Laser Therapy Brings Healing Light to Special Needs Kitties

by Hailey Wollman, Clinic Manager and Crystal Chiechi, Outreach Manager

Here at Purrfect Pals, we specialize in caring for cats with chronic illnesses, so we are always looking for new ways to make them more comfortable during their stay.

In 2019, our clinic team had the opportunity to test out a portable laser device to see how well it would work for our kitties and, despite some initial skepticism, quickly realized the many benefits it provided.

Our shelter veterinarian Dr. Lisa Thompson says, "When I first heard of cold lasers, it sounded like hooey to me."

Then, after doing some in-depth research and discussing it with a trusted veterinary sales representative, Dr. Thompson decided that moving forward with a trial of laser therapies was in the best interest of our kitties.

The first candidate on her list was Walter, (continued on page 6)
Purrfect Pals
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.

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Adoptions & Intakes by Appointment Only
Tours Tues.-Sat. by Appointment Only
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A Message from Board President Meg Brunner

Our donors and supporters, who have continued to give despite new economic challenges. Your generosity in a time of such uncertainty and hardship brought tears to my eyes more than once this past year. THANK YOU!

Our volunteers and foster folks, who have given time, care, and love to so many kitties in need despite increasing demands at work and home during the pandemic. YOU'RE THE BEST!

Happy New Year, friends of Purrfect Pals! Though I can’t say I’m sorry to say goodbye to 2020, there’s still a lot to be grateful for:

Our staff, who found loving homes for over 350 cats and kittens last year (!), including many long-time residents with special needs. Our team is incredibly caring and dedicated, and they deserve heaps of praise for the grace and professionalism they displayed throughout such a difficult and stressful year. GREAT JOB!

THE CATS! Who have been by our sides through it all, giving us much needed love and laughter, and only occasionally being annoying (good to have balance, right, kitties?). MEOW!

Through it all, Purrfect Pals has remained focused on the most important thing: helping the cats who need us most. Thanks to your support, we’re entering 2021 ready to go, stronger than ever, and primed for a great new year!

Meg with pals in our Feline Leukemia Room.

Where the money goes...

2020 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Program</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Admin</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fundraising</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
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$19,500 for lights, HVAC, fire systems & water pump.

$48,062 for surgeries, diagnostics, emergency clinic visits & outside veterinary specialists.

$70,476 for litter, cat food, & prescription diets for shelter & foster cats.

$110,306 to keep our veterinary clinic supplied.
Donor Support Makes the Difference!

Every dollar makes a difference! Thanks to our individual donors, workplace giving enrollees, cat sponsors, virtual auction participants and four estate bequests -- Purrfect Pals was able to provide the special diets, medications, veterinary care, surgeries, litter, sanctuary housing, foster care, daily feeding and cleaning for some 1020 cats in 2020.

In addition to general maintenance, donors assisted with the expenses to pump the septic tanks, remove roof moss, trim trees, purchase a new commercial washing machine and put a new transmission in our transport van.

For the safety of staff and volunteers and to provide a comfortable environment for our kittens, new flooring and wallboard were installed in the C Building, which also got a fresh coat of interior paint.

The parking lot and pathway between buildings were graded and graveled. Cement sidewalks, a rock wall, stone steps, and an outdoor shelter gazebo with a concrete pad and propane heater were added.

