

Kona & Kinski

If we hadn't known that Kona was Kinski's mom, we might have assumed they were cousins, or maybe even siblings. They have such a great time playing together, and tortoiseshell Kona is every bit as kitten-like as her fluffy orange baby boy.



KONA

These two frisky felines play with every single toy in their foster home, even the ones that no other cat gives a second look. Flying, crawling, and spinning things; puzzles with hidden treats; the "Ripple Rug" with hidey holes—they love them all! Of course, a cardboard box with a bit of crumpled paper is every bit as fascinating because these two make toys out of whatever is available. Because of their high energy level, a home full of delicate, valuable objects would not be a good fit for this pair.

Kona and Kinski do eventually run out of energy and choose to hunker down for some mellow couch time. Kinski is a lap cat, while Kona prefers to sit next to the lap. They also enjoy birdwatching and cuddling up for a snooze on the tall cat perch by the window. Both are in excellent health and have no special needs.



KINSKI

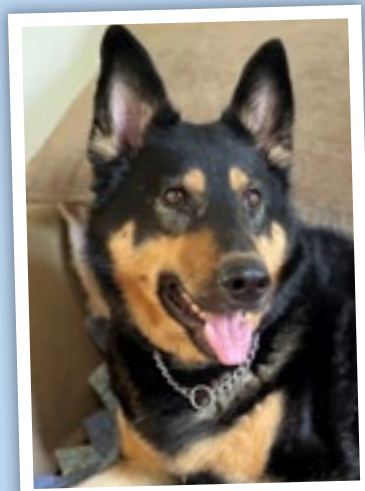
Kona is about two years old and her boy Kinski is almost one year old. They have been spayed/neutered, microchipped, are up-to-date on vaccines, and have tested negative for FeLV/FIV.

The adoption fee is \$150 for the pair. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

Elsa

This gorgeous creature is seeking a home where the best spot on the couch will always be hers and her people will spend many hours in her company. Elsa's history is mostly a mystery, but once she was rescued it didn't take long to figure out that she loves people. She might even be described as a bit clingy and is more than willing to provide constant emotional support.

Though Elsa tolerates other dogs sharing her home (if they agree that she is the queen and must be respected), her



favorite thing is hanging out with her humans. Cats are far too tempting to be allowed, though, as Elsa just can't leave them alone.

Elsa loves her daily walks and happily greets other dogs on leash. She enjoys riding in the car and did well at her vet visits. As with all dogs, Elsa thrives on routine, knows exactly when meals are to be served, and is happy to remind those who might have lost track of time.

She is house-trained, and crates herself when it's time to rest. She's not interested in playing with toys, but she can focus at length on a good chewy object. Elsa has good manners and responds to "no," but she needs a home without small or fragile humans—she weighs 80 lbs. and can get rambunctious when she's excited.

We estimate Elsa to be a German Shepherd/Husky mix who is about three years old. She is spayed, vaccinated, heartworm-negative, microchipped, dewormed, and is current on flea control. The adoption fee is \$400. If you are interested in knowing more about Elsa, please visit mywayhomedogrescue.org and complete the adoption application online.

