



MEOW ~ CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

adoption is for life

MUSIC AND CATS THE RHYTHMS OF HISTORY REPEAT THEMSELVES

A sadly familiar story; a very pregnant mom cat found scavenging in the yard of an abandoned house. Rescued by MEOW, she safely delivered four kittens. Two of these babies, a white brother and sister named Frio and Stardust, have a unique story to tell.



Frio

When Frio was about three months old, we discovered that he was deaf. He was always with his littermates and apparently depended on their cues. Finally, his being such a heavy sleeper made sense. Sister Stardust

developed mismatched eyes, one blue and one green, a small gray patch on her forehead and normal hearing. It became evident that this pair wanted to stay together. A few people responded to their posting on Petfinder.com, but only one, Jill, wanted both of them, and followed through with an application. Only later did we learn that this adoption was absolutely meant to be. When Jill met them, it was love at first sight.

Coincidentally, Jill's boyfriend Alex had grown up with two white cats, one of them deaf. Even as young boys, Alex and his brother had noticed that their deaf cat apparently enjoyed the rhythms in music. Both musicians now, known as Aja West and Cheeba, they have written and released an album of instrumental jazz fusion entitled "Flash and Snowball" in tribute to their two former feline family members. On adoption day, Jill brought along copies of the CD to share with us at MEOW. We're enjoying the easy listening and we're pretty sure the cats at the shelter are too. To complete this happy ending, Frio and Stardust will soon be starring in a restaging of the childhood photo which graces the inside cover of the CD "Flash and Snowball" by Aja West and Cheeba.



Stardust

"There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats".

~ Albert Schweitzer

TREE OF LIFE ~ LEAVES OF LOVE NOW AND FOREVER

A TRIBUTE TO THE PETS IN OUR HOMES AND THE ONES IN OUR HEARTS

MEOW is thrilled to announce the addition of a lovely tree to our lobby. This is not just any tree, but a Tree of Life, and it's growing beautiful bronze Leaves of Love. This permanent mural will commemorate the special animals in our lives, past and present. With a minimum contribution of \$200, a bronze leaf, engraved with sentiments of your choosing, will be added to the tree. Your pet's name and a dedication will honor your relationship. The Leaves of Love on the Tree of Life will serve as a lasting tribute to your dear friend; the moments you've shared, silly times, sad times. As the Tree of Life grows its Leaves of Love, our Mercy Fund will grow from your donations. The Mercy Fund is designated for emergency veterinary care for injured, ill or abused animals. Thank you for honoring your animals in this way.

Each leaf can have up to four or as few as two lines; character spaces are limited to 18 per line.

Need some ideas? Here are a few examples:

- In memory of Shadow
- A tribute to Fluffy & Callie
- To honor All cats and dogs
- The best dog ever
- The Smith Family
- John & Mary

To create your leaf of love, fill out the form below and return it with your donation in the enclosed envelope. Or stop by the shelter to see the tree and fill out the form there.

Tree of Life ~ Leaves of Love

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Line 4 _____

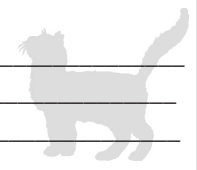
Please provide your name, address and phone number, so your tax deductible donation may be acknowledged.

Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____



FROM THE BOARD CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF RESCUE

On February 19, 2007 MEOW celebrated the tenth anniversary of our incorporation as a 501(c)3. Over the past ten years, we have passed so many milestones.

As one would expect, we have grown. What started out as a few dedicated volunteers, borrowing a very small space in the back of the Mercer Island Pet Grocery, working hard to find homes for 400 animals by word of mouth in the first year, is now a respected rescue organization, over 200 volunteers strong, supporting over 1500 rescues and adoptions annually from our 2000 square foot shelter in Kirkland.

We have also changed. Since 2004, thanks to partnerships with Feral Cat Spay Neuter Project and Spay is the Way, we now alter every cat and kitten before adoption. Beginning in 2006, thanks to a generous donation from Diana Pirzadeh and her family's foundation, we were able to begin microchipping without increasing our adoption fees. In 2006 we also received a grant from ASPCA/ Fresh Step Safe Steps Home, allowing us to purchase our very own cargo van. We no longer rent vehicles to transport animals to spay/neuter clinics and off-site events.

