

Pet Tidings



Volume 12, Issue 3

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

Serving
the community
since 2000

Third Time's a Charm

By Ann Gilson

Near dusk on an early fall evening some three years ago, on a rural road outside Sequim, an older car stopped and two tiny tortoiseshell kittens were set down on the edge of the road. Seconds later the car sped off.

The kittens looked dazedly at each other for a few moments, then set off along the roadside. The next morning Beth Norris found them not far from her front door, tired and dusty, crying with hunger.

Beth, who's rescued quite a few unwanted pets dumped in the area over the years, was unable to take them herself but knew what to do. So after they were fed and



Connie and Bonnie

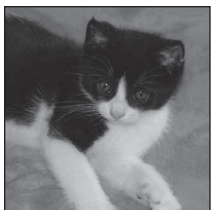
sleeping next to the stove, she called PFOA. "No," she was told, "We're full and can't take them right now. But if you'll take care of them for a while, we'll take them as soon as we have space."

Continued on Page 3

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

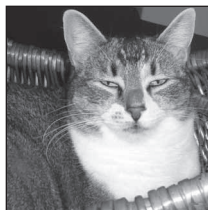
OUR MISSION

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



Teddy

ADOPTED!
SEE PAGE 13
FOR MORE



Mittens



Will

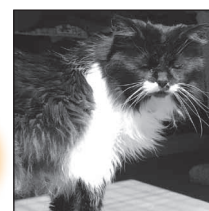


Leo



Nemo

SEE SOME
PETS AVAILABLE
FOR ADOPTION
ON PAGE 6



Rachael

Earl sitting in his new home with his new hair cut



See Page 7

Peninsula Friends of Animals

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From the Editor's Desk

Isn't autumn on the Peninsula glorious? Skies still sunny, crisp air with the occasional hint of woodsmoke, and our always gorgeous scenery touched with early gold and red. Our companion animals seem to enjoy it as much as we do.

However, even here in this earthly paradise, ill fortune sometimes strikes. When it does, the first concern of many Pet Tidings readers is for their pets.

Most of us who consider them "family" make arrangements for their care when we plan vacations or business trips away, or possibly elective medical procedures that involve overnight or more prolonged absences. And hopefully we have firm arrangements and financial commitments made in case of our death or serious disability.

But do we have emergency care arranged for unexpected short or long absences? Recently this editor had a friend who required

emergency surgery and then rehabilitation while on a "weekend trip," and another who was taken to the emergency room here in Port Angeles in the middle of the night and didn't return home for two days. Fortunately friends and family stepped up and took over in both cases, but not everyone is so lucky.

Don't let this beautiful season be blighted by worry about your pets' welfare in case of your absence because of an emergency. Talk to your family, your friends, your neighbors, your pet sitter, your veterinarian – anyone who may be able to provide help, and make firm arrangements.

My mother used to say, "A stitch in time saves nine," and she was right. May you, Fido and Fluffy enjoy a happy, halcyon autumn, secure in the knowledge that their welfare is secured by your preparations for any emergency absence.

The Editors

2012 PFOA Annual Meeting



Unfortunately, for lack of a quorum our May Annual Meeting became only a social event. Above are some of our faithful members having a great time.

The Perfect Place for a Pair

---Continued from Page 1

She did, with loving attention, and some weeks later the now closely-bonded sisters, after a quick visit to a veterinarian, arrived at Safe Haven.

It was very obvious that they loved and depended on each other, and it was decided early on that they must not be separated. It takes longer to place a pair than a single kitten, so we were prepared for a fairly long search.

However, just before Christmas an older woman came to Safe Haven looking for a pair of kittens as a Christmas gift for her Seattle-based son and his wife. She was much taken with Connie and Bonnie, but wisely brought the couple to see them before making a commitment.

The couple were delighted with the girls and the gift accepted with pleasure. The kittens made themselves right at home in the happy household, and we got glowing reports on how much they loved the “babies.”

Months went by, and then just before the next Christmas a tearful call informed us that the wife had been diagnosed with severe asthma and the beloved duo must come back.

Two subdued and bewildered young cats returned to us, but they soon regained their high spirits. Once again we were on the lookout for “a place for a pair.”

It took a while, but one day a Port Angeles woman

looking for a pair of cats came to Safe Haven and was immediately drawn to Connie and Bonnie. They went home with her, and quickly and happily adjusted to their new home.

Then disaster struck again. Urgent family and business matters began to require frequent, and sometimes long, absences. Though the girls were well cared for, their new guardian felt that it was unfair to them to have only a part-time companion and that they deserved better. Another sad return ensued.

It took longer for Connie and Bonnie to regain their spirits this time, and we felt a little discouraged, too. But after a little while they once again began greeting visitors at the door of their room, as if to ask, “Are you the one?” Sadly, no one was, for several more months.

Sometimes the old saying, “Third time’s a charm,” really is true, though, and so it was for them. A Sequim couple, Paul and Bertha Cooper, saw their pictures, came out to Safe Haven to adopt them, spent a little time with them, and took them home, just like that!

