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2012 The Year of Heartbreak and Hope Part 1

Sun, 2012-12-30 13:51 — Robin Olson

January

We began the year with a rescue, going beyond our comfort zone by taking on an adult, instead of an easy-to-place kitten. The cat was a huge, white, "biscuit head" tom-cat from [Henry County Care & Control](#) ^[1]. I saw his photo and saw something about him that made me take action. I named him [Jackson Galaxy](#) ^[2] in honor of the Cat Daddy/Cat Behaviorist on Animal Planet's hit show, "[My Cat From Hell.](#)" ^[3]



©2012 Henry Co. Care & Control (inset). ©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Jackson was a miserable wreck when we first took him into [Kitten Associates](#) ^[4] as our first rescue of 2012.

Jackson had a rough start. He frightened Maria but we realized later it was because he was in great pain. **He had a terrible infection from his neutering and he needed emergency surgery to correct the problem** and get him back on the road to good health. By the end of the month, Jackson was on the transport headed to Connecticut to find his forever home.



©2012 Bobby Stanford (inset). ©2012 Leesiateh.com. Miss Fluffy Pants shortly before being adopted.

Our friend and volunteer, Bobby Stanford, told me about two cats living outside a pallet factory in McDonough, GA. They were living in poor conditions and in danger of being hit by any one of the numerous fork lifts that raced around the premises. **One of the two cats, a dirty, thin tuxedo we named King Arthur, seemed to be missing his back paws.** Completely horrified I decided we'd help him and the other cat on the premises, who we named Miss Fluffy Pants, because we worried she was pregnant.



©2012 Maria S. (inset). King's mama, Judy. King's journey has been quite amazing. I'll be doing a more in-depth update on him in January.

I was fostering a little orange tabby spitfire named Bobette, along with her two boys, the third had just been adopted. **Bobette needed surgery to repair her luxated patella, so I sat in on the procedure and helped her in recovery and for the next few weeks while she healed.**

February

February was a month of discovery. **We learned that King's missing paws were due to a birth defect.** He didn't need surgery or prosthetics. He could walk on carpeting, but who would adopt this cat? King began to clean himself and gain some weight. He loved being petted until Miss Fluffy Pants came to join him.

Miss FP was not pregnant. We thought the two cats were friends at the factory, but they were not happy to see each other. With some quick thinking and the donation of a cat tree, Miss FP could sit high up, away from King and both cats relaxed into their new foster home.



©2011 Henry Co. Care & Control (inset). ©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Bobette with one of her kittens while at the kill shelter and after surgery in Sam's loving arms.

We also learned the Miss FP was FIV+ which we knew would put a roadblock in our ability to find her a good forever home. With her taking up valuable foster care space I got to work trying to figure out what to do for her that didn't mean putting her in a sanctuary.

We were heartbroken to learn that after some behavior issues gave us a clue to trouble, Dr. Larry diagnosed **Sam's cat, Nicky with Chronic Renal Failure.** We began giving him sub Q fluids every few days and began to learn more about this condition and ways we could lengthen his life.

Jackson arrived in Connecticut and was placed with my friends at [Animals in Distress](#) ^[5], but fell ill after arriving there. They thought it was a mild upper respiratory infection and in time he was feeling better. By the second week of February, **Jackson found his forever home with a loving family.** We were all delighted.



©2011 Maria S. (inset) ©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Two of Bobette's boys, Jakey & Teddy.

Bobette continued her recovery, but was still limping. **I had to separate her from her boys because she hissed and growled every time she saw them.** The boys, Jakey & Teddy had a blast hanging out with my cats while I continued to try to find them a great home.

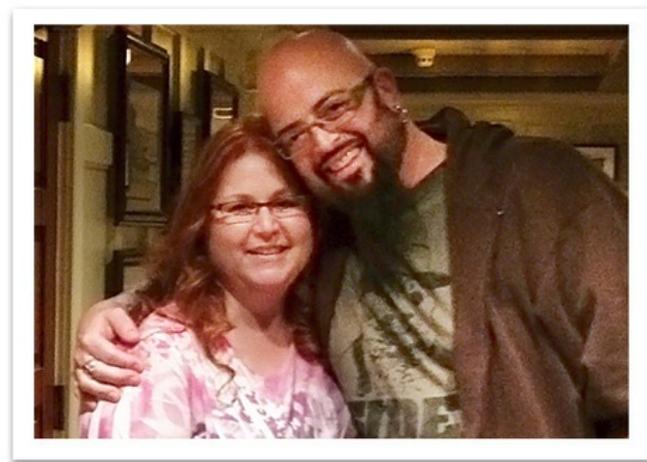
March

The saying is March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, but this March was the opposite; quiet for a few weeks, then things started to go crazy.

Bobette had the staples taken out of her leg and due to a problem with the bandage removal she ended up biting my hand so badly I had to see a Doctor.

I found a blueish growth on my cat Gracie's abdomen. She had a dental done and had the cyst removed. It ended up being an Apocrine Gland Carcinoma, but was considered to be completely excised and of no further concern.

Jakey & Teddy were adopted together and Bobette was glad to see them leave.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Me with Cat Daddy, Jackson Galaxy.

