

The Purrfect Pals

PURRR



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



Our New Website Is Live!

After lots of hard work by our webmaster Connie Gabelein of Cat Lady Creative, our new website is now live! It is now even easier for you to find the purrfect way to donate and volunteer as well as keep tabbies on all of our cats!



purrfectpals.org
Please Join Us for the 22nd
Annual Black Cat Ball

October 26th, 2019
5:00pm - 8:30pm

Meydenbauer Center
11100 NE 6th Street
Bellevue, WA 98004

Tickets for the Black Cat Ball will
be available this Summer! Save the
date!

bcb@purrfectpals.org

Kathy's Dream: Let Your Love for Cats Be Your Legacy!

As someone who cares about cats, you know how important animals are to our lives. Thanks to the generosity and support of donors like you, Purrfect Pals has been fulfilling the dream our founder, Kathy Centala followed 31 years ago to find a way to give thousands of cats that were scared, dying and abandoned in shelters a second chance.

She was determined to open the

Northwest's first no-kill shelter and sanctuary even though she had no experience with sheltering.

With hard work and perseverance, Kathy's dream became a reality as Purrfect Pals was born. Kathy was a pioneer in the animal rescue world and the first to embrace the no-kill approach to sheltering. She advocated for spay and

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Purrfect Pals founder Kathy Centala.

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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Twitter @purrfectpals

Instagram [purrfect_pals](https://instagram.com/purrfect_pals)

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Purrfect Pals Staff

Management and Administration

- Kathleen Olson, CAWA, Executive Director
- Kelsey Kohlwes, CPB, Finance Director
- Carol Lamar, Operations Director
- Lisa Thompson, DVM, Shelter Veterinarian
- Susan Bark, Foster Care & Intake Manager
- Shawna Jonas, Community Engagement Manager
- Hailey Martin, Clinic Manager
- Jessica Rockstad, Adoption Manager
- Brandy Unruh, Cat Care Manager
- Debei Massingale, Com. Resource Coordinator
- Lanie Zimmerman, LVT, Clinic Veterinary Technician

Veterinary Clinic and Cat Care Staff

- Natalia Anderson
- Haley Cadman
- Crystal Chiechi
- Bailey Elder
- Rachel Greenberg
- Kelsey Salsgiver
- Peter Terhune
- Sierra Wharen
- Tom Wells



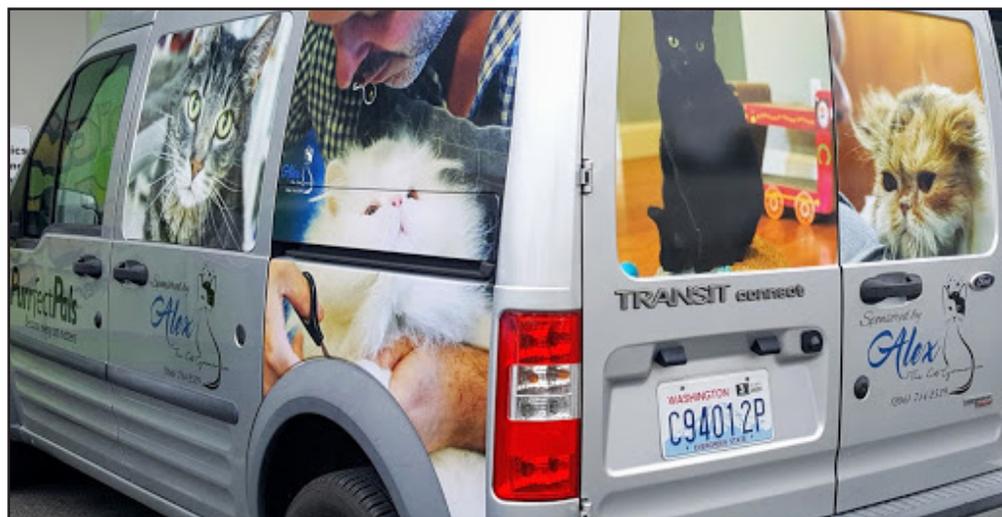
Board of Directors

- Jeanne Lind, Pres.
- James Petts, Vice Pres.
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- Toni Zonneveld

Special Thanks to our Friends...



The Ghosties Boxathon 2019 provided \$20,000 in shelter and kitty care supplies including cat carriers, scratching posts, kitten food and formula, bottles and nipples, toys, X-pens, beds and more! Thank you to The Ghostbuster Fosters and The Critter Room.



