

THE MEWS

Online News for all the Friends of Furry Friends August 2023

Furry
Friends



Helping homeless and abused cats

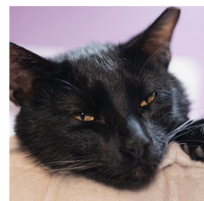
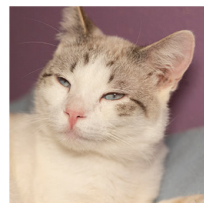
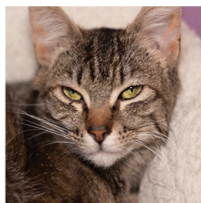
www.furryfriendswa.org

Dear Friends,

We have had a busy summer so far. Lots of events and adoptions. Last year we had adopted out 506 cats and kittens for the entire year, looks like we are on schedule to pass that amount for this year. We are only able to do that because of **YOU** and your support with your time, talents and finances. Thank you for helping so many kitties.

327

ADOPTIONS
of Cats and Kittens
January to
July 16, 2023



Adoptions

From January 1 to July 16, we placed 327 cats and kittens. We continue to get busier and busier. Yes we have been adopting out a record number of cats and kittens, but keep in mind that it has never been about reaching higher numbers for us. We will take in as many cats as we can responsibly take care of and we look to have these cats go to their perfect home. We will fully disclose what we know about each cat and try to find a good fit during the adoption process. We don't want the cats to be returned, it is very disruptive to them. It is important for both cats and guardians to be happy with the situation.

Adoption Event Report

We had 13 adoptions at the All Natural Pet Adoption Event on July 15! Thank you to everyone who came out to see us and thank you to All Natural Pet for hosting this event for us. Mark your calendars for the next event September 2.

Cat/kitten count update!

We have a lot of kitties in our care right now.

119 🐾 kittens in fosters (under 6 months)

32 🐾 six months-12 years old at our shelter

21 🐾 adults in foster (moms, perm fosters, medical cases)

172 cats & kittens currently under our care ❤️ Your donations make it possible for us to continue this life saving work! <https://furryfriendswa.org/donate/>



Our own board member and sponsor **Marci Koski** was featured in The Columbian Newspaper!

"I had a really great interview with Monika Ruth Spykerman about the work I do with Feline Behavior Solutions. My cats were mostly uncooperative for the photographer but I'm so happy with the way the article came out!

"If dogs charm us with their transparent desires, then perhaps cats are beloved because they're so mysterious. Why do they do the odd and sometimes aggravating things they do? And how can they be so adorable while getting up to such mischief?"

The second question is easy. It's because cats are really, really cute. With 4,500 cats licensed in Clark County, that's a lot of kitty cuteness — and a lot of potentially baffling behavior. Vancouver cat behavior expert Marci Koski spends her days helping “cat guardians” (as Koski prefers to say) understand just what's going on inside their felines' furry little heads.

“When a cat has behavior issues, that cat is really saying, ‘Something is wrong in my environment. My needs are not getting met,’ ” said Koski, owner of Feline Behavior Solutions. “All I do is work with people to help them better understand the cat's needs.”

READ MORE HERE <https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/jun/22/vancouver-cat-behaviorist-helps-guardians-get-purr-fectly-in-tune-with-kitties/?fbclid=IwAR32sTH4b4WI4F9D2bSVTs904U66LiBdlwtdVLWRN3dio-AFAQu-kO1qF-s>



We are so lucky to have the volunteers we have! One of our volunteers, **Jim Grafmyre**, builds us amazing things! He built us this multi functional cabinetry for our cat rooms. This will give us more storage to keep items separated, a stoop for the cats to be able to get on to their catios, and built-in bed areas. He also built these wall shelves the cats love! We like the cats to have their own things while

they are here so it's nice to have areas for their stuff. Samwise is a churu lover so now he has a shelf for his treats.

Thank you to everyone who donated a new scratcher post! These things really help us keep our shelter clean and our cats healthy and happy!

Jim is also replacing a lot of our old windows with energy efficient windows. It is a big job and we are so grateful that he has taken it on.



Mark Hircock of Royal Meow Castles for Cats has been a volunteer and supporter of Furry Friends for many years. The Columbian just did a fabulous story about him. He is a wonderful person and does awesome work.

Working in Clark County: Mark Hircock, Royal Meow Cat Castles

By Hope Martinez, Columbian news assistant

Dedicated cat owners can attest that Clark County's furry friends deserve the absolute best. For fancy felines in search of the finest furniture, any old cat tree simply won't do. If one is looking for a cat scratcher fit for a king or queen, look no further than Royal Meow Castles for Cats.