Throughout our history some things haven't changed. Thanks to our generous donors, our first priority has always been the needs of the animals that come into our care. We are fortunate to have established strong and supportive relationships with the many great rescue organizations in the Northwest, working together to end homelessness. We have always relied upon and greatly appreciated our wonderful veterinary partners, who allow us to hold on to hope for each life. And, finally we have always acknowledged the importance and blessing of having a magnificent community willing to adopt and provide forever homes for our precious animal friends.

The Board recently held our annual planning meeting where we discussed our commitments for MEOW's future. We will continue to focus on spay/neuter, adoption and education as we believe these are the cornerstones to ending animal overpopulation and homelessness. We will continue to operate in a way that maintains the reputation we have built over the years. We anticipate continuing to have a shelter space in the city and we look forward to financial growth, allowing for additional space to house other operations. We will continue to seek out and create partnerships with others in our rescue community to better serve the feral and hard to adopt cats. We will continue to position ourselves to help as needed in our community and to respond as those needs change. And finally, we'll continue to be an organization that attracts the best people, as people are our most important asset.

We thank all of you who have supported our efforts over the past ten years by adopting, volunteering, donating, and spreading the word about MEOW. We look back with pride and move forward with renewed commitment and optimism.

MEOW AUCTION – FINE WINES & FELINES TOO SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2007, 2 PM ~ 5:30 PM

Mark your calendars and save the date. Fine Wines & Felines was so successful and so much fun last year that we're doing it again. Plans are now underway to make this year's auction even bigger and better. There will be items in every price range and appealing to a wide range of interests. Once again it will be held at the Community Center at Mercer View, located at the north end of Mercer Island near Luther Burbank Park. Watch for more details on our website as the date approaches. If you'd like to donate an item or items for the auction, please send an email to jeaninek@myuw.net, or leave a message for Jeanine at the shelter (425-822-MEOW). Deadline for donations is April 18. The value of your donation is tax deductible.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR DUTIES CHANGE HANDS

Three years ago, we asked Kathy Posner to be our first Volunteer Coordinator. She agreed, despite not knowing what to expect. In those three years, Kathy was able to expand our volunteer base and create an organized process for interviewing, training and scheduling for new shelter volunteers. After building a very strong foundation, Kathy is now ready to pass the baton. Nydia White has assumed the role of Coordinator of our Adoption Counselors and afternoon Kennel Attendants. Kathy will continue as editor of the "Scratching Post", our e-newsletter for volunteers, and will remain an active and vital part of MEOW.

Many thanks, Kathy, for your past and continued commitment - and Nydia, for your willingness to take on this new responsibility.

PUSSYCAT PANTRY HELP STOCK THE SHELTER SHELVES

Gerber 2nd Baby Food – Chicken, Turkey
Royal Canin Babycat, Science Diet Kitten
Royal Canin Special 33, Science Diet,
Nutro, ProPlan brands dry foods
Canned kitten/cat foods
KMR (Kitten Milk Replacer)
Postage stamps
Drawstring Kitchen Bags
Paper towels, bleach
Hand sanitizer
Costco gift card
Pet Supply Store gift card



Is dinner ready?

MEOW would like to express gratitude to all those who have made donations of money and supplies. Without your support the work we do would not be possible.

MEET YOUR MATCH™ FELINE-ALITY

MEOW is thrilled to introduce Meet Your Match Feline-ality Adoption Program for adult cats. Thanks to this innovative new adoption program by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), adopters will be able to find cats that best match their personality and lifestyle. We anticipate this new program will help us ensure good matches up front and increase the likelihood of success of our adult cat adoptions.