It’s a wonderful home, the home of their dreams, with knowledgeable, caring, compassionate folks who love them dearly. We are overjoyed at their good fortune, and that together they have found their forever home at last.

P.S. They feel so secure that they have revealed their real names to the Coopers—Meggie and Jolie. Bertha says Meggie is really smart and Jolie is beautiful, and both are wonderful. ♣

Mews from the Board

Over the past year we have been referencing the issue of the Department of Transportation and its negotiations with PFOA regarding the two-plus acres they are acquiring from us for the 101 highway expansion. The bulk of that land will be for a containment pond and the remainder for a turnaround area. One of our main concerns was losing an access we have to the east parcel of our property off 101 which was designed for future development. The location of the containment pond also impacted and limited the choices we have for the new buildings. Much of our property is designated wet land which comes with building restrictions.

We are happy to say we have finally reached an agreement with the DOT which gives PFOA an agricultural access to our east lot. When we begin to develop that lot

we can apply for a business access. Considering the depressed property values along the 101 corridor we reached a reasonable cash offer for the property. We will also receive compensation for having to redraw our new shelter plans on the west parcel because DOT took our original building site.

It is good to move on from the stress of working this through!!

Now we are focused on the completion of the new Caretaker Cottage and the conversion of the old quarters for the benefit of the cats.



Diane Lopez, President

Potholder Central Moves to New Home

When Lori Miller moved to Wenatchee and put her house up for sale, the potholder women knew they would need to find a new work space. Lori had been hosting “Potholder Central” for 5 years—ever since she and Carol Gearey had first come up with the idea of making potholders as a PFOA fund-raiser. Since those initial days, when Carol and Lori worked alone, the potholder makers have grown to number 10 volunteers who, in addition to potholders, make aprons, catnip toys, felted soaps, and totes. Last year they made 2,200 potholders and a variety of other items that netted PFOA \$30,393. That money went to feed and house the animals in PFOA’s care.

Now, with Lori moving, it was critical that space be found somewhere to continue the effort. Word went out to supporters, including the Sunland email network. That’s when a PFOA angel stepped forward to help, and hopes for a new location became a reality. It didn’t take long for the potholder ladies to decide that the space being offered was the perfect solution. The shop had everything they would need—plenty of space and light, a bathroom, and even a room that could be used as a break room.

The move was made and on Sunday, May 6, the PFOA Board honored Carol and Lori for all their hard work on behalf of PFOA animals and toured the new facility. ♣



Lori Miller and Carol Gearey with Their Gratitude Plaques

Are Elderly Cats Adoptable?



Lindy Lou

By Sasha Sterling

Many people are reluctant to adopt an elderly cat. Yet owners’ experiences testify to the fact that cats accustomed to human companionship—especially spayed and neutered animals—make excellent pets. With patience, even an elderly

cat has the potential to form new bonds with people, as the following story illustrates.

Lindy Lou, a beautiful mixed tabby/calico, was one of the first cats to come to Safe Haven. While still a young cat, she was adopted by an older couple, who loved and cared for her for ten years. When the gentleman suddenly passed away, his wife, unable to function on her own, went into a home for the elderly. No longer able to care for Lindy Lou, she made arrangements for the cat to return to PFOA.

Back in the shelter, Lindy Lou suffered from a series of health problems, probably brought on by the emotional impact of losing her family and comfortable home. She retreated into herself, disdaining the company of other cats. As an older cat by now, her adoption prospects looked dim.

Then one day, a local woman visited Safe Haven deliberately seeking an elderly cat as a companion that would most likely not outlive her. Lindy Lou allowed the woman to pet her, but remained distant during several visits from her prospective owner. That was until, at the birthday party for Tippy, Safe Haven’s office cat, she recognized her friend and responded with enthusiasm and affection.

It just took a little time and gentle persuasion for Lindy Lou to turn on her feline charm and find a home at age thirteen, proving that it’s never too late for a cat to make a new friend, and for a special person to love and adopt an elderly cat. ♣

Meet a Volunteer: Emily Glenn

By Emily Glenn

PFOA cats depend on volunteers, and there are many wonderful people helping at the shelter. I've been volunteering for the past three years, and I know kids can make a difference, too.

One of the most important things kids can do is to help socialize the cats. Volunteers play with, cuddle, and pet the cats and kittens. (Doesn't that sound like fun?) Most families who adopt cats have kids, and many of the older cats have lived in homes without children. Kids can help cats learn to like and trust children and younger, noisier people.

Socializing benefits both the cat and the volunteer. Cats, especially the older ones, need lots of extra love and care in addition to the attention they receive from the round-the-clock staff. I always pay a visit to the older cats, especially Mango in B2. Kids benefit from volunteering because they know their caring and kindness help the cats take a step closer to becoming quickly adopted. Actually, socializing is an enjoyable activity for volunteers of any age. You could be five or ninety-five... the cats won't mind as long as you spend time with them.