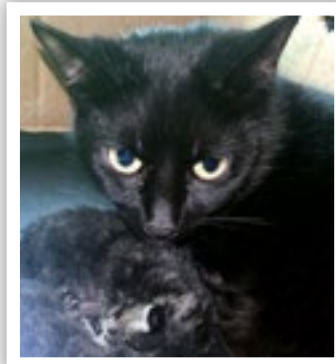
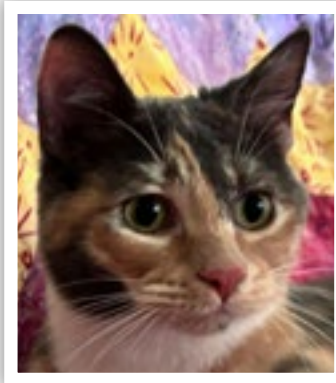
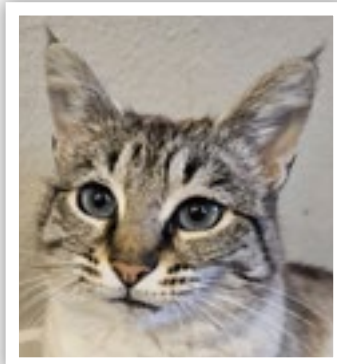
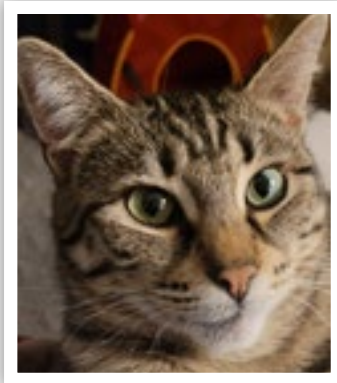
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Friends, spring has sprung here in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Daffodils are popping up in our neighborhood, and the baseball season opener will be in the books by the time you read this. But we never really had a winter, and although that helps with the heating bill, it spells trouble for cats and those who rescue them—with no cold spell to slow down production in the kitten factories roaming our neighborhoods, there will (yet again) be far more supply than demand. A mild winter also means a banner year for the dreaded fleas that torment our pets and us. See page 5 for more about the flea problem, and how to manage it.

We've already welcomed our first little family of the year, **Tabitha** and her two newborns, residents of a colony of community cats where our partners at PDX Cat Trapper are completing a TNR (trap-neuter-return) project. Sadly, Tabitha wasn't well enough to nurse her babies, so we transferred them to an expert in neonatal kitten care. It's not easy to care for those tiny ones—it's time-consuming, exhausting, and potentially heartbreaking. We will care for Tabitha until she is well enough to be spayed and returned to her caregiver. We are always working hard to help TNR community cats in our area, so cats like Tabitha will never have to suffer through giving birth, potentially losing her kittens and her own life.

Last fall we told you about a family of 19 cats and kittens dropped on us unexpectedly, with many of them requiring extensive veterinary care and recovery time. We are still caring for some of those cats, including beautiful **Kiana**. In the course of her normal kitten acrobatics, she managed to dislocate her hip, which required a surgical fix and many weeks of cage rest. She is fully recovered and will soon be ready for adoption. (Her mom and brother are Kona and Kinski, our cover kitties.)

Recently the stunning **Sylvia** came to our rescue when her person had a medical crisis and was no longer able to care for her. She had a few minor health issues needing treatment, but those were quickly resolved. Sylvia instantly charms everyone upon making their acquaintance and we'll soon have an update to her story!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SYLVIA; KIANA; TABITHA; PEARL

Pearl's story is more mysterious. A kind family discovered her in their barn one morning—coincidentally the same morning that a few new chickens appeared on their property. No one came forward to claim **Pearl** or the chickens, and she clearly wanted to be an indoor cat, so she came to us. We don't know much about Pearl yet, except that she is very sociable with people and very afraid of dogs. We'll give her time to settle in and then find her the perfect forever home.

Spring is a great time to catch up with your pets' health care. Schedule a vet visit if it's been over a year since their last exam, get vaccines updated, and include diagnostic bloodwork for senior pets. A current exam is required to get a prescription for effective flea control products, and you will need them! Preventive care is much easier and more cost-effective than perpetual treatment for chronic conditions. Have the vet scan your pet's microchip to make sure it's still in place, and confirm your current contact information at the microchip company. If you can't be reached when your pet is lost, the microchip is worthless, and it's very common that chips are never properly registered.

While on the subject of health care, we recommend all pet parents look into purchasing pet health insurance. We don't have to remind anyone that the cost of veterinary care has increased, along with everything else. There are many companies offering insurance now, and they vary greatly in coverage, premiums, and deductibles—just like human insurance. A good place to start is a website called Pawlicy Advisor (pawlicy.com), a free service to help determine which company and policy is most effective for your particular pet(s). All it takes is one visit to an emergency vet to make you realize how important this is—please try to spare yourself the agony and stress of having to come up with funds for a huge bill when your beloved pet is ill or injured.

As always, thank you for reading our newsletter, and we ask you to adopt, volunteer, and donate if you can.

Be careful, be well, and please be kind to all creatures. Happy Spring!