When our old van died, two donors came forward to fund a gently used 2012 Ford Transit Connect Cargo Van with only 37,000 miles on the odometer. Thank you to Alex the Cat Groomer for sponsoring the new graphics on our transport van -- in addition to donating his time to provide spa days for Purrfect Pals cats!



Fostering: Not the End of the Tail

Guest Post by Whitney Whitworth, Purrfect Pals Board of Directors

With 22 years and more than thirty Purrfect Pals kitties who have set paws through their doorway, it is easy to see Carol and Dennis as expert foster parents. From having their first foster kitty, Mini, end up a “foster fail,” joining two other cat brothers who were already permanent residents, to prepping their most recent batch of kittens for an adoption event in mid-June of this year, Dennis and Carol have been through it all.

Not long with Mini, their first foster experience, Kathy put on the “cat signal” for Carol and Dennis again, personally asking them if they could take in, not one, but five kittens this time. Unlike Mini, these kittens were so young they needed around-the-clock bottle feedings every two hours, which Dennis and Carol had never done. Just like new parents, the two had to trouble-shoot many problems; from finding nipples for bottles that the kittens would not chew off, to figuring out waste elimination for babies that were too young to use a cat box (hint: you need a warm wash cloth), all without the help of YouTube or other how-to sites that were not available in early 2000.



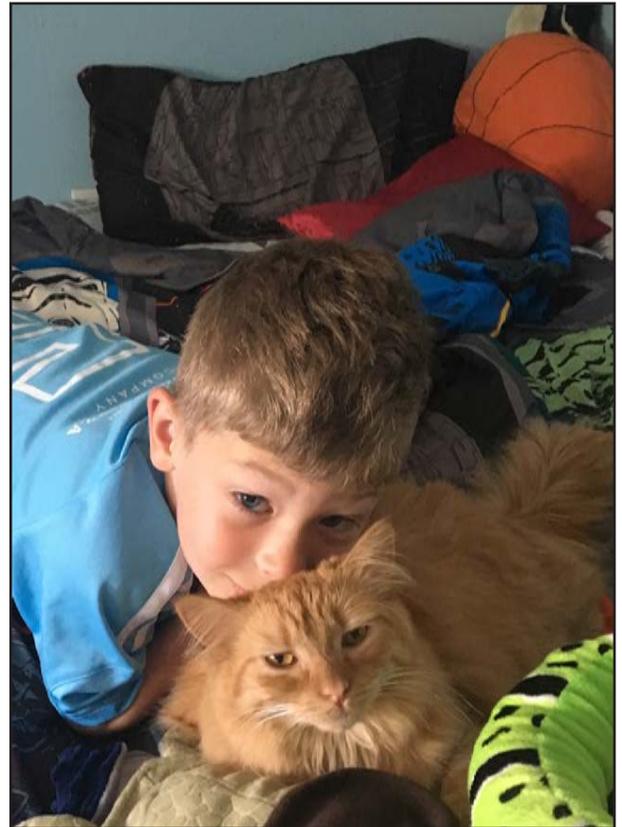
Fred and Ginger, now grown

Their first bottle-feeding experience was made even harder when tiny Peabody needed to be rushed to emergency care in the middle of the night. The vet had given the kitten interferon and left instructions to keep Peabody warm throughout the night, and informed the two that there was a good chance that he would not make it. Whether it was the medication or the vigilant love that Carol and Dennis gave the kitty, Peabody survived and, along with his brother Sherman, joined the other three established cats, bringing their total to five permanent residents.

They would eventually add a sixth cat to their brood after another yet foster fail. Zander and Angel, two young kittens with eye infections, came under the care of the couple. Both cats received treatment, and though Angel recovered, they were unable to save Zander's eye. Carol and Dennis fell in love with Zander and knew that they could provide him with the care he needed, so they added him to the ranks. Zander, as described by Dennis, was a big gentle giant who passed down what he learned from the foster program by looking out for new kittens who came in to the home, sometimes going so far as to carry them around in his mouth as though they were his offspring.

Every so often, Kathy would call on the two to take in another batch or pair of kittens, and Carol and Dennis would do what so many of their adopters confirmed they do best, which is to say, socialize, spoil, and prepare the kittens for loving, forever homes.

