



Mattie - The Miracle Cat

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." - Gandhi

Inside This Issue:

Dear Fergus (The "Advice Cat")	2
About Us	2
Happy Tails (Stories & Photos of Adopted Kitties)	3
Kitty Care Needs	4

Hot off the press ...

Visit our new website that tells you about MCR in California: www.geocities.com/mcr/california

MCR **Holiday cards** – handpainted original by Gigi Gentile. Order by 10/15 from the national website at: www.mainecoonrescue.com.



Mattie's Rescue Story

Mattie weighed just five pounds in March when Terri, a Modesto woman who rescues abandoned kitties, found her matted with trash and garbage. (thus the name "Mattie"). Her left hind leg was badly injured and she was so weak from hunger, she was barely able to crawl. By the time she got to Maine Coon Rescue ("MCR"), she had put on two pounds and would purr and bob her head like a little bobble-head doll whenever she saw her foster mom, Elaine.

Still, she was awfully quiet and docile, and when the vet said Mattie would suffer chronic pain due to her leg injury, the decision

was made to amputate her leg. Within two days of her surgery her true personality began to emerge. She was feisty, loving and strong. Slip-sliding

"With her back left leg amputated, Mattie seemed like a perfect match for us."

around on the wooden floors, she would even chase Midnight, Elaine's 18-pound cat. By the time she was adopted, she weighed 11 lbs. and was ready to love a new family with all of her big heart.

Mattie's Forever Story

"We adopted Mattie on July 3 from Elaine. Our beloved cat, Candy, died in our laps on May 28.



Mattie, the Miracle Cat, with the crown Dad made

She was somewhere between 18 and 20 and she was with us for nearly 17 years. Candy was disabled. She came to our door in 1987, very, very hungry. She had broken her back leg and never had medical attention. It had healed by the time we met Candy, but she was never much of a jumper; so we were already set up for disabled. With her back left leg amputated, Mattie seemed like a perfect match

Continued on p. 4

Air Lift to Arizona Saves MC Kitties

What do you do if you have more Maine Coon kittens than you have homes for in California, and more homes than you have Maine Coon kittens for in Arizona? Why, you simply find a pilot with his own plane who volunteers to fly kittens from

San Luis Obispo to Phoenix - for free!! Then you get a bunch of volunteers who will get the kittens to the pilot. And that's exactly what happened in July, when MCR California learned that MCR Arizona needed Maine Coon kittens. The word went out, and

Continued on p. 4



Scott, Sandy and some of the rescued kitties get ready to fly to Arizona

MCR "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 will donate any of these items, e-mail nhuneke@pacbell.net, and we'll figure out how to get them from you to us.

"Time spent with cats is never wasted." – Colette

"Time spent helping cats is even better." - Elaine (MCR)

About Us

65 kitties!! That's the number of cats who are now living in a "forever" home through the efforts of our Maine Coon Rescue California team since October 2003 - and that doesn't even count the 18 kittens that Scott saved when he flew them from California to Arizona. 65 kitties averages out to more than a kitty a week being adopted! You'll read about just a few of these kitties in this newsletter, and you can see many of them on our California website at www.geocities.com/mcrcaifornia.

Maine Coon Rescue (MCR) 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.



Mr. Fergus McGoo - the Advice Cat

Dear Fergus:

Do you have any suggestions for door-darting cats? My cat has gotten very clever about darting outside. I live in an apartment building now, so she's okay if she gets out, but I'll be moving soon and don't want her getting out at the new place.

- Houdini's Mom

Dear Houdini's Mom:

Personally, Mr. Fergus is not very fond of noises (or sudden moves, or – well, that's enough about me). Anyway, you could easily discourage Mr. Fergus from hanging out by the door by filling an empty soda can with pennies and rattling it before you

entered or left. A spray bottle of water near the door would be a good back up in case I forgot about the pennies can and found myself near the door. One spritz on the rear and Mr. Fergus is outta there.

Dear Fergus:

While Buddy and GinGin are waiting to be fed, he leans over and tries to bite her throat. She doesn't seem to be threatened or she would slap him or run. I gather this is play but have you ever seen this? Buddy is a panic - bounces off walls, jumps on everything and is one love bug.

- Conan's Mom

Dear Conan's Mom:

Mr. Fergus has personal experience with this problem since, like

Buddy, he lives with another cat who does not seem to know her place. But, wait - your question seemed to imply that Buddy was the problem. This is strange, but Mr. Fergus will try to answer it anyway.

Buddy sounds like he wants to be the dominant cat – particularly at mealtimes. It doesn't seem like there's any harm in this since he's not hurting GinGin. You might try putting Buddy's food in his bowl before you put GinGin's food in her bowl to "respect" his dominance.

Address your questions to Mr. Fergus c/o his personal assistant, Nancy, at nhuneke@pacbell.net.



"Hi, I'm Kat Kantor, your friendly MCR e-mail voice. I've been helping Maine Coon Rescue with some neat projects, like distributing MCR flyers to vets and pet supply stores. The true kitty 'tail' here, however, belongs to **Mufasa Ahree**, affectionately known as **Moofy**. ('Ahree' is Hebrew for Lion.) We had planned on fostering Moofy and nurturing him back to health for a forever home. As he got well he sort of took over the place, and he follows my husband, Alan, around like a puppy dog. Moofy is long and lean and huge, with the biggest golden eyes and the longest whiskers I've ever seen. Alan adores him (so do I) and he's made himself at home with us so he's stayin'."

