



Pet Tidings

Stevie's Success Story

by Alicia Demetropolis

In July of this year, PFOA took in a beautiful, long-haired, very dark gray kitty whom we named Stevie. It was immediately apparent that she'd been through a lot in her three short years. Untrusting and wary, she'd been living on her own beneath an apartment building, being cared for by kind strangers to the best of their ability. This precious girl had been left outside, abandoned, when her owners moved out.

While her story is not uncommon, the condition in which we found her was a bit unusual: Stevie required extensive medical care, with special attention to her left eye. Our veterinarian determined that she may have experienced blunt trauma to the eye, rendering her blind and suffering from glaucoma.

It took some time, but Stevie learned to trust that she was in a safe place, and that we were here to help her get better.



As with any animal that realizes she's been truly rescued, Stevie's gratitude began to shine.

We at PFOA always hold out hope that the perfect forever home can be found for every needy kitty, and we never doubted that Stevie would find someone to love her, despite her difficulty adjusting to life in a normal setting, and the tiny challenge presented by her blind eye.

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Megan

ADOPTED!
SEE PAGE 10
FOR MORE



Leo



Ava



CeCe

SEE SOME
PETS AVAILABLE
FOR ADOPTION
ON PAGE 6



Whitesocks



Bear

Caring for Kitties in Need



See Page 4

Peninsula Friends of Animals

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Pet Tidings

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From the Editor's Desk

I have a “mea culpa” housekeeping item! The editorial in the Spring/Summer 2018 *Pet Tidings* suggested that, to donate via Amazon Smile, you need to designate “PFOA” as your designated charitable organization. We are actually listed with Amazon as **Peninsula Friends of Animals**. You will NOT be able to find us using just our initials. My apologies to any of you who had difficulty finding us on Amazon Smile. We encourage you to try again using the “real” information.

And now for the good stuff. We have recently completed a project that has taken well over a year since its inception. We are pleased and proud to present our 2019 Peninsula Friends of Animals art calendar. Hundreds of hours of work were spent to bring you this beautiful work. We thank the artists who created the stunning images of our kitties, the folks who contributed their ideas and talents during the design and review phases, and the core team who brought everything together – Danette Grady, Nancy Dolansky, and one other, whom it might seem self-serving to name. The article on page 10 will give you information on cost and ordering, and you will see some of the beautiful creations by our talented artists. We hope the stunning photos will induce you to purchase our calendars. *Remember, it's for the kitties!*

- Marilyn Ash, Editor



Mews from the Board

A challenge we faced in 2017, and still face today, is finding a qualified person to hire as a new Shelter Manager. This position currently is primarily held by Nancy Campbell and shared with two others. Nancy deservedly would like to retire from this position, but her shoes are so large that despite having followed some promising leads, we have yet to come up with a candidate capable of fulfilling our needs.

Another ongoing challenge is the increasing number of aging and special needs kitties under our care. Of all our kitties, this special group has the highest cost-per-feline due to their medical needs, representing a large portion of our operating expenses. Fortunately, during the past year we have seen an increase in senior and special needs adoptions: eight of our cats over the age of 10, plus three special needs kitties, have found permanent homes. But even with these adoptions, approximately 1/3 of our remaining shelter residents are in this category. We appreciate the donations our supporters have contributed toward meeting these costs, especially through the sponsorship program, and we hope you will continue to support our special kitties in the future.

One of our longtime supporters expressed her thoughts about adopting seniors beautifully: “I keep coming back to adopting senior pets for a couple of reasons. First, I find them to always be the gentlest of souls. They seem to no longer have the attitude that goes along with younger cats. They tend to be extra snuggly and just in need of love. Second, I strongly believe that no one should end their days in the shelter. I believe that everyone should have someone loving them at the end and mourning their absence. I also feel I can have a greater impact and help more animals if I know they won't be around 18 years. Of course, it is always heart crushing to lose them even after a few months but I always know my mission is complete if they felt loved.”

- Board of Directors, Peninsula Friends of Animals

Special Needs Met with Love

When Jeff saw Stevie's photo on our website, he immediately showed it to his wife, Judy. "We'd had a cat who looked very much like Stevie, and who had passed away just three years ago at 15 years of age," Judy said. The irony that their previous kitty passed away around the time Stevie was born was not lost on either of them.

But it wasn't just her looks that attracted Jeff and Judy to this special girl; their previous kitty had gone blind towards the end of her life, and they'd cared for her at every step of the journey. Stevie's blind eye, which would seem daunting to others, presented no problems for Jeff and Judy. In September, Stevie went home with her new parents.



"When she first came home," Judy said, "she was understandably very nervous. Then she progressed to the friendly stage, and then right away into an assertive stage. Kind of an 'I own this place and I'm just sharing it with you' stage," she laughed. They renamed Stevie. She's now called Evie, but Judy admits that they actually call her "Baby". She immediately asserted her dominance by sitting in their favorite spots on chairs or the couch. If asked to move, she'd refuse. And there was no arguing with Baby about it.

The couple decided to outsmart Baby: They put towels down in the spots that she had claimed as her own. "This way," Judy said, "when we wanted to sit down, we simply

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slid her off to one side. She got the hint pretty fast. Now, when she knows we're going to slide the towel on her, she just moves to another spot for us." Baby has also learned to choose other favorite spots not previously claimed by her parents.



