



# ANIMAL TALK

Fall 2010 • Vol. XXXV, No. 3

PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293

## Because We Care About the Cats, That's Why!

"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 when talking with potential adopters who contact us looking for a cat. It's true that some cats are born and live their entire lives outside, and, with current estimates of 75 million pet cats in this country alone, it would be an immense job to bring all those cats inside. But in our role as rescuers, we have seen enough of animal suffering to convince us that keeping our pet cats indoors is the most humane and responsible policy.

Almost everyone who's owned an outdoor cat has lost one to a car, and we've all seen their little bodies by the side of the road. This is so common that veterinary and shelter workers refer to these injuries as "HBC"—hit by car. No matter how street-smart and experienced, no cat is a match for a ton or more of steel, even when a careful driver is at the wheel.

Most of us also know of cats injured or killed by dogs or coyotes. Hawks and owls also prey on cats, and worst of all are the human predators. Recently in the Portland area, a number of pet cats have been found dead or mortally injured in their own yards. Animal cruelty investigators haven't been able to determine exactly who or what caused the death of the cats.

A quick look at the lost cat ads on community bulletin boards, telephone poles, and online websites gives a good idea of how many cats go missing every day. And according to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, less than 2 percent of lost cats are returned to their owners. Most of those have ID such as microchips, tattoos, or collars with tags.

Cats are territorial and if your cat comes out on the short end of a duel, you may face an expensive trip to the vet, not to mention the cat's pain from injury and abscesses. Aside from the obvious dangers, there are hidden costs to allowing a cat to roam outdoors. Fleas, worms, ear mites, and other parasites live outdoors and are just waiting for a chance to jump on a passing

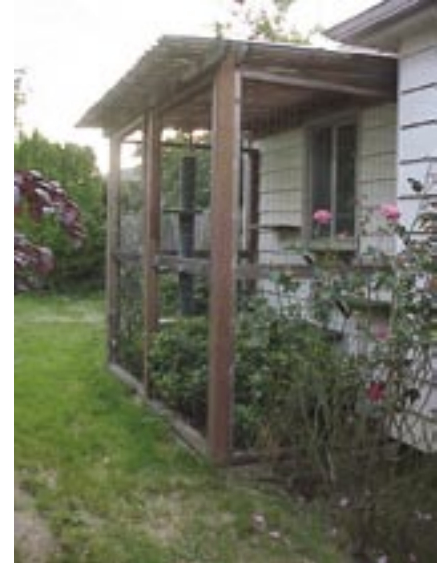
warm-blooded critter for a ride indoors. In addition, viruses such as FeLV (Feline Leukemia), FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), and Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper) are passed among cats. These viruses cause serious, and usually fatal, illnesses.

Although your cats are adored at home, your neighbors may not feel very gracious about having their flower beds used as litter boxes. Cats love a freshly dug latrine, and will not respect property lines in search of one. Even neutered males and female cats can spray to mark territory, and nobody ever wins a spraying war. Again, your neighbor may not appreciate having siding, doors, plants, fences, and furniture smelly and corroded by cat spray.

While cats are pretty low on the predator chain, they do prey on birds and small mammals. Nobody worries much if cats catch and kill mice, but some cats are determined to prey on birds, and although humans do far more damage to songbirds by encroaching on their territory, keeping cats indoors will help protect birds and other wildlife.

So, how do you go about making your cat happy indoors when she's used to going out? There are lots of good articles and books available on this topic, but essentially you

*Continued on page 2...*



Cats enter from the house via cat flap. Humans enter from outside via hinged screen panel.



More elaborate, with tunnel from window. Available for purchase in various configurations.

## FEATURED CAT



### Smokey Joe

Smokey Joe is an outgoing, affectionate guy, looking for a one-cat home where he can soak up all the love. He's about three years old, with a plush gray coat, and soulful sea-green eyes.

If you would like more information, or to inquire about meeting Smokey Joe, visit our website at [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org) or call 503-239-5087.



