

Pet Tidings



Volume 2, Issue 4 Winter 2003

Topper's Terror

Wailing like a hungry and frightened baby, he cried his eyes out for three straight days and nights. Clinging to life from some thin upper branches at the 75 foot level of an 85 foot cedar tree, Topper pleaded mournfully every few seconds around the clock for someone—*anyone*—to rescue him from his predicament.

Seventy-two hours earlier, Topper had strayed into the "wrong" yard. Dogs, big dogs! Noisy dogs! Scary dogs! They probably just wanted to play, but how was Topper to know? He was just a tiny guy, not even four pounds. The dogs must have been over 100 pounds each!

He had to escape. But to where? These dogs were so big and fast! They'd be sure to catch him.

"The trees!," Topper thought. "Way up a tree, they'll never catch me there!"

So up Topper climbed, the dogs left barking below. "Gotta get away," he kept repeating to himself. So up he went, more effectively escaping the dogs in pursuit with each upward movement of his tiny body.

Higher and higher Topper climbed, feeling better about his escape with every move toward the top. Then suddenly Topper ran out of room to climb. The thin branches at the top were barely enough to hold his weight. Looking down from way up there, he could no longer see the dogs but could still hear their excited barking.

Now what was he to do? He couldn't go any higher—he was already near the top! He couldn't go back down, either. Those scary dogs were still down there. "Oh no," he thought. "Those dogs live in the



yard at the bottom of this tree. They'll *always* be there. Now what will become of me? Meooooooooow! Meooooooooooooow! Meooooooooooooow!"

Almost immediately, people in the neighborhood became aware of little Topper's plight. How could they not have known? The tormented cries from his lofty perch carried over the area as effectively as the screeching of the birds whose home he'd invaded. Every few seconds, an anguished "Yeooooooooooooow!" emitted from the top of the tree. It was clear to everyone that Topper was trapped and desperately needed help to get down.

One neighbor recalled having seen feline rescues by fire department ladder trucks. A win-win situation, she surmised, as it was a blessing for the rescued cats and excellent publicity for the firemen. So quickly she called, only to be told, "Fire departments only do those kinds of rescues in the movies. We wouldn't be interested in helping. Goodbye."

Continued Pg 11

Peninsula Friends of Animals is now and always has been an independent group that is not associated with any other group or shelter.

OUR MISSION

- To place as many homeless, neglected and/or abandoned pets as possible into good, safe, permanent homes; and to prevent the birth of unwanted pets through aggressive educational and spay/neuter programs.



UPDATE:
Find out how Sammy is doing!
(See story inside)

SAFE HAVEN BUILDING PERMIT GRANTED; SANCTUARY RENOVATION FINALLY UNDER WAY!

PFOA is thrilled to have received the building permit allowing renovation work to take place at its Safe Haven sanctuary site. Initial work will make possible the housing of up to 65 homeless felines in a matter of weeks—if money doesn't run out before the job is completed. Future plans at the site include a dog shelter, a "retirement" home for small pets whose humans have died and low cost spaying/neutering for low income pet owners.

The existence of Safe Haven represents a unique opportunity for community members to

be part of the solution in their own backyard. Volunteer manual laborers, especially skilled or semi-skilled, are currently in demand at the site. Tax deductible donations directed to "Building Fund" are urgently needed to assure that funds will be available to complete the job.

The more help that comes forward, the faster this area will be able to realize the dream of a sanctuary where healthy animals are never euthanized, but rather are adopted into good homes or allowed to live out their lives in safe, comfortable and loving surroundings.



Safe Haven; east side of the 5,000 square foot building

Peninsula Friends of Animals

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(360) 452-0414

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MEETING DATE CHANGE

PFOA's monthly meeting date has been changed beginning January, 2003. The meetings will now take place on the **FOURTH WEDNESDAY** of every month at 6:30pm. The location is the same: Lazy Acres Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 111 Dryke Road (near Olympic Lumber), Sequim.

Meetings are fun and usually last about an hour. Refreshments are available.

Everyone is invited to attend; you needn't be a member.

PAWS FOR A THOUGHT

We're an almost unbelievably diverse group of people: married, widowed and never married; city born and raised to country bumpkin; socially active and loners; Democrats, Republicans and none of the above; smokers and drinkers to non-smokers and teetotalers; employed, unemployed and retired; financially well off to poverty stricken; drivers and non-drivers; dog-oriented to cat-friendly; pro-life to pro-choice; born before World War I, born after the war in Vietnam.

Nothing in the world could have brought some of us together except for our common love of companion animals. Absolutely nothing.

Friendships have blossomed between rich and poor, old and young, ultra conservative and wild-eyed liberal, and staunchly religious to nearly atheistic individuals. Bonds have been created that will last a lifetime, all for the passion and cause we refer to as animal welfare.

If you're not already involved, there is no time like the present to step forward. Local animals and your community need your time, energy and financial donations to help put an end to the suffering. Individuals are needed to create and post adoption flyers, speakers and information table staffers are needed to educate the public, and foster homes are required to temporarily house animals for whom there is no room in shelters. Sponsors are needed for unadoptable animals in PFOA's care. People willing to do humane trapping of feral cats and to provide transportation for other animals are necessary parts of any no-kill organization. Office help is desperately needed, both from computer skilled and computer illiterate individuals. There is a continuing need for aggressive spaying and neutering, and PFOA is often asked by low income families for financial help with other veterinary care. Now that Safe Haven is being remodeled, there is a lingering need for volunteer manual labor.