"We've always had rescues," Judy explained. "We know they're more grateful and you can see their personality really come out after a while." In Baby's case, the couple suspects she hadn't had a lot of affection in her previous home, because her purrs are getting louder now – even after just two weeks. "We're still working on cuddling," she said. "We're patient. It will come in time."

It's easy to see that Baby is in good hands, and Baby sees it as well. "She now greets us very loudly and happily whenever we come home."

As for Baby's special needs, Judy says it's easy to care for her. "You just remember not to approach her from her left side. It's what you do. It's simple." She added that they're very happy they adopted her, and are also grateful for PFOA's advice not to adopt a second kitty at the same time. She said they both see now that Baby is best as a solo-kitty companion.

Baby spends her days telling off the birds at the feeders from the safety of a glassed-in porch, running to the kitchen when she hears the refrigerator door open, and screamingly defending her home against the neighbor cat's trespassing habits.

When I asked if Judy had any words of advice for other prospective animal companion seekers who might be leery of any special needs, Judy says, "Do not hesitate. Just go for the animal and know that you're adopting a companion that needs you. It will make your relationship that much more special. Remember that you're rescuing not only the body of the animal, but its personality and soul as well." ❖

Reminder to Gmail Users

If you're a Gmail user and aren't seeing emails from PFOA, be sure to look for them under your Promotions tab or category. We don't want you to miss any news from PFOA and the kitties!



Caring for Special Needs Animals

by Alicia Demetropolis

“I don’t have any particular skills that others don’t have. I just don’t give up. I don’t give up on the animal or on the situation.”

So says the original *Pet Tidings* editor, Ann Gilson, about her unusual avocation.

If you’ve ever wondered about folks who adopt and care for special needs animal companions, or wondered if you might have what it takes to offer a loving home to such a special furry friend, this article should answer all your questions.

We define a special needs animal as one who has a health condition requiring extra attention or extra accommodation. It can be as simple as having an FIV+ kitty, such as Sylvester¹, whom his new papa Robert said was “worth saving,” or as complex as Ann’s precious Zoe, who is paraplegic and must have her bladder expressed every four to six hours, as she cannot use a cat box.

One of our PFOA volunteers, Margaret, welcomed three kitties into her home who are afflicted with cerebellar hypoplasia²; they are affectionately known as “wobblers.” Boone, the least affected, is strong and never sick. Daniel is



Boone

sometimes sick, and, in Margaret’s term, “medium-wobbly.” Bonnie is the most wobbly and the most fragile in health. Margaret stresses the importance of accommodating the needs of new companions – and to be prepared to go to the vet on a moment’s notice.

Paisley³ is a sweet young gray and white girl who was diagnosed with diabetes. To keep her stress level low, Paisley’s new parents made the simple accommodation of taking her with them whenever they travel. They also take her in for a blood sugar screening every three months. It’s important to be able to connect with your special fur baby so that you learn to understand them. Paisley’s new family has learned the warning signs that she may not be feeling well, such as peeing outside her box or drinking more water.

Longtime supporter Candyce adopted Slinky, an FIV+ kitty, “because he was incredibly shy” and she feared that he would remain at the shelter for a long time because of his disease and demeanor. And now, with Candyce’s love and

attention, he is “quite feisty and playful and not fearful of any part of life.” She has no concerns about adopting FIV+ cats, since this is only an issue with actively aggressive cats. She adds, “Slinky is very healthy and lives a normal indulgent cat life. I didn’t need to change anything at home for him.”

Our Barker House caretaker, Tracy, loves our precious Lucy-Alice, who has Manx Syndrome⁴. In order to accommodate Lucy’s needs, Tracy sleeps with pee pads on the bed so that Lucy can purr alongside her all night long. Patience and understanding – and a good sense of humor – also come in handy. Because Lucy can’t feel when she’s passing stool, Tracy says, “I find little Hershey’s Kisses all over the house,” and laughs at the situation. Tracy just takes it all in stride.



Lucy Alice

These animal companions love to share their joy of life with their caretakers. Lucy gets a thrill out of being chased around the house by Tracy. “She loves it. She races around and I chase after her – and it’s good for her, too, because of her condition. So that’s a plus,” Tracy says.

“They’re not just special needs cats,” Margaret adds. “They’re *special*. They don’t know they’re handicapped. These kitties are an amazing example of how to live life carefree.”

The most important quality one should have when considering this type of adoption, however, is the willingness to make a lifelong commitment to an animal who has committed to loving you unconditionally. When a caretaker makes the heartbreaking decision to return a special needs cat to us, Ann says, they can potentially be left with a sense of failure, and the cat herself has had her life uprooted once again.

Margaret says, “If you make the choice to take this animal into your life, then you make the commitment to her. You have to be devoted.” Tracy agrees: “It can be a lot of work, but it’s extremely rewarding. Just be sure you’re fully educated before you commit to it. Learn everything you can about that particular condition. And the folks at PFOA will be patient with you and help you make the right decision for everyone. It’s so rewarding to see these cats flourish.”

Even if you’re not at a place in your life where you can commit to a life with one of these special beings, you can visit PFOA or arrange a visit to Barker House to get to know the cats in our care. Then, if you do make a connection with one of these kitties, you can choose to sponsor her instead.

When summing up life with special needs companions, Ann says it best: “As we sit here talking, and I look around and see Zoe and Sadie and Polly and Barley – and all of them are happy

Continued on Page 5

Meet a Volunteer: Marilyn Ash

By Alicia Demetropolis

One of my greatest pleasures in working with PFOA has been the partnership and friendship I've formed with Marilyn Ash, our *Pet Tidings* editor extraordinaire, Media Guru, current Board Treasurer, and former Board Secretary. And now, I get to introduce her to you, our amazing readers and supporters.

