

## Kittens!

You want kittens? We got 'em! We chose Logan (tuxedo boy) and Lydia (torbie girl) to be our spokeskittens for this newsletter, but we have all sizes, shapes, colors, and ages available for adoption.

Our goal is to make the best match for every cat and every adopter or family, and sometimes that means kittens

aren't necessarily the best fit even when adopters come in with kittens in mind. Those who haven't recently

lived with baby kittens may not remember the rocket-powered energy, constant mess in the litter box, unceasing appetite, sharp teeth, needlelike claws that need frequent trims, and—most important—potential 20-year commitment.

Kittens can be irresistibly adorable, but they can also climb, crawl, and claw their way onto everything in the house, and they seem always to be underfoot just when it's least convenient. Don't be offended if we remind you about these "standard features" included with each kitten; it's easy to get carried away by cuteness and we want to help everyone find their happily ever after.

We adopt our kittens in pairs, unless there's already another kitten or young cat in the family as a playmate. Having a pal helps kittens develop good social skills and burn up all that excess mental and physical energy. A kitten left alone all day is likely to spend the day resting, so there's plenty of energy left to keep everyone awake all night. A bonded pair that keeps each other busy and engaged makes life easier for everyone.

All of our cats and kittens have been spayed/neutered, are up-to-date on vaccines, and have tested negative for FeLV/FIV. The adoption fee is \$150 for a pair of kittens. To learn more about any of our cats available for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email [arcf@pdx-petadoption.org](mailto:arcf@pdx-petadoption.org), or visit [pdx-petadoption.org](http://pdx-petadoption.org).

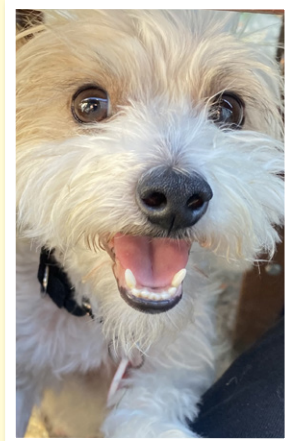


## The Noodle Family

Although this adorable ball of fluff looks like a puppy herself, Noodle gave birth to five chubby babies shortly after arriving at My Way Home Dog Rescue in May from a high-kill public shelter where she was taken as a stray.

Even with no prior experience, she is a very good mom to her baby noodles: Macaroni, Ziti, Rigatoni, Penne, and Orzo. When not tending to her little family, sweet Noodle loves hanging out with the people in her foster home—she is eager to please and simply can't get enough attention! She's a bit wary of other dogs, so Noodle would love to be the only dog in her forever family. Noodle has excellent house manners and is easy to handle for grooming and vet care. She could be happy living in a condo or apartment with short walks for fresh air and exercise.

Noodle is about a year old and weighs 5.5 pounds. Before adoption she will be spayed, and the whole family will be vaccinated, heartworm-tested, microchipped, dewormed, and current on flea control. They will be ready for adoption around the first of August and the adoption fee is \$400. If you are interested in knowing more about the Noodle family, please visit [mywayhomedogrescue.org](http://mywayhomedogrescue.org) and complete the adoption application online.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The longest day of the year is just around the corner, which means those of us in the Pacific Northwest dig out the sandals, straw hats, and sunnies, and venture outdoors, blinking into the light of the great yellow orb. We're lucky to live where summers are still bearable, and warm evenings in the backyard are something to savor.

But summers are hard on our animal friends and those who care for them. Pet abandonment is a crushing problem everywhere always, but during "vacation season" many more are left behind to fend for themselves, and even with pet sitters on duty, some will escape and end up at shelters, or worse.

The fireworks around Independence Day celebrations are another source of danger to all animals. Terrified wildlife and pets can panic, bolt from their homes, and just keep running. The days following July 4 are the most difficult for already overloaded shelters and rescues, because of the sheer volume of animals running loose, trying to escape the explosions. If your pets suffer anxiety from the fireworks noise, please see your vet immediately about prescribing medications that may help keep them calm. Don't wait until July 3! We ask for kindness and consideration of all humans and animals who suffer through this holiday. Please make it a peaceful one, if you can.

In our spring issue we told you about Heloise and her newborn kittens, Hadley, Henry, Hyacinth, **Hagrid**, and **Harper**. They are now grown up and ready for adoption. We also rescued another single mom and her kids, living in an apartment courtyard where they were not safe nor welcome. This momma is very sweet, and her family of four matching tuxedo babies will be our **"M" litter**, available for adoption about mid-August.

