

KITTENS!

Our foster homes are overflowing with kittens! We share photos and descriptions on our websites, but when kitten season kicks into high gear, our selection changes daily and it's impossible to keep everything up to date. We chose Bumble, Bamboo, Bonnie, and Biscuit to be our spokes-kittens, but we have many more, of all sizes, shapes, and colors.



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.

Our cats and kittens have been spayed/neutered, are up to date on vaccines, and tested negative for FeLV/FIV. The adoption fee is \$150 for a pair. To learn more, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit pdx-petadoption.org.

Gizmo

This sweet shaggy dog face belongs to Gizmo. He's had a rough go of life so far, but now he's ready to meet the family who will give him a fresh start and love him forever.

When he came to My Way Home Dog Rescue from a high-kill shelter in California, Gizmo was in sad shape, with tons of fleas, infected ears, and some broken teeth. After receiving top-notch veterinary care, his coat is now shiny and thick, with no more itching. The bad teeth were removed and his ears are all better. It's likely he was in pain for a long time, and may have been roughly treated.

In spite of all this, Gizmo is a sweet and gentle dog. He follows his people around, jumps on laps, and gives tons of kisses. He loves going for walks, sniffing around the yard, and snoozing in the sun. He is crate- and leash-trained. He marked in the house when he first arrived so he wore a belly band. The marking has stopped but he may go through that adjustment again in his new home.

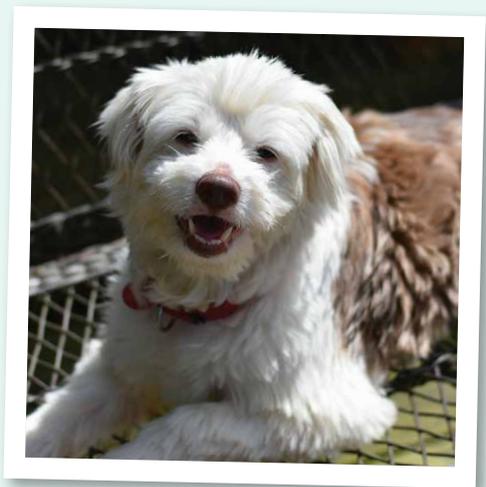
Because of his prior health issues and sensitivity to over-handling, Gizmo needs a quiet home with a fenced yard and no children. He can live with another mellow and respectful

dog and he doesn't bother the bunnies in his foster home, but is a little too interested in cats.

Gizmo is estimated to be seven

years old, weighs 20 lbs., and seems to be a mix of Australian Shepherd and some kind of terrier.

Gizmo has been neutered 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 Gizmo, email mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com or call 503-974-4944.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Ah . . . summer! Time for graduations, weddings, road trips, and having fun outdoors. Summer is always our busiest season—there is just never enough time to help all the animals who need us, but thanks to our ever-willing volunteers, we never stop trying!

Last fall we helped a family with the outdoor cats they fed on their porch, including mom and dad, an uncle, two half-grown kittens, and a new litter just a few weeks old. We transported the adult cats to a spay/neuter clinic and brought the kittens to our foster home. They became the “C” litter and were soon adopted into wonderful homes. We delivered a few of our shelters to keep the cats warm and dry and they immediately moved in and got cozy.

This young family is on a tight budget and asked us about resources to help get their sweet dog **Leeloo** spayed. Even with a discount, surgery for a large dog can be a budget buster, so we arranged to cover Leeloo's surgery and update all her vaccines. She also needed treatment for a stinky ear infection, so we took care of that as well, and provided grain-free food to keep her ears clear. Fleas were a problem too, so we made sure Leeloo and her little dog pal both have effective flea control. The family knows the importance of spay/neuter for all pets, and we were happy to provide the help they needed.

Almost 10 years ago we helped a woman who was also feeding cats on her porch. There were already too many cats and the population was growing. Some were ill and injured. She spoke no English, but with some help from her daughter and lots of sign language, we were able to trap, neuter, and rehome all the cats.

Recently we received a mysterious call from a woman who spoke only in Russian, mentioned a volunteer's name a few times, then hung up. We suspected our services might be needed again, and sure enough another call came soon after, from her daughter, who confirmed that two more cats had appeared. Her mother is kind and generous to all animals, but her own health was failing. The building also has new owners who don't allow outdoor feeding. We returned to the site, and with more sign language (and Google Translate!) we soon trapped a beautiful young cat we called **Glenda**. The other cat recently had kittens in a well-hidden location and we'll return for them when they appear at the food dish.

Because she didn't want to live indoors with people, we found a home for Glenda where she will have food, shelter, plenty of mice to hunt, and people who care about her but respect her desire to be left alone.

