



Nina

No one knows how Nina's life began, but somehow she ended up in the parking lot of a scruffy California strip mall, where she and other community cats were trying to keep body and soul together, living on rodents and dumpster scraps. The other cats kept their distance from human interlopers, but

Nina must have sensed a kind heart in our friend who was visiting the area for business. He saw her there and brought her food several days in a row. On his last day she approached him with an offer to share her dinner, a freshly caught rat.

This is an area of California with very few resources for stray animals, and our friend couldn't bear to leave her there so he took Nina to his hotel and then back to Portland with him. Nina had some serious skin issues that needed medical attention, and his own cat did not take kindly to having Nina in their house, so ARCF was asked to help care for Nina and find her a permanent home.

Our best guess is that Nina is about 8 years old but she plays like a kitten and loves having lots of toys to choose from. She is a true lap cat and adores being brushed and fussed over, but she's also quite content to spend most of the day on her own then curl up on a warm lap for the rest of the evening.

However, we discovered that Nina's life on the streets left her with some painful conditions, including severe skin allergies, bacterial and yeast infections, and multiple broken and abscessed teeth. We began a series of treatments that included trial and error efforts to resolve the allergies. Through all the tests, medications, and surgeries, Nina never gave up her dainty dignity or lost her cool. And although she lost quite a few teeth, she does have 23 toes—five more than most ordinary cats!

At last Nina is ready to meet her forever family, with just a few simple requirements. She adores people, but would prefer not to share her home with other cats. She must have a particular prescription food, easily available and affordable, and one very small pill every other day, also not a budget breaker.

Nina has been spayed, is up-to-date on vaccines and has tested negative for FeLV/FIV. Her adoption fee is \$80. To learn more about Nina call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

Earl

Look at this happy-go-lucky guy! Earl is a friendly and outgoing pup who has stolen the hearts of his rescuers and is now ready to meet his forever family.

Because My Way Home Dog Rescue chooses to help dogs who have landed in high-kill public shelters, it's rare to have any information about the dogs' history and personality beyond what shelter staff can determine by brief assessment.

What they do know about Earl is that he's a big, handsome boy, probably about a year old. He weighs 90 lbs. now but may continue to grow—MWH volunteers guess that Earl has some traits of Great Pyrenees and Husky and maybe a few others. He has a low-key personality and is quickly learning good manners and how to follow commands.

Earl is good with kids, but because of his size we ask that all family members be at least 8 years old. He can live happily with other dogs, but no cats, please.

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The days are getting shorter and the nights colder here at ARCF World HQ. Each year about this time we make the rounds of people we know who are caring for outdoor-living cats. First we make sure all the cats are fixed, providing logistical and financial assistance for that task when needed. Then we confirm that each cat has access to warm, dry shelter for the winter. If none is available, we donate some of the **shelters** our volunteers make from rubber totes, insulating wrap, and straw bedding. For those caregivers who can't easily provide enough food for their colonies, we also share donations of high quality food. Given good nutrition and shelter, cats can survive well through a Pacific NW winter. If you know of cats in the greater Portland area who need spay/neuter surgery or who could benefit from one of our shelters, please contact us—we will help!

We also help rescuers from other parts of Oregon where resources are scarce. Our friend Jody Harmon has been involved in some truly gut wrenching rescues in the Willamette Valley, and we help by taking cats and especially feral kittens whenever possible, since they have few other options. Recently she brought us a bushel of orange kittens who became the "A" litter, including **Acorn** and **Aspen**. (We had already been through the alphabet once this year, so these were technically the "A2" litter.) It didn't take long for them to graduate from kitten boot camp and move on to their new families.

Not long afterward, Jody was involved in another rescue where more than 25 cats were so hungry most of them didn't even need trapping, they climbed right into Jody's car after the food and she was able to grab them. We took eight kittens from that rescue, including **Elsie** from the "E" litter. They are beautiful but a little older than the "A" kittens so they will be in boot camp a bit longer.