How else can kids help PFOA and its cats? Kids can raise money and

donate cat necessities and toys. Kids might ask guests to bring cat food, toys, cat litter, beds and other cat items to a birthday party, instead of presents. For two birthdays, I suggested my friends bring cat food and toys instead of gifts. Any child can perform this small and simple act—and many do—to help PFOA feed and care for the cats. Another idea is to make a craft and sell it to family and friends, donating the money to the shelter. Several years ago, I made crafts and sold them to neighbors and relatives to raise money for cat beds. Kids can make jewelry, bookmarks, candleholders or other crafts. All in all, donating money or cat items is a fun and easy way for kids to help the cats.


Kids can also help PFOA by informing family and friends about the cats and the shelter. PFOA is a wonderful organization that treats the cats stupendously. However, many people do not know about the shelter. Kids can inform others by writing a letter or paper, giving a presentation about PFOA, or bringing others to the shelter. By doing this, PFOA will receive more donations, more people will volunteer, and more adoptions will take place. I have invited friends and grandparents to PFOA, and my



Emily Glenn and Charlie, her 3 year old cat adopted from PFOA

grandparents recently adopted an amazing cat. Adoption provides a home and family for the cat and opens a space for a new cat needing a safe place to stay.

So please come and volunteer at PFOA. Volunteering here is one of the best things I have done. I know that every day, kids can help make a difference for the cats at PFOA. ♣



CAT

Who do you think you are, Cat?
 You, so wise—can you tell me that?
 You hog the bed. You ride on my head.
 You sprawl on my book so I'll read you instead.
 You speed through the house when I'd rather you nap.
 Then—suddenly meek—you're asleep on my lap,
 The essence of
 Deep, trusting Love.
 That's who I think you are, Cat.

—FFK

Growing Up with PFOA

Emily, the daughter of Kristin and Mike Glenn, has been volunteering for PFOA since she was 8 years old and in the second grade. You've probably seen her photo in previous issues of *Pet Tidings* as she's brought in some of the items mentioned in her article. She's now 11 years old and in the 6th grade. Many thanks to you, Emily, for all you do for PFOA. ♣

Safe Haven ADOPTABLES!

Girls with Tortie-tude!

CIMARRON is a mellow kitty with traditional tortoiseshell markings and white trim. Only a couple of years old, she showed up as a stray. Cimarron is friendly and gets along well with other cats. She'd do well as an "only," too, as long as she's given plenty of "people time."



Cimarron



Pippin



Priscilla



Bailey

BAILEY is a beautiful, five year old, long-haired tortoiseshell who's been at the shelter far too long. She doesn't "meet and greet" like many of the easy to place cats do. But once you get to know her, you'll see a sweet kitty with a tortie sense of humor. She gets along well with other cats.

PIPPIN and **PRISCILLA** are young tortie sisters. They're a bonded pair and must be adopted together. They don't care for dogs, so there shouldn't be any canines in their new home. Initially a little shy, these two girls should warm up with time in a loving and patient environment. Then what a pair they'll be—playful and entertaining, and double that wonderful tortie attitude!!

HANNAH is a tortoiseshell, Siamese mix, so her tortie markings aren't as pronounced. Hannah is about 8 years old, front declawed and as lovable as can be. She has short hair and likes to be brushed (which starts her purr-motor going). You'd be hard-pressed to find a nicer girl than Hannah.



Hannah

PRIMROSE (Rosie) is one of the "common area kitties" at Safe Haven, which means she lives in the office area along with other cats on special diets. Rosie's allergies are well-managed, and her new family should have no trouble keeping her healthy and happy. She's a wonderful little princess of a cat. She'll let you know if you don't treat her with the deference every tortie deserves.



Primrose (Rosie)



Lexi

LEXI is an intelligent toistoiseshell longhair, with plenty of torti-tude. She is looking for a one cat home — hers, and hers alone. She promises to annoy any other resident cat. And she is certain that she will never see another meal- so no dry kibble food bowl should be available. Ever. She made it to a very unhealthy 17# before she was snatched up and given a long term lifestyle eating diet plan. She is now at eleven pounds and still losing, provided she does not swipe someone's dinner. Otherwise, she's a very loving purring feline companion. Just remember she's the boss.

Please call PFOA's message line at **360-452-0414** to talk about any of these featured pets; a volunteer will return your call. Or go online to see many others at www.safehavenPFOA.org

My Name Was Earl

By *Alicia Demetropolis*

“He’s very friendly,” said the kind stranger who’d stopped in at PFOA one day. The man described the stray cat living near his home and volunteered to bring the cat in that weekend. “He’s just a friendly cat,” he said again, “and beautiful.”

The cat who would be named “Earl” arrived at PFOA in late March, and proved the man right: Underneath the matted, dirty fur and messy mouth was a loving, friendly Himalayan male. The staff gave Earl a basic assessment in between rubs and hugs, and everyone was happy...until another PFOA kitty jumped up into the window which looked into the examination room.

Suddenly, everything changed.

“He was so upset,” said Nancy Campbell, Shelter Director at Safe Haven. “We couldn’t go near him. He was hissing and snarling and biting. His whole personality changed.”

