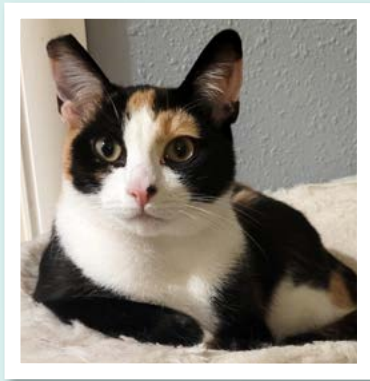


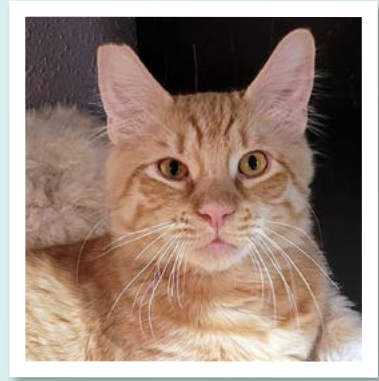
Finnegan & Fiona

For those seeking cat companions who take a strong interest in household activities, we highly recommend Finnegan and Fiona. They want to be near their people at all times, involved in what's going on. They need to inspect all areas and items in the home to determine which ones can be transformed into amusing toys.

Finnegan and Fiona are almost one year old and have the energy level (and appetite!) typical of teenagers. They love all toys, including the ones gathering dust because no other cats found them interesting. They can amuse themselves for hours, but they really love having people join in their games and their antics are very entertaining. Eventually they run out of energy and then it's lap time! When necessary, they will guide the hands of their people to the exact spot where pets and scratches feel especially good.



FIONA



FINNEGAN

Fiona is the smart, bossy, beautiful calico sister who takes the lead organizing cat activities. Finnegan is a loveably klutzy goober with a sweetness found only in orange boys. Together they are a perfectly captivating duo!

Both siblings enjoy playing in water and will come running to drink fresh water from the faucet at the sink. Anyone taking a bath or shower will have two very interested spectators ready to inspect the tub afterward and lap up any leftover puddles. Both have excellent litter box habits and no special needs other than the high-quality diet we feed all our cats.

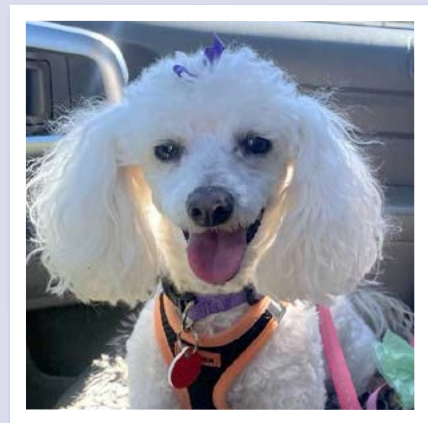
Finnegan & Fiona have been spayed/neutered, are up-to-date on vaccines, and tested negative for FeLV/FIV. The adoption fee is \$150 for the pair. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit pdx-petadoption.org.

Precious

If ever a name perfectly suited a pup, Precious is the one—this poodle girl simply could not be any sweeter. She came to My Way Home Dog Rescue when her person was no longer able to care for her. Precious had clearly been loved and she is happy and eager to please. She loves cuddling and occupying available laps and her little tail starts wagging at the sight of anyone who might give her attention.

Precious came to MWH with very good manners. She is quiet and calm and is looking for the same qualities in her forever family. Precious is house-trained and walks perfectly on leash. She's afraid of cats and bigger dogs, but she could live with another small dog. Being the only pampered princess would be fine with her as well.

Precious is four years old and weighs 12 pounds. She has been spayed, vaccinated, heartworm-tested, microchipped, dewormed, and is current on flea control. The adoption fee is \$400. If you are interested in knowing more about Precious, please visit mywayhomedogrescue.org and complete the adoption application online.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Friends, as we enjoy this warm and sunny not-quite-Spring day in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, we've already rescued our first cat family of the year. This sweet momma had multiple litters around her neighborhood, and although there was always food and some kind of shelter available, no one there had the resources to get her spayed and give her an indoor home. This time a kind human found the kittens and contacted us for help. Within hours our volunteer had picked up **Heloise** and her four newborns and they were safe in her foster home. They are healthy and strong, and will be available for adoption around mid-May.