Another area with few resources for cat rescue is Eastern Oregon, and we're glad to help our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton whenever we have room to squeeze in a few more. Just before Thanksgiving, we took delivery on a very sweet momma and her four brand new babies. Her name is **Frances** and her kids are Finley, Forrest, Felicity, and Fiona. They will be ready for adoption about mid-January.

All our rescued kittens and cats will become beloved pets of lucky families and we wish a long and happy life for each one.

As we watched the devastation of recent wildfires in California, we couldn't avoid the heartbreaking stories of pets lost and left behind as people were forced to evacuate their homes. We ask all pet owners to take time right now to think about how you would manage your pets if forced to leave your home on short notice. There are excellent detailed instructions available from disaster-relief agencies and we encourage you to research resources and make plans now, before an emergency arises. You may not live in a wildfire risk area, but earthquakes, tsunamis, house fires, and other disasters can happen anywhere.

Even if you do nothing else, please do these two things immediately:

Get your pets microchipped. If already done, have your vet scan the chip and give you the company name. Contact the company and confirm they have your correct name and phone number. It is sadly far too common to discover a microchip has been implanted in a pet but never registered to an owner. Put collars and ID tags (with a current phone number!) on all pets who can safely wear them. Don't put this off! It doesn't take a disaster for a beloved pet to go missing and the few minutes you spend now can save you a world of misery.

Get a hard-sided carrier or crate for every animal in your house, including dogs, cats, bunnies, gerbils, lizards, etc. and keep them in an accessible spot. Metal and plastic crates cost more and are harder to store than soft carriers, but they are safer, stackable, and easier to clean. Have pets' food, water, and medication ready to grab and go. If there is even a remote possibility that you will be required to leave your home, crate up your animals and put them in your vehicle. It won't kill them if you stay, and you can consider it a drill, but it could very well kill them if you have to leave and they're aren't ready to go.

Thank you for taking these steps to keep your pets safe—they are counting on you.

And as always, we send gratitude to our compassionate donors who believe in our mission and support us with your generous contributions. Thanks to you, we are able to rescue homeless animals who have no one else, provide them the care they need, and place them in the safe and loving homes they deserve.

Happy Winter!

—Carma Crimins, President



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: OUTDOOR CAT SHELTERS; ACORN & ASPEN; ELSIE; FRANCES & BABIES

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

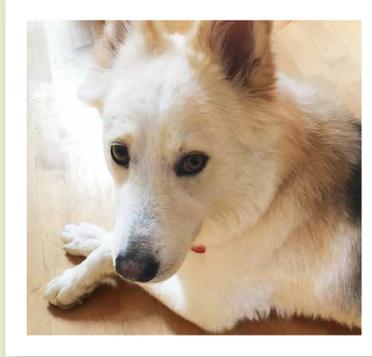
Maggie

As mentioned in our last issue, the 4th of July is a very difficult time for public shelters already overloaded with unwanted animals, as they try to make room for the many pets who flee their homes in fear of fireworks.

Maggie (formerly Marsh) was one such stray who found herself in a high-kill shelter in California. She was very shy and stressed, but thanks to volunteers and staff who work hard to save every life possible, Maggie made the trip to Oregon and the safety of My Way Home Dog Rescue. It didn't take long for her sweet and winning personality to reveal itself.

Two years ago, Laurie and Gregory Hunt adopted a dog named Jack from MWH who turned out to be more of a "project" than expected. Jack was rescued from the mean streets of LA, and he showed evidence of physical and psychological abuse. Laurie and Gregory had experience with challenging dogs and immediately enlisted an experienced trainer and behaviorist to help everyone in the family learn coping skills. Jack is doing much better and is devoted to Laurie and Gregory, but they have adjusted their life around Jack's needs to keep him safe and secure. They felt he could benefit by having a happy and well-adjusted dog in the family to serve as a companion and role model, so they asked Cheryl to contact them when a nice, easygoing dog came along needing a home.