Marilyn spent 43 years in IT, starting as a programmer for Pacific Northwest Bell and ending as Systems & Programming Manager for Grant County PUD. When it came time for Marilyn, her husband, and their cats to retire and settle in Sequim, she could finally indulge in her desire to do more volunteer work.

She found out about PFOA through their new local veterinarian. "It took me a couple of passes to actually spot the entrance," she says, which was a problem we've helped to remediate with our new flags out front. Marilyn recalls knocking on the front door. "One of the volunteers answered the door, and when I asked if they needed any volunteer help, she replied, 'Come right in!'" After a short interview with the office manager and filling out the requisite paperwork, Marilyn was put to work socializing the kitties, a responsibility that fit right in with her cat loving personality.

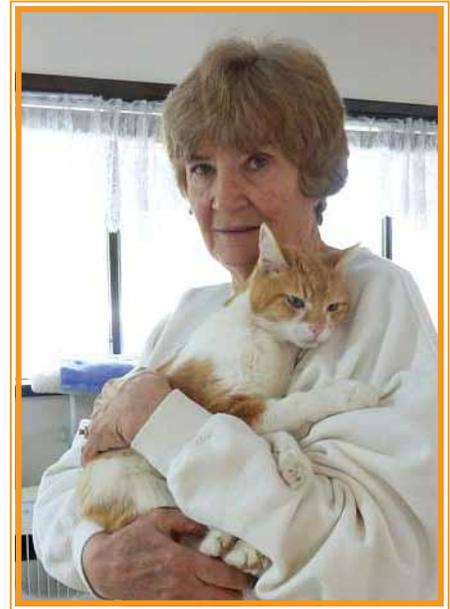
PFOA people are good at spotting

talent when they see it, and they soon learned of Marilyn's computer skills.

The rest, as they say, is history.

She took over radio and newspaper advertising from Helen Hille, whose health was declining, and this gave Marilyn the chance to learn graphic design. Then she started designing the monthly adoption and spay/neuter flyers, and after that, posters for some of the events. Soon enough, she was asked by Ann Gilson – our then-editor for *Pet Tidings* – to take over some responsibilities for this newsletter. It seemed only natural that she would become the next editor. Throughout all this – since 2013 – Marilyn has served on the Board of Directors, and has still managed to keep up with the multiple other demands of this more than full-time volunteer position. Her latest masterpiece? The 2019 calendar that's wowing our community.

Marilyn's greatest PFOA pride, however, is the redesign of PFOA's website. It took her nearly five months of hard work, but, she says, "I had so much fun with it. It really allowed my creative side to flourish." And how true this is: Gone is the long, scrolling of the old website's landing page, and in its place is Boswald peering out at you with quick links above his ears and below his nose. Clean, crisp, professional and easy to navigate, this new design has been well-received by



our viewers and members. If our kitties were allowed to play on the internet, they'd love it as much as we do!

As many of us suspect, a love of felines is contagious and, quite possibly, genetic: both of Marilyn's granddaughters are avid cat lovers. "They've visited the shelter several times," she says, "and both love socializing the kitties." Her oldest granddaughter has also followed in Marilyn's creative and techy footsteps, and has maintained the PFOA Instagram page.

Busy as she is, Marilyn says, "I love what I do. I still take time to be officially retired every once in a while. But would I trade this volunteer work with PFOA for anything else? No way. I love it too much." ❀

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and content, free of pain and living wonderful, wonderful lives – just this fact makes it all worthwhile. Everyone is content and happy. And it makes me content and happy, and brings me such joy. So you might say it's a very selfish thing to do. You always get more than you give." ❀

¹ Sylvester and his papa, Robert, were featured in our Spring, 2017 issue.

² Cerebellar hypoplasia is a neurological disorder caused by the cerebellum not being formed fully while in the womb. It can be caused by several factors, and may result in balance and mobility issues, and head tremors in the affected cat. This is the syndrome that affects our beloved Tippy.

³ Watch for Paisley's success story in the Winter, 2018 issue of *Pet Tidings*.

⁴ Manx Syndrome is a combination of symptoms common to cats who have shortened or missing tails as a result of breeding or malformation during embryonic development. Because the spinal cord is shortened, the bundle of nerves that transmits messages to the pelvic organs and hind legs are also missing, and one result is bladder and bowel dysfunction.



Zoe

Safe Haven
ADOPTABLES!

TUXEDOS and the cats who love them

Tuxedo kitties are exactly what you would expect from the name: mostly black, with white “bibs” and often with white markings on the muzzle. They come in all sizes and types, from shorthair to longhair, male or female, and varying in age from kittens to senior felines. At Safe Haven, we see a number of tuxedo cats, and more often than not, they are part of a bonded pair. The kitties featured in this column all have bonded partners—they need to find their forever homes together.



MITTENS

MITTENS and **NAPA** are young bonded sisters. Both tuxedos, they came to Safe Haven in serious need of socializing. They were both very shy and had some difficulty adjusting to their new environment, so different from where they had been. Fortunately, patient volunteers and staff gave them some much-needed extra attention and loves, and they are now developing into beautiful, loving kitties who will be very grateful to find their new forever home together!



