



## Maine Coon Adoptions

a division of SAFE (Saving Animals from Euthanasia)

### Angus - The Kitty Who Never Purred

*(until he found his forever family)*

*"Until he extends his circle of compassion to include all living things, man will not himself find peace."*

- Albert Schweitzer

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of Adopted Kitties)

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Visit our website for more information about Maine Coon Adoptions (MCA), and more tales and pictures of our adopted kitties and kitties that still need homes: [www.mainecoonadoptions.com](http://www.mainecoonadoptions.com)

#### Plop & Pet Contest

We all know that no cat on earth does the "plop & pet" better than the Maine Coon, so we want to see photographs of your cats doin' the Plop & Pet. Send photos to [mainecoonnews@pacbell.net](mailto:mainecoonnews@pacbell.net) your kitty may end up in the next newsletter.

As an example, here's one of our volunteer's cats (Atticus the Overstuffed) deep into his plop & pet routine:



#### Angus Before Purring

Angus McDuff, a big orange and white tabby, just looked worn out when he was rescued by Maine Coon Adoptions. The vet said he had probably spent a lot of time on the street, and although he had a lot to say and was very mellow, he was a kitty who never purred.

Then, one night, he found a way out of his foster kitty house and escaped. Night after night, his foster mom and dad scoured the neighborhood, searching for shining eyes under bushes and cars, *but no Angus*. They called shelters, they posted flyers. Every morning the food they left out for him in the kitty house was gone, but *still no Angus!*

Nine days after he disappeared, he was apprehended at 2:00 a.m., after his foster dad saw him sneaking out of

*"although he had a lot to say, he was a kitty who never purred."*

lips. Never has a kitty been hugged so hard! He looked terrible...his fur was even more worn and ragged and he had a terrible rash on his face, but he was home and he was safe.

#### Angus Finds a Reason to Purr

Judy, her husband and children had lost their big mellow Maine Coon a year before, and when she heard about Angus, Judy thought he sounded like the kitty for them. Here's what she had to say about him after he'd



*What Angus thinks of mean people. (Because Angus is missing his bottom fangs, he often sleeps with his tongue sticking out.)*

been living with them for six months.

Angus "is, to put it simply, an awesome cat. [My husband] was worried that he might bolt at the first opportunity. Hardly. Angus, I guess remembering life in the rough outdoors, hasn't made a break for it or shown any signs of doing so. He's simply content to sit in front of the door/nap while we entertain/hang out in the backyard.

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### Vet Team Works Rescue Wonders

Teamwork. Partnership. Friendship. Common values. Rejoicing together. Crying together. Playing with scared kitties. That's what kitty rescue work is all about. And it cannot be done by one person – it has to be done with a strong team and a strong network of resource people. One of those resources is Dr.

Monica Thompson and her colleagues, Janis Lotspeich and Melissa Boitano, at the Feline Well-Care clinic in Redwood City. In addition to being a full-service veterinary hospital, the Feline Well-Care Clinic is a no-kill shelter for cats rescued from other shelters. One of our

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**Dr. Thompson with MCA kitty, Solomon**



### **MCA "WISH LIST"**

To keep our kitties happy and healthy while they're in foster care and to help get them into "forever" homes, we have a continuous need for:

- kitty carriers
- digital or disposable cameras (for web site photos)
- kitty food & kitty toys

If you can donate any of these items, e-mail [mainecoon-news@pacbell.net](mailto:mainecoon-news@pacbell.net), and we'll figure out how to get them from you to us.

### **About Us**

Our team has been finding "forever" homes for kitties since October 2003 at the rate of a little better than one kitty a week. We even threw ourselves a party in January to celebrate the adoption rate (see picture at left). In this newsletter you'll see a few of the kitties who found their forever homes, and you can see many more on our website at [www.mainecoonadoptions.com](http://www.mainecoonadoptions.com). If an adoptive family ever decides not to keep a kitty, however, for any reason and however much time it has been— two years or two months – four years or four months – we want them to return the kitty to us! No questions asked!

Maine Coon Adoptions (MCA) is an all-volunteer organization. What do you enjoy doing? We are a creative bunch, and we can probably figure how to integrate what you ENJOY doing with helping our kitties. Sure, there is a lot that we "need" to have done - but our approach is to find out how what you enjoy doing can help our kitties.

- Got a creative streak and ten minutes to spare? That's all it takes to do an engaging, fun description of a kitty to get posted on our web adoption page.
- Enjoy "hands on" work? How about driving a kitty to its new family? Nothing like seeing smiling faces of a family as you bring the new kitty to them.
- Get energy from talking with new people? Our volunteers who spend ten minutes "screening" potential adoptive families on the telephone are inspired when they hear stories of how much a family wants a new kitty.
- Just like looking at pictures of kitties? While you're at it, spend 5 minutes updating our web adoption page at the same time.

Our kitty rescue work is truly a team effort, and we'd love to have you on the team. If you want to think about finding your spot on our team, contact Elaine at 510-482-6179 or [elaineln@pacbell.net](mailto:elaineln@pacbell.net).