When that call came about Maggie, a meeting was quickly arranged. It was mutual love at first sight and to everyone's



TOP: MAGGIE
BOTTOM: GREGORY & LAURIE, MAGGIE & JACK

great relief Maggie knew exactly how to approach Jack. She was loving, calm, and submissive, and completely won him over.

"Maggie is an amazing, fun, and beautiful dog," said Laurie. "She is perfect for Jack and for our family. Her happy-go-lucky presence has so enriched our lives. We like to think of her as Jack's service dog—he watches her confidence in approaching strangers and enjoying their attention and it's obvious he is thinking 'I wish I could do that.' And we know that one day he will. They play constantly and are so loving with each other."

Maggie does have one little quirk: she is what Laurie calls a "transporter." Laurie will come home to find that Maggie has gathered up all the pillows in the house and piled them in a corner, perhaps with one sneaker atop the pile. But she doesn't chew or destroy things, she just has an interior decorator's desire to move and

arrange them to her liking.

Laurie and Gregory have enlisted the help of a trainer for Maggie, as they have with all their dogs, even when well-behaved. Their goal is to establish a mutually trusting relationship with their dogs and they welcome the guidance and structure an expert can provide. Maggie desperately wanted a family to love and she has clearly found the one that was meant for her.

My Way Home Dog Rescue specializes in saving dogs from high-kill shelters, providing all necessary medical care and fostering all dogs in loving homes until their permanent forever families find them. Dogs from open-intake public shelters often have chronic conditions that were neglected for years, presenting health and medical challenges. Bringing them back to good health takes time and money, and a commitment to providing as much care as each one needs. If you'd like to foster, adopt, or donate towards the care of a senior dog, please contact mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com.

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

September-October-November: We rescued and cared for 41 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 16 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$6969.97

Food/Supplies: \$2627.60

Newsletter: \$1935.29

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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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.

Here are some ways you can help us continue to provide top-notch care for the 200+ cats and 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/community_rewards and link to ARCF by our organization code, **EQ279**. 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.
 - Just send us a check or make a donation online from our website, pdx-petadoption.org. You can use the form on page 8, but we'll gladly accept your donation without it. We just need your address to send the acknowledgment.
- All donations are tax-deductible. Our federal tax ID is 51-0137768.

ARCF mourns the recent passing of two dedicated animal lovers and supporters of our work.



LEFT: JOE; RIGHT: DRAWING OF TINO

Joe Macca passed away from cancer just days after his beloved cat, Tino. Anyone who has attended our fundraisers will remember the beautiful drawings of cats he created and donated for our benefit. Joe was an architect who loved opera, sports, his pets, and playing with his grandsons.

Karolyn Koppen's family adopted a dog from ARCF and in recognition of her compassion for animals and belief in our mission, Karolyn's husband Gary made a generous donation in her memory.

IN MEMORIAM

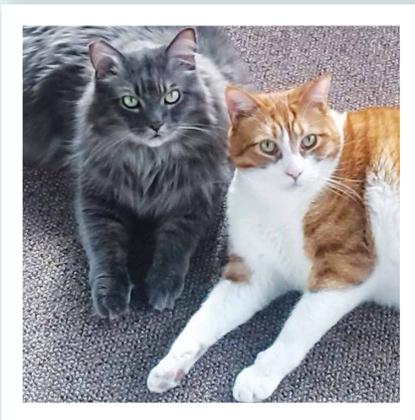
We received news from Jim Sutherland that his beloved cat Mr. Pearl passed away in his arms after a short battle with cancer. He was about 10 years old.

Pearl came to ARCF about six years ago after the sudden death of his caregiver. There were many cats left behind in the home and because it was an emergency, all were removed by animal control and taken to the shelter. The cats had been loved, and most were quickly adopted, but Pearl was not doing well. Shelter staff assumed Pearl was female and gave him the name, but found him too fractious for even a basic exam. They asked if we could take Pearl from the shelter system and find him an appropriate new home.