Every cat has his or her own feline-ality, just as every person has his or her own personality. Meet Your Match aims to match you with the cat that's right for you and your lifestyle, helping create a lifelong bond that virtually nothing can break. The program identifies a cat's traits, or "Feline-ality", including playfulness, acceptance of handling, boldness, sociability and even talkativeness. By determining a cat's Feline-ality, we will be able to help adopters find the cat that best meets their expectations of cat ownership. Research shows that when this expectation is met, a strong human-animal bond is formed. By assessing how cats act in a shelter surrounding, we can better predict how they might act once they are in a home environment. As a result we will be able to give new adopters more information about what behaviors to expect from their new cat. For example, cats that are talkative in the shelter are likely to be chatterboxes in a home while cats that show an interest in toys are likely to be playful with their family. Nine "Feline-alities" make up the Meet Your Match matrix, categorized into a color-coded system of purple, orange and green to help adopters easily find their match. Are you searching for a companion to help with all your daily chores? An orange "Personal Assistant" might be what you're looking for. Or how about a green "Leader of the Band"? Regardless of your lifestyle, we have the cat for you! Visit MEOW and Meet Your Match today!



I'm a Sidekick

MEOW graciously acknowledges the continued support of Spay Is The Way, Inc. and Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project. Their partnership with MEOW allows us to further the mission of ending pet overpopulation and creating a "no-kill nation" by altering all MEOW cats and kittens prior to adoption.



FROM THE CANINE CORNER

We started 2006 by helping to relocate over 160 Chinese Shar Pei from a hoarder in Oregon. These poor dogs had no idea what it was like to live in "normal circumstances", had never walked on a leash, eaten from a bowl or felt human love. MEOW was able to take more than a dozen of these. We have been successful in rehabilitating and placing almost all of them into very understanding and loving permanent homes. We were also able to help Humane Society with several mix breed pups, one litter abandoned in a box on their door step and another litter from Yakima, whose mother was extremely emaciated. All pups did great with foster parents, Cee Cee McCray and Jim Keller, and all now have wonderful homes.

2006 brought us many sad contacts from those who had adopted from us years ago and recently had to say goodbye to their best friend. It was wonderful to hear from past adopters, to share the pain of their loss and then to introduce them to a new dog, eager to offer an open heart.

Our "Lil Joey Fund" was set up in 2006, named after a pathetic, emaciated little male Shar Pei from Idaho. Joey stole our hearts; a beautiful little guy with the spirit of an angel. As time passed we discovered Joey was very ill and needed extensive medical care. In the end, we lost our dear Lil Joey, but we hope to keep his fund growing to insure we can help others like him that come into our care. The link to the Lil Joey Fund can be found on our MEOW web site.

Thanks to all who donated and volunteered, our 2006 Canine Division Garage Sale raised more than \$5000. This year's Garage Sale will start Mothers' Day weekend. Call Kelly at 206-232-8735 for information.

MEOW Canine received awards for the most educational and best breed booth at the 2006 Seattle Dog Show, competing with more than 60 others. The show makes for a long weekend but we find many happy homes for our "kids" throughout the year as a result.

We placed 52 dogs in 2006 and we've kicked off 2007 in high gear. On January 2nd we received another emergency call from Humane Society. Two Great Danes had been abandoned in their parking lot. One, in critical condition, was a full grown male that weighed only 61 pounds. In spite of the veterinarians best efforts, an hour later he slipped away. The second adult male, just 87 pounds, was completely deaf and had a broken tail that had not been cared for. Jethro is doing wonderfully and gaining weight after being treated for whip worms. He is learning sign language so we can communicate with him. He has big beautiful blue eyes and a tender heart.

MEOW's Canine Division looks forward to another successful year and we wish you the same.

Kelly Starbuck, Leader of the Pack
"Adoption is for Life"

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

Thank you for giving me the light of my life, Isis.
Sarah Light

In memory of sweet Buddy. He was such a sweet and gentle kitty-bear and such a lover boy. He will be missed by all who loved him.
Valerie, City Kitty Cat-Sitting

To remember Molson, a great cat.
Helen & Wesley Phillips

To honor MEOW's Board of Directors: Joni, Bonne, Steve and Kelly. Their willingness to step up to the challenge of serving is a huge commitment.
Ruth

In loving memory of Vijay. We miss you so much.
Lisa and David

Hightops - you were so courageous and we miss you every day.
Jill Welsh

In honor of Ed and Noel Solomon and their beautiful kitty Nicol.
Bob & Peg Mariger

