

## Sasha

Sasha is a beautiful tortoiseshell lady of a certain age, looking for a soul mate who wants to spend quality time together in gentle pursuits. She's definitely a homebody who loves couch time with a pal, whether it's watching "people TV" on a screen or "cat TV" through a window.



If you want to read a book or work a puzzle, Sasha will sit quietly nearby, never interrupting to make you lose your place. But if you want to talk trash about the latest melodrama in the world of real housewives, she's right there with you. She also loves a good game of "kibble toss"—she'll chase it down, tackle and kill it, then wait for the next one to launch.

Sasha's life was turned upside down last spring when the only person she had ever known passed away. With no surviving family members to take them in, she and her brother Peter came to ARCF. It was a very scary time—their lady was suddenly gone, and their home was no longer available. Peter adjusted quickly (see his story on page 5) but Sasha continued to feel very anxious, so we decided to give her some time alone to decompress. It turns out Sasha is much happier without Peter around!

Sasha is still wary of new people and things, so she needs a cat-savvy person who will allow her time to adjust and find a comfort zone where she can live happily ever after. She will be happiest as the one-and-only four-legged member of the family. In exchange, she'll be a loyal, peaceful companion, judgment-free and always ready for a nap. And she'll bring her very own heated bed!

Sasha is 12 years old. She 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 Sasha or any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email [arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org), or visit [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).

## Maddie

That adorable little face belongs to Maddie. Her dream is to find a family who spends a lot of time at home—and who isn't doing that, these days? She is a sweet and happy girl who loves being with her people and doing fun stuff together.

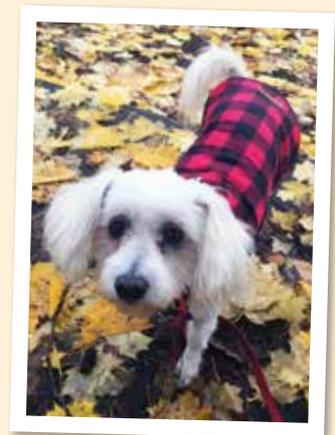
Maddie enjoys toys, especially the puzzle games and snuffle mats that give out treats! She may also go find her favorite stuffy and bring it around for a good play when the mood strikes her. Her ideal person will give her lots of opportunities for physical and mental exercise every day. She is smart and food-motivated, so training her will be fun!

Her early life is unknown, but it probably wasn't great, so Maddie will need patience while she adjusts to her new home. But she is brave and curious, and she will surprise you with her ability to overcome obstacles. For example, at her first foster home, she jumped right into the swimming pool and happily swam a couple laps, jumped out, had a good shake and roll, then stretched out for a nap.

Maddie is also a snorty snuggler. She adores being pet and will happily drift off to sleep with gentle brushing of her head and ears. She has met and played with polite dogs, but she really prefers playing with her human.

We think she could live with other pets, but would probably thrive as an only dog. Maddie will need continued work on her crate-training—she's adjusting to being left alone, but she is a little shadow and really wants to be with her people.

Maddie appears to be a Maltese/Poodle mix, is about five years old, and weighs just under 20 lbs. She has been spayed and microchipped, is current on vaccines and flea control, and tested negative for heartworm. The adoption fee is \$350. If you are interested in meeting Maddie, email [mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com) or call 503-974-4944.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

There's no denying that this year will never be forgotten by anyone living through it. But among the dismal statistics, there is at least one bright spot: the number of pet adoptions has gone up dramatically since huge numbers of people began working from home (or living at work, as some have described it).

But there is still no shortage of animals needing rescue. Since most public shelters have closed their facilities to the public, they have been forced to limit intake of stray and unwanted animals to only those severely ill or injured. This has shifted much of the burden to smaller, private rescues such as ours. By working together and sharing resources with other groups in our area, we are able to keep our heads above water while the tide of unwanted animals keeps rolling in.

Our foster homes are always occupied with an endless supply of rescued (and returned) cats and kittens, so we don't have the capacity to help pet owners who currently aren't able to house their pets but aren't ready to give them up permanently. But as with so many other things this year, exceptions were made. A friend told us about a single mom whose teenage son had miraculously survived an extremely serious accident and was being sent to a specialized rehab center out of state. Mom and son would be away from their home for 90 days and they needed a safe place for their beloved cat **Missy**. A previous ARCF adopter offered to care for Missy during this stressful time. Thank you, Barbara, for your kindness and generosity. Missy is a wonderful cat and we know it was not easy to part with her after your time together, but the family was so grateful to have one less major worry on their long road to recovery.