A joint fundraiser for Animal Rescue & Care Fund and Oregon Spay/Neuter Fund

**Sunday, October 17,**

**10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

8715 SE Stark St., Portland

(The Chevy Store parking lot)

Come shop for vintage goods, collectibles, holiday crafts, and more! Your purchases support our work helping the animals in our community.

## Because We Care ...

... Continued from page 1

need to provide mental and physical stimulation in the environment as you make the transition. Be sure to provide cat-climbing furniture, high 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 different 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, laser pointer, or whatever gets your cat moving and exhausted when it's over.

You might also consider creating an enclosed outdoor area where your cat can get some fresh air without being turned loose to roam. This can be as simple as a mesh extension built out from a window, an enclosed deck or balcony, or as elaborate as a series of walkways and tunnels leading to free-standing enclosures separate from the house.

These so-called Catio's are getting a lot of attention lately, including a recent feature in the *New York Times*. We're showing you a few examples in our photos here. There are now many sources for purchasing ready-made enclosures, plans for building them yourself, and some companies will even come to your home and build an enclosure to your specifications.

Resources:

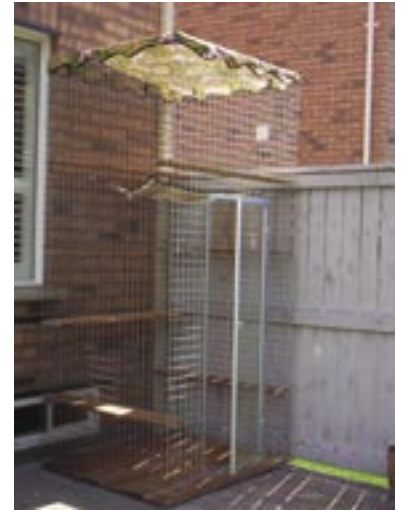
The Indoor Cat Initiative: [www.vet.ohio-state.edu/indoorcat.htm](http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/indoorcat.htm)

Bringing outdoor cats inside: [www.asPCA.org/pet-care/cat-care/bringing-outdoor-cats-inside.html](http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/cat-care/bringing-outdoor-cats-inside.html)

Catio designs and ideas: [catioshowcase.com/](http://catioshowcase.com/)

More outdoor enclosures: [catnet.stanford.edu/articles/enclosures.html](http://catnet.stanford.edu/articles/enclosures.html)

If you dream big: [www.advancedcatenclosures.com.au/](http://www.advancedcatenclosures.com.au/)



Another simple design to build yourself or order ready-made.



A simple wire mesh enclosure built around a window.

## Animal Placements

May-June-July 2010: We placed 25 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

\*Veterinary Fees: \$31,803.68

Advertising/Outreach: \$257.23

\*\*Food, Special Meds: \$462.68

Newsletter: \$1,389.00

\*These expenses include veterinary care for the dogs of Portland's homeless. We also had expenses for injured and sick pets and emergency vet visits.

\*\* Most volunteers pay for food and litter for the animals they care for as their contribution to the cause.

# Indigo Rescue

ARCF doesn't currently have a dog rescue and adoption program, but we do support other groups in our community that are working to help dogs.

One of these groups is Indigo Rescue, an organization of volunteers started in 1998. This group began, as so many rescue groups do, when a few concerned citizens encountered animals in distress and wanted to help them. In this case, the group started out rescuing and fostering cats, then placing them for adoption. They eventually realized the depth of the cat overpopulation problem, and the lack of commitment from a large segment of the community to their cats, as evidenced by the huge numbers of surrendered, abandoned, and neglected cats. This perspective led the group to change its focus to promoting spay/neuter services and educating the public on responsible pet ownership.

Currently, Indigo Rescue partners with county shelters by taking animals that have run out of time in the shelter, rehabilitating them in foster homes, and placing them in carefully screened adoptive homes. The organization continues to develop convenient and practical spay/neuter programs designed to encourage people to have their pets altered. Indigo Rescue also develops programs to discourage surrender of companion animals to shelters, and to increase the likelihood of permanent placement. The group refers to themselves as the "Match.com" of people and pets.

