### Spring 2015

# Pet Tidings

Published by PENINSULA FRIENDS OF ANIMALS, home of Clallam County's only cageless, no-kill pet sanctuary and adoption center, Safe Haven!

# Summer's Time

#### by Margaret Carr

h, summer! The very word evokes warm feelings of easy living and happy times. Not so for a sweet, green-eyed, orange kitty named Summer. She was born in the spring of 2006. She was first spotted when she wandered out of the woods at about four months of age. She proceeded to take up residence under the deck of a couple who kindly fed and watched out for her. When the weather turned inclement they built her a shelter and she happily moved into it for the winter.

The following spring, Summer presented them with a litter of kittens. At this point, Summer and her family were brought to PFOA. Summer and her kittens were spayed/neutered, micro-chipped and vaccinated. By mid-2007 they were ready



to be adopted. All were adopted that same year. Summer seemed to have finally found a forever home.

Seven years passed. Early in 2014 her adopters moved and passed Summer to their daughter.

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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.



### Peninsula Friends of Animals

P.O. Box 404 Sequim, WA 98382 (360) 452-0414

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Editors: Marilyn Ash, Alicia

#### Demetropolis Page design and layout: Nicole Phillips Contributors: Marilyn Ash, Margaret Carr, Alicia Demetropolis, Ann Gilson, Sasha Sterling Principal photography: Marilyn Ash, Kailyn Davis Printing: Olympic Printers Mailing: Olympic Mailing Mail prep: Carol & Mike Howard

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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@olypen.com.

#### USPS Identification Statement

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From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to another fabulous issue of Pet Tidings!

In this issue, we are focusing on adoption challenges. The success stories about Summer, Deano and Ace Gordon touch on primary physical challenges. There are many other challenges that pet lovers routinely face.

The expense of pet ownership is always a challenge. In the past we have emphasized economical options for pet ownership. The health of a pet is paramount in minimizing the overall cost. Regular grooming, vet checks and vaccinations help to maintain your pet's health.

It's important that animals be weighed every month. Unexplained gain or loss of weight is one of the earliest symptoms of health issues. Buy a scale or take your animal in to the vet to weigh her. Many vets will allow your pet to be weighed with no charge, and may even record the weight on the pet's chart. Pick one day a month to do a "health check" on your pet. Look her over for general health issues.

If you feel comfortable doing this, you can buy vaccinations and give your own shots. The only exception is the rabies vaccine, which must be administered and certified by a veterinarian.

Check our Vet-Smartz column, written by Dr. Virginia Johnson. It appears in *Pet Tidings* every other issue, and contains a wealth of information about general pet care, as well as specific diseases and health issues.

If you are a new reader or are looking for specific information, we maintain many years of *Pet Tidings* on our website. Check http://safehavenpfoa.org/pet-tidings-newsletter/ for valuable articles, fun (and heartrending) stories, and information about pet wellness.

As always, all the people and the kitties at PFOA send their deepest love, appreciation and purrs to our fans!

### - The Editors



### Mews from the Board

"What's happened to PFOA's commitment to spay/neuter? Why did the numbers drop to 378 in 2014 from an average of over 500 in prior years? What's going on?" you ask. The answer is complex. We are *still* committed to reducing overpopulation of cats and dogs through Spay/ Neuter – it has been a primary mission of PFOA since our beginning. And we have spent as much money on it as ever.

The total number of spay/neuter procedures depends on 1) vet availability and 2) dogs versus cats. These procedures are performed at the Sequim Animal Hospital clinics, Best Friends Pet Care, and the Spay to Save (STS) mobile clinic. We began 2014 with a National Spay Month promotion - 103 spays and neuters were performed by STS. Due to their size, the larger dogs were scheduled through the Sequim Animal Hospital monthly clinic.

Through the remainder of 2014 we continued to refer our low income folks with cats and small dogs to STS. The large dogs, which use more of our budget, continue to be done at the regular monthly clinics at Sequim Animal Hospital. For National Spay Month this year, we paid for 32 large dogs scheduled at two extra clinics.

During 2014, Spay to Save received a large grant that paid for as many spays and neuters as they could perform. This grant continues through March and could be renewed. Because we do not count procedures not paid for by us, referrals to STS for surgeries performed under this grant are not counted in our statistics.

So, as you can see, numbers can be misleading, and it only *looks* as if we were less active. PFOA will always be fiercely dedicated to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs. Nothing is more important to us all.

### Learning to trust again

#### ---Continued from Page 1

During one of the daughter's out of town trips, the neighbor who was feeding her reported that she wouldn't eat and was vomiting.