To wish a Happy New Year to Susan and Yoghi.
Patricia & Glenn Bice

In honor of Charlie Eichman, for his spirit and loving nature.
Carol Barringer

To honor Cinder, Bubu and Toto.
Jennifer and Tyler Running Deer

In loving memory of Golda Mewer and Graham Purr, sister & brother who blessed our lives for 15 years and in thanksgiving for Holly (formerly Anjou) and Sweet Lucy (formerly Jasmine) who have brought us new love with their affection and antics.
Dorothy Pierce

For all the kitty's we love.
Nancy Wilson

In memory of my sweet boy, Cheddar.
Kathy Myers

Jamaica H. Prowser - precious companion & guide; Sammo - a sweet and gentle friend.
Judith Sorensen

In honor of Hector (previously Arnie), who I adopted from MEOW at 8 weeks old - he's now my big (17 pound) beautiful Maine Coon cat.
Marjorie Severson

In memory of our cat, Shorty.
Hiroshi Myoraku

In remembrance of 'our girls', Bailey and Liata! We miss your kitty kisses and purrs. Eternal love, mom and dad.
Terri Jo & Ray Bala

For Princess Katy & Amber.
Claudia & Bill Strickland

To honor Madison, my sweet tuxedo kitty, who left me much too soon. I miss you.
Cathleen Powell

In memory of Kathy Brockman-Amlee.
Gayle Joinette

To honor Kathy and Denise, with whom I share laughter, tears, celebration, and mourning. The shelter wouldn't be the same without them!
Ruth

To honor and remember Butchie, Charlie & Angel.
Barbara Couch

To honor and remember Joshua and F'ght.
John & Jodi Coney

To honor Copperfield aka 'Mr. Man' and Puck both MEOW alumni
Dorothy Day

To honor Bonne, whose wings are hidden, but they MUST be there. How else could she accomplish so much? Without her, there could be no MEOW.
Ruth

In memory of Katie.
Nancy & David Lee

To honor Tao, Rajah, Cricket, Sandy and Blackjack, 40 years of cat joy and memories, with love.
Kristin & Ken Henry

In honor of Kala Zora.
Imalou Cates

To honor Sylvester aka 'Tuffy', 1998-2002, loved and sorely missed. Elijah Blue, 2002 to date--very affectionate pal.
June & William Becker

In loving memory of Anna
November 14, 2001 - July 18, 2005.
Kayoko Nordby

In memory of handsome Scooter. If love were wrapped in tabby fur that would be Scooter. He will be missed dearly!
Valerie, City Kitty Cat Sitting

To honor mom.
Anna Morris

In loving memory of Karen Girven's Bonnie. She was one of the first adoptions from MEOW.
Joseph & Mary Rose Smith

In memory of Grace. You were well loved.
Mary Wiegand

In honor of Leslee Picone and her cats.
Sheila Dietrich

To honor all of those who work behind the scenes: kennel attendants, cleaning crew, office volunteers, helpers at our spay/neuter days at FCSNP, those who spearhead fundraisers, seamstresses, etc.
Ruth

In loving memory of Cody Mauer, Alaskan Malamute and devoted companion of Ralph Fehlberg.
Laura Scott

In honor of Gretchen and Scott McLarky.
Gillian Doyle

In memory of Molly, my beautiful baby girl.
Susan Day

To remember our beloved Kit Carson. You are forever in our hearts.
Julie and Brooke

For Elsie the sweet cat and Trigger the trickster.
Daniel Carey

In loving memory of Mews, my rat face, crooked tail, dirty fang squawker.
Alisa Board

To honor Hobie Cat, a good friend and companion for 19 1/2 years.
Barbara DeCoster

In honor of our loving animal friend, Jill Albinger.
Yuri Albinger

In memory of Margaret.
Judy Anderson

In honor of Miss Kitty and Mr. Kat both are rescue cats that live with us now.
Jannet & Roger Block

In loving memory of Kathy Amlee. Babe, I miss you so much. I love you.
Tom Amlee

In honor of Noushki - our very own 'behavioral problem' who has deeply loved for 17 years.
Rosalind & Clayton Rich

To honor Jenny Herring.
Charles Herring

In remembrance of Capache, our dear furry friend and in honor of Lucy and Tajar, our feline friends from MEOW.
Jean & Ian Muir