NAPA



BOO

PEEKA and **BOO** are a bonded pair of sisters with a sad history. Trapped as older feral kittens, we worked very hard to socialize them so they could find homes. Adopted out as teenagers, they were soon returned when their folks moved. Then after four years with an elderly lady who loved them and respected their bond, that home was lost when their owner passed away. Boo has turned out to be a lovely, social cat who is quite adaptable. She is the rock that anchors her sister, Peekka, so we would like to see this pair be adopted together.



PEEKA



SPANKY

SPANKY and **SPATZI**, although not technically brothers, have spent eleven years together and are closely bonded. Spatzi, a beautiful Siamese mix, was just a year old when Spanky, a handsome tuxedo cat, was adopted into the family. The textbook example of well-behaved, loving cats, these are two of the gentlest souls you will ever meet. Spatzi is the more outgoing of the two, often greeting visitors at the door with a meow and leg rub. Spanky tends to be more laid back, often lounging in a cat tree—he loves to be petted and fawned over. Spatzi is in early renal insufficiency and is easily maintained with twice weekly fluids.



SPATZI

Please call PFOA at **360-452-0414** and press “2” to inquire about any of these featured pets. Leave a message if you get voice mail; a staff member will return your call. Or go online to see many others at www.safehavenPFOA.org

Ask PFOA: *The 5 Pillars of Trust*

by Sasha Sterling

When you've chosen a cat you'd like to adopt, PFOA recommends visiting several times before bringing her home. Shelter caretakers can give you clues to her personality and fill you in on any special needs. It's good to schedule your visits close together so that you can cultivate a lasting impression and lay a solid foundation for your relationship. As the human partner, you can plan your approach, respecting the cat's nature. When you're getting acquainted, you'll both use your five basic senses, but in different ways, to establish mutual trust.

For humans, vision is primary. We use our eyes to assess color, shape, size, and movement. Cats' vision is acutely attuned to movement at a distance, which helps them to locate prey or predator. It's important to approach a cat slowly and quietly. Rapid or jerky movements could be interpreted as aggression and cause the animal to recoil. On the other hand, they have difficulty focusing at distances closer than a foot. Don't get "in her face" or she may see you as a predator and react by hissing or raising a paw.

There's no need to wear colorful clothing to distinguish yourself in a cat's eyes. Science has found that they see colors only in the blue, green, and yellow-green spectral range. Your pet doesn't care about your wardrobe. So dress casually and comfortably.

For cats, auditory and scent cues may be more important than visual. Their hearing ability far exceeds ours, allowing them to hear high-pitched squeaks of mice that are well beyond human range. They don't respond well to very low-pitched or loud sounds. Raising your voice is likely to cause avoidance. Speak softly and reassuringly and it will go a long way toward establishing friendship. That

doesn't mean, however, that your pet won't occasionally regale you with loud howls and meows.

It's no surprise that cats are far more sensitive to smells than we are. Your scent will be a primary identification tag. Although cats are by reputation fastidious, your personal hygiene is much less important to them than theirs. In fact, they love to burrow into less-than-pristine bedsheets, lounge with smelly T-shirts, and stick their noses into well-worn shoes. Don't worry about wearing freshly-laundered clothes on your visit. Kitty will remember you better next time. And don't slather on hand lotion, perfume, or other chemical preparations. Cats HATE those odors.



The sense of taste probably won't come into play at the shelter. It's not recommended to offer treats there, because other cats may be in the room at the time of your visit, and yours may be on a special diet.

Don't get in my face!

Touch supplies the magic that seals the bond of friendship between human and cat. But it's wise to proceed with caution. Shelter cats that are ready for adoption have learned to accept touch without fear, and most enjoy it, but individual kitties vary in how much petting they want. If it's too much, they'll let you know in no uncertain terms. Later on in the relationship, they'll often crave your touch even more than you can give at the time.

At some point, as you and your pet become acquainted, you'll want to let go of thinking and planning and just be with her. Be silent for awhile together, enjoy the camaraderie, and let love happen. ♣



Pet First Aid App

The Red Cross has released an app that will make new pet parent's lives a tiny bit easier. Called "Pet First Aid" the app offers a wealth of information on what is normal behavior for your pet, and what to do in situations where your pet is having trouble. It may be useful if the animal appears to be having an allergic reaction to something, is involved in a car accident, or needs CPR. Other topics include heart emergencies, frostbite, hypothermia, choking, breathing problems, bleeding, smoke inhalation and wounds.

“Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals . . .”



Dearest PFOA,

Thank you so much for the love and care given to all the little furry Beings that find their way to your protection! This gift is given in the name of Sharron Fogel for her birthday. Much appreciation for all you do!

Donna Rudolph



Thank you for Birdie and Bandit, and they thank you for a good temporary home and good care. We are making good progress in learning to be friends and obedient servants to Birdie and Bandit.

Ivars & Baiba Sarkans

Thank you so much for reminding me of all the wonderful work you do. Our community is truly blessed to have PFOA. **Connie Rene**



Our beautiful boy, Kirby, came from PFOA 4 years ago in November. He is the gorgeous black kitty with his brother, Hoover, and their adopted Uncle Paisan. They were Jerry and Perry from PFOA. They are our treasures. **Janet Atkinson**

Cece is doing very well. She adapted to our home rather quickly and took to Taor’s desk as her home. He ordered her a giant palace of a cat gym, which she adores and sleeps in all day as cats tend to do. She comes out with me when I water my garden and I have her stick close as there are other roaming cats in the neighborhood. Meeka was curious about her and the two had a rough meeting even with introductory periods. However they have both come to an understanding and are at peace. She’s doing well on a mixed diet, favoring the dry food over the wet, but still eats [the wet food].

