

SUMMER 2018 • VOL. 43, NO. 2

PO BOX 14956, PORTLAND, OR 97293

FEATURED CAT Kittens!

Our foster homes are overflowing with kittens! We share photos and descriptions on our websites to help people find us, but when kitten season kicks into high gear each spring, our selection changes daily and it's impossible to keep everything up to date. We chose Herbie and Hayley to be our spokes-kittens, but we have many more, of all sizes, shapes, and colors. If you're ready to adopt, please fill out our online application and we'll get back to you to talk about our current inventory.

Our goal is to make the best match for every cat and every family, and sometimes that means kittens aren't necessarily the best fit. Those who haven't recently lived with baby kittens may not remember the rocket-powered energy, constant mess in the litter box, boundless appetite, sharp teeth and needle-like claws that need frequent trims, and—most important—the potential 20-year commitment. Kittens can be irresistibly adorable, but they can also climb, crawl, and claw their way onto everything in the house, and they seem to always find a way to be underfoot just when it's least convenient. Don't be offended if we remind you about these "features" included with each kitten; it's easy to get carried away by cuteness and we want to help everyone find their "happily ever after."

We adopt our kittens in pairs, unless there's already another kitten or young cat in the family as a playmate. Having a pal helps kittens develop good social skills and helps to burn up all that excess mental and physical kitten energy. A kitten left alone all day is likely to spend the day resting, so there's plenty of energy left to keep everyone awake all night.

A bonded pair makes life easier for everyone.

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 \$150 for a pair of kittens. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.



HAYLEY



HERBIE

FEATURED DOG Bonnie

Bonnie is part of a family of seven pups who came to Oregon from a tough situation in Arizona, through a joint rescue effort between My Way Home Dog Rescue and Animal Rescue & Care Fund. Bonnie's mom, Little Bit, and her five siblings were quickly adopted, but Bonnie surprised her rescuers by giving birth to a single adorable baby shortly after she arrived, so she wasn't going anywhere soon! She's now completed her maternity leave, baby Bertie has been adopted, and Bonnie is ready for her own happily ever after.

Her foster mom says Bonnie enjoys relaxing in front of the TV or hanging out in the backyard with her people. She is house- and crate-trained, and always comes when called. She will follow her nose out a door accidentally left open however, so an adults-only family is best for her safety.



BONNIE

Bonnie is bit shy with strangers, but that can make her an ideal companion for a single person—she will give a little "woof!" alert if she hears anything unfamiliar around the house. But once she's made a friend, she will always recognize and welcome them back.

Bonnie has the coloring of a Border Collie, but the size and shape of a Chihuahua mix. She's about two years old and weighs 13 lbs.

All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and are current on vaccines and flea control. The adoption fee of \$300 includes leash, collar, blanket, and food sample. If you are interested in meeting Bonnie, email mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com or call 503-974-4944.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

When we talk about "kitten season," it's often assumed we refer to a set time of year when kittens are born. Because of our mild climate, the kitten production line never really closes down completely, but there is a period in spring and early summer when our services are in high demand for kitten rescue assistance. This always involves rescuing the mother cats too—kittens and their mothers need each other. And no rescue is complete until the whole family is spayed/neutered and that particular kitten factory closed down.

It's a familiar story: an unknown cat with kittens appears in an unexpected location, and if she is not friendly enough to approach, options are few. No public or private shelter provides trapping services, and fostering a frightened or fractious cat with kittens is a special challenge. But our volunteers rock, and we do our very best to help in every situation like this.

The rescue of the "J" family gave us more than a little anxiety. A kind man found kittens in his backyard one morning and asked us to help because, although their mom was close by, she didn't seem to be taking care of them. Our intrepid trapper and foster volunteer Lori discovered three kittens still attached to each other by the umbilical cord, which was somehow tangled around a low branch of a rhodie shrub, so the kittens were just hanging there. Yikes! Fortunately, baby kitten

expert Wilma Perez-Leon answered our call and she talked Lori through how to safely cut the cords. Yes, boiling water is needed for the surgical implements!