The first few days were stressful; Pearl put his ears back, made his teeth very large, growled, hissed, and refused to come out of the carrier. But in a brave moment our volunteer offered an outstretched hand and after a brief moment of consideration, Pearl gave a head butt and rolled over with a purr. After huge sighs of relief, Pearl went straight to the vet where it was confirmed that Pearl was actually a male in very fluffy bloomers, fortunately in good health, and surprisingly good natured, considering all he had been through. He is the most beautiful color of gray, so we kept the name and simply added the title "Mr."

Jim had recently lost one of his cats to old age infirmities, and his remaining cat Big Mac was lonesome. He was living in Bellingham at the time but Jim had adopted from ARCF before so he contacted us. We talked about Mr. Pearl as a potential match. Jim came to meet him in Portland and although we didn't know how things would go with Big Mac, we agreed to send Mr. Pearl home with Jim and hope for the best.

Within a few weeks, Mr. Pearl blossomed into a different cat. He gained needed weight and his gray coat became soft and silky. He and Big Mac became best friends who never tired of sharing the same sunny windows or secret



**TOP: PEARL JUST AFTER RESCUE
BOTTOM: MR. PEARL & BIG MAC**

hiding places. He never warmed up to strangers, though; many of Jim's friends wondered if he really did have two cats, because no one ever saw "the gray one."

Jim wrote:

Besides the joy Mr. Pearl brought into my life there are three things that I will always remember about him:

First, I think of his large, penetrating yellow eyes, watching me when I wasn't looking. I'm sure he could see into my soul.

Second, Mr. Pearl was the best behaved cat in my fifty years of living with these fascinating creatures. He was never any trouble, nor did he ever cause me grief. Except once! One night after everyone had gone to bed he jumped up onto the kitchen counter, something he never did. I had left a freshly baked loaf of bread there to cool. Mr. Pearl helped himself to half of the top crust and made a meal of it. I knew it was him because Big Mac was too fat to jump that high.

And my favorite memory of Mr. Pearl began one night I was pushing

an office chair across the living room. He jumped onto the moving chair, lay down, and looked at me with an expression that said, "Okay, I'm ready. Let's go!"

This odd event turned into a nightly ritual. Just before bedtime, he would jump onto the chair, give me "that" look, and we were off on a tour around the house. He sat throughout the ride, seriously checking out every room, as if he were a security guard making the rounds. He never tired of the game, so I usually had to end it. I would put the chair back in its place in the bedroom where he remained sleeping on it each night.

Mr. Pearl was a part of my life for a relatively short time compared to the others, but he endeared himself to me and Big Mac and we miss him dearly. His ashes were placed under the same fir tree as Andy, Nacho, Grady, Truman, Moses, and Frankie, my feline companions of the last thirty years.

Norm and Theresa LoMonaco recently lost their beloved cat Spoons, who was remembered with a donation from their friend Patty Davies.

Erin Atkinson lost her cat PJ, who was remembered with a memorial donation by her friend Glenda Hughes. PJ was Erin's "starter" cat—that special creature in the life of each rescuer who teaches so much and leaves such a big hole in the heart.

Linda Wong Finch sent us a donation in memory of Madeline, beloved cat of her sister-in-law Elizabeth Roth Wong.

Cassie (formerly Helen)

In early May, our friends at Cat Utopia in Pendleton asked if we had room for a sweet momma cat and four babies who were left homeless in a neighboring small town. Kitten season was already in full swing, but we managed to find a little more room at the inn.

This family came to us as the “H” litter so we named mom Helen and her kittens became Haley, Hooper, Herbie, and Hugo. Helen was famished and exhausted, her coat patchy and thin from parasites, and the kittens wouldn’t leave her alone—life is not easy for a homeless single mom. But she was so good-natured and agreeable that we determined to find her a

very special home once the kids were raised and gone.

