

Maggie & Heidi

Say hello to Maggie and Heidi, two sweet ladies who are waiting for their perfect forever family to welcome them. Their lives have taken a couple dramatic turns, and they are ready to find a place where they can leave behind any upheaval and coast peacefully into retirement.

Their story started in 2013, when they were rescued by our friend Eric, who was on a mission to bring a truckload of homeless cats from desperate conditions in Mississippi to the relative cat paradise of Portland, Oregon. Heidi and Maggie were sick and tired babies when they arrived, but quickly recovered and were soon adopted and adored by their person for seven years, until she passed away suddenly last year. The transition back to our foster home was stressful, but their new foster mom has enjoyed watching them blossom and grow—their quirky personalities have come out and they are delightful.

Maggie is the extrovert and she loves to spend the

day on her foster mom's lap while she works. Heidi is an introvert, and although she may never decide to come out and greet visitors, once she trusts her person she begs for attention and her goofball side comes out—guaranteed to spark at least one good laugh every day.

These girls have only lived in a quiet, calm household with no other pets and no kids, so their dream is to find a home like that where they can spend the second half of their lives. They love their toys, especially the laser dot. If you happen to forget that, Heidi will direct you to the location of the laser, or go get it herself if you are not smart enough to interpret her signals.

Both Heidi and Maggie are in excellent health and have good house manners. They have been spayed, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV/FIV, and are current on vaccines and dental care. The adoption fee for both is \$150. To learn more about Maggie and Heidi, please call 503-402-8692 or email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org.



MAGGIE



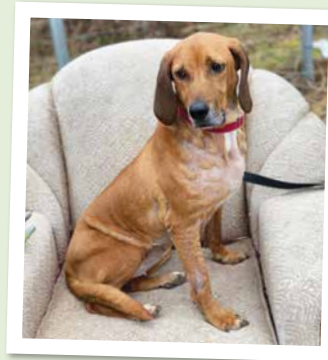
HEIDI

Abby

Sweet Abby (Abigail) has been through some big changes in life recently, and she is looking for a loving family who will provide patient guidance to help her continue learning about the good things life has to offer.

Abby suffered from neglect at her previous home (see photo on page 3), and My Way Home volunteers believe that she didn't have much experience living indoors—she apparently spent most of her life chained to a tree. But Abby sure loves the great indoors now! She can happily snooze the day away on the couch, and loves sleeping on the bed with her people.

Abby does well on leash, is crate-trained, and she loves car rides. She doesn't bother cats or chickens and she would appreciate the company of another mellow dog. Kids aged 10 and up are fine, since her preference is for a quiet home. Abby lived in a rural setting before and we are hoping to find a similar placement for her. Big city noise and activity are too much for this girl. A securely fenced yard is an absolute requirement—if she gets out,



she will follow her nose and be gone.

Abby appears to be a Redbone Coonhound mix. She weighs about 55 lbs., after gaining needed weight after her rescue. She has been spayed, dewormed, and microchipped. She is up to date on vaccines

and flea control and tested negative for heartworm.

The adoption fee is \$350. If you are interested in meeting Abby, email mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com or call 503-974-4944.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our little blue rock has survived another trip around sun since the pandemic started its attack on humankind. So many lives were lost, and so many livelihoods are gone forever. We at ARCF are grateful that no one in our immediate circle was severely affected and, thanks to our dedicated volunteers and our generous supporters, we have been able to continue our work mostly uninterrupted. The animals haven't stopped needing us, so we masked up for safety, bundled up for outdoor adoption meetings, and adjusted expectations for just about everything.

We're often asked why so few pets are shown as available for adoption on our website. The reason is actually a positive one: many of our potential adopters are referred to us by satisfied customers and we're able to make matches without advertising to the public. This is our favorite type of adoption—although we are very thorough in our application screening, we appreciate the extra layer of confidence that comes from a personal referral. One of those connections is in the works for **Melody**, a former barn cat and retired mom who decided the indoor life was more her style. We'll have more of her story in our next issue!