Heloise and her kittens will be adopted as indoor-only pets, but there are many cats who don't trust humans enough to enjoy living indoors with us. They are "community cats"—offspring of pet cats allowed to roam and breed freely. **Mr. Meow** is one of those former pets who found his way to the doorstep of a very kind-hearted elderly lady who offered food and a spot on her porch out of the weather. She was worried about his eyes—they always looked weepy and painful, but she was only able to touch him occasionally and would never have been able to get him into a carrier for a trip to the vet.

We were able to capture Mr. Meow and take him to a spay/neuter clinic, where it was discovered he had already been neutered, but was suffering from entropion, a condition that causes the eyelashes to grow inward towards the eyeball. You can imagine how that hurts! We have recaptured Mr. Meow and we will help him get the surgery needed to correct that condition so he can go back to his lady and her cozy porch, and we'll make sure she always has enough good food for him.

Some sad news came our way a few weeks ago—we learned that one of our adopters had passed away unexpectedly. Because he lived alone, emergency responders delivered his two cats to our public shelter. (Read more about Peaches & Pancake on page 5.) This man was young and active and probably had no concerns about his cats being left behind.

The same week we received three calls from people who suddenly found themselves responsible for pets of loved

ones who had died or were incapable of caring for their own pets any longer. Each case is heartbreaking, even more so because rarely is anything known about the pets—age, personality, health status, and so many other details which are crucial to finding a suitable foster or permanent home for these suddenly homeless pets. So, in this issue we're sharing (again) our reminder about the importance of making plans for the future of your pets when you're not able to be there with them. We wouldn't keep reminding you if it weren't so important.

One of the lucky ones is our old friend **Denise**. She was adopted as a baby, and returned after eight years when allergies in the family became unmanageable. After a few months back in our care, she was adopted again by Sandra. They lived together happily for several years, until Sandra's health failed. Sandra's sister knew Denise well and was happy to add Denise to her own family. We hope this will be her forever home, but everyone in the family knows that Denise will always be welcome back to ARCF if she needs us.

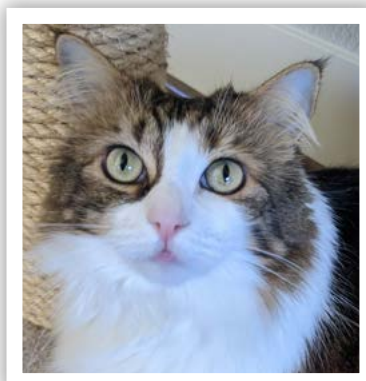
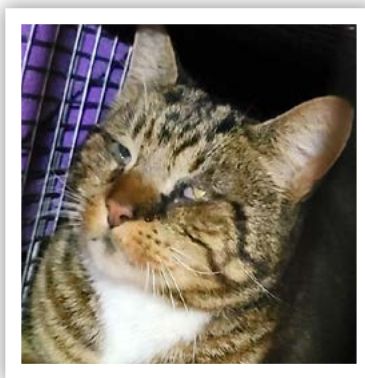
We've been doing our spring cleaning here at ARCF World HQ, and we could use your help. If you're receiving this quarterly newsletter in the mail, we hope you enjoy reading it, and perhaps even sharing your copy with friends and co-workers. But if you're trying to reduce paper clutter, we'd be glad to send it by email instead. Our permanent mailing list includes all our adopters, volunteers, and vets. Donors are also added to the list, but if we don't hear from you again in three years, we'll stop mailing. And, although we never sell or share our mailing list with anyone, we will remove you from our list completely at your request. Let us know at 503-402-8692 or arcf@pdx-petadoption.org.

As always, we are grateful for our dedicated supporters who make it possible for us to carry on our mission. On behalf of all our volunteers and all the rescued animals whose lives are saved, we thank you.

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

Happy Spring!