Carol and Dennis had primarily fostered kittens, but in 2017, after their last cat had passed on, Foster Care and Intake



Alex (age 8) and his rare orange female kitty, Ginger

Manager Susan Bark asked the two if they would be willing to take in an eight-and-a-half year-old named Cricket.

Cricket had some behavioral issues, and after some consideration, the couple knew that Cricket wouldn't be a permanent foster, but rather, a permanent part of their family.

Before they adopted Cricket, Carol and Dennis had taken a break from fostering for a while. Since getting Cricket, they estimate that they have had ten or eleven new fosters in their home.

Unlike previous feline tenants, Cricket was not so interested in mothering a new batch of kittens, but she has gotten more comfortable with the process.

It is important for Carol and Dennis to socialize each and every cat that comes through their house.

Once the cats and kittens have been given a clean bill of health, they allow their

(continued on next page)

(NOT THE END, cont. from previous page)

kittens to freely explore their space, and encourage them to interact with other cats as well as people by bringing friends over to handle them so that they are ready for adoption when the time comes. The pair feel that the cats deserve open space, so they choose not to cage or kennel those they take in.

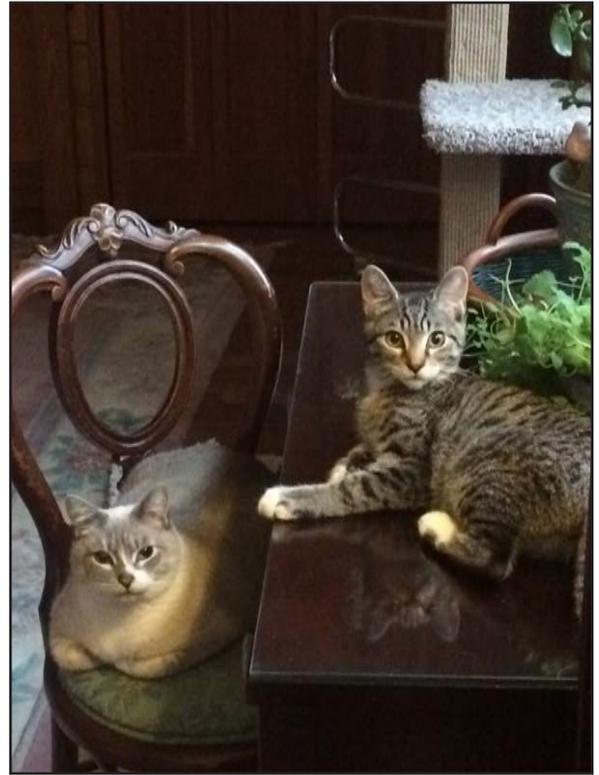
In the 20 plus years they have been part of the volunteer program, major changes have occurred. Susan now runs the foster program and supports fosters with supplies, advice, and much more. This makes it easier for Carol and Denis to provide the best care and support they possibly can.

And while it is not always easy to say goodbye, the program is rewarding for the couple because they feel like they have something to give and know that they can provide the best possible start for these cats. The time that they have to dedicate to socializing and caring for kittens is invaluable. Each cat that has

come through the program and into their home has had such a unique personality, and being able to develop those personalities has made it easier for Dennis and Carol to help place their fosters whenever possible. These placements make the foster process even more rewarding for Carol and Dennis, because they often receive updates on the kittens and sometimes even visit. They were kind enough to pass on the name of some of their former adopters, who in turn, shared their stories.

Barnacle

“The difference of having a cat that’s been fostered and been allowed to see what it’s like to be in a home and investigate is very different,” Gerrienne told me regarding her decision to bring Carol and Dennis’s foster kitty Barnacle (named



Barnacle with his surrogate mom, Kenzie (left)



If he fits, he sits. Barnie loves exploring all spaces of the house.

so because he was so attached to his mother) into their family, which already included two stand-offish rescue cats and their longer resident, a siamese mix named Kenzie.

Bringing on a new kitten was worrying at first, but Barnie actually brought the clan together. Kenzie, the Siamese, had been a mom before she was adopted, so when Barnie came in to the house, she soon took him in as her own kitten. Kenzie was not much for playing before Barnie, but his presence changed that in her.

According to Gerrienne, adopting from a family that you know has provided love and care makes a huge difference. Knowing how much Carol and Dennis spoil their kittens made it easier to say yes to Barnacle. Carol knew before Gerrienne even did that Barnie would be a good fit. Spending time with each cat individually gives Carol and Dennis a chance to really determine what kind of home would be right for their fosters, which makes the process easier.

