

# The Refuge Report

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## Fate by Kyle Frye

*Function: noun*

*1 the principle or determining cause or will by which things in general are believed to come to be as they are or events to happen as they do*

*2 an inevitable( and often adverse) outcome, condition, or end*

*3 plural capitalized the three goddesses who determine the course of human life in classical mythology, Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos.*

I'm not sure which definition fits, or if you can even call it fate, but this past summer I came to know an adorable little family of cats that I believe were delivered to me for a specific reason. But first we have to go back to the beginning.

Last summer, early June, my mother saw a three legged cat running around outside her house. She often goes out on her back deck that stands so high she can see miles off to the distance. She noticed the little cat late one night running from her back yard into the neighbors and beyond. She decided to put some food out for it. The next day the dish was empty. She repeated this food delivery night after night, hoping that she was feeding the little three legged cat and not that "scary" possum that would come up on her deck and stare at her with its beady little eyes and pointy teeth. She told me about the cat and I said it was probably a neighborhood kitty that some unknowing/unwise person had let out to "play". Then the weather started to change and, as any one from Nebraska can attest, it doesn't take long for warm summer nights to turn into blustery life threatening cold. The three legged cat was still out there and still cleaning out the food dish my mother put out for her. Worried

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## Merlin's Refuge



### No Kill Animal Shelter

We currently have several cats and dogs looking for loving families. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please contact us at Merlin's Refuge for adoption information.

<http://www.merlinsrefuge.com>

**We have a gorgeous female, grey mackerel tabby that currently has no name.** She was rescued from a nearby area veterinarian's office. This small town doctor's office is also the "city" humane society. All pets found or turned in by their owners go through this office and are put to death if not claimed by someone else in just a few short days.

A wonderful lady that does rescue on her own in this town wanted desperately to save this cat but did not have the resources to do so. With only a day left before her execution, Merlin's picked up the cat and she is now waiting patiently for a new family to love. The vet techs say she is just a doll, loves to be petted and enjoys a nice soft lap.

**Rocky, a 4 yr old Wheaton Terrier,** is looking for a terrific family to call his own. He loves to play, run and enjoy life. His energy level makes him a best bet for someone with no small children and a good set of walking shoes.

that the poor thing might freeze, mom had dad build a cubbyhole for the cat to get into out of an old pet carrier and some towels. He wrapped it in puppy pads to try and keep out the elements. They asked me to take the cat into Merlin's care. Thinking it must be someone's pet, I could not just "take" it, but if that *someone* would allow the poor thing to freeze, then something would have to be done. I told them if she was still around before the next big cold snap I would take her. Before the next snow, the cat went missing. We assumed her owner got smart and took her in, and that was the last we thought of it.

This past June, my husband had a much needed day off. While we were enjoying sleeping in past 6 a.m., my parents, who live directly behind us, noticed something moving on our back deck. At first they thought it was squirrels, then rabbits, then after retrieving a pair of binoculars they saw what was really there. The little three legged cat was sunning herself on our back deck... with her four little babies playing close by. Our phone rang at 6:30, "there are some kittens on your deck" dad said. I hopped out of bed, not even putting on my glasses and ran down to the back door like a child running to see what was under the Christmas tree. Sure enough, mom was there watching her four babies rolling around wrapped in each others arms. I ran back upstairs threw on some clothes and got my cat trap.

The cats all scattered at first, running every which way, then diving under the back wall of my house. I tried to reach them with gloves on, tried to "fish" them out with my fish net, but no luck. After what seemed like hours we finally just set the traps and waited. My parents spent the day watching out their door and calling when they saw something in a cage. Mom was first to get caught. Then one baby, then another baby, then after catching the third at about 10 pm we went to bed. A few minutes later my dad was pounding on the back of our house. "You got another one". He had come out into the dark with his flashlight because he couldn't be sure if there was something in the cage and the weather was starting to turn ugly. We had finally caught all of them.

Once at the vet's office, we found out that Peggy's, (as the vet tech decided to call her) leg had either been cut off or chewed off and was severely infected. The doctor decided to remove her leg all the way to the hip. Peggy was in such bad shape, not only was her leg infected, but she was infested with so many parasites, the doctor had a hard time keeping up with her medications. To make things worse, Peggy was semi feral and would lunge at the vet techs whenever they tried to clean her cage or give her food. She would growl and hiss at them. We were so worried about what would happen to her once she was ready to go out into the world to find a new forever home. Would she calm down enough to even be someone's pet? And who would we get that could work magic on this sweet, scared, confused kitty and turn her into a loveable house pet.