There are countless ways to aid the animals in our midst. Nearly all of them result in connections with vibrant, interesting, diverse local people who share a common passion for helping otherwise helpless creatures.

It is truly amazing that a single issue is capable of bringing out such similar energy in people who otherwise seem to be so essentially different. Nothing but an intense love and appreciation for animals could have brought us together in this way.

—Editor

A CAT'S PRAYER

From www.sandtracker.tripod.com

I ask for the privilege of not being born...

not to be born until you can assure me of a home and a master to protect me, and the right to live as long as I am physically able to enjoy life...

not to be born until my body is precious and men have ceased to exploit it because it is cheap and plentiful

—Unknown



Lessons of Noah's Ark! Why It Took So Long To Begin Shelter Renovation

As you now know from the story on Page 1, renovation work has finally begun at the Safe Haven sanctuary site. Many people have been asking, "Why did it take so long to get started?" Perhaps that question can best be answered by sharing the following story submitted by Bryant Butterfield:

It was the year 2002 and Noah was living in the USA.

In a flash of lightning, God commanded Noah to build an Ark. "You must complete the Ark and bring everything aboard in one year before floods cover the earth," He said.

One year later, the big rains came and the Lord shouted, "Noah, where is the Ark?"

"Lord, please forgive me!," cried Noah. "I did my best, but there were big problems. First I had to get a permit for construction and your plans did not comply with codes. I had to hire an engineering firm and redraw the plans.

"Then I got into a fight with OSHA over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system and floatation devices.

"Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission.

"I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the Spotted Owl. I finally convinced the US Forest Service that I needed the wood to save the owls. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me catch any owls. So no owls.

"The carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Union. Now I have 16 carpenters on the Ark, but still no owls.

"When I started rounding up the other animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me only taking two of each kind aboard.

"Just when I got the suit dismissed, the EPA notified me that I could not complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take very kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the universe.

"Then the Army Corps of Engineers demanded a map of the proposed new flood plain. I sent them a globe.

"The IRS seized my assets, claiming that I'm building the Ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid paying taxes.

"I just got a notice from the state that I owe a user tax and failed to register the Ark as a recreational water craft.

"Finally, the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction against further construction of the Ark, saying that God's flooding of the earth is a religious event, therefore unconstitutional.

"I can't finish this Ark for 5 or 6 years!," Noah wailed.

The skies cleared, the sun shone and the seas grew calm.

"You mean you are not going to destroy the earth, Lord?,"

Noah asked hopefully.

"No," said the Lord sadly. "The government already has."

VET-SMARTZ

*By Dr. Virginia Johnson,
Diplomate, American Board of Veterinary
Practitioners*

Dear Dr. Johnson: I was wondering if you could please tell me how old a male cat has to be before we can neuter and de-claw him. We want to get it done ASAP. He is 3 months now; is the age 6 months? Thank you. Emily.

Dear Emily: There have been lots of studies in the last ten years that show it is okay to spay and neuter cats and dogs as young as three months of age. There are no negative effects from doing the surgery this young and the benefit is that these youngsters heal so quickly. They are already into the growth of tissue and this allows them to heal and get over the surgery quickly.

I don't think you need to run out and do these surgeries right away, but it does show that you can plan on having your cat neutered at your convenience anytime in the next three months.

As for declawing, that can be done at the same time as the neuter surgery and the kitten will also heal quickly from this. However, have you discussed alternatives with your veterinarian—such as Soft Paws, a nail covering that protects your furniture? Many cats can be trained not to scratch your furniture and to use a scratching post. Sometimes applying or putting catnip near the scratching post entices the cats to use the post. If you do elect to do the declaw surgery, your cat **MUST** be an indoor cat for the rest of his life. Declawed cats are at increased risk of injury if they go outdoors. They cannot climb trees well, so they are impaired in ability to get away if they are chased or cornered. Also, they have much less ability to fight back if a predator comes after them.

Think about it and see if an alternative would work for your cat. Good luck.

—Dr. Ginny Johnson

*"Until one has loved an animal, a part of
one's soul remains unawakened."*

—Anatole France

MAJOR LOCAL PUSH FOR SPAY/NEUTER IN 2003

Spay/neuter efforts were, at one time, the primary work of the group that eventually became PFOA. And while it has remained one of our two major goals, it has taken second place the past year or so as we struggled to acquire and remodel our shelter to help us find good, permanent, safe and loving homes for dispossessed animals.

That will change in 2003. With the end of remodeling in sight and our move into the shelter imminent, we plan a major emphasis on spay/neuter this year.

A county-wide crisis in reduced public funding for animal control has made increased rates of spaying and neutering absolutely essential if we are to avert a truly horrendous situation in the next few years.

PFOA's Board of Directors voted in November to allocate, and then try to raise, \$20,000 for a focused program in 2003. Board members pledged \$6,500 and we sought and received a grant of \$2,500 from the Community Foundation of the Sequim-Dungeness Valley for the program. We also have a grant application for \$10,000 submitted to the PETSMART Foundation for it.