In loving memory of Julia Olson.
Nancy Berger and Phillip Olson

To honor MEOW's foster homes whose love and attention to their kittens makes all the difference and saves hundreds of lives each year.
Ruth

In memory of Ching-a-ling & Minky-Pooh, who gave us so much love and unforgettable memories.
Nancy Mason

To Persephone - a quiet calico queen.
Cynthia & Michael Wilson

In memory of Django-sama. He brought so much joy and love into so many lives. We will all miss him very much.
Valerie, City Kitty Cat-Sitting

In honor of Dexter and Bella who we adopted as kittens two years ago and are now all grown up, fat and sassy.
Bob & Ruth Smiley

In loving memory of Molly.
Monique Cherier & Ken Garrison

In memory of Zelda, Charlotte, Muffin Man, Napoleon, Lynxie and Timberlake.
Whitney Mason

To remember Poco.
Eileen Anastasio

To honor MEOW's adoption counselors who do a very hard job with enthusiasm. The purrfect match is not always easy to find!
Ruth

In memory of 'Mad' Max Hewitt he had more than 9 lives!
Janis Lucke

In the name of Anastasia Elder.
Sharan Tisdell

In memory of Tiny, Lee Halligan's kitty for many years
Joseph & Mary Rose Smith

Happy Anniversary Heidi.
Royal & Kris Goldfarb

In loving memory of Floyd, who lived with Karren and John Hills in Bellevue, San Diego and Redmond.
Mary & Stanley Hills

In memory of Beth Schupe's dog, Scudder.
John Wallace

To honor Katrina (formerly known as Sandra Dee) who is such a bundle of energy, they named a hurricane after her!
Patt Ayers

In loving memory of my husband Mark. Dogs have masters - cats have staff.
Vicki Russell

In memory of Lady, a sweet little cat who is missed very much.
Helen Ullery

BORN TO BE WILD – OR NOT...

One of the greatest rewards of animal rescue is giving an animal a chance; a chance to live, a chance to trust, a chance to love and be loved.



Heidi

Meet Heidi. Several years ago, she was spotted living nestled in the woods behind a local grocery store with her kittens. When approached, Heidi was protective, aggressive and well - rather scary. We were able to rescue her kittens and ensure their lives as pampered house cats. Heidi unfortunately seemed too feral to be adopted. So she was trapped, spayed and returned to her 'home'. A warm, safe shelter and

feeding station were built for her and she was fed and cared for every day.

Even without her kittens to protect, Heidi continued to exhibit anti-social behavior and seemed unapproachable. But as time passed, her demeanor and attitude began to change. She began to wait for her caregivers' arrival. The first breakthrough occurred when we were able to very lightly touch her tail. This was very encouraging and we dared to hope that these changes would continue - and they did! Each day, we were filled with anticipation - and we think Heidi was too. Quite gradually, Heidi allowed us to touch her, then pet her, then scratch her. And now? Well, now she loves to be picked up, petted, kissed and she purrs and makes 'happy paws' all the while. She frequently rolls over and offers her tummy for scratching, chirping with happiness. The transformation has been so rewarding and a dream come true.

Heidi is soft, silky, and shiny and she sports a slightly tattered ear. She is full of life and so ready to be adopted into a safe and loving home where she can be allowed some time outdoors. She truly is ready to have a person to love. She promises to be a loyal and loving companion for some very lucky human. Heidi is available for adoption. Contact Marilyn at akh98011@aol.com to meet her.

Lesson learned:

Even the tamest cats can appear to be wild when threatened or unsure of a situation. Add kittens to the mix and maternal instincts kick into full gear. Free roaming or homeless cats must assume that every situation is potentially dangerous or life-threatening. For them, it is all about survival. It is almost impossible to accurately gauge whether a cat is feral or tame by its demeanor at first. Patience, safety and love can change the heart, even the heart of a forgotten and frightened cat.

FILIBUSTER & FILBERT, FUNNY & FINE

On a rainy Sunday, as the shelter was about to close, a frantic call came in. "Please help us. We've found a litter of baby kittens. They're not doing well."