The staff managed to wrestle Earl into a carrier so that he could be transported to a vet for a complete evaluation. Once there, Earl had to be sedated for the medical evaluation and for his grooming. (Earl’s coat was so horribly matted, he received a lion cut; also, it was later determined that he had a sore in his mouth, which explained his difficulty in eating and cleaning himself.)

Now, the challenge was to find a home, foster or permanent, for this angry feline. Clearly, he had potential to be a loving pet, but he looked a mess, and was still hissing, scratching and biting.

Nancy called upon Svein and Marcie, a loving couple who’d previously adopted three cats from PFOA, had adopted a fourth on their own, and also had two dogs, nine chickens, and two horses to round out their menagerie. Marcie had advised Nancy that they’d be willing to expand their limit to include a “Himmie” if one came along. Svein and Marcie walked into the shelter, took one look at the mangy, snarling ball of hostility, and exclaimed, “We’ll take him!”

Three months later, the cat formerly known as Earl is adapting well to his new, busy home.

“We know that Himmies are very laid back,” explained



Earl

Svein. “We know the breed and the personality. We just know he’ll come around with the right love and affection.”

“Himmies are very intelligent,” added Marcie. “They think differently than most cats--they *think*. They are also almost telepathic. They look at you, and you know what they want. They are an unusual breed.”

Himmies are also one-person cats, and Oliver (formerly Earl) has adopted Svein as his person. Oliver growled his displeasure at being taken from his tent when Svein recently brought him into the front room to show him off, but quickly settled into Play Mode.

“He has his eye on one of his adopted sisters,” said Marcie, “but she won’t give him the time of day.”

“She’s probably waiting for his fur to grow back,” added Svein with a grin. ♣

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“Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals . . .”

Dear PFOA Board Members,

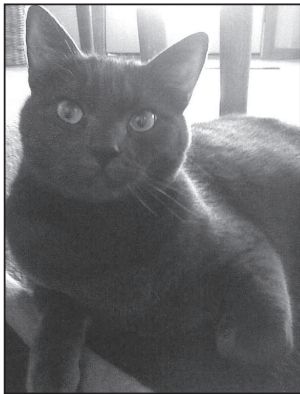
Please excuse the lateness of this thank you, somehow time just got away from me. I just want to thank you so much for the beautiful plaque honoring Lori and me for the Potholder Project.

When I first heard about a no kill cat shelter being established in the area, I knew I wanted to get involved as I had always hoped there would be a local one someday. I am so grateful to those who were able to make the dream a reality.

During the course of my working career I received a number of awards and plaques but NONE of them (in fact all of them put together) mean as much to me as this one. It is truly an honor and privilege to work for such a wonderful organization and I am so glad I have been able to contribute to this great cause.

Thank you again for the lovely plaque. It means so much to me. And, thank you for all that you do and all that the other volunteers do.

Sincerely,
Carol Gearey



Dear Nancy,

Thank you so much for helping my grandparents find Maggie. I just called them and they love her! Thanks also for putting Maggie on hold and just being a stupendous person who spends a lot of time with the cats. This donation is for the special cats and kittens at PFOA!

Love, **Emily Glen**

Dear PFOA,

All is well with Miss Comet (litter mate to Fagin and Thistle). We love her very much.

From **Rose M. Rose and Renee Lambert**

Leo and Wolfie continue to bless our lives every day! Please accept our gift to share in our good fortune.

Meow and warmest regards, **Leopold, Wolfgang, Wayne and Marilyn Eveland**

From one cat lover to another; thank you so much for all that you did for my little Max. I truly appreciated it.

Terra Tomsen

Hi,

Please tell **Nancy** that Freckle is doing well. He is quite the character. We get a lot of laughs. Thank you all for the wonderful work you do for our furry friends.

Sue Dornbush

PFOA gave us our cat Riley. We hope this will help another cat, as we cannot have another cat. Thank you for Riley and all you do.

Diane Mulholland

Sharon Palmer,

I just wanted to say thank you so much. If it wasn't for Peninsula Friends of Animals, I don't know how I would be able to afford this. Thank you for all your time. People like you and the organization you work for are remarkable...God sent.

Thank you again, **Angel Ashley**
PS: Coop says thank you too.

Let me see if words come to me to explain how wonderful and beloved Oliver is.

Sense of humor: THIS CAT CAN SHOOT RUBBER BANDS. Each morning the paper comes wrapped in a green rubber band. Oliver chews it, holds it in his teeth, puts his foot through the bottom portion and lets it fly! I've never seen anything like it. He seems to find it hysterical to run his cold wet nose along my skin in the middle of the night. THAT doesn't end well for either of us as I awake and jump. So does he. He hides behind the bathroom door and attacks his little friend, Bridgette, as she sashays by, enticing him to do exactly that! When he has no victim he will spring out and attack thin air. He's not afraid to look silly. He will chase Bridgette into a room and she will chase him out – or over the bed – or up and down, up and down the stairs. Or in and out of the basement, or across the ceramic decorative plates, or across my table set for company...you get the picture. And I LOVE every second of it!

