

## Kittens!

You want kittens? We got 'em! We chose Maple, Marshmellow, Macaroni, and Marmalade to be our spokes-kittens for this newsletter, but we have all sizes, shapes, and colors—all available for adoption.

Our goal is to make the best match for every cat and every adopter or 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, needlelike 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 always to be underfoot just when it's least convenient. Don't be offended if we remind you about these "standard 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 burn up all that excess mental and physical 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 that keep each other busy and engaged 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](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org), or visit [pdx-petadoption.org](http://pdx-petadoption.org).



## Brie

Brie is a beautiful German Shepherd Dog who is affectionate, happy, and eager to please her people. She is very social with dogs as well as people, and enjoys spending one day a week at doggy daycare and greeting her dog friends on walks through her neighborhood.

Because Brie needs daily exercise, a roomy, secure yard for family playtime would be ideal, but isn't an absolute necessity as long as she gets daily walks.

Brie is also content to lie quietly near her people, so she'd be a good companion for a family where somebody is home during the day. She was fully housetrained when she entered her foster home and can be safely left alone for several hours. She also sleeps soundly in a room by herself all night.

Brie doesn't bark without a reason—only to alert when someone knocks on the door or she hears unusual noises close to the house, and she stops when she's assured that all is well. She is curious about strangers, but not aggressive.

Because of her size and exuberance, we recommend that Brie live with larger children and adults. She has not lived with a cat in her foster home but has been around them and is not reactive.

Brie has been spayed, vaccinated, heartworm tested, microchipped, dewormed, and is current on flea control. Her adoption fee is \$400. If you are interested in knowing more about Brie, please visit [mywayhomerescue.org](http://mywayhomerescue.org) and complete the adoption application online.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As an atmospheric river rolls over the Pacific Northwest soaking everything for days on end, summer hasn't really kicked off yet. But when people ask us if kitten season has started, our weary answer is, "Did it ever end?" Our regular followers know our rescued litters are named in alphabetical order, and we currently have litters "M" through "S." We have visited the **"T" litter** at their current location under a front porch (including the little tabby fluff ball yet unnamed) and they will soon be added to our rescue.

We never run short of kittens coming in over the transom—including the adorable **"P" litter**. Today alone we received six phone calls from people who have found kittens on their property, don't know what to do, and have found no help elsewhere. We'll do our best to respond and connect people with the resources they need.

Although we're already stretched thin, occasionally we run across "free kittens" being handed out first come, first served, and we just can't look away, hoping the first to come and be served is a kind and responsible pet owner. Our volunteer Lori came across one of those freebies at a garage sale recently, the last one of his litter to be taken. Of course she couldn't leave him there. Our current **"R" litter** is a trio of brothers, so we'll add **Reuben** to that bunch, after he's been through our intake process—vaccination, deflea, deworm, nail trim, and viral testing for FeLV and FIV.

What can be done about this flood of unwanted kittens, when shelters and rescues are overloaded and resources are scarce? The best solution is to go upstream—get the cats spayed or neutered before the kittens are born. We know our supporters are conscientious and responsible, and don't allow their cats to roam and breed. But many people don't understand the consequences of just one fertile cat allowed to breed indefinitely—she can be responsible for many generations of unwanted cats, and all the suffering that follows. Please help educate your friends, family, and neighbors about the need to prevent this severe overpopulation problem. If you aren't sure what resources are available, let us know, we will help!

We do our best to find loving, responsible homes for all our kittens and cats, and most of our adoptions lead to forever happy endings. But there are no guarantees, and sometimes our kitties need us again. We recently learned of the sudden passing of a kind man who had adopted **Nutella** two years ago. This lovely tabby girl had already come back to us once, eight years after being adopted, due to allergies that steadily grew worse in a young member of the family that adored her. Nutella needed us again, and she is now safe and happy in an ARCF foster home that is quickly falling in love with her.