Nicholas Chandler



Here are some photos of Stevie/ Evie. We are so happy to have her as a part of our family. She is so loving you would never know she has not been ours from birth.

Thank you for her. **Jeff & Judy Kenyon**



This is Gracey's favorite place to be — anywhere "Papa" Junior is. We think she is most hungry for contact/connection — she's a sweetheart :)

M. A. Blake



“Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals . . .”



Thanks for taking such good care of Thomas until he could come home to his forever home. He and James were nose-to-nose a half-second before I got this photo.

Sarah Miller

Dear Friends at PFOA,

Kattcher and I are sending along a little donation to help with whatever needs are most urgent at PFOA. And we send our thanks to all of you who do so much for the kitties.

Our latest entertainment is making potholders for PFOA. Kattcher inspects each step of construction to ensure quality control. We are a good team in this as in all of our tasks and chores. Having Kattcher here with me brightens every day and calms every night. But for you, I would not have my lively, loving friend. Thank you so much, and always.

Lauretta and Kattcher, of the many toes, Ehling

Want more STORIES?
Read more at the bottom of page 10 and our facebook page at: www.facebook.com/pfoasafehaven

More Molly Mewsings

by Molly (her Dad, Bill Sparling, helped)

It's me, Molly. (My name used to be Nala, but Mom and Dad gave me a new name and I really like it!) I hope everything is going well for you and all of the nice people at PFOA. I am having a marvelous time with my now permanent humans. I really like it here with my new mom and dad.

Dad found me a couple of things I really like. One is called a “Shed Master” and Mom and Dad run it over me to get all of the loose fur out of my coat. It has rounded “teeth” so it doesn't hurt when they run it over me. I was a little apprehensive (boy, is that a long word for a little kitty) at first but as soon as I figured it out, I got to liking it.

Dad also got me some stuff that I get almost frantic for. He only gives me about six of them and I eat them out of his hand. They are called “Temptations” and I LOVE them! He and Mom say that I can't have too many of them because I should not eat so much. I only get them a couple of times a day.

My dad just keeps looking at me and smiling. I think he really loves me because he does that a lot. He even watches me when I sleep. (I peeked.) Today he watched me take a bath and comb my fur. He laughed because one of my ears got stuck folded down. He told Mom I looked like a Scottish Fold but only on one side. So if they want to watch me take a bath, I guess it is okay. Whatever floats their boat.

We had company last week – two big people and two little people. I guess they are not really little. Mom and



Dad said they are teen-agers, whatever that is. The girl's name is Sarah and the boy's name is Aaron. The big people are Doug and Julie. They live in California. They come to visit just about every year. Boy did I get a lot of pets and scratches and loves. They even brought me some new toys to play with.

I let Sarah pick me up and carry me to the spare room from my sleepy spot on Mom and Dad's bed. I really loved all of the attention and I let them all know it by giving them rubs and bumps and purring a lot for them. I even slept with Sarah one night while they were here. I hope they come back again. I like them. Julie took a nice picture of me lying on my back just after a session with some catnip, a few Temptations and a nice combing with my Shed Master. That comforter is pretty good camouflage but she found me anyway.

Well, after typing all of this, I am kind of tired so I think I will go take a nap on their bed.

I hope you and all of my PFOA friends are doing well and that you are all as happy as I am in my new forever home.

I send you all head bumps and rubs and I am purring to you as I have been typing.

Nite, nite, Molly ❖

Look who's been adopted!

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See
some adoptable pets on
Page 6 and online at
www.safehavenpfoa.org



Mary



Cash



Sadie



Ella



Meow Meow



Lexi



Gracie



Sparky



Johnny



Stevie



Anna



Paula



Miss Grey



Harmony



Peter



TK



Patrick



Korine



Hi Family,
I am just checking in to let you know that things are going very well here and that I am very happy to have the opportunity of a new home and

family that loves me — I want to thank you all for giving me this opportunity! I do miss you guys though.

Our drive home from the shelter was good! I fell asleep on my new mom's lap and a few times got to look out the window at all the cool things that were out there, but most of the time I was just enjoying the big new bed they had for me, it was so comfy! ☺

My first day at the new house was interesting. I got to do a lot of exploring and pretty much now know every corner and secret place here. I got my very own room, with my very own bed! I mean, a BIG bed just for me, guys! Mom even went and got me pet stairs for me so that I didn't have to jump up and down from the bed and hurt myself — she's a keeper. I also got my very own big couch, but sometimes prefer to steal grandpa's better — you should see the look on his face every time, HAH! And my couch has the view of the big window, so I get to see the people walking, cars passing by and the

children heading to grab their bus to go to school, school. It IS quite exciting to watch them (I am silently judging them too).

The house also has a big yard and a bunch of squirrel and bird feeders so that I can see them during the day, it is pretty cool! And mom and grandpa have a special scratchy house next to window for me and a nice soft bed so that I can sit watching the critters through the day.

So...yesterday was my 16th Birthday! And while I didn't get a sweet 16 birthday party, I did get showered with love, special treats (yes, I am on a diet and it is stupid), lots of kisses and cuddles, oh, and grandpa even stayed home with me for the day so I could feel special and loved while I acclimate to the new house — little they know that I already feel at home, but hey! Can't blame a girl for wanting, asking for and getting all this attention! I think I deserve it, no?

