and

felt it was time to fill the hole he left in the family. Here's Leo's story as they picked it up:

When we first met Leo, he was perched perfectly on foster mom Bonnie's shoulder like a fuzzy little parrot. He immediately came to greet us with many head butts and a lot of purring. Leo was small for his age due to his food issues, but his new diet was working and he had finally started to gain weight.

A few days later we brought him home and he has ruled the family ever since—4-legged and 2-legged alike. He HAS to know what's going on all the time! He usually sits on top of the fridge so he can monitor squirrel activity outdoors, as well as human and feline activities indoors. His teenage energy was truly astounding—his schedule was so packed, he rarely had time to sleep and didn't want anyone else in the house to sleep either.

Now that he's a bit older, Leo enjoys more relaxing activities such as watching bird videos on YouTube and occasionally napping. He also enjoys patting his humans on the head when we have been good. We are enjoying watching his transformations and discoveries as he grows up.

—Debbie Norr & Hammad Khan

Nina

Our regular readers may remember Nina's story from our last issue—she was the beautiful cover girl with so many extra toes! She was rescued from a precarious situation in California where she had been living outdoors on her own for many years. She made friends with a kind man who brought her back to Oregon with him, and from there she came to ARCF.

Nina had many health issues: bald patches of raw skin, many teeth broken and abscessed, a heavy load of bacterial and yeast infection, and un-spayed. We treated these conditions, plus a year of trial and error diagnosing and resolving allergies that caused the severe itching.

To keep her healthy, Nina requires a particular prescription food (and not one bite of anything else!) and a small pill given every other day. Everyone who met Nina found her a delightful companion, but for many potential adopters her needs were a bit too much.

But more than a year after Nina came to us, we heard from Sharon and Joe, who were looking for a "friendly, curious cat who wants to be spoiled." Our response: "Have we got the girl for you!" A meeting was quickly arranged, and soon Nina was on her way to her forever home.

We love our beautiful girl! Nina is amazingly comfortable in her new home. She has found sunbeams and high perches to suit her moods. She is a blessing and a joy. Thank you for saving her (in all ways) for us!

—Sharon & Joe Durant



I found baby kittens! Now what?

Now appearing in a backyard, shed, or crawl space near you: the first spring crop of kittens born to outdoor-living cats. Often the first instinct is to grab the kittens, take them inside, and start making phone calls for help. But before you do this, remember that unless you are absolutely sure the mother is dead or removed from the area, she will probably be back shortly to care for her kittens. She may be eating, hunting, or hiding, hoping you'll leave so she can come back to her nest.

Kittens need their mother until at least six weeks of age. She feeds them exactly the right food, keeps them clean, and teaches them valuable feline life skills. If the momcat senses you intend to move them, she'll probably do it herself and you may not find them again. So don't disturb the kittens, no matter how irresistible they look. Leave food in the area of the nest but not right next to it, so predators aren't drawn to the babies by the food.

Keep an eye on the kittens from a distance. If the momcat hasn't re-



turned and the food is still untouched in 24 hours, give us a call and we'll help you through the next steps. It's expensive, tiring, and time-consuming to bottle feed a litter, so you don't want to take that on unless the kittens are truly orphaned.

If the momcat does come back, give her plenty of high-quality food and fresh water. If she seems friendly, you may be able to bring her and the litter inside. We can also help with fostering if needed. If the mother isn't approach-

able, continue to provide food and water and contact the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon for advice on capturing and caring for her and the kittens.

If you don't have time to help or can't decide what to do, please call us at 503-402-8692.

Resources:

- Excellent online guide to orphan kitten care: kittenrescue.org
- Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, 503-797-2606: feralcats.com

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.

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