

The Purrfect Pals PURR



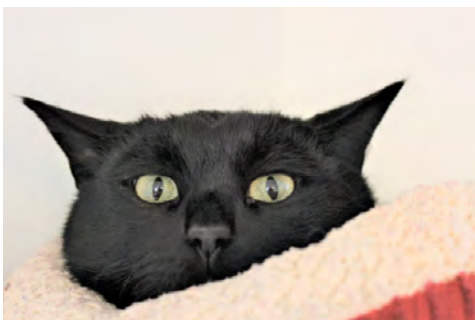
The Quarterly Purrfect Pals Newsletter • Because Every Cat Matters... • Fall 2019 Edition



Purrfect Endings!

Want to hear more adoption successes like George Yoda's? We have an entire section of our website dedicated to warming your days during the colder months. Check it out!

purrfectpals.org/purrfectending



Sponsor a Cat for the Holidays!

As the season of giving approaches, consider a gift of sponsorship for one of our special cats or kittens for just \$25 a month. Your donation will help provide food, toys, medicine, and needed care for a kitty currently at our sanctuary.

<https://purrfectpals.org/catssponsorship/>

A New Home for George Yoda!

While many animal shelters and rescues have a soft focus on placing as many animals as they can in to forever-homes, Purrfect Pals has a dedicated mission to making sure even those cats with unique behavior issues, elderly cats, and FIV or FeLV cats have a fighting chance at finding loving families as well.

Staff and foster families alike spend countless hours working to prepare cats for adoption, often tackling issues like shyness, urinary problems, or fear, to name a few. Because of this, many cats stay

under Purrfect Pals care for some time, adjusting their behaviors and waiting for the perfect adopters to come their way. It is not hard to imagine the bond and attachment that grows between staff and their charges during their stay and rehabilitation.

George Yoda had been with Purrfect Pals since 2009. Though friendly and well behaved, George Yoda had a hard time grasping the concept of using a litter box, due to issues that were believed to stem from declawing, a common side-

(continued on Page 11)



George Yoda is a force in the comfort of his new home.

PurrfectPals

Because every cat matters

Through placement and prevention programs, Purrfect Pals works to end cat homelessness in the Puget Sound region - Because every cat matters.

Purrfect Pals

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shelter hours 11-4, Monday-Saturday

tax id 94-3127448

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Mikey Might Eat Anything!



Nine "People Foods" No Cat Should Eat

You've seen pictures of cats lapping a saucer of milk. While kittens can drink cow's milk, adult cats are intolerant of lactose and even a few laps or a tidbit of cheese can cause gastro-intestinal pain and diarrhea. Lactose free milk or live culture yogurt can usually be tolerated, but check with your veterinarian, as every cat's digestive system is different.

Here is the list of common foods that can be toxic to cats, according to Modern Cat Magazine:

1. **Cow's Milk** – can cause pain and diarrhea.
2. **Chocolate** - the theobromine and caffeine is toxic to most animals.
3. **Onion** – can cause weakness and shortness of breath.
4. **Raw Potatoes and Tomatoes** – stomach distress unless cooked.
5. **Yeast dough** – severe pain, intestinal rupture and alcohol poisoning as yeast ferments in the gastrointestinal tract.
6. **Grapes and Raisins** – can cause kidney failure, vomiting and diarrhea.
7. **Caffeine & Alcohol** – even the dregs out of a coffee cup or in a creamy sauce can be deadly, as there is no cure for caffeine and alcohol poisoning in animals.
8. **Garlic and Chives** – can cause anemia and gastrointestinal problems, especially if a window box of chives looks like cat grass to your feline.
9. **Xylitol** - Artificial sweetener found in gum, candy and some toothpastes, will cause seizures in cats and liver failure within 24 hours.



