

# Pet Tidings



Volume 14, Issue 4

Published by PENINSULA FRIENDS OF ANIMALS, a donor-supported, non-profit, no-kill organization providing a cageless pet sanctuary and adoption center on the Olympic Peninsula.



## From Unsafe to Safe Haven: Breaking the Homeless Cycle

by Marilyn Ash

**T**he young cat was tired and hungry. There was no food or water in sight. Still, she kept on walking, searching for a safe place for her kittens to be born. The warmth of the August sun would keep her and her babies warm at night, but during the day she needed a shady spot to rest.

Finding a safe spot, she burrowed into a pile of leaves and settled down to await the birth. She did not have long to wait. Within a day, she had given birth to seven adorable, healthy kittens. Now she needed to keep her strength up to feed and care for her babies.

There were no humans to help her, nor did she wish it. She had been on her own almost from birth. She had learned to fend for herself against larger predators. Like many other feral cats, she harbored a deep-seated fear of



people, with only one exception: two humans had been putting food and water out for her for several years. Gradually, she had learned to accept the food, but was always very careful not to get too close to them.

*Continued on Page 3*

Peninsula Friends of Animals has always been and continues to be an independent group.

### OUR MISSION

To prevent the birth of unwanted cats and dogs through progressive spay/neuter and educational programs; and to place as many homeless, neglected, and abused animals as possible into good, safe, permanent homes.



Annie

**ADOPTED!**  
SEE PAGE 11  
FOR MORE



Tigger



Elsa



Minnie



GusGus

SEE SOME  
PETS AVAILABLE  
FOR ADOPTION  
ON PAGE 6



Mika

### A Reminder to Never Give Up



*See Page 4*

## Peninsula Friends of Animals

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**Pet Tidings welcomes submissions. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. Send photos, in high-resolution, to [pfoa@olympen.com](mailto:pfoa@olympen.com).**

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## From the Editor's Desk

This issue of Pet Tidings marks the end of our 2014 publishing year. Pet Tidings functions as an educational and public relations arm of PFOA, and we would love to hear from you, our readers, to let us know if we are meeting your expectations.

We have made a number of changes to the newsletter recently. We have published several two-part articles. Long-time PFOA supporter Karen Klein wrote a spot-on set of articles about adopting bonded pairs: Part 2 of *Take Two ... They're Little* is included in this issue. *When Cats Lose Their People*, a two-part article on providing for companion animals who may outlive their people, was well researched and presented by Sasha Sterling in our Summer and Fall issues.

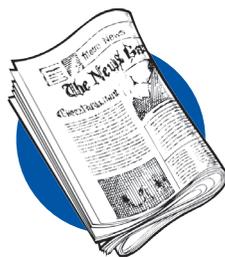
An additional new feature added this year is the *Advice for Felines with Tony and Rosie*. This advice column responds to letters "written" by various animals with a problem to solve. Our very own Tony ("the Tiger") and Rosie (Primrose) reflect their unique personalities in their responses. Although Rosie was recently adopted, she was willing to continue the collaboration with Tony remotely – after all, this is the electronic age!

As we begin the 2015 publishing year, we would like to hear your thoughts about our newsletter. Are we providing the right kind of education? Are the articles informative? Are you enjoying the stories? What other types of features would you like to see in Pet Tidings?

In addition to Pet Tidings, our electronic media exposure also includes our website, where the current electronic version of Pet Tidings is posted. Several years of past newsletters may also be accessed from our website. We also maintain a Facebook page, and showcase all of our adoptable animals on the Petfinder website. We would love to hear your thoughts about these websites. Is the information posted informative and of value? What other types of information would you like to see?

In summary, this is your opportunity to provide a year-end "report card". Your suggestions and input will allow us to become more valuable to the community.

*Marilyn Ash, Editor*



## Mews from the Board

At the beginning of the new year it is very gratifying to be able to report that PFOA is ending 2014 "in the black" for the first time in two years. We have made huge progress in every way during the past year, though it has been an extremely challenging one.

The support of our donors, members and "PFOA friends" has been absolutely crucial. In spite of continued financial hard times and uncertainties, you have given most generously to help keep PFOA afloat and true to its mission.

In addition, the Board has put in many, many hours of unglamorous study, debate, planning, etc. Our staff has nearly worked themselves to death, and our wonderful volunteers (including a lot of new ones!) have been faithful and impressive. Linda Hebert, our former Caretaker, has returned as a full time Animal Care Specialist. This gives us important continuity in the day to day care of our charges.

Love of the animals has driven us all and we are so happy to face 2015 solvent, well-organized, and with the support of hundreds of wonderful helpers and donors. We thank you all.

*Ann Gilson, President of the Board*

# 1999th and 2000th PFOA Adoption!

---Continued from Page 1

Always on the alert, she hid in the bushes or underneath an abandoned shed whenever any of the other dreaded two-legged critters appeared.

Every day she would come out to eat, leaving her kittens hidden in the leaves. The kittens started to grow. Blind, still totally dependent on their mom, they became more demanding for nourishment. One day, she returned from feasting on the cat food left for her, to find her babies ... GONE! Vanished! Where could they be?

Shock immobilized the cat. She waited for her kittens to return. After some time, she gave in to hunger and trotted back to the place where the two humans had been feeding her. She approached carefully. The man was putting food out for her. Normally, the man or the woman would put the food out and then go back into their house. This time, after he placed the food in a dish, he did not leave.