—Carma Crimins, President



FROM TOP: HELOISE AND FAMILY;
MR. MEOW; DENISE

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

Ollie

If you look up “lucky dog” in the dictionary, you might see a picture of Ollie (full name: Our Buddy Oliver) to illustrate the expression. He was first seen skittering along the sidewalks of a town where there are far too many unwanted animals, and public shelters have long since run out of space and suitable adopters.

Neighbors left out food, but Ollie was too quick and wary to let himself be caught. Eventually an experienced dog rescuer stepped in to safely capture Ollie and care for him until his trip to safety in Oregon with Cheryl at My Way Home Dog Rescue. He received much needed vet care, including the removal of eight very painful foxtails embedded deeply in his ears, which had been the source of chronic infection. His age was estimated at one to two years, and it appeared he had spent most, if not all of that time, as a stray.



BEFORE RESCUE

Ollie felt much better after receiving medical treatment, thorough grooming, and plenty of good food, but he was still anxious about the new people and places suddenly filling his life. My Way Home had the perfect foster home to help him adjust to so much change, including learning to live in a house.

Kezia was very patient and her three dogs were excellent role models for Ollie—he watched them happily interact with their humans and every day he got a little more comfortable with the role of family dog.



OLLIE'S NEW FAMILY

Hayley and Gene had lost their elderly dog in November of last year, and their remaining dog, a social butterfly Bully breed mix named Dilly, was bored and lonesome. An online search brought them to MWH and Ollie's adorable face convinced them to complete an application. MWH director Cheryl rated it 5 stars and a meeting was arranged. Ollie and Dilly hit it off immediately, and everyone went home together.

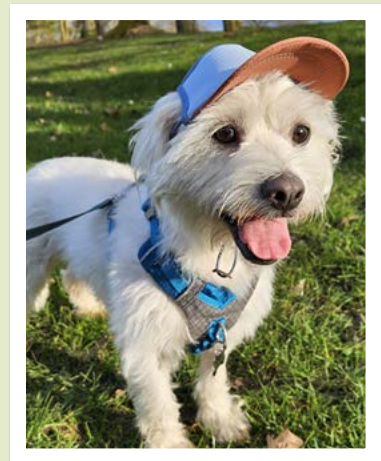
Ollie still had some adjustments to make (he'd never encountered stairs before), but he is very smart and with Dilly as “life coach,” he's quickly become a member of the family. “Ollie is just a delight,” says Hayley. “He is such a fast learner, we taught him six tricks in just a few days. He knows how to dance! Dilly loves him and they have so much fun playing together.”

Hayley and Gene wanted to know more about Ollie's genetics, so they submitted DNA for testing and got these results:

Poodle (28.2%), Supermutt (26.7%), Australian Cattle Dog (21.4%), Shih Tzu (17.8%), Pomeranian (5.9%)

The breed mix explains where Ollie got his combination of beauty and brains, but there was an even more interesting result: Ollie's DNA was a close match with another dog in the database. In fact, it was close enough to be a sibling. When she saw the photo of the other dog, Hayley knew right away they had found Ollie's sister—they look identical, right down to the adorable underbite. Ollie's sister is named Ellie, and although she lives in Reno now, she came from the same city as Ollie. Contact was made with Ellie's family and a reunion will take place later this year. In the meantime, Ollie is living his very best life and Dilly loves having a little brother.

“Ollie has the kind of home we dream about for all our rescued dogs,” says Cheryl. “Many dedicated people contributed to Ollie's rescue, and stories like this are what keep us going.”



OUTFIT OF THE DAY

IN MEMORIAM

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

December-January-February: We rescued and cared for 12 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 26 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$2339.08

Food/Supplies: \$4,274.44

Newsletter: \$4,025.19 (fall & winter)

Anne Fischer was the very best kind of cat lady and a true friend to animals everywhere. After retiring from a long career as an elementary school teacher, she volunteered for multiple cat rescue organizations. For many years, Anne was a member of a “cat posse” caring for a community cat colony living along the Willamette River in Portland, in addition to all the cats she fostered and adopted. She is missed by her many friends and family members, and her adored cats, Charlie and Tuck.