The daughter took Summer to the vet, where she was diagnosed with dental disease, anorexia, a heart murmur and extreme dehydration. The plan was to have Summer euthanized unless she improved in thirty days. A subsequent 2014 veterinary report deduced that during those seven years Summer received no veterinary care whatsoever. Further, even though her adoptive owner signed an agreement with PFOA stating that Summer would never be declawed, they did just that. Even more alarming, she remained an indoor/outdoor cat despite her declawed disadvantage!

Because she did not have the time to care for a sick cat, the daughter returned Summer to PFOA.

In February of 2014, Summer was diagnosed with early kidney failure. She was put on subcutaneous fluids three times a week as well as antibiotics. She had great difficulty learning to eat and drink again and had to be coaxed through every bite.

By September she was taking food independently and gaining weight. Her dehydration had improved though she still had to be given fluids several times a week. Now she was ready to be adopted. She was featured in PFOA's *Pet Tidings* and on various internet sites.

# 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.



In November, 2014, after the death of her own precious cat, Sylvia Douglas was browsing through Petfinder with no particular plan when she came across Summer's profile. The beautiful orange tabby with special needs caught Sylvia's attention. Sylvia drove from Vancouver, B.C., to Sequim to visit and possibly adopt Summer. The meeting was successful – Summer found a new home in Canada, and now has dual citizenship!

Trust is developing at a slow pace. Initially, Summer refused to eat if Sylvia stayed in the kitchen, so Sylvia sat in a separate room at mealtimes. Now Summer allows her to remain if she doesn't make any sudden moves. Sylvia has discovered that Summer loves to be brushed from her chin down to her back paws. The regular brushings have provided valuable "together time" for Summer and her new mom.

Gayla, a volunteer at PFOA, taught Summer to stand on her hind legs to receive treats. Since her adoption, Summer has decreed that high noon is treat time, and she makes sure Sylvia remembers this!

Sylvia purchased a second cat tree and placed it next to a window. At first Summer refused to use it but now she sleeps cozily on the top tier. Sylvia feared that Summer, who still shows an interest in slipping outdoors, would be bored inside. She placed bird feeders outside the windows. When the birds show up, there is entertainment galore for Summer. Sylvia is testing a harness and leash to allow Summer access to the wonders of the backyard, but progress is slow. Summer is not thrilled with the harness. She allowed it to be put on her once, then made it abundantly clear that she was not going anywhere in it. This journey continues.

After only three months, it is clear to Sylvia that Summer is fond of her. She says Summer follows her every move as if she's never seen such goings-on before. She refers to Summer as a "darling cat" and says that photos don't do her "big green eyes justice." Summer insists on being the initiator of pretty much everything. Lately she has been jumping into Sylvia's lap for a short snuggle time. Perhaps they are enjoying a magical moment like that right now. Summer's time has come! �



# Saving Deano

### By Marilyn Ash

The staff at Safe Haven was getting ready to close the shelter for the day when the phone rang.

Dean, a young cat with a badly broken leg, had been found near Port Angeles. Could PFOA take him?

Of course! The Shelter Director quickly arranged a "pony express transport" on a busy Friday night to get the cat to our vet in Port Hadlock. The good doctor offered to stay well past her normal closing time until the cat arrived. John and Nancy Dolansky, PFOA volunteers, rushed the cat to the vet. Dean was so cool on the ride over, despite all that had happened to him, that John renamed him Deano.

Saving Deano's leg was an expensive effort. While we initially thought he might need surgery, the x-rays gave everyone hope that the leg would heal on its own. Even so, the long hospital stay, medicines, and special care required totaled more than \$2,500. PFOA launched a successful fundraising effort to help offset part of the expense. Over \$900 was raised through the "Dollars for Deano" promotion on the PFOA website, Facebook, and direct emails.

Ten days later, Deano came "home" to Safe Haven. He had a special cage – large enough for his basic needs, but small enough to prevent him from moving around too much. It's impossible to communicate to a cat the idea that he needs to remain still so that his leg can heal. Deano was a great patient. He would purr and knead his front paws. He made a lot of friends both at the clinic and at Safe Haven. He just wasn't very receptive to the idea of staying still.

His sweet personality and impeccable manners charmed everyone who met him. John and Nancy fell head over heels for Deano, and offered to foster him. They took him home, set up a special area to help him recover, and tended to all his needs. They would take turns sitting in his room with him, sleeping with him, and trying to keep him entertained and out of trouble. Deano routinely chatted with John and Nancy on a variety of topics, all in cat language, of course. Almost six weeks after we first met Deano, his leg had healed enough so that he could graduate from a splint to a protective wrap. The poor boy had to have his wrap changed about every two weeks, but he didn't have the normal boring white wrap. Not Deano. He started out with a covering of blue flowers, then graduated to more "with it" tiger stripes. Spare no expense to keep this boy entertained!