Another of our adopters passed away after a long illness. She had arranged to leave her beloved cat **Pipkin** in the care of one of her trusted caregivers. She let us know of this plan in advance, and we offered to

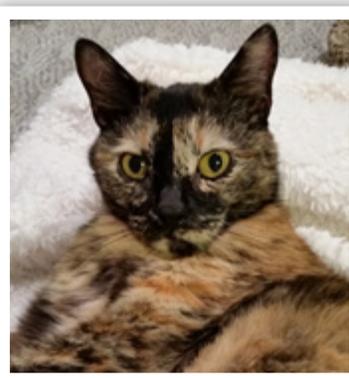
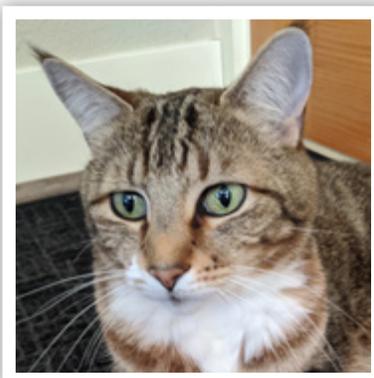
help the new owner with Pipkin's care and special diet, if needed. Sadly, a few months later the caregiver dropped off Pipkin as a "found stray" at the local public shelter and told the original owner's family that Pipkin had become ill and died. Because of the microchip we place in all our cats, shelter staff was able to notify us that Pipkin was in the shelter and how she came to be there. It was a great disappointment to know that the caregiver was not trustworthy and clearly did not care for Pipkin as she claimed, but this sweet senior tortie girl is now safe and cared for, and will not be abandoned again.

By popular request, we are including in this issue an encore presentation of our

story about "catios"—outdoor enclosures that give indoor cats a safe space for fresh air and play time. We show some examples and give you referrals to experienced catio builders. Big and fancy, or small and simple, we guarantee your cats will love it.

As always, we appreciate the kind and generous supporters who make our work possible. On behalf of the hundreds of kittens who depend on us to save them, we thank you.

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



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: P KITTENS; PIPKIN; REUBEN; BABY T; NUTELLA

—Carma Crimins

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](http://mywayhomedogrescue.org)  
503-974-4944

## Reggie

In the last issue of *Animal Talk* we told you about Reggie, one of the easiest dogs ever fostered by My Way Home Dog Rescue. Reggie was picked up as a stray in Bakersfield and, as a senior with major health issues, his best chance for a good life was in Oregon with My Way Home. A network of volunteers and transporters made that possible.

Although his personality was easy, his medical care definitely was not—many years of neglected ear infections caused so much damage that Reggie required surgery to completely remove one ear canal. It was extensive (and expensive!) but also the only way to stop the cycle of infection and pain.



**RUDY MAKES A GOOD PILLOW**

Heather and Shane have many years of experience with rescued Beagles, but when their last two elderly Beagles passed away, they were devastated and decided to take a break. However, their senior Pitbull mix Rudy was lonesome as the only dog and needed a buddy, and as all true animal people do, Heather and Shane never really stopped looking for their next family member.

When they saw Reggie on [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) and read his story, they were very eager to meet him. Reggie made a great first impression and, to seal the deal, he and Rudy connected immediately—a couple of senior gents who move at the same speed and appreciate a companion who doesn't talk nonsense all day. Reggie's surgery left him mostly deaf, and Rudy has lost most of his hearing too, so they are both learning sign language. Old dogs can definitely learn new tricks!

Reggie was presented as a low-energy guy who was going to spend most of his time on the couch. But as he recovered



**REGGIE MEETS HIS NEW FAMILY**

from his surgery and pain subsided, he blossomed.

"Reggie's personality has been coming out more and he is full of it!" says Heather. "In typical Beagle fashion, he spends a lot of time in the backyard mapping all the smells. He gets up at 5 every morning and is ready to go! He loves his walks and has been running with my husband around the neighborhood. He and Rudy have become fast friends and I don't think we could have found a more compatible partner. He even gets Rudy when it's time for bed by barking at him until he follows him to our bedroom."

Heather and Shane were amazed and grateful that My Way Home was willing to take on a dog like Reggie, needing so much vet care. "We are so thankful they were committed to helping Reggie and allowing us to make him part of our family."

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 rescued dog, please contact [mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com).

## ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

Mar-Apr-May: We rescued and cared for 25 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 12 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

**Veterinary:** \$3,664.54

**Food/Supplies:** \$2,711.85

**Newsletter:** \$2,301.88

## 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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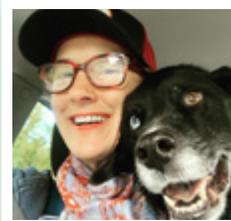
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**DOLCE**

A cat as sweet as her name, **Dolce** was adopted from ARCF by Julie Davenport in 2006. She was Julie's constant companion and unwavering support for 16 years, through the loss of her husband Brian and their beloved orange cat, Ralphie. She was remembered with a donation from her friend Kim Spangler. In addition to Julie, Dolce is survived by her feline sister Bella.