In 2007, Indigo Rescue opened Oregon Canine University (OCU) at Indigo Ranch. The 16-acre, cage-free dog boarding facility, located in Vernonia, Oregon, was created to finance the organization's continued rescue and community spay/neuter programs. Rather than relying entirely on grants and fundraising, all profits from OCU business operations funnel directly into the nonprofit activities of Indigo Rescue. The organization's goal for the learning programs and activities of OCU at Indigo Ranch is to help strengthen the bond between people and their pets, assuring a better probability of pets remaining in their homes.

OCU at Indigo Ranch offers dog boarding in a beautiful country setting. Visiting dogs get to run and play in huge fenced areas then choose their own beds or sofas in open dormitories. Crates are available for dogs that prefer to sleep solo in a private den. There are no concrete kennel runs, and the dogs are allowed to play together, inside and out. Very soon, OCU will also feature a full-capacity training center offering multiple levels of obedience training, an agility course, tracking (search and rescue), and much more. There are also plenty of activities for people near the ranch, including a golf course, campgrounds, and the Nehalem River.

For more information:  
[www.indigorescue.org](http://www.indigorescue.org) or [oregoncanineuniversity.org/](http://oregoncanineuniversity.org/)



Zero



Uno

## Zero and Uno

Zero and Uno are awesome brothers! They're great with other dogs, love people, and love playing. We estimate their age as two years. They are learning how to walk on leash and know "sit" and "down" commands.

Oh, by the way—they are basically blind. Zero was born without eyes and therefore has no sight, and Uno sees some out of one eye (hence their names). Once you spend a few minutes with the boys you forget they're blind. They know where they are, they know where you are, and they quickly adjust to new environments.

Zero and Uno are Catahoula Leopard Dogs, who were found as strays in Rainier, Oregon. They are mostly white, and blind because of genetic defects that result from breeders trying to produce the more desired "double merle" coloring. Zero and Uno are unfortunate by-products of this breeding scheme and were discarded. But they are wonderful, loving dogs who deserve the very best home.

For more information about Zero and Uno, go to [www.indigorescue.org](http://www.indigorescue.org) and click on "Adopt" or call 503-626-7222.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Anna & Simon

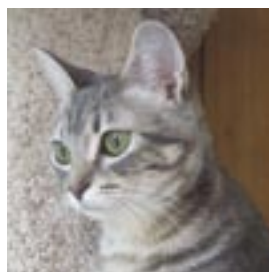
*Anna and Simon were born to a barn cat and started life being a bit wild. With loving care and patience from their foster families, they learned to enjoy the company of people and the indoor life. Soon they met Mary, who has a special understanding of shy kitties, and found it was love at first sight.*

These are the most beautiful kittens I've seen in a long time. Anna has already become a lap sleeper, and Simon is at least watching now! I want to thank you so much. They couldn't be more precious.

Mary Fowler



Simon



Anna

### Jack & Jewel

*Jack and Jewel were rescued by an ARCF supporter in Washougal as kittens. Soon, they were adopted by Carla and we recently received this report:*

Jewel is very much the big sister. She checks out everything—sounds, smells, food—with Jack following closely behind. And Jewel is a talker! She has quite a vocabulary; from a long, drawn out meow (asking for treats) to little chirps of happiness when she's being held. Jack has a special toy (we call it his "binky") that he'll drag around and leave in different rooms. It's a feather on a string with a stick handle. We have hardwood floors so we can hear him coming!

Carla  
Giardella



Jack & Jewel



### BenFrank

*BenFrank's story started with us in 2008. He was rescued with a badly broken leg which required amputation. He recovered well, then went through a period of fighting minor medical issues. He tolerated all of the treatments and recovery, and maintained a loving and playful attitude. Everyone who met BenFrank was totally charmed by him, but we just never found the right home, until Sabrina and Brigitt came along.*

We asked ourselves: How does a fabulous, handsome, sweetheart of a cat not get adopted? Of course, we are talking about the distinguished BenFrank. And the answer is: this was always meant to be his home.