The babies were cold, covered with fly eggs, and hadn't eaten for at least 12 hours. Momcat was safely trapped within a few minutes and we started warming the kittens and combing out the fly eggs—ick! But in less than an hour mom and babies were reunited in a clean, warm kennel and now, three weeks later, they are as sleek as baby seals, eating well and getting to know the world. We named momcat Josie, and the kids are **Joy**, Jetta, and Jolly—all girls.

The "L" litter rescue wasn't quite so traumatic—in fact our volunteer Bonnie was able to grab the three kittens as they scurried around a tightly packed pile of tires and other car parts stashed behind a garage. Once again momcat was trapped within a few minutes, and the family was soon reunited. The beautiful mom is **Lilac**, and her kids are **Lulu**, Lydia, and Liam.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JOY, 1 DAY OLD;
LILAC; SYLVIE (LEFT) & LUTHER; LULU

Although kitten rescue is time and resource intensive, the little ones are irresistible and quickly adopted, once they have outgrown mom and the required vet work is completed. But there are other less-adorable cats who desperately need our help. Last year we helped TNR (trap-neuter-return) about 15 cats for a woman who cared for the cats at her apartment. Recently she asked for help finding new homes for the cats, since she anticipates moving to a new location where the cats will not be welcome.

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

FEATURED DOG

Hugo

What we know of Hugo's story starts along a stretch of industrial property in Southern California. Workers at a nearby factory saw the frightened and vulnerable little dog being attacked by larger dogs, but were not able to get close to him. They contacted Hope for Paws, a well-known Los Angeles-area organization whose volunteers were able to capture Hugo, and made a very touching video of his rescue (to see the video, search YouTube for "Hope for Paws Hugo").

His injuries were treated and, once recovered, Hugo turned out to be a loving and happy-go-lucky pup. He was placed for adoption with a local shelter that subsequently folded, then transferred to another where he was repeatedly passed over for adoption. His luck changed when My Way Home Dog Rescue was asked to help Hugo

find the forever family he so deserved. He was scheduled for a ride to Oregon and a bright new future.

Sophie and Amber had recently started looking for a dog to add to their family. Their search started online where they completed a few applications but never quite connected with the right dog. Then Hugo popped up

in their search, and even though at 8 years old he was a bit older than their ideal, they immediately submitted an application. Amber was very familiar with Hope for Paws and found the video of Hugo's rescue. She was also experienced with Chihuahuas—her last dog Titi died of cancer at the age of 17 years. Cheryl at My Way Home had a good feeling about their application

and the meet-and-greet was soon followed by official adoption.

Upon arriving at his new home,

Hugo must have sensed his wandering days were finally over—he took a look around and then settled in for a two-day nap. He woke up relaxed and refreshed, and is now the happiest dog in the world. Hugo obviously had a home at one time—he was

already 100% house-broken and loves being a couch potato with his people. He's good at walking on a leash, and although he's understandably wary of other dogs he encounters, he trusts his people to take care of him. Hugo is a now calm, confident, and contented pup and Sophie and Amber couldn't be happier to have him in their family.



AMBER (LEFT), SOPHIE, AND HUGO



HOME AT LAST

My Way Home Dog Rescue specializes in saving senior dogs from high-kill shelters, providing all necessary medical care, including heartworm tests for each incoming dog, and fostering all dogs in loving homes until their permanent forever families find them. Senior dogs naturally have more health and medical challenges. Those that end up in open-intake public shelters often have chronic conditions that were neglected for years. Bringing these dogs 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.

I found baby kittens! Now what?

Now appearing in a backyard, shed, or crawl space near you: a summer bumper crop of kittens born to outdoor-living cats.

Starting about mid-May, we receive at least one message every day that goes something like this: "I (or my dog or my kids) just found kittens in my yard. Help!"