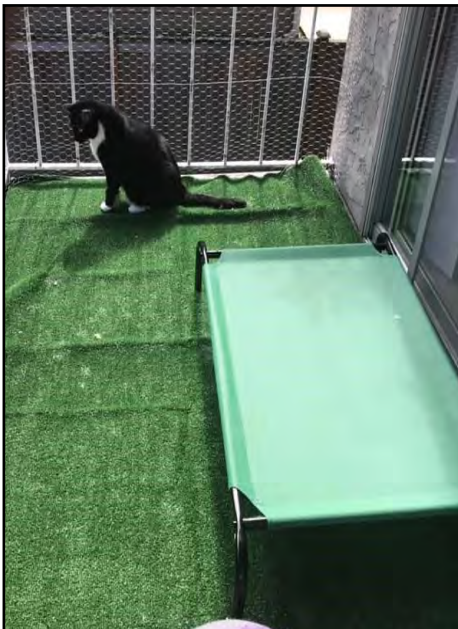
A Walk on the Wild Side

Guest Post by Meg Brunner, Secretary, Purrfect Pals Board of Directors

At Purrfect Pals, we've seen first-hand how dangerous "the great outdoors" can be for cats. Cats that are allowed to roam freely outside are at higher risk for injury, exposure to viruses like Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV), and getting lost or even killed.

Outdoor cats can also wreak havoc on their communities, causing territorial stress in other cats in the neighborhood, decimating the local songbird population, and, according to a recent [news article](#), even infecting sea life with deadly parasites like *Toxoplasma gondii*, responsible for the deaths of 3-8% of California's sea otters. Yikes!

For all these reasons, we require all Purrfect Pals kitties to be indoor-only. But we also recognize that many kitties love to be outside! And we also know that a cat used to having outdoor access can struggle with the transition to being inside-only. So, how can we provide safe outside time for our cats who want it?



Even urban kitties can enjoy catios in this apartment balcony version.

One way is leash training your kitty and taking them outside to explore or even go for a walk. Cat behavior expert Jackson Galaxy has some [great advice on how to get started](#). Taking your cat outside on a leash is a great way to spend quality time with them, but not every cat takes to a leash, and not every cat owner has time to go out as often as their pet might want.

And that's where CATIOS come in!

Catios are cat enclosures – "cat patios" – that provide safe outdoor spaces for kitties to hang out in. They come in a huge variety of styles, ranging from inexpensive DIY projects made from a wide variety of materials, to super fancy custom builds.

Let's take a look at some examples, contributed by Purrfect Pals volunteers and friends!

THE APARTMENT BALCONY CAT

Living in an apartment building doesn't mean you can't make your cats a safe outdoor space. If you have a balcony, you have what you need!

In this example, Holly used sturdy chicken wire to securely seal off the sides of her balcony from top to bottom, then installed some soft outdoor-safe green carpeting to make a happy grass-like surface. Add some places to sit, some toys, and some potted plants, and you have a low-cost balcony cat oasis!

SCREENED-IN PORCH CATIO

Similarly, if you have a deck, especially one



This custom built catio provides a safe outdoor experience.

that already has a roof, you can seal that off to make a safe outdoor space. Alisa had a frame built around the outside of her deck and then secured window screen material to the panels. She filled it with cozy furniture, and voila, a great outdoor space for the whole family! Now, obviously, those of us in the Pacific Northwest probably won't want to include an actual sofa in there, which is just gonna get soaked when Sideways Rain Season kicks in. However, modify the furnishings for your own local weather conditions and this seems like a great space for everybody to hang out in.

MINI OUTDOOR SHELving CATIO

This one could work for an apartment balcony or a backyard and was cleverly built using a set of wire cube shelving (like [this](#), \$23.49 for 6 cubes). Stack the cubes in any configuration you want and secure them to each other with zip ties.

Julie says, "It's pretty minimal, but my kitties LOVE it!" In other pluses, it's also

waterproof, portable, and easy to take apart and put back together, meaning you can store it during the winter if you want.

THE KIT-BASED FREE-STANDING CATIO

You can find kits online for catios, like this one available at [Wayfair](#) for \$379.99 (I've also seen it on other online stores, including Amazon). It comes in parts and you have to assemble it, but reviews I've seen reported it wasn't too challenging to build – you and a buddy can do it in a few hours.

Sandy's cats have loved it and reports that it's big enough to hold a lawn chair so a human to hang out too.

The one downside: it's freestanding, so cats can't come and go as they please. But if you're looking for something you can put together yourself for a reasonable price, this might be just the ticket. Wayfair has several other models of free-standing

catios too.

