

Pet Tidings



Volume 14, Issue 1

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



Fortune's Child

Story and photography by Kailyn Davis

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. The same is true for abandoned and unwanted kittens and cats. Sometimes, Fortune intervenes when Fate has been unkind. Here is the tale of a squalling piece of fluff, and the many hands that linked to save her life.

May was drawing to a close. Kitten season had begun, the time of year that animal rescue groups dread, for there are still far too many unwanted kittens and too few loving homes. Foster homes were in short supply all over the peninsula. Kittens cannot come into PFOA's Safe Haven shelter until they are 8-10 weeks old and have had their first vaccinations. This is to protect the health of the newcomers, as well



as current Safe Haven residents. Good foster homes are an integral part of the animal rescue safety net and always needed.

Sometime in the night, a stray cat huddled anxiously beneath the relative shelter and safety of a stranger's porch. She could go no further, for she was in labor, and birth was imminent.

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.



Tigger

ADOPTED!
SEE PAGE 11
FOR MORE



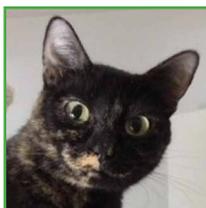
Martin



Cotton



Mora



Corabeth

SEE SOME
PETS AVAILABLE
FOR ADOPTION
ON PAGE 6



Larry



NEW FEATURE!

Advice for Felines with Tony and Rosie

See Page 4

*Peninsula
Friends of
Animals*

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Pet Tidings

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From the Editor's Desk

Back in the mid-90s, when we lived in California, one of the local towns passed an ordinance defining a person who was responsible for an animal to be a “caregiver” for that animal, thereby potentially ending the use of the term “pet owner.” They wanted to recognize the responsibility of the person caring for the pet and wanted to end the belief that people owned animals.

My husband and I rolled our eyes at each other. We were hard talking Chicagoans who loved our pets as if they were our own babies. Why should someone have to tell us we don’t own them? After all, most intelligent animal folks know our *pets* own us.

Looking back, however, I recognize the importance of this ordinance and definition: If you drive down Gasman Road in Port Angeles, you can see where someone discarded an old recliner right out in the woods! You can also kick your recliner when you come home from work because you had a bad day. If you’re moving, you can even leave that ugly recliner in the basement and let the new owners deal with it.

This is the difference between *something you own*, and an animal for whom *you provide care*.

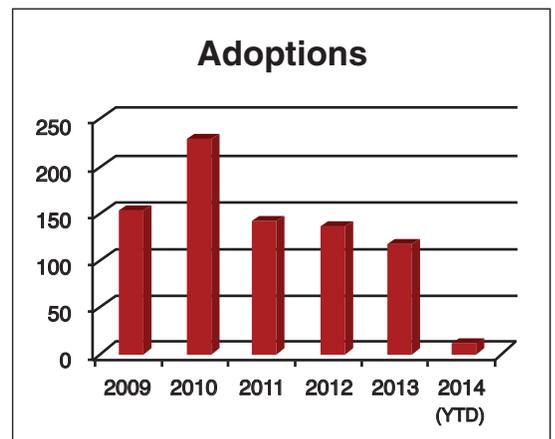
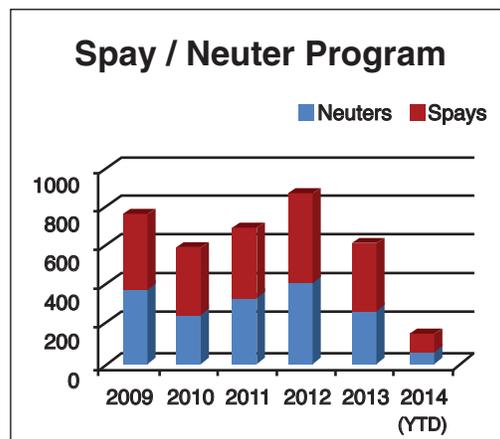
Do any of us believe that dumping our cat or dog in the woods, or along the highway, is acceptable? Do any of us believe that it’s acceptable to leave a cat locked in the bathroom with no food or water after you move? No, we don’t. Unfortunately, a minority of people believe that the above examples are perfectly acceptable options for dealing with a pet. After all, they *own* that animal.

This is why we do what we do: Because others share a different view. So we are here to protect the innocent, to bring them into safety, shelter, and loving forever homes with compassionate caregivers, where they never have to fear for their lives again. Our hours are long, unpaid, and oftentimes stressful. Still, PFOA has managed to balance our budget so that we can keep doing this work well into the future, because this is what we believe in...*this is what we do*.

And we couldn’t continue this work without the love and support from our members and the community. For that, we thank you with the deepest love you can imagine.

Alicia Demetropolis, Editor

Keep up-to-date with PFOA!



The charts above display our progress with our Spay/Neuter Program and Adoptions. They show the yearly Spay/Neuter and Adoption numbers for the past 5+ years.

Baby Mac's Destiny

---Continued from Page 1

A frail, defenseless kitten entered the world, and was subsequently abandoned by her mother. Sometimes, that happens. Alone, cold, and hungry, the newborn's frantic cries draw attention. Fortunately, the tiny one was found by kind humans, rather than by predators. These good Samaritans contacted PFOA for assistance and the search for a suitable foster home was on. Meanwhile, the family cared for the kitten that first week. The children of the family lovingly christened the tiny kitten "MacGyver", after the television character who was inventively adept at surviving difficult circumstances and situations. It was a name well chosen, for the little one still had many challenges to surmount in the coming days and weeks.