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(KATHY'S DREAM, continued from page 1)

neuter in a time when it wasn't a priority and was among the first to start altering kittens when they reached two pounds. She fought for cats with special medical and behavioral needs including those with FIV and Feline Leukemia.

Since 1988, Kathy Centala and Purrfect Pals have provided second chances for tens of thousands of cats and kittens in the Puget Sound Region. We continue to fight for change, never losing sight of Kathy's dream of a world where every cat, including those with special needs, is wanted. We are now a \$1.7M organization and determined to end cat homelessness in our community.

We invite you to join us in the fight to end cat homelessness by becoming a member of our "Kathy's Dream" Legacy Society. Leaving a planned gift to Purrfect Pals is a wonderful way to ensure that your love and compassion for animals continues to benefit them for many years to come. Your legacy gift will allow you to make a profound and lasting impact on the future of our lifesaving programs, supporting our long-term success and ensuring that your love of cats will be long remembered.

You do not need to be wealthy to leave a legacy gift to Purrfect Pals. Your estate is the sum of your assets, including property you own, insurance policies, retirement accounts, cash on hand, etc. Wealthy people may have very large estates, but even people who aren't wealthy often have the resources to make a charitable bequest.

There are a variety of options for donors when it comes to bequeathing a legacy gift. When naming Purrfect Pals in your will, you may leave a specific dollar amount, a set percentage of your estate, or a particular property. We have listed some of the more common kinds of bequests, and some sample bequest language on our website. We always recommend that you carefully review the terms of your will with a professional trained in handling trusts and estates.

Whether you already have an estate plan in place or have yet to create one, please consider a gift to our Kathy's Dream Legacy Society. A legacy gift will keep on

giving – providing food, shelter, medical care and second chances to the kitties who need us the most – the under-aged, medically fragile, socially challenged and senior cats that others do not have the resources to help.

There are several ways you can contribute to the sustainability of Purrfect Pals with a legacy gift. Many of these options are a win-win for you and Purrfect Pals and we encourage you to consult with your financial advisor to discuss the tax implications of your estate planning.



Planned Giving

Would you like to discuss planned giving and how you can leave a lasting legacy that will continue to help Purrfect Pals provide second chances for special cats and kittens long into the future?

Please contact Kathleen Olson, our Executive Director, at 360-926-8467 or give@purrfectpals.org.

**or
visit our website at purrfectpals.org/plannedgiving**

PurrfectPals
Because every cat matters

Foster homes make a difference.

Before After

TYLER ♥

Tyler is waiting for his forever home here at Purrfect Pals. To learn more about cats available for adoption please email us at adopt@purrfectpals.org or call us at 360-572-4880.



Dear Tabby,

I recently adopted my first cat ever (from Purrfect Pals!) and I am so excited! Two year-old Whiskers is a delightful, sweet girl and I am over the moon to have a new best friend. Having never owned a cat before, though, I've been surprised and a bit concerned by how much she sleeps. She's only 2 years old, but she sleeps most of the day! Is that normal? When she's awake, usually in the mornings and evenings, she's energetic and happy and rarin' to go at all times, but during the rest of day, she's totally conked out!

Signed,
New Cat Daddy

Dear New Dad:

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA, you adorable thing, you.

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I shouldn't laugh. It is wonderful that you have come over to the Cat Side! And I am honored that you have trusted me with this, the cutest question of all time.

Because: YES. Yes, it is normal for cats to sleep a lot. We're famously good at sleeping, in fact. We can do it when it's quiet, when it's loud, when it's dark, when it's light, when you're watching RuPaul's Drag Race with the volume turned up too high, when you're reading a book and quietly weeping at a lovely passage, whatever. We are highly adept at blocking out distractions.

Additionally, we can sleep in almost any physical position, on almost any surface. In fact, sleeping in weird places with our bodies contorted in bizarre ways is basically our superpower. We're incredible sleepers. Absolutely incredible.

Why are we so talented at sleeping? Because we do it for like 2/3rds of every day! That's 16 hours out of every 24! Talk about practice! By comparison, you probably only sleep for 8 out of every 24 hours, which is why we are so vastly superior to you. Once we get you humans down to a thoroughly sleep-deprived 4-5 hours a night, that's when we'll launch our operation to take over your planet at last.