THE DIY PVC CATIO

Check out this clever contraption: a catio built using a frame of PVC pipe and chicken wire! Jeri, one of our beloved Purrfect Pals foster volunteers (follow her fostering adventures on the [Welcome to the Breakroom Facebook page!](#)), built this incredible outdoor space using plans she drafted herself. It uses a frame made from PVC pipes and joints, with chicken wire attached via zip ties and a simple tarp-based roof.

Her cats can come and go as they please through her office window. During warmer months, Jeri just leaves the window open, but when it gets colder, she inserts a piece



PVC and chicken wire help create a custom catio equipped with a cat flap and everything!



Customizing space for adventurous cats does not have to cost a paw and a tail. This mini outdoor shelving unit can be arranged to fit nearly any space and provides an affordable and sturdy alternative for those on a budget.

of insulated foam board with a cat flap installed at the bottom. That shuts out the cold, while still letting her kitties come and go. Brilliant!

DIY OR CUSTOM MODELS FROM CATIO SPACES

Want to build your own catio, but need someone to give you some instructions? Or, don't have the time/skills for a DIY project and just want someone to take care of it for you?

[Catio Spaces](#), a local company, has you covered. For those interested in the DIY route, you can purchase a set of plans from their website, ranging in price from about \$40 to about \$70, depending on the model. The plans come with a list of all the materials you'll need, as well as instructions for every step in the process.

From there, you can either do the work yourself, or do what Cerise did and hire a carpenter to come out and put it together for you. Cerise estimated that the total cost for her 8x6 model, including plans,

materials, and labor, came out to be about \$1500, a figure that could be adjusted up or down depending on the materials you select.

Catio Spaces will also come out and design the perfect catio for your yard, then build it for you too! This is the most costly approach, but there's no denying that the results are stunning! [Check out their website](#) for lots of photos and testimonials!

If you decide to order some plans from Catio Spaces, be sure to put "PurrfectPals" as the affiliate promo code – they'll donate 10% of your purchase to us to support the kitties! Thank you, Catio Spaces!

THE COOLEST CATIOS OF ALL: VISIT THEM AT PURRFECTION PALS!

If you want to see the coolest catios of all, the place to visit is our main shelter in Arlington! We have a huge range of styles, from individual outdoor enclosures for our kitties living in pods, to larger spaces for our FIV room.

But the best has to be the one in Leuki Land, which our FeLV cats access through

a flap in their second-floor space. Our kitties scoot through the door, then travel down a covered ramp, ending in a huge outdoor area with lots of places to climb and loads of room for running around, chasing bugs, and basking in the sun. Volunteers tend to the grass and plants, keeping our outdoor enclosures beautiful and fun. Come by any time to get a tour of all our catios and meet some of their biggest fans: our cats!

IT'S HAPPY HEALTHY CAT MONTH!

Indoor enrichment and stimulation on a daily basis the key to keeping your cat (and your household) happy. For a taste of the outdoors, a catio (outdoor "cat patio") offers a safe way for cats to enjoy fresh air and the sights and sounds of nature...and of course, birdwatching! If you're inspired to build a catio for your favorite felines, our friends at Catio Spaces offer a variety of DIY Catio Plans to take the guesswork out of building one, or you can hire a local carpenter to build the catio plan for you!

For feng shui tips and tricks for your feline, as well as more information on custom catio plans, check out [this great article](#) on



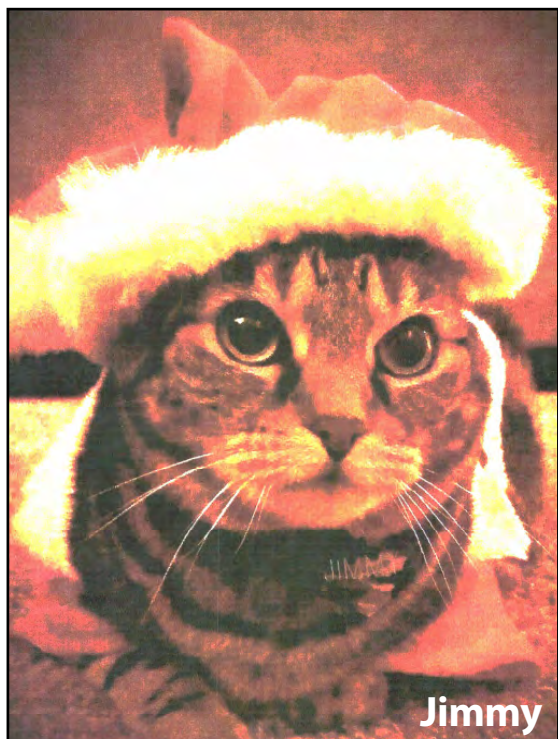
Catios plans from our friends at Catio Spaces provide kitties with stylish and stimulating outdoor experiences.