There was something not quite right about this, but the cat was too hungry to care. Cautiously, she crept toward the food and touched her nose to one of the morsels. Nothing happened. Feeling a little more comfortable, she crept forward until she could take a nibble. It was delicious! She crept forward a little more, and WHAM! The man grabbed her and took her inside the house. She screamed and tried to get away, to no avail. The man took her into a small room and set her down, and she saw ... her kittens! Overjoyed, she nuzzled each one, then picked them up and moved them to safety – the darkest corner in the room.

The next day, the Good Samaritans who had reunited her with her kittens turned over all eight of them to the PFOA Shelter Director. The kittens needed foster care until they were old enough to be on their own, and they needed nourishment from their mother to avoid having to be bottle-fed. PFOA has a wonderful foster mom volunteer named Jeanne, who agreed to take the young family.

It's now about a week later. The kittens continue to grow. Their tummies are full. They open their eyes and see a much different world than their mother had ever experienced. Jeanne comes in and picks up each kitten, holding it for a while and talking softly to it. She starts playing with the kittens, and they love it! The mother cat tries to protect her litter by crouching in the closet, snarling and hissing at Jeanne, who avoids the extended claws and continues to cuddle and play with the kittens.

Weeks later the kittens are big enough to be separated from their mom and brought to Safe Haven, where new homes can be found for them. The Shelter Director has fun naming the kittens: Perry, Harry, Gary, Mary, Jerry, Cherry and Barry. The kittens have different colored collars, which helps the volunteers who socialize the kittens.

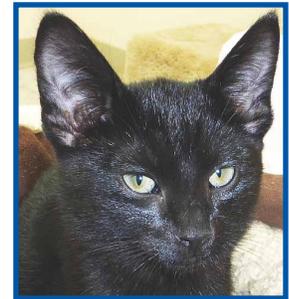
As with any group of kittens, one or two will emerge as leaders. Jerry, the larger of the Siamese, is the self-appointed, unchallenged leader of the pack. He is the most outgoing, has the loudest purr, and generally keeps the other kittens in line. Perry, the largest of the black kittens, is his understudy. He also has a loud purr, loves to play and loves having visitors. The two of them have a lot in common.

It is no great surprise that the two of them are the first of the litter to be adopted - together. We are celebrating their adoption in this issue – the 1999th and 2000th animals to be adopted from PFOA. Their new human mom reports that they are both doing well, and adds “My highest compliments to the person who fostered these boys. They are amazingly loving and sweet. Thank you, PFOA.”

And their feline mom? She was vaccinated, spayed and returned to the area from which she came. She will live out her life there, still feral, but without bringing more unwanted kittens into the world. ❖

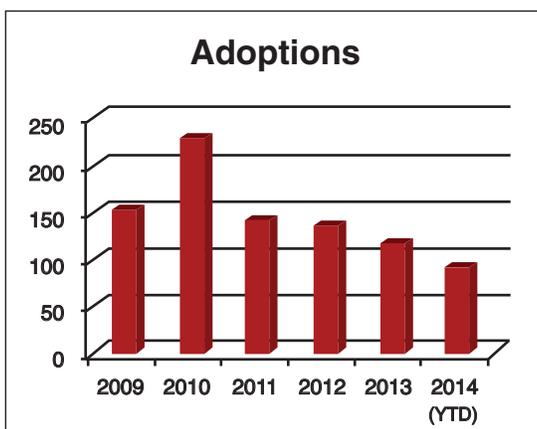


*Jerry*

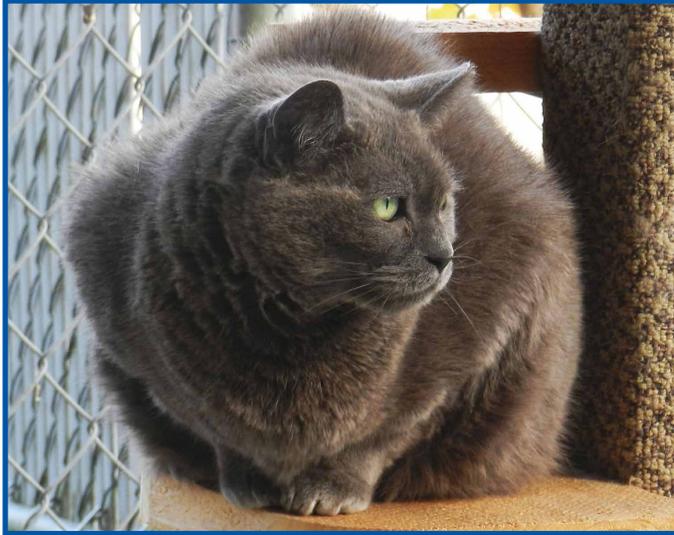


*Perry*

## Keep up-to-date with PFOA!



The chart above display our progress with our Adoptions. They show the yearly Adoption numbers for the past 5+ years.



*By Ann Gilson*

One of the strangest “cases” we ever had at Safe Haven was that of the inexplicable Ms. Jekyll / Hyde.

Her name is actually Sitka and she is a beautiful Russian Blue. She came to us, or returned to us, under sad circumstances which are all too common these days. She had originally been adopted in 2004 by an elderly couple who offered her a wonderful home and who adored her for nearly 10 years. Illness and infirmity forced them to move to assisted housing that forbade pets, and they brought her back to us, broken-hearted. They described her as loving, friendly, great with grandchildren and immaculate in her habits.

WELL!! You never saw such a flip-flop in your life as that which occurred after Sitka came to Safe Haven. As a result of her fear and grief engendered by the loss of her

## The Strange Case of Ms. Jekyll & Hyde

whole world, she hid, snarled and hissed at everyone, and even nipped at unwary staff when she first arrived. Her behavior was anything but pleasant and she was miserable. We kept working with her, and trying to help her, with small success. Poor Sitka. Poor us.