Lovability factor: I was gone for nearly two weeks and the family and friends that came in to take care of the cats were smitten. Each one went away feeling they were the most important person in his life! He loves everybody. Such a huge difference from the cat I picked up on March 8th. Only three months and he is amazing. I can only imagine what he will become as time goes by.

Thank you so much. I will send my donation shortly. I'm sorry I'm so late. I am soooo thankful.

Margaret Carr, Oliver and Bridgette



Nama and YoYo's Sweet Revenge

Guest Column by Richard Serkes

Former “poster cats” for PFOA, Nama and YoYo have mellowed somewhat now that they’ve enjoyed their third birthday. YoYo has decided that being picked up and hugged is OK even for a boy cat and has been asking for hugs on a regular basis. Nama, always keen for a little one-on-one time hasn’t slacked off at all and is still writing new chapters in her book on how to be aggressively affectionate.

But there’s a new twist in their never ending desire to make our household THEIR household. They’ve decided to punish me and my wife Terry for any and all slights. Our current transgression (according to Nama and YoYo) is travel time. When Terry and I leave town The Kids (aka Nama and YoYo) get to stay at a bed and breakfast just for cats in the Agnew area. It’s a good place for them to be as they get plenty of supervision in a safe environment. Even so, they seem to take umbrage with having to leave their house for a week or two now and then. So when Terry and I got back from a two-week trip in May The Kids had something special planned.

Sure, we got the cold shoulder for a day or so but Nama couldn’t keep that up for long. I mean, how can she be expected to go without a Zoom Groom session. And then there’s the Pick Me Up! game, Get Mr. Laser, not to mention

the evening Rump Thump Extravaganza. A girl needs to be pampered after all. So as she’s caving in and warming up to us after our absence her brother YoYo is determined to get his revenge and convinces Nama to participate. Basically, he and Nama decided to short sheet Terry and me. Does this sound like a college sophomore prank? In a way yes, unless you’re a victim of the prank. Just try to get any kind of sleep when two large cats are determined to sleep horizontally at the foot of the bed approximately one third of the way up. Terry is 5’1” and can deal with it although uncomfortably so but I’m 6’0” and haven’t had to sleep like this since just before leaving the womb. And don’t tell me cats don’t laugh because I can hear them down there at the end of the bed giggling at us humans after the lights go off. I’m not sure how much longer The Kids are going to punish us for taking a vacation but something is going to have to be worked out. Terry and I don’t mind sharing the bed with Bunk Buddies but Nama and YoYo have become Bed Bullies.

That’s the latest from Nama and YoYo up the hill on Blue Mountain Road. For those who have been following his antics, YoYo’s audition for the role of Rocky in the musical adaption of “Rocky and Bullwinkle” didn’t go well. He flew for awhile but then gravity took over and he was heard to complain about “32 ft. per second...” But that’s another story. ❖

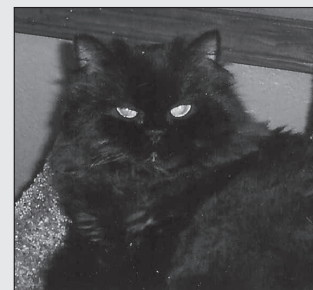
“Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals . . .”



Folks,

Jeanne and I can’t begin to express our gratitude for your help in bringing Maggie into our family. She is not only beautiful, but playful, funny and loving. Everyone who meets her loves her and wants to take her home. She especially loves Jeanne and often follows her around like a little puppy. Her “tower” is her castle and she loves to climb up it and look out at the birds. She will never again lack love or care for the rest of her life!

Larry and Jeanne Glenn



Hello to you all at PFOA.

I have been remiss in communicating with you about our wonderful adoption of Joslyn (now known as “Josie”). She is such a delightful addition to our household and she makes us laugh and smile every single day! I know you have so many cats that you may not remember her but we feel like we won the lottery in finding her. I was so impressed with

your operation and facilities when we visited and I commend you on all you do for the feline population. Unfortunately, I don’t feel that I’m able to foster kitties, but I hope the enclosed donation will help you out. Keep on doing what you do – great work!!

Lony Huff

PS: I hope Tippy had a great birthday party!

Ask PFOA:

From Bad Behavior to BAT Behavior;
Helping Shelter Dogs overcome their Anxiety.
Dedicated to Leon.

By Julie Coyle

The (Un) Lovable Leon

It was certainly not love at first sight. The stocky brown Pit Bull lunged aggressively against his kennel door, barking and shaking his blanket in a bout of pent-up frustration. All I could think was, "I have to go in there with him at some point." I stared wide-eyed. A colorful sign on his kennel door said, "Hello my name is Leon. If I am barking please ignore me."

"You need to turn your back to him," said my co-worker. "He's afraid of new people. But don't worry, he'll get used to you."

Get used to me? I had my doubts. It was my first day working at the shelter, and all the other dogs had greeted me with wagging tails. Not this one.

I turned away and, to my surprise, the barking eased off. I had not moved out of sight but simply changed the dynamics of the situation. It was my first lesson in modifying dog behavior.

