



Pet Tidings

Simmons, the Gentleman Cat

by Tracy Coyle and Marilyn Ash

The stray cat was tired. His long coat was dirty and matted. He was always hungry. Fending for himself was difficult, and he longed for an easier life. He dimly remembered his early life, when he lived with humans who fed him and cared for him. Life was so much better then! But that was a distant memory from long ago.

One day, he spotted a young girl walking home from school. "She looks nice," he thought. "I wonder if she has any food!" He took a chance, and followed her home.

The young girl's family couldn't keep him, but they did the next best thing. A friend knew of a rescue organization who found good homes for stray kitties. After calling to make sure he would be welcome, their friend brought the stray cat to Safe Haven, where he was named Simmons.

Simmons was happy to be there. He was fed and brushed. Then he was given a bath. He wasn't too sure he liked the bath, but he did feel a lot better (and cleaner!) when it was over. Then he was sent to the vet for an exam and vaccinations. He was positive he didn't like that. But Simmons was always a gentleman, with impeccable manners, and did not make a fuss.



After a couple of weeks at Safe Haven, Simmons was moved to one of the adult cat rooms downstairs. His room was so nice! He had a comfortable bed, a cat tree to climb, and, best of all, regular meals. He even had company – there were several other cats in the room, and visitors would drop by to meet him and his roommates.

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Mandy

ADOPTED!
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FOR MORE



Piper



Puddles



Retired Kitties

See Page 11



Comet



Gypsy

SEE SOME
PETS AVAILABLE
FOR ADOPTION
ON PAGE 6



Emilee

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From the Editor's Desk

Much has been written about the use of therapy animals, who undergo rigorous training and evaluation before their services can be provided to hospitals, nursing homes and schools. The concept of using cats to provide emotional support and comfort is a relatively new concept. In the past, dogs - and to a lesser extent, horses - have traditionally been recruited as therapy animals.

Now, cats are having their day! With increasing frequency, kitties are used to provide comfort and companionship to individuals with special needs. Although we don't need research to tell us what we already know, studies show that stroking or cuddling a cat can relieve stress and lower blood pressure; other studies have found that the hormone oxytocin is released when we are around pets, triggering feelings of happiness.

In this issue you will read about several cats who, although not trained as therapy animals, are providing elements of that service to their human companions. Our cover story introduces Simmons, an older cat who came to our adoption center already possessing the characteristics of a good therapy cat. Simmons has become the constant companion of a young boy with special needs. In *Retired Kitties*, you will meet three special kitties who are loving life with their humans in a retirement home.

The kitties in this issue are not trained and certified, and we don't wish to minimize the value of a true therapy animal. We must emphasize that not every cat is suited for therapy services. But when a cat is friendly, somewhat laidback, and non-aggressive, he/she may be an excellent candidate for life in a home with people who are retired or disabled. We hope that, in the future, this option will be available to more people who can benefit from the love of a good cat.

- Marilyn Ash, Editor



Mews from the Board

PFOA has a successful record of finding homes for older kitties. We are encouraged that many people appreciate all that a senior cat can offer. Let's examine what makes senior cats so special.

In the beginning, all cats started out as kittens. Kittens are adorable, cute and cuddly, and are also a handful - not for the faint-hearted. They have so much energy! They play non-stop. They love attention. And they do require a certain amount of training, especially in the use of litter boxes.

Senior cats went through this phase many years ago. They conserve energy. They play occasionally, just enough to assure their people that they are still cats. They enjoy attention, but also enjoy their solitude. Their habits were developed long ago, with no additional training required! And with an older cat, what you see is what you get. You know its size, likes and dislikes, and personality.

For a single person living in an apartment or a household without children or other pets, an older cat can be a perfect addition to the family. Many times older cats have come from a previous home where the people were unable to keep them, for whatever reason. These cats generally have excellent temperaments and are well-behaved.

Senior cats are often the best companions to senior citizens. Older cats are perfectly happy with a lap, affection, and some good snacks. Like older people, older cats are content with the simple things of life. For both, it can be a mutually beneficial partnership that lasts the rest of their lives.

- Board of Directors, Peninsula Friends of Animals

A Lasting Impression

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Did we mention regular meals? Simmons had been hungry for so long that he found it impossible to walk by a dish of food. So he ate his own food – quickly. If his roommates weren't quick to finish their meals, he ate those as well. Over time, the large-boned, undernourished cat gained a lot of weight. Hanging over the sides of his favorite cat tree crows-nest, he looked like a giant pink cat rug! It was definitely time for a diet. Simmons was not pleased!

Many visitors to Safe Haven admired the handsome, beautifully groomed cat. Simmons would look up, hopefully, at each set of visitors. But no one stepped forward to offer him a new home. Simmons became discouraged. "I'm a very nice cat," he thought. "Will no one take me home?"