the Catio Spaces website!



For further catio inspiration, visit Purrfect Pals in Arlington! Many of our sanctuary rooms have large attached enclosures where our residents can safely enjoy fresh air and sunshine.

In Honor and In Memory



In Memory of Livvy, who quite simply was an extraordinary cat.

In Honor of Diplomat & all other felines.

In Memory of Boots Randalf.

In Honor of William Lyles, thank you for taking care of our grandchildren.

In Memory of Avery.

In Honor of Bootsie.

In Honor Mary & Ernie Hays for their kindness to cats and people.

In Honor of Tomato and Pickles.

In Memory of my Purrfect Pals, Nemo and Chewy.

In loving Memory of Fwooper, the tabby polydactyl from the Critter Room.

In Memory of Seagal.

In Memory of Jax and Stanley.

In Honor of my neighbor, Ian Halrsgewachs who is turning twelve.

In Memory of Ian's cat, Dora.

In Memory of Charlene Schultze.

In Honor of Cher, our rescue cat.

In Memory of Piekatt, Snowshoe, The Dink, Buster, and Tazzy.

In Memory of Tasha.

In Honor of Rufus Gribben.

In Honor of my friends from The Cat Planet.

In Honor of ZuZu Peepers.

In Memory of Thelonius Monk Parris.

In Honor of Phanny Peters.

In Honor of John Bartlett and his fosters.

In Honor of all who are lost and then found.

In Memory of Maya Papaya who will be sorely missed by all who loved her.

In Memory of Heather Martin.

In Memory of Jeannette Adams parents.

In Honor of Tigger and Hlathgertha (formerly Mei-Ling).

In Memory of Geoffrey.

In Memory of Gail Adkins.

In Honor of Purrfect Pals, my fellow colleagues in cat rescue.

In Memory of Richard Shull.

In Memory of Pokey.

In Memory of Marion Berry's beautiful Bella.

In Honor of Pam Klitz..

In Honor of the Community Cat Coalition.

In Memory of Lillian Adams.

In Memory of Oreo.

In Honor of Lupin and Puck.

In Memory of Wayne Hom.

In Honor of Gemma aka. Moondance.

In Honor of our Purrfect kitties Lily and Louis.

In Memory of Alastair.

In Memory of Lester.

In Memory of Ted, Taz, Chip, and Bella.

In Memory of Elvis and Tomo.

In Memory of Chowder and Moosh.

In Memory of Ella.

In Honor of all Purrfect Pals volunteers.

In Honor of Ginger.

In Honor of Mary Warsinske's birthday.

In Honor of Sherpa and Squeek.

In Memory of Mei who was much loved by Erin Reitz.

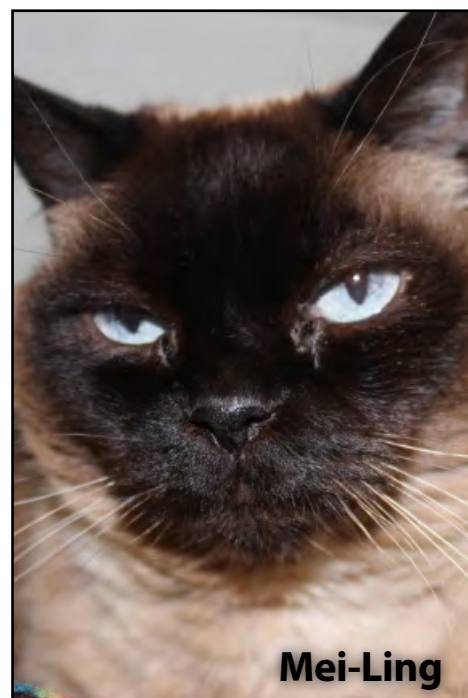
In Memory of Pinto.