Two spay and neuter grants provided free vouchers for 144 cat surgeries. Our community food bank helped feed 830 pets in 168 households.
In Memory of Grayson.
In Memory of Hope & Haku; forever missed.
In Memory of Stacey King.
In Memory of Scarsdale.
In Memory of Loki Falapthe Lore Holland.
In Honor of Bayley Annand.
In Loving Memory of our cat, Willow.
In Honor of A Cat Clinic in Boyds, MD.
In Honor of Karen Fineide for her birthday on December 25th.
In Memory of my Purrfect Pals, Nemo & Chewy.
In Memory of Frankie.
In Memory of Diva & Wonton.
In Memory of Greyson, who was a beautiful rescue grey and white tabby male who have 14 years of love to his owners before crossing the Rainbow Bridge.
In Memory of Sam.
In Memory of Boots Randolph.
In Honor of Quilla Bella, though she be but little she is fierce.
In Memory of our beloved kitty, Eleanor Roosevelt aka Ellie. She was a gorgeous tortishell with bright blue eye, the most loving and well behaved kitty.
In Memory of Creamside.
In Honor of all who rescue.
In Memory of Miss Maui.
In Memory of Sugarpuss (1994-2010) & Booful. They are both missed.
In Memory of Josie.
In Memory of my dog Echo and my cats, Abbey Rose, Snowy, & Oliver.
In Honor of Greta Ruth, Frankie Marie, Humphrey Bogart.
In Memory of Fancy Jayne Hill, beloved companion to Judy Hill.
In Memory of Trustee Jane Ferguson.
In Memory of Avery.
In Memory of my grand old lady cat, Kira. Who crossed the Rainbow Bridge on August 17th at 19.5 years old. The first time we met she decided that the inside of my right elbow was a good place to curl up for tummy rubs and a nap. She was very demanding when she was ready for lap time and would complain loudly if I responded too slowly. She will be missed.
In Honor of Rosemary & John Riddington.
In Memory of Fwooper, the tabby polydactyl from the Critter Room.
In Honor of Caprice Moody.
In Memory of Heidi Ondrasik.
In Honor of Huntley Fam.
In Memory of Piekatt, Snowshoe, The Dink, Buster, & Tazzy.
In Memory of Tasha.
In Honor of Rufus Gribben.
In Honor of Zuzu Peepers.
In Memory of Thelonius Monk Parris.
In Honor of Phanny Peters.
In Memory of all my past kitties who are at the Rainbow Bridge Waiting.
In Memory of my sweet little black feral kitty, Riley.
In Memory of Annie & Maggie who brought so much joy to our lives. We miss them very much.
In Memory of Donald, Big Lover Boy, & Mitzijoy aka. Jaws.
In Memory of Alfred & Tristan.
In Memory of Avery.
In Memory of Oso, Mango, & Huicho.
In Honor of Buddy.
In Memory of Clyde.
In Memory of Rocky.
In Memory of The Grand Duchess Cicely of Snuggles.
In Memory of Pat Murray.
In Memory of Streaker.
In Memory of Kui.
In Honor of Tabitha.
In Memory of Willy & Nilly.
In Honor of Dave & Peggy Tovrea.
In Honor of Elijah McClain.
In Honor of John Bartlett.
In Memory of Squishface.
In Memory of Henry & Floyd.
In Honor of Amy Bossard.
In Memory of BJ.
In Memory of Randy.
In Honor of Jack.
In Honor and In Memory

In Honor of Green Ducks.
In Memory of Furhead.
In Memory of Rafaa.
In Memory of Lucky.
In Memory of Joanie.
In Honor of Hailey Dice.
In Honor of Mister Cat.
In Memory of Maggie.
In Honor of Julie Slawson.
In Memory of Teddy Ruxpin.
In Honor of Jennifer Wood.
In Memory of Leinie, Holly, & Couscous.
In Memory of Vicki Lynne Dopps.
In Honor of Alan Scott Christensen.
In Memory of Rachel.
In Memory of Charlie.
In Memory of Tom.
In Memory of Magic.
In Honor of Vivian Leib.
In Memory of Maggie.
In Honor of Debei Massingale.
In Honor of Richard J. Minnium.
In Honor of Julie Slawson.
In Memory of Mal.
In Memory of Colleen Bern.
In Honor of Bill Stoelt.
In Memory of Charles Symens.
In Honor of Hummer Scooter.