After a final vet visit, Deano was able to use all four legs, without decorative wraps and splints. He was overjoyed and let everyone know it. According to Nancy, "he runs from one end of the house to the other, and talks, talks, talks."

John and Nancy began to introduce him to their other two cats, and that's when the next set of problems arose. Deano didn't get along well with Peet and Molly. Peet and Molly didn't get along with Deano at all. John and Nancy tried everything they could think of, but nothing was working. They finally made the difficult, heartrending decision to find him a new home.



Happily, they found a wonderful new home for Deano. Gordon, Deano's new dad, met Deano and took him right home. Nancy recalls that Deano was "such a smart, sweet and funny boy; we miss him terribly, but are so happy he has a great home." Nancy has kept in touch with Gordon, and Deano is very happy in his forever home. Gordon is delighted with him, but did have one question: "Does he ever stop talking?"

Well, not so far, but I'm sure that if he could, he would say "thanks" to all the donors, staff and volunteers who make it possible to rescue cats like Deano. He has certainly been worth it, as are they all!

# Meet A Volunteer: Jim and Lynda Larison "Cat Roadie" Confessions

#### By Sasha Sterling

They're cat roadies," my husband chuckled when I told him what Jim and Lynda Larison do for PFOA. The term "roadie" conjures a picture in my mind of scruffy rock-band gypsies who set up the equipment for a concert, break it down when it's over, and move on again. Yes, Jim and Lynda qualify as roadies in a couple of ways: 1) They set up and break down for PFOA's fundraising events, and 2) They've traveled and lived all over the US and Europe during Jim's 26-year military career.

Yet these two couldn't be further from the stereotype of itinerant band followers. Seated across from me at their dining room table, they exude an air of casual elegance, like their home, with its artfully-arranged objects acquired from their many travels and Jim's gorgeous photographs from some of the National Parks they've visited.

But how, I wondered, did the Larisons become volunteers for PFOA?

"I answered an email posted in our local community email system asking for people who love to sew," Lynda says. Her mother taught her to sew when she was a child and she has enjoyed it ever since. When she started sewing for PFOA, Lynda knew nothing about the organization. Gradually, as she and Jim learned more, they saw how worthwhile it was and wanted to lend more support. Both cat lovers, they eventually adopted a cat, Calliope, a strikinglypatterned spotted tabby and white who quietly studies us now from the kitchen doorway, perhaps thinking we don't notice her.

Lynda opens a large box that sits on the table and out come potholders – lots of potholders. Suddenly the table is strewn with a profusion of jewel-like colors and patterns. She shows me how the various layers are put together, five in all, including the heatproof layer. "We have twenty-three different categories – cats, dogs, lavender, chickens, crabs – and more." She sews 25-50 potholders per month. Gazing admiringly at Lynda's handiwork Jim adds "They're almost works of art."

Using their station wagon, Jim and Lynda eventually started delivering tables, canopies, potholders, and PFOA literature to events throughout Clallam County. At first, they weren't sure what the job entailed, but soon established a



flow. With their organizational skills, they've kept track of what sells best at each event and have taken detailed notes that will help new people adjust to the routine. James, their son and third roadie, often assists with the setup and break-down. "He has a strong back and an artistic touch with the displays. He's very creative," Jim says with pride.

The Larisons are quick to credit the founders of the potholder project and all the volunteers who have kept it going over the years and whose dedication has been an inspiration to them. "They're all really positive, creative people who love kitties," Jim remarks. Lynda adds, "We are always looking for people who enjoy sewing to help out with the potholders. We can always use more volunteers." Of their years as cat roadies (and much more) for PFOA, Jim says, "We've had a lot of fun with it. And it's so worthwhile."



### A Special Thank You

With great appreciation to the Ben & Myrtle Walkling Memorial Trust for their generous award toward the purchase of a wood storage shed to store animal carriers for community animals in the event of a disaster or emergency.

### A donation arrived in December 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 the newlyweds!

# Safe Haven ADOPTABLES! ADOPTION CHALLENGED KITTIES

One of the objectives of PFOA is "to preserve and protect an animal's right to life, and where needed to elevate their quality of life to the highest level possible within the limits of our physical and financial ability." This applies especially to those special needs animals who are what is commonly referred to as "adoption challenged". Many people associate the concept strictly with medical issues. However, there are as many, if not more, adoption challenged animals who may be quite healthy but have emotional or behavioral issues, resulting in just as many difficulties in finding a forever home.