### **Mr. Fergus McGoo - the Advice Cat**

**Dear Fergus:**  
Why do cats purr?

*- Curious Mom*

**Dear Curious:**  
Of course, the real question is why don't all animals purr. Luckily for you, Mr. Fergus majored in purring in cat school, so he can tell you that newborn kittens begin to purr at about one week after birth as they snuggle up close to mama for warmth and suckling. A young cat tends to purr in monotone, while adults can purr in two or three notes, and sometimes as many as five! (Mr. Fergus can hit six notes on a good day.) Cats can purr continuously for hours at a time, even while eating and sleeping. (Some silly people call this "snoring.")

The purpose of the purr is hard to explain to mere humans. Researchers at the Fauna Communications Research Institute determined that the frequency at which many house cats purr (27-44 hertz) matches the frequency that seems to help human bones strengthen and grow. Mr. Fergus purrs just because he feels like it.

**Dear Fergus:**  
My owner's children now want a dog. As their family cat, I have ruled the roost for 10+ years but the children want to play and napping is my main source of exercise now. What type dog do you suggest they adopt?

*- Afraid of the Future*

**Dear Afraid:**  
Mr Fergus is so sorry to hear of the tragic turn your life has taken. To start with he suspects you are not an MC, as we are known for getting along with

nearly any living creature including dogs (even though they are sloppy, slobbery and way too undignified).

Please don't think Mr. Fergus has lost his marbles if he suggests that your family consider a larger dog. Some of the larger dogs are known for being a bit more laid back and relaxed while many of the smaller breeds were bred to chase even smaller animals, and they continue to exhibit these evil qualities even when they encounter exquisite, superior animals like us.

(P.S. Be sure to tell your mom and dad to get their icky new creature from a shelter or rescue group.)

Have questions for Mr. Fergus? Send them to his personal assistant, Nancy, at: [mainecoonnews@pacbell.net](mailto:mainecoonnews@pacbell.net)

*Last issue we mentioned that Maine Coons are called the "Dogs of the Cat World." Another new owner agrees!*

"We are loving these little boys!!! We could not be happier with these little **dog-cats**. They are one year old now and give us so much joy. Mattie... is named after Mat Williams, the baseball player.... Mattie has 6 toes on his front feet and his paws are huge. Even though he only weighs around 10 pounds you can actually hear him walking all around on our hardwood floors. He chortles a lot.... Reggie is named after my favorite Pacer, Reggie Miller. We think our Reggie may weigh more than his namesake....He cries so mournfully and loudly when he can't find me. I just call to him and he comes running to find me. Reggie would like to be a lap cat, but has settled for snuggling half way onto my lap when I am sitting in my favorite corner of the couch...." *Suzanne & Don*



"I just got off the phone with my parents and absolutely had to write and thank you again for that cat. I visit often, so I can see that he [Ino] is completely at home in that tiny apartment with his two elderly humans. And when we talk on the phone he is an endless topic of conversation: his impeccable habits, his fondness for lapsitting, his contentedness, his gorgeous body. Mom and Dad each claim that the other is besotted with the cat, but of course the cat has bewitched them both and they (and their neighbors, too) often say what a good idea it was to have a cat! We both know that it's the Maine Coon personality that they are glad to have, rather than some skittish kitty who scratches their hands and hides behind the couch.... So, thank you again!!  
*Martha*

## Happy Tails to You...

SO many of you have provided joyful homes to a wonderful coonie kitty within the past few months. Here are but a few of those happy "tails."

(Send us your cat's story and a picture, and your kitty may end up in our newsletter - [mainecoonnews@pacbell.net](mailto:mainecoonnews@pacbell.net))



Day 5 and our new kitten, Sherman, is now "totally comfortable with Romeo, the Border Collie, and there have been 'play sightings' between Smokey, the Russian Blue, and Sherman. As we had hoped Smokey and Sherman are quickly becoming buddies and playmates. Smokey has taken to sleeping in Sherman's room next to his pet carrier. ... Sherman's ... current favorite place to sleep is in our closet in the master bedroom. The little stinker pulled down one of Nadene's fleece robes and bunched it up into a very comfy bed. (See picture.) We wish we could bottle his "purr" since it seems to sedate Nadene into a coma.... With Sherman's loud purr all he has to be is on the bed to get Nadene to drop off!! Sherman saw Rocky, a squirrel that lives in our backyard yesterday. Imagine two cats, tails flipping through the air, and both "chirping" and looking intently through the window trying to get Rocky closer.... Sherman is such a wonderful addition to our family and thank you again for giving us the opportunity to be parents to such a wonderful "fur baby". *Dave & Nadene*



"Wyatt ... is quite wonderful. You really called his personality right. He made himself at home immediately and there's not an animal or person that he doesn't love. ... He talks a lot and naps in all the kitty beds. He sleeps on the bed between us and attacks all the monsters under the covers. He's very curious about the outdoors ... but he knows he has to wait for the sanctuary to be built.... Thanks for finding him for us. He's just what we've been looking for. *Scott & Sandy*