In Memory of Kui.
In Honor of Neil York.
In Memory of Phinn.
In Memory of Streaker.
In Memory of Pat Murray.
In Memory of Buster.
In Honor of Wanjai.
In Honor of Mary Warsinske.
In Memory of Snicker & Christy. Two beloved neighborhood kitty buddies who are very much missed.
In Honor of Mary Reimund.
In Honor of Susan Bark.
In Memory of Lizzy, Gus, & Petey.
In Honor of Alan Ingles.
In Honor of Robert & Martha Nicoloff.
In Memory of Moochie.
In Memory of Mazzie.
In Honor of Tim & Holly R.
In Honor of Phoenix Cat.
In Honor of Lacey.
In Honor of Salty & Cleo.
In Honor of Judith Hill.
In Memory of Baby Blues.
In Honor of Zach.
In Memory of Nick.
In Memory of our wonderful, P is for Precious.
In Honor of Mr. Anders.

In Honor of Clarissa Cole.
In Memory of Takara & Anzu.
In Honor of Jeanna Vogt.
In Honor of Zach Camara.
In Memory of Ellessee.
In Honor of Rachael Levine.
In Honor of Holly Santwire.
In Memory of Mrs. Candy Dickard.
In Honor of Gail & Chris R. for all the fostering they do.
In Honor of Julie Erickson.
In Honor of Brutus.
In Memory of Elsa Schwarb.
In Honor of Sitka.
In Memory of Leo.
In Honor of Lindy & Lorrie Lippert.
In Honor of Robert G. Smead.
In Honor of Dad & Pat.
In Honor of JoAnn.
In Honor of Kristina Chilcote.
In Honor of Susan Schrier.
In Memory of Yanto Jones.
In Honot of Mary Ellen Reimund.
In Honor of Wilson.
In Honor of Jenni & David Nicholson.
In Honor of Alan Scott Christensen.
In Honor of Louis & Liliana Hermansen.
In Honor of LaVonne Schott.

(continued on page 8)
an elderly cat with heart issues who was not eating due to severe pain in his mouth caused by stomatitis.

"After his first treatment, you could literally see the change in Walter's demeanor -- his entire body language relaxed, and he pretty much 'melted' onto the table," Dr. Thompson observes. "Mere hours later, he had a happy facial expression and was resting comfortably - something that hadn't happened in days. Better still, he ate ravenously - we actually had to pull his food for a little while that day so he wouldn't make himself sick!"

Encouraged by Walter's quick response and other positive results, our fundraising team went to work and with the generous donations from six private donors and two Family Foundation grant awards, Purrfect Pals raised the $23,000 needed to purchase a laser therapy device for the shelter.

**How the Laser Treatments Work**

"The Summus Medical Laser uses red or infrared light to target damaged tissues and accelerate the healing process. This helps patients to recover quicker from injuries as well as reduce pain in some of our kitties with chronic pain," says Clinic Manager Hailey Wollman. "It is super easy to do the treatments and the kitties love it! It only takes anywhere from 2-5 mins depending on the patient's needs. All you do is hover the laser over the area being sure not to stay in one place for too long."

To be able to use the laser, members of our clinic team studied and passed a test to get certified in its operation. This ensures they understand the dangers of the laser and how to safely operate it. Since it is a mobile device, the veterinary team is able to treat the kitties in their living quarters, which saves the stress of having to transport them in a carrier to the clinic.

**How Kitties Benefit from Laser Therapy**

One kitty that especially benefits from laser treatments is 4-year-old orange tabby Shaker, who lives in our infirmary due to epileptic seizures and once licked herself raw from severe stress after one of her visits to an emergency clinic. "We tried the laser on Shaker's hot spot and within two hours, the redness and irritation was gone," Dr. Thompson explains.

Another long term resident who benefits immensely from getting daily laser treatments is Smudge, a 12-year-old gray tabby who has arthritis and pain in his neck from an old injury and lives in our Development Office.

"You can notice the difference immediately while using the laser," Wollman reports. "It feels like warmth to our kitties and I've even had Smudge take a mini nap while getting it done!"

Lina, a 10-year-old tortoiseshell who lives in our Adoption Office, is currently being treated for a variety of chronic ailments like anemia, asthma and kidney disease. Lina also gets regular laser therapy for arthritis as well and staff has noticed a marked difference in her mobility since starting her laser therapy.

Big Mama, a 10-year-old calico who is Feline Immunodeficiency Virus positive, is getting laser therapy on a ligament she recently tore in her knee that is inoperable.