And then, one beautiful spring day, Tracy and Preston came to see him.

* * *

Tracy's son, Preston, was born in 2011. The family included Mindy, a sweet eight year-old cat. Mindy was curious about this new tiny being who made odd sounds and received lots of attention. As Preston grew from baby to toddler, he was also curious about this furry creature who



made odd sounds and was soft and warm. Preston used to speed-crawl after her to touch her, and she would walk over to him and sniff him, soaking in all of his baby smells, then shake her paws and walk away. Preston thought it was the best game.

When Preston was six years old, he was diagnosed with ADHD with an emphasis on Impulse Control Issues, and PVM (Pulmonary Vocal Cord

Motion.) The family was adjusting to this when tragedy struck: after a long illness, Mindy crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Both Tracy and Preston missed Mindy terribly. Tracy did not fully realize the impact on Preston until she noticed a definite change in his personality – he became



withdrawn and less social. Missing his sweet companion, Preston wanted another cat, but Tracy was still grieving and not ready to bring a new cat into the household.

And then, Tracy remembered reading a story in *Pet Tidings* about Tony, who had been rescued when his owner died in a house fire. She decided to sponsor Tony, as well as four other PFOA cats. Preston agreed that was a wonderful idea. They have made a generous contribution every month towards the care of five PFOA special needs kitties.

The next summer, Tracy took Preston on a much-needed vacation to Sequim. The highlight of their trip was spending time at PFOA. As soon as they arrived at the shelter, the change in Preston was quite apparent. He immediately wanted to run off to see all of the cats and giggled and played with the kittens for several hours. However, kittens have their own impulse control issues, and Preston did get scratched a couple of times. He still loves kittens and thinks they are fun, but he decided that he liked the older cats better – they are more mellow and prefer being stroked and petted.

The highlight of their visit was meeting Simmons. He was an older cat who had recently been rescued and brought to the shelter. He was very thin and had some issues, but he immediately curled up on the couch with his head on Tracy's lap, and purred. The connection was made!

Although Tracy was not prepared to adopt right away, Simmons had made a lasting impression. She thought of him often, but never saw him advertised for adoption. She worried that Simmons had been adopted, and she had missed a golden opportunity. Finally, about nine months later, she found him on the PFOA website, and immediately called the shelter. The Shelter Director put a hold on Simmons until Tracy and Preston could come for him.

Preston was so excited as the day approached. They purchased two cat trees, food, dishes, scratchers and toys before they had officially adopted Simmons. Preston loved being a part of all this, and Tracy explained to him that Simmons was their cat - Preston was going to be responsible for helping to take care of him and nurture him. Preston was eager to take on this new role as cat owner.

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Simmons' Story Continued

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Simmons joined the Coyle family in April, just six weeks after Preston turned eight. During the past four months, the relationship between Simmons and Preston has grown exponentially. Simmons is becoming more confident and loving and Preston has come out of his shell

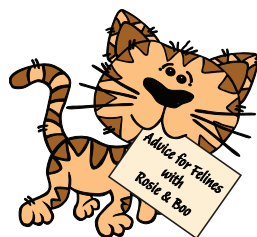
more, interacting with him and feeding him, hugging and brushing him (he has a lot of long fur!) They discovered that Simmons does not care for “normal” cat toys, but goes crazy for cardboard boxes with holes cut in them, long Peacock feathers and a treat maze. Tracy reports that “Preston LOVES playing with Simmons with the feather and you cannot help but smile and laugh when your child is laughing and giggling away, playing with your cat.”

“Preston has taken to the responsibility of pet ownership like a duck to water. Simmons does not meow when he needs something. Instead, he lifts his paw, and Preston has learned to watch for these signals.

In return, Simmons is very affectionate with Preston, allowing him to cuddle, gently brush and lie down with him during quiet time, but also responding gently when it is play time. Simmons is a ‘true gentleman’ and has been the perfect addition to our family

and the perfect companion for a child with ADHD and impulse control issues. I would highly recommend adopting an older cat into a family with a child with any sort of disability. It truly has made a world of difference for Preston.” ❀

Editor's note: Simmons came to PFOA with serious eye issues, and underwent many months of treatment and surgery before he could be offered for adoption. Thanks to Dr. Joyce Murphy, who provided wonderful care for Simmons, his eyes are now completely healed.



🐾 Dear Rosie and Boo,

Hi. I don't know if you remember me, but I'm Junior. I stayed at Safe Haven with my brother, Gravy. Everyone knows him. I'm the shy one. And I'm a little bit nervous around people. Well, I'm *a lot* nervous around people. But our new mom and dad are really great. I'm sure you guys know them because they still read to the kitties there. I love them sooooo much. So I'm writing because, like you know, I am really a nervous guy. I mean, I'm *really* nervous. Like, all the time. Gravy tells me not to worry and just be myself, but then I get all worried about being myself. And whenever someone knocks at the front door I freak out and hide. Well, whenever anything happens, really, I freak out and hide. How do I not be so nervous? I can't help it. I'm just like this.