"This is our new boy and we are so lucky to get him. He came as Eden and we changed his name to Andy. It is amazing for us to watch the way Andy prepares to jump up on something.... He sits up on his hind legs and assesses the jump. Then he FLIES. What a cool cat he is and so inquisitive.... Andy is starting to follow Stephen around like a puppy and really enjoys helping Stephen with his projects.... We couldn't be happier. Again, the difference between a 20-year-old and a 6-year-old are huge. He is playing with his toys, whereas [our prior cat] Kitty used to look at them and us as we played with her toys, like we were crazy. We had such good luck with the [Maine Coon Adoptions] group and cannot thank them enough" *Stephen & Renee*

**Angus** – from p. 1

Angus loves his cat toys -- especially his fuzzy mice ...and his canned food. (We don't need an alarm clock. At 6 o'clock every morning, he meows up a storm demanding it. ... However, we did figure out that our daughter, who is an early riser, can feed him first thing in the morning (what better way to introduce her to the concept of 'allowances?'...)

We were concerned initially that, as a five year old, Angus would be too passive for our active kids and entertained the thought of adopting a kitten just for them. Another 'hardly.' He chases anything that catches his eye -- toes, fingers, it's all open game. ....He also loves to power up the six foot loft bed ladder and hang out with the kids up in it....Angus has become the family's shadow and he has to be in the thick of things around here -- another valued and loved member of the family. ...Because he's missing his bottom fangs, he often sits/sleeps with his tongue sticking out (which only adds to his adorableness). We cannot love a cat more than we love Angus." – Judy

**Vet Saviors** – from p. 1

volunteers, Elaine, drives 45 minutes to take her own kitties and her foster kitties to Dr. Thompson and her colleagues. She says she drives that far because "There is no one I trust like them and no one who works better with rescue kitties and understands rescue work like them."

Michelle and her family in San Diego adopted a kitty from our rescue group, and not long afterwards, she found a stray MC on Halloween who turned out to need surgery. The surgery was going to be quite expensive, but Dr. Thompson, recognizing this was rescue work, offered to do the

surgery for less than half of what Michelle's regular vet would charge.

Dr. Thompson's commitment was also apparently in her careful treatment of our rescue kitty Mattie, who had to have her left hind leg amputated due to severe injury. Ten days of hospitalization, medication, and medical care came to only \$500. (See Mattie's before and after pictures in the Kitty Care Needs box below.)

Dr. Thompson has created The Nine Lives Foundation, a non profit organization devoted to saving kitties. For more information about the Nine Lives Foundation, call Dr. Thompson at 650-368-1365.



**We've changed our name and website address.** Did'ya notice? We are now Maine Coon Adoptions. We are a division of SAFE (Saving Animals from Euthanasia), a non-profit animal rescue organization. Our new website address is [www.mainecoonadoptions.com](http://www.mainecoonadoptions.com). All the other contact information is the same. You can reach our Chief Case Manager, Elaine, at [elaineln@pacbell.net](mailto:elaineln@pacbell.net) or at 510-482-6179, or e-mail us at [mainecoonnews@pacbell.net](mailto:mainecoonnews@pacbell.net)

**Kitty Care Needs**

Did you know that the kitty you adopted from us at Maine Coon Adoptions most likely cost "more" than the adoption fee that you paid for your sweetie? Between rescue fees, vet visits, necessary vaccinations, and treatment for illness, we struggle to pay our bills so we can rescue more kitties. And to be honest, many of our volunteers never ask for reimbursement for the money they spend for the kitties and the organization.

Did you know that:

- \$15 treats a kitten for URI (upper respiratory infection) which most kittens have when rescued from a shelter;
- \$20 treats a kitty for tapeworms and roundworms (resulting from fleas);
- \$25 pays for one kitty being tested for FIV/FELV, essential when we rescue from a shelter;
- \$30 - \$45 pays for an office visit to a "rescue friendly" vet.

And then there are kittens like Mattie, featured in our last newsletter. When she was rescued, she weighed just five pounds, was covered with matts and had a badly injured leg. (See "Before" photo.) With love and care from her rescuer, her MCA foster, amputation of her infected leg, and the love of her new family, she's now a healthy, happy kitty who looks like she hasn't a care in the world. (See "After" photo.)

We know that you receive many requests for donations....and here is another one! As one of our donors said, "You guys do great work, and you need money to do it." To help our kitties, you can donate directly through Pay Pal – just go to our website at [mainecoonadoptions.com](http://mainecoonadoptions.com) and click on the Pay Pal link - or send a check made out to SAFE, to 2527 Carmel St., Oakland, CA 94602.

*Mattie Before*



*Mattie After*



**In Memoriam  
"CANDY"**

In Memory of our Beloved Candy ~ the little cat with the big personality.  
Love always, Michele and David.