"We use the laser for post-op care on suture sites as well, encouraging the site to heal faster and to alleviate any pain," Wollman states. "We hope that eventually the laser can take the place of some medications for some of our kitties!"

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**Thank you to the donors who gave the funds for this! Our cats and kittens thank you too!**

12-year-old gray tabby Smudge naps peacefully after getting his daily laser treatment for arthritis pain in his neck.
Meet the Kitties Who Live in our Infirmary!

**Beau Bear Paxton**  
Beau Bear Paxton is a shy 12-year-old long hair tuxedo with glorious whiskers! He is a diabetic and requires insulin injections and a special diet. Beau Bear likes toy mice, laser pointers, and balls that jingle. He loves to lay on heated beds or be hidden away under the covers all warm and toasty!

**Benjamin Zekemon**  
Benjamin Zekemon is a 9 year old house panther who loves attention! He is a diabetic on a special diet and needs daily insulin injections. Benjamin will follow you around waiting for the purrfect opportunity to jump in your lap. He's an easy going guy who enjoys bird watching in sunbeams.

**Hoku Cheerio**  
Hoku Cheerio is a unique 7-year-old pocket panther. Hoku has a rare neurological condition which affects his mobility and he is also prone to seizures and urinary issues. Hoku has overcome a lot and despite his challenges, he is a sweetie who takes his medications easily and loves all cats and hoomans.

**Knox**  
Knox is an affectionate 15-year-old mini jaguar. Knox is a diabetic who needs insulin and a special diet. This vintage gentleman also takes daily medications for arthritis and asthma. A social butterfly, Knox showers all his visitors with purrs and will gently paw your leg when he wants more pets.

**Shaker**  
Shaker is a 4-year-old orange tabby who is tiny but mighty! This special girl has a seizure condition that requires close monitoring and medication. Shaker is very talkative and has all the clinic staff wrapped around her little paw. She will often serenade her visitors letting them know she is ready for attention!

**Tiger Bear**  
Tiger Bear is a 15-year-old fluffy mini tiger who loves to snuggle! He is a diabetic on a special diet and gets insulin injections. Tiger Bear loves to lay in laps or curl up in a bed in the sunshine. He also really likes any heated beds he can find, no matter the size or shape. He will curl up and let you pet him all over!

These medically fragile cats and other special needs kitties will have longer stays with Purrfect Pals. Please consider supporting one of these precious souls with a life-saving monthly sponsorship gift by contacting: sponsor@purrfectpals.org
In Honor and In Memory

(continued from page 5)