The kitties in this article are all long-term residents at PFOA. They represent a mix of physical and behavioral problems. The kitties with severe physical issues reside at Barker House, where Linda Nielsen, our resident Special Needs Animal Caretaker, provides 24/7 care. The remaining special needs kitties are primarily at Safe Haven and occasionally in foster care. All of the sponsored cats are considered to be adoption challenged, and we are very grateful to those who help with the cost of providing quality of life to the kitties.

**TRUDY** is a short haired 15 year old dilute calico who was turned in by her owner to another shelter. Unhappy with life in a cage and disliking other cats, Trudy came to PFOA 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years ago looking for a new home. Due to her



"queen bee" nature and a tendency to bite, she needs to be with a cat-savvy person who will accept her moods.



**PIPER II** is a six year old male kitty who is very scared, possibly semi-feral. He was friendly with the people who had fed him for many years, and brought him to Safe Haven to try to find a good home for him.

Despite all the efforts of staff and volunteers, Piper remains shy and scared of people.



MARCUS is a beautiful and extremely sweet 14 year old male whose owner could no longer care for him. He is so gentle and kind — a special kitty who just wants a loving home in which to live out his life. Marcus needs daily

medication to keep his diabetes under control. He's had some rough knocks in his life, but remains affectionate and loving. L'IL BEAR was rescued from a sad situation when he was two months old, and has remained with PFOA for over four years. He has tested positive for FeLV, which can be transmitted to other cats through bite wounds or years



of close contact. He is sweet and loving, and needs an indoor home where he can't infect other cats.

**LUCY** is a beautiful Manx who was adopted from Safe Haven about four years ago. The bladder and bowel control problems experienced with some Manx did not show up until she became older. Her family regretfully returned her



to us, and she now shares Turtle Towers with Bobbie Jo, who has the same issues.



**BOBBIE JO** was born in August, 2012. She is a longhaired black Manx. At this time, she has no bladder or bowel control. It is hoped that this issue will improve as she gets older. She is really playful and loving

and affectionate. She has to be bathed frequently and lives in Turtle Towers at Safe Haven.

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* 



#### By Alicia Demetropolis

Many of you may remember little Ace Gordon, the adorable Scottish Fold who was featured in our fundraising newsletter. He won many hearts, including ours (of course) and we received many phone calls inquiring about the little guy. First to the dance was a woman named Jocelyn. She called to see if he was still available, arrived at Safe Haven within ten minutes to make sure he was as good as his picture promised, then promptly adopted him.

Ace was brought to us with no background information and no belongings other than a little stool. All we knew was that his people were moving to Hawai'i and couldn't take Ace with them. He hid in the corner of his quarantine cage for several days, keeping his nose glued to the back corner, wondering about his fate Ace Gordon: Calling the Shots in his New Home

and who all these strangers were. When he did finally begin to trust us, we discovered that

he was very gimpy in his hindquarters, and seemed to have pain in his spine. We also learned quickly that, while he loved to be petted, he didn't want to be picked up.

None of this stopped Jocelyn, though.

"He's so adorable," Jocelyn says now. "I just love him dearly." She told me that a recent trip to the vet revealed that arthritis has spread throughout Ace's body, which explained his gimpy and deformed hindquarters. The vet told her there will come a day when Ace (now "Bubba" for "Big Boy") will not be able to walk. Jocelyn quickly put Bubba on a daily chewable joint supplement.

Despite constant pain from severe arthritis, Bubba remains happy and good-natured. "He's such a funny little cat," Jocelyn says. "He's always looking at something as if he's seeing it for the first time. Whenever he sees my slippers, he looks at them as if he's never seen them before."

Bubba's new mommy loves all his quirks: "He'll sleep in the living room, and when it's time to get up, he'll wait for me to make the bed, then uses his little stool to get up onto the bed to spend the day napping there. He doesn't like to sleep on it unless it's made, though." Bubba even calls the shots at bedtime, letting Jocelyn know when it's time to go to sleep.

He also still loves attention, loves to be rubbed and brushed, and will roll around on the floor if she's down there with him. Jocelyn says that he still doesn't like to be held, and he doesn't like to sit in anyone's lap, either. "It seems more like he's afraid of being held than anything to do with his arthritis pain."

She adds, "I wish I'd had him from when he was a kitten. I would love to know what he would have been like if I'd have been able to raise him." But she's quick to add that she's grateful she has him now, and we're pretty sure Bubba feels the same way.