The Bane of Bad Behavior

Leon's behavior is not uncommon in shelter environments. Many of the pets entering shelters or rescue facilities have come from backgrounds of fear and mistrust. Their experiences have told them that new environments, meeting new people and other animals can be scary and unpredictable. When faced with these stressful situations, dogs and cats alike outwardly react in a variety of ways, some good, some bad. Without a way to cope with prolonged stress many animals develop behavioral problems which slow or even halt their adoption.

Leon had been labeled "unadoptable." His anxiety of unfamiliar people, especially children, coupled with his harsh upbringing, kept him from being a safe pet. At least, for the moment.

Fortunately, Leon had been surrendered to a no-kill shelter where the staff were patient and open-minded. Indeed, once Leon became familiar with you, he melted into a lovable pooch who would greet you with a big smile and massive tail wags. Knowing there was a gentle and loving dog residing beneath that rough exterior, the staff at the shelter embarked on a mission to help Leon, a mission that would take a great deal of patience and positive training.

From Bad Behavior to BAT Behavior

An initial assessment by a local behavioralist determined Leon to be an ideal candidate for a method of training known as Behavior Adjustment Training (BAT). Developed by Grisha Stewart, this functional and dog-friendly technique targets reactivity, such as aggression, and promotes a positive approach to modifying the behavior by building confidence and empowering the dog with healthier reaction choices.

Termed "dog-friendly," BAT approaches training from your dog's perspective rather than your own. Take for instance the typical dog and mailman encounter. Your dog spins into a barking frenzy the minute he spots the mailman. YOUR desire is to have your dog stop barking. Your DOG's desire is to make

the scary mailman go away. Rather than attempting to silence the dog with reprimands, BAT takes into consideration the desires motivating your dog's behavior and then provides new healthier (and more peaceful) ways to react. Instead of barking, the dog is taught to look away or walk away from the situation.

Why is it important to view our world from our pets' perspectives? By doing so, we gain a better understanding of their reactions and a better sense of how to deal with those reactions. As with meeting Leon, I thought I seemed friendly in my approach and eye contact but Leon sensed a confrontation. He was only satisfied when I turned away and became less of a threat.

Baby BAT Steps

BAT works on a series of walks broken into steps that slowly recondition the dog to see a potential trigger as non-threatening. Therefore, the first step to BAT training is observation.

In the example of the mailman, we observe that the trigger is the mailman approaching the house. Next, we observe the dog's reaction. Does the dog growl? Sniff the air? Run and hide? All of these reactions are signs of anxiety, only one of which is considered a healthy calming signal. Calming signals are desirable reactions that show your dog is attempting to assess and deal with a stressor. Sniffing the air is an excellent way for your dog to non-aggressively assess a situation.

Once the trigger and the reaction are identified, you are ready to start the actual reconditioning walk sequence. On leash, walk your dog toward the trigger. Allow your dog to notice the trigger, but before he reacts with barking, reward your dog by turning away and retreating. This "turn and retreat" is his functional reward, giving him the security of distance and a new way of dealing with the situation. The walks are repeated until the dog chooses the peaceful reaction automatically. It's that simple.

Lessons from Leon

For Leon the BAT process brought forth many discoveries. The staff learned that Leon only reacted aggressively within the kennel setting. Outside he allowed children and adults to approach him without so much as a yelp, though he still displayed calming signals but on a much healthier and milder scale. Having learned this, the staff began a regiment of keeping Leon outside during visiting hours to alleviate his stress. Before visiting hours, the staff worked on reconditioning Leon's reactions to people entering the shelter by having volunteers approach his kennel at different distances while a staff member stood with Leon. When Leon noticed the visitor he was given a moment to sniff the air and then turned away. The visitor would also retreat or turn his back. Slowly, Leon began to realize he could turn and go out his doggie door rather than act aggressively toward visitors. The eventual goal is that he will see visitors as friends rather than threats.

For more information on BAT training go to functionalrewards.com. ❖

Special Needs: Special Cats

By Alicia Demetropolis

The last months, or years, of our pet's life can be filled with vet visits, medications, needles, and cleaning outside the litter box. Sometimes, we encounter a younger pet whose life is filled, already, with special considerations. We can view this as work, or we can view this as the opportunity to learn a greater patience and grow as individuals. In exchange, we experience a new type of genuine appreciation from a pet.

The Barker House, and Safe Haven, are both currently home to a number of these pets; Marcus and Alester are two of those wonderful felines.

"Marcus was being cared for by an elderly woman," said Nancy Campbell, Shelter Director. "We think he's about ten years old."

