

Willie & Wynona

For those seeking cat companions who take a strong interest in household activities, we highly recommend Willie and Wynona. They want to be near their people and involved in what's going on at all times. This can sometimes include getting underfoot, so these frisky kids are not a good match for a home with folks of any age who are unsteady on their feet. W & W need to inspect all areas and items in the home to determine which can be transformed into amusing toys, so a house full of delicate valuables will also not be the right place for them at this stage.

Willie and Wynona were born in May and have the energy level (and appetite!) typical of teenagers. They love all toys and can amuse themselves for hours, but they really love having people join in their games.



WYNONA



WILLIE

Both are very athletic and do impressive aeronautic tricks, leaping after whatever creature-like toy is flying through the air. Eventually they run out of energy and then it's lap time!

Willie reminds us of Tom Sawyer – always looking for adventure (and maybe some mischief!), playful, brave, loyal, and kind. Wynona is the sassy little sister with typical “torti-tude.” She’s small but feisty and when it’s time for Saturday Night Sibling Wrasslin’, she can dish it out as well as take it.

Since they are still teenagers, Willie and Wynona will require patience and continued training in good house manners. Both have excellent litter box habits and no special needs other than the high-quality diet we feed all our cats.

Willie and Wynona have been spayed/neutered, microchipped, are up-to-date on vaccines, and have tested negative for FeLV/FIV. The adoption fee is \$150 for the pair. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

Freckles

This lovely lady-of-a-certain-age would surely win the prize for Miss Congeniality amongst her peers at the doggy senior center. She had a rough start in life so we're not sure how Freckles kept her sweet and easygoing spirit, but she is truly full of joy and ready to share all her love with the family lucky enough to take her home.

Freckles came into rescue with weakened muscles in her back legs, possibly due to lack of exercise in her prior home. Her weekly hydrotherapy swim sessions have helped build strength, and she's now zipping up and down stairs and playing happily with her foster siblings!

Freckles has excellent house manners. She is calm and quiet, and both house- and crate-trained. She loves walks and behaves well on leash. She gets along well with other dogs in her foster home, but hasn't been tested with cats. She also loves toys, especially balls.

Freckles is about 11 years old and weighs 45 pounds. She is spayed, vaccinated, heartworm-negative, microchipped, dewormed, and is current on flea control. She also recently completed senior bloodwork and a dental. The senior adoption fee is \$300. If you are interested in knowing more about Freckles, please visit mywayhomedogrescue.org and complete the adoption application online.



FRECKLES

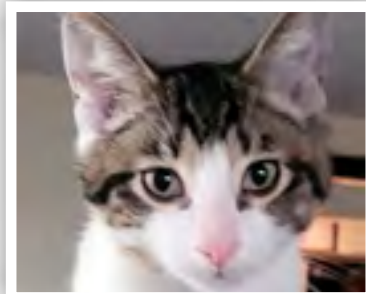
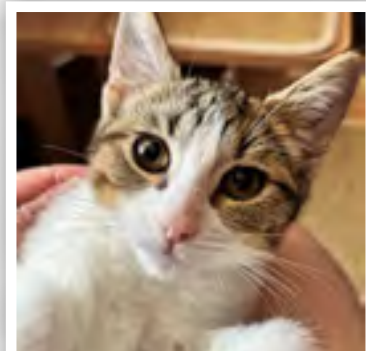
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Friends, the long baseball season is winding down, football season just kicked off, and we are thinking of the good old days when there was actually a kitten season that came to an end about this time. Many factors have combined to create an endless wave of unwanted cats and kittens that is overwhelming shelters and rescues everywhere. Our capacity and resources are very limited, but we are doing our best to help stem the tide.

Summer is always the slowest time for adoptions – many people are too busy with travel, projects, planning for a new school year, etc., to consider adding new creatures to the household. That's a good thing! We want everyone in the family to be ready to welcome their new members, with time to focus on helping them adjust and settle in. But this summer has been our slowest ever for adoptions, and we still have many adorable kittens ready to meet their new forever families.

Our most recent kitten rescue started when five babies were found in a rural goat barn. They were healthy and friendly, but very hungry, and too young to be without their mom. Nobody had seen an adult cat in the area, so the kittens were cared for until it was determined that momcat was not coming back. They came to ARCF and became the "A" litter, including **Andy** and **Alvin**. They will be available for adoption around the first of October.