Missing you,

Junior

Rosie replies:

Ah, Junior. I haven't had the chance to meet you, but your reputation certainly has spread through PFOA. Your new parents are wonderful and amazing, and they have so much love for everyone here at PFOA and still plenty left over for you and your brother. I guess I would ask why you want to change? Everyone loves you as you are. Perhaps if you took some time to accept your nervousness, you could see how perfect you are already? Let me know what you think.

Boo replies:

It's so good to hear from you, Junior! I knew you'd love it with Mama Catherine and Papa Keith! You are both very lucky guys. I think you're especially lucky, Junior – not just because you've found your forever home, but because you have a brother and parents who don't care how nervous you are. We didn't care when you were here, remember? You hid all the time, it seemed. And when you did come out (usually when there were sure to be no people around for a while) what did we do? We let you be. You're okay, Junior. Maybe the nervousness will go away after a while in your new home. If it doesn't, well, you're still okay. We all love you just the way you are! Please write again and let us know how you are!

Meet a Volunteer: Mason Frichette

By Nancy Dolansky

Mason started volunteering with PFOA this February, but his relationship with us began years ago. Each volunteer has a unique story to share about their life before coming to PFOA and Mason is no exception.

Mason grew up on the East Coast, served in the Army and went to college. He grew up with the usual family pets, but it was the cats that fascinated him. While in Europe, he fell in love with mountain climbing and followed his passion to Boulder, Colorado where he lived for 20 years. He spent all his free time climbing, even climbing Yosemite's El Capitan twice!

His lifestyle left no room for pets. An accident ended his climbing and work in construction, so off to New Mexico he went to take a teaching job. On a trip to the Baja, he fell in love with sea kayaking and that is what led him to our part of the world. By living up here, he was close to Vancouver Island, a top destination for this sport. Ask Mason about kayaking with the whales! Magical!

Finally, in his 50's, cats came back into Mason's life. His friend wanted cats, but Mason was starting to have health issues and was reluctant. She won, and they adopted Nootka (named after a wild rose), followed by Yardley who was adopted from PFOA in 2001.

Anna then showed up in 2005 on their doorstep, skinny and sick. Mason was the one that nursed her back to health and they became very close. Mason's friend moved on, Mason had a heart attack and Nootka got sick and needed weekly shots in Seattle. Finances got tight, so the ever resourceful Mason learned to give the shots himself and, remembering the kindness of PFOA, called Nancy Campbell. At that time there was a medical emergency fund and she was able to help with the costs of the shots. It was a lifesaver for Nootka and Mason. He never forgot the kindness.

Years went by. Nootka passed away, followed by Yardley and then 17 year-old Anna this January. Remembering PFOA's generosity, he called PFOA to volunteer. It was a way to have cats in his life while giving back to the organization that had helped him so much. Danette found out about his construction skills and you can guess what happened with that!

Mason comes in 4-5 times per week and is really a cat whisperer. He has gotten Phoenix to come out and sit on his lap! Nancy noticed that Mason was really attached to 16 year-old Rachel who received sub-Q fluids twice a week. She proposed to Mason that he might consider permanently fostering Rachel. PFOA would pay all her medical costs if he would give her a home.

Did I mention that Mason is fearless? "Yes," was the answer and he proceeded to learn how to give the fluids by himself. He took Rachel home and "Rachelized" his home, modifying steps and ramps for the petite, short legged kitty. He bought the same food, litter and litter box



that Rachel was used to at the shelter.

Mason says "when I look at her I don't see beauty, I see cutie! She just makes me smile."

In the beginning there were some rocky moments giving the fluids but the two of them are now in a successful routine. Mason says Rachel is an absolute love who reveals a bigger and bigger personality each day. At 16, she has taken up running! He hears her charging down the hall towards the bed where she sleeps with him each night and he laughs. She is a loud sleeper he says, lots of snoring and chirping. She is learning to tackle the steps into the patio and has mastered the ramps. She's not into leash training.....yet.

He loves PFOA for their kindness towards all the cats waiting for their new families. "If I were a cat, I would want to come here." And he loves being a part of that kindness and cat energy. "It's so great to hang out with them," he says. "And when I come back the next day they are happy to see me. That feels good!"

Well, Mason, we are also happy to see you and grateful to have you with us. Our thanks to you and to all the volunteers who make such a big difference. ❀



Rachel

Safe Haven ADOPTABLES!