In Memory of Nano my beloved hero.

In Memory of Diego.

In Honor of Ethel Greyerbiehl's birthday.

In Memory of Cricket, the coolest cat ever.



In Memory of Don Logan.

In Honor of Keith Morrison and Lizzy Rekevics.

In Memory of Erda.

In Memory of Ike my beloved cat and head of household.

In Honor of Maxx.

In Memory of Mips.

In Memory of Carlos my twenty-year-old grumpy grey cat.

In Memory of WeeCat.

In Memory of Joey.

In Honor of Catherine McCarthy.

In Memory of my dear sister, Melissa Jane

French who loved rescue cats.

In Memory of Chug aka. Chuggy. He was a blessing to us and his cat brother and sisters, even our dog. He was truly an unforgettable cat.

In Honor of Audrey, Happy 30th birthday! Welcome to the best decade.

In Memory of Livvy.

In Honor of Nicola Derbyshire.

In Memory of Len Berlind.

In Memory of Fred. Fred was a Hurricane Katrina rescue cat, who grew into a most handsome orange tabby.

In Memory of Clair (Sam) Crossman. Dad passed away in March at 95.

In Honor of our sweet boy Jimmy, who came to our family through Purrfect Pals. We want to thank you for taking him in as a kitten and giving him to a good foster home to eventually become our family member in October 1999. We went to his fosters home twice to observe the overall health and happiness of the kittens and see what match we might find for our family. Each time we visited he would greet us at the door. I knew from the start that he picked us as his family. He was smart, loving, playful, stubborn, and most of all he was family. Jimmy was 20 years old and the best companion we could have asked for. He was a Mackerel tabby who was full of love and compassion for human beings and greeted everyone in our home the same way he did when we found him. Sadly, Jimmy passed away two weeks ago from old age complications. We will forever have a giant hole in our hearts for him. 🐾

Time to Say Goodbye

We have said a few good-byes in the past several months to some special felines who have definitely left their paw prints on our hearts! Cats have gone home with staff members and volunteers for hospice care, while others have stayed with Founder Kathy Centala in her studio apartment or in our Infirmary on site.

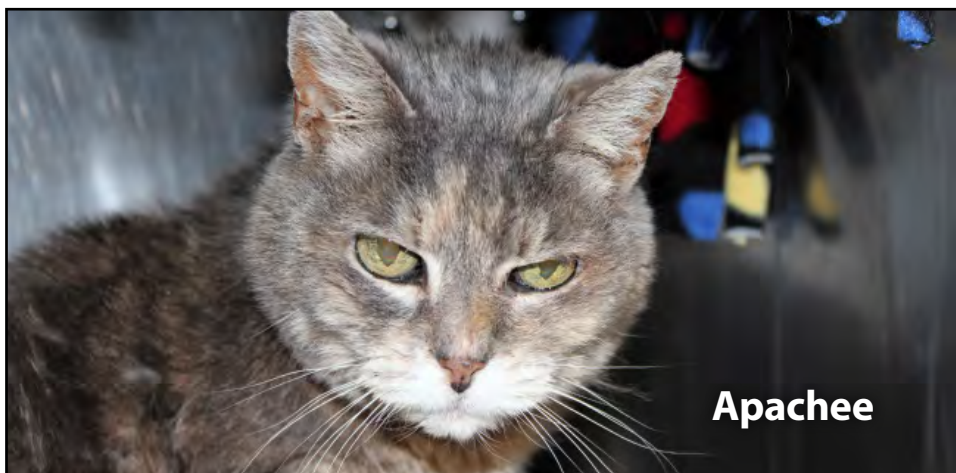
Lil Lola was an office cat for several years who received acupuncture for her arthritis and had her own covered dish that could read her microchip and open when she touched it so that her office mates did not eat her special food.

She took her daily meds if disguised in fishy Tiki Cat varieties. At age 16, she was slowing down and moving less, so a staff member took her home for her final days.