In late June, a single sickly kitten was found at an abandoned property near the coast. One of our previous adopters heard about the kitten and asked us for help. This kitten was also too young to be without her mom, but no mom or other siblings were found. She desperately needed an experienced foster home, and fortunately we had one available, so little **Tulip** came into our care. She was fussy about food, couldn't keep anything down, and constantly battled the sneezing and snuffling that comes with kitty colds. Even with excellent care from her foster mom, **Tulip's** improvement has been slow, but she's going to be a happy, healthy kitten very soon.



FROM TOP: SOX; VIOLET (LEFT) & TULIP;
ANDY (LEFT) & ALVIN; VANESSA; VICTOR

Earlier this year we rescued the lovely **Velma**, and her six babies. The tiniest one was named **Violet**, and while her siblings happily hoovered up their meals and grew at the normal kitten pace, **Violet** struggled to keep up. She was bright and playful, but we knew she would need extra care, so **Violet** was moved to another foster home where she could have more individual attention. She needed encouragement to eat, and struggled with URI and digestive issues, but she eventually started to gain weight.

Violet was placed in the same foster home as **Tulip** and they were the same size, so as soon as both had been viral tested, vaccinated, and cleared of parasites, they were introduced. These girls were so happy to have a playmate! **Violet** and **Tulip** will be available for adoption in early October, and of course they will be adopted as a pair.

Some of **Violet's** bigger siblings are still available for adoption too, including **Victor** and **Vanessa**. If you have been thinking of adding some new furry family members, please get in touch!

Our world is not all homeless kittens, though – many senior cats are losing their homes when their people lose the ability to care for them, have to leave their homes, or leave this earthly plane entirely. We were asked to take a senior cat named **Sox** when his person needed a more secure living situation, where pets were not allowed. He's at least 15 years old, a bit cranky, and in the early stages of kidney disease, but fortunately we had a foster home with an opening for just such an older gent. **Sox** enjoys the special food that keeps his kidneys working, and is getting to know the lady cats who share his home. We'll make sure his remaining years are golden.

As always, thank you for reading our newsletter, and we ask you to adopt, volunteer, and donate if you can. Your donations make our work possible, and we appreciate every one of our supporters.

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

Happy Fall!

—Carma Crimins, President

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

Tuco

When Tuco (formerly called Smiley) came to My Way Home Dog Rescue last year, he was already a senior pup. He was gorgeous and healthy and had clearly been loved. So what caused Tuco to need help from a rescue? His adoring person wasn't able to stay in her home and could not care for him any longer. We hope for all our adopted animals that trusted friends or family members will take in pets of their loved ones if the time comes, but it's not always possible. In this case, My Way Home was able to step in and make sure Tuco had a safe and secure future.

Tuco's early years were very tough; he was seized from a breeder/hoarder operation along with 50+ other mini-Australian

Shepherds so he missed out on the socialization so important for a puppy's development. He was adopted by a gentle person who taught him that people could be trusted. Tuco was used to a quiet life with that one devoted person and the transition away from her was hard. Cheryl at MWH knew he would need another patient family, experienced with shy dogs.

Beth and Shawn lost one of their dogs in October and their remaining 12-year-old Pitbull mix Stella was lonesome and missing her departed pal. They had adopted two senior dogs from MWH in the past, so once they were ready to add a new family member, Beth and Shawn went back to MWH hoping they could make another good match.

When Cheryl suggested Tuco, they hesitated because he was so much smaller than Stella and they worried he

might find her intimidating. Tuco was timid but also very sweet, and all agreed his best chance at a happy life would be with Beth and Shawn.

"Tuco was anxious at first, but we understood he was a little dog learning about a big new world, so we just gave him time and space. He is very smart and figures things out on his

own," says Beth. "We live on a farm with horses and at first we kept him on a leash outdoors but pretty soon we dropped it and he follows me everywhere now."

"It took a few weeks for Tuco to relax enough to play with toys, but now he loves them. He prances and bows, and it's so cute to see. He's following Stella around and learning from her," adds Beth. "He doesn't like being picked up but he's comfortable being groomed, which is good because those toe fluffs need regular trims."