We generally don't accept owner-surrendered pets for a number of reasons, primarily because owned pets are in no immediate danger, and there are large, well-funded private shelters in our area that accept only owner-surrendered pets. We prefer to use our limited resources to help cats and kittens who are truly homeless and have no other options. But sometimes we make an exception, usually when we see cats being given away free to the first taker.

In the last few weeks we happened to learn of several situations like this, including a post on a neighborhood “free stuff” website offering a mother cat and her two six-week-old kittens. We responded immediately, put dinner on hold, and went to pick them up. There was a beautiful brown tabby, now called **Isabella**, and her two solid black kittens, **Ian** and **Ivy**. They were hungry and full of parasites—both easy problems to fix. Otherwise they seemed happy and healthy. We were puzzled to see that one kitten was almost twice as big as the other—it's not unusual to have a “runt” in a large litter, but odd with only two. We later learned there were more kittens that had been given away earlier, although they still really needed to be with their mother. But at least these three are safe, and will soon be placed in loving, permanent homes.

Another neighborhood group advertised a single “free” kitten to whoever could get there first, because he was making way too much noise to stay unnoticed, and the owners didn't want to make the required pet deposit for their apartment building. Again, we made a quick change of direction to pick up the kitten, who turned out to be about nine weeks old and very distressed. But once safely settled in our foster home with other kittens for company, his anxiety disappeared. We took care of needed vet work and this sweet boy was quickly adopted by a family with another young cat needing a pal, and everyone is doing well.

These “free” cats were lucky, but their fate could have been much worse, from benign neglect, to abandonment, to serious harm. We are fortunate to have many resources in our area for safely rehoming pets, so there is no need for anyone to give away animals to strangers. If you know of animals in this situation, please offer to help find resources. Give them this newsletter and ask them to contact us!

As always, we thank the generous supporters who allow us to help Leeloo, Glenda, Isabella and her kittens, and all the others. Happy Summer!

—Carma Crimins, President



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: LEELOO; GLENDA; IAN; ISABELLA

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

Maisie

Maisie came to the attention of My Way Home volunteers through a Southern California rescue organization. She had lived her entire life alone in a backyard with no protection from the sun or the fleas and ticks that tormented her. She was neglected and lonely.

After the long trip to Oregon, she received long overdue vet care, where it was determined that Maisie was deaf and at least partially blind. Lab work revealed more problems with her health related to her age and lack of proper care, so MWH set out to find a hospice foster home—volunteers who provide an end-of-life home for ill or elderly dogs. Normally these are short term arrangements, but there are no guarantees.

Maisie was lucky enough to find a home with Kelly and Jeff, and two years later Maisie is thriving under their care. In fact, she now has the record for longest hospice foster dog with My Way Home!

It took a bit of work for her to settle into a pack of working/adventure dogs but she did just that. In addition to her hearing and vision impairments, Maisie has a skin condition that requires daily allergy medications and three baths per week. She also has an old back injury which

benefits from daily stretching exercises. She doesn't do any jumping, but she gets around just fine inside the boundaries of her new world.

Kelly reports that Maisie has absolutely no impairment to her sniffer, and once she learned the layout of the house, she can instantly navigate to any food source. While she isn't up for exercising with the other dogs in the family, Maisie loves sniffing her way around the yard, chewing on bones, and basking in the sun. But Maisie is a fair weather girl—comes the rain, she scoots back indoors instantly.

Although she doesn't approach people asking for pets, she is content with the consistent pleasures of her life, including arranging her blankets into a perfect nest and then rolling on her back for a snooze. The other dogs in her pack understand that Maisie is a little different and they respect her need for personal space.

It's not easy to take on a "fospice" dog. The challenges can be daunting, but the

reward is seeing a dog tossed aside by society respond to love, patience, and proper care. Maisie's world is now Kelly and Jeff's home, where she feels safe and loved, and will stay until the end of her days.



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.

IN MEMORIAM



FREDDIE, SID, & BONNIE

Bonnie Williams and Drew Flowers suffered double heartbreak recently, losing their dog, Freddie, and cat, Sid, to serious illness within a few weeks of each other. Freddie was a French Bulldog rescued from an abandoned house on Long Island in 2012, and adopted into the family soon after. His life with Drew and Bonnie was full of travel and adventure, and his outsize personality attracted friends and followers around the world. He loved all people and animals, including many ARCF foster kittens who were lucky enough to share his home. His heart was as big as his huge smile.