—Carma Crimins, President

Since ARCF does not currently have a dog adoption program, we are working with other local dog rescue groups who share our goals and philosophies of animal welfare and rescue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

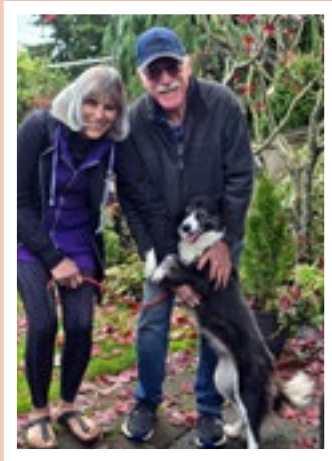
mywayhomedogrescue.org

503-974-4944

MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

Mika

By the time local dog rescuers heard about Mika, she had been living in a McDonald's parking lot for months, begging for handouts and raiding garbage cans for additional meal ingredients with other strays. Being very cute no doubt helped Mika survive in that environment, but she also was very eager to meet the humans who came to her rescue.

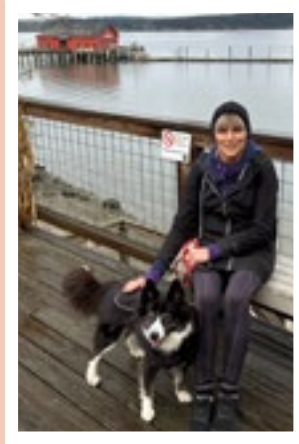


ADOPTION DAY

Mika has strong Border Collie genes which can cause challenging behaviors, but an experienced foster was able to see Mika's potential to be a great companion for the right family, so she asked Cheryl at My Way Home Dog Rescue to take over Mika's care and find the perfect forever home.

Cheryl knew that Mika needed experienced Border Collie adopters with patience and a commitment to meeting Mika's needs long-term. As with all herding breeds, Border Collies need plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. They are easily bored and will often find trouble on their own if they don't have proper training and a job to do.

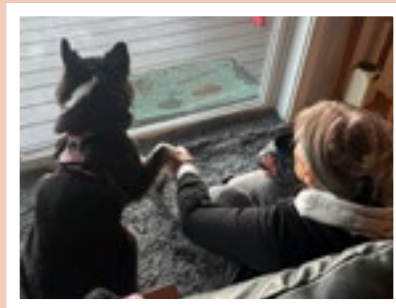
After having to fend for herself, Mika also reacted aggressively towards other dogs, who she likely saw as competition for scarce resources.



ELLEN AND MIKA

Ellen and Larry had recently retired to Whidbey Island, Washington and were dog-less for the first time in many years. Their experience with Border Collies included living with the eight dogs they adopted during their time together and learning much more about the breed during 18 years of living in New Zealand, a country of many, many sheep that require many, many herding dogs.

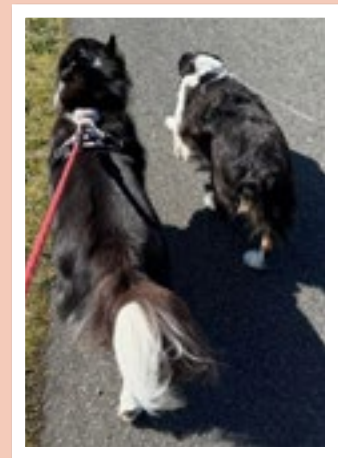
When they were ready to bring a new companion into their home, Ellen and Larry searched Petfinder and found Mika. Cheryl was delighted to receive their application, although the distance between their home and Mika's foster home in Oregon would provide an extra challenge. Arrangements were made for a meet-and-greet somewhere in the middle, and Mika was soon on her way to her new home on the island.



HOLDING HANDS

"Mika is doing so well with us," says Ellen. "We go on five-mile walks every day, and there are so many things to see and smell. Mika is still wary of strange dogs, but she has gotten comfortable with our neighbor dog Libbey and they enjoy walks together."

They hired a trainer to help Mika learn to cope with the things that cause her stress. She is very smart and is learning to trust that her people will always keep her safe and take care of the scary stuff so that she can relax and be a dog.