The program will continue to include spaying and neutering the animals we offer for adoption, those who are accepted in our Trap/Spay-Neuter/Return Program, and those done for low income owners. What is new is that we plan to hold low cost spay/neuter clinics in February and October in which we subsidize each animal neutered for anyone in the community who wants to participate. Low income

people will be targeted, but no one will be turned away.

We are hoping to cooperate with other companion animal rescue groups in Clallam County (such as Friends of Forks Animals, etc.) to provide advertising and publicity and perhaps coordinated scheduling of clinics.

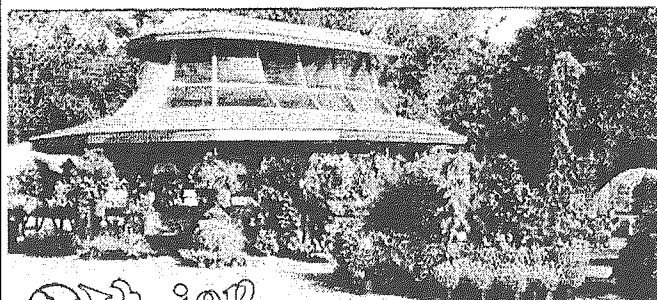
We'll need lots of volunteers to make the program a success. Those who want to get started now can call PFOA's Message Center at (360) 452-0414 to volunteer their time. And, of course, funds are needed, and the coupon on the back page of this newsletter allows you to make your donation wishes known.

PFOA's efforts will be in balance at last as we work at PREVENTION (spay/neuter) and CURE (finding good homes for existing animals) equally. —AG

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PFOA KICKS OFF SPAY/NEUTER STAMPS DEBUT

PFOA members were first in line at the Sequim post office on Sept. 20 to purchase the United States Post Office's long awaited Spay/Neuter stamps on the first day of issue.

The stamps, 200 million of which are being issued, feature the faces of a kitten and of a puppy, and the words, "Spay/Neuter." They are available at post offices nationwide, or by calling 800-STAMP-24. Internet purchases can be made at www.stampsonline.com.

The stamps will be available through this coming summer, or while supplies last. There is the possibility that the USPS will print more of these if there is enough demand, which is expected to be high. Let's not disappoint them!

The Spay/Neuter stamps offer a unique and unprecedented opportunity to spread the message. Let's see if we can make the most of it!



USPS' Spay/Neuter Stamps

"They cannot speak. We can. Those who are articulate must be the voices of those who are voiceless."

—Richard Morgan

ANGUISHED PERSONAL

By permission of Nebraska State Senator Ernie Chambers

Editors note: Senator Chambers' touching elegy for Mollie was found on an Internet web site and submitted by Pam and Paul La Londe.

Alas!

She is dead. I buried her: Mollie Rae, a tiny Miniature Poodle—the best and truest friend I ever had. I do not say “best and truest friend” to slight my human friends but only to convey an inkling of my attachment and affection. The bond between us bordered on mystical. When she came to me, it marked a turning point in my life. Will her departure do the same? She is irreplaceable.

Tragedy Surprised Her. Had Mollie been ill, diseased or suffering the pains and infirmities of age, a fatalistic inevitability would have prevailed. Death, although regretted, could have been prepared for and accepted. Because she was healthy, vibrant, lively, energetic, playful and frisky, she should not have died when she did, not in the lightning-stroke manner that she did. Four days after a supposedly routine, non-threatening surgery to remove a fatty lump from her left side behind her armpit, Mollie was dead. I was devastated. Anguish devours me. I am being eaten alive daily. Sleep is broken; my appetite has fled.

The fact and finality of my little friend's death has been hard for me to accept—me, a realist, a practical politician and no sentimentalist. I am a “public man”—a State Senator—not given to displays of emotion. My near existence is fraught with controversy, treachery and other unwholesome influences that can sour a person and turn the heart flinty. A hard game makes a hard man. I was rescued from being consumed by bitterness and vengefulness by the purity and goodness of my little friend.

I am writing to let people know that Mollie lived, that she mattered greatly, that I miss her beyond words — almost beyond endurance. Without exaggeration, she had become my life. This writing manifests the hold she still has on me, for no one but she could bring me to the point of revealing my feelings in this manner. Practically everything now reminds me of Mollie, painfully so, because she was part of practically everything that I did and thought.

Whimsically Missing Mollie. My home is a bleak, dreary, desolate, lonely place. The staring windows weep

in despair. The walls hold their breath, listening for sounds of her and wondering why there is only silence. The floors wistfully yearn to hear again the slight, familiar weight of her gentle foot-falls. The large pillow that was her bed retains the impression where she lay and mourns. Her absence makes my abode empty; it has lost its soul.



TO MOLLIE RAE

YOU MADE ME SO VERY HAPPY;
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME INTO MY LIFE
(Died, Served & Tamed)

Rough time. A devoted, loyal, constant, affectionate, responsive, living being cannot be snatched abruptly from one's daily life without leaving a hole. Mollie's sudden, totally unexpected death has brought me up short. It stopped me in my tracks. I had no idea anything could open flood gates of emotion and leave me utterly helpless and grief stricken. I certainly never anticipated being brought to my knees by the death of a little poodle. My misery desires no company, only solitude—for remembering, reflecting, grieving in my own way.

Just a Dog. I am fully aware that those who never had experienced such pure, guileless, unconditional companionship may scoff: “But she is just a dog!” Those cruel words are nearly as wounding as Mollie's death itself.

