



March 2009

67 kitties found loving homes since our November newsletter!

Family / *Kitty*

Terry / *Boky*
Stacey / *Moses*
Janet / *Raphaelle*
Rick & Marilyn / *Rembrandt*
Dirk & Thea / *Ginger & Suki*
Kirsten, Geno & Emma / *Cupcake Dan* / *Molly & Alex*
Marianne / *Iris*
Jodi / *Nina*
Nicole / *Linea*
Trudi / *Clarabelle*
Roy / *Polly*
Terese / *Hazel*
Katherine & Greg / *Trixie*
Susanne / *Roxanne*
Jennifer / *Hancock*
Jim & Kim / *Smoke*
Jill / *Tommy*
Bruce & Josephine / *Duchess & Kerrington*
Brian / *Sasha*
Maureen / *Petra*
Mardi / *Winston*
Julie & Dave / *Tad & Saki*
Jeremy / *Ollie*
Anne / *Quigby*
Charles & Betsy / *Gandolf the Grey*
Lisa & Warren / *Ernie*
Anne / *Thor*
Mark & Isabelle / *Minou & Layla*
Linda / *Dreamy*
Christine / *Kitty & Lion*
Jennifer & Aaron / *Marley*
Carol / *Spunky*
Matt / *Sidney*
Ryan & Mallory / *Loki*
Bonnie / *Mia*
Rachel / *Sweet Pea*
Noah / *Spicey*
Pam & David / *Macy Gray*
Lory & David / *Wellington*
Jill & Gina / *Tinkerbelle*
Lee / *JJ*
Colleen / *Luther & Umbra*
Krack / *Shem & Noah*
Polly / *Dorothy & Sarah*
Jennifer & Matthew / *Olive*
Kristie & Sam / *Smitty & Landry*
Julia / *Lizzie*
Auriel / *Samantha*
Diane / *Teddy Bear*
Mickey / *Bjorn*
Eberle / *Duncan*
Laura / *Sammy*
Vanessa / *Ezekiel*
Anne & Jeff / *Ian*
Analia / *Rico*
Paul & Lana / *Max*
Ashley & Jason / *Elise*



Greetings from The Director: Here's one of the most basic and bottom-line truths about rescue. We can only rescue a kitty if we have a foster willing to take the kitty into his or her home. It's simple arithmetic. Two available foster spaces = two lives saved. No spaces = no life saved. Fostering not only means saving a life; it also means shaping a life because you are helping prepare that kitty for the family and the new life it will one day have thanks to you. What can be more kind, compassionate and rewarding than that? Please think about fostering a kitty even if just for a week or two. > > *Elaine Lyford-Nojima*

FOSTERING IS THE "LIFEBLOOD" OF RESCUE

Without fosters, MCA could not rescue homeless kitties, and kitties flourish in a home atmosphere. See our foster video at <http://tinyurl.com/MCA-foster>. We'll also let one of our fosters tell you how rewarding it can be.

I've been surprised by how rewarding fostering a kitty has been. The confident, easy going lucky cats waiting to be adopted are easy to bring into your home and take care of. They are grateful to have lots of room to play in, lots of human attention and ample food. These kitties would flourish in ANY home. It's fun to have these kitties be part of your family..... But it is the scared, shy, hissy kitties we have fostered that make me very proud to be a foster. We don't always know the stories of these kitties, where they came from or what happened to them in their earlier life. All we know is that they haven't come to understand that humans can be kind, compassionate and loving. My family has taken on the responsibility to help these kitties learn that lesson and to become a trustful, playful, loving cats. So when these kitties transform into beautiful "normal" cats and find permanent homes, we are very proud of our fostering. >> Dorothy

Now, here's what one of our foster cats has to say (translated by his foster) "I was scared when I was first rescued, but I desperately wanted love. When I got it, I blossomed. Now, I roll over and over so I can get pets on my whole body. And here's the best news - I've been adopted and will be going to my forever home very soon. >> *Sammy*



MCA Supports its Fosters

To paraphrase the old saying, it takes a village to get a cat ready for adoption. It's important to us that fostering be a good experience for you. MCA Foster Director, Maggie Burke, says, "We do whatever it takes to make sure fosters are happy, and we go to work right away to solve any problems that arise."

What Is a Foster Home Like?



Foster homes come in all types and sizes - families, couples, people living alone. Most fosters already have resident pets. Some have large homes; some have small apartments. But all of them have decided to make room for an extra cat to give these animals time to find a new home. Before a foster even comes into your home, we try to make sure the kitty will fit in with your particular circumstances.

