

Purrfect Pals Marks 20 Years of Prison Cat Foster Program

The Arlington, WA cat sanctuary celebrates two decades of its Monroe Corrections Kitten and Cat Connections program, which has helped more than 1,100 cats find

ARLINGTON, WA, UNITED STATES, August 24, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Purrfect Pals Cat

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Sanctuary and Adoption Centers is marking a significant milestone: 20 years of its Monroe Corrections Kitten and Cat Connections program. The Arlington, Washington organization launched the program in January 2006, when it delivered its first litter of kittens to Monroe Correctional Complex. Since then, more than 1,100 cats and kittens have completed the program and moved on to adoptive homes. Purrfect Pals celebrates 20 years of transforming lives through this prison foster program, which has created real change for both animals and people.

The anniversary reflects two decades of cooperation between Purrfect Pals staff and volunteers, incarcerated participants, and Washington State Department of Corrections employees at Monroe Correctional Complex. What began as a program focused on kittens has grown into a broader effort that now serves shy and fearful adult cats as well.

Many cats that enter the program arrive frightened, under-socialized or semi-feral. In a traditional shelter environment, these animals may not receive the steady, patient attention they need to overcome their fear of people. At Monroe Correctional Complex, carefully selected and trained incarcerated participants provide care around the clock. That kind of consistent, daily contact gives cats the time and stability they need to begin trusting people again.

Participants do more than provide basic care. They learn about feline behavior, health, nutrition and responsible animal handling. They track each cat's progress through daily observations and work closely with Purrfect Pals staff to help decide when a cat is ready to be placed for adoption. In 2014, the program expanded to include adult cats with behavioral challenges that require extra time and individual support, not just kittens.

The program matters for the people involved, too. Caring for a vulnerable animal encourages patience, accountability and empathy. Participants learn to pay close attention to an animal that

cannot speak for itself and to communicate clearly with others about what they observe. They take on real responsibility and experience what it means to make a meaningful difference in another living being's life. When a cat they have cared for leaves Monroe ready for adoption, participants see the direct result of their work.

Purrfect Pals supplies everything the program needs to function. The organization provides the cats, veterinary care, food, litter, carriers, toys and other supplies. This allows participants to focus on the care itself without barriers getting in the way. The sustained logistical and financial support from Purrfect Pals has been central to the program's ability to operate consistently for 20 years.

"For 20 years, this remarkable program has demonstrated what can happen when compassion, patience and second chances come together," said Vaughn Maurice, executive director of Purrfect Pals. "Cats who were once too frightened to be touched have gone on to become beloved family members. At the same time, participants gain responsibility, purpose and the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to their community. Both the cats and their caregivers discover that their past does not have to define their future."

The milestone also reflects the broader mission of Purrfect Pals, which has worked since 1991 to find homes for cats while providing sanctuary and veterinary care for animals with complex medical or behavioral needs. The Monroe program fits directly into that mission by creating a pathway to adoption for cats that might otherwise wait a long time in a traditional shelter or struggle to receive the individualized attention they need.

As the organization marks two decades of this work, it is honoring everyone who has contributed to the program. That includes Purrfect Pals staff and volunteers who have coordinated logistics, delivered cats, provided veterinary follow-up and supported participants over the years. It also includes the incarcerated participants who have given their time and care to more than 1,100 animals, and the Department of Corrections employees at Monroe who have helped make the partnership work.

People who want to support the program can do so in several ways. Donations of supplies or funds help Purrfect Pals continue providing the materials the program depends on. Adopting a cat from Purrfect Pals is another direct way to support the work, giving a Monroe graduate or another shelter cat a permanent home. Community members can learn more about the program and find out how to help at purrfectpals.org/prison.

The Monroe Corrections Kitten and Cat Connections program shows what a community partnership can accomplish when it is built on a clear shared purpose. Cats arrive at Monroe afraid and uncertain. Over weeks of patient, consistent care, they change. So do the people who care for them. After 20 years and more than 1,100 graduates, that record speaks for itself.

****About Purrfect Pals****

Founded in 1991, Purrfect Pals Cat Sanctuary and Adoption Centers is based in Arlington, Washington, and works to place homeless cats in loving homes while providing lifelong sanctuary and extraordinary veterinary care for cats with complex medical or behavioral needs. Through adoption, foster care, rehabilitation, community assistance and innovative partnerships such as the Monroe Corrections Kitten and Cat Connections program, Purrfect Pals operates on the belief that every cat matters. To learn more, visit PurrfectPals.org.

****Contact:****

Purrfect Pals Cat Sanctuary and Adoption Centers
Arlington, WA

Learn more about Purrfect Pals and its prison foster program at PurrfectPals.org/prison.

Vaughn Maurice

Purrfect Pals

+1 360-652-9611

[email us here](#)

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