Feline Friends Forever

When two cats spend most, if not all of their lives together, there is a very strong bond that develops. The cats may or may not be siblings – the important ingredient is a shared existence and dependence. If one cat is more dominant, that cat will frequently act as protector of the other. With equally social cats, the two form a unit. When the cats are separated, thereby breaking the bond, both are left less than whole – a vitally important part of their lives is missing. Although some cats will adjust to the loss, some will not. And why put them through the pain of separation and loss of their partner? At PFOA, we respect the bond and believe that it is worth the extra time and expense required to keep bonded cats together.



JOEY and **DELLA** are a spectacular pair of Siamese-mix siblings. Very friendly and charming, Joey is the protector and companion for his sister, Della. This bonded pair was left behind when their family was unable to move the cats to Hawaii with them. Della and Joey were best friends with a small dog in their home, and have also lived with other cats. This exceptional duo is looking for a quiet loving

home where they will be cherished for years to come, and never have to move again.



ODIE and **CARMINE** met at Safe Haven and became best buddies. Odie is a creamsicle orange, four year old youngster who acts like the energizer bunny, exploring all areas of his playroom. He's a snuggler and loves people and attention. His best friend is Carmine who mentors Odie on everything cat and keeps an eye on his antics. Carmine has a deeper, auburn ginger coloring with white markings and a distinctive stubby tail

which adds to his handsome demeanor. We would like to have these buddies share a forever home!



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.

Peeka is still shy and reserved with folks she doesn't know. Aside from her time at PFOA she has lived a rather isolated life with exposure to very few people. She will require a quiet home where she is allowed to blossom and learn to trust again at her own speed. A striking white kitty with her black spots and green eyes, she is worried and nervous around strangers, but can be friendly with those she knows. If you have the time and patience for this kitty who has had so much change and loss in her short life, you will be rewarded with a devoted friend. Peekka requires a cat-savvy home where she can live with Boo for the rest of her life.



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 <http://safehavenpfoa.org>

Ask PFOA: About Cat Carriers

By Alicia Demetropolis

Maybe you've seen the commercials on social media from YourCatBackPack.com? The one where the hip-looking, trim, millennials are hiking with their furries and the cat is perched neatly in the top of a backpack (dutifully belted in via his harness) on daddy's back? The video shows the cat looking down on his canine siblings below, in apparent judgment (as cats are wont to do). He is riding in style; they have to hoof it in the dirt.

Well, for those of us who can safely say our cats would never be caught dead doing something so domestic as family backpacking, there is good news to come out of this video: It shows a new trend in cat carriers, which spells relief for some of our feline companions.

We all know about the lush and plush carriers that double as cat beds in between veterinary visits – the ones with massive mesh windows so Kitty can see out and window covers you can roll up if Kitty judges your driving too harshly. We now have a wide variety of sizes and styles, including rolling carriers and stroller carriers, and a bicycle carrier that hangs from your front handlebars. There

Lollimeow
LOLLIMEOW



are even hybrid hard and soft sided carriers like the space age one from Megasin.

But if your cat is too cool for any of these, consider the SpaceCapsule backpack by Lollimeow. We've included a photo.

It's real, folks, and lots of cats love it.

As always, aggressive or fearful cats usually do better with hard sided cases as it seems to make them feel more secure, and they also do well with a top-loading carrier. Here at PFOA, we stick with the hard sided cases for this reason. Even these carriers have options with wheels now for easier transport.

Regardless of which carrier you and your feline choose, remember to cushion it well with plenty of blankets that smell like your kitty and keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Choose a carrier with plenty of ventilation. It sounds obvious, but you'd be surprised at the carriers that don't seem to have enough.
- If you're considering taking Kitty on a plane with you, please choose a carrier that's airline approved, and confirm the specifics with each airline on which you travel.
- You want your carrier to outlast Kitty's determined claws and teeth, so be sure it's made from strong, durable material and has solid closures.

Lastly, remember to enjoy your precious time with Kitty. We never seem to have enough! ♣



PFOA is proud to be a partner of KSQM 91.5FM. They are Commercial-Free and a 501(c)3 Community Radio. Registered as a charity with the State of Washington, their broadcast signal covers the Sequim-Dungeness Valley, reaching to Victoria, B.C, the San Juan Islands, Mt. Vernon, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, Birch Bay, Fairhaven and beyond.

On the Internet, KSQMF.COM has listeners tuning in from 127 countries and all 50 states in the USA. Everyone gets to hear about PFOA's events and adoptable friends. KSQM has new studios located at 609 W. Washington St. #17 in Sequim. Support of KSQM helps over 100 local charities including PFOA!

“Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals . . .”



We are soo happy to have Ella in our home!

- **Cherise Feser**

Kattcher and I, along with the students of block of the month (Sleepy Valley Quilt Co.), are sending a donation to be used where needed most. When I tell my students that their class registration money is going to PFOA, they all are so happy! (Kattcher puts in a bit extra to help the kitties.) We send our thanks along to you, too, for all your hard work and endless efforts for the kitties. Kattcher sends a hi-7.