Another request came from a family in a different kind of crisis: an adult daughter moved out and left her pet rabbit, and the mother called us to say she no longer had desire or resources to care for the rabbit. It seemed to be an emergency; she said the rabbit had not been fed for several days and

she had no money for food. Having no bunny experts in our volunteer ranks, we contacted a local small animal rescue we had worked with previously on a similar project when a daughter abandoned her pet rats at her parents' home. The response from the rescue volunteer was immediate: "Where is the bunny? We'll go get her right now." Big, beautiful **Maisy** was hungry and a bit cranky but she soon settled in at the rescue foster home, and after needed vet care, including spay surgery, Maisy was adopted by a family of experienced bunny lovers. We sent along a supply of hay and bedding as well as a large cage and exercise pen for Maisy's care prior to her adoption.

We were saddened to learn that our friend and supporter Margretta Pfeffer passed away suddenly, leaving behind her

adored cats **Maggie** and **Heidi**, adopted from ARCF in 2013. Her family was heartbroken to lose their Gretta, and even sadder that they couldn't easily offer a home for her cats without creating stress for their own fragile, elderly pets. Once again a dedicated foster volunteer made it possible for us to give these sweet cats a soft landing when their world fell apart. They will be cared for with love and patience until they are ready for the next stop on their journey.

Friends, we have almost made it through this turbulent and sometimes terrifying year. To those who have survived hardship and tragedy, we offer our condolences.

To those who have continued doing their

work so the rest of us can stay home in relative safety, we offer our gratitude and respect.

And as always, we are grateful to the kind and compassionate people who support us with contributions great and small. On behalf of Missy, Maisy, Maggie, Heidi and the hundreds of others who will need our help in the coming year, we thank you.

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

—Carma Crimins, President



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:  
MISSY; MAISY; MAGGIE; HEIDI

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.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[mywayhomedogrescue.org](http://mywayhomedogrescue.org)  
503-974-4944

# MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

## Aster

Shannon Ward and Mark Adamski have been fostering dogs for My Way Home Dog Rescue since the early days of the organization. Many dogs have passed through their home and some of them have stayed—they chose to adopt dogs who were passed over by other adopters because of age or health issues.

Last year they fostered Flower, a sweet old girl who was a stray from a public shelter in Hawaii. Flower was easy to have around and didn't mind the other foster dogs who came and went. Their other dogs had since passed away, so when no other adopters showed interest in Flower, Shannon and Mark chose to adopt her.

They are used to having two dogs, and although they are "big dog people," Shannon was secretly wishing for a small dog to land in their life. Since March, they fostered four My Way Home dogs, all quickly adopted, and then little Aster showed up. She came from a high-kill public shelter in California—a familiar story for many MWH dogs—so not much was known about her history, but that didn't matter in the least because Flower and Aster fell instantly in love.

Flower was not much of a snuggler before Aster arrived, but now she's learning to cuddle and always wants to be close to her petite friend. Aster is a serious cuddler—she'll dive right under the covers to get warm and cozy with her people.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ASTER; FLOWER (LEFT) & ASTER; MOVIE NIGHT**

"This little dog has completely captivated Flower and given her a new lease on life. She acts so much younger. They play so hard and have so much fun!" says Shannon. "Aster will grab Flower's ear and drag her around and she loves it. When she's had enough, Flower will give a warning bark and Aster knows it's time to rest."

Aster has her quirks, like every dog. She's not fond of meeting other dogs on her walks, and wants to (loudly) alert the household when people are walking by. Aster is learning some coping skills, so those issues will resolve over time.

"We were surprised at how much we enjoy having Aster in our family. She has brought a spark of joy to our home and lifted our spirits—just what we needed in these dark times."

My Way Home Dog Rescue saves dogs from high-kill shelters, providing all necessary medical care and home-based fostering. These dogs often have long-neglected chronic conditions. Returning them to good health takes a commitment to providing as much care as each one needs. If you'd like to foster, adopt, or donate towards the care of a senior dog, please contact [mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

### ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

Sept-Oct-Nov: We rescued and cared for 25 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 31 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

**Veterinary:** \$2,269.04

**Food/Supplies:** \$2,820.14

**Newsletter:** \$1,667.29

## 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.

#### EDITOR

Carma Crimins

#### GRAPHICS/LAYOUT

Sarah Cadwell, [www.sarahcadwell.com](http://www.sarahcadwell.com)

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#### Animal Rescue & Care Fund

PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293

503-402-8692

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

[arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org)

Animal Rescue & Care Fund is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 51-0137768. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used to support our programs, including publishing this quarterly newsletter.

