

# Shelter Animal Resource Alliance (S.A.R.A.) NEWSLETTER



December  
2025

S.A.R.A.'s Treasures Gift, Thrift, & Cat Adoptions | 871 River Rd, Eugene, OR 97404 | (541) 607-8892 | [www.sarastreasures.org](http://www.sarastreasures.org)

## In this issue:

- 2025 Reflection
- Community Connections
- Meet Florence & Poppy
- The Importance of Feline Dental Health



As 2025 comes to a close, we find ourselves reflecting with deep gratitude on the compassion and generosity that flows from our community. Your support makes our lifesaving work possible every single day. This year, we had the privilege of helping some incredibly special animals—cats who had no one else, and who were scheduled for euthanasia unless S.A.R.A. could step in. Because of you, they are alive, safe, and loved. From the bottom of our hearts, **thank you for believing in us and for giving these animals a second chance.**

This year brought exciting new opportunities for S.A.R.A. to connect with our community in fresh and meaningful ways. We were honored to be featured on KRVM's Focus on Community and in Eugene Weekly's annual Pets Edition, helping us share our mission with a wider audience. We also partnered with several University of Oregon classes and hosted an A3 high school intern, offering students hands-on experience in the nonprofit sector. Meeting young people eager to learn, grow, and contribute has been a true joy, and we are proud to support them as they explore future careers in service and advocacy.

With the holiday season now in full force, we're thrilled to introduce a brand-new fundraiser: S.A.R.A.'s first-ever ***Black CAT Friday Sale!*** This two-week event began on Black Friday and features raffles, give-a-ways, and incredible deals on new and like-new items donated by compassionate individuals and businesses. It's the perfect way to "shop with purrpose" while supporting a great cause. And of course, our beloved Giving Trees are once again brightening several local businesses—offering an easy and heartwarming way to give to animals in need, check out our website for more info. If you're looking for unique holiday gifts, stop by S.A.R.A.'s Treasures for special finds that directly support our rescue efforts. If you're unable to participate in our seasonal events, please know there are still powerful ways to help animals in need.

**The most impactful way to support S.A.R.A. right now is through financial contributions.**

Your donation helps us:

- Save more animals from euthanasia
- Provide medical care to rescued animals
- Transform the lives of vulnerable animals in our community

Every dollar makes a difference—and every animal we save is a testament to your kindness. From all of us at S.A.R.A., **Thank You** for standing with us this year! Your generosity, your compassion, and your belief in our work keep us going. Together, we are building a more humane and hopeful future—one life at a time. *Wishing you a warm, joyful holiday season and a bright new year.*

Kerry Barbero



## A Very Special Thank You

...to family and friends of [Kerry Kaye \(Crane\) Barbero!](#) We are profoundly grateful for the generous donations made in her memory. Kerry was an amazing person and a huge supporter of S.A.R.A.! She was an animal lover and authored a blog featuring one of her own cats, Valentine. As a winner of several blog awards, Kerry always chose S.A.R.A. as the charity-of-choice to receive the winnings. With every opportunity, she used her network to support us. Kerry is also an author of a YA adventure novel that also earns S.A.R.A. a percentage of the proceeds. To learn more about Pirates and pussy cats: *The Hunt For White Tail's Treasure*, check out our website: [sarastreasures.org](http://sarastreasures.org)



Florence, affectionately known as Flo, came to us after a good Samaritan rushed her to Wilvet South emergency veterinary clinic. She was dangerously underweight and believed to be experiencing seizures. Since no one came to claim her, she was scheduled for euthanasia. We acted quickly to bring this petite, social, and remarkably friendly little survivor into our care. Despite her tiny frame, Flo is full of courage and curiosity. Once in our program, further medical evaluation revealed that Flo was severely anemic and suffering from advanced dental disease. After spending time with her, we discovered that the “seizures” initially reported were actually spasms of excruciating oral pain. Eating was nearly impossible; she would frequently paw at her mouth, cry out, and retreat from food in distress. Because she was so ill, Flo first required intensive treatment to stabilize her condition before she could safely undergo dental surgery. After dedicated care and monitoring, she was finally strong enough for a full-mouth extraction—one that would ultimately change her life. Today, Flo is fully healed and thriving. No longer