Last year we lost a family member, our fourteen-year-old Border Collie. She left behind her companion of thirteen years, a Golden Retriever mix named Maggie. When we decided to add a new feline member to our family, we could not have dreamed we would find such a perfect fit. BenFrank is exactly what we needed and wanted.

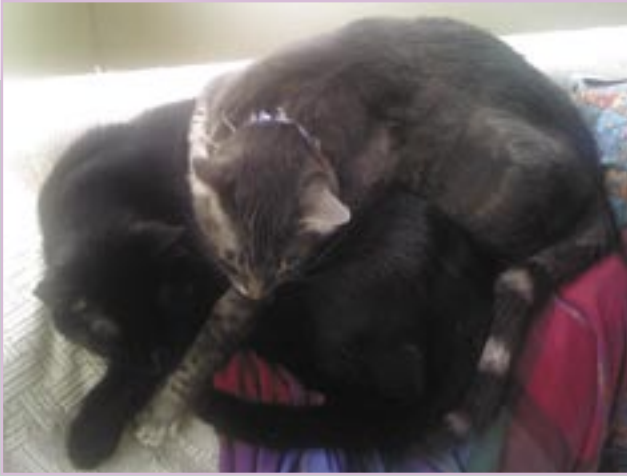
He is a big lap cat, starved for all the attention we have to offer. He is constantly talking, seeming to say, "Hey, what about me?" We are more than happy to shower him with the affection he desires.

His absolute favorite place is the windowsill. We extended it out two feet and topped it with fleece. We toss bird seed on the ground in front of the window, and he watches birds all day. When we tell him it is time to go "night-night" he runs to the bed, where he stays sprawled at our feet until morning.

We cannot thank you enough for bringing BenFrank into our lives. He is the perfect addition to our family, and we absolutely adore him. In our house full of females, BenFrank is King—and that is exactly as it should be.

Sabrina, Brigitt, and Maggie

## MORE SUCCESS STORIES



Jack & Adele

### Jack & Adele

(formerly Eli & Nina)

*Jack and Adele were part of a colony of abandoned cats living around and under an apartment complex. The management had decided to rid the area of the cats using an exterminator, and one of the residents called us for help. We were able to capture all the cats, provide much-needed veterinary care, and find them new homes.*

Last July, we adopted Jack and Adele (formerly Eli and Nina). They were just little baby kittens, but now they are huge, snuggly cats. We simply adore them.

Jack (the black one) is our snugglebug—he will take any opportunity to curl up in or near a lap. He even snuggles with the dog! Adele (the gray one) is a little more aloof, but not much. Neither of them is content without the other for long. The enclosed picture shows them in a typical pose. Adopting these two was one of the best decisions we've made.

They bring so much joy and comfort to our lives.

Thank you so much,

Beth Raby and Jeff Schwaber



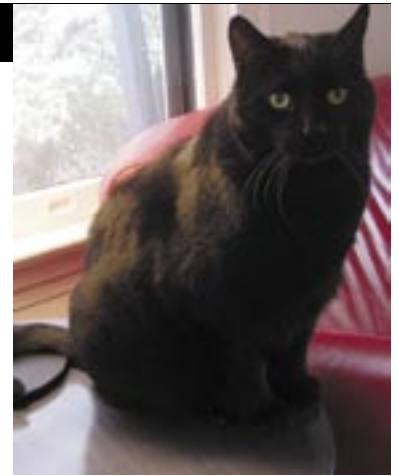
Adele  
& Jack  
as babies

### Ladykin & Crackerjack

Our regular readers will remember from our summer issue the story of Helena Heartt, who lost her dear Watson, adopted from ARCF in 2006.

Watson was a very good correspondent, and we received letters from him right up to (and even after!) his demise.

Helena quickly realized that she missed having feline housemates and, as it happened, we had two mature and well-behaved cats: a lovely pure white mother and her pure black son, who were in desperate need of a home just such as Helena's. It was a quite a good match, and we recently received this letter from Ladykin:



Dear Cat Persons,

Well! My son and I are here in this small house. Our housekeeper hobbles around trying to make us welcome. But we have indicated to her that food is the primary social duty of herself.

