

# Holiday 2021



Dear Friend of the Pet Paw-See,

In this season of joyous giving, we thank all of our volunteers, foster families, and donors for the much-needed gifts of time, compassion, and funds they give throughout the year for the care of the abandoned and abused felines in our community. Many thanks also to the generous people who open their hearts and their homes to give these pets the loving homes they deserve.



## Miracles DO Happen!

Imagine closing on your new home, walking inside, breathing a deep sigh of relief that the stressful homebuying process is over and ... hearing a weak meow coming from the walls?! This was the reality one local homebuyer faced this year. Their realtor called us when they realized what was going on and, after cutting a hole in the wall and an air duct, a very emaciated, dehydrated, weak, orange and white cat was extracted. Her nose and eyes were crusted from dehydration and she was completely immobile. She was hanging on by a thread by the time she was found—which was **six weeks** after the previous owner had moved out.

The cat was taken to Big Sky Vet where they immediately placed an IV to begin rehydrating her and worked to get her stable. Her survival was tenuous at first. No one knew how she had endured such an ordeal in the first place, let alone whether she would be able to successfully recover. However, with time and vet care, she not only recovered, but thrived, which is certainly nothing short of a miracle. Hence her name, Arabella, which is Latin for “answered prayer.” The before and after pictures speak volumes to her tenacity and resiliency.

When she was well enough, Arabella moved to a foster home with the Pet Paw-see, and then into a foster-to-adopt home with a family. She continued to thrive and her adoption was finalized on August 7th! She is now living out her golden years with her furry siblings, another cat and three dogs, and a family who is downright enamored with her.

**We were fortunate to be able to give Arabella a second chance at life. Rescues like these would be impossible without the help of our generous donors, foster families, and volunteers.**



Arabella  
“Answered Prayer”



Thank you for  
helping me!





## Three's Company

In August 2017, we adopted out a fluffy black kitten named Prue, but she was returned about a year later when her adopter fell on hard times. When she came

back, she was very skittish and gave “love bites” when she got spooked by noises, sudden movements, or if you dared to reach over her head. We feared finding her next family would be difficult because of this, and knew she would need someone who'd have the patience and compassion to look past her outbursts and see her for the sweet kitty she really is.

Eventually in February 2021, a couple was interested in Prue and felt that since she had been with us the longest, she was most deserving of a home. We crossed our fingers and waited to hear how the adoption would go. Then we heard from her new family ... SUCCESS! **After 480 LONG DAYS back with Pet Paw-see, Prue had finally found her happily ever after.** Little did we know, that wasn't the last we'd be seeing of Prue's adopters!

A few weeks prior to Prue's adoption, another sassy cat we named Kiswanna came to Pet Paw-see after being trapped in a U-Haul pod. Although she looked well-kept, she acted quite feral, making it clear in no uncertain terms that she thought humans were the enemy. She went into a foster home where our foster mom worked with her tirelessly to befriend her and make her adoptable. Then, in June 2021, Prue's adopters came back to us looking for a feline friend for Prue. They wanted to meet Kiswanna. Though Kiswanna was still guarded, they saw her potential and knew she needed a good home regardless of whether she would be outgoing or not. They made plans to adopt Kiswanna once they closed on their new home.

In the interim, Kiswanna's foster home took in a foster kitten named Drei, who had been left at the vet by his owners with obvious head trauma and a leg that had been broken so badly it had to be amputated. During their time in foster care, Kiswanna became quite bonded with Drei, and it seemed that he helped her to overcome some of her fear. When we informed Kiswanna's future family, they didn't even hesitate—Kiswanna and Drei would both go on to live out their happily ever after with Prue!



These days, Prue, Kiswanna (now Sassy), and Drei (now Turkey) enjoy a charmed life with their very special family

who appreciates their quirks and loves them all the more for their unique personalities! Prue no longer reacts with “love bites” and instead loves treat time. Her doting parents like to make her a “Queen's Spot” on their bed near the window where she can catnap her days away. Her family says, “She is the cutest thing alive and we absolutely love her company.”

Sassy's socialization continues to improve by leaps and bounds; no doubt helped by still having her buddy Turkey by her side. She likes to spend her time tucked away under blankets or hanging out in her cat tree, and will even grace her parents with purrs. Turkey is a fun-loving little guy who is the most active and outgoing, and adores all the pets and scratches that his parents shower upon him.

**We think these three kitties have hit the jackpot with their new family! No matter how “unadoptable” a cat may seem, we never give up. Sometimes it takes a very long time, but we relentlessly search for the right person or family who can see beyond the cat's unique challenges and give these felines the love and opportunity they need to blossom.**



**Without a doubt, Pet Paw-see's mission would be impossible without our dedicated cadre of volunteers. Thank you for helping and caring when others turn a blind eye. Thank you to those who foster, provide transportation to and from vets and boarding, process adoption applications, spend their Saturdays at adopt-a-thons, clean cat habitats, fundraise, promote our cats on social media and the website, and every other task that keeps Pet Paw-see up and running.**



***No job or act of kindness goes unnoticed—by our organization, or our felines!***





## Kyuen ... You are not forgotten

**Just when we thought we'd seen everything, we received a call in early August concerning a tiny Siamese kitten who'd been found in Dick's RV Park, drenched in tar.** At only 10 to 12 weeks, he was in a fight for his life and was immediately rushed to Big Sky Vet Hospital for care. The team at Big Sky worked around the clock, giving him baths every few hours, attempting to remove as much tar as possible. It was a slow, arduous process for both the vet team and Kyuen himself. His skin was sensitive from the tar and his small body tired and got cold easily, necessitating breaks in a warming cage so he could keep his body temperature up. Despite his pain, Kyuen was a patient kitten who enjoyed the tasty treats that the vet techs would distract him with during baths, and he'd snuggle with his stuffed animal in his kennel at night.