# Memories of Trixie

When Trixie came to Safe Haven a short six months ago, she was literally starved to death. Even more disturbing was her emotional detachment. She lay quietly in her cage with her face pressed to a corner, eating but not responding to any of us. After much good food, fluids and great vet care, she was able to greet us with a tiny little "meow." She had a home and family to love her this past Christmas. When the days grew warmer, volunteers would take her out to enjoy the sunshine. We all knew Trixie would not be with us long, and on the afternoon of March 11, she crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. She will be very much missed by all of us at PFOA who cared for her and loved her.

### "Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals...

I love your newsletter and read it from cover to cover. Remember Coca Cola's fiasco when they tampered with their product? Your newsletter has the perfect balance ... the reality of pathos in our world resolved through caring and optimism. Thank you, **Anne Goetzman** 

Want more STORIES? Read more on our facebook page at: www.facebook.com/ pfoasafehaven



their pets... and we ALL know what a great job of pet rescue and spay and neutering they are and have been doing for years! Helping this group is definitely helping our entire community! - **Pamela LaLonde** 

Thank you for all your work in saving our animals. Your stories are always so touching. Thank you, **Sharon L. Rand** 



I [wanted to let you know] how incredibly wonderful my new furry children are. When I first opened the carrier to introduce them to their new home, they rushed out to explore a little. Amazingly to me, neither was at all skittish or apprehensive. I only had to show them where the litter box was – otherwise, it's as if they've lived here for years!

Thursday evening when I sat down on the couch, Lover Boy (formerly known as Blondie) was instantly in my lap with no intention of moving. And Miss Pepper (formerly known as Daisy) was quickly looking out the windows, exploring her new surroundings. Both slept with me that night and have continued to do so.

I also have to praise PFOA's website as I was able to direct many email friends to view the pictures.

What an incredible facility you have! I have been a donor for a few years in honor of friends at Christmas, and my brother-in-law and sister donate as their Christmas gift to me. Now I have furry gifts as well! these two clearly came from a very loving home. I can't thank their dear former owner enough.

### **Paulette Willson**



I adopted Missy (Minnie when she was with you) on October 25th, last year. She has adapted beautifully to me and my house. It's like she's lived here all her life. She loves her window shelf. She can watch the birds & everything that goes on in front of the house. And it's a great place for an afternoon nap! I lost my husband in late June last year, then three months later, our kitty we'd had for 12 years, also crossed over the rainbow bridge. Missy has helped so much to fill the ache in my heart from losing my two guys. She's my little angel, wearing a black fur coat! **Barbara Ralph** 



Monty is slowly settling in and not shy to ask the kids to give him attention. He loves the tennis balls, begs for mice and goes through about 6 fur mice a week, which

he hides in our beds at night and fetches as good as any Labrador. He is also slowly learning that the giant rabbit Felix does not like to play with him but that the dog would love to do so and is safe. He is starting let his personality show and promises to become quite the funny, loving cat! **Marion Raykovitz** 



Thought you might like to see our Calliope [formerly Spots] in action. Quite a helper! James, Lynda and Jim Larison



Piles of fur on a rainy day. Perry aka Kirby and Jerry aka Hoover and their best bud Paisan all napping. Both kittens are healthy and getting bigger and bigger. The Sweeper Brothers want to thank PFOA for the wonderful article about their very extraordinary litter. They asked me to pass on how happy they were to know that all their brothers and sisters had been adopted. Janet Atkinson

### Ask PFOA – Outdoor Enclosures for Kitties

#### By Alicia Demetropolis

Let's face it: The kitties at Safe Haven are spoiled. They have large apartments, are showered with love every day, and have 24-hour access to outdoor enclosures where they can get plenty of fresh air and enjoy nature without worrying about their own safety.

As our felines find their forever homes, their forever families are finding it easier and easier to accommodate their every need – including that safe outdoor play area. Several families have built outdoor enclosures, while others find that using temporary playpens are a perfect alternative.

Our very own Jan Cubbage and her husband, Jen, built a kitty sun room. They used an existing deck already in place as the floor, and had a contractor extend the roof to cover the platform. Jen framed out the new room, built doors and installed screens. He chose to use ½" welded hardwire (not chicken wire) for the fencing. Added platforms and cedar steps give the kitties ample places to indulge their climbing desires.

To spoil their beloved felines even more, Jen and Jan also purchased and built a kit from Purr...fect Fence (http://purrfectfence.com) and topped it with screening. This gives the kitties an entire room to explore in the grass and chase after grasshoppers without worrying about overhead predators.