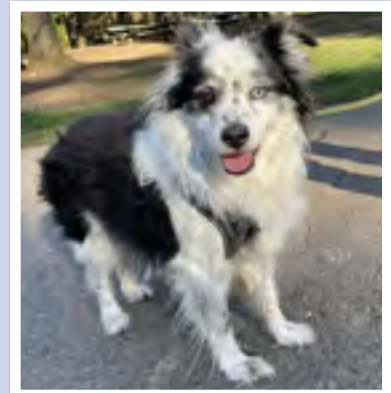
"Tuco has come so far from his early days," says Cheryl at MWH. "His first family did a great job helping him adjust, and now Beth and Shawn are making his life even better. We couldn't have asked for a happier ending to this story."



TOYS ARE GREAT!



ADOPTION DAY



ON A WALK

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 animal needs. If you'd like to foster, adopt, or donate towards the care of a rescued dog, please contact mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com.

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

June-July-August: We rescued and cared for 14 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 5 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$4934.92

Food/Supplies: \$2,420.10

Newsletter: \$4,324.46

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

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sandrahorrell.myportfolio.com

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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.

Chouquette

This is more than just one of our usual success stories; it's a true milestone and we are very happy to celebrate Chouquette on the occasion of her 17th adoption anniversary. We wish for this depth of love and commitment between all our adopters and their cats.

Chouquette (then named Tali) came to us in 2009 along with two littermates, Eli and Nina, who were adopted together. Single girl Chouquette was adopted by single lady Katy Le Bris, who sent us this update shortly after taking her home:



ADOPTION PHOTO IN 2009

Bonjour from Chouquette! My mom gave me the name of a French pastry she likes a lot. She says chouquettes in France are very sweet and tender-hearted, just like me. I was a little sad to leave my foster mom but I am glad to say I found a very good home. My new mom is a little funny because she sometimes speaks English, sometimes French, so I had to learn all that – this is the reason I need to chew on the dictionary so often. I try to teach her to meow like me but we are not there yet. Still, we talk a lot to each other, especially about food as we both like fish. We share a passion for the laptop too since it is always warm and purring. And sometimes we take a break and watch old movies. So far my favorite is James Bond. He makes my whiskers quiver!

Thank you to Pam, Yvonne, and Erin who worked hard to help me find a good family! (from Katy Le Bris, secretary to Chouquette)

Last month we received this update:

My sweet girl Chouquette just celebrated her 17th adoption anniversary. She was just a baby when we met in 2009 thanks to ARCF. I loved her baby face, and I love the wisdom in her face now even more.



BABY IN HER NEW HOME

Seriously, who adopted who? She made it her job to take care of me every day since I brought her home: morning wake-up calls, supervising my work (and my housekeeping), chasing me to keep me fit, cuddling for emotional support. She takes her chosen duties very seriously. In these 17 years I've earned an MA and a PhD, started two businesses, and built a new life in Oregon. She's supported me every step of the way. I couldn't have done any of it without my CFO (Chief Feline Officer).

She is not "an old lady." She's a wise lady (at least most days). Yes, we need a little more vet care now some extra comforts at home, and occasional spa sessions at the groomer to keep her long coat soft. I don't think of that as "extra expenses." My Chouquette is teaching me about senior dignity, about caring for our elders, about gratitude. I know the day will come when she's no longer by my side. Until then, I do my best to give her back even a fraction of what she's given me.

—Katy



AGELESS BEAUTY IN 2026

Debbie Norr

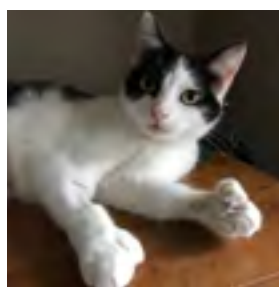
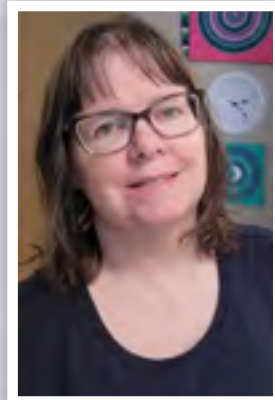
Debbie was a friend, volunteer, and supporter of ARCF for many years, and we are grieving the loss of this deeply kind person who cared so much for others. We met Debbie 20 years ago through her determination to help community cats when she moved to Portland and found an abandoned feral colony living near her new apartment. She learned all about TNR (trap-neuter-return), tackled that project and never looked back. She began volunteering for ARCF around 2010 and became a board member in 2015.