Sid was rescued as a barn kitten when she was six weeks old and spent the next 15 years as Bonnie's number one snuggle pal and neck warmer, through good times and bad. Sid tolerated the arrival of feline siblings, as well as countless foster cats and kittens. She did occasionally have to put her paw down and set limits, which were acknowledged by all household members. Sid and Freddie made the move from Brooklyn, New York, to Portland with the rest of the family, including feline siblings Biggie and Mimi. Sid and Freddie will live on forever in the hearts of those who loved them.

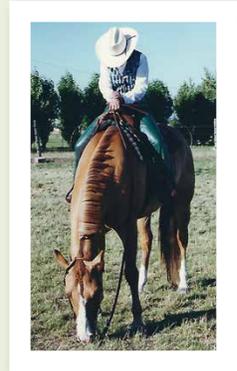


MARCIE & LARGE CARL

Many of our followers will remember our dear friend Large Carl. He was found roaming in Clackamas County, mooching from back porch food bowls and scaring off the resident cats with his big head and battle scars. We provided much needed veterinary care, and discovered that his bad boy persona was really just a cover for the big teddy bear underneath. He was lucky enough to meet Rema and Eric Gossman and his special girl, Marcie. Large Carl had four

wonderful years as boss of their home, until recent months when his health began to fail. His loss leaves a huge hole in the family, who recently also lost their cat, Nina, and dog, Talley.

Linda Hall made a donation in memory of her beloved companion, Smash, an American Quarter horse who passed away at the age of 27. Smash and Linda



LINDA & SMASH

had a special bond that was literally unbeatable; when they entered the ring in Western or English equitation, everyone understood the competition would be for second place.



BAKER

For as long as we have been taking our rescued cats to the Cat Hospital of Portland, handsome Baker was there to greet us at the front desk. He was a wonderful host to all patients and their people who visited the clinic, but he especially loved meeting kittens. Baker came to the Cat Hospital when it opened in 2004. He started as an intern and worked his way up to Front Desk Supervisor and Night Manager, a position he held until his recent cancer diagnosis, which claimed his life a few weeks later at age 17. In addition to devoted staff members, Baker is missed by his feline brother Burt and many friends.

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

March-April-May: We rescued and cared for 37 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 5 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$2981.95

Food/Supplies: \$1947.60

Newsletter: \$2177.50

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.

EDITOR

Carma Crimins

GRAPHICS/LAYOUT

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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.

Miska (formerly Michael)

Miska (then called Michael) came to us in very rough shape. He was about 10 years old and had been living on his own for a long time. He had many broken and abscessed teeth, a painful condition of the eyes called entropion, multiple wounds, and he had never been neutered. It took four surgeries and many months of treatment, but at the end Miska was a new man—outgoing, affectionate, playful, and ever so handsome.

ARCF is a very small organization—other than this newsletter, our advertising budget is zero. So we count on our supporters to help spread the word.

Our adopters sharing stories about their wonderful cats can bring more potential adopters our way. Melanie and Matt Klym posted on our Facebook page about their big, lovable Arkose, adopted from us four years ago. We mentioned Miska and his wonderful personality, so much like Arkose. Melanie shared that tidbit with her friends Celeste and Denise, who had been looking for a loving lap cat to join their family.

We knew they would fall in love with Miska, but it was critical that he be accepted by their current feline residents, Jack, Mack, and Luna, and vice versa.

So we took Miska to their home for a “sleepover.” As expected, Mack and Luna were eager to make friends. Jack is Top Cat in the family and he needed a little more time to accept the newcomer. Within a few days everyone agreed that Miska had found his forever home.

Miska made himself at home here quite quickly, showing himself to be a fan of pillows, blankets, laps, and the patio. Our crew is good-natured but young and rambunctious, so Denise and I were a bit worried how well an older cat would fit in, but they've all done beautifully. Like his brothers, he fell under little Luna's spell—our wild child. Mack was happy to have a new playmate, and they were soon playing and napping together. Our orange giant Jack is very sweet but as the biggest cat in the house, I think Miska felt a little threatened. Plus Jack is our

only other lap cat, and if Miska senses a hand being laid on fur he has to get his share, so he and Jack were butting heads a bit. There was some hissing at first but they now sprawl around together.

Miska is amazingly sweet and trusting for a cat with such a rough history—but I will say that with three siblings and a patio, he is a

little less of a lap cat than he used to be! However, he has the special feline ability to sense the moment one of us thinks “I need to stand up now” and in that instant will jump up on a lap and settle in.

I can't believe how playful he is—he plays chase with the younger cats, loves feather toys, and plays a lot on his own—fuzzy toys that can be disemboweled or tossed into the air are his favorites. Occasionally he will just lie on his back and roll from side to side purring, so we think he's feeling pretty good about his new life. We didn't know we needed this boy until we met him, but we can't imagine our furry family without him now!