Often the first instinct is to grab the kittens, bring them inside, and start looking for a place to take them. 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. Mothering instincts are strong and it's very rare for a momcat to voluntarily abandon her babies.

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 that 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.

Keep an eye on the nest from a distance. When the momcat comes back, give her plenty of high-quality food and fresh water. 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.

If mom seems friendly, you may be able to bring her and the litter inside. If she's not approachable, don't push it—keep your distance but continue to provide food and water.

Capturing a skittish cat is easiest when her babies are used to lure her. This can be done safely with no harm



F KITTENS

to the kittens or the mom and, once captured, the family will be reunited until the kittens are old enough to wean. Then the mother cat can be spayed and placed for adoption (or returned to her home). Once the kittens reach the required weight, they can be spayed or neutered as well, and adopted into forever homes.

If the momcat hasn't returned and the food is still untouched after 24 hours, it's time to take action—give us a call right away. It's expensive, tiring, and time-consuming to bottle feed a litter, so we don't recommend taking that on unless the kittens are truly orphaned.

In any case, please don't ignore the situation and hope it will go away! If the momcat isn't captured and spayed, she'll most likely return to have her next litter in the same spot. The kittens will grow quickly, and they can start having kittens of their own at the tender age of six months. You could soon have a much bigger problem on your hands. So don't delay and don't worry! We are here to help!

Call us at (503) 402-8692, email us at arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or message us online at facebook.com/ARCFPetAdoption.

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

March-April-May: We rescued and cared for 44 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 20 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$5,685.13

Food/Supplies: \$1,404.22

Newsletter: \$2,030.06

Animal Talk

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.

IN MEMORIAM



JAKE

Sweet **Jake** was surrendered to a public shelter because he was old and had a glitchy back end from an old injury that wasn't treated properly. His lucky stars aligned to bring him to My Way Home Dog Rescue, where he was voted "Most Likely to be Loved by Everyone"—including dogs, cats, and people. His next lucky break was going to live with Gerry Taylor. She knew their time together would be short, so Gerry made sure his last months were full of soft beds, special food, and sunny spots in the garden. In addition to Gerry, Jake is survived by his Chihuahua sibling Lily and all his feline housemates.

Nancy Brown sent us a donation in memory of **Calvin Senior**, beloved cat of Brenda Carpenter, who passed recently at the age of 16 years. He is much missed by Brenda, her friends, and his buddy, Calvin Junior.

Poppy was born outdoors on a cold January day in 2005 and lived on the streets for the first eight months of her life. A kind woman helped Poppy find her way to ARCF. Her foster mom, Erin Bergstrom, soon became her forever mom. She discovered that Poppy came with severe separation anxiety and other challenging behaviors. Patient, positive training helped Poppy blossom and thrive.

At age three, Poppy injured her knee and eventually underwent complicated surgery to repair cruciate ligaments on both knees. Recovery involved many weeks of cage rest and therapy—challenging for both Poppy and Erin. But eventually she made a full recovery.

Poppy was well-traveled, well-trained, and well-versed in the finer things in life. She accompanied Erin to work and had a full social calendar of dinner parties and play dates. After 13 years together, Poppy



POPPY

passed over the rainbow bridge on a sunny April afternoon, after a brief battle with renal disease. She was such a gift and brought so much love to everyone she met. Poppy was remembered with a donation to ARCF from her friends Christopher, David, and Fritz.



STUART

Stuart was another geriatric dog rescued by My Way Home after being surrendered to a high-kill shelter. In addition to being blind and deaf, Stuart suffered from a number of serious medical issues, including bad teeth, a broken jaw that didn't heal properly, and a heart murmur. Nevertheless, Kristin Finstad fell in love with him at first sight, and he was her constant companion, going to work with her each day until his little body finally gave out. Stuart is deeply missed by Kristin and his Pekingese girlfriend, Juno.