We also have an update on **Mr. Meow**, another community cat who lives happily on the porch of a senior citizen who cares for him. We say "senior" in the most respectful way, since this kind-hearted lady recently celebrated her 100th birthday!

Helpers look in on her and Mr. Meow, and they helped us capture him for the surgery he needed to correct the painful entropion condition that caused his eyelashes to grown inward towards his eyeball. Mr. Meow also had some badly infected teeth which made eating painful. We scheduled dental surgery, and kept him in our care until that was completed. Now that he can see, and his mouth doesn't hurt, Mr. Meow is a new man!

He still doesn't want to be handled, but he's fat and happy back on the porch of his dedicated lady.

We also provide food for Mr. Meow and many other community cats who have caregivers more than willing to look after them, but don't always have room in the budget for cat food. We have an item in our budget called "Direct Assistance," and those funds go toward food, supplies, and occasionally surgeries for cats like Mr. Meow and others who have quality of life issues easily fixed with standard vet care, but unaffordable for their caregivers.

For cat parents in the Portland area, we recommend you check out the Catio Tour, presented by Cats Safe at Home™ with the support of Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon and Bird Alliance of Oregon. Catios are enclosed outdoor spaces designed to give your cats outside time, while keeping them and the local bird population safe. There are usually 10-15 catios on the tour, which you can visit and learn how to create your own cool

catio. The tour will be September 7, 2024. All details, including videos and lists of excellent resources can be found at [catssafeathome.org](https://catssafeathome.org).

And one more reminder: please leave out water during the summer months for all the passing critters who need it—shallow bowls for bees, baths for birds and squirrels, and big, deep bowls for all the

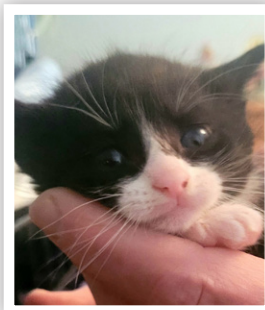
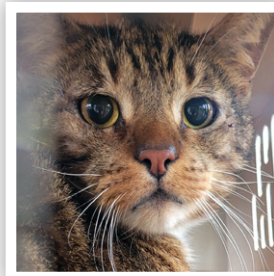
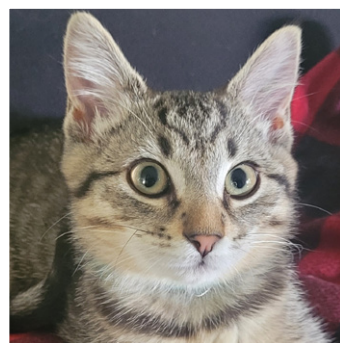
others. Water is life-saving, and they will be grateful.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Please adopt, volunteer, and donate, if you can. Your support makes our work possible.

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

Happy Summer!

—Carma Crimins, President



FROM TOP: HAGRID; HARPER; MR. MEOW BEFORE;  
MR. MEOW AFTER; BABY M



*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.*

# MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[mywayhomedogrescue.org](http://mywayhomedogrescue.org)

503-974-4944

## George & Lily

This pair of handsome and loving dogs was found roaming in a rural area where many unwanted pets are left to fend for themselves. George and Lily were lucky enough to find kind humans to step in where others have failed—the local overloaded public shelter where they landed was able to connect with My Way Home Dog Rescue, and they were soon on their way to safety.



**NEW FAMILY!**

The shelter vet noted that Lily appeared to be pregnant, but My Way Home was committed to rescuing the whole family, whatever that might involve. It was apparent to their foster family that Lily and George were truly bonded, but he was ready for a new home and family, and Lily needed to stay until her pups were born and weaned, so the decision was made to post George for adoption right away.

Dana and Dudley had been dog-free for about a year and were ready to adopt again. Their application for



**GEORGE (LEFT) & LILY ON A BEACH WALK**

George was accepted, they came to meet him and were immediately taken with both dogs. He and Lily were beautiful, smart, and affectionate. George was very active and playful, and they chose to adopt him right away. And—to skip to the very best part of the story—they asked to adopt Lily, too, when she was finished raising her eight beautiful babies. George and Lily's foster parents were delighted to know that this bonded pair would be reunited again in their forever family.