Lorraine and Henry Tobeck lost their dear cat **Buddy**, adopted from ARCF in 2013. His early life on the streets was rough, but no cat was more adored and pampered than Buddy once he joined their family. He was a perfect gentleman—always sweet and well-behaved. Buddy will be missed by all who had the pleasure of meeting him, and his loving spirit will never be forgotten.



**BUDDY**



**DUDLEY**

Andrea Sande shared the sad news that her beloved **Big Orange Dudley** lost his battle with the kidney disease he had been fighting for the past year. Dudley was rescued from a bad situation by ARCF in 2010. But in spite of the hardships of his early years, under that raggedy exterior beat the most loving and tender heart—there was no sweeter cat than Dudley. His loss leaves a huge hole at the center of his family. In addition to Andrea and her partner Brian, Dudley will be missed by his feline siblings Duncan and Tulip, who hate each other but both adored Dudley.

We were sad to learn that Abbie Allen lost her beloved Yorkshire Terrier, **Bethany**. She was remembered with a memorial donation from her friend Anne Malinowski.

One of the heartbreaking responsibilities that comes with pet ownership is having to make the difficult choice of when our furry family members leave the world, and us. When the time comes to help your ill or elderly pet 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](http://drlorigibson.com)

#### Vet to Pet, Dr. Laura Chang

503-757-6124 • [vettopet.net](http://vettopet.net)

#### At Home Veterinary Services, Dr. Louise Mesher

503-281-1631 • [pdxhomevet.com](http://pdxhomevet.com)

**Hermie**

(formerly Henry)

*In the pet and animal rescue world, we usually aren't able to fulfill "pre-orders"—we never know what will happen tomorrow, so we do our best to make good matches for all the little clients each day brings us. Our friends Nena and Patti were looking for a handsome, fluffy, young male cat to balance out the energy of their two female felines. We happened to hear of just such a fellow from our rescue partners at Cat Utopia in Pendleton. Arrangements were made, meetings were held, and pre-orders were filled.*

Six-month-old Hermie (formerly Henry) joined our household in March, just days before Oregon shuttered due to the pandemic and the two humans in the family began working from home. His personality is absolutely perfect for our household and these trying times.

He's curious and friendly, and loves to be near his humans, especially

when we're in the kitchen where we're spending plenty of lockdown time. Hermie helps with the dishes by extending a fluffy-toed paw directly under the faucet, and he makes toys out of anything that he can swat from the counter. (Watch out, cherry tomatoes!)

Boxes and grocery bags, regardless of size, have Hermie's name on them. He runs to the refrigerator when he hears the ice dispenser, hoping for an errant ice chip to bat around the floor. And he drags his "bird wand" through the house, plopping it at our feet and demanding to be entertained. We love his energy and his big personality. Plus, his long black hair is so soft and luxurious that petting him is a soothing balm. After some internet research, we think this vagabond from Pendleton is a Turkish Angora. He sure acts and looks like one.

Initially, we were a little worried about introducing a young cat into our furry family. In no time, though, Hermie was cavorting with our four-



**HERMIE**

year-old kitty, Coco, while showing respectful deference for our geriatric house feral, Iris. Hermie and our cattle dog, Riley, sized each other up and decided they'd tolerate each other—for the good of the order.

We didn't know how much we needed handsome Hermie until he was here! Thank you for matching us with this smart, mischievous, and charming boy. He's a bright spot during tough days, and we absolutely love him. Welcome home, Hermie!

**—Nena Baker**

**Herschel**

(formerly Peter)

*Herschel (then Peter) came to us last spring when his person passed away suddenly. He had never lived with anyone else and was as much of a stranger to us as we were to him, but with the patient support of his foster parents Lauren and John, he adjusted amazingly well to all the changes life threw at him.*

Noah's adoption application included this note: "I'm not terribly exciting, but I'm a gentle, calm, patient person and I think a cat would be a wonderful companion." Words to spark joy in the heart of any cat rescuer! We arranged a meeting and soon Herschel was on his way home with Noah.