DEBBIE'S SOULMATE SYDNEY

In addition to her love for all animals, Debbie loved rock music, road trips, and assembling IKEA furniture. Her favorite job was as a buyer for the huge Tower Records store in Chicago and had encyclopedic knowledge of the bands, records, movies, and books of the 80s and 90s.

A diagnosis of Lewy Body Dementia in 2021 made her final years very challenging, but her concern and care for the welfare of all animals never wavered. She will join her beloved cats Penny, Mia, Sydney, Oslo, Paris, Jones, and Chewky, who have gone on before.



NINA

Nina came to ARCF through the efforts of a kind person who found her in a bleak corner store parking lot in California, ragged and hungry. She was missing large patches of fur and chewing her skin raw. We hoped that good flea control would solve the problem but through a long series of trial-and-error treatments, we discovered that Nina was allergic to almost every ingredient in all commercial cat food. Eventually we found the one prescription food that stopped her itching and allowed her skin to heal. One bite of any other food would set off the allergy cycle again, so her prescription food was a non-negotiable condition requiring deeply dedicated cat parents.

Sharon and Joe came to meet Nina in 2019 and it was an instant love match, at least for Joe and Nina. She went to her new home that day and, a couple years later, the whole family moved to Portugal, where they have been enjoying a peaceful retirement. Nina's last feline life recently came to an end at about age 15.

I had chosen Nina months earlier but waited until Joe was stumped for a birthday present for me before I suggested it was time for a cat. In fact, when we visited her foster home, Nina and Joe chose each other, playing on the floor while the other adults did the paperwork. She became our queen, and for my next birthday, she became sister to Micky, a 10-week-old standard long-hair dachshund. Nina immediately showed him that she was boss, backed up by helicopter swats with both mitten-toed front paws. They became bonded siblings and Micky misses her as much as we do!

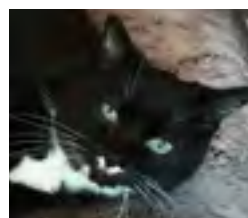
Nina loved to be brushed and had preferences for how attention was paid. If you picked her up, it was time to get down. If you sat in a chair, your lap was immediately hers. Nothing else would do.

At the end, a heart condition and liver cancer required foods that caused Nina's allergies to flare and made her miserable. Our little girl is now at peace.

—Sharon Harrison Durant

Erin Bergstrom is grieving the loss of her beloved cat Jacques, who passed at the remarkable feline age of 23 years and four months. Jacques came to Erin as an ARCF rescued kitten in 2003 and had a profound impact on her life, including his undying devotion and support through good times and bad. His loss leaves a huge hole in her home and heart and he will never be forgotten.

—Erin Bergstrom



JACQUES

“
How lucky I am to have
something that makes saying
goodbye so hard.

—A.A. Milne
(Winnie-the-Pooh)

”

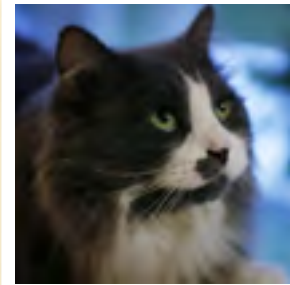
IN MEMORIAM

Although BenFrank left this earthly plane many years ago, we recently received this update from his adopters. BenFrank had a special place in our group and we want to mark his passing. He was severely malnourished when he was rescued after being hit by a car and required amputation of a badly broken leg. He recovered quickly in our care and made it clear that he had some non-negotiable demands of his human staff members: BenFrank was going to be the center of attention and everyone else could just step aside and deal with it. Of course, it didn't hurt that he was stunningly handsome, endlessly charming, and not at all limited by his tripod status. He shared the homes of many ARCF foster volunteers until he was adopted in 2010.

Ben Frank was an absolute bad ass – a true “cool cat” absolutely adored by us and all of our friends. One day in 2013, we woke up and he had passed quietly overnight, with no warning symptoms. He must have been about 10 years old.

Sabrina was pregnant in the fall of 2010 and would come home from work and settle into a recliner. The moment she sat, he would hop up and lay on her baby belly for the duration of the evening and for her entire pregnancy – so precious! We were always able to roughhouse with him, rub his belly, you name it. He was truly the man of the house.