Though their rural property near the ocean is fenced, George took up parkour, learning to jump the fence, so some adjustments were necessary

to make it secure. To no one's surprise, his DNA test showed that George is 100% Border Collie. He has gorgeous long hair, a teddy bear personality, and he loves meeting people and other dogs.

Lily is actually the better athlete and is a more “natural herder” between the two—she will stalk and stare, and needs a job to keep her busy. “They are always together,

never more than 10 feet apart,” says Dana. “They have excellent play skills and enjoy each other so much.”

Lily and George can be distracted by deer and cows on neighboring properties, so they stay on leash until they get to the beach. To no one's surprise, the puppies were quickly adopted—one was even adopted by a neighbor they encountered on one of many beach walks!

“George has been with us for four months, and Lily joined us one month ago. She was worth the wait! These are truly good dogs and have brought us so much joy.”



**EIGHT BEAUTIFUL PUPS**

My Way Home Dog Rescue saves dogs from high-kill shelters, providing all necessary medical care and home-based fostering. These dogs often have long-neglected chronic conditions. Returning them to good health takes a commitment to providing as much care as each animal needs. If you'd like to foster, adopt, or donate towards the care of a rescued dog, please contact [mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com](mailto:mywayhomedogrescue@gmail.com).

## ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

March-April-May: We rescued and cared for 12 cats and kittens, including veterinary exams, hospital care, vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and more. We placed 22 cats and kittens in loving, responsible homes.

Major expenses for the quarter were:

**Veterinary:** \$3421.54

**Food/Supplies:** \$4,680.60

**Newsletter:** \$2203.15



**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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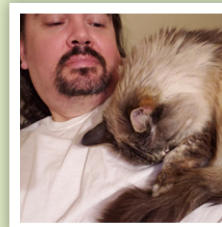
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Animal Rescue & Care Fund is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded solely by private donations. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 51-0137768. A board of directors makes decisions on policy and activities. All funds are used to support our programs, including publishing this quarterly newsletter.

## Bubbles

I met Bubbles in 2007 at his ARCF foster home. Bubbles (then called Blue) was timid but he stared at me with his big blue eyes. I asked, "Do you want to come and live with me? I'll take care of you." He decided then and there that I was his dad. He proceeded to sleep directly on me for the next sixteen-and-a-half years. He loved boxes, blanket forts, and grooming his dad's beard, but most of all, he loved snuggling. In his later years, he was treated for hyperthyroidism and chronic



kidney disease. Last January he suddenly stopped eating and it was time to let him go. I thought ARCF would give me a pet, but they gave me my son, who lived to the grand old age of 20-1/2, and gave me a lifetime of memories and love. As much as my heart hurts at losing him, I wouldn't hesitate to do it all over again.

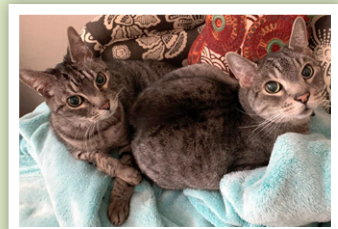
—Taylor Ivie

## Wally & Henry

*We recently received a donation in memory of two very special ARCF cats, along with this note:*



Henry and Wally came into our lives in 2004 as our 16-year-old tabby was reaching the end of her days. We knew our young daughters would be heartbroken at losing her, so we wanted new kitties to add to our family. We saw Henry and Wally's little striped faces on the ARCF website and we were hooked. Henry was taller with a super long tail, and a very distinguished nose, whereas Wally was smaller and had the silkiest fur and sassiest meow. While our older cat never really took a liking to them, the boys were inseparable. They were playful and friendly, and eventually even learned to get along with the dog we added to the family years later. They moved with us several times, saw the kids through grade school, high school, and even college. We lost Wally in 2021 at 16 and Henry at 19 last March. They will be missed but we have thousands of pictures of them to remember them by. Thanks for bringing these guys into our lives.