In Honor of Catlin's & Thulean's.
In Memory of Ronald Catlin.
In Memory of Mally.
In Honor of Mele Kalikimaka.
In Memory of Sugar.
In Memory of Alice “Billie” Boyce.
In Honor of Dustin & Mike.
In Honor of Karen Stone.
In Honor of Christine Nelson.
In Memory of Carmel.
In Memory of Elvis Hardstark.
In Honor of Kelsey Kohlwegs.
In Honor of Marla Peele.
In Honor of Wendy Kuzinski.
In Honor of Kai Kossa.
In Honor of Tom Wells.
In Honor of Angelo.
In Memory of Traveler & Wiley.
In Memory of Larry.
In Honor of Bob Smiley.
In Memory of Elvis, Tomo, Scandal, & Zadie.
In Honor of Sadie & John.
In Honor of Kate, Robert, Steph, Binx, & Izzl.
In Memory of my Millie Girl.
In Memory of Junior.
In Honor of Jake.
In Memory of Joe.
In Memory of Socks & Snow.
In Honor of Missy Cat.
In Memory of Vicki Russell.
In Honor of Parker & Victoria.
In Honor of Gatto.
In Honor of Diplomat.
In Honor of Icky, Shelby, & Bruce.
In Memory of Abby Lynn.
In Honor of Amazon.
In Memory of Rhean & Jud.
In Memory Duncan.
In Honor of Catrina.
In Honor of KK.
In Memory of Wayne Hom.
In Memory of Ikey.
In Memory of Ella.
In Memory of Scruffy.
In Memory of Max.
In Honor of my five lovely Purrfect Pals Alumni.
In Memory of Thomas.
In Honor of Della, Gryff, & Rey.
In Honor of Judi Sorensen.
In Memory of Gil, Bill, & Trixy.
In Memory of Blueberry, my first foster cat.
In Honor of Pam, Blueberry’s loving forever family.
In Honor of AWACS & Wedgetail.
In Memory of Japers.
In Honor of Nick & Mary.
In Memory of Winnie.
In Honor of my sister Kelly’s Birthday.
In Memory of Lily.
In Honor of Kristina.
In Honor of Smokey.
In Memory of Lucille Patterson.
In Honor of my family with fur and without.
In Memory of Leo.
In Honor of Arcee BabyGirl Foster.
In Memory of Kevin Sims.
In Honor of Gracie Kern.
In Memory of Mr. Man.
In Honor of Patti H.
In Honor of Jeff Faung.
In Memory of Thomas & Cindy.
In Memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
In Honor of Mrs. C & Richie.
In Honor of David Grafer.
In Memory of Ron.
In Honor Rita Kirk.
In Memory of Josie.
In Memory of Twinkie.
In Honor of John & Jess Bartlett’s Wedding.
In Honor of Nana.
In Memory of Sydney.
In Honor of Julia Grace Turner.
In Memory of Stacie King.
In Memory of Jennifer McNeil.
In Memory of Ginger.
In Honor of Veterinarian Dr. Cindy Geisler.
In Memory of Spottie.
In Honor of Bill & Trudi Trueit.
In Memory of Shelby W.
In Memory of Donald S.
In Memory of Holyfield.
In Memory of Rafa.
In Memory of Wooky.
In Memory of FDJ.
In Memory of Zeus.
In Honor of Wayne H.
In Honor of Sweetpea.
In Honor of Mina, my Purrfect Pal.
In Honor of Lynne Dixon.
In Memory of Rufus, Alice, Tallulah, & Homer.
In Memory of B.J.
In Memory of all my cats.
In Memory of Bing Scheman.
In Memory of Cocoa.
In Memory of Clifford.
In Memory of Simbu.
In Honor of Lewis.
In Memory of Fairy Bee.

In Memory of Mark Dixon.
In Memory of Rathbone.
In Memory of Lucille Schwarzenbach.
In Memory of Linus.
In Honor of all the Cameron cats.
In Memory of Penny.
In Memory of Chickee Gulden.
In Memory of Indy who loved a warm basket of laundry.
In Honor of Shmoo.
In Memory of Lucia Pucinella.
In Honor of Lulu & Fuzz.
In Memory of Grey.
In Memory of Louie.
In Memory of Riley.
In Honor of dirty cats everywhere.
In Honor of Janet Bircher.
In Honor of Amber S.
In Honor of Betsy Ross.
In Memory of Kira.
In Memory of Bernard E. & Dorothy A. Ackerman Trust.
In Memory of my beloved Minnie. Thinking of you on your birthday.
Momma misses you.
In Honor of Jack.
In Memory of Ingrid Gould.
In Honor of Shadow who lived to be twenty years old.
In Memory of Bayley.

In Memory of BooBoo the cat.
In Memory of Tot.
In Honor of Wendy Dennis.
In Honor of Kirsten James.
In Memory of Toby.
In Memory of Woofy.
In Memory of Steve H.
In Memory of Margie.
In Memory of Bill Stoelt’s birthday.
In Memory of Caitlin Melloni.
In Honor of Lulu & Little Girl.
In Memory of Toby, Dodger, & Daphne.
In Memory of Slew Underfoot.
In Memory of Loralyn Libertini.
In Memory of Alleybaby.
In Honor of Carrie Engebretson.
In Honor of Lucy.
In Honor of the Purrfect Pals Foster Program.
In Memory of Palmoa & Samsara.
In Honor of Toby, Dodger, & Daphne.
In Memory of Slew Underfoot.
In Memory of Loralyn Libertini.
In Memory of Alleybaby.
In Honor of Carrie Engebretson.
In Honor of Amy Bossard.
In Memory of Henry & Floyd.
A 13-year-old brown and black tabby named Lucy Precious was down on her luck when she came back to Purrfect Pals in early 2020. We make a lifelong commitment to our cats that we will take them back at any time for any reason.