The ARCF family suffered a great loss with the passing of **Iris**, the beloved big black dog of volunteers Jen Hansen and Roger Anderson. Iris brought her family 14 years of joy and laughter—and a few tomato juice baths after her encounters with the neighborhood skunk.



**IRIS**

Iris was kind, loving, and endlessly patient with the hundreds of foster kittens who passed through her home. Many of our adopters have Iris to thank for their kittens' excellent interspecies social skills, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Andrea Sande and Brian Fulsher were devastated at the passing of their sweet and handsome gray boy, **Duncan**. He came to ARCF in 2010 after being left in a box on a stranger's doorstep. Duncan quickly bonded with Big Orange Dudley, another cat in his foster home, and both were adopted by Andrea and Brian, who became their devoted servants. Dudley passed in 2020, so the beautiful boys are together again. They are survived by their feline sister, Tulip.



**DUNCAN**



**MELODY**

Our volunteer Leah Goodman shared the sad news of the sudden passing of her beloved tortie cat, **Melody**, a "foster failure"

for ARCF ten years ago. A limp that appeared to be caused by nerve damage quickly deteriorated into a painful and untreatable condition. Melody will be missed for her big, bright, silly personality and her happy dance of excitement each time she greeted Leah at the door. She is survived by her feline sisters Blossom and Luna.

When we rescued the "P" litter in May, it was clear that something was very wrong with tiny **Pim**. Our vet agreed that the neurological condition making her unable to lift her head or control her movements was not something she would outgrow and there was no treatment to help her. Some days in rescue are very hard, but we always choose to end suffering when there is no other option. We released Pim from her damaged little body, and we hope she will find us again in her next life.



**PIM**

**Laszlo**

*It is very rare to encounter a pure white cat living outdoors with a colony of community cats. Most don't survive long because their coloring makes them a prime target for predators and they are very susceptible to skin cancers due to sun exposure. So, when our trapping partner Karen came across this handsome fellow in one of her traps at a TNR (trap-neuter-return) project in Portland, she decided to hold him for a couple days to see if he might be friendly—a housecat who roamed too far and found a colony with a reliable food source.*



**LOVING ON HIS NEW MOM**

*He turned out to be not only friendly, but extremely affectionate! So even though he was not previously neutered and had no ID or microchip, all efforts were made to find his previous owner. After several weeks with no response, we agreed to take him into our rescue. We named him Laszlo—and what a lover! We knew he was going to make someone a wonderful companion, and it didn't take long for Teeks to meet Laszlo and fall in love.*

*I wanted to update you about my baby boy and let you know we are soulmates! He is incredible. He loves lounging, playing with his toys, launching himself off of my bed after he helps me pick out my outfits, and cuddles with me all night!*

*Thank you again for everything!*

**— Teeks Mader**



**LASZLO**

**Graham**

*This dreamboat may look familiar—Graham was our Spring edition cover model. He came to us in January when a previous adopter asked for our help. A friend had lost her elderly dad and because of her own rambunctious dog, she wasn't able to integrate her dad's senior cat into her home.*



**BEFORE THE BEAUTY PARLOR**

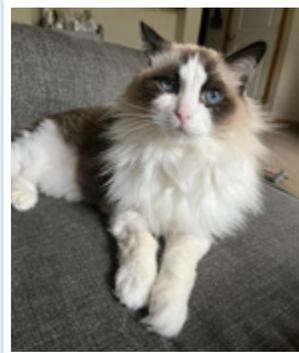
*We were told that Graham was obese, severely matted, and extremely sweet. We have a foster home that specializes in helping cats safely lose extra weight, and fortunately there was an opening for Graham. After receiving no medical care for at least five years, Graham's first stop was our vet, who advised that Graham was not obese, just a very large cat who could stand lose a pound or so. But he was indeed severely matted and needed care for his teeth. Everything else looked good for a cat of 12 years old, so we arranged for a haircut and a dental procedure.*