ANNE FISCHER

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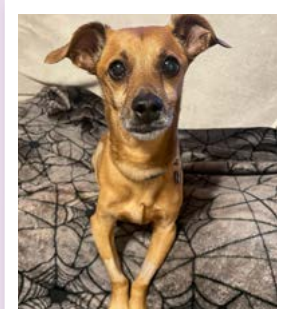
Animal Rescue & Care Fund is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 51-0137768. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used to support our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



IVAN

Lori and Paul Sharp recently lost their sweet, shy cat Ivan to kidney disease. He was rescued by Lori ten years ago along with many others in his family when the cats were suddenly evicted from the property on which they were born. Ivan bonded with Paul and Lori, but he never learned to trust strangers so he was rarely seen by anyone else. He loved to sit on their laps and “hold hands” while watching TV and his favorite daytime spot was a sunny perch in the catio. In addition to Paul and Lori, Ivan is missed by his sister, Izzy.

Tito came to Amanda Ferguson 11 years ago as dog #93 (of 149 total) rescued from a nightmarish hoarding situation. He needed a foster home where he could safely recover from his ordeal and wait for resolution of the criminal case. Amanda nursed him back to health and they spent the next 11 years sharing every kind of adventure, from daily walks in the park to road trips and mountain hikes. He helped Amanda foster many dogs, including Peaches, who became his adored sister and now misses him terribly. Tito is also survived by his feline siblings, Rob and Jolene.



TITO

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

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

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

Peaches & Pancake

Peaches and Pancake were adopted as kittens two years ago. They were happy and healthy with their new dad, and we considered the adoption successful. Recently we were contacted by our local public shelter about two cats taken there after the death of their owner. Because of their microchips, the shelter was able to determine the cats were adopted from ARCF. It was a shock to learn that this young man who adopted Peaches and Pancake had suddenly passed away, but of course we quickly retrieved the cats. We expected they would need some time to adjust, so we were happily surprised to see how quickly they settled in.



BABY PANCAKE (LEFT) & PEACHES

Aidan had contacted us looking for a pair of cats to adopt and we thought Peaches and Pancake might be a good fit for him. We didn't realize how important it was to make this match—they truly found each other at just the right time. Here is a recent update:

Peaches and Pancake are doing great! It took a couple days, but they already have favorite places they like to sit. They're phenomenal company and like to cuddle.

I'm a Marine with PTSD who just got back from four years stationed overseas. I've had a difficult time adjusting to my new living situation. I'm receiving treatment and support, but Peaches and Pancake represent a significant step for me. Also, it's been incredibly comforting just to have them around my home for companionship. I know they're not ESAs, but they really do help and mean a lot to me.

Thanks for helping me find them.

—Aidan Pollard



GROWN UP PANCAKE & PEACHES

Harvey

Those who have followed us for awhile will be familiar with Harvey's story. We rescued him in 2021 and he was soon adopted by Dave Mays. When Dave passed away in 2023, Harvey came back to his original ARCF foster home with John and Lauren. He was soon adopted by another family who found him irresistible but Harvey was rude to their timid older cat. After many months of trying to make it work, they sadly decided that Harvey was not a good match for their family, so back he came to John and Lauren. Everyone who met Harvey loved him, but he also started to pick on his foster roommate, another sweet female cat. So our plan was to find Harvey the perfect home where he could be the only cat. Turns out, John and Lauren realized that perfect home is theirs.

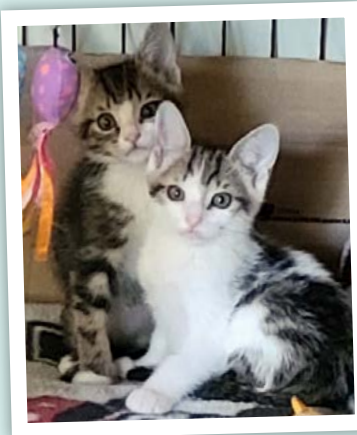


HARVEY

We've loved all 39 cats we've fostered for ARCF, but Harvey stands out in so many ways. We named him, took him to get neutered (after which he peed in the car, requiring the seats to be replaced), and fostered him three times, so it almost seemed like he belonged here. Each time he returned, we fell more in love with him. The way he crawls under the blanket on a cold day, or buries his face into the crook of our arms, makes him one of the most loveable cats in the world. Although we are disappointed that we can't foster anymore (because Harvey bullies other cats), we are so happy that we're able to give him a home with plenty of snuggles to last a lifetime. He is our (big) baby boy, and we love him so much.