Through no fault of her own, Lucy Precious now found herself back at Purrfect Pals for the second time in two years.

Lucy was understandably confused at being brought back to the sanctuary and showed her unhappiness by putting up emotional walls, hissing and swatting at anyone who dared try to approach her and also displaying a disdain for other cats whenever they got too near her personal space by growling and chasing them away.

Lucy needed some time to settle into life at the sanctuary and process all her feelings if she was ever going to make some progress and get adopted.

In her first stroke of luck, our office kitty Oliver the Siamese was adopted in March 2020, so Lucy took over the role of hallway monitor in upper D building at our main shelter in Arlington...which just so happens to be where my office resides. To me, Lucy Precious was a dream cat; a chonky, grumpy diva who would make me work hard to win her affections – *SWOON*!

After a bit of a rocky start while she settled into her new space, pretty soon Lucy and I had a routine; I’d head up to the office in the morning and call out, “Where’s my darling?” She’d come running from her window perch and flop over in the middle of the room, but I quickly learned that did NOT mean she wanted her belly rubbed.

Then we would play laser if she was interested and she’d pretend to scratch her cardboard scratcher (she was front de-clawed at some point).

Eventually, she came to trust me enough to come over when I patted my lap and said “ups” and put her two little front paws on my leg, signaling it was okay to pick her up for laptime while I checked my emails.

I brushed her and petted her as much as she’d let me, but sure enough she’d get sick of me fawning over her and retreat to her kuranda tower in the corner where she could nap or look out the window at the birds, all the while keeping one judgmental eye on me and anyone else who happened by.

During those first few months of the pandemic with all the uncertainty going on, just knowing Lucy Precious and the other shelter kitties were there waiting gave me the drive to get out of bed and brave the outside world.

Brown and black tabby Lucy Precious got a reputation for being a diva.
For Adopt-A-Senior pet month last November, The Limelight Pet Project asked to promote one of our cats and I knew that even though I loved her dearly, it was selfish of me not to take the opportunity to promote Lucy.

At one point during the Zoom interview, Lucy hilariously ran across my desk and swatted me right when they asked how she did with other animals, as if to say, “NOT. A. FAN!” (Luckily, Q13 Fox cut that part out when they aired the interview.)

As they say, no publicity is bad publicity, and even though an adopter didn’t come forward right after the broadcast, we put it out into the universe that Lucy was looking for her forever home.

When she first arrived back, Lucy topped the scales at nearly 16 pounds which was a lot for her small frame. With a strict low calorie urinary diet (as a heavier girl, it was harder for her to groom all her bits so she was prone to urinary tract infections), slowly the pounds started to come off and by the end of 2020, she weighed in at just under 13 pounds.

As she transformed physically, it seemed she felt better emotionally as well and started to seek out and accept affection from more humans.

By the time the New Year rolled around, Lucy was looking and acting like a whole new cat and the soft, loving glow in her eyes told me she was ready to move on and find her person at last.

She was our first adoption promo of 2021 and it just so happened that a potential adopter spotted her online and thought it sounded like she had a similar temperament to his own sassy senior cat that had recently crossed the rainbow bridge.

As I kissed her little forehead on the morning of the adoption appointment, I told Lucy to just give me a sign that it was the right match.

When her potential adopter sat next to her bed under my desk, she jumped straight into his lap, started purring and let him pet her from tip to tail (which was unheard of!). It was obvious that, finally, Lucy Precious got the lucky break she was waiting for.

Lucy Precious jumped right into her new adopter’s lap and started purring!
Virtual Kitten Shower!

Help us get ready for the 2021 kitten season by sending supplies off our AmazonSmile & Chewy.com Wishlists!

March 14th-20th, 2021

Online Event: purrfectpals.org/events/