Harvey is another cat who spent most of his life outdoors and recently decided he'd prefer a more comfortable retirement domicile. For the rest of his story, see page 5.

The past month has provided a break from the steady stream of kittens which starts each year in late spring and continues until winter. That freed up foster home space so we could help more senior cats in need. In addition to our featured cats Maggie and Heidi, please read about Tai, Ruby, and Georgina on page 7—maybe one of them would be just right to join your family.

Our expertise is mostly with cats, but we share our resources where needed. A local small animal rescue recently took in a family of water turtles, including the lovely **Charlotte**. We donated tanks and accessories to help provide enough space for the turtles to heal from their previous neglect. Volunteers from the same group traveled to rescue some abandoned pet rabbits and, while there, were approached by a neighbor

who asked if they could also take three orphaned **piglets**. The rescue wasn't prepared for additional guests, so we provided crates and other supplies to keep the piggies safely contained until a suitable sanctuary was able to take them.

The dogs we chose to feature in this issue are Abigail and Sonny, whose sad story will have a happy ending, thanks to the people who saw them in distress, and My Way Home Dog Rescue, who immediately took them in. Abigail and Sonny's situation is a good reminder for us to share the important information that Oregon law prohibits tethering of domestic animals for more than 10 hours a day, or no more than 15 hours on a zip line. If you see dogs living on a chain, you can do something to help! Contact the animal control authority for your county or Oregon Humane Society, which has jurisdiction over the entire state. You can remain anonymous to the pet owner being reported. The details of the law regarding tethering can be found at:

www.oregonlaws.org/ors/167.343.

As the days warm up and we open our doors and windows again, we feel the urge to get out and wander through the fresh air and sunshine—and so will our pets, who have been cooped up with us for so long. Now's a perfect time to check and update microchip records, and if your pet is not microchipped yet, please do that. So many sweet and loving animals are found roaming but are never reunited with their families because they have no microchip or the registration has never been completed. If you aren't sure how to do this, you can ask your vet, or contact us and we'll walk you through it.

And here we go! A few minutes ago we received a call about a stray cat with newborn kittens found in the parking lot of a big box store. Our volunteer is already on the road to rescue this little family—our first kitten rescue of the year. Look for the "G" kittens to be ready for adoption around the end of May.

Be careful, be well, and please be kind to all creatures.

Happy Spring!

—Carma Crimins, President



FROM TOP: MELODY;
HARVEY; CHARLOTTE; PIGGIES

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



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RESCUE DAY; ABBY'S TOES;
RENA, HARVEY, & SONNY; SONNY, TAD, & KENNY KAT

Sonny

Sometimes pictures are worth even more than a thousand words. When Sonny was rescued (along with his companion Abby) by My Way Home Dog Rescue, he had been living at the end of a chain for a long time, and his physical condition showed the effects of that life. In addition to muscle wasting from lack of proper exercise, he had multiple tumors

needing surgical removal. His teeth were in terrible condition, and he had never been neutered. But once he met his rescuers and began to receive the care he needed, Sonny showed that his name could have been spelled "Sunny"—he greets every creature (two- and four-legged) with good cheer and holds no grudges. His rescuers also learned that Sonny and Abby were not particularly bonded and, once his immediate medical needs

were addressed, My Way Home posted Sonny on their Petfinder page.

Rena and Tad lost one of their two dogs last year. Because their lives revolve around their animals and they were worried that their remaining dog Harvey would be lonely, Tad changed his work schedule in order to be home with him during the day. They began looking for a new dog to join their family. Harvey is a little fussy about who gets to be his friend, and the first few dogs they met were not the right ones. Then Rena came across Sonny's picture on Petfinder and something about their application seemed right to Cheryl, MWH director.

A meeting was arranged and, as Rena tells it, Sonny knew exactly how to impress Harvey. "Sonny wasn't nervous at all. He acted like he had already lived here forever." He greeted the cats—and the goat, sheep, llama, and donkeys—as if he were meeting up with old friends.

Once he joined the family, they started Sonny on a program of hydrotherapy treatments to build up his muscle strength to support his joints and improve his comfort and mobility.