WALKING WITH BFF LIBBEY

Mika absolutely loves people, and is immediately willing to hug and kiss even casual acquaintances. She loves "holding hands" and instinctively knows when to be gentle, particularly with young children, and with Ellen's 101-year-old mother who lives with them. Ellen is a ceramic artist and Mika enjoys spending time at the gallery, where she happily greets visitors. "Mika is a very good fit for our family and we are delighted to have her with us."

"We were looking for a needle-in-a-haystack family for Mika," says Cheryl, "and we definitely found it."

Ariel

Almost exactly a year ago, we heard from a young woman feeling overwhelmed by financial and health challenges, including job loss and a new baby. One of her cats had recently given birth to eight babies, and her other three adult cats also needed vet care, including spay/neuter surgeries. We arranged for those procedures, and brought the new mom and babies into our rescue. Ariel was a very good mom, and her kittens were adorable. When old enough, and all had been spayed or neutered, they were quickly adopted.



ARIEL AND BABIES

The hard-working momcats always stay with us longer after the babies are gone—it's just a fact of rescue life. But we are patient—we know the right family will eventually come along.

For Ariel, that family was Bob and Dave, two retired cat guys looking for a playful, affectionate, chatty companion. We suspected they would enjoy meeting Ariel, and the feeling was mutual. A recent update:



COMFY IN HER NEW HOME

Ariel has relaxed into her new home and enjoys sitting with us when we watch TV. She's very social and is also quite the talker! She loves to play with her toys—her favorite is a 'fishing rod' with a mouse on the end. She likes to lie on my lap when I'm reading and sit in her cat tower and observe the great outdoors. Thank you for checking in, we are all doing fine!

—Bob Berger

Pearl & Fern

(formerly Audrey and Autumn)

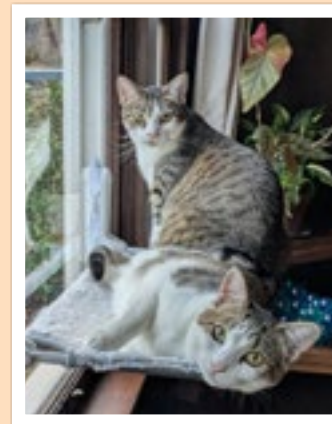
Two of Ariel's kittens were named Autumn and Audrey. (Check out the two tiny tabbies in the photo of Ariel!) The sisters were adopted but that placement turned out to be not a good match. We never argue or refuse when adopters want to return our kitties—we will always be there if they need us. These lovely girls came back to their original foster home, and didn't miss a beat. We soon heard from Erin, who was ready to add a pair of cats to her household, which includes her son and a genial dog named Cedar. We weren't sure how they would feel about having a dog brother, so we were happy to get this report:



BABY PEARL

It's going well. I really like having a bonded pair, especially twins. I also have twin human daughters who are 29 years old!

Pearl and Fern (formerly Audrey and Autumn) adjusted so quickly—having each other really helped.



FERN (FRONT) & PEARL

They had their own room with a cat door and for the first week they spent a lot of time there. Now they only go there for the litter box. They are slowly getting used to the dog and he to them.

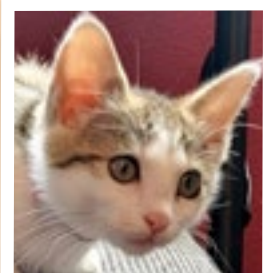
Pearl likes to eat through cords and munch on boxes.

She escaped outside once but was quickly rounded up. Fern is a bit more reserved but she got used to my dog Cedar much quicker. She likes to sleep on my legs.

They both use their scratching pads regularly which I'm thankful for. I have lots of plants and they haven't eaten any yet! They like to drink out of people water cups so they have a couple just for them, in addition to their water bowl. They also like toys with bells and are very affectionate.

Thanks for letting me give them a home!

—Erin Kender



BABY FERN



FERN & CEDAR

Why do fleas exist, when all they do is create misery? We don't have an answer, but we can tell you just how essential it is to treat your pets with safe, effective flea control products.

Why?

We all know that fleas cause itching, but that's not all! In fact, fleas can lead to severe problems for animals and humans. Itching causes scratching, leading to broken skin, making your pet more uncomfortable and allowing infection to set in.