Fondly, **Lauretta Ehling**



“Thank you “Friends” for all you do for the animals and your help with the “spit kittens.”

- **Flora & Fred Westfall**



I adopted my Carmen and Casey from PFOA as bonded mother and daughter. If I had any doubt that they needed each other, that was gone the minute I was carrying them in separate carriers to my car and they kept calling to each other. Once in the car I put the two doors facing each other and they never made another peep all the way home. They slept together, were always in the same room, and truly loved each other. I never once regretted adopting them both. - **Linda Harer**



Thank you again for bringing Luna into my life. She is so much company since my husband’s passing. I enjoy watching her play, especially with her favorite mouse on the hardwood floor. She is my buddy friend. **Raema Roark**

Woke this morning to purring in my ear – still full dark but Bonny (Princess) had come to greet me and the day. She’s as sensitive to time as birds are – loves companionship and pats, but also takes time to herself. Still chases balls, and has left ping-pong balls under radiators, dangerously on stairs, and in her “play” basket.

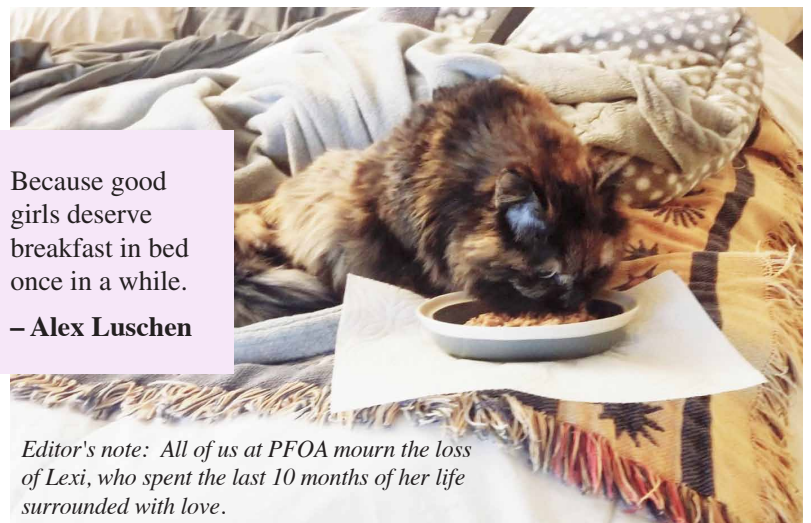
Elly (Duchess) surprised me and herself by becoming a lap cat. Perhaps that has to do with winter – but I suspect not – she’s a friendly companion. Watches and follows me – likes a dangling string whether it’s a bathrobe cord or a shoelace. She’s as beautiful as ever.

I have no photos of them together – they still avoid each other and occasionally spat and swat – I may be missing the signals of play. Bonny watches Elly and moves into the sleep spots she chooses – she rather takes over. They both get outside into the fenced yard but are in truth happier indoor cats. This week they have been giving me looks “you caused this awful cold snow stuff, right?”

They still reflect the good care they got at PFOA – and I am still grateful that they came home to live with me.

Thank you for all you do.

Warmly, **Mary Robson**



Because good girls deserve breakfast in bed once in a while.

- **Alex Luschen**

Editor's note: All of us at PFOA mourn the loss of Lexi, who spent the last 10 months of her life surrounded with love.



“Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals . . .”



Megan has a tree! We just put this up yesterday and Megan loves it! Her ears are getting better thankfully. Both she and Miss Kitty were not happy with that treatment! They would run from me so we are down to once per day then twice a week and then less

after that. Megan is such a sweet loving girl! She likes to sit on my lap and put her head on my shoulder while I pet her head and back. I wish she had a sibling! Miss Kitty is the boss and gravitates to Michael as she doesn't trust me yet. I'm the bad guy with ear meds!

Thank you to the kind woman who brought her into Safe Haven! She helps take away the loss of my other 3 kitties. Thank you bunches!!!

- Donna Harding

Blossom has been doing great in her new home! She settled in so quickly, I was shocked by how fast she was comfortable in her new surroundings. We enjoy every second with her, and she has settled into her role as queen of the apartment!

Kellen, my partner, and I take time each day to play with Blossom. She especially loves playing with her feather toy and chasing it all around the apartment! We made her a special spot on the couch with soft blankets since she loves spreading out on the soft rug with her feet extended (cutest thing I've ever seen).

So far she's done a great job only scratching the things that she is meant to scratch. The scratching lounge is her favorite and her “go to” when she feels the urge. I also got her a cat tree that she enjoys relaxing on as well.