"It is a match made in heaven, for Sonny and for us. We adore him and he sticks to us like glue," says Rena. "I hope more people will consider adopting senior dogs. They only want to be loved, and it is so rewarding to give them the life they deserve. The time they spend with us is such a gift."

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 senior dog, please contact mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com.

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

Dec-Jan-Feb: We rescued and cared for 15 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 22 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$3,575.26
Food/Supplies: \$2,446.70
Newsletter: \$1,716.64

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

Sarah Cadwell, www.sarahcadwell.com

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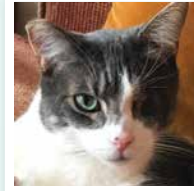
Animal Rescue & Care Fund

PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293
 503-402-8692

www.pdx-petadoption.org
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.

*We recently received the sad news from Kate Wilson that her beloved **Jack** had passed away from lymphoma at the age of 10.*



JACK

Jack came into my life as a very special bonus cat. He and his buddy Petey met in their foster home where they bonded like brothers. I had my heart set on adopting the fluffy Petey, and when I went to meet him, there was shy, sweet Jack. He stood out: he only had one eye, a tipped ear, and a unique curly tail. Jack walked up and draped his legs over my lap and stared at me calmly as if to say, "You're my person!" This was the most fortunate moment in my life, because I got to spend the

next ten years with my best friend.

Jack was an intensely sweet and attentive cat who touched everyone he met with his big heart and curly tail. He was a curious, goofy boy who demanded attention in

the sweetest ways. He expressed affection to each person in his life in a unique, intimate, and theatrical way. He was a big, muscular cat with the softest fur I've ever felt, who played like a clumsy kitten throughout his life. He's simply the most special and sensitive cat I've known, and I'm so grateful and lucky to have spent 10 years of my life showering him with all the love I could. Happy travels, sweetheart.

*Erin Bergstrom lost her adored cat, **Ava**, at the age of 19 years.*

Ava came into my life as a kitten in July 2005 when I was a foster volunteer with ARCF. She was semi-feral and not easy to handle. Even with time and TLC, Ava remained leery of me and other people, but she adored my cat Scrappy. He was an orphaned kitten and always the odd man out—he never had a cat to groom and cuddle with.

Ava stepped in and showered him with affection and friendship. I was in awe at how close their bond became. Ava found a forever home with us.



AVA

It took 11 years but one day she jumped in my lap. The long wait was well worth it. In her senior years she became extremely affectionate and I learned so much from her. Our beautiful Ava will always be deeply missed.



JUANITA

Sometimes a cat comes to our rescue in such critical condition

that there is nothing we can do but help them have a peaceful transition. Little **Juanita** was one of those. When she appeared, emaciated and starving, but unable to swallow the food we offered, we feared the worst. Our vet confirmed that a large tumor had grown to block her mouth and throat, so the kindest thing we could offer was a painless passing. Sweet Juanita, we hope you find us again in your next life.

Tom and Kathrine Grinnell recently lost their beloved cat, **Molly**. She was remembered with a memorial donation from their friend Patty Davies.

SUCCESS STORIES



PIPPY

Pippi

Our friends Georgia and Stan have been helping cats in their neighborhood for a long time—there is a never-ending supply. When a house became vacant on their block, Georgia noticed three cats apparently left

behind. The departed homeowners never returned for their cats, so Georgia began looking after them, including taking the very responsible step of getting them the necessary spay/neuter surgeries. The cats were frightened but friendly, so Georgia asked if we could help find a new home for Pippi.

That month we also heard from Lea, who asked if we knew of a sweet adult female cat who might be looking for a new

home. Her current cat Sanya accepts Lea as her caregiver but isn't very affectionate, so Lea was hoping for a cat who would truly enjoy being her companion. We talked about Pippi and agreed to a foster-to-adopt arrangement.

Pippi needed some time to adjust to all the changes in her world, and Lea was patient. Eventually they settled into their new life together and we recently got this update:

Things are going well with Pippi Purr Purr Glockenspiel!