Apachee had kidney disease and needed daily fluid injections. She was 10 when her kidney function declined rapidly, but she also spent her last days in a home getting lots of scratches and love.

We are grateful for our volunteer foster hospice homes!

Every day is precious. We provide comfort and care for every cat who stays with us, be it for 18 more days or 18 more years.



Apachee



Lil Lola

A House of Rescues



Fuzzbucket in her shark cat bed.

By Kathleen Olson, Purrfect Pals Executive Director

How many of you have more cat photos on your phone than anything else?

One of the cats on my phone is Cindy Fuzzbucket.

The first photo I took of her was on a Friday night in 2009. She was in a stainless-steel overflow cage at the end of the hallway of the Tacoma Humane Society Animal Shelter, where I was serving as the Director. It was June, so kittens were pouring in, along with the strays and owner-surrendered cats.

The shelter had received 46 cats that day. The capacity was 350 and all the cages were full. There was no place to put her and adoption chances weren't looking so good, even though she was spayed, because it was kitten season and she was a four-year-old with matted fur who wasn't exactly cuddly.

I decided to take her home as a foster. By the time there was room for her at the shelter, five months had passed and she had become a permanent resident at our house. She joined Kitty Buster, Kitty Milo, and three dogs, whom she mostly ignored as she went about her daily life.

When we moved to Arlington two years ago, Fuzzbucket and our Pitbull Mocha settled in to their new digs. Fuzzbucket has her own room with a porthole so her food and favorite beds are safe from canine intrusion, in addition to beds in three other spots around the house. She has never been a cuddly cat. Now that she is almost 17 and suffering from arthritis, dental disease and kidney issues, she is REALLY not warm

She has never been a cuddly cat. Now that she is almost 17 and suffering from arthritis, dental disease and kidney issues, she is REALLY not warm and fuzzy, despite her name or that fact that when she is curled up in a donut bed, she looks like a bucket of fuzz.

She has developed sundowners, so if she wakes up in the dark, she screams because she isn't sure where she is. But she is family, so we help her find her way with nightlights in every room and hallway at our house.

She reminds me every day how important it is to have a place like Purrfect Pals to take those special needs cats that other shelters do not have resources to help.

After 10 years, she really has become the ultimate diva, as her brother kitties went to the Rainbow Bridge in 2017. Last year, two four-pound Chihuahua rescues joined the family, but she is still the only furry kid with her own bedroom and she still has first dibs on all of the pet beds in every other room. She didn't mind, however, being moved into my home office for 20 days in early August so that Johnny Depp could stay and use her room as his headquarters.

Johnny Depp was a stray that found his way to a local shelter in 2015. When it became evident that nobody was going to claim him, Purrfect Pals decided that he was a great candidate to come to our shelter.

JD was a bit scared when he first came to us, and

JD was a bit scared when he first came to us, and it was clear that he had led a rough life outside before being rescued. With a lot of TLC and good food, he became a much more relaxed and sweet lap cat!

Johnny may have been FIV+, but that didn't hinder him from being adopted in 2015. It is unclear what happened, but he was turned in as a stray at Everett Animal Services this year. In May, his microchip brought him back to us. He was a friendly resident of FIV Land, and at age 7, a good candidate to get adopted again.

Then in July, staff noticed a swelling on his nose that looked like a bee sting. He hung out in the patio to sunbathe, so it was a possibility.

But the swelling got worse. He was having trouble breathing and we found out that his bump was cancer. He was placed on a treatment plan to keep him comfortable and slated for foster care.

JD loved the dogs and he, though he and Fuzzbucket pretty much ignored each other. She mostly stayed in my office and he had free roam of the house.

There JD taught us a lot of lessons. We had forgot what it was like to have a cat who could jump high enough to cruise countertops until we found him investigating the toaster one morning.

We learned how to burrito wrap him for his twice a day pill gun adventures to get the medicine that his treatment plan included into his system.

(Continued on next page)



Johnny Depp cat loafing on the counter

Johnny Depp had one last grand adventure. He slipped out the patio door while the dogs were attending to potty duties outside. Next thing you know, there was an orange streak bounding towards the woods behind our house on the other side of the golf course fairway where we live.