At home. Some people thought I “spoiled” her. So what if I did? My life was mine to live as I pleased; she was a huge part of it and held a special place untouched by any other. What some call “spoiling,” I call appropriate care and consideration for one who deserved it.

End of the Affair. Now, Mollie is gone, forever—buried—and so is a part of me. I shall never see her again. A gaping hole is in my life, a surprising amount of which was organized around her and her “ways.”

If asked to declare the most important thing Mollie did for me, this hard man would not hesitate an instant because the answer wells up from deep within where reside those “groans that cannot be uttered.” The most important thing Mollie did for me flowed from the little one's death. In her final hour, she showed me that I do, indeed, have a heart—because it is broken.

What is the source and explanation of this deep attachment? Perhaps it grew out of my personal responsibility for her safety, welfare and happiness; or the fact that she was the only being whose life was absolutely in my hands. It may even be that her diminutive size has a bearing. Undoubtedly, her intelligence, character, disposition, devotion, unconditional loyalty, sassiness and playfulness contributed mightily.

Whatever the source or explanation, the attachment is real and has survived beyond death: beyond the grave.

Paradoxically, it is impossible for me to say enough about Mollie, but it is possible to say too much. So, I end this.

Farewell, my beloved friend, farewell!

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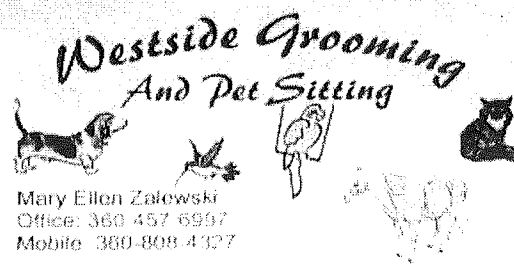
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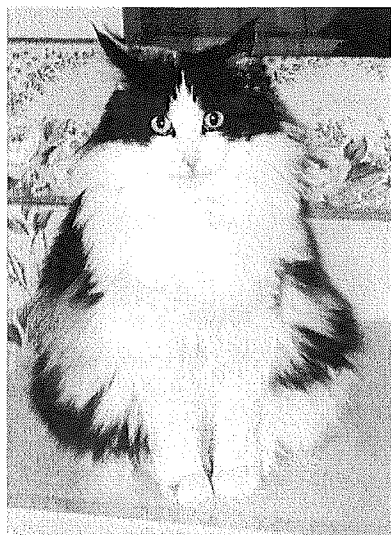
Lori will donate \$100 to PFOA for each closed transaction referred by PFOA members who have seen this ad! Call Lori today! **360-461-1928**

Please support these businesses that support Peninsula Friends of Animals!

ADOPTABLES!

All PFOA adoptables have been health checked and treated, vaccinated and spayed or neutered. Please call our Message Center at (360) 452-0414 if you can provide a safe, loving, comfortable home for one or more of these pets.

Gerry and Marci are seven-month old siblings who are just cute as they can be! Gerry, the Tuxedo black and white male, is outgoing, curious, very playful and follows his person around like a shadow! Marci, the all black female, is a petite and very affectionate little girl who has become a professional lap warmer in her foster home. Both Gerry and Marci have had their spaying/neutering operations done, and have had their kitten vaccinations as well. Won't you consider giving one or both of these wonderful, sweet young felines a place in your home and in your heart?



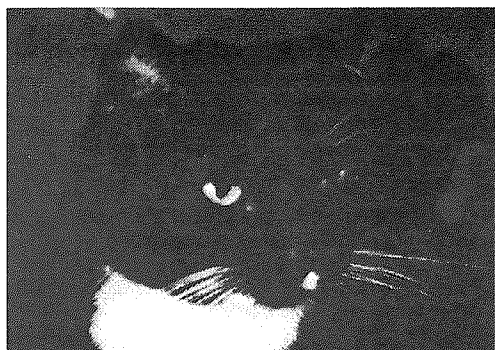
Lacey is a gorgeous long-haired spayed female with striking calico markings. She is a quiet girl, about 2-3 years old, who would prefer to be the queen of her very own house rather than to have to share with an abundance of other pets. If you can give Lacey a throne of her very own, please call our Message Center as soon as possible. Someone will get right back to you.

Yes, **Jack** is still with us! He's a bundle of energy, trying to live out (at the age of two) the puppyhood he was denied earlier. With patient understanding along with some firm and loving obedience training, Jack will make a great pet in a single pet household. Won't you give Jack a chance?

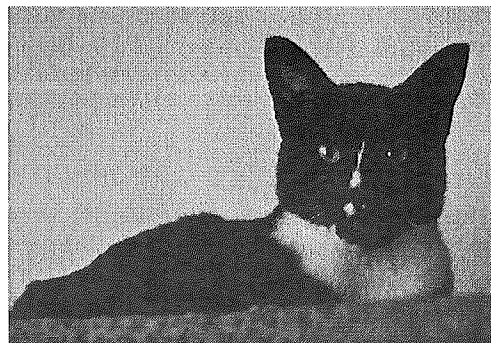


"Adoption-Challenged" BUT LOVABLE, ADOPTABLE Pets Looking for Truly Special Homes

Are you the special person who can help one of these "adoption-challenged" kitties to have a home of his very own? **Oreo**, on the left, is a friendly, lovable, declawed, elderly gentleman, 14 years old, who desperately misses his former caregiver who is terminally ill in the hospital. **Thomas**, on the right, is the seven month old brother of Gerry and Marci, above, who has impaired vision that is correctable without surgery. Thomas' human will simply need to be vigilant with putting drops into his eyes on a regular basis. Also, Thomas needs to be adopted along with any one of his siblings, on whom he is very dependent to help him see.