She is so good-natured and energetic! She loves to play and she loves to eat. She keeps me entertained with her acrobatic antics. Pippi also has a loving and sweet side.

She'd like to become friends with the resident cat Sanya, but Sanya isn't reciprocating her advances. I'm hoping their relationship is a work in progress.

Thanks again for bringing Pippi and me together. I love taking care of this delightful, entertaining, and sweet girl. It's an honor to be her mom.

—Lea Shapiro

Harvey

Last winter Harvey appeared at the home of a cat-friendly family in SE Portland. Harvey was very people-friendly and hoped to make himself at home there, but the resident cats didn't feel like sharing their people with this big tomcat, no matter how handsome. As always when stray cats appear to need our help, we searched lost cat reports and were happy to find Harvey's people! They eventually came to claim him. We offered to help with a neuter surgery, so Harvey might be less inclined to roam but that offer was declined.

About three days later, Harvey was back at the same doorstep, asking to come inside. We called the owners again, but they never came to claim him. Multiple messages were not returned, so after two more weeks, we took Harvey into our rescue. The necessary vet work was done, and after two more weeks with no response from his prior people, we planned to place him for adoption.

Our volunteer Dave Mays started fostering for ARCF more than 10 years ago. He was a wizard with the kittens! He took a break when circumstances (and

his resident cats) required it, but about a year ago he was cat-less and ready to share his home with fosters again.



HARVEY & DAVE

His first client was Sasha (see her story on page 6). After she departed for her new home, Dave agreed to take Harvey. We knew Dave had a soft spot for the big orange boys and weren't surprised when the first few reports from Dave included plenty of heart emojis and mushy words. It always hurts to lose a good foster home, but we can't stand in the way of true love.

Looking forward to fostering again, I was introduced to Mr. Harvey. His big presence filled my studio home with love and activity from day one. He immediately made himself at home, checking out everything, and showing no fear whatsoever! Our first night together set the stage, as he snuggled in next to me, happy as a clam.

In the following days and weeks his personality really began to shine through, exhibiting his fearless attitude, playful nature, and enjoyment of all the toys, foods, and company I could show him. We became very tight, especially with his feisty attitude and desire to play.

As we began to really connect together, I realized I was in danger of falling hopelessly in love, and bonding with him permanently! He so reminded me of past wild boys I've owned and loved, and being an Orangey-boy, with that delightful crazy nature, I knew I was destined to bring this boy inside for good.

Harvey is a total joy, with a few rough edges to make him interesting!! Couldn't be a happier fit!

—Dave Mays

Sasha

Sasha came to us almost exactly a year ago under sad circumstances: the only person she had ever known passed away suddenly with no surviving family members to take in Sasha and her brother Peter. Peter and Sasha weren't bonded—in fact they didn't care for each other at all, so we placed them in separate foster homes, and both immediately became less stressed. Peter adjusted quickly and was soon adopted.

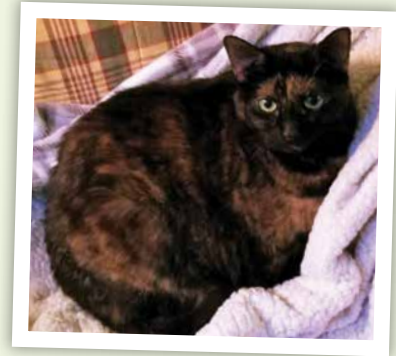
But the transition was hard for Sasha—she was overwhelmed by everything and just wanted to hide. She needed time to decompress and figure things out at her own pace. It took many months of patience (and buckets of treats!) from foster dad Dave, but finally Sasha was ready for the next big move—to a forever home of her own.

Barbara adopted a sweet older cat from ARCF some years ago, and Pearlle has since gone ahead through the pearly

gates. Last fall, Barbara generously took in a temporary foster cat when we had an emergency situation for a few months, and after that kitty went back home, she was missing feline companionship. We told her about Sasha and explained that she wouldn't immediately be eager to adjust to yet another new person—Sasha had only known one person for her first 13 years and now she was getting a new one every few months! But we knew Sasha would be happiest in a home like Barbara's; with one quiet, calm person and no other four-legged creatures to annoy her.