For those without the luxury of creating extra rooms or building large outdoor enclosures, there are plenty of other options available! A quick search at PAWS.org provided a short list of web sites available to the outdoor enthusiast. Two options, Catio Spaces and Pet Enclosures Northwest, are from the Seattle area. Remember that PAWS doesn't specifically endorse any of these companies, so it's up to



each of us to do our own research. Some of the temporary playpens are perfectly suitable for visits to the great outdoors and easy to set up as well.

Lastly, it is possible to blend the temporary playpens with the indoor/ outdoor access. Consider installing a pet door, and keep it locked until it's time to set up the playpen immediately outside. While you're working in the yard, Kitty can come and go as she pleases through the pet door and out into the safety of a temporary enclosure.

More tips to consider if you are pondering this process: Remember to offer areas of shade for your kitties, or place the pens in part shade and part sun. Keep fresh water outside for them at all times. Consider offering her fresh catnip during her outdoor adventure.

Need help? Jen Cubbage says he'd be pleased to offer advice to someone considering building their own outdoor adventure park, as might some of the other amazing folks who've helped us at Safe Haven and Barker House. Give us a call at (360) 452-0414 if you'd like to bounce ideas off of someone, and we'll try to connect you with a volunteer.

Our kitties naturally want to explore the great outdoors, and we want to spoil them and indulge their every desire. These outdoor enclosures give us all great peace of mind and great joy at the same time! \*



Dear Rosie & Tony, I am writing to you from inside my Papa's closet. I know you can help me because you're both really smart and I love the advice you've given everyone else.

So a few weeks ago, Papa moved in with Mom and Dad and me. He was always my favorite person. I could sit on his lap and scratch my head on his beard and he would laugh and he always smelled good. But there's something wrong with him now. There are lots of people around and he smells different and he doesn't leave the bed and things are just different. I keep hearing them say he had a stroke. I'm really scared and I hide a lot and Mom and Dad keep trying to help me but I don't know what to do. I don't want to hurt Papa's feelings but I'm so scared. I know you can help me.

Thank you. Stuart

Tony and Rosie chose to reply to Stuart together: Oh, dearest Stuart, we are so sorry to hear about your Papa. Yes, this is hard for you and for everyone. Just know that he does still love you and - trust us, son – he is as scared as you are and possibly more so. He is still your Papa inside, and he needs your love more than ever right now. If you are strong and can show him you still love him, it will make him happy, and that brings us some of our greatest joy - knowing we can make our loved ones happy. Maybe when things quiet down at night, you can join him in bed and think of all your happy memories with him. Doing that will send him love and powerful feline healing, and that will help him feel much better. Please let us know how things go. Please keep in touch. We are here for you.

### **Compassionate Cats?**

#### By Sasha Sterling

Tiger, my silvery-gray tabby domestic longhair lay sprawled on the sofa in my studio apartment, pressing close to me and purring as I sat sobbing on the floor beside her. Peanut, the hamster I inherited from a relationship that ended the year before, had just died. He was the last physical reminder of good times shared with my former boyfriend.

An exceptionally sensitive cat, Tiger always seemed attuned to my emotions. Since I grew up in an era that denied thoughts and feelings to animals, Tiger's act of kindness came as a welcome surprise as well as a great comfort. Could it be that, like us, cats feel compassion?

As defined by various dictionaries, compassion is an emotion, a feeling of concern for another's suffering that leads to a desire to alleviate that suffering or at least to comfort the sufferer. Many people – even some animal lovers – still view compassion as a strictly human capability. Common stereotypes promoted by outmoded textbooks still label cats as entirely self-interested and incapable of compassion toward humans or even toward their own kind. To state otherwise is to indulge in the dreaded "anthropomorphism".

Only in the past twenty years or so has the scientific community begun a shift in attitude toward the possibility of animal emotions. Studies of wild populations of elephants, giraffes, porpoises, and even hyenas, indicate that they feel grief for the loss of a member of their social group and will even grieve with a mother who has lost one of her offspring. Similar studies with domestic cats and dogs reveal a wide range of emotions. It should not be surprising that the formerly wild and solitary *Felis sylvestris lybica* could have expanded its emotional repertoire through long association with humans.

Field studies receive credibility because they involve long-term observations carried out by trained experts working in a defined geographical area and are assumed less subject to misinterpretation than observations by lay persons. Anecdotes from private individuals are largely disregarded by science, easily dismissed on the grounds that they could be the product of wishful thinking. Yet, couldn't personal anecdotes combined with scientific data be taken as meaningful when the evidence from both points in the same direction?