OREO AND THOMAS ARE "SPECIAL NEEDS" PETS WHO ARE JUST PLAIN SPECIAL! NEITHER ONE OF THEM ASKED FOR OR DESERVES HIS UNIQUE PREDICAMENT — SITUATIONS THAT CAN BE OVERCOME WITH SAFE, LOVING, HOMES. WON'T YOU CONSIDER COMING TO THEIR RESCUE?



EARL GILSON—VOLUNTEER

A rabbit named Busticated (one ear fell sideways) and a Boston Bull Terrier named Peggy, who loved dill pickles, were the first boyhood pets of Peninsula Friends of Animals volunteer Earl Gilson.

More than 70 years later, Earl is still befriending animals—pet, stray and wild. Through years spent as a career serviceman, a university professor, a Wisconsin state representative, a builder and a full time volunteer for many causes, animals have always been a top priority for Earl and his wife, Ann.

All Earl's skills have been called into play during the past year as he took major responsibility for the remodeling of Safe Haven, our new shelter between Port Angeles and Sequim. He has dealt with a labyrinth of regulations and

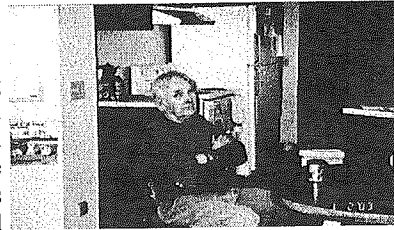
reams of paperwork in getting our conditional use permit and our building permit (now *there* was a challenge!) with, mostly, good humor.

He has worked with the PFOA Board, the architect, and with various building suppliers, workmen, and officials. He has scrounged materials and assistance. He has planted and watered trees required by our conditional use permit. And most of all, he's sawed, hammered and nailed, his favorite thing to do ever since those long ago boyhood days in Wisconsin.

Earl is quick to deprecate his own contributions, and gives full credit to the many other volunteers who've

worked with him in all his efforts. "We have some really great folks working here," he says. "What I've done is nothing special."

Well, we certainly agree with the first statement, but we do think Earl and what he's done is special. So will the many animals to be housed at Safe Haven, temporarily or permanently, in the years to come. —AG



Earl in a highly unusual mode—taking a break in the Safe Haven kitchen

Memorials and Gratitudes

In Memory of Special People

In memory of Nancy Still, from Jeff Carpenter and Sue Burns

In memory of Alice McCarley, from Ann Gilson

Remembering my friend, Nancy Still, whose love for animals remains an inspiration, from Ann Gilson

In memory of Mario Bruska, from Valerie Holland

In memory of Dr. Linda Allen's mother, Alice McCarley, from Camille R. Lewis

In memory of Beryl Yaklich, from Melba M. Morrow

In memory of Nancy Still, from Karen L. Still

In memory of Nancy Still, from Wade D. & Coral Still-Glosser

In Honor of Special Friends

In honor of Odette Ballard, a true friend of animals who has helped in many ways with my constant companion, Lola, from Virginia Green

In honor of Natalie Spiegel for pet sitting, from Peter & Barbara West

In Memory of Beloved Companion Animals

In memory of Bryant Butterfield's beloved Pinkie, his devoted little kitty companion of twenty years, from Nancy & Dallas Campbell

In loving memory of my dear friend Ann Gilson's treasured cats, Grizelda and Christian, from Nancy & Dallas Campbell

In loving memory of our special Alpaca Lips, Emmie, from Nancy & Dallas Campbell

In memory of Mollie Rae, from Ernie Chambers

In memory of Theora and Moe, much loved cats of Bill & Lori Crow

In memory of the beloved dog of Rolland & Diane Kenitzer, from Nancy & Sandy Goldstien

In memory of their beloved Emmie, the last California cat of Nancy & Dallas Campbell, from Ann Gilson

In memory of Peter Grassi & Shirley McFadden's beloved cat Roscoe, our little mountain lion

In loving memory of Bryant Butterfield's Pinkie, from Janet Harker

In memory of Ann Gilson's beloved Grizelda, from Janet Harker

In memory of Ann Gilson's Christian, from Janet Harker

In loving memory of Sammi, special kitty friend of Theresa Killgore

In memory of Tim & Tina Johnson's beloved horse, Chism, from Carol Kittrick

In memory of Scrap, who was sweet, brave, tough and smart—and missed!—from Susan Kreml

In memory of Jean & Frank Greenwell's beloved 18-year old acrobat cat, Kiko, from Donald & Nolia Krueger

In memory of Chu Chu, our beloved baby, from Julia Murphy

In memory of Dublin, who gave calmness and affection to all she met. Pat & Jeanine will miss her. From Olympic Acupuncture & Natural Wellness Clinic

In memory of BC, from Pacific Northwest Veterinary Hospital

In memory of Fitzi, a little male dog who really tried hard to be good and was a friend and companion to Bettie Miller, from Nancy Taylor