Wait, did I say that last part out loud? Ignore that.

But why do cats sleep so much, you may be wondering.

The short answer is: we're predators! It's SO COOL!

The long answer is: cats are obligate carnivores. That means we are strict meat-eaters; we have to eat other animals. In the wild, that means hunting for food, which takes a lot of energy, especially when you do it the way we do. Once we spot lunch (or breakfast) (or second breakfast), we go into full-on stealth mode, slowly creeping up on our prey with laser focus. THEN WE POUNCE: WHAM!

That high-focus process with the intense, high-energy burst at the end takes a lot of energy and it's also pretty stressful, which is tiring too. Even domesticated cats like me still mimic this behavior as much as we can, and that's why we sleep as often as we do. Our instincts tell us to stay as rested and ready to roar as possible, so that if we see food, we'll be ready to murder it.

By the way, you can actually facilitate our health and happiness by helping us mimic those patterns even more in our daily lives. Indoor cats in particular, as all Purrfect Pals kitties are, benefit from a "play, eat, bathe, sleep" routine. It looks like this:

- PLAY: Before meal time (or treat time, if you free-feed), play hard with us until we flop.
- EAT: Give us our food and praise us for our

amazing hunting skills ("You KILLED that can of Fancy Feast, Whiskers! You KILLED it! Bravo!").

- BATHE: Don't make fun of us when we lick our butts; we hate that.
- SLEEP: Go ahead, turn up RuPaul, see if we care!

Repeat this process at every mealtime, or twice a day if you're using treats. It allows us to engage with our food in a much more natural way, which will make us much happier kitties!

So, there's the answer to your sleepiness question, Cat Daddy! Now, to be clear, if your kitty's sleep patterns change, or she seems lethargic during the hours she's awake, that could be a sign of a health issue, and you'd want to take her to a vet for an exam at that point.

But what you've described in your letter is purrrrrfectly normal. So, my advice? Go curl up with your new little one and let her teach you a thing or two about naps!

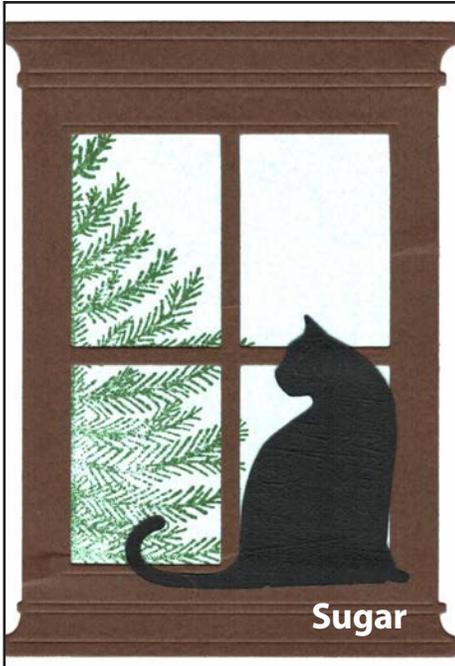
And THANK YOU for adopting a Purrfect Pals cat! We are always here for our adopters whenever you have questions about your kitties!

Love and nose boops,
Tabigail Van Purrrin'



"Our powers get stronger as we age" - Maggie (pictured above)

In Honor and In Memory



In Honor of Bob Billy & Ray Kyle.

In Honor of Zap.

In Memory of my Purrfect pals, Nemo and Chewy.

In Honor of my cat Ellie, whom I adopted from you 11 years ago today! She has brought so much joy and companionship to my life. Thank you for all you do.

In Memory of my mother, Charlene Pamula, who passed away on Feb. 1st, 2019. She loved animals, especially cats. She would want you to have her birthday gift. Thank you for all that you do for these special animals.

In Memory of Maggie who brought so much joy to our lives with her quirky personality. We miss her very much.

In Honor of Max, Thomas, Chester, and Roland!

In Memory of Elaine Martin Davenport.

In loving Memory of my cat, Jasmine (1998-2018). A beautiful oriental short hair; white with blue eyes. She was a very sweet and loving and I miss her every day.

In Memory of Marcus Edwards.

In Honor of Judy Hill's birthday! Jayne sends you endless purrs and purrs in appreciation.

In Memory of Ace Rimmer and Space Case.

In Honor of Connie Gabelein & all the kitties in need.

In Memory of my friend, Roger Trana.