But, as they sometimes do at Safe Haven, a small miracle happened. A woman found her on our website and came to meet her this fall, and was able to see behind her outward behavior the sweet, good cat she really is. She was right, too – the moment Sitka entered her new home the real Sitka re-emerged and she became, once more, the wonderful companion she’d been all those years in her original home.

Secure in her new “heaven,” she now greets family and friends with purrs and a kitty-smile, loves her new guardian and home devotedly, and is content and happy; loss and sorrow past and hopefully forgotten.

The moral of this story? We never give up on a cat at Safe Haven, and we are blessed with the regular appearance of potential adopters who sometimes see behind outward appearance to the treasures within even the most unprepossessing exteriors or behaviors.

Sitka was, however, one of the most difficult cases of this kind we’ve encountered – so far. Thank goodness for small miracles! ❖

## Clallam County Fair Royalty Food Drive



PFOA would like to thank the Clallam County Fair Royalty for collecting food and toys for PFOA, OPHS and WAG. Included in the donation to PFOA was a nice selection of canned cat food, including a case of Fancy Feast, which all of the kitties love! We also received 60 pounds of kitty litter and lots of fun toys, catnip mice and play wands, which were most appreciated by all the cats and kittens.

## Meet A Volunteer: Mary Myers

*By Tippy*

Most days, Mary Myers is an ER nurse at Olympic Medical Center, helping to save people's lives and treat injuries and illnesses. The rest of the time, she's helping to save the lives of kitties in need as a volunteer with PFOA.

Mary coordinates our sponsorship program and is responsible for our other newsletter, The Cat's Meow, which comes out three times a year and provides updates and info on the program. The newsletter also allows the sponsors to see pictures and read updates about "their" kitty. Her vibrant personality lights up the room, and it's easy to see why everyone at PFOA – including the kitties – enjoy having her around as much as possible.

I first met Mary about 1-1/2 years ago, when she started helping Linda Hebert with the cleaning duties one day a week. She gradually took on more responsibilities, eventually tackling the sponsorship program. "This program gives people the opportunity to get involved when they can't give their time but still want to help," she says. "We currently have about 20 cats in the program; these are the unfortunate

ones who lost their owners, kitties who are medically needy, older cats, and those who are adoption challenged.

This program is really an educational opportunity for our sponsors – they get a chance to learn about these medical conditions and about how difficult it can be for these kitties to find their forever homes."

On top of all this, Mary uses her medical knowledge to give our feline residents the vaccinations that PFOA is permitted to give out, such as FELV. She's so wonderful, we really don't mind it when she comes near us with needles!

We've been lucky lately with a few very big adoptions. As you all know, my office-mate, Rosie, went to her forever home this month. Rosie was considered medically-challenged because of her intense flea allergy. Also, another one of my favorite gals, Summer, found her forever home; Summer has renal insufficiency and requires subcutaneous fluids twice a week.

If she didn't have to make



money, Mary says she'd be at Safe Haven every day. While she was exploring various volunteer options, we were an easy choice for her: "The flexibility of PFOA allows me to come in and work around my schedule. Many people don't realize that a nonprofit relies on its volunteers, and there are so many ways to get involved. We always need people with office and clerical skills. PFOA lets you get involved – they want you to get involved, and I love that." She adds emphatically, "I absolutely love PFOA." And we love you, too, Mary!

For \$10 a month, you can sponsor a cat who needs additional care – former feral, part feral, or who have special medical needs. Some of these cats are on our adoptable list; others are not. You can find more info at our web site, <http://safehavenPFOA.org/sponsor-a-pet>. ❀

## Thank you for your donations

Two of our volunteers each donated a cord of wood for Barker House, which will cover most, if not all, of its heating needs. Another generous person donated a very nice brand new leaf blower. PFOA wishes to thank these individuals for their generosity. You have made a difference.

*Safe Haven*  
**ADOPTABLES!**

# SHY KITTIES WITH PROTECTIVE PARTNERS

The majority of Safe Haven cats and kittens will adapt easily to a new environment, often with other cats and dogs. However, at any given time, there are one or more pairs of bonded cats in residence, and many times the pairs consist of one shy kitty and one who is the protector. It generally takes longer to find that purrfect forever home for these cats, because it is the policy of Safe Haven to ensure that bonded pairs are adopted together. In this issue we are featuring three pairs of kitties with shy and protective partners.

All of our kitties available for adoption have been spayed or neutered, are current on shots, microchipped and FELV/FIV tested.



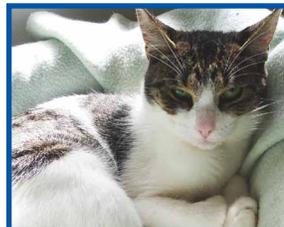
**FANCY BIRD** is a cute little silver tabby with peach accents. Friendly with kids, other cats and dogs, she is a dynamite little girl who loves attention and petting. Fancy is a young one to two years old, and is already spayed,

vaccinated, and ready to go home with her sister Fiona. These girls deserve the very best forever home—stability is so important for them.

**FIONA** is the sister to Fancy. Shyer than her sister, she is still quite friendly. She is a gorgeous silver tabby with white eyeliner. She is so pretty, and she would love a quiet home where she will be valued and cherished. Easy keepers with their pretty short thick coats, Fiona and Fancy Bird will be a great addition to some lucky home!