Sarah Osborn-Whitfield recently lost her two beloved cats **Benjamin** and **Juniper**. They were honored with a donation in their memory from their friends at the Cat Hospital of Portland.

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



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: RIPLEY (LEFT),
TOBY & DAX; STAR SPARKLE; CHICKEN

Sherbert, Tangerine, Abigail, Archie, Adeline & Amelia

Last January we helped a family in a small town in the Willamette Valley who suddenly lost their grandmother and were overwhelmed by the responsibility of caring for her 14 cats. We don't usually take owner-surrendered pets because our space and resources are limited, but we were able to make room for a sweet momcat with her three babies and two older adult cats. We named the young mother Abigail and her kittens were Archie, Amelia, and Adeline. The older cats had been named Sherbert and Tangerine by their family. Obviously all the cats had been loved and cared for—they were very trusting and gentle. We are happy to report that all six are now living with their forever families.

Star Sparkle & Chicken

(formerly Sherbert and Tangerine)

Sherbert and Tangerine were described to us as four-year-old orange brothers, super sweet and very bonded to each other. That was almost all true: they are certainly two of the sweetest cats we've ever met, and they adore each other, but we soon discovered that Sherbert was actually Sherbettie! After we took care of their deferred medical needs, including dental work for Tangerine, the pair was ready to meet their forever family. We soon heard from Ellen, who was looking for a pair of cats for her family, specifically some cuddly cats for a change. We replied right away, "Have we got just the cats for you!"

It didn't take long to confirm we had made a good match.

We are incredibly happy to have Chicken (named by Keith and Ellen) and his sister Star Sparkle (named by daughter Ripley) in our family. We said goodbye to our 20-year-old Kitty in February, and it was a hard loss especially after saying goodbye to 17-year-old Willow the year before.



TOP: ELLEN & STAR SPARKLE
BOTTOM: KEITH & CHICKEN

Chicken is a 12-pound lover boy, and he can usually be found making biscuits on Keith's chest when he's trying to read in bed. Star Sparkle is the goofball of the pair. She's usually harassing her brother or chasing mouse toys around the house. Our 5-year-old daughter said her favorite thing about the kitties is that they are very soft and warm when they sleep with her at night. That's probably the best thing about both Chicken and Star Sparkle—they are so affectionate!

—Ellen, Keith, and Ripley Zientek

Ginger & Toby

(formerly Abigail & Archie)

The cats have been great! I renamed them Ginger and Toby. They are so sweet and fun! Toby adjusted within a few minutes and took over the apartment. After a few hours, Ginger came out of her shell too. They are super sweet and social and a perfect fit for me.

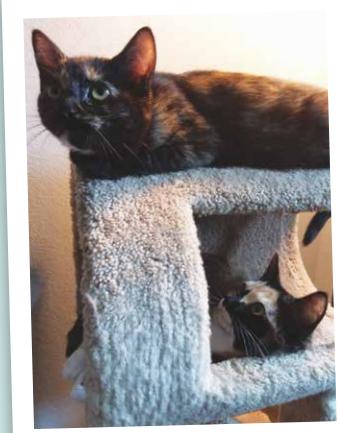
They always keep me entertained and love each other. Toby is always playful and loves everyone, and Ginger enjoys cuddling with me and chasing lasers. I also recently got them a cat tree that they love hanging out on.

—Anna Royce



GINGER (LEFT) & TOBY

SUCCESS STORIES



RIPLEY (TOP) & DAX

Ripley & Dax

(formerly Adeline & Amelia)

The kittens are doing great! We renamed them Ripley (Adeline) and Dax (Amelia). Ripley is the mischievous cuddle fiend, who will leap into the laps of visitors, but gets into trouble any chance she gets, if it means getting attention. Dax is sweet and shy. She runs from strangers but never attacks the hand that feeds her. They have both been amazing with our toddler,

who is head over heels in love with them. If they're not wrestling with each other, they squeeze into the same cat bed together. I love having two kitties that are so bonded. They have both proven to be lap kitties, which makes me very happy. They have definitely brightened our lives, and we are grateful that they were clearly so well handled before they came to us.