It wasn't a smashing success from the first minute—as expected, Sasha was wary and unsure. But Barbara was patient and soon won her over. Sasha now has the perfect forever home, and we couldn't be happier for both of them.

Sasha made a big move to my home in early January. To no one's surprise, with all that she had been through prior to coming to ARCF, it took her



SASHA

some time to adjust to moving from her foster home to come live with me.

But settle in she has, loving nothing more than to sleep in bed with me or sit in a chair for a little attention and TV viewing. She is assertive in the morning, waking me up by walking around on the pillow and bumping my face with her head until I get up to start breakfast. Sasha is a real sweetheart and I am so happy to have her as my buddy.

—Barbara Wade



EDITH (LEFT) & EUGENE

Edith & Eugene

Although Edith and Eugene came to us from different corners of the state, they were thrown together in our rescue. Edith was left in a box with two other kittens on the doorstep of a senior cat rescue in Eastern Oregon. They were not equipped to shelter three youngsters suffering from a variety of infections, including ringworm, a fungal skin condition. The rescue asked

for our help, and fortunately we had a foster home ready to take on their care and treatment, which is messy, smelly (weekly lime sulfur baths—phew!), and time consuming. After a few months, the three girls were all recovered and ready for adoption. Two were adopted as a pair, leaving Edith with no playmate—a very sad state of affairs for such a lively and social little lady.

In the meantime, Eugene's people were moving to an assisted living apartment from their very rural home in Clackamas County and didn't want to bring Eugene and their other cat, Ruby (see more about Ruby on page 7). Eugene was about six months old, not neutered, and full of teenage energy—and really getting on Ruby's nerves. After his neuter surgery, we moved him in with Edith and, after a couple days of assessing each other for playmate potential, they were off to the races—literally.

Denise recently moved back to Portland after some years away and

when she mentioned adopting cats, a friend who had adopted kittens from ARCF referred her to us. We thought Edith & Eugene might liven up her household, and after a meeting in the swanky patio at their foster home, all three went home together. A couple days later we got this update:

The kitties are adjusting quite well! Edith settled in right away and Eugene (maybe Eddie?) is coming out of his shell! I keep calling him all different kinds of names to see what fits. He's a cuddler for sure! He and Edith love to chase each other around the house, watch out the windows, and chase wand toys. Edith can literally entertain herself for a good 20 minutes batting around the little mouse that came in her bag of toys! They are adorable and so much fun.

Thanks! It's so great to have kitties in the house again!

—Denise Jenn

SNEAK PEEK SENIORS

These feline senior citizens are currently in our foster homes and will soon be available for adoption. As with all our cats, they have been spayed/neutered, tested for FeLV/FIV, and are current on vaccines. Our senior cat adoption fee is \$80. To learn more about them, call 503-402-8692 or email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org.

Georgina

The lovely Georgina is a social butterfly who loves being close to her people. She will climb into any available lap, and has been known to place her paws on either shoulder to gaze deeply into the eyes of the lap's owner. She is playful with her favorite toys, and although she prefers sleeping in her own space, she will jump on the bed in the morning to remind her people when it's time to get up. She enjoys meeting visitors to her home, including close-up meetings with a toddler.

For the last few years, Georgina was passed around among friends and family members as their circumstances



GEORGINA

changed. She was safe and cared for, but we suspect she was bored and lonely, with not much to occupy her so she ate her feelings. We can relate after the last year!

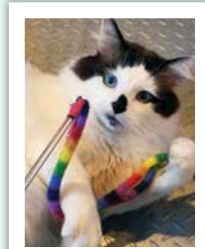
Other than the extra weight, Georgina is in very good health. Since she came to ARCF, her foster mom has been vigilant about controlling her diet and exercise, and Georgina has already lost weight and become more active.