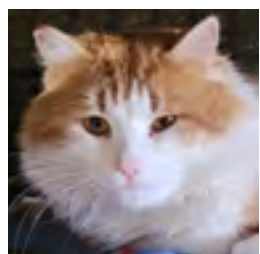
It seemed BenFrank was truly meant for us. We still miss him and have not seen our way to considering another cat.



BENFRANK

—Brigitt & Sabrina Whitescarver

A kind man was feeding this orange and white ball of teenage trouble hiding under shrubbery at his apartment building. The man was already at his lease-approved one-pet limit, so he named his new friend Orange Julius and asked us for help with vet care and finding a safer home. “Orange Julius” seemed too formal, so we called him Juju and asked our friend Glenda if she could foster this charming young fellow “for a few days, maybe a week or two.” She already had two Creamsicle boys running her life, so what’s one more? Four years later, Juju was still at Glenda’s house. We recently received a sad update. Juju was remembered with a donation to ARCF from his friend Paula.



JUJU

“I don’t like your food. I don’t like your rules. And you – I especially don’t like you,” hissed Juju when he arrived in Lair Hill in 2022. Joog, as his friends called him, was an aloof one-year-old street cat with the heart of a lap cat.

Joog was all about the play, all about the fun, and he never held a grudge. He had more important things to do, like slap his brother Ted on the backside as he walked by and then quickly look away: “It wasn’t me. It wasn’t me.”

It was him.

Or give him a playful side-eye just before breaking out his best MMA fighter moves. Every day was a new day for fun for Juju, and he lived each one to the fullest until a misdiagnosed heart condition took him from us in early July.

In only four years, Joog gave us a lifetime’s worth of love, hairballs, and stories we will never stop telling. In addition to his heartbroken mom, Joog leaves his brother Ted, frenemy Maurice of First Avenue, countless friends, and a home that will never be the same without the cutest little stuffy in Southwest Portland.

—Glenda Hughes

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, drorigibson.com

Vet to Pet, Dr. Laura Chang,
503-757-6124, vettopet.net

At Home Veterinary Services,
Dr. Louise Mesher,
503-281-1631, pdxhomevet.com

A Guide to Responsible Cat Adoption

Every year, thousands of cats are surrendered, abandoned, or lost to preventable dangers because their adopters were not fully prepared for the responsibility they accepted. This guide exists to change that, one adoption at a time.

Understanding Your Commitment

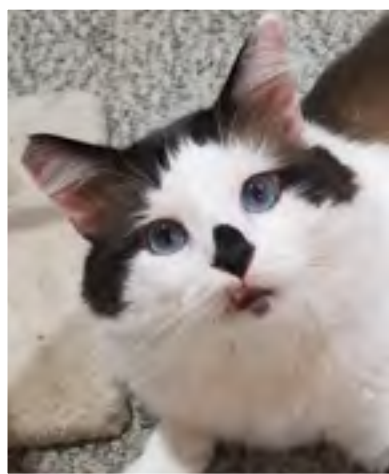
A cat is not a decoration or a convenience – each one is a soul with specific needs, emotions, and the capacity for deep attachment. The average indoor-only cat lives 15 –20 years, which is a long-term commitment, not a short-term arrangement. It's also the reason we ask potential adopters of "retirement age" (or beyond) about their backup plans for pets who outlive them.

The financial responsibility of adopting includes regular food, annual veterinary checkups, vaccinations, and emergency medical care, which can be significant. We encourage all adopters to sign up for pet medical insurance immediately when adopting a pet. Don't wait for a pre-existing condition to make your pet uninsurable.

Emotional commitment is crucial to the well-being of every companion animal. Cats bond deeply with their owners and suffer profoundly from abandonment, rehoming, and neglect. Can you commit to keeping your cats with you, regardless of changes in your housing, relationships, finances, or lifestyle?

Why Indoors is Better

Committing to an indoor-only life is the most important decision you can make for your cat's safety. All ARCF adopters commit to keeping their cats indoors for their lifetime – we screen carefully and require a signed agreement to that effect. If fresh air and outdoor experience is desired, consider a catio, an outdoor enclosure that allows safe outdoor access without exposure to predators or traffic. This also protects birds and other small creatures from your cat's natural hunting instinct.