—David, Erika, Elizabeth, and Lilia Jennings

One of the heartbreaking responsibilities that comes with pet ownership is having to make the difficult choice of when our furry family members leave the world, and us. When the time comes to help your ill or elderly pet leave the world without pain, it may bring comfort for you and your pet to have humane euthanasia administered at home by veterinarians who make house calls for this purpose. Here are some Portland-area vets who provide this service:

**Compassionate Care, Dr. Lori Gibson,**  
503-880-1172, [drlorigibson.com](http://drlorigibson.com)

**Vet to Pet, Dr. Laura Chang,**  
503-757-6124, [vettopet.net](http://vettopet.net)

**At Home Veterinary Services, Dr. Louise Mesher,**  
503-281-1631, [pdxhomevet.com](http://pdxhomevet.com)



## SUCCESS STORIES

*Last summer we were asked to help a group of neighbors caring for a family of community cats on their block. They needed help to trap, neuter, and return (TNR) the truly feral cats that could never adapt to a life close with humans, and to trap and socialize those cats that were friendly enough to adapt to being indoor pets.*

*This became our “E” family, including Ernestine, Emerald, and Ethan. We weren’t sure if they were siblings, cousins, or “chosen family,” but all were very sweet and agreeable to living indoors with humans. We provided all necessary vet care, got our new recruits settled in foster homes, and started the search for their forever families.*

*Linda was looking for an affectionate and bonded pair of cats and offered the enticing bonus of a lovely catio at her home. We invited her to meet Emerald and Ethan and soon they were on their way. Ethan quickly adjusted to his new home, but Emmy was a bit timid. She spent some days in hiding, but Ethan checked on her frequently and slept with her each night. Pro tip: “Da Bird” toy is a fabulous icebreaker for helping shy kitties build social skills, and it was the secret sauce that lured Emmy out to join the fun.*



**PAWPAW (LEFT) & EMMY**

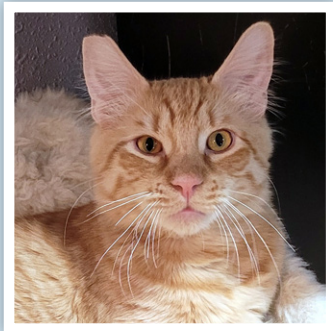


**CATIO CATS**

### **Emmy & Pawpaw** (formerly Emerald & Ethan)

Thank you so much for Emmy and Pawpaw (formerly Emerald and Ethan). I want to especially thank all the foster parents, vets, and other volunteers for their excellent care and socializing for this loveable pair. I can cut their toenails and pet their tummies. They groom each other and me. And they fall asleep on my lap and purr, purr, purr. Thank you for these little angels.

—Linda Williams



**FINNEGAN**

### **Finnegan & Freya** (formerly Fiona)

*We’re not sure how Finnegan and Fiona ended up living in a tent in the woods with their person, but with kittens on the way they needed more care than he could provide. We realized this was a very special pair and are grateful their human loved them enough to want them to have the best life possible.*

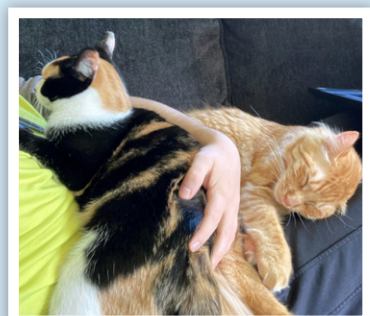
*Meanwhile, Ben was looking for a bonded pair of young adult cats who were cuddly and playful. He had mild allergic reactions to certain cats,*

*so we invited him to spend some time with Finnegan and Fiona. Like everyone who met them, Ben fell in love instantly and we were relieved when, after 24 hours, Ben didn’t feel any allergy symptoms. He soon returned for his new family members.*

Finnegan and Freya (formerly Fiona) have been amazing! I absolutely love these cats. They are still very playful and eager to chase the wand toy or the laser pointer every night after their dinner. Finnegan knows exactly where those toys are kept and will jump up right next to the drawer and look at me expectantly when he’s ready to play! They’re both very lovey in their downtime and will happily sit on my lap or tucked right next to me for a nap on the couch. And they seem quite happy with the house too, with some big windows to look out of and room to chase each other back and forth down the hallway. Overall, I’m really happy to have them in my home, and want to say thanks a bunch for giving me the opportunity to be their person!



**FREYA**



**LAP TIME**

—Ben Dingman

## SUCCESS STORIES



LILY

*Our friend Donaleen lost her beloved cat Harpo and couldn't bear to spend another day without a cat in her lap. Ernestine was a calm and well-behaved lady of a certain age, known to enjoy a lot of lap time, and we had a feeling it would be a good match.*

### **Lily** (formerly Ernestine)

I am so happy to have Lily in my life. She has adapted so well to her new life. She is a great companion. She is very playful and affectionate. She sleeps curled beside me and often gets in my lap. She likes to watch videos, especially of squirrels and birds and mice. She plays a lot with her twisties (twisted up pipe cleaners). After just five months, we are closely bonded. I adore her.