What does it take to be a foster?

Simply, dedication and love, combined with the training MCA provides for caring for your foster kitty. The commitment can come in long bursts or short. Even fostering a kitty for a few days can save a life.

Ask Mr. Fergus



Dear Mr. Fergus,

My mom & dad would like to foster, but I made it clear in no uncertain terms I would not accept another kitty in the house. So, we made a deal. I promised to write you to see if there was any other way they could help, and they promised I would never see another cat in MY home. - Only Cat.

Dear Only,

Not to worry, this can work. First, if MCA has the funds, in emergencies it can board cats for a few days at the vet or at the Cat's Nest in San Jose. This gives MCA a way to save a cat in danger of imminent - well, you know - the "E" word. So, your mom and dad can make a donation that will help give MCA this flexibility.

OK, now I need to have you go into another room while I talk to your mom and dad. Go on - bye, bye, now. Mom, Dad, I hate to be a traitor to my species, but my love of sneakiness is overwhelming me. You can always sneak another kitty into your home - maybe in a spare bathroom or even in a cage in a garage - for a couple of days, and Only will never know. So, you can be a short-term emergency foster and still keep Only happy.



MCA says "hats off" to Prudential Realty at 3900 Piedmont Avenue in Oakland for letting us park in its lot during our monthly Adoption Fairs at Paws on Piedmont. Many thanks! It's really a huge help!!

More Fostering FAQs

Who's responsible for what?

MCA pays for all approved veterinary care. The vet bills us directly for treatment. The foster home provides love, food and litter, although MCA may be able to help with these essentials if finances are tight.

How will my pets deal with this?

Just as when adopting a new pet, we recommend that the foster kitty be kept separate from resident pets to give the new kitty time to adjust. Some foster home pets adjust quite quickly to a "visitor." In other cases, the foster pets are kept separate because that works better for both people and animals. As with all foster issues, MCA will help you figure out what arrangement is best for all concerned.

Do I help find a home for my foster?

MCA does the work to find and screen

potential adopters. Nonetheless, a foster can be indispensable in helping match cats and adopters because no one gets to know the kitty better than the foster. We want your input!

How long do I have to commit?

Our Foster Director wants you to know that even fostering for a few days helps because it can save a kitty that's scheduled for immediate euthanasia. Foster space for any kind of kitty for any length of time helps.

How do I get started or find out more?

You can fill out or print out a foster application from our website (mainecoonadoptions.com). Click on the "Volunteer" link on the Home page and then the "Online Foster Application" link. Or contact our Director, Elaine, at 510-482-6179 or elaineln@pacbell.net.

"I was thoroughly unprepared for how rewarding fostering would be. I gained immense insight into the number of dedicated individuals that it takes to save a single cat, let alone hundreds a year." - Susannah.

The True Furry (ahem, Fairy) Tale of Queen Victoria



Once upon a time there was a beautiful and very round kitty who found herself in a very cramped and none-too-wonderful room after several years on this earth. In fact it wasn't really a room at all; it was a cage in a "shelter." She was certain this was no place for one as marvelously globe-like as herself, but she did not know a worse fate loomed - she was scheduled for execution in just days!

But the little orb's tale took a turn for the better when a human named Susannah told MCA she would foster the fluffy wonder. Because of the kitty's noble appearance, Susannah called her Queen Victoria, and sometimes Queenie, which she found to be borderline disrespectful. Susannah and Queenie visited doctors who poked and prodded, drew blood, injected, and conducted all manner of undignified tests, which Queenie found quite tiresome, but the proper balance of ear scratches, petting, and a bedroom all to herself made her exceedingly grateful. \$627.00 later, the prodders and pokers declared she had a heart murmur but was otherwise healthy.

Meanwhile miles away a wizard named Merle (Merlyn to his friends), sought a companion after the recent passing of his 16-year-old feline friend. Through the miracle of magic mirrors humans call computers and video, Merle was able to spy the wonderful Queenie, and when they met, hearts melted instantly, and the deal was sealed. (Queenie's video can still be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zT5DySA34k4>.)

And so Queenie travelled one last time to assume her rightful position as sole cat and companion to Merle, who dubbed her Oofde in homage to her predecessor. Oofde thought this name sounded considerably more honest and round than Queenie. The wizard Merle, having spent 30 years as a healer, worked his magic on Oofde, and soon after she arrived at her new palace, another round of unladylike tests confirmed her heart murmur had mysteriously vanished. Moniker, abode, and companion perfect, she claimed a spot on the couch in the name of Oofde and entered a state of perpetual purrdom.



Merle & Oofde