*Foster mom Janet found that Graham was extremely affectionate—and very lazy. Getting layers of mats removed made him feel much better and he began to move around more easily. While waiting to get in for his dental, Graham was otherwise ready for adoption, so we decided to search for his forever home, with the dental to be covered by ARCF post-adoption.*

*Isabella was looking for a loving but low-maintenance companion, with no interest in high-energy kittens.*

*We thought she might enjoy meeting Graham, and can we just say there is such a thing as love at first sight?*

*There was definitely an adjustment period—Graham has a certain schedule he prefers for his meals and that includes a 1:00 am "midnight snack." But with a timed automatic feeder and minor adjustments to the meal schedule, Bella is able to sleep through the night—most of the time. His dental procedure complete, Graham is now living his best life.*



**HANDSOME AND HAPPY IN HIS NEW HOME**

*Graham is doing great! He sleeps with me every night, and I've just come to live with his nightly habits. If it's too much, I just shut the door, but I love him so much I'd rather be with him 24/7.*

*I got him a new cat tree and he absolutely loves it, he sits on top all day keeping an eye on the neighborhood. He also has a special white fluffy bed which he uses only for sleeping at night. He loves his toys and watching cat TV. Best of all he loves to snuggle with me. We are very happy!*

**— Bella Giordano**

## Kiri

In March we received a call from a business in an industrial park near the airport who found a cat with newborn kittens on their shipping dock. With no houses nearby, they had no idea where the momcat came from or what to do. We advised them to leave the kittens and mom undisturbed and immediately sent help. Our trapper friend Karen was in that area, and she agreed to scoop up the kittens and trap the mom so all could be safely reunited in our foster home.

Unfortunately, before Karen's arrival, the kittens were separated from their mom and taken to a public shelter. The most efficient way to capture a momcat is to use her kittens, safely confined in a carrier, to lure her into a trap, but now the kittens were gone and mom would be desperately looking for them. We contacted the shelter to let them know that we would trap the mom and reunite her with her kittens as soon as possible. Fortunately, mom stayed in the area and was soon captured in our humane trap.

Sadly, three of the kittens did not survive the trip to the shelter, but we were able to reunite her with the two



**KIRI, KENJI, & KATSU ON RESCUE DAY**

survivors. We called momcat Kiri, and her two boys Kenji and Katsu. Kiri was a very protective mom, which is completely understandable after her ordeal.

Once her sons grew up and left the nest, Kiri was spayed, and her sweet personality blossomed once she was



**KIRI, NOW KNOWN AS SKYE**

able to relax. After all, she was not much more than a kitten herself!

Katelin spends most of her working life at home, and was looking for a playful, loving companion that would genuinely enjoy her company. We arranged a meeting and, though usually shy with strangers, Kiri didn't hesitate to climb in Katelin's lap and give her a purring headbutt. We sent them off together and got this report the next day:

Kiri (now Skye, as named by my niece) is acclimating well to my bedroom. We spent the evening getting comfy, with lots of pets and quiet gentleness. We had two big play sessions before bedtime. Her favorite toys are currently her aqua felt ball and her For Mew Crisp Kicker. She is a great little copilot at my home office, sitting next to me on her bed, either sleeping or asking for loves.

We just wrapped up a combing, cuddles, and play session, and are looking forward to a relaxing evening. She is even asking to be held for short periods of time, and we'll introduce her to the rest of our home soon.

Thank you so much!

**—Katelin Wight**

## Kenji & Katsu

As soon as Kenji & Katsu were ready for adoption, we expected plenty of adoption applications for these two absolutely adorable, perfect kittens. Jeff and his family of two adults, two kids, two dogs, one cat, and four chickens were looking for some playful kittens who would enjoy being part



**KENJI & KATSU**

of a fun and active family.

That sounded like a very good match for the K boys, and we were not wrong! Here is a recent update:

I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for the amazing kitties. These guys are every bit as wonderful as you claimed them to be. They are sweet and fun and loving. They seem right at home though we've not yet made the introductions to our other animals. Our family could not be happier and I do believe the kittens feel safe and secure. It is obvious that you not only help save these animals but that you give them amazing care and attention as you foster them. I just wanted to say so and thank you guys again for both our kittens and for all that you do.