Mark Hircock is the owner, creator, and "domestic feline habitat enhancement specialist" behind Royal Meow. From simple cat scratchers, cat trees, to full cat patios or "catios," Hircock has built it all.

READ MORE HERE <https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/jun/26/working-in-clark-county-mark-hircock-royal-meow-cat-castles/?fbclid=IwAR1rtx1B-F83WL6FG8Z2QphxwUvOMAU63lx4atoEmCj7pO6to2Zs6R4ndE8>



Furry Friends Rescues Cats from hoarding situations

In 2023 Furry Friends has dived paws-first into hoarding cases and has made a life-saving difference for hundreds of kitties' lives. From Jan-July we have taken in 114 cats and kittens from only FOUR separate hoarding situations. These felines have ranged in ages from newborns up to 12 years old with a range of medical conditions. These medical conditions include: Upper respiratory infections, giardia, ringworm, coccidia, panleukopenia, hernias, malnutrition and diarrhea, calici virus, ear mites, fleas, anemia, pneumonia, and, of course, not being altered. Just the bare minimum medical care, shelter, and feeding costs over \$57,000 to take care of these kitties.

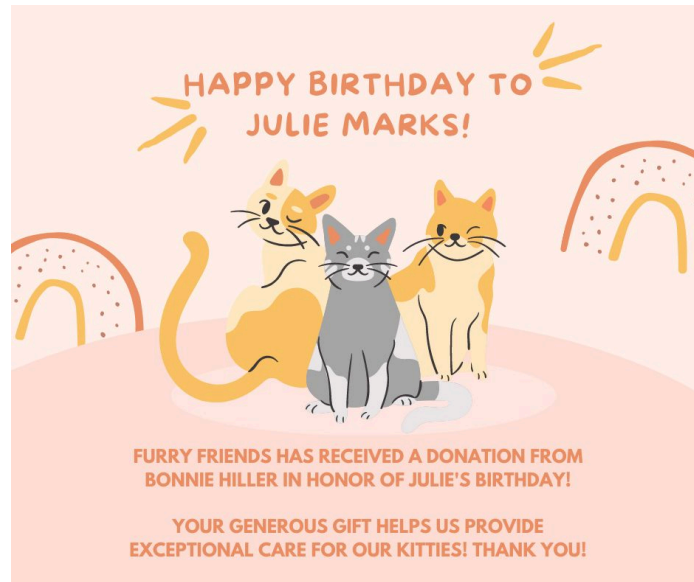
This does not include any of the medical care needed above the normal that we do for every cat and kitten in our care. Three kittens out of the 114 we took in did not make it. Their sickness was unfortunately too far advanced and they could not be saved. We were too late for 3 but saved 111, how many more are we too late for? We only take on as many as we can financially, emotionally, and physically handle and in reality the cat and kitten population is beyond us, alone. That is why we need you! These cats and kittens did not need to be in this situation. This is a direct result of not spaying and neutering! Help us help these cats and kittens that have no voice and no choice on how they live. Help us be their voice!

The in-person 'HISS' auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are supported only by our sponsors, donors and some small grants. We get no funding from the city, state or other organization. Our yearly budget is about \$350,000.

Spay/Neuter Supplies

Did you know Furry friends partners with another Shelter for spay neuter services. Our own Executive Director, Jenn, volunteers one or two days every week at this clinic! They go through alot of med supplies there, as you can imagine. If you would like to help this clinic (and Furry friends kitties who go there) check out our Amazon wishlist! Many items are not costly but when seeing 50+ Cats each week it goes quickly! ❤️

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1JNX8L8KQN4E1?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR0-GysU-R4uxpKHjT4mub5LP5TaR5Fqu15-q7KnpPD1VUZtu5elQu2Z4L4



Furry Friends has received a donation from Bonnie Hiller in honor of Julie's birthday! Your generous gift helps us provide exceptional care for our kitties! Thank you!

If you're interested in making a tribute or memorial donation, you can do so through Paypal, at Paypal.me/furryfriendswa, or by mailing a check to 6715 Ne 63rd St., Suite 450, Vancouver, WA 98661.

Include the honoree's name in the payment memo, then send a picture to information@furryfriendswa.org if you'd like one to be featured.

HISS

**SEPTEMBER 16
2023**

In person
auction
to be held
at the
Heathman Lodge
in
Vancouver, WA
September 16, 2023

15TH ANNUAL AUCTION FUNDRAISER
Benefiting Furry Friends

furryfriendswa.org/HISS

Tickets are available now for the Furry Friends Annual Dinner and Auction

Tickets are now available online for \$90 each for the Furry Friends annual in person dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, September 16 at the The Heathman Lodge. When you go to the ticket page you will be able to enter your vegetarian or vegan dinner choice.