I think mom is still trying to catch up on some sleep, apparently "someone" doesn't know how to share a bed! I mean, the nerve of some people stealing beds. Ok, ok, ok, I am learning and now DO give her some space in the bed to sleep instead of taking it all-though taking the whole bed is way better — just saying! Oh, and she snores! Ehem, yeah, her, not me...anyways, things are good, I am loving it here and love how much they love me and care for me, I am one happy girl!

Thank you guys again for loving me enough to allow me this new opportunity and adventure! Enjoy the pictures — more to come.

Cheers, Lexi Luschen



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Washing Your Pet's Water and Food Bowls Should be Part of Your Daily Routine

by Kimberly Gonzales

It's easy to fall into the habit of just topping off water and food in our pet dishes — but it's really not a good practice. A study conducted by NSF International, a public health and safety organization, has identified pet food and water bowls one of the top five dirtiest places in the home when tested for yeast, mold, and bacteria like Salmonella, E. coli, and other coliform.

Pet bowls are a haven for germs that can negatively impact the health of our pets and they even can contain bacteria that are harmful for us. A common problem from bacteria for cats is an acne that can build up under their chin. Bacteria is not healthy for their gums and teeth and can cause

other infections and pneumonia, especially in pets with a compromised immune system.

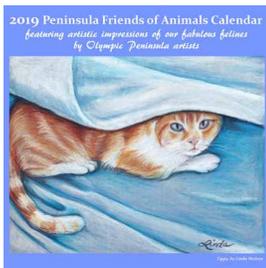
Pet food bowls should ideally be washed after every meal; but at the very least—daily. Water bowls should be washed daily. Don't simply dump old water out and put fresh water in.

Fat in both moist and kibble pet food is a perfect breeding ground for bacteria. The oils from the food and saliva mix together to create a particularly nasty biofilm in food dishes. Bacteria in the air settle in water and reproduce themselves, creating biofilm in water dishes. This is the slippery film that you've probably felt on the side of a dirty pet bowl. It attracts all kinds of bacteria and provides a home for them to breed and multiply. The way to keep biofilm out of your cat's water and food bowls is to wash them daily.

Rinsing dishes alone won't kill bacteria. Dishes must be washed with hot, soapy water either by hand or in the dishwasher. If by hand, use a sponge, scrub or brush to remove any residue. Then rinse very, very well. Although dish soap is not particularly toxic, if the bowl is not thoroughly rinsed out the water will at least taste funny to your pet or upset your pet's stomach.

It might be a good idea to have several food and water bowls on hand, so you'll always have a clean one ready for the next meal. The best containers for your pets are stainless steel or porcelain. Do NOT use plastic bowls — they are porous and easy to scratch; this can leave tiny crevasses where bacteria and mold can grow, even after a thorough cleaning.

Taking a few minutes every day to wash your pet's food and water bowls will help keep your pet healthy! ❀



2019 Art Calendar

Are you looking for that extra special gift for the cat fancier or art connoisseur in your life? Well, Peninsula Friends of

Animals has just the item you have been looking for...

We have recently completed a project that has been well over a year in the planning. With the generous donation of artwork from 14 Olympic Peninsula artists, we have created a 12" x 12" full color art calendar for 2019. Each month features an image of one of our current or former shelter kitties by a different artist. And each artist has used his/her favorite medium to beautifully capture the chosen feline. You'll find original art created using oil, acrylic, watercolor, and stippling (pointillism) techniques.

Our cover kitty is, of course, Tippy, and we have a memorial to Tony the Tiger on the inside cover. One of our artists created a beautiful painting of his very own kitty, adopted, of course, from PFOA. You'll raise your glass to toast the New Year with Spanky - Mr. January, and celebrate the end of year holidays with colorful Megan, Miss December. Each portrait, in vivid color, is suitable for framing. This calendar is one that anyone would be proud to display on their wall.

That's it for the teaser. To meet Mr. January through Miss December, you'll just have to stop by the shelter to purchase your very own 2019 Peninsula Friends of Animals calendar. Calendars are also available at Twice Loved Books in Sequim. And at \$14.99, you will not only be purchasing artwork to grace your wall all year long, but will be benefitting our rescues as well. You can also order a calendar and we will mail it to you. \$21.00 covers the cost of the calendar plus our mailing costs. To order, send a check or money order for \$21.00 to PFOA, PO Box 404, Sequim, WA 98382. You may also order with a credit card by calling the shelter at (360) 452-0414. *Remember, it's for the kitties!* ❀

Memorials and Honorariums

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.

Please note that there could be up to a four-month lag between the cutoff date for receiving memorials and honorariums and the date that Pet Tidings is published and delivered to your home. If you don't see your remembrance here, please check the following issue.