In Memory of Calico.

In Loving Memory of Frida (formerly Cupcake).

In Memory of Ollie.

In Honor of Tomato & Pickles.

In Memory of my sweet Gracie.

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

In Memory of my beloved dog, Iddie. He was a Catahoula Leopard dog who "mothered", Momo a tuxedo kitty.

In Memory of my little pal, Xiam. I miss my sweet boy.

In Memory of Mario Smith Harris.

In Memory of Gracie and Alice. I had them for over fourteen years, since they were kittens.

In Memory of Ace, Arthur of Foster Dad John's The Hitchhikers litter. I'll miss you, sweet boy.

In Memory of Jet. Jet was always aloof and was known as our cat who lived under our bed. We would see him when he would run through the house going from one room to another but he never was a cuddly cat. Despite all his quirks we loved him. His passing was quick and as peaceful as possible. We miss him.

In Honor of a young cat-lover Alina, who will turn six years old on Easter Sunday.

In Honor of Buddy.

In Memory of Marjorie.

In Honor of Foster Dad John.

In Memory of Jerry Ferrier.

In Memory of Joyce Kennedy. She had a black cat named Kopy who loved to watch your kitten and rescue cams. I promised her I would donate to you in her honor.

In Memory of a well-loved kitty named Bob Marley.

In Loving Memory of SugarPuss, 1994-2010.

In Memory of Oreo – beloved friend of Dan.

In Memory of Nemo & Chewy.

In Memory of Fwooper.

In Honor of Cher, our rescued 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 Memory of our son, Rob Woltzen.

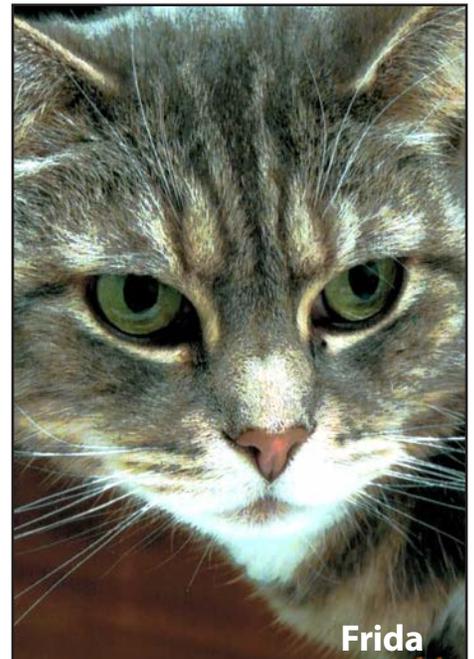
In Memory of Erin Russell-Penn.

In Memory of Sam.

In Memory of KKCC.

In Memory of Roger Trana.

In Memory of Jasmine.



In Honor and In Memory



Lil Lola

In Honor of Betty Veon.

In Memory of Peanut.

In Memory of Sugar.

In Memory of Charlene Schultz.

In Honor of Joe Sauve, Happy Birthday!

In Honor of Sprinkles & Dum Dum.

In Memory of Mary Meowsie.

In Honor of Cappy.

In Memory of Tommy.

In Memory of Moka.

In Memory of Zoe & Star Sheba.

In Honor of Morgan.

In Memory of Julian.

In Memory of Patricia Kennebec.

In Honor of Nana.

In Honor of Sam.

In Honor of Alfred Noir.

In Memory of Toby.

In Honor of Clone Trooper Cody.

In Memory of Troubles.

In Memory of Mazzie.

In Memory of all the animals I have loved, and lost.

In Honor of Paloma & Samsara.

In Memory of Mookie.

In Honor of Piper.

In Memory of Toothless Cat.

In Memory of Betty.

In Memory of Alastair.

In Honor of WeeCat.

In Honor of Felix.

In Memory of Mr. Cat.

In Memory of my Maincoon cat, Tiger.

In Memory of Jake Torgerson.

In Honor of Panther & Cleo.

In Memory of my mom, dad, and fur baby Simon.

In Memory of Lily.

In Honor of Hazel Boothe.

In Honor of your sweet friend, Java. May her name always be a blessing to you and Jim.

In Honor of Keri Sherman, thank you for introducing us to Purrfect Pals.

In Memory of Milo.

In Memory of Ella.

In Memory of Nerd & Durby.

In Honor of Dimitri Tosh.

In Memory of Sydney.