He was diagnosed with diabetes shortly after his arrival, and the shelter currently has it under control. "He's my boy," said Nancy. "He's so loving and so gentle. He's very laid back." Marcus sits,



Marcus

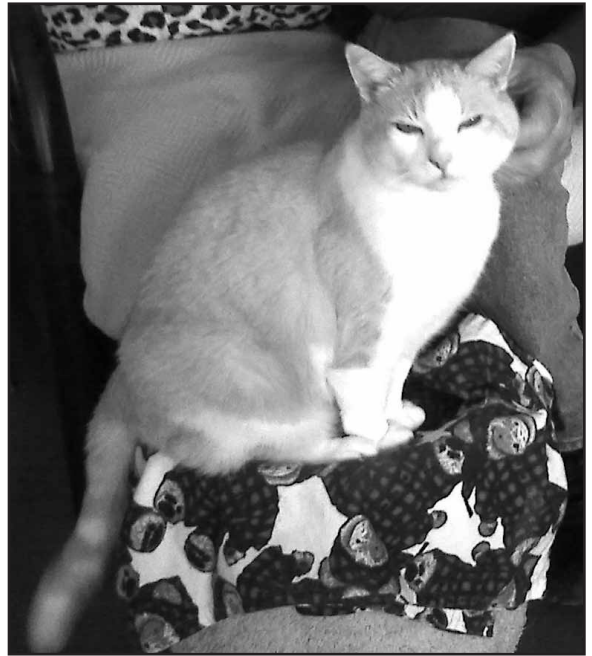
quiet and regal, as we chat, showing off his long gray fur and easy-going personality.

Marcus goes about his day quietly, never complaining even though he receives twice-daily shots of insulin. He gets along with all the other cats in the house and repays hugs and rubs with warm purrs and unconditional love.

It's hard to complain about a cat who needs insulin shots and who has trouble hitting the litter box when he's this easy to care for. Besides, how many people round us rely on a special diet and insulin each day? He's no different than our friends and family! As for the litter box problem, I can assure you that if you give me caffeine I'll race to the bathroom regularly for at least an hour.

Alester also belonged to an elderly woman, and is possibly 13 years old. The kind woman originally took him in as a stray and later passed away.

"We found out shortly after getting him, that Alester has FIV and a chronic respiratory problem," explained Nancy. Since FIV cannot be contracted by people, and can only be transmitted to other pets through sexual contact and deep puncture wounds, Alester will do well in a home with non-aggressive cats. In fact, he's been residing with three other roommates quite peacefully for about three months now.



Alester

It's hard to believe Alester is 13 years old, or that he's not perfectly healthy. He spent the entire length of our visit showing off his prowess at racing back and forth across the patio door threshold, and when he wasn't running, he was rolling all over the floor and getting lots of loving from my boyfriend. Any attempts at a close up photo resulted in failure; Alester loves the camera.

It's also hard for me to believe that Alester has been waiting for three months for loving people to take him to his new home. He's low maintenance, fun, verbal, loving, energetic, and smart.

Marcus is waiting for that understanding person to come find him as well. He takes visitors at The Barker House only by appointment; Alester sees adoring fans at Safe Haven by appointment only. One of their lovely assistants would be happy to schedule your meeting with either feline, which can be arranged by leaving a message at (360) 452-0414. ♣



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 try to keep memorials to three or four lines or less — about 15-35 words — for space consideration).

In Memory of Special People

- In memory of **Aimee Barton**, from **Iva Burks**.
- In memory of **Bruce Harer**, husband of PFOA loyal supporter Linda Harer, from **Janet and Jess Harker**.
- In memory of Linda Harer's husband **Bruce**, who left way too young, from **Bev Dulis**.
- In memory of **Bruce Harer**, beloved husband of our wonderful PFOA friend and member, Linda Harer, from **Dallas and Nancy Campbell**.
- In remembrance of a very gentle and caring person who passed away this month, **Bruce Harer**, from **Sid and Evelyn Olsen**.
- In memory of **Bruce Harer**, loving husband of Linda, from **Diane Lopez**.
- In memory of **my beloved mom**, from **Christine Spitz**.
- In memory of **Chuck Collinson**, from **Evelyn Collinson**.
- In memory of **Harry Kierch**, from **Muriel Kierch**.
- In memory of **Pamela Scloof**, from **Barbara and Fred Moritz**.
- In memory of **Tim Thatcher**, beloved son of Rita and Tom Thatcher, from **Diane Lopez**.
- In memory of **Doris Barker**, from **Mary Jo Cain**.
- In memory of **Jean Dolansky**, from **John and Nancy Dolansky**.
- In memory of our neighbor **Clara**, from **Gary and Wendy Taibbi**.

In Memory of Beloved Companion Animals

- In memory of **Bumbles**, beloved kitty who adopted Debbie and Gary Heaton. From **Patricia Milliren and Alan Comulada**.
- In memory of **Jim and Judy O'Rourke's little dog** (whose name I can't remember), sadly missed. From **Patricia Milliren and Alan Comulada**.
- In memory of **Puddy**, from **Linda Guenther**.
- In memory of **Dakota** (dog) and **Meggie** (cat) Danley, from **Mary Kelsoe**.
- In memory of **Mopsy**, Ann Gilson's much-loved cat, from **Janet and Jess Harker**.
- In memory of **Kody**, Sherry Creech's special feline friend, from **Janet and Jess Harker**.
- In loving memory of **Lucky Strike**, our beloved companion animal, from **Janet and Jess Harker**.