Herschel has settled in perfectly! He doesn't hide and likes to lie in my rocking chair with his "please try not to get your fur everywhere" blanket, though his favorite spot is definitely on me at all times. After breakfast he sits in my lap to clean himself while I work.



**TOP: HERSCHEL;  
NOAH & HERSCHEL**

He chases his toys around the house and loves his feather-on-a-string—sometimes he even leaps into the air which is QUITE the accomplishment for such a sleepy old man!

He's not into cat beds, but LIVES to lay on me—in my lap, across my legs, in my arms like a baby, over my entire torso, even on my side if I'm sprawled out on the couch scrolling through my phone. He'll wander through the house and yell until he can get on me somehow!

He is impossibly gentle, has PERFECT house manners (no plant-nibbling, no counter-hopping, no litter box problems, no scratching the furniture—*nothin'*), and LOVES to cuddle. I love him so, so much! I can't imagine a more perfect fit or a more lovable cat-- thank you so much for all your help and support along the way, and extra-big thanks to Lauren and John for being wonderful and letting me steal this guy; I could tell he was very loved by the time I welcomed him into my home.

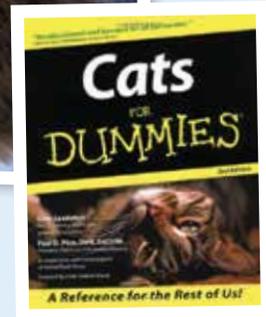
**—Noah Puckett**



DENISE ON RESCUE DAY



DENISE, GROWN UP



## Denise

(always Denise)

*Denise came to ARCF as a stray kitten in 2013, weighing barely one pound sopping wet, which she was at the time. She was rescued (and named) by our friend Gerry Taylor, who brought Denise to us the next day. She was malnourished, parasite-infested, and had multiple infections, but all those conditions were treatable and she was soon bouncy and brave.*

*She was adopted by an adoring family, but with each passing year, mild allergy symptoms in two family members became so severe that it was impossible for Denise to remain in her home.*

*The transition back to our care was stressful for Denise, and she had gained so much weight that she was very uncomfortable. Her foster mom was patient and diligent about managing her diet and exercise program, and over the next few months, Denise began to feel better and enjoy life.*

*Just when she seemed ready to face the world again, Sandra contacted us, looking for a “long-haired, friendly senior citizen” cat companion. Denise was not the **most** friendly cat we ever met, but we wanted to give her a chance*

*to interview and demonstrate if she could grow into the position.*

*Because adoption meetings are complicated these days, we suggested to Sandra that she take Denise into her home as a foster, and we’d discuss adoption later, once they had a chance to assess each other for compatibility. We recently visited Sandra and Denise to make the adoption official.*

I’m retired and live alone, and after my dearly loved dog died in April at age 15½ years, my house was way too quiet, with not another breathing creature present. Being stuck at home all the time made it even worse; I was talking to myself far too much.

Although I loved my dogs and am used to living with them, it didn’t make sense for me to adopt a dog now. I rely on supplemental oxygen so it’s not feasible for me to take a dog for daily walks and I know they need that exercise and stimulation. I talked it over with family and friends and decided a cat might be a good companion. I searched online and came across ARCF and there was Denise.

When she first came, I wasn’t sure that we were going to be friends. She was cordial but aloof. After a few days she warmed up a bit and even showed me her beautiful fluffy belly. I learned a painful lesson; I was not being invited to tickle her belly after all. My sister helpfully brought me a book called “Cats for Dummies.” I did some reading and realized how much I didn’t know about cats!

But Denise is doing an excellent job of training me, and we are both pleased with her progress. She is not a cuddler, but she is a worthy listener, and that’s important in a companion. She has excellent house manners and no bad habits—aside from an unfortunate incident with the jigsaw puzzle in progress on the dining room table.

My friends have noted that her name seems odd for a cat, but it suits her and that suits me. She is quite pleased with herself and how she rules the household. I’m also quite pleased—and surprised at how pleased I am!

—Sandra Sutherland

## OUR GRATITUDE JOURNAL

The wheels of this small but mighty organization are turned by volunteer power, and we are so grateful to those who have stuck with us through this year of extraordinary challenges.

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We are lucky to have two kitten “boot camp” homes staffed by firm but kindly camp directors who provide just the right combination of guidance, encouragement, and TLC to help our rescued ragamuffins become their very best kitten selves—ready to be adopted and adored. **Lori** and **Paul Sharp** have tackled some tough cases and never failed to make those feisty ones learn to love being cuddled and kissed. Or at least tolerate it—any self-respecting kitten only allows so much of that stuff!