One of PFOA's volunteers stepped up and agreed to foster the kitten. Thus, the adventure continued. Newborn kittens must be fed and tended around the clock those first critical weeks. They have a higher mortality rate than kittens raised by the mother. The rate increases dramatically for those orphans lacking the company and stimulation of siblings. They deteriorate quickly if chilled, so they must be kept warm, clean, and dry. Newborns must also be stimulated after each feeding to eliminate waste. Gentle strokes with a soft washcloth all over mimic the caress of their mother. Love is the other ingredient required.

The tiny orphan had been in her new home less than 24 hours. Now 8 days old, and weighing mere ounces, she was ill and struggling. It was early Sunday morning, and the new foster mom turned to her regular veterinarian at Blue Mountain Animal Clinic, who fortunately was on call. An urgent conversation ensued, the first of many over the next weeks, as "Baby Mac" soon became well known to everyone in that practice. There were multiple vet visits in the next days and weeks, as health crises continued. Digestive issues. Double pneumonia. Large bilateral abdominal wall hernias. Sometimes, it seemed as if Fortune's smile had changed to a frown. The kitten was far too small for surgery. Other measures were employed and the watchful wait continued.

Through it all, the foster parents remained devoted, the veterinarians and their staff remained diligent, and PFOA remained committed to the feisty kitten. Thanks to

compassionate vet care and support, plus intensive home nursing care, and her own spirit and will to live, she was one of the fortunate ones. The little bit of fluff survived, and thrived, and blossomed into a beauty. At 6

months she was deemed healthy enough for her spay surgery. Her hernias had healed completely. She was finally cleared for adoption. Of course her foster family could not bear to part with her, and so she remains with the family and their other 3 cats (also adopted from PFOA), where she is loved and adored.

PFOA has been fortunate to partner with many wonderful veterinary clinics on the peninsula. In this particular story, Blue Mountain Animal Clinic answered the call to help a newborn kitten in distress. Many thanks to Drs. Jensen, Gordon, Wagnon, and Oin, and their staff.

PFOA depends upon foster parents for both kittens and their mothers, and even more so with bottle babies. Older cats and special needs cats also benefit and thrive in foster homes. All of these animals need much more than an ordinary shelter can do. They owe their lives to people willing to go the extra mile. These include the caring individuals who foster; the individuals and groups who participate in spay/neuter programs and TNR; PFOA volunteers, members and staff; our wonderful local veterinary clinics; and the people like you, dear reader, in the community who give so generously to ease the suffering of innocents. Thank you for helping PFOA, for without your support and donations, we would have been unable to help Baby Mac and others like her.

Fate can be changed. While Baby Mac may have been destined to enter the world helpless and with a poor chance for survival, Fortune smiled upon her and good people intervened. She was saved by a coalition of kindness and now lives happily ever after in her forever home. ❖



Mews from the Board



Your board has been busy, busy, busy these past three or four months, busier than we have ever been before! Our first real deficit, for 2013, has galvanized us into making a lot of changes which we now realize we should have made much earlier.

We have formed ourselves into several committees to study and recommend the necessary changes. Our new treasurer and finance committee have worked on the first real, detailed budget we've ever had, and we've adopted it as balanced and doable.

In order to stay within budget we have reorganized our workplace to bring it up to date, and to streamline services. We have changed our six day a week work schedule and opening to five days (closed Sunday and Monday), allowing us to reduce paid staff hours. Our new CPA, who specializes in non-profit corporations, has been able to help us improve our record keeping. We have instituted several cost saving measures, large and small, and are investigating additional ones. We are very grateful that we continue to receive significant bequests and many donations of all sizes.

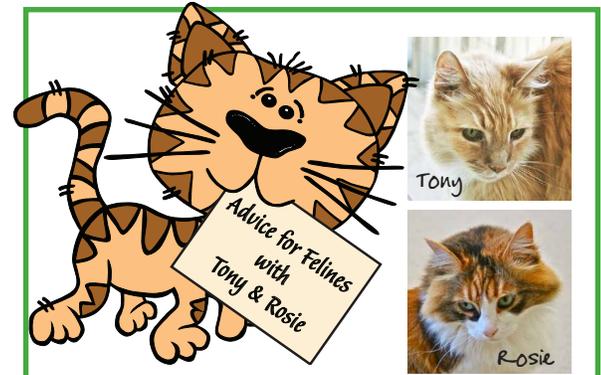
To further complicate matters, there have been several unexpected changes - a couple of resignations, several staff health problems, and a massive amount of cross-training going on at the same time. We are very fortunate to have found some excellent replacements, and some former employees and volunteers have returned to help out.

One committee is conducting the search for an Executive Director, a new position for us and one that nearly all the other local charities have already adopted. PFOA has grown too large for "the way we've always done things" to work anymore. We expect to have an excellent one on board early this summer. One major responsibility of the Executive Director will be in the area of fund raising.

It has been a challenging, exhilarating and exhausting time, but we have been so heartened by the enthusiastic support of so many of our volunteers, members and staff that it has all been worthwhile.

PFOA is now well started on its new path to increased viability, security and service to our animals, and the Board wants to thank all who have helped in any way. We hope to see you at the annual meeting in May, where we will give a full report and answer questions.

Susan Skaggs, President



 Dear Rosie & Tony,

I am an eight month old blue point Siamese. I'm quite handsome, if I don't say so myself. My new person is wonderful, and he's teaching me all kinds of cool tricks. My only problem is that he snores at night and keeps me up. I refuse to move to the couch. Any thoughts?