Blackberry bushes and a need to pee slowed him down enough that we were able to pick him up and get him back inside. He may have been a hospice kitty, but nobody told him that he shouldn't be running around outside. He was only with us for 20 days, because the daily pill gun routine became torture as the swelling in his sinuses increased. His condition was deteriorating despite the best care. His last two days at our house, he slept on the sofa gazing out the window all day, except to drink a little water. He quit eating.

JD was eased gently over the rainbow on August 20, a victim of lymphoma.

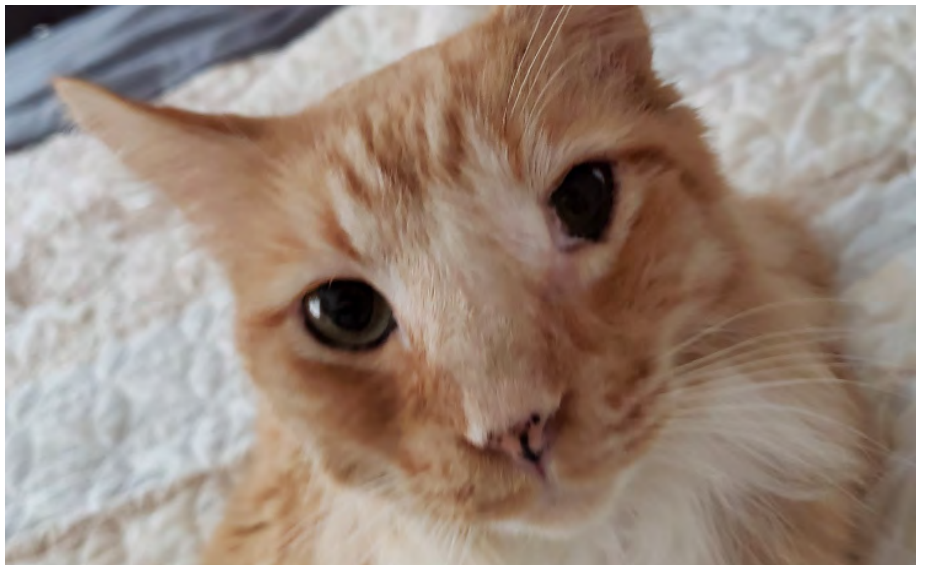
Whether its 20 days or 20 years, they leave a hole in our hearts when we have to say goodbye.

Fuzzbucket and JD are two special kitties you will find on my phone. You probably have as many or more photos than me that you carry bond we have with our furry kids.

with you as a testimony to the strong bond we have with our furry kids.

Every cat deserves a chance to live comfortably. Just think of the thousands of kitties Purrfect Pals has given that second chance over the past 31 years partnering with shelters and taking in special needs cats from the community. **The Purrfect Pals team of donors, volunteers and staff are literally saving lives every day by providing those resources that many pet owners and shelters can't.**

Every dollar you donate to Purrfect Pals gives other kitties like Fuzzbucket and JD a second chance, especially those who find themselves in shelter cages in back hallways for no fault of their own. **Every cat deserves a happy life with a cozy bed, food and veterinary care just like our cats whose photos we carry with us.**



FUTY Volunteer of the Year



(top) Jeanette receives her check from Mud Bay honoring her as FUTY Volunteer of the year. (bottom) Jeanette and her fosters.

Purrfect Pals Foster mom Jeanette Cobb was recognized as Volunteer of the Year 2019 at the Mud Bay FUTY (From Us To You) Festival in September.

There were 19 nominees from animal welfare organizations in Western Washington, and Jeanette was one of three to receive a \$1000 prize, which she donated to the Purrfect Pals Foster Program. Mud Bay matched her prize with a \$1000 gift to Purrfect Pals.

Jeanette started fostering in 2006 and has now taken care of 73 litters.

"Jeanette deeply cares for the cats and kittens in her care, and is a pleasure to work with," noted Foster & Shelter Relocation Manager Susan Bark. "She enjoys watching the cats play, and grow healthy and strong."

Jeanette excels at helping shy mama cats settle in and learn to trust people. She has medicated and cared for sick cats and enjoys seeing them get healthy and adopted.