**—Jeff & the Winograd Family**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SHARON'S PORCH CATIO; HUMPHREY; JOHN'S CATIO REPLACES OLD DECK

## The Feline Good Life: Safety Outside with a Catio!

*"But all cats need to enjoy the great outdoors! Why should they be stuck in indoor-only homes?"*

This is a question we often receive from potential adopters. It's true that some cats live their entire lives outside, but here at ARCF we have seen enough suffering to establish an indoor-only policy for all our adoptions. 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.

### Why It's Important to Keep Cats Safe Indoors

While cats are naturally predatory, their hunting and defensive skills are not designed for today's world:

- Cars and other vehicles pose a huge risk to suburban and urban cats—we've all seen their little bodies by the side of the road, waiting for an owner to find them.

- Cats fall prey to other animals, including dogs, coyotes, hawks, owls, and humans with bad intentions.
- Cats are territorial by nature, so another cat interested in your cat's space may initiate a duel, resulting in pain and suffering, and quite possibly an expensive trip to the vet.
- Some cats like to hunt wildlife, endangering birds that share their environment. In addition, the common use of pesticides and poison increases the risk that your cat could ingest poison through contact with a rodent or bird.
- Your neighbors may not welcome their garden beds being used as litter boxes, and many cats spray to mark territory, resulting in siding, doors, plants, fences, and furniture left smelly and corroded by cat spray.
- Fewer than 2% of lost cats are reunited with their owners according to national shelter and rescue statistics.

### How to Enhance Your Cat's Indoor Lifestyle with a Catio

One way to enrich your cat's indoor life

is by creating a "catio"—an enclosed outdoor area where your cat can get fresh air and play outside safely. In addition to providing safe access to the outdoors, many catio owners report that having the extra space and opportunity for stimulation reduces conflicts and behavior problems among feline family members. Sometimes all we need is a nice snooze outside in the sun to get along better.

A catio can be as simple as a mesh extension built off of 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.

Sharon and Gordy rescued a neighborhood stray, a big handsome tuxedo named Humphrey, who was so eager to move indoors that he spent his first night sleeping in their bed, on the pillow right next to their heads.

## THINGS WE LIKE



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: INSIDE JOHN'S CATIO;  
LORI'S CATIO; CAT ACCESS FROM KITCHEN



They wanted to keep Humphrey safe indoors, but give him some space to sit outdoors with a view on the world.

They asked Michael Corbet to build a small catio on the front porch that Humphrey could access from a window. It turned out very well and Humphrey enjoys many happy hours in his private cabana. This type of catio doesn't need to be attached to the house, so could be suitable for apartment dwellers. Michael is available to build catios in the Portland/Milwaukie area, contact him at 503-880-6661.

John and Lauren replaced their old deck with a concrete pad and catio. Sadly, their

two senior cats didn't have much time to enjoy their new catio before they passed away, but John and Lauren chose to begin fostering cats for rescue organizations and now some ARCF cats are lucky enough to enjoy these deluxe digs!

John had the skills and tools to build the catio to his own specifications, making improvements as he observed how the cats used the space. His pro tip: make climbing shelves deep enough for cats to turn around safely, in case of traffic jams. John is also available to consult and assist with catio building, contact him at [john.miskey@gmail.com](mailto:john.miskey@gmail.com).

Lori and Paul Sharp thought about adding a catio since they started fostering kittens for ARCF about 10 years ago. They had specific needs for their situation: two indoor cats needed access from the house, and two semi-feral cats needed access from the garage. But the two pairs have to

be kept separate because they don't play well together. Lori also wanted a shingled roof to match the house, and plenty of ramps and shelves. The wire mesh had to be small enough to keep foster kittens safely confined during supervised play time. Each section also needed a walk-in door for people and access flaps for cats, to be closed as needed.

Lori and Paul hired local contractor Steve Archie. He hadn't built a catio before but he was willing to give it a try. Combining Lori's requirements and Steve's creative solutions, the finished product is rated 10 out of 10 by the cats, and deeply envied by the rest of us catio-less cat owners. Contact Steve at [archiesfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:archiesfarm@hotmail.com) or 503-318-8086.

Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon and Cats Safe at Home™ will present the Catio Tour in Portland on September 10, 2022. Catios will be open for in-person visits, and an online version of the tour will be available as well. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [catssafeathome.org](http://catssafeathome.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.

**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](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).**

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