**AIMSLEE** is a beautiful, serene young gray and white tabby. She is very content to curl up in her cat bed with her blanket on top and be petted and scratched. She also enjoys her covered, secure outdoor patio, especially when the weather outside is nice and warm. (She doesn't go out so much now that the weather has turned cold!)



**AMELIA** is a cute little white shorthair with gray and brown markings. She came to the shelter with her sister, Aimslee, and is playful and likes to be petted. She is a little shyer than her sister, and loves the tops of things—couches, cat trees

and window sills. Amelia and Aimslee would love to find a wonderful new forever home.



**GATO** is a handsome shorthair declawed tuxedo with expressive pale yellow-green eyes. He is devoted to, and very protective of, his companion cat, Danielle. Gato is eager for visitors, and loves to meet our volunteers at the

glass door to his temporary home at the shelter. He is an energetic, inquisitive 10-year-young cat who would like nothing better than to find that wonderful new forever home where he and Danielle can live peacefully and enjoy their new family.

**DANIELLE** is a very sweet, very shy little short-hair gray mackerel tabby with white face and green eyes. She was adopted from PFOA as a teenager 10 years ago. Always on the shy side, Danielle has been worried and retiring since being returned to Safe Haven. However, she is affectionate and sweet, and does enjoy being petted and loved. She is very dependent on her best buddy, Gato, and the two cats must stay together. They would love nothing better than to find that purrfect forever family.



Please call PFOA's message line at **360-452-0414** to talk about any of these featured pets; a staff member will return your call. Or go online to see many others at [www.safehavenPFOA.org](http://www.safehavenPFOA.org)



## Take Two ... They're Little

### Part 2 – Bonded Pairs

*By Karen Klein*

Flipping through the *Pet Tidings* magazine, you see the page of “Adoptables”. You are intrigued by one of the pictures and in reading, you find out this one is actually one of a pair of cats that PFOA is trying to place. Usually, the descriptions for these cats read “timid, shy” or “outgoing, protector”.

What causes these bonds to form? Animal behaviorists have many explanations for this behavior but most pet caregivers can tell you their own stories about a pair of cats and/or kittens who have become dependent on one another, with one of the cats

protective of the other. Often, it is a very strong sense of security that bonds the two, knowing that together they can face the world. And a confusing world it might be, where they have singularly or jointly been shuffled from home to home to Safe Haven and now are waiting for their “forever home”.

There is safety in numbers as these bonded pairs realize. They may have lost their other littermates or their human caregiver due to moving or death and their world has been turned upside down. Only with the safety of each other can they adjust to a new life.

PFOA shelter managers understand this behavior fully and when they tell a prospective adopter that the cats are

bonded, they are not trying to feed anyone a line. It may be the only way a cat can survive the adoption process, having their support system left intact in order to adjust to a new home.

Think of it as an instant family – taking those two bonded cats, the purrfect pair – it immediately gives you twice the joy and alleviates much of their transitioning trauma to another new home.

They will each have a playmate and be able to reward you with your own stories of how they snuggle together, eat together, and have each other’s back. What a joy it is to provide laps and love for two. ❀

## How You Can Support PFOA

You’ve heard about our infamous Potholder Ladies, and you’ve read the letters from folks who asked for donations to Safe Haven in lieu of birthday presents. Now you’re trying to figure out how you can support us, too. Have no fear – there’s no need to don a pair of flip flops, hold signs on Washington Street and host a car wash! Here are a few ideas to get your creative juices flowing.

If you’re an artist or photographer, you might consider donating the proceeds from a certain number of pet portraits one month. If you’re an especially *daring* photographer, throwing together a last-minute “pet portraits with Santa” might turn out to be a fun and rewarding experience.

Everyone’s pets could always use a comfy bed, and fleece is luxurious! Why not support our PFOA volunteer who makes pet beds? She donates her time and the materials, and the beds are very high quality. Treat your favorite little guy (or gal) to a new bed, or buy one for a friend. Ask us for more info!

As you may know, the potholder ladies not only donate their sewing expertise, they purchase their own supplies, just

like our pet bed volunteer. You can always support their efforts by purchasing fabric and supplies, and donating it to them. Call our office for more info.

Also, a donation recently arrived from a set of grandparents. Their grandson had been recently married, and the young couple asked each guest to make a donation to their favorite charity in lieu of gifts. The grandparents purchased food and supplies equaling the cash amount they would have given as a gift. We are grateful for their generosity, and for the kindness of their grandson and his new wife!

Lastly, remember our Sponsorship Program. It’s a great way to support our efforts and provide care for the kitties if you don’t have the time (or the artistic talents) for the first two options.

Please feel free to share more ideas on our Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/pfoasafehaven>. We’d love to hear from you! ❀



# “Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals . . .”

**🐾** Thank you for all your good work. I check your website regularly – nicely done. Wish I could take more of them home but my cat won’t let me! - **Kathleen Snow**



**🐾** I am Ozette & Quinalt’s (formerly known as Seiku) mommy. The brother and sister have me well trained. They are so much fun, to watch them play. Ozzie loves to ride on the back of my power wheelchair. And does so any chance she gets! Thank you for having such a special place to house and find homes for all the wonderful cats! - **Ann J. Wolfe**



**🐾** Dear Safe Haven Friends, I am so appreciative of the wonderful services you provide for animals in need. I’m especially grateful to Nancy Campbell who helped me with my efforts to intervene on behalf of a cat that I believed needed “rescuing” about three weeks ago. It turned out he did not need to come to Safe Haven after a compassionate person agreed to care for him. Thank you all for your work and dedication. - **LeAnn Barber**