It will be very important that Georgina's forever family maintain her diet and help her continue reducing, to ease the strain on her joints and prevent other complications of obesity. Fortunately, she is not food obsessed and, as long as she gets her preferred entrees, she doesn't complain or beg for more. She speaks only when spoken to and has excellent litter box habits. Georgina is about 9 years old.

Tai

Last summer a very sad and starving cat appeared at a food cart pod near a busy freeway intersection. Cart owners and customers gave him handouts, but knew he needed more care than they could provide. They also couldn't get close to him, so we were asked to help. It doesn't take long to trap a hungry cat and after his neuter, vaccines, and other necessary treatments, we set this gentleman (whom we call Tai) up in a foster home to recover. He wasn't thrilled about the arrangement—in fact sometimes his attitude was very ungrateful and downright rude.

But regular meals, protection from the elements, and a rather cushy heated bed can win over even the most resistant feline heart. Once his



TOP: TAI BEFORE;
TAI AFTER

barriers came down, Tai began making up for lost time. He adores being around his person, and is of the opinion that there is no such thing as too much petting or play time. He's very fond of the geriatric kitty who shares his space now, but Tai is big and strong and sometimes bowls him over with his exuberant affection.

Tai is still wary of new people, big noises, and changes to routine. He's the kind of reformed alley cat who may never come out to greet strangers in his home, but he will bond deeply with his person and want to be involved in whatever they are doing.

Since he has gained weight, his gorgeous coat grew in, and with those mesmerizing blue eyes, Tai appears to be a longhaired snowshoe cat. He's about seven years old.

Ruby

Ruby and Eugene were likely to be abandoned in the very rural area where they were living, so we made space for them in one of our foster homes.

We quickly discovered that delicate, dignified Ruby was not at all interested in staying with rowdy teenager Eugene, so we gave him a young playmate in a new foster home (see their story on page 6) and Ruby got a quiet space of

her own. She soon made her way to the closest available lap and started to show interest in toys, high quality food, and treats.

Ruby is shy and needs time to adjust to changes in her world but we find her to be a very agreeable companion when a routine is established and followed. She loves small, cozy places and can be happy looking out the window for hours. She is about seven years old.



RUBY

Good kitty, nice kitty... OUCH!

Does your cat play too rough? You're having a nice pet-and-cuddle session and suddenly your furry pal chomps down on your hand? He's probably crossed the line from predatory play to "sneak attack," practicing his instinctive hunting skills on you! While it's flattering to be chosen as a playmate, don't let yourself be the target of claws and teeth. Even if you don't mind, this behavior won't endear your cat to others, and could cause serious damage to youngsters, oldsters, and anyone else with tender skin.

One reason for too-vigorous play may simply be boredom. Even if you're spending lots more time at home these days, you may not always be available when your cat is in the mood to burn off some steam. The first thing we suggest is to get your cat another cat. Even if they don't become bosom buddies, having a companion can provide mental stimulation and stave off boredom. They can also practice their hunting skills on each other instead of you.

All cats appreciate having perches, shelves, and window seats for varied perspectives at different hours of the day. Some cats, especially younger

ones, can amuse themselves with toys while no one is around, but most of them prefer attention from their human at play time. Make sure to set aside some time every day to get out the favorite toy and have a good play, even if it's only for ten minutes.

Many cats become over-stimulated and excitable during grooming. Regular brushing is important, so if this brings out an aggressive response in your cat, pay attention to how long she can tolerate the stimulation, notice changes in her body language, and stop before it goes too far. Make the sessions short and end with a treat.

Should you miss the signs before teeth and claws come out, a firm NO is in order. If your cat bites, don't yank your hand away, even though instinct tells you to. That's typical prey behavior and will entice her to bite again to "catch" you. Instead, push your hand into her mouth (which will cause her to open her mouth), say NO, and then leave. Don't reward bad behavior with more attention.



ACORN & ARUGULA AGREE THAT TWO IS BETTER

Most important: be consistent in your response. Don't waggle your fingers or toes as bait to entice your cat to play. Body parts are not toys: if you permit biting and scratching sometimes but not others, you're sending conflicting messages. Play together every day, respect your cat's boundaries, and don't reward bad behavior.

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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