TAI

Outdoor cats face dangers they can't protect themselves from: coyotes, dogs, vehicles, disease, parasites, toxic plants and substances, other aggressive cats, and human cruelty. The belief that cats need to roam freely outdoors is a myth; cats adapt completely and happily to indoor life if you create an environment with proper enrichment, stimulation, companionship, and minimized stress. Unsupervised outdoor access is not freedom, it's a world of risks that cats cannot assess or avoid.

The secret to a happy indoor cat is not confinement, it is connection. Here are some suggestions for creating real connection with your cat.

- Call their names repeatedly throughout the day, not just at feeding time. Let them hear their name as a sound of love and recognition, not just a command. They will learn and respond accordingly.
- Interact with your cats. Sit, talk, and be present with them. Cats engaging with you do not stare at the door, they stare at you.
- Play with them every day. Wand toys, laser pointers, crinkle balls, and other toys activate their instincts, burn energy,

and build the bond between you. A played-out cat is a content cat.

- Keep the environment warm and peaceful. Minimize loud noises, sudden disruptions, and chaos. Cats are deeply sensitive to their environment.
- If appropriate, provide treats after play, after coming when called, and after grooming to help your cat connect the treat to the interaction and begin to look forward to everything that precedes it.
- Create vertical space using cat trees, shelves, and window perches. Cats feel secure when they can observe their world from above. A cat with a good window perch has 24-hour multi-channel Cat TV.
- Provide warmth and comfort, like soft beds near sunny windows and warm spots to curl into.

When you build this kind of environment, when your cats hear their names and come running, when they leap toward you after play, when they curl into the warmth you have created, the outdoors become irrelevant. They are already exactly where they want to be.

Two is Even Better than One

Even with devoted human family members, most cats benefit from the companionship of another cat. At ARCF, we always adopt kittens in pairs and we often have bonded pairs of adult cats that we would not consider separating.



FRANCES & PIPER

Continued on page 8

THINGS WE LIKE

Two cats are not much more work than one and having a companion can significantly enrich their lives, especially if you are away from home for extended periods.

Lifetime Commitment

Most of us outlive our animal companions, who grow old faster to require care in their senior years. Our pets deserve the same level of commitment we provided when they were cute, young, and healthy. Hospice and palliative care options provide quality of life in the final chapter, and our priorities must be to give comfort and prevent suffering. The commitment you make when you adopt does not expire.



DEREK

Ready to Adopt?

Ask yourself the following before proceeding:

- Do I have stable housing that permits cats?
- Can I afford routine veterinary care and set aside funds for emergencies?
- Am I prepared to keep this cat indoors and safe for its entire life?
- Do I have the time and attention this animal needs daily?
- If my circumstances change (new home, new relationship, new baby), am I committed to keeping this animal regardless?
- Can I realistically make a 15- to 20-year commitment to a pet?

If you cannot answer yes to all of these, please wait until you can. There will always be cats needing homes, and each one deserves an adopter who is truly ready.

Emergency Preparedness and Identification

All ARCF cats and kittens are microchipped prior to adoption, but it's the adopter's responsibility to keep their information current with the microchip company. Make sure your vet has updated records, including a valid rabies certificate.

We hardly need to remind most pet owners about taking photos but keep a current photo on your phone. Know the location of your nearest 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic before you need it. Have a plan for your cat in the event of natural disaster, evacuation,



HAZEL

or your own medical emergency. Designate a person who will care for your cat if something happens to you, and leave that person's contact information with your vet, neighbors, family members, pet sitters, and other trusted people who know you and your cat.

Every cat deserves adopters who chose them with full understanding of what that choice means. Our hope is that this guide will help ensure that every adoption is the beginning of a long, safe, and loving life for the animal who is counting on you completely.

This guide was offered to us by Elias B. Klaich, thoughtfully created from his heartfelt wish for every cat to find a loving forever home. He was inspired by the cats who enriched his life by sharing theirs with him – in loving memory of Penelope, Sebastian, Augusta, Bruno and Apollo and in honor of Zeus, Zelda and Zorro.

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.)

☐ I'm interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at _____ .

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to:

Animal Rescue & Care Fund
PO Box 820007
Portland, OR 97282