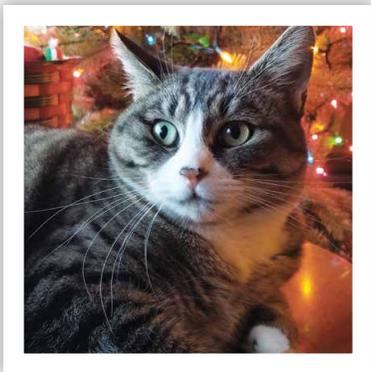
We don’t usually adopt our rescued kitties to homes beyond our immediate area because we like to know where they are living after they leave us, and to be available to assist in case problems arise. But in this case we knew of a very good home with a cat-sized empty space not far from where Helen and her family came from in Eastern Oregon. This home is well-known to our ARCF World HQ staff, so we made an executive decision to approve the adoption.

Arrangements were made for transportation,

and Helen made her way to her new home, where she filled the cat-sized hole and became “Cassie”—a new name for a new life!

I love my Cassie cat so very much! She is the most loving and fun cat I have ever had. She is also quite a bit larger than when you last saw her! She is so loving and social—anybody who visits gets a purring hello from Cassie. She just wants to be held and loved on. EXCEPT DOGS! She does not like them at all, so her nephews Little Bear and Cowboy are no longer allowed in the house—this is Queen Cassie’s domain! She is also very smart and always minds me when I call or correct her. Thank you for my beautiful kitty!

—Patsy Buroker



TOP: CASSIE & BABIES
BOTTOM: YES, IT’S THE SAME CASSIE!

Isaac & Iris

Isaac and Iris were rescued from a hoarding situation by a veterinarian early last summer. We agreed to take this pair that we assumed to be

siblings, even though Isaac was much

larger than Iris. Both were heavily loaded with parasites, plus a serious infection resulting from ear mites. They were also malnourished with weepy eyes, but very sweet and totally bonded to each other.

They made friends with their foster siblings and everyone else they encountered, but Iris didn’t recover from the ear infection, even after multiple rounds of cleaning and antibiotic treatments.

Eventually she developed a mild head tilt that affected her balance so we took her to a specialist, who discovered the infection went deeper than normal antibiotics can reach. Iris needed a surgical procedure to remove all the debris that had accumulated behind her ear drum. The infection was finally cleared up but there was some residual nerve damage so Iris will most likely go through her life with a bit of a head tilt. It doesn’t make much difference to Iris, other than she sometimes stops to assess a leap downward if it’s a steep one.

In November we heard from Molly, who had recently lost an older cat to kidney disease and wanted to share her home with a bonded pair of kittens. We arranged a meeting and—no surprise!—it was love at first sight.

Everything is going really well. I’ve kept their names, they suit them so well. They are a couple of cuddle bugs and make me smile every day. They both love their toys. Iris will “talk” to hers and Isaac carries his about with him. I often wake up to find their toys in bed with us! Iris likes to help with

the housework, chasing the broom about while Isaac prefers to lend a paw with the cooking. I am so happy they are a part of my life. Thank you for helping me adopt them!



ISAAC (LEFT) & IRIS



—Molly Hardin

SUCCESS STORIES

CLOCKWISE STARTING FROM TOP:
NETTLE IN BOOT CAMP; NETTLE &
BOOTS; JOY JUST BORN; JOY & JELLY
AT 8 WEEKS; IN THEIR NEW HOME



Joy, Jelly, Nettle & Boots (formerly Jetta)

As we described in our summer issue, the rescue of the “J” family was especially challenging. They were found in a backyard as newborns, cold and wet with their umbilical cord wrapped around the branches of a shrub. The family who found them knew that momma cat was nearby but she seemed unsure of how to take care of her babies and would not let anyone approach her. Our volunteer was able to extract them from their precarious situation and then use the babies to quickly lure mom into a trap.

The babies were cold, covered with fly eggs, and hadn’t eaten for at least 12 hours but in less than an hour mom and babies were clean, warm, and reunited in the safety of our foster home. We named the momma Josie and the three girl kittens were Joy, Jelly, and Jetta.