Fleas can also cause internal issues. Tapeworms are parasites that reside as larvae inside fleas and are transmitted to pets when swallowed during grooming. Tapeworms cause weight loss, poor coat quality, and the itchy bum evidenced by scooting on the carpet.

Flea bite anemia is a risk for any young or small animal infested with fleas. This occurs when fleas feed so much on your pet that her red blood cell count decreases and she gets anemic.

Fleas aren't just hazardous for your pets—they can be dangerous for you, too! Fleas can carry certain diseases that can spread to humans, including bartonella (Cat Scratch Fever).

Ok, got it! What do I need to know to treat my pet?

First, it's always easier to prevent fleas than to get rid of them. Treat preventatively using flea control products that are safe to use all the time.

Second, choose a flea medication method carefully, with guidance from your veterinarian. There are many medications out there that, at best, simply don't work and at worst, can cause serious harm to your pet.

TIP: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL!

Flea Treatments to Avoid:

- Flea products with Amitraz, pyrethrin, permethrin, or pyrethroids (found in 1000+ pesticides, flea dips, shampoos and topical applications) —At toxic levels in the bloodstream, these chemicals can cause seizures and even death.

- Low cost flea collars—These are generally ineffective and can pose a choking/hanging hazard. We have rescued more than one cat with a lower jaw or leg caught in a toxic plastic collar.

- Essential oils—Not only are they ineffective at killing fleas, they often have phenolic compounds that the feline liver cannot tolerate. Tea tree, eucalyptus, and oregano oils found in "organic" topical parasiticides are dangerous for both cats and dogs.

If I Have Dogs and Cats, Can I Use One Treatment for Both?

NO! Canine flea medications and topical insecticides are one of the top feline toxins reported to the Pet Poison Helpline. Some are so toxic that you should keep your cats away from a dog that has been treated for short periods after application. Flea treatment residue left on shared bedding or spread by physical contact or grooming can be just as hazardous.

Do I have to worry if all my pets stay indoors?

YES! Fleas are tenacious little buggers! They can jump up to seven inches and are happy to piggyback into the house on human clothes and shoes, as well as other pets. So even if your cats stay inside, it's smart to check for fleas periodically.

So which products are safe to use?

Products sold by veterinarians typically undergo either FDA- or EPA-reviewed clinical trials to establish safe dosage and document adverse effects.

Use these vet-recommended medications as directed, as even these can be deadly if applied in a larger-than-recommended dose. In addition, your vet can tell you which products lose effectiveness due to resistance developed by fleas in certain areas.

The Upshot

We recommend that you work closely with your vet to ensure you use the right medication in the right way for your pet. This can save significant discomfort and prevent serious illnesses for you and your pet!

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

Dec-Jan-Feb: We rescued and cared for 24 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 11 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

Veterinary: \$6,323.96
Food/Supplies: \$3,348.21
Newsletter: \$3,356.70

AnimalTalk

ANIMAL TALK is a quarterly newsletter published by Animal Rescue & Care Fund.

Our Mission: To rescue, shelter, and care for homeless animals and place them in permanent, responsible homes; to promote and support spay/neuter for all companion animals.

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SUCCESS STORIES

Temmie & Leo

(formerly Max & Miles)

Last summer we were asked for help by a young man who had two cats with newborns that he could not care for. We agreed to take them into our rescue, but we were



LEO & TEMMIE AS BABIES

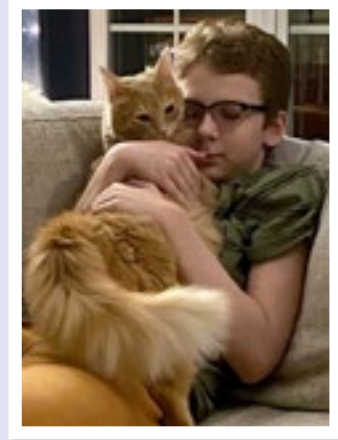
knocked for a loop when the man showed up with 19 cats, including five adult females and 14 kittens! We made it clear that our little rescue was not equipped to take on so many at one time, but he simply dropped them off and left, so we

mustered our resources and made it work.

Although many of them had health conditions needing immediate attention, they were all good-natured, including Max and Miles—two of the very sweetest boys we ever met. Alex and her family came to meet them, and agreed with our assessment.