Initially, Kyuen's prognosis was cautiously optimistic. The vet saw no obvious evidence of burns, and he seemed to be doing well, all things considered. We identified a foster home for him, knowing that recovery would be a slow process, requiring a lot of TLC. Sadly though, four days after he was found, he took a sudden turn for the worse. As more tar had been washed away, thermal burns had been discovered and he was beginning to struggle. At 3:49 in the morning, Big Sky called us, warning that he likely wouldn't survive much longer. His foster mom immediately went to be with him as he was helped to pass.

Upon further investigation, we believe Kyuen accidentally fell into an open bucket of tar, and that this was not a malicious or intentional act. Regardless, Kyuen's suffering was a senseless tragedy that could have been prevented through responsible pet ownership. We hope that someone reading this can learn two valuable lessons from Kyuen:

- 1) **Don't let your cats free-roam.** Dangers abound outdoors. Cars, predators, poison, malicious humans, dogs, etc. Even the dangers you'd never think about—like an open bucket of tar.
- 2) **Spay and neuter your pets!** If Kyuen's mother had been spayed, he would have never found himself in the situation of being a curious kitten in a great big world of danger.

**Please don't let Kyuen's death be in vain. Practice responsible pet ownership. If you see an animal in need, speak up and step in; you will be their guardian angel. It takes a village to help our homeless and abandoned animals, Great Falls!**

## So many more tales to tell ...

Learn about Bobo, a senior cat with a physical difference called radial hypoplasia. We were quite smitten with this squitten! Read his happy story on our website.

**[Petpaw-see.com](http://Petpaw-see.com)**





### OUR NEW LOGO

We started out as a rescue for both dogs and cats. A few years ago, we transitioned to cat rescue exclusively. However, our logo included a dog paw print. So, it was time to update the logo. To conserve donor dollars, we will be rolling it out gradually, replacing it only when we run out of printed materials. Thus, we save money and don't waste materials that are still serviceable.



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### LOOKING FOR A FELINE FRIEND?

We are at the Great Falls Petco & PetSmart stores on most Saturdays from Noon-3pm  
**PETPAW-SEE.COM**



**Oh, what a year it's been! This year saw the COVID-19 pandemic wear on, which presented its own set of unique challenges, and some days, the stream of owner returns, stray cats, and litters of kittens seemed endless. As of November 7, we have taken in 142 cats and kittens.**

In addition to the routine spay/neuters, shots, and microchips, many of the cats who came through needed additional medical care such as amputations or critical care after accidents like Kyuen and Arabella, resulting in **vet costs topping \$29,000 through September 30**. Due to the increased influx of cats and the limited number of foster homes, we had to resort to putting many in boarding facilities. Even though we are blessed to partner with great boarding facilities, it still gets pricey, with **our year's boarding costs totaling more than \$9,300**.

In spite of these challenges, we continued to persevere, **finding adoptive homes for 74 cats and 46 kittens!** We were also able to resume adopt-a-thons at PetSmart and Petco, which have undoubtedly helped us to get our wonderful cats out in the public eye and adopted.

**No matter what we face in the upcoming year, we are determined to continue making a difference, one cat at a time.** It is through the support of our generous community that we are able to continue our life-saving efforts. We truly appreciate every donation, big and small, because every penny helps cats and kittens live better lives.

Also, **we are always looking for more foster homes.** Our kittens and sick or injured adult cats rely on these foster homes as a safe place to land until they are old enough or well enough to be adopted. The more foster homes we have, the more lives we can save.

**If you can't donate or foster, we are always looking for more volunteers to help in many different ways**—this year we made the heart-wrenching decision to shut down the Petco habitat due to lack of volunteers to clean. So please, if you've ever considered getting involved, don't wait a second longer—the time to act is now!

**Whatever way you choose to support us—whether by adopting, fostering, volunteering, donating, or selecting us as your Amazon Smile charity, we thank you and wish you the blessings of the season this holiday.**

*For the animals,*

Leslie Raynes,  
Pet Paw-see Founder

For more information, please  
call 406.231.1132.



Boots



Thomas



Hauer

Your thoughtful gift of \$15, \$25, \$50, or more helps us feed and give medical care for our felines awaiting their furrever homes. You can be their hero.

With your generosity, we can help homeless and abandoned cats. [They are depending on us!](#)



Apricat

**These cats have been waiting for so long! We never give up on them.**