We only have good things to say about her. I'm so incredibly happy we were able to adopt her. She has been the perfect addition to our family! **- Myranda Sawyer**

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Olivia Joy Hillcar (aka Alder) is doing wonderfully! She is still fairly skittish but that improves every day as she gets comfortable with us, our home and all the new sounds. Her safety zone is under our bed but she comes out to my husband or

me calling her and she tentatively explores the majority of the house now during the night. She's definitely a little night owl, loving to race up and down the halls, getting into mischief exploring, or obnoxiously asking for loves while we try to sleep. She is already loved and has helped soooo much with the loss of our beloved Punkin. **- Leah Hillcar**



Ozzie is adjusting well to his new little "brother", Cosmo. I adopted Ozzie in December, 2017 at estimated age of 5-6 years. I thought he needed a friend and adopted Cosmo the following November at 3 months of age. After 3 months together, they are doing great! **- Barb Gruner**

Look who's been adopted!

---Continued from Page 1

See
some adoptable pets on
Page 6 and online at
<http://safehavenpfoa.org>



Mittens



Napa



MayJean



Palmer



Hope



Sabrina



Joey



Della



Patsy



Roxy



Opal



Obsidian



Lily Sparkles



Alder



Bonnie



Trilbee



April



Bob



Max



Lyra



Dandy Don



Donner



Simmons



Parker



Sitka



Austin



Maggie



Shelby



Prancer



Cagney



Clarise



Precious



Megan



Solo



Martha



Penny

Retired Kitties and the People Who Love Them

By Alicia Demetropolis

There are many reasons kitties land on PFOA's doorstep, figuratively speaking. One of the most common is that the human companion to this beautiful animal is moving into an assisted living facility that doesn't take cats or small dogs. Our hearts break along with every man and woman who tearfully entrust their animal companion to us as they make this dramatic change in their life.



Many of you know that I work at an assisted living facility. Every day I recognize that the folks who live there gave up a lot when they moved into their new home. One thing we shouldn't have to give up when we reach this decision, if at all possible, is our life with our animal companion.

Cats and dogs lower our blood pressure, reduce depression and bring us joy with their unconditional love. Making the decision to move into a care home can be stressful, but having our loved one with us can relieve some of that stress. Worried about them adapting to a small apartment or room? Don't be. Your animal companion will be with you, and that keeps their world large and filled with love.

I want to introduce you to three amazing kitties who share their lives with their mothers and bring joy to all of us at our assisted living facility.

Bella is a stunning oatmeal and white tabby who lounges all day in the sun. In addition to having several perches on her cat tree, as well as her perch on the back of Mama Betty's reading chair, Bella owns every chair in Mama Betty's room and most of her bed.

"She's been with me since she was a baby," Betty says. "She's still my baby and I couldn't leave her. I didn't want to lose her."

Would she have moved into our care home if we hadn't allowed Bella to move with her? "Probably not," says Betty without hesitation. "I've had her too long. I couldn't be without her. Not like that." Betty is 96 years old and the two have been together longer than Betty can remember.

Bella has a "look but don't touch" attitude with most of us, but tolerates our affectionate head rubs. If you're lucky, you'll catch her on a generous day, when she'll let you pick

her up and snuggle with her. She's also usually the first one into bed, and Betty has to remind her that she's not the boss.

Betty usually keeps her door slightly open, and Bella never tries to escape, but she does like her late-night sorties into the hallway from time to time.

Next up are Kitten, a long hair tri-color, and her older brother, Squeak, an all-white kitty with a black tail, one green eye and one blue eye – and who refuses to sit still for a photo. They live with their Mama Patty, who fills their world with toys and treats. Our aides snuggle with them whenever we have a chance and find an extra moment or two to visit with Patty just for this reason. On very rare occasions, during report at shift change, we'll hear about Squeak's adventures as he literally squeaks past folks when the door is opened. He loves being slow-chased, and we love his antics. Both almost always want attention when visitors arrive; the more love, the better.

Squeak is the boss of his baby sister and it shows whenever he decides he wants her chair. Just as we would expect, Patty calls them her babies. "They found me," she says. When her daughter's allergies worsened, Patty took two-year old Squeak into her home. Not long after, she found a tiny kitten on the wheel of her car, hiding from something but hoping to be found. She now had two fur babies to love.

Everyone shares a queen-sized bed and the kitties make room for Mama at bed time. "I couldn't imagine giving them up," Patty says. "I love them too much to let them go. They're my world."

And she certainly is their world.

Not all facilities accept animal companions; of those who do, many have limits on the size of the dog (understandably) and have requirements for the animal's behavior. Naturally, the responsibility for the care, feeding and clean up of the animal companion falls to the resident, or the resident's friends or family.

Even if you're not close to moving into an assisted living facility, you should consider doing your research ahead of time so that you're not rushed into making a decision. We need our loved ones with us when we make major life changes, and we mustn't forget that they need us as well. ❖



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. All remembrances not received by the cutoff date will be printed in the following issue.