Complimentary coffee, tea, water and lemonade will be available. There will be two no host bars conveniently located. Purchase Tickets Here: <https://event.auctria.com/42d1fa6d-3949-4e33-9fdd-11e3fd7d7321/a809178051b511ea91bae14d12592328>



Looking for Gift Cards for a Stuff the Backpack Event

Are you looking for something to donate for the Furry Friends fall 'HISS' auction, but not sure what? We are collecting gift cards, cash and valuables for an event that will be played at the auction! The gift card can be for a restaurant, big box store or online store or just about anything! Just drop it in the mail, leave it at the Halfway House or drop it off at Woodin' You in an envelope addressed to Furry Friends "HISS fall auction".

The Coach Backpack alone is valued at \$400. This item will be presented in the live auction and the contents of the backpack will be a mystery.

Furry Friends Mailing address: 6715 NE 63rd St., Suite 450, Vancouver, WA 98661

Woodin' You Pampered Paws, 13305 NE Hwy 99 #102, Vancouver, WA 98686, To drop off items

The **in person** auction which will be a rock and roll theme called 'HISS' will be held at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver on Saturday, September 16, 2023.

The 'HISS' Auction will be here before you know it

Furry Friends is hosting its 15th annual in person dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, September 16 from 5 pm to 9 pm at the The Heathman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Drive, Vancouver, WA. 98662. Furry Friends will be celebrating their 24rd year of operation.

The annual auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It is important that we all do what we can to make this event a success. We will focus on raising funds for the kitties' medical needs. In 2022 we spent \$166,000 on medical-related costs for 540 cats. We anticipate spending more than that for 2023.

We have sent out a special auction newsletter which will tell you about all the festivities and details of this event. Visit the auction newsletter here <https://mailchi.mp/5486d5bc9262/furry-friends-hiss-auction?e=958ed0a347>

furryfriendswa.org/HISS



Procurement Questions: Lisa Baxter auction@furryfriendswa.org
Auction Questions: Chris Nash ffauction@icloud.com
Sponsorship Information: Diane Stevens news@furryfriendswa.org



3 Night Stay at Welch Cabin in Kalama, WA

Value: \$1600



If you slow down you will hear nature: song birds and eagles, water gurgling through the rocky rapids, a cougar scream or a bolt of lightning arcing into the nearby mountain tops. And best of all, a gentle mountain breeze in fir trees soaring 50 feet directly above you.



This one-of-a kind Welch Cabin is 90 feet above the fabled 'Holy Waters' of the unique Kalama River and sits on 19 acres of preserved forest. There is easy access to the gin-clear river. For over 20 years The Cabin was 'off the grid'. In 2022 renovations were made that retain the wilderness aspects but add important modern conveniences; processed water from our creek, 'his' and 'her' Bio-Toilets along with hot showers, WI-FI and a modern kitchen. The Welch Cabin is accessible by the paved and winding Kalama River Road, just 10 miles from the town of Kalama WA. This property is in a full conservation easement and while no neighbors are within sight, other homes are less than a mile away.



Amenities offered: fireplace, coffee/tea makers. sofa beds and dining table, refrigerator, gas stove, cookware/dishes/utensils. Outdoor bathrooms include bio toilet and a shower with hot water.

****Bonus! 2 kayaks will be offered at no charge for your stay!**

We are getting some fabulous items in for our **LIVE AUCTION** such as this 3 night stay in Kalama. Take a look at this video to get an idea of this fabulous getaway <https://youtu.be/-zdUEHbOhul>

You must be present at the 'HISS' live auction to bid on this item.



Upcoming Events

Save the date for the following events. We will share more information as the dates get closer. Furry Friends will have info tables and merchandise at all of them. If you have any handmade items that we can sell, please contact us at information@furryfriendswa.org or let us know if you would like to volunteer at one of these events.

September 2: Furry Friends Adoption event at All Natural Pet. Details to come.

September 2: Multicultural Event- Ridgefield. Come celebrate our diverse community at the 6th annual Multicultural Festival! The 2023 Multicultural Festival will include performances, crafts and activities, First Saturday and Farmers Market vendors, and more! Stay tuned as we near the event for the schedule.

September 9: Peace and Justice Fair is held at Esther Short Park, 301 West 8th Street in Vancouver, WA. We will have an information booth and sell Furry Friends merchandise. We have chosen not to bring the cats to the event since it is so stressful for them.

September 16: 'HISS' in person auction. See the promo for it above.

September 11 to 17: ONLINE auction. This is in conjunction with the Hiss auction. Details to come.