—Donaleen Kohn



EAT, PLAY, NAP

*Our regular readers know we always adopt our kittens out in pairs—entering new spaces with a trusted buddy helps make them feel secure, plus kittens tend to tire each other out, which prevents them from getting into greater mischief climbing your drapes. When we don't rescue a pair together we try to match up singletons who need friends. Vern was found wandering a mobile home park, one among many cats claimed by no people. Chipmunk was found in similar circumstances by a partner rescue group, so we invited her to join Vern. It wasn't love at first sight, but with patient introduction they realized that life is better with a buddy and became inseparable.*



JUST KIDS

### **Vinnie & Besa** (formerly Vern & Chipmunk)

We adopted Vinnie and Besa as kittens in September 2023. While they are not siblings, they quickly bonded and have adjusted well to life with our family!

We love these new additions, and it is our first time owning two cats at once which brings much entertainment and love. Vinnie is a character, and he loves to wrestle and roughhouse with us and his sister. He is very friendly and has soft fluffy fur. His favorite toys are Q-tips, and he loves to steal the lip balm from our nightstands and hide them away. He also enjoys playing in a tunnel tube and eating all the treats he can get.

Besa is a sweet girl who loves to be pet on her own terms. She jumps on our laps while her brother is sleeping to get all the attention she can without

him around. I work from home, and she is part of many Zoom meetings, getting snuggle time on my lap. She loves to watch the birds outside the window, and her favorite toys are plastic springs and a bell toy on a stick. She also likes to play chase and hide. Diving into a fresh load of warm laundry from the dryer is definitely her happy place!

—Jon & Emily Barker



BESA (LEFT) & VINNIE



### Derek, Walter, and Eddie: Our FIP Warriors

For as long as we have been rescuing and caring for cats, Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) has been a crushing diagnosis. With no vaccine and no treatment, it has always been a fatal diagnosis. In the past, ARCF hasn't encountered FIP often in our foster cats and kittens—at most one or two cases per year. But for reasons no one understands yet, FIP is becoming more common and we've helped three cats with FIP in the last year. It's expensive and challenging to provide treatment for FIP, but we're dedicated to saving those lives we can with the help of generous supporters and volunteers.

Until now, FIP treatment has been experimental and medications weren't approved for veterinary use in the USA. But as of June 1, 2024, oral medication for FIP is available in the USA and can be prescribed by any licensed veterinarian. This is great news for rescuers and cat parents everywhere. While costs are still high, the anti-viral drugs have been tested on cat populations around the world, and about 80% of treated cats are cured following treatment.

The treatment requires daily injections of the anti-viral medication for 84 days, with bloodwork completed at 30, 60, and 80 days. Based on lab results, dosages may be adjusted, and injections may be replaced with oral medication at some point during the treatment. After 84 days, if bloodwork and physical condition of the cat show adequate response to the treatment, another 84 days of observation is required. If no relapse occurs, the cat is considered cured.

A national network of knowledgeable volunteers organized a Facebook group called FIP Warriors® 5.0. Their mission is to support cat parents with step-by-step training in the treatment protocols when their cats receive a FIP diagnosis. The cat patients are called warriors and this group provides invaluable support through the whole process.

They made it possible for ARCF volunteers to treat our three warriors, when there was no traditional veterinary care available.

#### What is FIP?

FIP is caused by a common coronavirus found in the intestines of most cats over nine weeks of age. In about 10% of cats, the virus mutates outside the lower intestine and causes infection. In those cases, about 99% of cats will fight off the infection. In the remaining 1%, symptoms may appear within



DEREK

days, weeks, months, or even years. In the past, duration of illness to death was often a matter of days.

#### What are the symptoms?

There are two forms of FIP, wet and dry, depending on where in the body the mutated virus ends up. The wet form is far more common and more severe. It typically presents as an accumulation of fluid in the abdominal or chest cavities. This is the symptom most commonly noticed by our foster volunteers—kittens develop big, squishy bellies without normal growth on the rest of their bodies. Symptoms of the dry form are less noticeable and may include tumor-like lesions on the organs, including eyes and brain, causing neurological issues.