At the time of this writing Peggy is in foster care. Peggy's foster mom has worked with her for weeks now getting her to calm down, helping her to realize that people touching her and being an indoor kitty isn't so bad. Peggy has relearned how to walk with her new body shape. She has learned how to trust and her foster mom thinks she is ready to find her new life with an understanding, caring family.

As for Peggy's kids, two of them were girls and two were boys. They went, in pairs, to adoring families. The two girls went to a lady that has pictures of her 'daughters' plastered all over her

office cube. The two boys went to a family with other cats who welcomed the new additions. It's reported they have fit in nicely with the rest of the family. We intend to let Peggy know that her babies are safe and loved.

I don't know if you would call it fate that led Peggy to my doorstep. How many houses did she pass up, with her babies in tow, on her way to the 'rescue lady's' house? Where did she give birth and how long did she keep them under my house? Why hadn't we seen them before that day? What did she go through during those long, winter months, when we had thought she was home safe and warm?

Perhaps she should have been named Clotho, Lachesis, or Atropos, after one of the goddesses in classical mythology who were thought to determine the course of human life. She did, after all, change the course of several lives, including mine. I will never forget those two days we spent trapping her and her babies. The time I spent worrying that we would not catch them all, worrying that Peggy would never calm enough to be someone's pet. I guess I should have stopped worrying and just left it all up to fate.



*Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued in the next yard.*  
-Dave Barry

**Thanks A Bunch**  
To a donor that wished to remain anonymous, but who cared enough about Merlin's to mention us in her will. We are truly grateful for her kindness. Her caring has already touched many furry lives, including Peggy ( see page one), and will continue to help us care for our pets in need for some time. Many thanks

*I gave my beauty and my youth to men. I am going to give my wisdom and experience to animals. --Brigitte Bardot*

## Meet our volunteers

We are looking for volunteers who would like to be featured in this column. Spread the word! Tell your friends, co-workers and classmates! Merlin's needs volunteers to foster pets, help with adoption visits at Petco stores and transport pets to and from the Petco visits. You name it, we need help with it! Maybe someday your name and story can be featured in this column. Contact us at [kylefrye@aol.com](mailto:kylefrye@aol.com) for more details on how to become a volunteer.

### Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Believe it or not, Merlin's Refuge will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007. It's been a long, hard, but rewarding decade for all involved. We have several special events planned for next year to celebrate this momentous occasion. Watch your newsletter, emails and our web page for information and details on the upcoming celebrations planned for our anniversary.

If you have adopted, fostered, or have assisted in the rescue/adoption process with us, please email (or snail mail) us to tell your story. Please send photos if you have them. We are planning a wonderful surprise with our stories and we'd love for you to be a part of it, as you have been such a tremendous part of our past 10 years.

## Look What's Coming....

October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm we will be having another Premiere Jewelry party. The last one was a big success and we hope to make this one bigger and better. Their new line of fall jewelry is out and, from the sneak peek that I had, its fantastic looking. Remember we get a hefty percentage of the sales for a donation, so the more you buy, the better Merlin's does!! Believe me, with the cute jewelry they have, it's not hard to spend lots. ☺ Plus we'll have lots of good food and drinks.

Also remember that Christmas is around the corner and you can get tons of shopping done quick and easy. Mark your calendars: Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Kyle's house at 13564 Margo St. Omaha. If you can come, RSVP 895-6605.



*There are two means of refuge from the misery of life - music and cats.  
- Albert Schweitzer*

If you do not wish to remain on our email and newsletter list or to receive one or more paper copies of this newsletter please email [MerlinFrye@aol.com](mailto:MerlinFrye@aol.com)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP MERLIN'S REFUGE

### DONATIONS

Donations are always welcome and at this point funding is top priority to pay for medical bills. We welcome donations of pet foods, supplies, etc. as well. Your donations are tax deductible and we provide receipts for all donations. **You can also go to our web page and use Paypal!**

**Yes! I'd like to help Merlin's Refuge. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation in the amount of:**

- \$5
- \$10
- \$25
- \$100
- \$500
- Other

Name:

Address:

City/State:

Zip:

**Please tear off this portion and remit with your donation to:**

**Merlin's Refuge**

**P.O. Box 391192**

**Omaha, NE 68139.**

**A receipt will be sent to you. Thank you for your donation.**

Merlin's Refuge  
P.O. Box 391192  
Omaha NE 68139

Place  
stamp  
here