October 7: BirdFest & Bluegrass is a joint event planned in a partnership between the City of Ridgefield and the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge that includes vendors, community and birding activities, and a Bluegrass Pickers Festival. Furry Friends will have a booth at this event.

Furry Friends Resources

- **Amazon Wish List** https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/WE783999BG1W?ref_=wl_share
- **Fall Auction Amazon Wish List**
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/DI6I4R46KQ49?ref_=wl_share
- **Donations** <https://furryfriendswa.org/donate/> or [Paypal.me/furryfriendswa](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://furryfriendswa.org/donate/)
- **Adopt A Pet** <https://www.adoptapet.com/shelter71378-pets.html>
- **Cat Tale Stories Blog** <https://blogs.columbian.com/cat-tales/category/cat-tales/>

- **FF Adoptable Cats Facebook Page** https://www.facebook.com/groups/590223832702067/?ref=share_group_link
- **Volunteer Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/534750527361316/>
This is a different page than our public Facebook page.
- **Foster Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/668989080549946/>
- **Public Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/furryfriendswa> We post daily news to this page.
- **HH Shift leader Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/458843792698182/>
- **FF YouTube Channel** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChfBIX6lOMIEseSxK9f27dw/videos>
- **FF T-Shirts & Merchandise** <https://www.teepublic.com/user/furryfriends>
- **FF Twitter account** <https://twitter.com/furryfriendswa>
- **FF Instagram account** <https://www.instagram.com/furryfriendswa/>
- **FF TikTok account** <https://www.tiktok.com/@furryfriendswa>
- **Fundraising Ideas** <https://bit.ly/FFFundraisingSurvey> submit idea you may have.
- **Drop off location for items:**
 - **Woodin' You Pampered Paws**, 13305 NE Hwy 99 #102, Vancouver, WA 98686, is a fabulous pet care store located in Salmon Creek. The store is open Monday-Friday from 9am-7pm and Saturday from 9am-6pm. (360) 571-0082
 - Contact information@furryfriendswa.org to arrange another location for drop off



FurryFriendsWa.org

 Furry Friends Helping homeless and abused cats 			
Furry Friends Premiere Sponsors			
	<p>Dr Virginia Huang Has been a proud mentor and supporter to Furry Friends for over 14 years.</p> 		<p>IRON GATE STORAGE</p> <p>Glen Aronson Has been a proud mentor and supporter to Furry Friends for over 12 years.</p> <p>Iron Gate Storage has nine locations to serve you in the greater Vancouver and Portland areas.</p> <p>www.irongatestorage.com</p>
Platinum Sponsors		Platinum Sponsors	
	 <p>Joe & Michelle Kennedy 600 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665 info@crystalip.com 503-530-1316 https://crystalip.com/</p>		<p>FRONT DOOR Realty <small>Certified Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB & WOSBE)</small></p> <p>501 E McLoughlin Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98663 (360) 450-4486 Info@FrontDoorNW.com www.frontdoornw.com</p>
Gold Sponsors		Silver Sponsors	
 <p>"Keeping Cats in Homes and Out of Shelters" Dr. Marci Koski 503-927-1107 marci@felinebehaviorsolutions.com www.felineBehaviorSolutions.com</p>	 <p>Feline Behavior Solutions</p>	 <p>Bee Sam Beauty Salon 2014 St Johns Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661 (503) 488-0095 beesambeauty.com beesambeauty@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Jason P. Smith CPA, PS Accounting</p> <p>Jason P. Smith, CPA, PS 10000 NE 7th Avenue Suite 400 Vancouver, WA 98685 360-567-1041 jason@mycpajason.com</p>
<p>Visit our website to find out more about sponsorships www.furryfriendswa.org/sponsors/</p>			

Furry Friends depends upon the kindness of our friends and sponsors to keep us going. Thank you all for supporting the kitties.

Having trouble receiving the newsletter?

If you have trouble receiving the newsletter in your inbox, enter news@furryfriendswa.org into your contact list and that should solve the problem. This newsletter is compiled by Diane Stevens.

Jaimie Garver, President, Operations
Brandi Towner, Vice President & Adoption/intake team, Sponsorships
Linda Rader, Adoption/Foster Coordinator
Cynthia Johnson, Treasurer,
Diane Stevens, Public Relations and Marketing, social media, newsletters, photography, creative director
Marci Koski, Feline behaviorist
Danielle Chancey, Secretary, Fundraising and Events

Other Leadership:

Jenn Hutchman, Executive Director, Community Outreach, Adoption/intake Coordinator, Med team/scheduler
Jazmynn Hoffman, House Manager, Volunteer Support/intake team
Tanika Campbell, General Manager/Adoptions Coordinator
Chris Nash, Auction Lead
Gail Bauhs, Cat Socializer Lead
Kelli Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator