



[The cats that traveled around the world for help](#)

Posted by **Debbie Wood** January 25, 2008 10:53AM

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Nine cats at the [Pixie Project](#) in Portland and five cats at the [Cat Adoption Team](#) look like a lot of other cats. They're friendly, and sweet and funny. They need homes.

These cats just happened to come from Beirut, Lebanon, to find shelter.

"War and political instability in the region make finding permanent homes for these animals in Beirut extremely challenging," says Kathy Covey with the Cat Adoption Team. "Daily circumstances change and funding evaporates, yet the need to help the animal victims continues."

Their Beirut rescuers are a nonprofit group called Beirut for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. This group is the only animal rescue organization for Lebanon and cares for over 340 cats and dogs in their shelters. The cats and dogs that come to this group have typically been dumped at the shelter's doors, rescued from the highway, or so badly injured they were overlooked by others.

The Pixie Project worked with the Beirut group to bring the cats here. The Pixie Project enlisted the aid and expertise of the Cat Adoption Team in this international adoption collaboration.

The 14 Beirut cats were given time to settle into new surroundings, observed for any ill-effects to their long transit, examined by veterinarians, and are now available for adoption from the Cat Adoption Team and Pixie Project.

I always ask myself at moments like this one: With cats at many shelters (not the Pixie Project or Cat Adoption Team) still being euthanized because of lack of available adopters, is it right to use scarce resources to worry about cats from a foreign country?

This time, I think the answer is "yes."

The reality is that these cats will draw media attention. Events like this raise awareness -- and that raises adoption numbers. When people come to meet these exotic kitties, they'll meet a lot of local great cats, too. More Oregon-grown cats will go home because someone will have the chance to fall in love.

Everybody benefits from that. The Beirut cats. The Oregon cats. And most of all, the lucky people who open their hearts to a new feline family member -- where ever that cat was born. Here are some pictures of the cats who came around the world.