They are the sweetest additions to our family and we are obsessed with them! The kids renamed them: brown tabby

Miles is now Leo and our buff boy is Temmie. Leo is a fierce predator of toys. His serious little baby face is so cute. He likes to leave his favorite toy swimming in their water fountain. He is so smart and curious about everything! He's so loving and will carefully climb up on us and nibble our cheeks and lovingly pet us with his paws.



TEMMIE & FRIEND

Temmie is a lovable floof and will barrel right for you and climb up for a big hug. He still loves to climb on top of our heads and get tangled in our hair. He'll stretch up our legs and ask for "uppies."

He prefers to play with Leo over toys but the cat dancer toy will get him jumping and excited. He loves being groomed and will push his brush to us when he wants more. They are so close and sweet with each other and have added so much joy and love into our home. Thank you again for everything!

—Alex Black



BROS IN A CUDDLE

Teddy and Professor Weems (formerly Jasper & Jasmine)



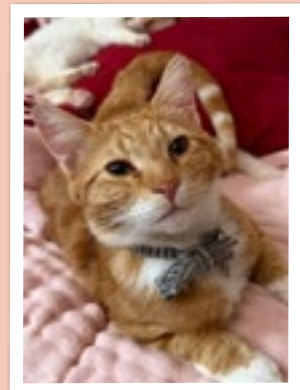
WEEMS AND FRIEND

are amazing! We love them so much! Weems has absolutely fallen in love with our 11-year-old golden retriever.

One of the moms with kittens included with the family of 19 was Jewel, with her three newborns, Jarvis, Jasmine, and Jordan. The whole family arrived with upper respiratory and eye infections but with expert care from our expert foster mom, all were soon healthy and strong.

Jeff and Charity were ready to add a pair of kittens to their family, and to no one's surprise, Jasmine and Jasper easily won them over and were soon on the way home to their new family.

Professor Weems (Jasmine) and "Tough Guy" Teddy (Jarvis)



TEDDY

—Charity Smith

SUCCESS STORIES

Callie & Casper (formerly Raina & Rocky)

When we first met Raina & Rocky, they were living with their siblings, mom, and some aunties on the front porch of a kind person who could not care for them herself, but wanted them to be safe and loved. We provided vet care for all the adult cats, and returned them to their home, along with outdoor shelters and a promise to provide food whenever the supply runs short.



RESCUE DAY

The kittens were soon ready for adoption, and we heard from Terri, whose home had an empty spot for a pair of loving felines.

Raina and Rocky (renamed Callie and Casper) have brought much needed joy to our lives since the loss of our little 14-year-old tortie/sealpoint cat in August.

They are both so affectionate and sweet, that I have a hard time sitting down because they want to be on my lap or held like a baby and go to sleep. They love our house because it has multiple levels with stairs, and they're either running around at 100 mph chasing their favorite springs and cucumber toys or sleeping soundly.



CASPER (LEFT) & CALLIE

Callie is smart and found the drawer with the hair elastics and has wreaked havoc in the bathroom. I have had to hide them several times and she keeps finding them, very persistent!

We are so grateful for the opportunity to cherish these two rascals. They are both so special and loving!

—Terri Cone

Jordan & Pierre

The third kitten in Jewel's family was Jordan. We always place our kittens in pairs, but after her siblings left, Jordan was not alone for long! We rescued another litter of three kittens, being given away from a cardboard box at a busy intersection. They became the "P" litter, and of course there was an "odd kitten out" in that family as well—a sweet and easy-going tuxedo named Pierre, who quickly made friends with Jordan.



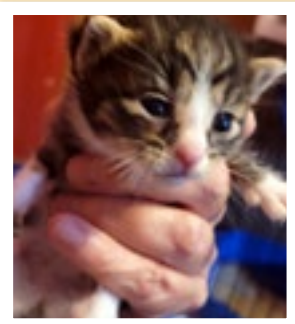
BABY PIERRE

ventured out into our home and into our hearts. These two arrived in our home already as a bonded pair and truly love each other; where one is, you will always soon find the other. Always the gentleman, Pierre lets Jordan get first dibs on meals and toys, until only one spring hasn't disappeared under the couch and then he is hard pressed to part with it. Jordan likes to claim the top basket in the cat tree to watch us all from above or catch a quick nap, but she is also the first to rest in your lap and rub your legs for a pet.