Honorariums (Person)

- In honor of **Anthony Aceto**, "for your kind help." From **Isabel Paniagua**
Thanks to **Laurel Bentson** for her gift to Safe Haven. From **Susan Kreml**
- In honor of **Nancy Campbell**. From **Nancy Dolansky**
- In honor of **Nancy Ortowski**. From **Gary Marlatt**

Honorarium (Pet)

- In honor of **Fancy Tail Summer**. From **Michael Snyder**
- In honor of my pet, **Rusty**. From **Beverly Hardcastle**
- In honor of my cat **Buster** that came from PFOA in December, 2005. From **Heather Richardson**
- In honor of **Reggie's & Tux's** birthday. From **Dianne Whitaker**
- In honor of my cats, **Sylvester, JoJo, & Shadow**. From **Nancy Oman**
- In honor of **Nellie & Tippy**. From **Judith Sharpe**
- In honor of my cats, **Lady & her family**. From **Jenny Russell**
- In honor of our current love, **Maggie**. From **Flora & Fred Westfall**

In Memory of Special People

- In memory of **Janice White**, one of the biggest cat lovers I ever had the pleasure of knowing. I have no doubt that you are surrounded by all kinds of kitties to be loved by you. From **Joy Kennedy Bertman**
- In memory of **Patrick Bartlett**, my dear friend and partner in crime. You left us way too soon. We hadn't solved the world's problems yet, and my Monday afternoons have never been the same. I miss you a lot, Pat. From **Joy Kennedy Bertman**
- In memory of **Dean Lekas**, a dear friend for over 40 years. Your love of old cars and cats, oh, and that sly sense of humor. RIP Dean, you were a good friend. From **Joy Kennedy Bertman**
- In memory of **Betty Dewey**, mother of Colleen Knight. From **Patrick & Kathryn François**
- In memory of my aunt, **Barbara Swedeen**. From **Pam Davee**
- In memory of **Dave Holtz**. From **Leon & Diane Lopez**
- In memory of my dear, sweet daughter **Michaela Hildebrand**. From **Roxane Hildebrand**
- In memory of **Joy Dybeck**. From **Danielle McLaughlin**
- In memory of **Joy Dybeck**. From **Dolores Chivers**
- In memory of **Kristin Bertelson's** daughter, **Ashley**
- In memory of **Sandra (Sandi) Dalton**. From **Walter Classman**
- In memory of our good friend, **Dee Bohonis**, the most loving advocate for animals we've ever known. From **Michael Moss & Betty Gordon**

- In memory of **Barbara Swedeen**. From **Gerald Swedeen**
- In memory of **Aimee Barton**. From **Wendy Nordaune**

In Memory of Beloved Companion Animals

- In memory of my cat, **Spooky**. From **Devon Graywolf**
- In memory of Jon & Nancy Schorer's cats, **Missy & Ella**. From **Donna Campbell**
- In loving memory of **Walker Max**, beloved dog cared for faithfully by Nancy Campbell for the last 10 years of his long life. From **Ann Gilson**
- In remembrance of **Thor**, a beautiful gentle giant loved and mourned by Mike & Kailyn Hitchens, and all who knew him. From **Ann Gilson**
- In memory of Nancy Campbell's dog, **Walker Max**. From **Nancy Dolansky**
- In memory of **Hannah**. From **Barbara & Ed Gruner**
- In memory of **Little Bit**. From **Wally Kohl**
- In memory of Mary Treider's cat, **Lucy**. From **Jean Cole**
- In memory of my cat, **Harriet**. From **Donna Campbell**
- In memory of our "Jellicle Cat," **Scampy**, who made it to 20 years but will be in our hearts forever. From **Donna Criscione & Pam Foss**
- In memory of Marc & Christie Lassen's cat, **Luther**. From **Catherine White**
- In memory of my cat, **Heathcliff**. From **Roberta Varney**
- In memory of my cat, **Kalli**. From **Fred Morris**
- In memory of Bev & Sidney Hill's beloved cat, **Megan**. From **Leslie Lardie**
- In memory of **Munka**, four pounds of fury. Have fun playing with Luther. With love from **Auntie Sharon & Uncle Bill Jensen**
- In memory of **Luther**. They broke the mold when they made you, Luther. Take care of little Munka – show her the ropes. With love from **Auntie Sharon & Uncle Bill Jensen**
- In memory of my cat, **Fluffers** (Benny). From **Darlene Schoenwald**
- In memory of my dog, **Taffy**. From **Polly Loggy**
- In memory of my pet, **Zeus**. From **Lorraine Main**
- In memory of my cat **Granma**. From **Marion Wheeler Burns**
- In memory of our cats, **Molly & Farley**. From **Sharon & Bob Gavin**
- In memory of my pet. From **Valarie Bowers**
- In loving memory of dear blind **Polly**, who spent less than a year of her long life with me, but found peace and comfort here until the end. From **Ann Gilson**
- In loving remembrance of my little gallant **Lillibel**, whose loving heart and brave spirit outweighed the limitations of her frail body for 15 happy years. May she run unfettered now, beyond the Rainbow Bridge. From **Ann Gilson**
- In memory of Brad & Dotty Barr's dog, **Jake**. My friend, ever excited to run and play, exploring the world around you and happy to just be along for the ride. I hope doggie heaven is full of frisbees and tennis balls for you, buddy. From **Joy Kennedy Bertman**
- In memory of Patty Jones's rabbit, **Daisy**. Beautiful Daisy, your long soft gray fur and those gentle eyes; such a sweet girl. From **Joy Kennedy Bertman**
- In memory of my cats, **Darmody, Trevor, Galen, Rueby, Vinnie, Santiago, & Emma**, and my friend's cats **Mungo & Schmoos**. From **John Joseph Pajor**