**🐾** What a touching story about the loss of Jeffy in your summer newsletter. I’m sorry for your loss. - **Karen Chapa**



**🐾** Rosie is beeyooteful after her grooming. She didn’t make a peep in her carrier, going or coming. What a happy, well behaved cat! They loved her at Paw Prince. Rosie is QUITE comfortable in her new surroundings – she has appropriated spots on the dining room table, living room couch, bed, and now joins us in the TV room. We only have an occasional hiss or growl. She sleeps with me on the bed most of the night. She is a very quiet sleeper and my nights are more restful now that Oliver isn’t coming and going all night long as he used to. I’m so glad we did this – I hope she is too. - **Margaret Carr**



Update on Mika and Gus Gus: Just a short note to let you know everyone is getting along fabulously. The first night home both kittens and both dogs slept together with me. By day three the cats quit hissing at each other and a couple days later they were chasing one another and playing. Thank you for allowing me to adopt two wonderful kitties! - **Sue Owens**



I adopted this Russian Blue from you folks on 11/16/2013 last year. He’s been renamed ‘Geist’ because of his very stealthy, ghost like habits of going through closed doors, moving without a sound, and manages to disappear in a closed room. Anyway, he’s doing GREAT, loves to play, talks all the time, is an excellent hunter, and fetches toys on his own. One of Geist’s rare treats is Pepperidge Farm Gold Fish crackers; he loves the cheese taste! Hope you enjoy the pics! He got tuna and shrimp for his ‘Cat-A-Versary!’

- **Geist’s Mom**

In honor of National Cat day I thought I would send a quick update on our furry friend that joined our family three years ago today.

Carson, previously named Psy while at PFOA, continues to thrive and be a happy and healthy feline. He has become increasingly cuddly and vocal-especially around 5am on the weekends when his tummy tells him it’s time for breakfast. He still loves curling up in a basket and getting taken for a ride around the house. He’s looking forward to the holidays and loves it when everyone comes to visit (him) – he’s a very social guy. He helps the kids with their homework and supervises my work and online shopping.

Needless to say, we love him and can’t imagine our family without him. Thanks for the difference you make.

- **Jennifer and the rest of the Dowell family**



Monkey and Blue are great! They seem really happy in their new home and are getting along great with our two young children. They actually seem to seek each other out. We haven’t had any issues and are really

happy with the whole situation. Attached are some photos of Monkey and Blue and our son Sawyer. They actually seem to seek out his attention, which continues to amaze me.

- **Keith Denton**

# Queen of My Empire

by Primrose ("Rosie")  
as told to Margaret Carr



In the spring of 2010, I, a princess named Primrose, and my handmaid Pansy, arrived at the PFOA shelter after being rescued from an abandoned barn. Pansy was adopted into a forever home but I was not. I was nicknamed Rosie and I became an office cat for the next three years. I was well loved and treated royally but my secret desire was for my very own home.

In August of 2014, a new volunteer named Margaret arrived. I began to cuddle into an office chair next to her as she worked. Soon the two of us were anxious for Thursdays to roll around because we would see each other again. Moved by the fundraising letter written by my PFOA friend, Nancy, Margaret called and left a message that she wanted to adopt me! ME, Princess Rosie! Of course she did. Who could doubt my royal charm?

When she adopted me and took me home, Margaret dealt with my allergies, scabs and skin bumps, constant medications, obesity and (oh, so embarrassingly) a back end that needed cleaning often. I put up with everything with

the best royal attitude I could muster. We took a chance that my horrible skin problems might be flea allergies. Once my vet treated me, the sores healed and did not return. I must have been terribly allergic to those pesky fleas! Now my bumps are healed, I am off steroids, I am losing weight and beginning to take care of my own grooming.

My reign in my new household is incredible. The dogs love me and the cats fear me. My new BFF is Rudy, the pit bull/boxer/shepherd mix. I lounge comfortably with him and walk under his belly and around his legs if he's in my way. I've put Agnes, the border collie, in her place - too much staring! I love to chase the cats, Bubba and Bridgette, up the stairs. They jump into high places that I can't reach yet. Just wait! I'll get there yet!

I shove my scratching posts around the house like football practice dummies. I am so full of myself that I jump on them and pushpushpush. They end up everywhere except where they started. I am so strong and awesome. I rearrange the house to my liking.

Any and every spot in the house is my throne: the couches, tables, counters, chairs, cat trees, dog beds and Margaret's bed. I barge into the bathroom for attention, invade the kitchen for snacks and commandeer the computer room (which was my safe room when I first came) for any attention I can get. I follow Margaret everywhere and wait for her in the chair near the door when she leaves. I go downstairs when she's there and back upstairs when she goes. I sleep with her at the foot of the bed every night. We are inseparable. She is, indeed, a loyal subject.

Margaret hopes that there will be a time when I can peacefully co-exist with my inferiors, the other two cats. I'm still debating my royal decree on that topic. Pushing them around is so powerful! Time will tell. In the meantime, I know I am in my forever palace - finally - and every second of my life I am embraced, loved and worshiped unconditionally. I am becoming the queen of my empire, of course. Queen Rosie. Oh, that sounds delightful, doesn't it? Even better, Queen Primrose. Oh, heart be still! ❖



## A Message from Tony:

All of us kitties at Safe Haven are so pleased that our friend Rosie has found her new forever home. Many of you have asked if our *Advice for Felines* column will continue. I'm happy to announce that, thanks to the magic of the 21st century, Rosie and I will continue to write our column, collaborating electronically.