Signed, Snerdley

Tony: Tricks?! My dear young man, it is beneath us as felines to learn tricks. We are not dogs. I suggest you stop this nonsense at once.

Rosie: Two things: Paw. Open mouth. Got it? Mouth opens...paw goes in. Repeat as necessary. :)

 Dear Rosie & Tony,

I'm so excited to be writing to you I can hardly stand it and I don't know where to begin but I'll start with who I am I guess that's a good place right so I'm a two year old tortie mix female kind of a blend but I don't know who my father was which is no big deal but anyway the reason I'm writing to you is that my mommy and daddy love their coffee and it smells so good but they won't let me have any and I'm wondering if you know how I can sneak some thank you and I love your column you're both awesome!

Signed, Portia

Tony: I do believe I'm speechless.

Rosie: Hi, Portia. Thank you for taking the time to write. My advice is to get your mind off the coffee, okay honey? Maybe you should take up running or something to burn off all that energy you already have. Have you considered training for a marathon?

Meet A Volunteer: Alicia Demetropolis

By Kailyn Davis

Our quarterly newsletter, *Pet Tidings*, was volunteer Alicia Demetropolis' introduction to Peninsula Friends of Animals. At the time, she was coming to the peninsula on weekends, while pondering a full time move. She picked up a copy at Hurricane Coffee in Sequim, then answered an ad for a part-time writer. "I felt that it was a great way to become involved with the community and feel like I belonged here," she says.

Fast forward a year, and she is not only one of our writers, but also one of the editors. She works closely with Marilyn and Nicole on the final product. "My articles and letter from the editor this month say everything that I want to say. I don't believe in discarding animals nor treating them like 'property'. Animals are a lifetime responsibility." She has also volunteered at PFOA events, such as last summer's Rockin' The Arts for Safe Haven, and she makes time to hang out and socialize with the cats.

Alicia lives with her husband, Nelson, a retired examining physician, and their rescue dog, Daisy. "Daisy is mostly rat terrier with a bit of Chihuahua thrown in. She was put out in a winter storm in December 2012, in Portland, along with the family cat. The owner abandoned them and moved away overnight. We adopted Daisy and someone else adopted the cat. Daisy has blossomed in the past year from being withdrawn and uncertain. She is finally coming into her own personality."

Alicia works as a caregiver for hospice patients. "I am a Washington

State certified caregiver. We are the ones who go in and help care for the people who are unable to do everything themselves. It can be as simple as taking a client to the grocery store, making meals for the week or cleaning house. It can also be more complex, such as bathing, tracking medications, or being a patient advocate."

Her chosen areas of focus are hospice and her senior clients. She explains, "Hospice patients have been given a terminal diagnosis and have chosen not to fight on. My job is to provide comfort care and to help in the transition. My other clients are super-seniors who are winding down. They don't have a terminal diagnosis, but they do have some health issues that alter their activities." She pauses for a sip of tea, then continues, "I love helping people and am inspired by my clients."

Alicia also has a private practice as a certified medical exercise specialist and is a certified personal trainer "As a medical exercise specialist, I work with a variety of clients. It can range from someone recovering from hip surgery or a shoulder injury to advising bodybuilders." A former competitive bodybuilder, she is also an avid runner and swimmer. She will be speaking at an annual medical conference put on by the University of Iowa Carver School of Medicine. "They work on bridging the gap between the humanities and medicine." She has also been accepted by a Contemplative End of Life Care program that begins this fall. "I am excited about this program, as it expands the role of



caregiver from the solely physical to helping emotionally and spiritually."

She is the daughter of a photographer father, George, who she calls "my best writing critic." Alicia credits him with teaching her about improving both her writing and photography skills. He also influenced her hospice work, as she was his primary caregiver the last year of his life, and was present when he succumbed to chronic lymphocytic leukemia. She was also her mother's caregiver for 2 years, during the early stages of Alzheimer's.

Her ties to animal rescue date back to 1993, when she adopted a barely-weaned kitten named Elsa from a no-kill shelter in California. The following year she adopted another cat, 5 year old Harry, from the same shelter. Both cats lived long and happy lives. Harry passed away in 2009, at the age of 21. Elsa was 19 when she died in 2011. "I still miss them", she says softly. "I feel sorry for people who are unable to form an emotional connection to an animal. They miss out on so much." ❖

Safe Haven *ADOPTABLES!*

LONG-HAIRED LOVELIES

Long-haired cats are known for their beauty and gorgeous, silky long hair. However, they are more labor intensive than short haired cats. It is important to understand that fur length affects more than just looks. For health reasons, long-haired cats require regular grooming with particular kinds of combs and brushes. They may also need bathing on a regular basis. But ... they are very much worth the extra effort. Just check out any of our five lovelies featured here ... we think you will agree!



MISS MUFFITT is a large Maine Coon mix with the gorgeous brown tabby coat with white trim and huge round eyes we associate with that special breed. Adopted as a tiny kitten, she was relinquished at the

age of nine when she couldn't adjust to a new dog in the home. Sad and bewildered by her loss of home and family, this special girl is looking for a quiet, peaceful home where she will be the only treasured companion. She is social and friendly, and a typical Maine Coon – curious and interactive and also capable of being independent.

TONY THE TIGER arrived at Safe Haven after a tragic house fire. He is a majestic orange long-haired gentleman who was the center of his owner's world.