Honorariums (Person)

- In honor of **Donna D. Davis**, who lovingly cared for Gizmo, Darby and Cleo. They changed our lives. From **Thomas Davis**
- In honor of **Aunt Rhonda's** birthday from David Brande on behalf of the **Feline Sergio Leone**
- In honor of my mother, **Shirley McFadden's**, birthday. From **Kathryn McFadden**
- For **Sharron Fogel's** birthday fundraiser. From **Sean Taylor, Hannah Taylor, Alyssa Taylor, Mike Anderson, Sharon Jensen, Tippy, Laurel Santee, Saundra Levitz, Gloria Harper, Robert Santee, Donna Johnson, and Sharron Fogel**
- From **Danielle Delaney** in thanks to **Kevin Rose** for rescuing her cat from a tree
- From **Peter Howard** in honor of his parents, **Michael & Carol Howard**

Honorarium (Pet)

- In honor of **Tiiimmii**, adopted from PFOA several years ago. From **Llory Wilson**
- In honor of **Bluey**. From **Lynda Wong**
- In honor of my cats. From **Bonnie Cassidy**
- In honor of **Leo & Wolfie**. From **Marilyn Eveland**
- In honor of my cat, **Luna (Stickers)**. From **Colleen Rowe**
- In honor of our cats, **Simba & Rosalie**. From **Richard Hahn & Loretta Flanders**
- In honor of my cat, **Sasha Ann**. From **Patricia Dearing**
- In honor of my cat, **Paisley**. From **Cynthia Knudson**
- In honor of **Monte**, the most special cat I've ever had. From **Joanne Backer**
- In honor of my cat, **Nalie**. From **Susan Rettela**

In Memory of Special People

- In memory of my friend and fellow RN, **Barbara Carl**. From **Audrey Salkield**
- In memory of **Mrs. Barbara Carl**. From **Janet MacDonald**
- In memory of **Sharon K. Adams**. From **Ted Johnson**
- In memory of **Dorothy Sheely Drain**. From **Joanne Eagan**
- With thanks to the courage and love that inspired **Janet Harker** to create a Safe Haven for needy cats. Surely a large purring crowd was waiting impatiently for her to cross that Rainbow Bridge. From **Susan Kreml and Ginger, Gremlin & Jasmine**
- In memory of my cousin **Sonja Bolewicki**. From **Scott & Donna Kilmer**

- In memory of **Shirley Lackman**. From **Carla Howe**
- In memory of **Janet Harker**. From **Bruce & Helen Page**
- In memory of my dear friend, **Barbara Carl**. From **Sharon Jensen**
- In memory of **Janet Harker**, a fellow soldier in the crusade to make this a better world for animals. Her efforts will always be remembered with respect and admiration by those who knew her. From **Ann Gilson**
- In memory of **Janet Harker** and all of you wonderful people at PFOA. From **Noir, Echo, Karen & Van Niemi**
- In memory of **Betty Wood Barnard**. From **Chris Christensen**
- In memory of **William Miller**. From **Nancy Anderson**
- In memory of **Tom Sharpe, Sr.** From **Vern & Joy Klimecky**
- In memory of my uncle, **Tom Sharpe, Sr.** From **Pete Klimecky**
- In memory of **Chris Buell**. From **Beverly & Eugene Buell**
- In memory of **Chuck Livingston**. From **Roberta Hairfield**
- In memory of **Richard Pinder**. From **Jill Pinder**
- In memory of **Beverly J. Evanger**, a sweet, caring person who loved animals very much. From her friends, as well as people she touched during her life but never met face-to-face, who have collected this money so that some more good can happen in the world in Beverly's honor.
- In memory of **Ben & "Bob" Thacker**. Ben and his wife Liz rescued Bob the cat, and Bob became Ben's best friend, and vice-versa. Ben passed away and Bob was very lonely. He still had "Tux" and Elizabeth, but life was not the same. His diabetes seemed to overwhelm him after Ben died and, despite all the love and care from Liz and Tux, Bob crossed the bridge to be with his best friend Ben. So, they are both Special People to me. From **Darlin Beach**
- In memory of **Joyce Loudon**, friend to all animals and very special friend to me. From **Kathy Trainor**
- In memory of **Sandy Blankenship**. From **Penni Bailey**
- In memory of **Tom Sharpe**. From **Judith Sharpe**

In Memory of Beloved Companion Animals

- In memory of my beloved **Maggie**, who found her last home with me many years ago. May she be as happy in Paradise as she was here. From **Ann Gilson**
- In memory of **Monroe** the cat. From **Harriet Angulo**
- In memory of **Midnight**. From **Suzanne Schmidt**
- In memory of my cat, **Tippy**. From **Bruce Johnson**
- In memory of **Charlie**. From **Beverly Hardcastle**
- In memory of my dog, **Bruce**. From **Janet MacDonald**
- In memory of **Simba**, beloved feline companion of **Loretta Flanders & Dick Hahn**. From **Michael Moss & Betty Gordon**
- In memory of **Patsy Hauser's** cat, **Mia**. From the staff in **Children's Administration at DCFS**
- In memory of **Lucy**, a loving companion to **Barb Gruner's** mother and later a companion to **Barb and her husband, Ed**. From **Bonnie Mayfield**
- In memory of little **Lucy Gruner**, kitty-love of **Barb and Ed Gruner**. May she rest in sweet peace. From **Artie & Ron O'Kelly**