In Honor of Travis Hansen's birthday.

In Memory of dear Bob Marley.

In Honor of Stevie, Oliver, & Lola.

In Honor of Dona Bubelis.

In Memory of Grumpy Cat.

In Memory of Oscar.

In Honor of Boy.

In Memory of Lil Lola.

In Honor of Purrfect Pals.

In Memory of Bella Rena & Eddie.

In Memory of Mrs. E.H. Greer.

In Honor of Teddy.

In Memory of Person.

In Honor of Nana.

In Memory of Wayne Hom.

In Honor of Dawn Gill.

In Memory of Tommy.

In Memory of Eileen Grindeland.

In Honor of Sofia.

In Memory of Oliver.

In Memory of Mrs. Evans.

In Memory of Jake.

In Memory of Amadeus.

In Honor of Angela & Ben Home's wedded bliss.

In Memory of Ed Wentz.

In Memory of Carline McIntyre.

In Memory of Lucy.

In Memory of Mabel.

In Memory of Dahab.

In Memory of Bailey & Emma, two wonderful kitties who had the best home.

In Memory of Julian.

In Honor of Sue Weaver.

In Memory of Dorothy Lawyer.

In Loving Memory of James, aka Jeff Waymous.

In Memory of Pat Guthries & Wally.

Purrfect Endings

Carmen

In early 2018, our diabetic kitty died at age eighteen. We were heartbroken. During Kitty's eight years as a diabetic in our home, we had become programmed to insulin shots twice a day. In Honor of Kitty, we decided to adopt a cat that had been identified as diabetic. Oops! Not so easy because diabetic cats are automatically euthanized in our home state of California. Thanks to the intervention of our Seattle resident daughter, we were able to adopt Carmen from Purrfect Pals. He joined our two resident cats without a single adjustment problem. Since Carmen goes to our veterinarian for regular glucose monitoring, he has inspired an enthusiastic fan club including the veterinarian and staff. In fact, our regular vet wanted to adopt him but he was emphatically denied the opportunity. We can attest to the fact that at insulin shot times, Carmen voluntarily jumps up to my preferred location (due to good lighting). 🐾



Dimitri

Hi All, we adopted Dimitri from Purrfect Pals in May 2003. I wanted to share a few pics with you. My husband always said that Dimitri was a Super Kitty and should be running around with a cape. I really never thought Dimitri would let us put the costume on him, but not only did he let us put it on, he loved wearing it! He's a true joy, so intelligent and engaging. He had dealt with cancer a year or so ago, but we treated him with Chemo and it has, thankfully, been in remission. We're so thankful for Purrfect Pals and the work you do. Also, whoever named him Dimitri was spot on with that. He loves to hear his name and it fits him perfectly! I'm off to make a donation to Purrfect Pals in Dimitri's honor. Thanks again for all you do! -Connie & Ron Tosh 🐾

PARIS- NOW BEATRICE (AKA TRISSY)

Paris went home Thursday. Kaitlyn had been in a few times to meet with the kitties, but didn't want to adopt without having her two children (aged 4 and 6) come in first to meet them. (She had been attracted to Hammy, but found that Paris was checking the same boxes in terms of match that had attracted her to him.)

Paris did very well with the children. Kaitlyn has had cats before, but none currently. She and the children live with her mom and dad, and Paris will spend a good deal of her time keeping dad company. They understand the importance of helping Paris slowly and safely lose weight, and have no problem at all with the idea of the tough love of not free feeding. (Confidentially: the daughter has a condition that makes her not feel satiation normally so they have to be strict about her food.)

There was a little debate among the younger generation about renaming Paris. The little girl wanted to call her Garlic. The little boy favoured Harley. In the end they "compromised" on Beatrice/Trissy!