Having lost everything, he has now adjusted to his altered circumstances. After extensive dentistry, Tony is feeling and eating much better. He enjoys his sock filled with catnip, and responds to gentle coaxing. He also is fond of leftovers. This gentle old fellow just melts our hearts. He needs lots of love and affection.



MARCUS is a beautiful and extremely sweet 12 year old male whose owner could no longer care for him. He is so gentle and kind—a special kitty who just wants a loving home in which to live out his life. Marcus will be a loyal friend and would do especially well in a peaceful home where he can be the center of attention. Although he has had some rough times in his life, including the daily insulin shots that keep his diabetes controlled, he still maintains his wonderful disposition. There is nothing about this big fellow not to love!



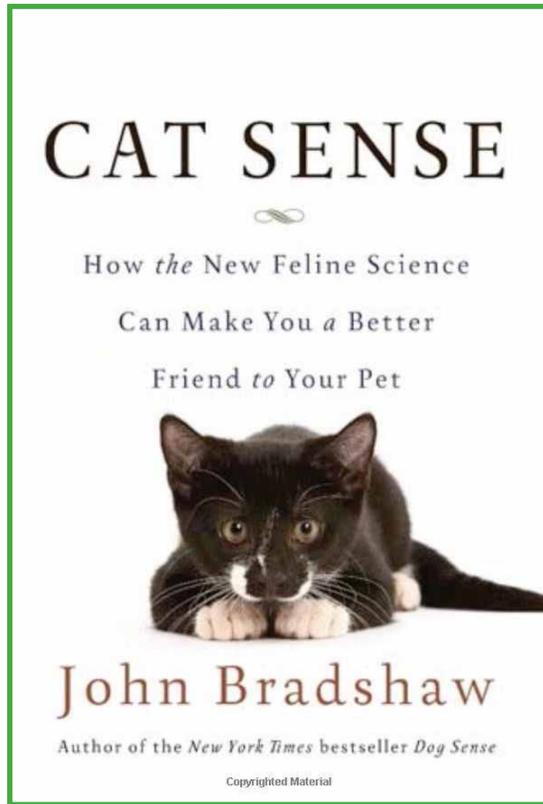
PRIMROSE (Rosie) is a gorgeous princess with “torti-tude”. She and her sister had been abandoned and were brought to the shelter. Her sister was adopted, but Rosie was struggling

to adjust to all of the changes and developed severe allergies. Her allergies are now under control and she is becoming more outgoing all the time. She lives in the common area now because she is on a special diet. Rosie is a terrific cat who will bloom in a permanent setting.

ALEX is a wonderful longhaired white gentleman with patches of grey and a beautiful dark grey fluffy tail. He is very affectionate, loves attention, and will come running to greet visitors. He loves having his head scratched and being petted. We can't imagine why this beautiful boy was abandoned, but we are glad he was found and brought to the shelter where he could receive the medical attention and nourishment he needed. He gets along with other cats, and would love to be in his own forever home very soon.



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



Making Sense of Cats

by *Sasha Sterling*

Is it even possible to make sense of the inscrutable, mysterious cat? In *Cat Sense: How the New Feline Science Can Make You a Better Friend to Your Pet*, author John Bradshaw attempts to do just that. Bradshaw is Foundation Director of the Anthrozoology Institute of the University of Bristol, UK. Anthrozoology is a relatively new interdisciplinary field that places special emphasis on the study of the human-animal bond.

That Bradshaw loves cats is apparent from the outset. The book is dedicated to a favorite cat, and his love for the species shines throughout. In his thirty-plus years of experience in the science of animal behavior, he notes that cats, compared to dogs, have rarely been studied by the methods of science until recently. Bradshaw believes, however, that none of the findings of science can in any way dilute the allure and mystery of the cat. If anything, the new science has the potential to increase owners' appreciation of their pet.

Cat Sense presents a fascinating overview of the domestic cat's history from its early ancestry in the pre-human world to the shadowy beginnings of domestication thousands of years ago during the Neolithic era. Then, from their establishment as beloved pets of the ancient Egyptian

elite, Bradshaw traces cats' migrations all over the world, to their status today as the world's most popular house pet.

The author describes studies of cats' early life and social development; how they experience their world, their humans, and each other; and what motivates their behavior – all explained in clear jargon-free language. Included are numerous helpful ideas for interacting with a cat, from feeding and play to handling behavior problems. Alan Peters' beautifully rendered illustrations enhance the text.

Bradshaw also explores controversial topics, such as the emphasis on looks in breeding rather than the personality characteristics that make cats desirable pets.

Perhaps the main thrust of the book is Bradshaw's concern for the future of the domestic cat. With feral colonies growing in number in spite of trap-neuter-return programs, and with "tame" house cats becoming almost universally neutered in the future, he fears that cats could revert to a predominantly wild state and that the beloved companion cat could become a rarity.

Readers may agree or disagree with some of the author's ideas and solutions to problems, but will likely find *Cat Sense* thought-provoking, informative, and entertaining. A treasury of information on just about everything feline, *Cat Sense* belongs on every cat lover's bookshelf. ♣



John Bradshaw and friends. Photo by Alan Peters.

“Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals . . .”



 I saw your ad in Caretaker Gazette and although we are not in a position in that way (we live in SC), I liked your website and wanted to send a donation. Thank you for all you do for cats.
Karin Volquardsen.