—Celeste Searles Mazzacano



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MISKA BEFORE EYE SURGERY; WITH BROTHER JACK; WITH BROTHER MACK IN THE PATIO

Wilma, Whisper, & Wyatt

Our rescue friend Jody Harmon works tirelessly helping cats in the Willamette Valley, where there are so many



homeless cats and so few resources. Last fall she asked if we could take a litter of five

kittens she rescued and we were glad to help. They became the “W” litter.

Lauren and Tim had adopted a pair of kittens from us two years ago and sadly, lost one to FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis), the dreaded, untreatable killer of young cats. They missed Ziva, and their remaining cat Makaiyah was lonesome, so they decided to come meet the kittens. We always place our kittens in pairs, so we wondered which little “W” was going to be left after the first two adopters came to meet them. We needn’t have worried! Lauren and Tim decided that three kittens would be the right number to create a harmonic balance in their home.

Later Kent came to meet the remaining pair. He was a little concerned about how his older cat Logan would adjust to the youngsters. It wasn’t love at first sight, but the girls were persistent in their adoration and have (mostly) won him over. We’re happy to share these updates:

Wilma, Whisper, and Wyatt took to our home right away, initially each darting off in a different direction, which made it extra exciting for their parents to keep an eye on them. Our four-year-old cat Makaiyah was very unsure about the kittens when they first met, not hesitating to put them in their place. Fast forward a year and they have stolen her heart. These kittens in particular are very affectionate

and love to rub up on Makaiyah or help clean her whether she likes it or not.



Whisper is a mommy’s girl, who sits on the bathroom counter helping me get ready. She loves cuddles, but is also the first to run after the “fish on a string” cat toy being waved around. Wyatt is like Dopey from the Seven Dwarfs; you’ll find him laying on his side in the cat tree, with his limbs hanging off. He will observe everything and often pay minimal attention, unless he hears the clanks of food being poured in his bowl or the bubbles float up to the top of his freshly filled water bowl. Wilma is our adventurous one. She will fly onto our curtains superman style time and again, unphased by a water bottle squirt, or try to squeeze herself in the small open sliver of the food box, despite there already being a full bowl beside her. We are looking forward to the fun times for many years to come!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BABY WILMA; BABY WYATT & WHISPER; WYATT (TOP), WILMA & WHISPER;

Thank you for helping to bring such blessings into our life. We are very grateful to your organization and all the tireless work you do!

—Lauren Livengood and Tim Justice

Wanda & Willow

The girls are doing great. While the kittens still want to be friends with Logan more than he wants to be friends with them, they have all settled into life as a little pride. It really is amazing to me how devoted the kittens are to each other, I’ve never seen two cats like this.



I play with them as much as I can, but they have a 10+++ energy level. Willow loves to play fetch and they still dump most of their toys in the water fountain—I guess they want to make sure the toy mouse is really drowned.

The weird thing about Logan’s reaction is that while he can’t seem to get away fast enough when they want to play with him, if they are out of his sight for more than 20 minutes or so, he goes hunting them down. One time I even found him carrying Willow in his mouth. Not sure where he was planning on taking her as he dropped her when I saw him. It seems he has kind of a love/indifference relationship with the little



**TOP: BABY WILLOW
BOTTOM: WILLOW (LEFT) & WANDA**

ones. Logan has also stopped wandering the house meowing for hours on end.

One of my friends comes by when she has a rough day for some “kitten therapy.” In short, they are adding a lot to the household.

Thanks for your help in finding these two little friends.

—Kent Hohlfield

The Feline Good Life: Safe Indoors with a Catio!

“But all cats need to enjoy the great outdoors! Why do you want them to have indoor-only homes?”

This is something we often hear from potential adopters. It’s true that some cats live their entire lives outside—the ASPCA estimates there are about 75 million pet cats in this country, and it would be an immense job to bring all those cats inside. But here at ARCF we have seen enough suffering to convince us that keeping our pet cats indoors is the most humane and responsible policy. Once we rescue a cat or kitten, we bring them inside and the door is closed. We’ve already poured our heart and soul (and resources) into rescuing them once—and once is enough.

Many people with outdoor cats have lost one to a passing vehicle and we’ve all seen their little bodies by the side of the road. Cats can fall prey to other animals as well, including dogs, coyotes, hawks, owls—and each other. Cats are territorial by nature, and a roaming cat interested in your cat’s food and shelter may result in a cat duel, followed by an expensive trip to the vet, not to mention your beloved pet’s pain and suffering.