Memorials and Honorariums

- In memory of my **Heidi**. From **Viki Kocho**
- From **Annette Chaffee** in memory of her 18-year old cat, **Tinker Bell**
- In memory of our dear girl, **Mother**. From **Rustynne Dalton & Sean Brown**
- In memory of all the wonderful pets that blessed my life. From **Connie Rene**
- For Marcus' care, from **Karen Robinson** in memory of her cat **Smokey** who looked like PFOA's Marcus and also had diabetes.
- In memory of **Dottie**. She loved everyone at K's studio and everyone loved her! From **Donna Pearson**
- In memory of **Dommy and Zaggy**, True Hibbard's two wonderful dogs who died within a few days of one another. From **Paulette & Barry Mills**
- In memory of my **Sadie**. From **Carol Goss**
- In memory of Makena's cat **Ivy**. From **Carol Girt**
- In memory of Bethany and Matt's **Charlie**. From **Jacqueline Petersen**
- In memory of my cat, **GG**. From **Jeanne Iversen**
- In memory of my cat, **Blanca**. From **Juanice Reyes**
- In memory of **Half Pint**. From **Bia Weigel**
- In memory of Dee Bohonis' steadfast and funny Rottweiler companion, **Lyra**. From **Michael Moss & Betty Gordon**
- In memory of my cat, **Yoda**. From **Anne Storch**
- "Just want to say hello from the Rainbow Bridge. I crossed over on May 2, 2018. Much love and purrs from **Tux Thacker**." (From **Ben & Elizabeth Thacker**)
- In memory of my cat, **Morris**. From **Louise Holmes**
- In memory of PFOA's **Tony**. From **Linda Dennis**
- In memory of **Samantha** the cat, who resided with her buddy Bob Madsen for many good years. From **Kirsten Ruhl**
- In memory of **Santiago, Trevor, Galen, Vinny, Rueben, Mungo, Darmody and Emma**. From **Johnjoseph Pajor**
- In memory of my dog, **Worf**. From **Janet Carter**



The memorial wall at Safe Haven. Memorial tiles honoring a beloved pet are available for purchase. They form the frame of the Rainbow Bridge mural. It's a wonderful place to visit and honor the animals who wait for us.



Dear Rosie,

I'm writing to you from inside the top of the cat tree in B-1. My sister, Boo, is going to give my letter to Miss Danette when she comes down to check on us. I know she'll get it to you right away.

Rosie, I'm so scared and so tired. I mean, I'm glad that our papa brought us back here when he went to wait for us at the Rainbow Bridge. I'm happy to be some place safe. But I miss my papa, and my home and everything here is all new again. New smells and new roommates. And I'm so sad about Tony. I miss him. He was like a father to me and Boo. I just want to hide forever.

I just need to hear you say that everything is going to be all right. Boo tells me that every day. But I know you'll have more to say to make me feel better.

Sad and scared,
Peeka

Rosie replies:

My dearest, dearest Peeka,

I was conflicted, too, when I heard you and Boo had come back to us. I was glad that you feel safe with us, yet sad that you had lost your happy home.

I know you hoped I would have something to say to make you feel better, but I'm going to rely on the wisdom that Tony passed to me during our years as friends and colleagues. Tony would tell you that being scared is okay, and that hiding is okay, too. He would tell you that felines are strong and resilient, but also very sensitive and caring, and this is what makes you special. And it is what will help your new parents fall in love with you when they see you.

Give yourself time, little one. Give yourself lots of time. Everything will be all right.

Love,
Rosie

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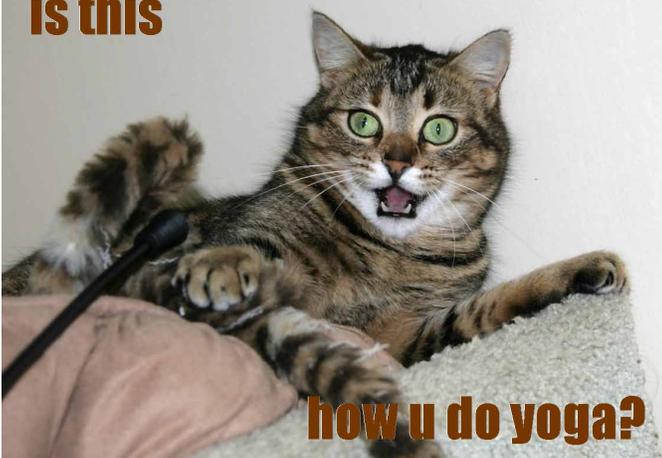
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Salter Model 914 Infant and toddler electronic bath scale

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE:

PFOA potholders are available at the following local businesses:

- **Birds of a Feather**, 825 W. Washington St, Sequim, (360) 477-4343
- **Forage Gifts & Northwest Treasures**, 121 Washington St, Sequim (Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 11am-4pm) (360) 797-1018
- **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
- **Old Post Office Sweets & Gifts**, 751 Carlsborg Road, Carlsborg (Tue-Sat, 8am-5pm) (360) 681-8014
- **Safe Haven** (Tue-Sat, 11am-4pm)
- **Wild Birds Unlimited**, 275953 Hwy 101, Gardiner (Mon-Sun 9am-6pm) (360) 797-7100
- **George Washington Inn**, 939 Finn Hall Road, Port Angeles, (360) 452-5207
- **7 Cedars Gift Shop**, 270756 Hwy 101, Sequim, (360) 683-7777
- **Hardy's Market**, 10200 Old Olympic Hwy, Sequim, (360) 582-0240
- **Jardin du Soleil Lavender**, 3932 Sequim Dungeness Way, Sequim (360) 582-1185

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http://safehavenPFOA.org

PFOA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization,
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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.

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Dates to remember:

■ **The PFOA Board** meets at Safe Haven from 11:30am-2:00pm 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 11am-4pm, closed Sunday and Monday. Call (360) 452-0414 and press "2" to make an appointment; appointments required.

■ **Jamestown Bazaar**, November 3, 9am-4pm

■ **Grey Wolf**, November 17-18, 10am-4pm

■ **Vern Burton**, December 1, 9am-5pm;
December 2, 10am-4pm

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