It does appear that strong bonds between human and cat or other companion animal and cat are necessary for compassion to express itself in acts of kindness. One notable exception is the therapy cat – capable of providing comfort for complete strangers. Although specific breeds do excel at this job, the greatest success seems to be a function of individual cats' personalities. And so it is with cats in general. In my ongoing life with cats, I continue to see expressions of kindness from some, but not others. Cats each show their feelings in different ways. Perhaps that's one of the reasons that adopting a new cat is such an exciting and rewarding experience.

Can anecdotes or controlled studies "prove" what a cat feels? No more than the loving bond between human and pet can be distilled and analyzed. Cat lovers just "know," and "knowing" is a matter of the heart. �





Magenta



Moody





Cinder







Roxy





Dotless

Boone



Monty



Spot Nelson





Johnny Red



Tailspin



Morgan

### Look who's been adopted! ---Continued from Page 1



Cherry



Betsy



Memphis



Otis



Edie



Percy



Bootsie



Luther



Scooter

**Betty Sue** 

Ernest

Meesha

Arnold

Della



**Maribel Mittens** 



Harry



Brady



Manerd



Deano



Peggy Sue



Jim





Tezzy



Skyler



Oliver



Aimslee



Jamie



Auntie

See





Ladybug



Daisy



Mary



Mariah



Ross



Elefet Memorials and Honorariums Elefet

Memorials given in honor of a deceased pet, in memory of a friend or family member, or Honorariums to thank special friends 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 Nancy Campbell. From Carolyn Beavert
- In honor of Doris Cosman. From Scott Cosman
- In honor of **Barb Swedeen**, my wonderful aunt. Happy New Year to all! Keep up the great work! From **Pam Davee**

■ In honor of **Willow DiBrino-Deur**. Thanks for your good work! From **Doug & Faith Deur** 

- In honor of Mike Williams. From Robin Rush
- In honor of John and Robin McCrery. From Robin Rush
- In honor of Jenna McCrery. From Robin Rush
- In honor of Karen Klein. From Susan Standish

■ In honor of **John and Nancy Dolansky** for doing an amazing job of fostering Deano and helping heal his leg injuries, taking him on all of the trips to the vet, adjusting your home to accommodate him, and going above and beyond for the sweetest boy. You did a wonderful job of getting him ready for his new forever home. I know saying goodbye was difficult. We are so lucky to have such giving foster families in our community. From **Tammy White** 

- In honor of Polly & Terry Lyle. From Mary Beth Young
- In honor of Chuck & Linda Livingston. From Bobbie Hairfield
- In honor of Nathan Paulson. From Scott & Linda Paulson
- In honor of my sister, Lois J. Sorg. From Gloria Shepard
- In honor of Paulette Willson. From Christopher and Kathleen Duff
- In honor of my mother, Carol Mahaney. From Kim Gillen
- In honor of Terry Vogel. From Anne Hines

■ In honor of **Gary Del Mastro** for his love of all living beings. From **Janice and Andrew Meyers** 

- In honor of Dave and Lisa, and their friend Victoria. From Lois Sorg
- In honor of Mia, Lily and Simon Barnhart. From D.G. Barnhart

■ In honor of **Jim Arnold (and the late Suzanne Arnold)**. From **Tammy** White

### Honorarium (Pet)

■ In honor of Lily, my friend Valerie Phillips' pet. From Anne Goetzman

- In honor of **Nellie**. From **J. Sharpe**
- In honor of Sweetums. From Jo Ann Bergmans

■ In honor of **Bert & Ernie**, our cats you rescued and whom we now love and cherish. From **Debra & Chuck Holland** 

- In honor of thanksgiving for the cats God has blessed me with in my life. From **John Joseph Pajor**
- In honor of our foster cat Deano! From Nancy & John Dolansky
- In honor of Missy "Princess." From Tom & Sandi Shields
- In honor of "Randy" rescued in 2010. From Jannine Norvell
- In honor of Lizzie & Maggie. From Jacquelyn Faucette

- In honor of Izzy. From Janet and David Reichl
- In honor of Tabitha. From Brighid McCarthy
- In honor of **Duke and Daisy** (PFOA alumni). From **Rebekah and** William Grant

■ In honor of **"Sam"** (Siamese) and **"Raleigh"** (smoke tabby Manx). From **Jeannine Harrington** 

■ In honor of Shadow and Memphis. From Will Crossin

### In Memory of Special People

- In memory of Virginia Asivido. From Carol Asivido
- In memory of William Norbert Evers. From Ruth and Stephen Saks
- In memory of Robert K. Widdicombe, Jr. From Joanna Louis
- In memory of Jerry Miller. From Phyllis Anderson