Their sweet chirps and purrs and early morning snuggles can't be beat, and we all think they are the softest kitties we've ever had the pleasure of petting.

Their favorite activities include watching hummingbirds from their cat tree, chasing each other up the stairs, stalking and pouncing on feathery teaser toys, and sleeping on Dad's desk. Jordan has made it clear that she wants to be the center of attention during all video calls, but she is so pretty, no one minds a bit.

We are all grateful for the wonderful adoption experience that made adding these two to our family so pleasant. (All our friends told us to adopt two, and we think that was excellent advice.)



BABY JORDAN

Roger, Maren and their two daughters were looking for a pair of curious and playful cats to join their family, and a meeting was arranged.

After a few days getting adjusted in our home office, Pierre and Jordan



JORDAN & PIERRE

We've been so blessed Jordan and Pierre have each other and have warmed to our home and each family member so readily.

—Maren and Roger Vernon

SUCCESS STORIES

Opal & Onyx

(formerly Peggy Sue & Pogo)

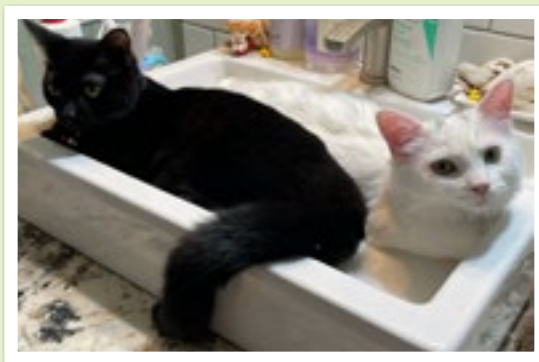
The other two kittens in Pierre's family were Peggy Sue and Pogo. They had chosen each other as "favorite sibling," so we made sure they would never be separated. Like their brother Pierre, this pair was playful, affectionate, and unbearably cute.



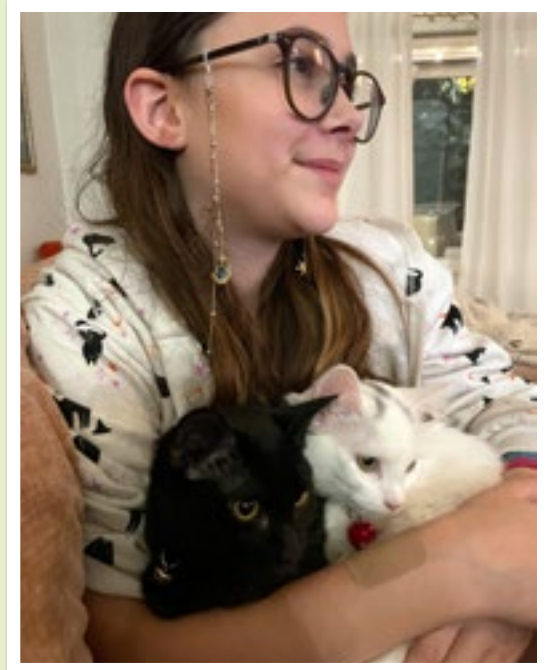
BABY OPAL & ONYX

Alexia and her family, including a young cat whisperer, were looking for a just such a pair. The meeting went well.

Pogo and Peggy Sue have been a loving and playful addition to the Wellons family under their new names: Onyx and Opal. Both have adapted quite well to their three other cat siblings and the family dog, Oreo.



SINK TIME



CAT WHISPERER & HER PRECIOUS STONES

Opal is a little lady with the loudest purr, and Onyx is a pro cuddler (especially when humans are trying to work). They've both taken a liking to their cat wheel, which they run or walk on frequently. They also adore sleeping together in the bathroom sink. Their older cat brother Smee makes sure they're always well-groomed and content. We love Opal and Onyx so much!

—Alexia Wellons

YES! I want to help

Animal Rescue & Care Fund depends entirely on your donations. Our work includes rescue, medical aid, food and shelter, humane education, neutering/spaying, and more. Your contribution goes directly to help the animals. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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