- In memory of my cat, **Curtis**. From **Mildred Marzec**
- In memory of Susan Smith's dear, sweet **Winnie**, adopted 15 years ago from PFOA. From **Bette Jo Wadsworth**
- In memory of **Luther**, of Wild Birds Unlimited. From **Linda Dennis**
- In memory of Susan & Ed Bauer's cat, **Bess**. From **Donna Campbell**
- In memory of our **Lady**. From **Flora & Fred Westfall**
- In memory of **Penny Li Po Bell Brown**. From **Jean Brown**
- In memory of my cat, **Chloe**. From **Kristin Warner**
- In memory of Helen Brown's dog, **DaniLynn**. From **Mary Eileen Rufkahr**
- In memory of my pet, **Rusty**. From **Beverly Hardcastle**
- In memory of my cat. From **Colleen Rowe**



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.



This is the storage shed that our very generous donors are donating. They are an amazing couple who originally planned to donate \$8,000-9,000 for a badly-needed storage shed. They increased their donation to \$17,000 when our Executive Director discussed the need for a larger one with them. They requested to remain anonymous, but wanted the building named in honor of their cat, Molly. We were very happy to honor this request.



Remembering Dave



The PFOA family is sad to report the loss of our friend and supporter Dave Holtz last December after a long battle with esophageal cancer.

Dave worked for Walt Disney for over 50 years as a development consultant for the Disney theme parks. During that time he met his wife Connradine and together they traveled the world planning and creating the settings and backgrounds for the different magical "lands" most of us have seen at least once in person, or many times on TV.

Dave and Connradine moved to Sequim after Dave retired. Together they worked on estate sales and Connie had an eBay business. As soon as they were introduced to PFOA and Safe Haven, Connradine offered to sell items donated to PFOA free of charge, and Dave responded to a request by staff to build apparatus for the resident cats' entertainment. Still installed on the cattery patios and yards are the ramps, cubbies, and climbing gyms created and built by Dave Holtz. They stand as a memorial to Dave and his support of PFOA.

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Libman wonder mop refills
- **Additional items for the kitties:**
Round replacement scratchers and flat scratchers
Large (for multiple cats) top loader carriers
Advantage flea treatment
Feliway refills
K&H self warming pet pads
Snuggle Safe microwaveable heat pads
Kitten-sized smaller cat beds and cat trees
Kitten-appropriate toys and scratchers
World's Best Cat Litter
- **Other shelter needs:**
Bottled water
Gift cards to Safeway, Costco and Wal-Mart for various shelter items
\$10 gift cards from Safeway or QFC for volunteers who transport cats to/from Hadlock Veterinary
Sturdy plastic outdoor chairs and waterproof chair pads
Chaise lounge cushion
Walkie-talkies

DARE TO DREAM

Pole Barn for storage of donated cat trees and supplies

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE:

PFOA potholders are available at the following local businesses:

- **Birds of a Feather**, 825 W. Washington St, Sequim, (360) 477-4343
- **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
- **Jardin du Soleil Lavender**, 3932 Sequim Dungeness Way, Sequim (360) 582-1185
- **Country Aire**, 200 W 1st St, Port Angeles, WA 98362, (8am - 8pm daily) (360) 452-7175
- **Petsense**, 2719 E Hwy 101, Port Angeles, WA 98362, (Mon - Sat, 9am - 8pm; Sun 11am - 6pm) (360) 504-2865

You may purchase these wonderful potholders in many colors and patterns. All proceeds benefit the PFOA animals!

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<http://safehavenPFOA.org>

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

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.

Find us on Facebook!
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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 other 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.
- **Pet Day at Carrie Blake Park**, September 21
- **Crab Fest**, October 11-13
- **National Cat Day Dinner**, October 29
- **Jamestown Bazaar**, November 2
- **Grey Wolf Bazaar**, November 16-17
- **Vern Burton Christmas Fair**, December 7-8

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