In memory of Phil Robert's companion, Rupert, a wonderful black Lab who left Phil's life after many years, many adventures and much trust, and who will be missed by all his friends, from Nancy Taylor

In memory of Squeaky, a little white male cat who lived with Gene & Esther Fiddler for 15 years, and who will be missed, from Nancy Taylor

In memory of Dublin, who gave calmness and affection to all she met, and who will be missed by Pat & Jeanine, from Nancy Taylor

In memory of our long time friend, Isabel, who greeted us daily, for 17 years, with a happy purring meow, from Tony & Kris Wright

THE SAGA OF SAMMY, CONTINUED

Just over a year ago, the "Saga of Sammy" ended with Sammy, a little old abandoned dog who couldn't see or hear very well, finding a new home of his very own with Tom and Barb Pelett.

Many of you have asked how Sammy and Tom and Barb are doing these days. "Very well, thank you," according to Barb.

She reports that Sammy is now a seasoned traveler, making frequent trips to Victoria with them, where he is a welcome guest in the finest hotels. He also enjoys longer trips, particularly to Oregon, as riding in a car is close to the top of his list of fun things to do.

Sammy always travels in style, and needs more luggage than Tom and Barb do. This is because his bed must accompany him, plus all his

neckerchiefs and his towels and toys and food and other accoutrements.

Since Sammy has only one tooth and no lower jaw bone, eating takes a long time, and his neckerchief, towels and bed are all called into play as he wrestles his food into submission.

First he scoots it across the floor on towels, corrals it against the side of his bed, spears it with his tooth, flips it up and then gulps it down. This is repeated until his food is gone. Satisfying, but somewhat messy.

Eating vanilla ice cream is Sammy's very most favorite thing to do, and the oftener the better. He is a good communicator, quite vocal about frequent servings of this treat, and has grown pleasingly plump as a consequence. He is also very partial to

McDonald's cuisine, particularly Chicken McNuggets.

Sammy goes to the groomer every Friday morning, and on the way home combines several of his favorite treats. He always rides home with his head out



Sammy enjoying his favorite treat

the car window, ears flying in the wind, the heater on full blast. A stop at McDonald's for a little something to sustain him, and then home for a short walk if he's in the mood. Last, he finishes up with a lovely snooze in his bed under Barb's printer table in the office.

Life doesn't get any better than this. —AG

TIDINGS Q & A

Q: Is it cruel to keep a cat indoors?

A: No. Kept indoors, a cat can get plenty of exercise—and it will be safe from cars, stray dogs and predators, bad weather and many other dangers. Also, indoor cats can't harm wildlife or bother their neighbors.

Q: Do spayed/neutered pets live longer, healthier lives?

A: Yes. Spaying and neutering prevent any number of health problems, some as serious as certain kinds of cancer.

Q: Is it okay to give chocolate to cats or dogs?

A: No! Chocolate can make pets sick, or even kill them.

Q: How many kittens can one pair of cats produce?

A: One pair and their offspring, in 7 years: 420,000!!

Q: How much does it cost per year to keep a pet?

A: Food and vet care alone add up. Then there are leashes, dishes, kitty litter. Some pets need grooming and sometimes boarding. Better figure several hundred dollars per year.

Q: Is it okay to give kittens away at shopping malls?

A: No! People may later abandon them when they find out how much work and expense they are.

BUILDING FUND DONORS

PFOA sincerely thanks the following people and companies for their recent contributions to our Building Fund: Teri & William Adair, Gary & Lynn Anderson, Nancy & Bill Anderson, Peggy M. Anderson, Iva M. Augustine, Elizabeth Babcock, Col. Madelaine A. Bader, Lynda Lee Bailey, Odette Ballard, William Bartlett Jr, Rex & Reva Bates, Dori Beachler, Dr. Cleaves Bennett, Frances S. Blake, Patricia A. Braley, Nancy J. Brooks, Margaret A. Brown, Jeff Carpenter & Sue Burns, Ruth Cotter, Michael & Kathy Danley, Richard Dillon, Harry B. & Ayako N. Donaldson, Florence Dunn, Betty M. Ederer, Jean & Daniel Edmondson, Marguerite & Louis Evart, Inga-Lisa & William Evers, Della Floyd, Edith Frustere, Ronald E. Fye, Darlene Garner, Eleanor & Robert Garthwaite, June A. & Peter A. Gibbon, Terry K. & Debra L. Goldman, Nancy & Sandy Goldstien, Rebekah & William Grant, Virginia H. Green, Marie Greubel, R. L. Hurt Haggerty, Patricia & Thomas Hart, Clara M. & Donald D. Hatler, Rita Heywood, Tamara & Rich Hillyer, Valerie Holland, Arlene Honnold, Florence A. Humpal, Sebert D. & Janice F. Jenkins, Richard L. Jepson, Floyd M. Jordan, Normandy Krey, Susan A. Kreml, Bette Lackman, Robert, Linda & Ashleigh Lamb, Joanne Larson, Margaret Lawrence, John A. Layden, Austin G. Lee, Dorothy N. Lewis, Harry H. & Ruth E. Lindley, Mayree D. Lowman, Dorothy June & Reuben J. Malott, Elvira & James K. Mann, Jeri & Robert Maringer, Leland Maynard, L. M. McCarter, Marie L. McCooey, Carol McDonald, Joanne M. Meloni, Sylvia M. Meyer, Trella R. & Frank M. Monninger, Melba M. Morrow, Carolyn Murphy, Pat Perry Nix, Doris M. Nolan, Sharon Painter, Frank & Sharon Palmer, Sally A. & Leonard D. Palmer, Jr., Shirley Palmer, Bob Pasco, Donald G. Paton, Pat's Hair Salon, Milt & Ellen Petrie, Mary Pfaff-Pierce, Nicholas C. Phillips, Sharon Pickett, Gwen Pierce, David G. Pond, Harold J. & June E. Randolph, Red Lion Hotel, Melvin Rice, Andul & Ross Robinson, Marlene Robinson, Rose M. Rose, Sally G. & Richard E. Ruud, Dona W. Scarcia, Marilyn Schiefelbein, Kandace E. Schmidt, Corine & Harold Schultz, Lew Sciortino, Marilyn F. Scott, Gloria J. Shepard, Sirius Woodworks, Lois & Donald Sorg, Natalie Spiegel, Sportsmen Motel, Alta Stark, Nancy & Jack Stevens, Marta Strassler, Nancy J. Taylor, Earle & Dorothy Thompson, Harold F. Turner, Doris C. & Robert V. Walker, Dolores Wilder, Jean M. & Abel Wilensky, Sallie & Ruth Williams, Mary E. Zalewski, Carol Zellmer, Howard & Faye Zuckerman, Judith A. & Dr. Harold H. Zwick.