# Vet-Smartz



By Virginia M. Johnson DVM  
Diplomate, American Board  
of Veterinary Practitioners

## Winter Fleas – Oh My!

Fleas are a problem every spring and summer in Northwest Washington, but this year has been a banner year for those darn fleas. The beautiful, warm, sunny summer that we all enjoyed was great weather for fleas too. Fleas love hot and humid weather. We don't have as much humidity as some locations, but we have enough to satisfy the flea population and the extensive warm days were great for flea production. We are still seeing animals with fleas now as winter approaches, and we will need a colder winter to dispel all the fleas that reproduced in abundance this past summer. In our clinic we saw animals infested with fleas that have never had fleas before and some animals severely ill with fleas and the secondary problems they create.

Fleas are a nuisance on animals that are not allergic to them, but for animals that are allergic to the flea saliva, they are downright miserable. Fleas inject their saliva to get to the blood vessels under the skin where they feast on their host's blood. Some animals are allergic to this saliva, and those are the critters that have severe itching, raw skin, hair loss and red angry sores on their skin. Those are the animals that come in for examinations and for treatment of the wounds caused by scratching flea bites. Other animals have fleas, but don't have skin sores and much itching. These dogs and cats are usually not allergic so they don't scratch as much as the allergic animals do.

Still, for all animals, fleas can create problems. Fleas are a carrier for tapeworms, so if a dog or cat chews on itself and swallows a flea they are at high risk for getting tapeworms. Cats are the most susceptible to getting tapeworms because they are prolific groomers. They chew and clean themselves and swallow fleas in the process. Most animals that we see for fleas also need deworming to get rid of the tapeworms they got from their flea friends.

Fleas can also carry the Bartonella bacteria. Bartonella can cause problems in cats such as granulomas, respiratory infections and eye infections. Bartonella is also one of the bacteria that can cause "Cat Scratch Fever" in people. Cats scratch themselves when they are itchy from their flea bites. They then can bite or scratch a person and we get exposed to this bacterium.

Fleas can also cause severe anemia in the host animal. Kittens and puppies are the most susceptible and can die from blood loss if fleas are not controlled and eliminated. This summer we saw cats and dogs with significant anemia from flea bites. One kitten was the only survivor because her litter mates were already dead from fleas when this kitten was found. A healthy adult dog was seen for lethargy and we found thousands of fleas on her and her red blood cell count was very low. She was treated and returned to good health.

The best solution to avoiding and treating flea infestations is to use flea control on your pets. Some of these products are topical – applied to the skin between the shoulder blades - and some are oral.

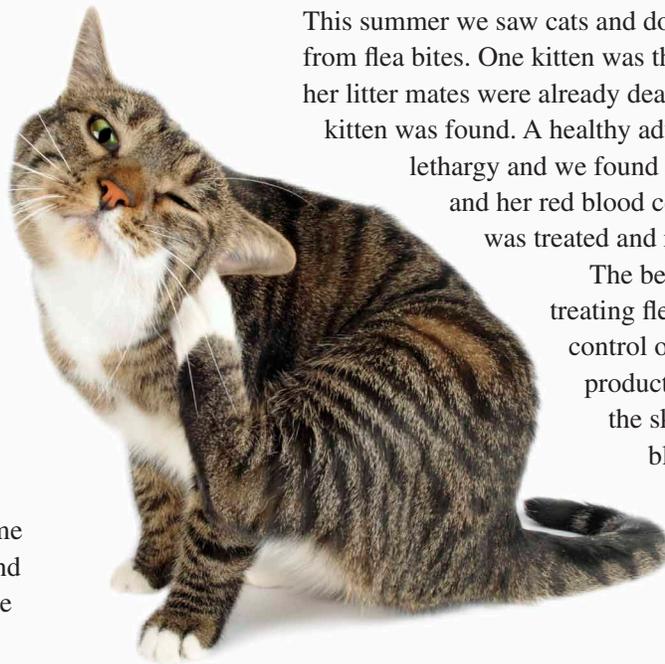
Some products also deworm the treated animal. Some also protect against ticks and heartworm. Your

veterinarian is a great source

of information about which flea products work

best in our area and which are best for your pets. Just because you don't see fleas doesn't mean that your pet doesn't have them.

A female flea lays 40-50 eggs daily in your carpets, sofa and bedding. Within a short time there are 40-50 more fleas in your home. If you have enough fleas in your house so that controlling fleas on your animals is not getting rid of the fleas, you may need to treat your home and car. Ask your veterinarian for recommendations on how to do this if you find that fleas have overtaken your life and home. Here's hoping for more cold weather to get rid of fleas for the year. ❀



# Look who's been adopted!

--Continued from Page 1

See some adoptable pets on Page 6 and online at [www.safehavenpfoa.org](http://www.safehavenpfoa.org)



**Billie Blue**



**Spots**



**Monkey**



**Bonnie**



**Honey**



**Daniel**



**Skittles**



**Perry**



**Jerry**



**Boo**



**Rainbow**



**Peeka**



**Hannah**



**Rosie**



**Gary**



**Jessie**



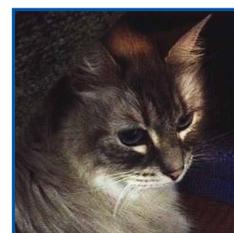
**Blue**



**Miltie**



**Charlie**



**Sammie**



**Summer**



**Johnny**



**Fluffer**

## *Memorials and Honorariums*

*Memorials given in memory of a deceased pet, friend or family member, or Honorariums to thank special friends or honor animal companions, are a lovely way to say "Thank you" or "I love you" or "I miss you." A public statement of remembrance can help bring closure or soften grief, as well as honor a loved one.*