- In loving memory of **Max**, from **Allison Teague**.
- In memory of **Chance**, friend and mentor for Shilo, from **Chris Walton**.
- In memory of **Patches**, beloved cat of Jan and Dave Reichl, from **Gail Kramer**.
- In memory of **Max**, a really great dog companion, from **Jeanne Noyes and Smudgie**.
- In memory of **Horace Rumpole Bailey, Juris Dogtor, and Pumpkin**, named by David, from **Marvin Applbaum**.
- In memory of **Nitty Gritty**, an Australian Shepherd who loved cats as much as she loved her daily cookies, from **Meridith Taggart**.
- In memory of **Tiara**, from **Jeannie Berg**.
- In memory of **Cleo Faye and Gene Cook**, from **Pacific Northwest Veterinary Hospital**.
- In memory of **Catrina and Marilla**, from **Donald and Lois Sorg**.
- In loving memory of our little girl **Bear Bear** from **Sid and Evelyn Olsen**.
- In memory of **Kali**, from **Walter and Irene Downs**.
- In memory of **Maggie and Bailey Batson**, Irish Wolfhounds who passed away six months apart, from **Constance Batson**.
- In memory of **Kody**, 18 year companion of Sherry Creech, from **Michael Moss and Betty Gordon**.
- In memory of **Kody Creech**, from **Nancy Dolansky**.
- In memory of **Ella**, their dear sweet rescued shelter cat, much loved and sadly missed by Genevieve Gilson and Erik Bauer, and by her feline companion, Victor. From **Ann Gilson**.
- Our beloved **Mopsy** has gone on to a happier land, leaving her family bereft. Be well, dear Mopsy, until we meet again. From **Ann Gilson**.
- In memory of **Wamuka**, the most wonderful cat, from **Anne Goetzman**.
- In memory of **Pepper**, from **David and Jorita Jensen**.
- In memory of **Sydney**, dog of George and Jolie Will, from **Barbara Enzenauer**.
- In memory of **Rusty**, from **Lee Raymond**.
- In memory of **Auggie**, beloved cat of Eric and Kathy Mahnerd, from **Connie Rene Smith**.
- In memory of **Sherlock**, owned by Linda Brown, from **Philip and Kathleen Giuntoli**.
- In memory of **Janet's cats**, from **Nancy Dolansky**.
- In memory of **Eli and Gracie**, our wonderful furry PFOA buddies, from **Dennis and Eileen Franson**.
- In memory of **Clive**, a wonderful cat, from **Anne Knauff**.


Memorials and Honorariums

Honorariums

- In honor of **Linda Livingston**, from **Roberta Hairfield**.
- In honor of **Terry Vogel**, from **M.J. Cumiford**.
- In honor of **Sweetums**, from **Jo Ann Bergmans**.
- Happy birthday to **Sharon Fogel** (mom), from **Jim Morris and Paul Taylor**.
- In honor of **Oliver**, from **Margaret Carr**.
- In honor of **Charlie**, from **Dorothy DeLand**.

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


Look who's been adopted!

---Continued from Page 1



Fritz



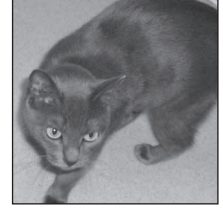
Lulu



Austin



Sniggle



Beatrice



Kate



Barley



Zeus



Arlo



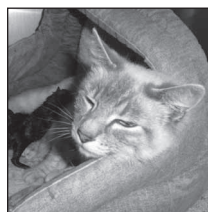
China



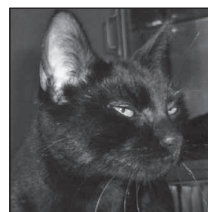
Kala



Lincoln



Phoebe



Betty



Daisy



Knit



Tyler



Captain Jack



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Purrl

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CATS



THE CLASSIFIEDS

PFOA WISH LIST:

■ **Rubber bands (any/every size), birthday, get well and sympathy cards, paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex, individual bottles of water, postage stamps, computer paper, gas cards for transporters**

DARE TO DREAM

■ **Washing machine and dryer (preferably high capacity), Cedar lumber to build a kitty gym in the new enclosure at Barker House (or funds to buy lumber)**

WANTED:

■ **Writer for Pet Tidings:** The editors of our quarterly newsletter could use volunteer help writing short features like those in this issue. Can work from home but must have e-mail capability. Only one or two short articles needed, up to four times per year (but once or twice/year would help!) Experienced writer preferred.

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■ **PFOA potholders** are available at **Hair Trix Salon**, 21 Valley Center Place in Carlsborg (Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 360-681-3749); **Safe Haven** (Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.); and at **The Red Rooster Grocery**, 134 1/2 W. Washington St., Sequim (Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 360-681-2004; website: www.theredroostergrocery.com). You can purchase these wonderful potholders in many colors and patterns for only \$14.

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Phoebe delivered early in the Quarantine Room at Safe Haven. Her new foster Mom was here to pick her up, but some things can't wait. She is pictured with 2 of the 3 babies born on May 26th!



Dates to remember:

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

■ **Safe Haven shelter** is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday. Call **360-452-0414** to leave a message; appointments required.

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<http://safehavenPFOA.org>

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