Animals are her passion. Jeanette, who is autistic, has an apartment in her parent's home with a dedicated foster room she has set up with washable walls, climate controls and lots of windows for the kitties to enjoy a forest view.

Purrfect Pals is so proud of Jeanette and grateful to have her as a member of our furrever team. 🐾



(A NEW HOME, continued from page 1)

effect seen in cats who have undergone claw removal. Through no fault of his own, one of Purrfect Pals smartest and most handsome boys stood by in the wings far too long, waiting for his permanent family to one day swoop him up.

After two failed adoptions and too many years to count on his claws, we are happy to announce Mr. Yoda himself has found his people, as well as two new siblings! In a report from Leanne Nott, his new cat mom:

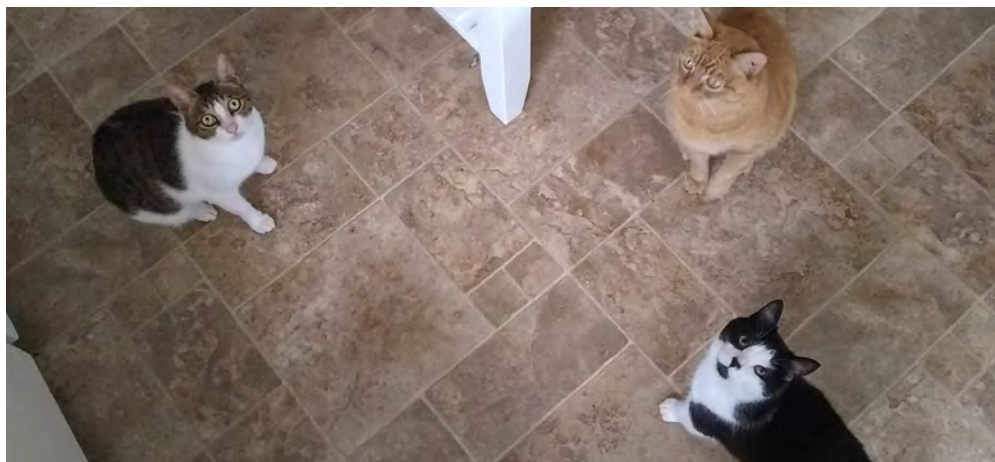
"George is doing great! He's still a cuddle bug, and he has full run of the house 24/7 now. There's still some hissing and batting between the cats if someone gets too close, but no real fights or bullying, so I think they're going to continue to get more comfortable with each other. He had his first vet check-up as well and everything looks great! His urinary issues are under control. He did have one accident, but that was 100% our fault and once we got on a strict litter box cleaning schedule he hasn't gone outside the box since."

While we miss G.Y., we couldn't be happier for him and his new family!



Please consider adopting a cat who may need special attention. Our skilled staff would love to help you find your perfect companion!

To find out more about our available kitties, check out <https://purrfectpals.org/browsecats> or contact Purrfect Pals to see how you can become part of our foster and rehabilitation process!



George Yoda and his new siblings gather for a cat conference.

Yes! I Want to Help Purrfect Pals End Cat Homelessness!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

☐ My Check is Enclosed ☐ Charge My Credit Card:

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Please clip this form or use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift to:

Purrfect Pals, 230 McRae Road NE, Arlington, WA 98223

Prefer to donate online?

Please visit **www.purrfectpals.org/give**

Here is my tax-deductible charitable gift of:

☐ **\$50** (can provide KMR milk replacement formula for a litter of kittens)

☐ **\$100** (can provide for one month of care for a typical sanctuary kitty)

☐ **\$250** (can provide a dental cleaning and extractions for an older cat)

☐ **\$500** (can help us spay/neuter two litters of kittens and their moms)

☐ **Other Amount: \$** _____

PurrfectPals
Because every cat matters

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Arlington, WA 98223

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2020 Purrfect Pals Celebrity Cat Calendars Available Now!

Holiday Open House

Please Join Us for
Cookies, Cats and Holiday Cheer!

11am - 4pm
Saturday
December 7th

PurrfectPals
Because every cat matters

230 McRae Rd NE, Arlington, WA 98223
360.652.9611 events@purrfectpals.org