—Lauren Magnee & John Miskey

SUCCESS STORIES



ARTHUR (LEFT) & AUDREY

Last fall, we received a call from a firefighter who found a box of kittens left on the doorstep of her fire station. There were two pairs, including Waffles and Daisy (formerly Zoraya and ZsaZsa), and a younger pair, Arthur and Audrey. All the kittens were healthy and clean and had clearly been loved, but fire stations are not equipped to shelter abandoned cats, so they came to ARCF.

We had recently rescued another litter, including Yolanda and Yanni, who bunked with the "A" kittens at their foster home. When it was time to look for their forever families, Yolanda was bonded with Audrey and Arthur and Yanni were best buddies, so they went out into the world in those formations.



YANNI (FRONT) & YOLANDA WITH MOMCAT

Audrey & Yolanda

Things are going very well. On the first day they were hiding a lot, but since then they have warmed up to their new home. They play lots with each other which makes me happy I got a pair. I remember reading about the toy "da bird," so I bought one and they go totally bonkers for it!

I'm slowly making cat things so they have their own furniture to climb on, but they will probably choose a cardboard box over everything else anyway.

—Thayne Greer



AUDREY (TOP) & YOLANDA

Arthur & Yanni

Yanni and Arthur are doing great! They're so sweet! Yanni has a morning routine of crawling under the blankets and snuggling up next to my son Juju, while Arthur runs circles around them, presumably telling them to get up and start the day. They spend a lot of time together looking out the windows, watching birds, or playing in one of the many cat hideouts we've collected. It's been extra exciting lately, since the flying insects are coming out! Arthur also likes to watch nature documentaries with us. Yanni would almost always rather flop down on our laps. And just today, we received our catio kits. They're still in boxes, but soon we'll have two catios to give them some outdoor time.

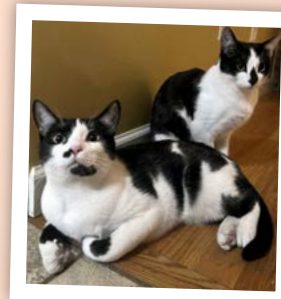


ARTHUR (LEFT) & YANNI

—Suzie Roane

Waffles & Daisy (formerly Zoraya & ZsaZsa)

ARCF made our new house a home with our sweet furry felines Waffles and Daisy. We were provided a welcome kit complete with food, litter, carriers, toys, and all kinds of supplies! The best part is having a resource to lean on, especially for new cat owners like us. We got prompt answers to our questions about how to make them feel comfortable, social, trim their nails, and anything else that arose. We are now all settled in and still send updates to their foster mom. They are very snuggly, curious, and demand our attention when they need more love. They especially like the cat pole we installed where they can show off their vertical leaps. We enjoy watching their deep love for one another. I have spread the word so more people can share the joy cats provide—they improve our mood just by being around.



DAISY (LEFT) & WAFFLES

—Amanda Brannin

Making Plans for your Pets After You're Gone

It's hard enough to face losing our pets during our lifetime, but at least we as humans understand the circle of life and the process of grief and recovery. Imagine your pet's confusion and anxiety if you were to disappear suddenly.

Even for young and healthy folks, there is no guarantee of tomorrow. Sadly, an estimated 500,000 pets are euthanized each year simply because their owners pass away or are otherwise incapable of caring for them and made no arrangements for their care.

While painful to think about, making time now to arrange for someone to care for your pets in case you can't is worth it. Here are steps you can take now to ensure your beloved family members will never be left to the mercy of someone who does not know and love them as you do. If you have a friend or loved one who might need help with this process, it would be a great kindness to offer support to someone who may not have access to this information.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE

If you don't identify a caregiver for pets who outlive you, a stranger may determine if and how your pets will continue to receive care.