#### Is FIP contagious?

Based on clinical observations and research, cats with FIP do not appear to

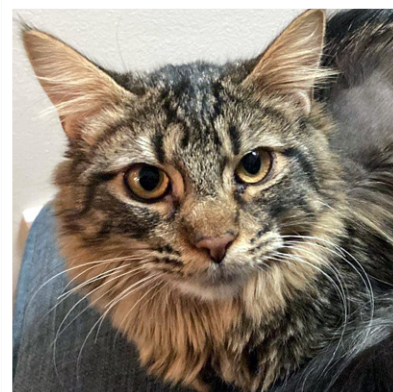
be very contagious to cats they come in contact with. The highest number of FIP cases typically come from breeder catteries and other overcrowded conditions. This is not an issue for ARCF—we limit the number of cats and kittens in our foster homes. We also keep litters isolated, provide good nutrition, and carefully sanitize all equipment and bedding.

#### How are the ARCF Warriors doing?

**Derek** was our first warrior. He had the wet version of FIP, completed treatment, and is now one-year cured!

Derek's foster mom Anne Malinowski taught herself how to give the injections, which are big and painful. At first FIP cats are usually too weak to resist, but each day as they grow stronger, giving injections becomes more challenging. One helpful tip is to give recipients a "reverse Mohawk," making it easier to see and monitor injection sites by shaving a strip on either side of a cat's backbone. Derek is now a big, handsome tuxedo boy, his Mohawk is all grown out, and although we love him dearly, it's time for Derek to meet his forever family. We'd be happy to tell you more about him.

**Walter** was adopted from ARCF with his brother Wiggins at the end of 2023. They were sociable and cuddly and settled in quickly, but their new family soon noticed that something wasn't right with Walter. Wiggins kept growing, but Walter seemed to be shrinking. Jakub and Melissa were



WALTER

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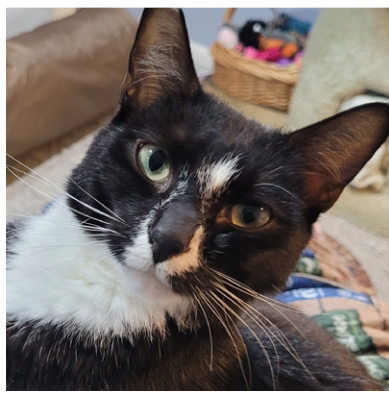
## THINGS WE LIKE

experienced cat parents and let us know their concerns.

*“Walter wasn’t particularly interested in food, and feeding him quickly became a chore, especially considering how eagerly Wiggins would devour Walter’s portion. At their first vet visit Wiggins came in at a healthy 10 pounds but Walter weighed less than six pounds!*

*Examination showed suspicious masses in his abdomen and his blood work also came back with red flags. With no improvement, the next step was ultrasound. The diagnosis of FIP was taking shape. We found the FIP Warriors® 5.0 group on Facebook and learned about what would be required for treatment.*

*ARCF offered to pay for Walter’s medication, so the financial strain on us was minimal, and an ARCF volunteer (Anne, who had treated Derek) came to*



EDDIE

*our house with medicine and training to get us started on treatment.*

*It’s very important to start as soon as possible after diagnosis, to knock down the virus before it has done irreversible damage.*

*Within a couple of weeks, we saw big improvement! We were able to switch him to oral medication as he became stronger. Walter has just finished his 84 days of treatment and entered the observation phase. He now weighs 9.5 pounds, up from his starting weight of 5.8 pounds, and appears headed for a full recovery.”*

We are grateful to Jakub and Melissa (and Wiggins) for committing to caring for Walter through the many months of treatment and recovery and we wish them a long and happy life together.

**Eddie** was also adopted as a husky teenager full of energy, but after a few weeks he lost appetite, energy, and a lot of weight—serious symptoms that can point to a diagnosis of FIP. Like Walter, Eddie has the dry version, evidenced by a mass in his abdomen. We welcomed him back to our care, and immediately began the intensive treatment protocol.



WALTER & WIGGINS

It’s only been a few days, but he’s already feeling better, and we are committed to providing everything he needs to be healthy again. By our next update, we expect Eddie will have completed his 84 days of treatment and be well on his way to recovery.

### Resources:

SOCKFIP.org  
(general information on FIP and treatment)

FIP Warriors® 5.0 on Facebook  
(specific guidance for individual cats and cat parents)

## 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.

**Make a secure online donation using a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account. Save time and postage! Visit our website for more details: [www.pdx-petadoption.org](http://www.pdx-petadoption.org).**

☐ I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ for humane work. (\$35 sponsors an animal, but we appreciate any amount.)

☐ I’m interested in being a volunteer. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_ .

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