INFLUX OF NEW MEMBERS TO START NEW YEAR

A recent surge in new memberships makes evident the fact that people on the Peninsula are getting the word! The word is out that PFOA is this area's only pet organization dedicated to an aggressive spay/neuter and no-kill approach to solving animal overpopulation.

We desperately need your help, new members! Even if you have indicated volunteer tasks you are willing to do and have not yet been called upon to do them, *please call the message center at 452-0414 and offer again to help.* We're all

volunteers here, and those of us who are the most active often get caught up in the demands of the day. We can't always find the time to pursue the very people who might help ease our burden, so please call and offer to help now!!

PFOA gratefully acknowledges the following new members: Barbara Lynn Amsler, Mary Bedinger, Linda L. Benson, Sarah Blake, Phyllis Darling, Lauren Davenport, Bridget Edgington, Rod & Linda Grubb, John & Alicia Hinman, Allyn Holton, Diane M. Lopez, Maj. Robert C. McCormack,

Jan Meyers, Julie Murray, Brenda K. Newman, Virginia Norheim, Carolyn St. James, Suzi Schmidt, Susan Skaggs, Madeleine Stahl, Judy Stewart, Merala Heins-Tobias, Jan Valerio, Eugene J. Voight, Chrilo von Gontard, Geraldine Whitters, Kim Weimer, and Wilma R. Williams.

Membership renewals now due: If you joined PFOA prior to September of 2002 (or if you last renewed at this time last year), it is time to renew your membership for 2003. Dues can be brought to the next meeting or mailed to PO Box 404, Sequim, WA 98382. Memberships are still \$20 per person.

PET SPONSORSHIPS KEY TO QUALITY CARE

Sponsorship of one or more of PFOA's "adoption challenged" pets is one of the best ways to assure that each one of them receives the high quality food, medicine, and veterinary care that each deserves.

Monthly payments of just \$10 per sponsored pet also helps provide special toys, treats and furnishings that these cats and dogs might otherwise not have.

PFOA is incredibly grateful to the following people who are current sponsors of pets in our care: Teri Adair, Odette Ballard, Claire Bernards, Kathy

Danley, Marguerite & Louis Evart, Claudia Fureby, Virginia Green, Rod & Linda Grubb, Linda Harer, Florence Humpal, Sharon Jordan, Lael & John Lewis, Lisa Ljunghammar, Polly Loggy, Maizie Maloney, Helen Miller, Janet Peacock, Carolyn St. James, Corine & Howard Schultz, Marilyn Scott, Nellie Stokely, Dennis & Marian Wajckus, and Sallie Williams.

Lucky pets being sponsored are Andy, Annabelle, Booky, Buddy Boy, Dinah, Dundee, Gypsy, Jackson, Jemima, Inky, Laddie Boy, Little Joey,

Murphy, Oreo, Peggy Sue, Princess, Rutabaga, Shields and Sumari.

Many of PFOA's difficult-to-place pets have special problems that will keep them with us for their entire lives. Some have suffered severe trauma, others have illness and still others are just too old for most potential adopters.

The coupon on the back offers the option of sponsoring by the month, by the year, or for the lifetime of the pet. If sponsorship is the way you'd like to help PFOA do its work, please fill out the form and send it back right away.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In November of 1999 when I joined the founding group, we were just a handful of volunteers, working ad hoc, and paying expenses out of pocket. The volunteers and I would sometimes fantasize of a day when we might actually start a modest shelter.

In December of 2001, our dream became reality and our long journey began.

Sometimes it is hard to realize just how far PFOA has come in three short years. As this year fades into history, it is time to look back and count our

blessings, and give credit where credit is due. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many hard working and dedicated volunteers who are doing double duty, and without whose help none of this could have happened. I would also like to thank the many members of this community who have supported us with donations of money, pet food and supplies, as well as furniture, appliances and office equipment.