## Meet Florence! Precious, Perfect, & Petite

burdened by constant pain, she delights in energetic play sessions with her beloved catnip toys and eagerly seeks affection from her caretakers. Seeing her personality shine through—confident, affectionate, and utterly charming—reminds us why this work matters. We are honored to help Flo live the healthy, joyful life she always deserved.



Poppy is a true heart-melter and an expert in the art of lap sitting. After the loss of her caretaker, Poppy and her siblings were brought to a shelter. Unfortunately, due to her history of urinary tract infections and obesity, the shelter declined to admit Poppy because her challenging special needs make her “unadoptable.” With no one willing to take her in, euthanasia became her only remaining option. At S.A.R.A., we specialize in caring for animals with unique medical and behavioral needs, and we were grateful for the opportunity to step in. The moment Poppy entered our rescue, it was clear she deserved a second chance—and a brighter future. Further medical evaluation revealed that, in addition to UTIs and obesity, Poppy was suffering from severe dental disease. Before she could safely undergo surgery, she would need to lose five pounds—a goal that would also greatly benefit her overall health. By transitioning her to a kibble-free, species-appropriate diet, she reached her goal steadily and safely. An added bonus is that her UTIs have not returned during her time with us.

## Meet Poppy! Professional Lap Cat

Poppy required the extraction of all her teeth except her four canines. Today, she is fully healed and thriving. Without pain holding her back, she has blossomed into a playful, social, and affectionate cat who loves batting around catnip toys, greeting every visitor, and, of course, settling into any available lap. Poppy’s transformation has been nothing short of remarkable, and we are incredibly proud of the healthy, joyful cat she has become.

### **Feline Dental Health: A Critical Component of Overall Well-Being**

Feline dental care is essential to maintaining a cat’s health throughout life. Florence and Poppy, two cats who never received dental care until coming to S.A.R.A., illustrate the severe consequences of neglected oral health. They experienced significant pain, difficulty eating, and overall poor quality of life caused by advanced, untreated dental disease. Without intervention, dental conditions in cats can become chronic and may lead to complications affecting vital organs. Proper dental hygiene helps prevent painful conditions such as gingivitis, periodontal disease, tooth resorption, and tooth loss. In severe cases, untreated dental disease can lead to more severe systemic issues. Bacteria associated with dental disease can enter the bloodstream and impact the heart, liver, and kidneys, contributing to serious systemic illness. Regular dental care—both at home and through professional cleanings—supports a longer, healthier life.

#### **Key Reasons Feline Dental Health Matters**

- Prevention of pain:** Dental disease causes significant discomfort and can limit a cat’s ability to eat.
- Protection against tooth loss:** Untreated dental issues often result in the loss of teeth due to progressive disease.
- Safeguarding vital organs:** Oral bacteria can spread throughout the body, increasing the risk of heart and organ disease.
- Enhanced quality of life:** Healthy teeth and gums contribute to overall comfort, wellness, and longevity.

#### **Recognizing Dental Problems in Cats**

Common symptoms include bad breath, drooling, weight loss, difficulty eating, loose or missing teeth, visible tartar, red or swollen gums, and pawing at the mouth. If you notice your cat displaying any of these symptoms, seek veterinary care right away! Remember, oral care can be pricey, but the benefits are well worth it. Plan ahead. Knowing that your cat will need professional dental care at some point in their life, it may be helpful to begin budgeting for this expense as soon as possible. Ask your veterinary clinic if they accept Care Credit, or other types of payment plans. Ensure a healthier, happier life for cats!