The occasional (daily) brush-wielding helps loosen our lovely fur so that we have plenty to ingest and make furballs, which leads to depositing food in unwanted places.

And if I hear once more, "They're nice, but they are not Watson," I shall knock over something else. My son is not "fatty;" he is buff. That's buff, as in handsome. Also, one has come to expect food on demand, not just by schedule.

Well! Thank you for finding us this nice, if somewhat low-class, establishment.

Love,

Ladykin &  
Crackerjack  
Heartt



Top: Crackerjack  
Left: Ladykin

# What You Need to Know Before Feeding a Raw Diet

By Dr. Andrea La Raus, DVM

A dizzying array of diet choices is available for our pets. Following the melamine pet food recall in 2007, there is heightened awareness of these choices as well as the quality and safety of what we feed our four-legged friends. While not new, the feeding of raw food diets is increasing in popularity and several brands are widely available for purchase, along with recipes for home preparation. Few subjects create as much disagreement as “feeding raw” and there are several things to consider before choosing to feed your pet in this manner.

As the name implies, raw food diets contain raw meat (plus sometimes bones), fruits, vegetables, and occasionally grain or dairy products. Advocates of these diets claim that it is a more natural way to feed cats and dogs and that there are many advantages to doing so, from increased dental and gastrointestinal health, to cures for allergies.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to gauge these claims as there are no published studies that adequately evaluate the diets. Testimonial recommendations are often the basis for touting benefits—yet there are two important concerns that must be weighed: food safety and balanced nutrition.

Food safety concerns pets, of course, but in the long run, you too. Regardless of where you buy the meat and whether or not it’s organic, food-borne pathogens such as salmonella and campylobacter can contaminate the product (some studies indicate 15 percent or more of the time). Humans preparing the food are at risk for exposure.

Although pets may not always show illness, it is possible for them to shed these bacteria in their stool and infect

people through contact. This is a significant enough problem that certain therapy animal organizations have banned members’ pets from eating raw diets due to the risk visiting pets could bring to patients in hospitals or nursing homes. While it is true that commercially available dry food has been recalled for salmonella contamination, many veterinary nutritionists consider the risk from feeding raw diets to be much higher.

As for balanced nutrition, a great deal of research goes into creating the high-quality pet foods now available. While there are endless recipes available online and in books, many of them are not nutritionally balanced and thus have the potential for injury over time, especially in young animals. Consulting a veterinary nutritionist can be very helpful to formulate a diet for your pet. There are multiple websites to review links containing information regarding veterinary nutritionists. The three most commonly used are: [www.balanceit.com](http://www.balanceit.com), [www.acvn.org](http://www.acvn.org), and [www.petdiets.com](http://www.petdiets.com).

Other notable risks of raw diets include tooth fractures and intestinal perforation or obstruction from any bones consumed. Because of this, most nutritionists strongly recommend bones be ground up if they are used in homemade diets.

As always, when making decisions about your pet’s health, consulting your regular veterinarian is an important part of the process. Every individual pet has specific needs based on age, health, and medical history.



*Animal Talk* is a quarterly newsletter published by Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., and printed locally.

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, Inc., is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used exclusively for veterinary care, food, and publishing the quarterly newsletter, *Animal Talk*. Volunteers provide good temporary homes until the animals are placed in responsible, permanent homes.

## IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to report the passing of Tess, an ARCF foster cat who was being cared for by Kate Northington. Tessie made many fans in the short time she was with us. She was fighting multiple medical issues, and when mammary cancer was discovered during her spay surgery, the doctor knew she would not recover, so we decided to let her go peacefully.



Dee and Doug Rieffel lost Murphy, their poodle.

Claudia Stewart lost her cat Stanley at age fifteen years to kidney failure. She also lost a sweet little feral cat named Rosa to a sudden unknown illness.

Kathy and John Lowe report the demise of Lexus, another rescued kitty with multiple challenges to his health. He spent his last six years being lovingly cared for by the Lowes, who were grateful to have had him in their lives.



Glenda Hughes lost her cat Smokie, who had a hard life until her last few years spent as a princess with Glenda's family.