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**Bonnie Williams** and **Drew Flowers** also run a very successful kitten boot camp. Since roller derby has been on a long hiatus like everything else, we wouldn't be surprised to see their little charges trained to do tricks on tiny skates. Lori and Bonnie are also our champion trappers and managed to complete some difficult Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) projects this year, in spite of 2020's obstacles.

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When kittens graduate from boot camp, they move to “finishing school” foster homes where potential adopters will meet them. **Anne Malinowski** has helped hundreds (thousands?) of our precious little clients with the transition to their forever homes. Many of our adopters have Anne to thank for the excellent manners of the kittens they first met at her home.

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**Jennifer Hansen** and **Roger Anderson** are old hands in our foster program as well. Kittens at their home get to add “dog and bird experience” to their tiny resumes, thanks to ever-patient Iris, the big black dog, and Basil, the trusting cockatiel.

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**Janet** and **Eric Blackstone** offer that rare commodity in the rescue-foster world: a home with no other pets. Their help has been invaluable in sheltering adult cats who come from difficult circumstances and need a restful place to de-stress and prepare for the forever families we know are waiting out there for them.

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We were lucky enough to add two new homes to our “foster roster” this year. **Lauren Magnee** and **John Miskey** opened their home (including beautiful patio!) just when we were in desperate need of a safe place for two elderly cats who arrived unexpectedly on our doorstep after the sudden passing of their person. Since then, many ARCF cats have enjoyed Magnee-Miskey hospitality, and we are so glad to have them on our team.

**Hillevi Johnson** also appeared just at a time when we needed a foster home for a pair of kittens whose “special need” was a desperate need for attention. Hillevi was working from home full-time and feeling isolated, so adding a couple of love-hungry kittens to her life was a smashing success.

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In addition to the usual demands of daily health and medical care, our foster parents have been flexible and resourceful in helping us continue to offer in-person adoptions while following best practices for keeping everyone safe. We can't thank them enough for keeping us rolling over this very rough patch in the road.

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Veterinary practices are also facing extraordinary challenges in continuing to treat their patients while following guidelines to keep staff and pet owners safe. We are very grateful to **Cat Hospital of Portland**, **Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon**, **Willamette Valley Animal Hospital**, and **Village at Main Veterinary Hospital** for providing top quality care under these difficult conditions. **Gabriel Park Veterinary Clinic** has been a placement partner for some of our kittens.

Thank  
You!



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

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

—ARCF Board of Directors

## HOW TO HELP

These two gorgeous felines, **Fiona** (left) and **Edsel**, were adopted from us two years ago as babies. They are also quite clever—they asked their mom, Angela, to bag up the returnable bottles and cans piling up at home and donate the deposits to ARCF. Good thinking, kitties!

As a nonprofit organization, ARCF is eligible to receive donations from the Oregon BottleDrop program. We can provide you with blue bags pre-tagged to our account, so you just fill them up and drop off at your nearest BottleDrop location. Or if you already have a “green bag” BottleDrop account, you can direct your refunds directly to ARCF. Let us know if you want to participate and we’ll help you get started!

Here are some other 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](http://smile.amazon.com). Select **ARCF** as your charitable organization. Your account information, history, and settings will transfer over 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! Last year ARCF received about \$500 from this program. Get busy shopping!
- For Fred Meyer/Kroger shoppers, choose ARCF to benefit from your Fred Meyer Rewards Card every time you shop. Go to [fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards](http://fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards) and link to ARCF using our organization code, **EQ279**. It costs you nothing, and every quarter ARCF receives a check based on your purchases!
- Donate a car, van, boat, RV, or anything with wheels and a motor. It doesn’t have to run; you just need the title and keys. Speed’s Supertow will handle the towing and then sell the vehicle at auction, 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. From the menu on the left of your home screen, click **Fundraisers** and then select **Animal Rescue & Care Fund** from the list of charities. It’s very quick and easy and 100% of donations go directly to ARCF!
- Mail us a check or make a donation online at our website, [pdx-petadoption.org](http://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 and your receipt.

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

## 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).***

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ for humane work. (\$35 sponsors an animal, but we appreciate any amount.)

I’m interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

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Portland, OR 97293-0956