 I have enjoyed your hot pads for many years, and was very impressed with your facility while visiting my sister and brother-in-law who adopted two of your rescue kitty brothers a few years ago. My own two fur babies are rescues and I love them dearly. Please accept my donation to continue your good work with my best wishes for a successful year 2014! P.S. I enjoy your newsletters, too! From **Barbara Gilbert.**



 To **PFOA**, I adopted a beautiful long haired Calico kitty, Lorelei (was Loretta) from your shelter three years ago. She continues to be a loving and good pet and I am so happy to have her. Please accept the enclosed as a small donation to help you continue the wonderful work you do. Thank you, **Pat Wilson.**



 We have had Maggie and Joie (formerly Bonnie and Connie) for 1½ years. We are a family that appreciated PFOA. Thanks, the **Coopers.**



Brothers Max and Jack were so lucky being loved by my daughters. It’s been two years that we adopted them. **David and Malen Desaute**

It is both sad and joyous that we let you know our pack has changed. Daisy left us this past spring and is now running with the big dogs. As you know, we were at a loss. After hours on the computer looking at all sorts of dogs and more hours visiting new dogs, we met Shae, a 96 pound, 8-year-old Black Lab mix. Though she was overweight, she had a “pretty face.” We fell in love! Under Dave’s guidance, she lost 26 pounds and has won Merlin’s heart . . . well, let’s say he likes her – a little. With love and joy we stand at the hinge of a new beginning.
 From **Conradine and Dave Holtz.**



Just wanted to share this picture of my Berry with you guys. I adopted her two years ago and it was the best decision! She is the biggest cuddle bug!! I wish I could adopt every single kitty there! Thank you for all you do, it is a great thing!
Corinne Gaydeski

Coquette (formerly PFOA “Lindy Lou”) is doing very well. She is not a lap cat, but must sit next to me on the couch, or on the chaise lounge by the window. She is still anti-social; runs to hide if someone comes to the house. Hopefully, with time, that will stop and she will want to grace her visitors and admirers. To me, she is a wonderful cuddle. Last January, when I took her for her annual vet visit, we found she was minus a tooth and had a dangling nerve, and some gum impaction, as well as some kind of cancerous (but a benign type, the vet said) growth on a leg. We had the latter removed, anyway, and all the mouth work done. She will shortly go for her next annual in about one week. Thanks for all your wonderful love, commitment and work.
 From **Darlene Schanfeld.**



Eiko is still so tiny! she only weighs 8 lbs and she’s short. She’s like a dog. You can really roughhouse with her when we brush her. She loves getting brushed. We adopted her from you in July of 2010. She was named Bernice at your place. She is a daddy’s little girl. She adores him!
Rikki McMeowan

Message from Patty Cakes

My sister, Jaynie, and I were taken to the Peninsula Friends of Animals after our first owner passed away. We were separated at first because my sister was not found for a week after I was. We were both frightened at first but soon realized that we were in a good place.

Several months later, a nice lady came in the room where I was. I jumped up on her lap, figured she was just another volunteer. To my surprise she picked me to go home with her.

At her home I met Tigger, the other cat in this home. We didn't get to be together for several days but then we finally got to meet; smelled noses, slapped paws and then walked off. "Maybe this place was going to be OK".



Tigger (left) and me

I didn't like my first visit to the vet, but the doctor was OK until she tried to clip my toenails - they had gotten pretty long. My vet has a wonderful cat tree that she lets us sit on while waiting for her to come in the room (I sure do like that). After having some tummy problems, for which I was placed on a special food, I am doing well.

I love playing with my catnip mouses and other toys that I have (well, Tigger plays with them too, aren't I nice)?

This is now my home. Tigger and I have wrestling matches and I'm not supposed to jump on the counters (even tho I do when I think no one is looking). Glenn and Karen got us both a nice cat tree that sits in front of the window (although I think it is mine). And a wonderful scratching bed (which I also think is mine, of course).

Thank you to PFOA for taking me in when I lost my first owner. I hope every cat gets a chance for a good home.

Patty Cakes

 Larry (a.k.a. now Oreo, named by our 6 year old granddaughter) is the love of our life! He is the purrfect kitty. All he wants is love and food--in that order! I entice him into bed with me with a cashmere sweater that's been warmed just for him. He entertains us constantly with his various antics (i.e., chasing his tail while somersaulting in the air, throwing his feather bombs around and making a toy of anything--including my husband's neon yellow tennis socks). Thank you all for sharing such a super cat! He and I are working on his Facebook page and will 'friend' you when it's ready! **Oreo's New Mom**

Want more STORIES?
Read more on page 11 & 15 or on our facebook page at: www.facebook.com/pfoasafehaven



 **To Jefferson and all of the wonderful PFOA cats and people,** thank you for everything you do to help the kitties. You all are wonderful. From **Linda and Ted Dennis.**



 We wanted to thank you all for bringing Andy, the cat, into our home. He has fitted in, and basically taken over. We love him and don't know how we ever got along without him. Thank you very much! From **Russ and Rosalie Weber.**

Adoption Update - Sally and Clancy



Clancy

When we last saw our heroes Sally had expanded her territory to the entire downstairs and Clancy was figuring out how to deal with it.

Clancy has pretty much accepted the fact that that's the way things are going to be. So now a typical day begins with both Sally and Clancy joining us in the Library for coffee. Sally sits in her Dad's lap and Clancy warms himself by the fire.

After coffee we adjourn to the Family Room for breakfast. After breakfast Sally retires to the Library for a nap. Clancy heads to the Master Bedroom for his nap. Both kitties wake up around 3:00 PM. Dinner is at 4:00 PM and they don't want to miss it.