Wilma Perez-Leon lost Millie, the sweetest little tortie cat we ever met. Millie was abandoned, and her rescuer had a kind heart, but also a recent job loss, and no resources for another cat, so she came to us for help. We found that Millie had a tumor on her chest that couldn't be removed or treated, so Wilma gave Millie a loving home and hospice for the six months she had left.

Fuller, a fabulous tabby cat belonging to Jackie Fischer, passed very suddenly from lymphoma.



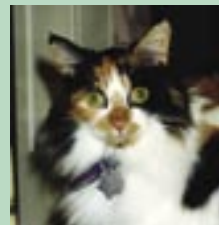
Elfrieda Greetveld lost her ancient but dignified cat Colette, who succumbed to the kidney failure that takes so many of our elderly feline friends.

Bobbie Bacoccini said goodbye to her feral cat, Sara, aged fifteen years. The first half of her life was pretty rough, but she was pampered during her last eight years with Bobbie.

Lisa Merino was deeply saddened by the sudden loss of her goofy brown tabby Bruce, who was rescued by ARCF when a senior gentleman moved from his home to a care center and left Bruce behind. He was terrified when we got him, but under Lisa's care he blossomed into a big bundle of tabby love. He was still a young cat, but one day he got up to walk across the room, and his heart just stopped.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Jonker lost their beloved dog Tassie, at age eighteen years.

Ariel Kerr misses her much-loved calico Lopez, a small cat with a big personality.



Roz Simon lost her long-haired orange cat Sammy, better known as The Fluff. He had a number of medical issues, but finally his lungs just couldn't pump enough air to keep him going. Fluff rushed to the front door each day to greet the mail as it came flying through the slot. He enjoyed sitting on plastic bags. In addition to Roz, The Fluff is survived by his feline brothers, Charley and Rory.

Calista and Larry Berg lost Riley, a loyal dog and true companion.

Skeeter was a member of a feral colony featured in a segment of OPB's Field Guide, in which she had a starring role. Skeeter is missed by her cat family and her people family, including Jess Holt, who fed her faithfully every day for five years.



## YES! I want to help

Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., depends entirely on your donations. Our work includes rescue, medical aid, food and shelter, humane education, neutering/spaying, and more. All workers are volunteers. 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)
- Sponsors can check here to receive a story and a photo about the animal being fostered.
- I'd like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the ARCF Microchipping Program, for adopted animals to have microchips.
- I'm interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc.  
PO Box 14956  
Portland, OR 97293-0956

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

## TWO MORE SUCCESS STORIES

### Grace & Duke

*Grace and Duke, believed to be siblings, were found underneath a porch by a kind person who asked us to help. Both kittens suffered from feline herpes, a common infection which can cause blindness if not treated. Grace's infection spread to her tear ducts, and she lost her right eye as a result. They came to an ARCF foster home for loving care while they healed. Then they were lucky enough to meet Betsy.*

It is working out great! Grace's early trials and loss of an eye haven't stopped her from being an energetic kitty who loves everyone and promptly comes running when called. She purrs like a motor with a steady hum and sleeps against my pillow.

Duke is a shy, gentle boy who loves his sister. He likes to play and cuddle. Thank you to ARCF for allowing me the pleasure and privilege of these wonderful companions!

Betsy Wosko

Grace



Duke



Marissa and the kitties.

### Mr. Morris & Daffodil

(formerly Maurice & Daffodil)

*Mr. Morris (formerly Maurice) and Daffodil were two of our "swamp kitties," rescued in April. In spite of that rough episode, they became very happy, energetic cats, who waited many months for just the right home. They wanted a young person of their own, and they were so lucky to find Jennifer and her daughter, Marissa.*

They are so full of energy. When Marissa is not here they just look so bored and beg me to play. They chase the laser pointer until they are panting. It is a lot of work having more than one cat, but I couldn't imagine them without each other. They are such a good fit for us, and we are so happy to have them.

Thank you for rescuing them and giving them a happy home before they came to us. I know that is why they are such good-natured kitties.

Jennifer and Marissa