### *Honorariums (Person)*

- In honor of **Trinity Laws**. From **Staci Lea Poythress and Lawrence D. Smithson**
- In honor of all of you at **Peninsula Friends of Animals** who take care of God's creatures. From **Terry Mathews**
- In honor of **Trinity Laws**. From **Matthew and Trudy Teter**
- In honor of **Shirley Hackman**. From **Carlotta Howe**
- In honor of **Karen Lewis** and **Chuck Hatten**, for your kindness. From **Jeff Bohman**
- In honor of **Linda Livingston**. From **Joseph and Roberta Hairfield**
- In honor of **Harriet Hopgood**, whose love for and compassion toward animals and people alike makes her one special person. From **Gary Del Mastro**
- In honor of **Margaret Lawrence**. From **Faye Hayden**

### *Honorarium (Pet)*

- In recognition of our small dog, **Sophie**, who was injured by a much larger dog with an irresponsible owner. We are blessed with the animal companions we enjoy and are happy to give the money the judge awarded us to PFOA to help other vulnerable creatures. From **David and Claudia Neupert**
- In honor of **Rocky Princeton** (cat). From **Carol Novis**
- In honor of **Sweetums**. From **Jo Ann Bergmans**
- In honor of **Teva**. From **Terry Mathews**
- In honor of **Piper II**. From **Brooks and Jacqueline Petersen**
- In honor of **Joey**. From **Nancy and Bill Anderson**

### *In Memory of Special People*

- This donation is giving in loving memory of **Flora Pfannenstein** on behalf of her loving cat **Annie** (a PFOA adopted cat) and all the animals loved and cared for by PFOA. One of Flora's wishes was to give a donation to be used where it was needed most and as a thank you for bringing **Annie** into her life. She had many years with **Annie** before her death September 19, 2014. She would be so thrilled that again, PFOA rescued **Annie** and found her a new loving home. From **Sharon Derstine**
- In memory of **Jack Lewis**. From **Mrs. Mary Lewis**
- In memory of **Flora Pfannenstein**. From **Audrey Hetherington**
- In memory of **Steven Norris**. From **Dennis Tolliver**
- In memory of **Patricia Roberts**. From **Robert Roberts**
- In memory of **Flora Pfannenstein**. From **Patricia McIntyre**

- In memory of **Pat Lang**, wonderful fan and supporter of PFOA for many years. From **Gary Del Mastro**
- In memory of **Fred** (Mickie Vail's father). From **Jack and Harriet McEwan**
- In memory of **Candy Olmer**. From **Bob and Millie Marzec**
- In loving memory of **Flora Pfannenstein** – a very special friend and lover of felines. From **Diane and Leon Lopez**
- In memory of my wife, **Cricket Pardue**, on the second anniversary of her passing. She was a cat lover her entire life. From **R. Keith Pardue**
- In memory of **Donald L. Zimmer**. From **W. David Loggy**

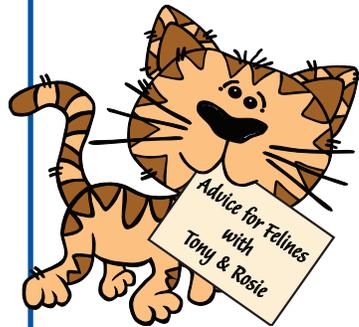
### *In Memory of Beloved Companion Animals*

- In memory of **Tippy**. From **Bruce Johnson**
- In memory of **Stella**, the "Chesafreak," a loyal guardian who will be missed. From **Getta Rogers**.
- In memory of **David or Scooter**. From **Scott and Charlotte Devore**
- In memory of Tom and Deb Cox's sweet **Abby**. From **Michael Moss and Betty Gordon**
- In memory of my cat **Keisha**. From **Debbie Schouten**
- In grateful memory of precious **Ginger** and her sweet buddy **Gremlin** who has joined her past the veil. From **Susan Kreml**
- In memory of **Bruce**, beloved dog of Janet MacDonald. From **Martha Carle**
- In memory of **Stanley** the Bassett. From **Janet Norman**
- In memory of **Jib, Mochi & Bungi**. From **Pat McGeer**
- In memory of our special girl "**Luna**" who for 21 years brought us such great joy. From **Rose M. Rose and Renee Lambert**
- In memory of **Molly**, Kathy and Mike Smith's precious Maine Coon. They rescued her and filled her with love she'd never known and she thrived and loved hugely in return. From **Karen Groves**
- In memory of **Hobbes**. From **Karen Branyan**
- In memory of **Grizzabella**. From **Donna Criscione**
- In memory of **Scampi**. From **Lawrence Ormand**
- In memory of **Auggie** and **K.C.** From **Donnie Rene-Smith**
- In memory of **Trinket**. From **Charlotte Patterson**
- In memory of **Bonnie Joy**. From **Jorita Jensen**
- In memory of one of Safe Haven's earliest rescues, Donna and Pam's sweet, tiny **Grizzabella**. From **Gary Del Mastro**
- In memory of Harriet Hopgood's dear, sweet **Clancy** who, of all the dogs in Harriet's life, was the most special. From **Gary Del Mastro**
- In memory of **Mocha Java**, First Cat on our boat and in our hearts, who graced our lives for over 18 years. From **Gary Noyes and Marilyn Ash**

# Tips for Kitty-Proofing Your Home

Congratulations - you've adopted a new kitty! Now you are getting ready to bring this adorable creature home. You've bought a nice new, fluffy cat bed. Toy mice and jingle balls are lined up, waiting for the big event. You've put in a supply of the proper cat food and kitty litter. The new scratching post has a wonderful little feather toy to tempt your precious kitty. You say to yourself, "What have I forgotten?" After a good deal of thought, you decide to look at your home through the eyes of an eight pound feline. "Aha!" you say. "This place needs to be kitty-proofed! How do I do that?"