After dinner Clancy takes another nap in the Master Bedroom and Sally plays with the little red dot in the Family Room. Later Sally settles on her Dad's lap for the evening. Clancy comes and goes. Often he will sit next to the scratching post.

At bed time Sally likes to curl up on the couch. Clancy moves around. Sometimes he's under the Dining Room table, sometimes in the Library and sometimes he settles in the recliner in the Family Room. For the most part the kitties are co-existing peacefully.

Occasionally insults are exchanged but most of the time they each keep to their own spaces.

Sally & Clancy's Forever Family



Sally

Sally and Clancy are siblings who were adopted from PFOA in late 2012.



Choosing a Shelter Cat For Adoption

by Sasha Sterling

Adopting a new pet is an adventure, full of possibilities and the anticipation of building a special, lasting friendship with an animal. It almost goes without saying that the choice of pet should be well thought out. But sometimes emotions rule, resulting in impulsive decisions that don't always work out well.

I found myself riding on my emotions a little over two years ago when I decided to adopt a cat from Safe Haven to replace Misty, my recently deceased 16-year-old, and to provide a companion for my remaining cat, Candy. In looking over the photos of adoptables on the PFOA site, I quickly fell in love with Tamara, a gorgeous tabby/tortie domestic longhair. Although the folly of making a selection solely based on looks is well known, I was determined to go ahead with my choice. I was not deterred upon learning from the staff that the animal I selected was very shy and that no one had asked to adopt her during the five years she had lived in the shelter. Seduced by her beauty and gentleness, I went ahead with the adoption, never even considering another prospect. My previous success with shy cats gave me confidence that I could bring her around.

Although Tamara did indeed come around, I soon realized that bringing home a companion for Candy was my idea, not his. He grew up with other cats who were part of his own family, and Misty was his mother. He perceived Tamara as an interloper. So I had to come to terms with the fact that my real reason for adopting a new cat was to fill the void I felt after losing Misty. Meanwhile, the situation was temporarily stressful for both Tamara and Candy. Today, Tamara is still shy with everyone but me. She is affectionate and loves being brushed and petted, but, to my disappointment, won't sit on my lap and hates to be picked up despite all my encouragement and reassurance.

Contemporary research in psychology claims that most people are prone to make decisions by the path of least resistance, based on superficial impressions and few facts.

A better approach requires several steps to maximize the potential for good decision-making.

If I could do it over, an improved adoption scenario might go like this: After viewing the photos and videos on the PFOA website, I slow down and put my rational side to work by being honest with myself about why I want to adopt another cat. Instead of rushing to make an appointment to visit Safe Haven, I make a list of qualities I want in my adoptee. For example, I want a female, an adult rather than a kitten, preferably with long hair and a laid-back personality. Of course, every prospective owner has a different list of preferences.

Next I sleep on it and let the continuing process work its magic. The next day, I write down a set of questions to ask at the shelter, and I'm ready to answer the questions the staff routinely asks about preparedness for providing a forever home. Only then do I make an appointment to visit the cats.

At Safe Haven I call upon the expertise of the shelter's staff and volunteers to aid in my selection. They know their charges and do their best to ensure a good match between owner and cat. Returns can be heartbreaking for all concerned, and can even cause the cat to become depressed and ill.

Armed with my impressions, I go home, let the dust settle, and set analysis aside. Perhaps I go for a walk, see a movie, or have dinner with friends. Getting some distance allows the alchemy of the decision-making process to finish its work.

The next day or a few days later, I visit Safe Haven to accustom the animal I've chosen to my scent, voice, and manner before signing the papers. Better yet, I visit several times to begin building the foundation for our lasting friendship. While engaging reason is necessary in making realistic choices, emotion must come back into the equation. Ultimately, emotion supplies the glue that binds the most satisfying relationships. And, it should be remembered, the cat chooses too.

Will following this series of steps guarantee perfect results? No; but it will increase the odds of a happy life with a new pet, even though it sounds like a lot of effort.

Now, two and a half years into my life with Tamara, I'm still mesmerized by her beauty. My heart melts when I see the love in her eyes. She may never sit on my lap or enjoy being picked up, but I've come to accept her limitations. I love her sweet personality and the charming way she stands up to our other cat's occasional bullying. As she cuddles next to me now, meowing for petting, I can't imagine life without her. With luck, sometimes the first choice is the best choice after all. ❖

Look who's been adopted!



---Continued from Page 1

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



Julius



Ozette



Rain



Linus



Sierra



Elwick



Joseph



Daryl



Mikey



Patience



Stormy



Tillamook



Patchy



Ben



Sekiu



Milagro



Chimaicum



Sir Vivor



Hannah



Leda

Update on Abe and Woody

Woodrow and Abraham have officially gone to heaven... They LOVE playing in the tall grass of our back yard, and chirping at the birds that fly by. Abraham caught his very first shrew today, and presented it to me as a gift, preening with pride. They're still most content, though, sleeping with us at night, with Abraham relentlessly trying to snuggle his wet nose into my neck and ears every single night, and waking me up at dawn to let me know they're more than ready for breakfast. Any visitors we have are immediately greeted, and we always get compliments of how "cool" our cats are. I don't think we could have picked the more perfect pair to be a permanent part of our family.

Misty Cable

Abraham and Woodrow are brothers who were adopted from PFOA in mid-2013.



Woodrow has overcome his potential fears and become absolute best buds with his little human.