■ In memory of **Joyce Serquinia**, a long-time supporter of PFOA. From **Donald Clinebell** 

- In memory of my mother, Joyce Serquinia. From Susan Fahlgren
- In memory of **Joel Pursell**. From **Janice Pursell**
- In memory of Joel Pursell. From Richard and Sheila Moore

■ In memory of **Joel Pursell**. From your **friends at Holland Township** Education Association

- In memory of **Don Wells**. From **Joy Maxion**
- In memory of Chris Buell. From Beverly Buell
- In memory of Flora Pfannerstein. From Peggy Anderson
- In memory of my friend **Bud Deitz**. From **DeDe Juliussen**
- In memory of Helen Wood. From Dave Wood
- In memory of Richard W. Newton. From Elizabeth L. Newton
- In memory of **Don Gerber**. From **Bertha Gerber**
- In memory of Helen Beckstead. From Dori Beachler
- In memory of Sharon O. Long. From Gloria Cerney

■ In loving memory of our Aunt **Dolores** (Fraits) from Kathie, Lee and **Deborah** 

■ In memory of Edward Cezla. From Anne Storch

■ In loving memory of **Duane "Dad" Bruce**, from **Kenny & Bonnie Bryner** 

### In Memory of Beloved Companion Animals

■ In memory of Mary Sue Brancato and Ed Bowlby's sweet **Bobby**. From **Tammy White** 

■ In memory of Emily, Kristin, and Mike Glenn's gentle Maggie the chocolate dog. From Tammy White

■ In memory of Cindy Weston and Kelly Olson's good ol' **Buster**. From **Tammy White** 

■ In memory of Elaine Nelson's brave Lefty and loving Jeffery. From Tammy White

■ In memory of Rose Rose and Renee Lambert's Luna the Tortie (aka Stink Eye). From Tammy White

- In memory of Linda Carpenter's darling Rooney. From Tammy White
- In memory of Lyn and David Gilbert's fabulous **Smokey**. From **Tammy White**
- In memory of Lee and Jan White's pure 'white' **Pixie** with one green eye and the other blue. From **Tammy White**

**Karen Groves** 



■ In memory of Marilyn Ash's sweet Calico, Nutmeg, who left far too soon. From Betty Gordon and Michael Moss.

## A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR COMMU



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2972 Old Olympic Highway (36O) 457-3842 Port Angeles, WA 98362 Fax: 452-7430 www.blaemoantainvet.com

### CAT PRAYER

Now I lay me down to sleep I pray this cushy life to keep. I pray for toys that look like mice And sofa cushions soft and nice. I pray for gourmet kitty snacks And someone nice to scratch my back. For window seats all warm and bright For shadows to explore at night. I pray I'll always stay real cool and keep the secret feline rule: To never tell a human that The world is really ruled by CATS. - Anonymous

# 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

Nutro Dry Natural Choice kitten chicken & brown rice

Purina One Healthy Metabolism Adult Dry Food—Turkey as the #1 ingredient

Paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, bottled water, quart & gallon ziplock bags, 13 gallon trash bags, high efficiency non-scented liquid laundry soap, liquid dishwasher soap, copy paper, 8 1/2 x 11, 20 lb, white.

- 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, \$10 gift cards to Safeway or QFC for volunteers who transport cats to/from Hadlock Veterinary.
- Upholstered wing back chairs for cat rooms.

### **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
- 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@olypen.com http://safehavenPFOA.org

PFOA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Fed ID # 91-2127240

Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/ pfoasafehaven



### 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 PFOA Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, at the Lazy Acres Clubhouse. There will be a snackluck at 5:00 pm, with the business meeting starting at 6:00 pm.

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



If you are viewing this online and wish to make a donation electronically, click the Donate button below. If you prefer to use a credit card, you may call PFOA to make a donation.



### I WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

I am making a tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$t to be used for: Where needed Most Rescue & Re-home expenses or Spay/Neuter Programs (S/N, TNR)
I would like to sponsor a PFOA adoption-challenged or handicapped cat or dog. Cat or Dog \$10 / month \$120 / year \$500 lifetime of an animal New sponsor or Currently sponsoring
This donation is In Honor of: or In Memory of: Name: This is a person pet Please notify of this donation: Name:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_

I am renewing or prepaying my/our membership at \$20 per person per year. I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ per person for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Member Name(s):

☐ I would like to simplify my support with an automatic monthly donation. Please send me more information.

Name	Phone
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