- Get down to kitten or cat-level, if possible, and look for tantalizing temptations. (Yes, even dust bunnies can become play-toys.)
- Move all plants and dangerous objects up from floor level.
- See the cord on those blinds? Yes, it can be hazardous! The end-caps can be chewed and ingested unless secured. The cords can be chewed on or present a hanging risk.
- All toys should not be considered safe and left unattended. Feathers or fishing pole-type toys may be a hazard for chewing or choking.
- Check cabinet doors and room doors for accessibility. You may need to install childproof locks to keep kitties away from hazardous chemicals and cleaning supplies under the kitchen or bathroom sinks. Better yet, you may want to switch your cleaning supplies to natural ones (white vinegar and castile soap) to prevent poisoning risks.
- Watch to prevent escape through outside doors.
- Watch electrical or electronic cords for chewing risks.
- Make sure all plastic bags (grocery, trash liners, garden) are in a drawer or cupboard that is inaccessible by a cat.
- Invest in a can of pressurized, "canned" air (usually used on electronics). A squirt of the can (not pointed at your pet) resembles the sound of a hissing mother cat and usually discourages inappropriate behavior, such as curtain-climbing or counter-perching. This is not as messy or damaging as a squirt bottle or squirt gun as it leaves no water stains. ❖



 Dear Rosie and Tony,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter! I love your column so much. My name is Kitty, but my mommies mostly call me, "No, Kitty," or "Down, Kitty!" I am a sweet, little three year old Siamese. My problem is that I live with two small dogs, and when either of my mommies lets them in the house, I have to be prepared to run for high ground in either the office or the bedroom because they just want to tear me apart! I could easily scratch them senseless, but I abhor violence. I don't think my mommies understand how terrifying this is for me. It's very stressful and not fun, but all they do is yell at the dogs instead of helping me. Any suggestions?

Thank you! Kitty

**Tony:** I understand, Kitty. I, too, abhor violence. Unfortunately, in this situation, I'm afraid that this is precisely what they are expecting – they want a fight, and it's best not to engage in that. It will only hurt all of you in the end. Perhaps, since you are running for high ground, you could start knocking things off the top of dressers or desks? Keep it to non-breakable things, and if you aim right, you can just miss the dogs and still send a message to the dogs that it's dangerous to chase you.

**Rosie:** I agree with Tony, and while my first suggestion would be to use mouse traps to get your point across, that's just too mean. We wouldn't want people or dogs doing it to us, so we have to treat others the way we would want to be treated. I like Tony's idea of knocking things down. Maybe your mommies will read this article and figure out it's you and finally deal with this situation – and maybe other mommies and daddies will learn from your letter, too. Thanks for writing, and let us know how it goes!

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“To know a cat is a privilege, but to be loved by a cat is the greatest accolade.”

-Tamsin Pickeral in *The Elegance of the Cat* (2013).

## THE CLASSIFIEDS

### PFOA WISH LIST

- Lots of kitty food for the shelter kids:
  - Fancy Feast Classic
  - Temptations Treats and catnip
  - Party Mix Treats and Greenie Treats
  - Friskies canned food
- Paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, bottled water, quart & gallon ziplock bags, 10 gallon trash bags, high efficiency non-scented liquid laundry soap, liquid dishwasher soap.
- Nature’s Miracle (stain & odor remover), round replacement scratchers and flat scratchers. Tippy loves these!
- Small, medium and large (for multiple cats) top loader carriers.
- Gift cards to Safeway, Costco and Wal-Mart for various shelter items, \$20 gift cards to Safeway or QFC for volunteers who transport cats to/from Hadlock Veterinary.
- Upholstered wing back chairs.

### AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE:

PFOA potholders are available at the following local businesses:

- **Hair Trix Salon**, 21 Valley Center Place, Carlsborg (Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm) (360) 681-3749
- **The Red Rooster Grocery**, 134 ½ W Washington St, Sequim (Mon-Fri, 8:30am-6:30pm; Sat, 9am-5pm; Sun, 10am-4pm) (360) 681-2004; website: [www.theredroostergrocery.com](http://www.theredroostergrocery.com)
- **Mia Bella**, 130 N 3rd Ave, Sequim (360) 460-0947
- **Safe Haven** (Tue-Sat, 11am-4pm)

You may purchase these wonderful potholders in many colors and patterns for only \$14 a pair. All proceeds benefit the PFOA animals!

## Peninsula Friends of Animals

Phone: 360-452-0414

Fax: 360-452-0412

E-mail: [pfoa@olyphen.com](mailto:pfoa@olyphen.com)

<http://safehavenPFOA.org>

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Fed ID # 91-2127240

Find us on Facebook!

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## Dates to remember:

■ **The PFOA Board** meets at Safe Haven from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. The public is welcome to attend. Members who are interested are encouraged to come and observe.

■ **Safe Haven shelter** is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12 to 4, closed Sunday and Monday. Call **360-452-0414** to leave a message; appointments required.

■ **The Tea and Fashion Show fundraiser** will be held on April 18th at the Elks Lodge in Port Angeles.

■ **Potholders are always available** at Safe Haven and other local businesses (see page 15).



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