—Temris & Matt Ridge

Milton

In the midst of a brutal heat wave in August 2015, we spotted Milton living under some scorched shrubbery on a freeway median. We would love to know how he arrived there, but Milton has made it clear that story will never be told. He was dirty, hungry, and a bit wary, but he was willing to come along with us to a safer place.

First stop was the vet clinic, where we learned that Milton was about 10 years old and been neutered but had no microchip. We also learned that he has very good people skills, but absolutely no tolerance for other cats sharing his space. He is incredibly smart and very confident, but woe to the feline who fails to read the signals of his displeasure! We kept him at ARCF World HQ for the weeks we spent searching for his former family, but his anti-cat attitude became very stressful for cats and people alike.

Finding a foster home for a "singleton" can be challenging—all our friends and acquaintances seem to be pre-stocked with felines. But our friend Glenda had recently moved into a new work space and had not yet hired an office cat. We asked her to foster Milton "for a couple weeks"—just to give us all a break.

Three years later Milton was still at Glenda's office. We learned that Mitty—as his friends call him—enjoys making new friends, including children and dogs, but is not fond of vacuum cleaners.

He has a few aches and pains that go with advanced middle age. We received a few applications for adoption, but none of them turned out to be a good fit.

At last we heard from a family that seemed likely to provide a wonderful home for Mitty. Glenda and her partner Bill agreed it sounded promising, and a meeting was to be arranged between Mitty and his potential adopters. A few minutes later, a different decision was reached.

After almost three years as a contract temporary worker, Mitty was offered a full time position as the CFO (Chief Feline Officer) at our company. His duties include rearranging pencils, uncollating documents, and carefully sniffing all candidates who seek employment. He also trains and supervises other staff members.

In his leisure time, Mitty enjoys greeting small children, dogs, and visiting with neighbors. He is known on his street as Mr. Mayor and is seeking to be a write-in candidate for Portland City Council in the next election, which he will immediately rename the Kitty Council. His platform is "Spay & Neuter for All!" He also supports a cat in every home, a home for every cat, and a heated bed for every cat in every home.



ABOVE: MR. MAYOR
BELOW: WITH FUTURE CONSTITUENT



—Glenda Hughes & Bill Gollhofer

The kittens are hungry—again!

Healthy and adoptable kittens don't need rescue assistance; they do just fine without our help. But our little clients invariably need extensive vet care, sometimes including hospitalization, special diets, and multiple rounds of medications. They require an enormous amount of food and litter. Only when they are healthy and thriving

can we start the usual kitten vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, and everything else it takes to make our kittens bright-eyed, frisky, and ready to meet their forever family.

Here are some ways you can help us continue to provide top-notch care for the 200+ kittens we care for each year:

- Shop online at smile.amazon.com. Select ARCF as your charitable organization. Your account information and settings will remain the same 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!
- Choose ARCF to benefit from your Fred Meyer Rewards Card every time you shop. Go to fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link to ARCF by our organization number, 89299. It costs you nothing, and every quarter ARCF receives a donation check.

- Donate a car, van, boat, RV, or anything with wheels and a motor. Speed's Supertow will handle the towing and paperwork, 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.)
- Start a fundraiser on your Facebook page. On the "Explore" menu on the left, choose "Fundraisers" then select Animal Rescue & Care Fund from the list of charities. It's very quick and easy and there are no fees involved, all donations go directly to ARCF.

- And of course you can always just send us a check or make a donation online from our website, pdx-petadoption.org. You can use the form below, but we'll gladly accept your donation without it. We just need your address to send the acknowledgment.



HOOPER

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

Thank you so very much, on behalf of all the kittens whose lives you are helping to save.

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 _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to:

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