Even worse are the human predators. Recently, a Missouri man was arrested for killing cats he collected through “free” ads online. A quick look at lost-cat ads on community bulletin boards, telephone poles, and the internet gives a good idea of how many cats go missing every day. Most are never found—national shelter and rescue statistics indicate that fewer than 2% of lost cats are reunited with their owners. Most of those are easily identified by microchips, tattoos, or collars with tags, but even ID doesn’t help if a lost cat is too terrified to let anyone approach it.

There are also hidden costs for roaming cats. Fleas, worms, ear mites,

and other parasites thrive outdoors, and viruses like Feline Leukemia (FeLV), Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper) are passed via interactions between roaming cats. FIV and FeLV can cause life-shortening illnesses; Feline Distemper is typically fatal.



**TOP: CELESTE & DENISE'S CATIO GANG: SQUIRREL!
BOTTOM: OUTSIDE VIEW**

Although your cats are adored at home, your neighbors may not welcome their garden beds being used as litter boxes. Even neutered males and female cats can spray to mark territory, and nobody ever wins a spraying war. Again, your neighbors may not appreciate having siding, doors, plants, fences, and furniture left smelly and corroded by cat spray.

Cats are pretty low on the predator chain, but they do hunt birds and small

mammals. Nobody worries much if cats catch and kill rodents, but some cats are determined to prey on birds. Although humans do far more damage to songbirds by encroaching on their territory, keeping cats indoors will help protect birds and other wildlife.

So, you’ve decided to keep your cat safe inside—hurray! But how do you keep her happy indoors when she’s used to going out? Essentially, cats need plenty of mental and physical stimulation. Include cat-climbing furniture, high and low places to perch and hide, and plenty of scratching posts or cardboard pads. Put perches by windows, and hang bird or squirrel feeders outside. Try a variety of toys to determine your cat’s prey preference; feathered, furred, flying, crawling, etc. Set aside time every day for active play with Da Bird, the Cat Dancer, a laser pointer, or whatever gets your cat moving.

We highly recommend creating a “catio”—an enclosed outdoor area where your cat can get fresh air without being turned loose to roam. In addition to providing safe access to the outdoors, many catio owners report that having the extra space and opportunity for stimulation and contemplation reduces personality conflicts and behavior problems among feline family members.

A catio can be as simple as a mesh extension built out from a window, an enclosed deck, balcony or porch, or as elaborate as a series of walkways and tunnels leading to free-standing enclosures separate from the house. A quick internet search for catio ideas will provide a dazzling array of designs.

For those in the Portland area, check out the Catio Tour held September 7, 2019, presented by Cats Safe at Home™, an organization with the goal of humanely reducing the number of free roaming cats. Up to 12 catios will be open to guests for this self-guided tour. Hosts will be available at each site to answer questions and a guidebook is

THINGS WE LIKE



LEFT: AMANDA'S PORCH CATIO
RIGHT: ROB & JOLENE

included with the \$10 ticket price. Go to CatsSafeatHome.org for more details and to purchase tickets. You'll find many helpful resources at that website, including design ideas and instructions, where to purchase pre-made catios and supplies, and much more.

If you have DIY skills, Portland Community College is offering a one-day Community Ed class with an instructor who will guide the class through the Catio Tour and lead discussions about design elements and construction methods. Consult pcc.edu to learn more and register for the class.

Celeste and Denise had three cats and a fabulous catio before they added our Miska to their family. They had a general

design in mind, and were fortunate to connect with Andrew Almeter of Urban Craftsmen, who offered his own ideas to the project. Together they created a beautiful and relaxing haven for cats and people, which makes their small home feel much larger. They plan to add a cat-sized door in the exterior wall of the house so the cats don't have to depend on tall creatures with thumbs to open the slider for entrance and egress. Their tips for new catio designers: check every inch to make sure there are no potential escape holes; make more perches than you have cats and avoid creating "dead ends;" include high and low shelves and ramps, so your cats can continue to safely enjoy the catio as they grow older. Also, your indoor cats

will need regular flea control treatments once they have access to their new outdoor space.

Another of our adopters, Amanda, enclosed her back porch to make a perfect space for her two house panthers, Rob and Jolene. They have a great view of the backyard, and bird feeders provide 24/7 cat TV programming while the panthers lounge in their hammock or sprawl on the shelves. Amanda's pro tip: use small mesh to keep birds from entering the catio, especially if you have feeders nearby.

If you have a catio, or intend to build one, we'd love to hear about it. Send your stories and photos to: arcf@pdx-petadoption.org.

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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