(Ed. Note: Poor Alan got edited out of the picture up there so you could get a closer view of Moofy's tail.)

Did you know that Maine Coons are called the "Dogs of the Cat World"? One new owner says it's true, it's true!

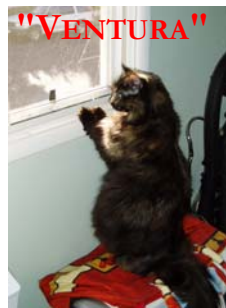
"I have to say that [Maine Coon Rescue] is accurate when you say that a Maine Coon is like a dog ...

Cowboy follows me around the house; I open the refrigerator and he jumps up with his front paws to see what's on the shelf; he 'cozies' up next to our dog and purrs. He loves to play...sees me coming and he crouches down in attack position; that's my cue to sneak behind a corner to he can run and 'surprise' me. I could go on, but you get the picture ... Mr. Personality. He brings so much joy to our house every day." -- Cheers, Terri



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 we'll put your cat in our newsletter - nhuneke@pacbell.net.)



"Okay, so I've come home with a one-eyed cat that hates me. Oh, joy! That's what I thought when **Ventura** first came home with me. I picked Ventura (whose name means "luck") because she immediately walked into my lap. Then I got her home, and she spent the first week under the couch. She didn't want me to touch or brush her when she was out, and she also had an eye virus that brought on lots of trips to the vet. Then it occurred to me Ventura had had a pretty tough year. She was in a high-kill shelter, then in cages at a pet store [hoping to get adopted] and then in two different MCR foster homes before being driven from Oakland to Ventura to be adopted. So we relaxed and just let her do her thing. Now, two months later, she's funny, intelligent, interactive and affectionate – we recently had a party at the house and Ventura stayed the entire time mingling with the guests. She follows us from room to room and sleeps next to (and on) us every night. All it took was a little patience and, in honor of her name, we all lucked out." - Ann

BOBBY &



CARTER

"**Carter and Bobby** are best friends. Carter is the caretaker and Bobby is the cry baby. The first 2 weeks Bobby talked or cried, not sure which it was, day and night. It was like having a new baby at home. I got no sleep. Carter was really shy and angry about being put in a new place with a new "human"; he would bite me when I tried to pet him and would run away. But things are much different now; Bobby still talks a lot but now he sleeps on top of my legs at night; Carter is a real sweetheart; he runs to meet me when I come home and loves to snuggle under my chin at night while we all 3 sleep together. When Bobby starts talking (crying) Carter gets up from where he is to run and tell him life is ok. The first time I combed Bobby he was frightened and I had to hold him down, Carter saw that he was scared and ran over and licked him on the head and lay next to him while he got groomed." -- Vicky

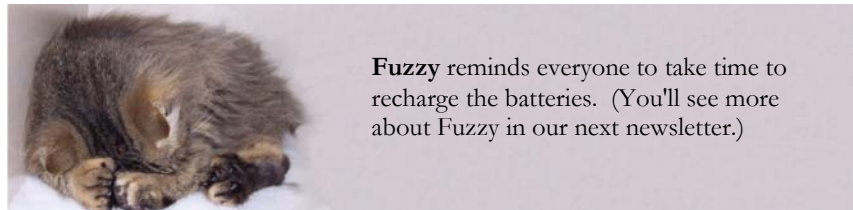
Mattie – from p. 1

for us. We had to slightly change the furniture in our bedroom for Candy and we accommodated Mattie as well. Mattie? I will say she is wonderful at playing baseball. She bats paper balls when I throw them. She also plays some soccer. We try to get in as many games as possible. Mattie is living as an only cat with us, so it's up to us to keep her entertained. In the meantime, she continues to develop an appreciation for baseball and the Yankees (although I believe she is a closet Tigers fan)." – Michele & David

Air Lift – from p. 1

Scott Naumann - a new volunteer with his own plane - offered to fly kitties to Arizona. Other volunteers got to work in Los Angeles and Sacramento and rescued 21 kittens and 2 mother cats from high-kill shelters and then drove them in relays to San Luis Obispo where Scott and Sandy hosted the kittens overnight before flying them safely to Arizona.

There is one sad note to this happy story. As you might guess, many cats and kittens in shelters appear healthy, but are actually sick. As it turned out, four of the kittens and one mom had life-threatening illnesses to which they ultimately succumbed. The wonderful news is that all of the 18 surviving kitties were adopted and are now living with loving families in Arizona.



Fuzzy reminds everyone to take time to recharge the batteries. (You'll see more about Fuzzy in our next newsletter.)

Kitty Care Needs

Did you know that the kitty you adopted from us at Maine Coon Rescue 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 Beau (photo at left), who appeared healthy when rescued from the shelter, but who developed a serious eye infection - and nearly \$360 later, he has had ointments, pills and recently surgery to deal with an eye ulcer. When the vet unwrapped his eye after the surgery, he told us we had saved the eye and that he would have lost it without the surgery. Beau is on the mend now and gets more adorable every day. We are still paying off his vet bills, but he just got adopted and even has his own website. You can go to <http://home.comcast.net/~brittanygary> to check on Beau's progress and see more photos of Beau - and his new mom.

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 national website at maine-coonrescue.com and click on the Pay Pal link - or send a check to MCR, 304 First Avenue West, Franklin, KY 42134. If you want to earmark the money for Beau's medical expenses, or for our California work, just add a note to your check.

**In Memoriam
"RUMPOLE"**

So wonderful to think of; so hard to live without.

Nancy & David