A short time later the couple arrived with four kittens only about three weeks old. Until recently they had been seeing a feral cat near their barn. That day as the gentleman entered the barn, his heart sank when he found these babies. Mama cat had left a dead rodent nearby, intending to dine on it later, but something had happened. She had not returned. Now, safely at the shelter, the kittens needed fluids and formula immediately. Two were alert. The other two, a fluffy tabby and a Siamese mix, were emaciated, cold and weak, only about half the size of the others. As we attempted to revive them, it became evident that the two tiny boys were neurologically challenged by a disorder called Cerebellar Hypoplasia, which most likely made feeding difficult for them.

CH is often caused by exposure to a serious virus before birth. The virus interrupts the growth of the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls motor nerves. These kittens had the classic symptoms, head tremors, unusual jerky movements, inability to walk without falling down. Whether minor or extremely debilitating, the symptoms in CH cats do not get worse with age. As a CH kitten grows, it will learn to compensate for its condition. Almost all cats with congenital cerebellar hypoplasia can live happily as pets with a little special care to compensate for their disabilities.

In the following weeks, the two tiny kittens gave it their all. Our spirits soared each time their little bellies were full. We watched anxiously as they tried to use their shaky little legs. The tabby boy, Filbert, became active and inquisitive. He literally charged ahead, sometimes bonking into the furniture. His Siamese brother, however, had a significant problem. His left rear leg folded across and under his right. He could not support himself to walk. Unable to move like his siblings, he would vocalize loudly when he felt it was his turn at the bottle or when left alone while they played. He could hold a note SOOOOOO long! His name became Filibuster. He watched as the others moved about the room, playing with each other, with toys, climbing on their foster mom. She did physical therapy with him several times each day. With the support of a hand under his tummy, he was encouraged to use his front legs and to put his right rear leg down to bear weight. The left rear leg continued to fold under him. He really wanted to hold himself up, to follow, to play. As time passed the others were using the litter box. Filibuster would potty right next to it, unable to lift himself over the edge. The physical therapy continued. Then one day it happened! The cage door was opened and out ran Filibuster! Granted, he stumbled and tumbled every few steps, but he was up and running! He began using the litterbox without fail, and playing non-stop with Filbert.

Today, both boys have head tremors when concentrating. They walk with a purposeful marching motion. Filibuster's leg joints are loose and floppy. He falls over occasionally but his rear legs have grown straighter and stronger. He asks no special favors. This is the way we expect these kitties to be for their lifetimes. Filibuster and Filbert, unlikely survivors, are brave and proud and so happy to be alive.

CAT HAIKU, ANYONE?

Those of you who have been reading MEOW newsletters for the past few years will no doubt remember meeting Sophia and Bocelli, the cats from Italy. Bocelli lost his sight as a kitten living on the streets of Naples and has now had both eyes removed. Sophia is his "sister" and constant companion. They were adopted by John Bay, now a MEOW volunteer, in 2005.

Sophia, an extremely resourceful cat, has taught herself to use her dad's computer and writes the occasional email to MEOW. Bocelli often writes a postscript of his own. With English as their second language, their spelling is phonetic and, shall we say, creative. It seems the two of them have a new hobby – writing poems in the Japanese style of haiku. They'd like to share these with you and invite you to respond with a haiku of your own, written either by cats or about cats. Please submit yours to meownewsletter@comcast.net. We hope you'll enjoy these, written by the lovely and talented Sophia and Bocelli.

hi -

it is sophia. me and my bruthur bocelli hav rote sum hykoos. thats a kind of pome with five silibuls, then sevin, then five. mabe they wil be in the MEOW newsletur som-day.

thees are by me:

*top of the kat tree
wuts my bruthur doing there?
i thot he wus blind*

*thers a berd owtside
i want to eet him for lunch
luky for windows*

thees are by bocelli:

*mabe i am blind
but i kan heer evrything
wut wus that yuo sed?*

*klink klink klink klink klink
my bowl is ful of krunchies
thats whut that noise wus*

ciao ~sophia

4ofjf4jbochelybochelyigj gjgojgrm



Sophia & Bocelli



P.O. BOX 58
KIRKLAND, WA 98083-

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kirkland, WA
Permit No. 58