If you adopted your pets from a shelter or rescue, don't assume that organization will automatically take them back—get that commitment in writing and make sure you clarify whether a donation is expected or required if your pet is returned. ARCF cats are always welcomed back if they need us, so keep your copy of our adoption agreement with other important papers. Let your friends and family members know you adopted from ARCF, and how to contact us if necessary.

Only a professional can trim my nails



If this option is not available, identify someone you know who is willing and able to care for your pets in the days, weeks, and months after an emergency, as well as those who would be willing to adopt your pets if long-term care is required. It's important to have someone who can step in immediately; though this person doesn't necessarily have to be the one to take permanent ownership of your pets, they should be able to step in immediately and make decisions for short-and long-term care.

Check with friends, relatives, and neighbors who could be potential caregivers. Local pet-sitters or members of animal rescue groups may also be able to help. Have a real discussion with your designated caregiver about what you hope for your pets' lives after you're gone. Pet care takes time, space, and money. Does your dog need a yard? Does your cat need a special diet? Is your bird likely to live for 50 more years? They are counting on you to make sure their needs will always be met.

My hooves and teeth need special care



Then go through the same process to find a second person to back up your designated representative. Yes, it's a lot of trouble, but you are the only one who can do this for your pets.

Do not assume that your friends or family will step in when the time comes! We have seen the sad results of this assumption far too many times and taken in hundreds of animals who were left in dire straits when their owners could no longer care for them.

I plan to live another 50 years



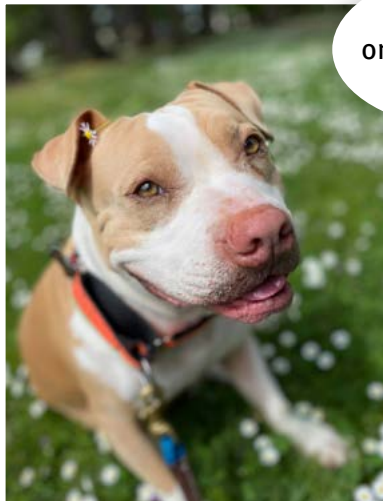
Continued on page 8

THINGS WE LIKE

PUT IT IN WRITING

If no one knows there's a plan in place, your pets may be relinquished to a shelter.

Once you have your backup caregivers, prepare written instructions outlining exactly what you expect. Include contact information for everyone. Make copies and give them to your immediate family members, close friends and neighbors, and your veterinarian.



I can only eat one kind of food & I hate vets

Document instructions for the care of your pets. What kind of special care do your pets require? Do you want your pets to stay together? To make sure your wishes

are followed, write everything down and let others know where the instructions are located.

If your pet is microchipped (which we highly recommend!), contact your chip company to confirm all contact information is updated and provide your backup person as an alternate contact with a *current phone number*. Shelter data shows that 60% of microchips are never registered to owners, or have outdated contact information. Don't let this be you! If your pets aren't microchipped yet, get that done immediately.

Take photos of your pets and write a bio for each one. Describe personality, habits, daily diet, medical conditions, bonds to other pets, and anything else a future caregiver should know. Include the name and location of your veterinarian. If you have a return agreement with the breeder or shelter where you adopted your pet, include that as well.

MAKE IT LEGAL AND LEAVE SOME MONEY

You pay for food, supplies, and medical care for your pets. Even if anything happens to you, these expenses will still need to be covered.

Take into consideration the amount you spend each year on your pets as well as their life expectancy. You may want to leave cash, life insurance, or other assets to provide funding for care. We recommend you ask an attorney or other qualified professional about the best way to ensure your pet's future, based on your personal circumstances and financial situation.

For more information and resources to help you plan for your pet's lifetime care, please contact 2nd Chance for Pets, an organization whose mission is to reduce the number of pets that are euthanized in the United States due to the death or incapacitation of their human companions. They have an online library of extremely helpful tools, documents, and general information. 2ndchance4pets.org, or email info@2ndchanceforpets.org.

I am allergic to almost everything



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 _____ .

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