HAMMY

Hammy came to us as a kitten in 2007 and was adopted. He bonded greatly to the other cat of the house after being together for 12 years. Hammy came back to us depressed and would hide under his beds and blankets but was always so sweet to the staff. He went to Denny's Pet World in March and was adopted May 23rd by Vivienne and her family. Hammy (now Sammy) - is continuing to do well, and his whole family loves him to bits! He sleeps on the girls' beds, and loves to let them brush him. The adopter Vivienne Potter says,

He doesn't hide, walks around the house freely, and lets us know he is coming by meowing very loudly. He also tries to jump on sofa and beds to be closer to us. He is a very sweet, gentle, and friendly boy. He is not at all untouchable and skittish as he appeared when we first met him before adoption. I think he feels safe now and loved. He loves to be

petted and brushed while purring like a loud Harley:) We did change his name to Sammy and he actually turns his head when we call. 🐾



Purrfect Endings



The Wilminator

RED FRAGGLE

We adopted Red Fraggie this last fall (Now Wilma.) I wanted to give you an update on everything! I'm not sure if I ever reached out after Wilma's spay. You guys had covered a portion of her spay because it was overlooked before adopting. I wanted to thank you for doing so. Our clinic ended up covering the rest of the bill on the initial spay so it worked out perfect. Wilma had complications after the initial surgery and 10 days later she needed a second surgery because she was bleeding heavily from her incision site.

So, she had the second surgery and she healed much better after that. The doctor said her spay was very abnormal so we sent parts in to the lab for testing. Turns out, as a result of having so many litters, she had endometriosis. We are lucky to have had the spay done when we did or it could have turned bacterial and deadly. I can't imagine the endo pain she dealt with for so many years. Now she's free from all of it! Somewhere in-between both of those surgeries I forgot to follow up with you guys and say thank you. It was a stressful month. We've had an up and down road with her medically, but I think she is just almost to the point of *staying* healthy. I hope.

She currently has a herpesvirus flare up in her eyes that we are treating and I am just about to schedule another surgery (POOR THING!) to remove a lump on her neck that is growing. I am praying that it isn't cancerous, but it has grown and changed shape since we initially discovered it in October.

Overall, she is doing really great. She sleeps in our bed every night. She gets along with Waldo (our male bi colored Persian) as if they've been together since birth. She's very energetic and RIPS! She is 6lbs of pure muscle.

Her superhero name is The Wilminator. She loves plain chicken, beef and venison. She gets the hiccups after she drinks; every time. When I clean her eyes she retaliates by shooting snot at me. She's real ornery with the groomer so we have to groom her at home. She responds really well to screened devices and face times dad when he's out of town.

Her favorite place to be scratched is her elbows. She vacuums up the house by eating any loose hairballs she can find on the hardwood floors; even if they're not hers. And lastly, she enjoys walking up and slapping Waldo in the face when he's using the litter box.

I attached a most recent photo of her, along with two from January when she was SUPER puff. She is still indoor only, but I carry her outside to get the mail occasionally and she enjoys that. Have a great week!

-Jesse Corigliano



Wilma

(...NOT THE END OF THE TAIL continued from page 4)

Emily and her two sons, Clinton and Alex, had been through an unthinkable year of loss after Emily's husband and the boys' father had passed away, followed by their grandfather and the family cat. Needing an injection of positivity during this difficult time, Emily agreed to look for a kitten for the boys.

Her oldest son, Clinton, specifically wanted an orange cat to name Dorito, and when they found Carol and Dennis's post on a community site, she knew they had to meet these special gingerings.

She warned her sons that the kittens may be skittish at first, but due to the socialization and loving environment their foster parents provided them, the kittens, especially Ginger, a rare orange female, warmed up to their new family in no time.

In addition to sleeping on the bed, and, many nights, under the covers, the now-adult cats continue to be therapeutic, providing comfort when the boys have a bad day. Just knowing that they will have the unconditional love from their rescues when they get home from school is enough to turn a rough day in to something to look forward to.

Emily said that it, "was nice to see what the kitties were like in a home setting before adopting. "You get to see how they interact with toys, and how you can set up a space and a cat tree for them. It's like you get the true experience."

Although Clinton had his heart set on adopting a furry Dorito, ultimately, he was the one to make the choice to keep the names Fred and Ginger because they fit their personalities so well.

And as far as planning to get only one cat, Emily is glad that they adopted a bonded pair because they keep each other company during the day and each boy can snuggle a cat whenever they please.

As with Gerrienne, Emily and her family have built a friendship with Dennis and Carol now. On top of sending updates and having occasional visits to say "hi" to their former foster kitties, Dennis and Carol also invite Emily, Clinton, and Al over to see new litters that they have in their care, which helps socialize those cats for their furrever homes as well.

The selfless care and compassion, time and energy, and careful matchmaking that Carol and Dennis have been providing for over two decades has made the adoption process special and meaningful for everyone involved. It has not only changed the lives of the cats and kittens they have cared for, but also the adopters who call them family.



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