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.

Honorariums (Person)

- In honor of **David** and **Connie Holtz**. From **Kathy, Benjamin & Oliver Trainor**.
- In honor of **Chuck** and **Linda Livingston**. From **Roberta Hairfield**.
- In honor of **PFOA** who gave Maggie such a good start. From **Larry** and **Jeanne Glenn**.
- In honor of **Barb Swedeen**. From **Pamela Davee**.
- In honor of **Phillip Collier**. From **Cheryl Halverson**.
- In honor of **Cynthia Wythe**. From **Margaret (Peg) Bell**.
- In honor of **Barbara Swedeen**. From **Jerry Swedeen**.
- In honor of **Richard Serkes**. From **Theresa Killgore**.
- In honor of **Roxanne Hildebrand**. From **Melissa Lindholm**.
- In honor of **Stephanie Hew**. From **Joyce Bima**.
- In honor of **Joyce Pollack's** birthday. From **Richard Crowell**.

Honorarium (Pet)

- In honor of **Noir** and **Echo**, our two cats we adopted from PFOA. From **Van R.** and **Karen Michaels Niemi**.
- In honor of **Sweetums**. From **Jo Ann Bergmans**.
- In honor of **Simcoe**. From **Joni Cervenka**.
- In honor of **Little Bit**. From **Wally Kohl**.
- In honor of **Buster**. From **Anna**.
- In honor of **Pearl S.** and **Buck** (adopted from PFOA). From **Mark Ford**.

In Memory of Special People

- In memory of **Sue**, only sister of Jan Nutting, owner of the Cat's Pajamas. From **Gary Del Mastro**.
- In memory of **Allan Bentley**. From **Frank** and **Mary Deckebach**.
- In memory of **Allan Bentley**. From **Robert Parrish**.
- In memory of **David Sigsbee**. From **T. Marsh**.
- In memory of **David Sigsbee**. From **Christina Gutmacher**.
- In memory of **Joanne (Bishop) Wyllie**. From **Cheri Ingersoll**.
- In memory of **Candy Olmer**. From **Janet MacDonald**.
- In memory of **Candy Olmer**, devoted kitty mom, volunteer and ex-coworker (Greywolf Elementary). From **Millie & Bob Marzec**.
- In memory of **Charyl West**. From **Jack** and **Harriet McEwan**.
- In memory of **Santiago Beldmondo**. From **Johnjoseph Pajor**.
- In memory of **Robert Kirby Widdicombe**, the kindest man I ever knew. From **Joanna, Sebastian** and **Kenny Louis**.

- In memory of **Eric Ruby**. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Carol Sadler**. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Betty Boyton**. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Phyllis Crowel**. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Margaret Bertman**. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of my beloved mother **Helen Holtzheimer**, whose generous and loving heart reached out to all the animals in need. From **Diane** and **Leon Lopez**.
- In loving memory of **Helen Hille**. Gone a year and missed as much as ever. From **Diane** and **Leon Lopez**.
- In memory of **Donald Sorg**, cat lover. From **Gloria Shepard**.
- In memory of Diane Lopez's mother, **Helen Holzheimer**. From **Ron** and **Jennifer Puff**.
- In memory of **Chris Buell**. From **Beverly Buell**.
- In memory of **Helen Hille**. From **Dan** and **Marylou Tatum**.
- In memory of **Ron Elkworth, Jr.** From **Glenn Kjack**.

In Memory of Beloved Companion Animals

- In memory of **Artemis & Sydney**, Rhonda Callaway's cats. From **Karen Klein**.
- In memory of **Ming**, beloved cat of Mardell Richmond. From **Christine Brunner**.
- In memory of big, sweet, gentle **Gus**, canine family member of Bill and Sharon Bailey. From **Gary Del Mastro**.
- In memory of **Alister**. From **Robert Grower**.
- In memory of **Malea**, the feline matriarch of the Vashon apartments who left her "print" on the next generation of queens. From **Mitzi Keehne**.
- In memory of **Joey**, adopted from PFOA by a loving volunteer. From **Brenda Evans**.
- In memory of **Joey**, my 13-year-old orange tabby with the glow-in-the-dark white markings. Thank you sweet boy, for adopting me nearly six years ago. You were amazing and are so very missed. From **Karen Groves** and **Sunny, Rocky, Emmy** and **Spumoni**.
- In memory of **Roxey** (Roxanne). From **Donna Criscione**.
- In memory of **Roxey** (Roxanne). From **Gary Del Mastro**.
- In memory of **Shadow**, such a faithful dog and companion to us. We will miss her terribly. From **Faith** and **Curt Ohlson**.
- In memory of quiet, gentle **Catrina**, in whom the light of love shone strongly for all the twelve years she blessed our home. From **Ann Gilson**.
- In loving memory of **TeeBall**, beloved feline companion of Christine and Preston Gilson for eighteen years. He waits in an Episcopal heaven. From **Ann Gilson**.
- In memory of **KeeKee**, a kitty with a unique voice, who had a long beautiful life with Tammy White. From the **Dolanskys**.
- In memory of **KeeKee**, Tammy White's kitty. From **John** and **Nancy Jost**.