About that same time we rescued a single kitten left behind when the rest of his family was gathered up and relocated by the property owner. Nettle was a little less willing to come along nicely, but eventually our volunteer was able to capture and enlist him in kitten boot camp. He got to know the “J” girls and Jetta became his special friend.

A couple months later, Amanda was looking for a pair of kittens for her family, and they came to meet Nettle and Jetta. Not long after that, Kevin was looking for a pair of bonded kittens to join his family, and they came to meet Joy and Jelly.

Here are recent updates:

Joy and Jelly are growing, playing, and doing well! Joy picked my eldest and Jelly picked my wife as their favorite people. Joy loves my oldest to hold

her, will follow her around room to room, and reaches over to tap her when she wants to be held. Jelly sleeps on my wife’s pillow every night and walks up to her for 5 minute petting sessions. The two take turns grooming our 13-year-old cat, Frank. He is doing very well with Joy, and getting less grumpy with Jelly.

—Kevin & Tina Sturmer

Nettle and Boots are doing just fine! They have a fancy bed but my daughter made them the box bed in this picture and they seem to enjoy it.

—Amanda Pillsbury

THINGS WE LIKE

Another year has gone by in a blur of kittens in carriers, cats in traps, empty cat food cans, full litter boxes, countless trips to the vet, and eventually, happy families heading home with their precious new cargo. It's time to take a breath and acknowledge the many helpers who make it all happen.

Lori Sharp is our champion feral momcat and kitten wrangler. With help from husband **Paul**, she takes the wildest little beasts and turns them into purring bundles of kitten love. **Bonnie Williams** and **Drew Flowers** have also taken on some feisty kitten "projects" and turned them into happy endings. **Val Walker** is our "have trap, will travel in East County" volunteer and her feral kitten taming room is rarely empty.

Once Lori, Bonnie, and Val have smoothed the rough edges, our rescued kittens move on to foster homes where their manners get the fine polishing that prepares them to meet their forever families. **Anne & Don Malinowski** have opened their home to hundreds of ARCF kittens over the years, including many new moms and tiny babies who benefit from Anne's expert care. We also count on **Jennifer**

Hansen & Roger Anderson for this part of our process.

It's almost impossible to find foster homes for adult cats, but this year we were lucky to have **Janet & Eric Blackstone** join our foster team. They came to Portland from Seattle with an excellent résumé of cat foster experience, and we appreciate the patience and tranquility they offer to older cats needing a little extra understanding. **Abbi Van Beek** fostered an eye surgery patient whose recovery required specialized home care.

Some of the feral cats we trap and neuter can't be returned to their homes for various reasons. **Wilma Perez-Leon** helps us by caring for those cats and finding safe homes where they can live out their lives. **Tracee Larson** played a key role in a special rescue project involving a road trip.

We were delighted to welcome **Gina Chirillo** to our volunteer team, and are very grateful for her bookkeeping and software expertise.

Leah Goodman provides professional editing and proofreading for this newsletter. **Julie Davenport** helps with mailing and **Susan Phipps**, **Nancy Schroeter**, **Roz Simon**, and **Sally Needham** help deliver the 1000+

copies that go directly to locations in our community.

We depend on the **Cat Hospital of Portland**, **Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon**, and **Willamette Animal Hospital** for top quality care for our rescued cats and kittens. **Dr. Paul Scherlie**, **Dr. Crystal Boles**, and the ophthalmology team at **VCA NW Veterinary Specialists** have provided life-changing surgical procedures for some tough old street cats who are finally able to live pain-free, thanks to the generous donation of their time and expertise. **Dr. Terese DeManuelle** at **Northwest Animal Allergy & Dermatology** helped us resolve issues with some very itchy (and adorable) patients, including Nina and Iris.

Sellwood Pet Supply, **Pets on Broadway**, and **Healthy Pets NW** (Woodstock location) support us with donated supplies. We encourage all our adopters to shop at locally-owned pet supply stores who can offer expert guidance in choosing appropriate products for your pets.

And finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our generous and compassionate donors who make this important work possible.

—ARCF Board of Directors

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 _____.

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