But most of all we thank the good people of the Peninsula for the faith and

trust they have placed in us, for this is our most treasured blessing. The confidence you have placed in us inspires us, it lifts our spirits when we are down, gives us strength when we are exhausted and with your continued support, we will make this a better world for the animals.

This is our promise to you: "We will do a good job, and we will not let you down."

On behalf of the animals, the volunteers and myself, I wish you a very Happy New Year. —Janet

Topper.....from Terror to Trust

Continued from Pg 1

Meanwhile, Topper was well into the second day of his desperate and terrifying ordeal. It had rained hard for awhile the first night. He was wet and cold, and so hungry and thirsty. And even though he had never stopped crying loudly, no had come to help him. "Yeoooooooooww!"

Several houses away lives PFOA member Suzi Schmidt. Suzi had been listening to Topper's lament, too, and had been sleepless with worry over how she might be able to help. Two things came to mind. One, a logger friend, someone who might be willing to attempt a rescue. Two, PFOA, whom she hoped beyond hope might somehow be able to make room for Topper in its currently overloaded foster home network.

A call to each gave her reason to be optimistic. The logger, Lyle Austin of Lyle's Custom Service in Sequim, said he'd be able to make the dangerous attempt the following afternoon. And PFOA, having successfully adopted out several cats and kittens during the previous few days, could commit to caring for Topper in the event he could be rescued.

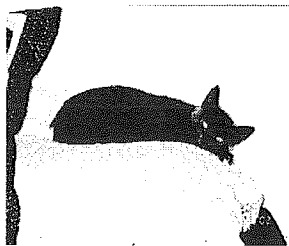
The following afternoon, Lyle went into action. Topper must have sensed the tension, as his pleadings became even more insistent. Suzi and the neighbors talked calmly up to Topper as Lyle strapped on his tree climbing equipment along with a rope and a pillowcase. Then Lyle began his climb.

Up the tree he went. The higher Lyle got, the louder Topper became. "I'm here, I'm here!", he seemed to shout. "Please don't leave me here. I want to get down!"

Soon out of sight from the ground, Lyle's branch breaking and Topper's plaintive cries were the only

sounds to be heard. Then suddenly, silence! No more breaking branches. No more crying Topper. What was happening? Were Lyle and Topper okay way up there?

The incredible scene that was unfolding in that tree could be witnessed personally by Lyle alone. Topper had jumped into Lyle's arms, holding on for dear life and purring up a storm! Then out came the pillowcase, where Lyle gently placed Topper as the grateful kitten continued to purr. The pillow case was then attached to the rope, and the rope was slowly lowered to the ground. When the bundled up pillow case reached the group waiting on the ground, Topper was still purring loudly!



Softly placed into a carrier, Topper was unbundled from the pillow case and offered food and water which he ate and drank with gusto! The purring never stopped! This was one happy kitty!

Off to the veterinary hospital he went, where he was pronounced healthy and given his first set of vaccinations. Topper made immediate friends with everyone with whom he came into contact. He is now happily adopted into the warmth and safety of Judy Stewart's Sequim home. Still a climber, Topper loves to wrap himself around the necks of his human friends while purring loudly.

Happily for Topper and satisfying for a lot of caring humans, Topper's terror turned to immediate trust and is now just a distant, fleeting memory. One lucky feline and a lot of lucky human friends!

Topper has forever touched the lives of a burly logger, a Sequim neighborhood and a lot of PFOA members and supporters.

PFOA Merchandise Quick and Easy to Obtain by Mail

PFOA's excellent dog/cat logo is available in an increasing variety of merchandise. Items currently available are T-shirts, sweatshirts, computer mouse pads, drink coasters, wraparound soda can coolers and barbeque aprons.

Just fill out the form, add your name and address and mail to **PFOA, PO Box 404, Sequim, WA 98382**. Your order will arrive in a Priority package from the post office. Allow up to 21 days for processing and delivery.

T-shirts, your choice of any primary color or white, sizes

S-XL, \$15 (XXL & XXXL, \$17)

Qty _____ Color _____ Size _____ Total \$ _____

Sweatshirts, your choice of any primary color or white, sizes S-XL, \$20 (XXL & XXXL, \$23.50)

Qty _____ Color _____ Size _____ Total \$ _____

Computer mouse pads, nice!, \$12 Qty _____ Total \$ _____

Drink coasters, set of 4, your choice of round or square \$8

Qty (number of sets) _____ Total \$ _____

Wraparound soda can cooler, \$5 Qty _____ Total \$ _____

Barbeque apron, \$14 Qty _____ Total \$ _____

Catnip kitty faces, no PFOA log, but handmade, life size and stuffed with

organic catnip, \$4 Qty _____ Total \$ _____

Shipping/handling: \$3.50 for orders under \$15 \$5.00 for orders \$15-45
\$6.50 for orders over \$45

Shipping/handling for this order: Total \$ _____

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I would like to sponsor a homeless animal in return for a photo, history and occasional updates. ___\$10 per month; ___\$120 per year; ___\$500 for the animal's lifetime

I would like to become a member. Please send me the Membership Application. ___I am prepaying my \$20 per person yearly membership fee.

I would like to donate food or supplies. ___Please call me.

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(To be removed from our mailing list, please let us know by telephone, letter or email. Your request will be processed immediately.)