Memorials and Honorariums

- In memory of **Sassy**, beloved companion of Faye Hayden and a special friend of mine. We all loved you, Sassy. From **Martha Carle**.
- In memory of **Tippy**. From **Bruce Johnson**.
- In memory of Faye Hayden's beloved dog **Sassy**. From **Rod and Linda Grubb**.
- In memory of our precious **Thumper**. From **Thumper's Family**.
- In memory of **Mickey Saunders** (cat), owned by Donna and Steve Saunders. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Thang Michael** (cat), owned by Leslie Michael. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Barry Dolansky** (cat), owned by John and Nancy Dolansky. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Ms. Kitty Hempel** (cat), owned by Richard and Carolyn Hempel. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Archie Hebert** (cat), owned by Linda Hebert. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Fluffy and Twit Nardi** (cats), owned by Ray Nardi. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Emma Gruner** (cat), owned by Barb and Ed Gruner. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **KeeKee White** (cat), owned by Tammy White. From **Joy Kennedy Maxion, Kitten Sittin'**.
- In memory of **Squeak**, loving feline companion of Rene Barnett. From **Diane Lopez**.
- In memory of Gail Kramer's dog, **Rose**. From **Jan and Dave Reichl**.
- In memory of **Dave and Tux**. From **Brenda Evans**.
- In memory of **Rub-insky**, my beloved, goofy orange tuxedo tabby cat. From **Paula Strouf**.
- In memory of beautiful, wise, sweet **Sammy**. Missing you – all of us. **Anonymous**.
- In memory of **Neva Marie**. From **George and Victoria Esquiro**.
- In memory of **Rakeem and Sophie**. From **Diedre DeRoia**.
- In memory of **Cody**. From **Andul Robinson**.
- In memory of **Kyoto**. From **Sharon Palmer**.
- In memory of **Brookes**. From **Marie Beam**.
- In memory of **Rose**. From **Wendy Turner**.
- In memory of **Jewel**. From **Ben and Elizabeth Thacker**.
- In memory of **Candy**. From **Sasha Sterling**.
- In memory of **Kimba and Stealth**. From **Donna Heien**.
- In memory of **Kyoto** who was such an important part of Sharon Palmer's life. From **Gary Del Mastro**.
- In memory of **Sweet Pea**. From **Victoria White**.
- In memory of very dear and much loved **Munchkin**, who has gone on to join Bear, leaving only Penny to comfort Susan and Chuck Skaggs, the best "parents" any dog could have. From **Ann Gilson**.



Memories of Alester

Alester was an active 14 years young cat who came to live at Safe Haven when his owner passed away. He thrived on human interaction, and would follow people around, wagging his tail and wanting to join in on whatever was going on. Because he was FIV positive, he could only go into a home with other FIV positive cats or as a single cat. For well over a year he remained at Safe Haven, happily greeting volunteers, staff and visitors.

One day, a retired gentleman came to Safe Haven, met Alester, and it was love at first sight for both of them. Alester had found his new forever home. He and his foster dad were inseparable. They settled into a lifestyle that should have lasted several years. Regrettably, that was not to be. After a wonderful Thanksgiving week where Alester was the center of his new family's attention, he began to lose his appetite. After visiting the vet, he was diagnosed with lymphoma and went downhill rapidly. Sadly, our sweet Alester crossed the Rainbow Bridge on December 30, 2013. He was a grand old fellow, with an endearing personality and flawless manners, and he will be greatly missed by everyone whose lives he touched.

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Adoption Update – Julius, now Max



I decided to re-name Julius and he is now Max (after my father). Max is the best cat and I couldn't be any happier. He was at home from the first

moment he stepped into my house and he has the most charming, easy going personality. At night he sleeps on the pillow next to mine and he even wakes up and accompanies me to the bathroom (he loves to watch the toilet flush). I have a female cat that's about 8 years old and she and Max are getting along pretty well and they like to chase each other all around the house. Max loves to be involved in everything I do and he's definitely a great companion - he's extremely curious and active so I need to come up with more activities for him (especially since he will no longer be roaming in the great outdoors).

Peninsula Friends of Animals is a wonderful organization and I know you are proud to be part of the great work that they do.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

PFOA WISH LIST

■ **Lots of Fancy Feast Classic for the shelter kids.** Temptations Treats, Regular Purina One Dry Cat Food (chicken & rice), Fancy Feast and Friskies canned food and Petco Scoopable Litter. Paper towels, toilet paper, high efficiency non-scented laundry soap, and dishwasher soap. Small gas-powered weed eater. Firewood for Barker House. Large top loader carriers for bigger or multiple cats. Gift cards to Safeway, Costco and Wal-Mart for various shelter items.

■ **Is your patio furniture still in storage from the winter? Are you thinking you might like to replace it this year?** Consider donating it to PFOA and help the kitties! We are looking for nice washable patio furniture for the cat rooms. Comfortable chairs with easy to wash frames that have water-resistant cushions are really wonderful to provide seating for both adopters and kitties. Sets that are a little shopworn can be used outdoors. The kitties and their human caretakers and adopters will be very appreciative!

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE:

■ **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 a pair.

I included a couple pictures of Max at rest (he is so darn cute!) and the third photo is my other cat touching Max. I'm not sure why but she occasionally has to touch him while he's resting.

Thanks so much for checking on Max - as far as I'm concerned he's perfect and we'll have many great years together.

from Teri Hansen

Peninsula Friends of Animals

Phone: 360-452-0414

Fax: 360-452-0412

E-mail: pfoa@olyphen.com

<http://safehavenPFOA.org>

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Dates to remember:

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

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

■ **The PFOA Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, at the Lazy Acres Clubhouse. This is several weeks earlier than in previous years. We will start at 5:00 pm with a snackluck; the business meeting will start at 6:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

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