On March 26th, a few days before my birthday, Jackson Galaxy emailed me and asked me out to lunch (which ended up being dinner). It was one of the best days of my life, but that wasn't all that happened. That night in the frigid cold in nearby Trumbull, CT, six mostly black kittens were born to a gray mama named April. I didn't realize it at the time, but they would be my next foster family.

The next day, still buzzing from my visit with Jackson, **I was honored by Freekibble.com with a donation of a full palette of [Halo](http://Halo.com) canned cat food!** The press came to document the event and I started to wonder if the foster cats would eat it (they loved it!).

April

The Worst Birthday Ever was followed by picking up April and meeting her mostly all black female kittens for the first time. Three kittens were polydactyl and there was no way I was going to be able to tell most of them apart for the next eight weeks.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. April and her kittens.

I rescued a senior cat named Leo who was an adorable long haired tuxedo. The poor cat was forced to live outside on scraps when his owner's wife had a baby. I begged my friend Katherine to take him into Animals in Distress if I paid the Vet bill. We worked something out and Leo was saved. A few months later, Leo and a second cat found an amazing home with a family I found for them here in town. They are doing GREAT.

A missing cat alert showed up in email with a very familiar name, Amberly. **One of my former foster cats was MISSING and the family didn't have the nerve to tell me. I leapt into action. Thank GOODNESS Katherine has good instincts and lived nearby the family. By the next DAY Katherine found Amberly and the family promised to work harder to keep her inside.**



©2012 Maria S. (inset) and Robin A.F. Olson. Coco, all grown up with siblings Choco and ChiChi (inset).

Maria contacted me about a tortie mom cat we named Cami and five kittens in her neighbors yard. She was very worried about them so I told her to find a place to put them and we'd take them on. **By the time Maria got back to the home, two of the kittens were gone, never to be seen again. We named the surviving kittens Coco, ChiChi and Choco.**

May

On May 1st a shelter called AnimalKind in upstate New York suffered the total loss of their facility after a small fire caused the sprinkler system to flood the 3-story building. Through my contacts a pet product companies I was able to provide them with pallettes of food and litter. Later in 2012 I visited their facility and met with their Director, Katrin Hecker. You can read about my visit [HERE](#) ^[8].

I travelled to New Jersey to attend Bottle Baby Bootcamp at [Tabby's Place](#) ^[9]. The timing was great because the black kittens needed help since poor April was having a tough time feeding all the kittens. I worried the littlest one wouldn't make it, but Cutie Pie surprised me and began to do well. I named her sisters Sabrina, Bon Bon, Beauty, Belly Holiday and Hello Dahlia (*in honor of my friend, JaneA's cat Dahlia who had recently passed away*).

Then a crazy thing happened.

JaneA came to visit us and instead of falling in love with her cat's namesake, she threw me a curveball, clearly falling in love with our little spitfire, Bobette. She adopted her the next morning before she left for her home in Maine. It was a one of the happiest adoptions I'd ever done.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. JaneA with her girl, Bobette (who she later named, Kissy)

By the end of the month there was more somber news. **Jackson the cat lost his home and was being returned.** Since I had space I offered to take him back since AID was full up.

June

June will forever be a tough month for me since it's the anniversary of my Father's passing and of my favorite cat's passing. I hoped that this June would not be under such a dark cloud but it was not meant to be.

Thankfully it wasn't all bad news. After months of searching, begging, dealing, I was able to get Miss Fluffy Pants transferred to [Good Mews](#) ^[10] in Marietta, Georgia.



©2012 Maria S. (inset) and Robin A.F. Olson. Willow is still looking for her forever home! You can visit her Petfinder page [HERE](#) ^[11]

Maria, our cat-magnet, rescued a cat from a tree. She named her Willow and we added her to our group of rescues in Georgia. Meanwhile, I got a curious email from a lady in New Hampshire inquiring about King. She had a fully carpeted home. She had two cats. Did I think King might be happy with her?



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Me, Jill Delzer (center) and Ingrid King (far right). Inset: Joanne McGonagle, Me with Gracie the cat.

And for the first time in many years, I took a fistful of Xanax and boarded a plane headed to Salt Lake City where **Sam and I were Speakers at BlogPaws 2012** [12]. I was up for two awards that I did not win, but I had so much fun and made a great new friend. In those few days I was re-energized enough to keep doing rescue work once I got home.



©2012 Cyndie Tweedy (inset). ©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Fred & Barney and Barney at six months. The boys are still looking for their forever home! Visit their Petfinder page [HERE](#) [13] and [HERE](#) [14]

Maria removed another cat from her neighbor (with his consent)- who NEVER spays or neuters his cats. Maria has tried repeatedly to get the cats taken care of but he just puts it off and his cats get pregnant. **A nine month old kitten named Opal, who had become almost feral, was pregnant. Our new foster mom, Cyndie offered to take her in and help her along. Sadly, the stress of being in a home pushed Opal in to premature labor. Four kittens were born, but after extensive attempts to save their lives, only two survived.** She named them Fred & Barney. We had their siblings Pebbles and Bam Bam cremated and their little wooden urn is here with me placed next to my cat, Bob's ashes.

Stay Tuned! 2012 has more surprises in store and some so shocking their effects rippled throughout the world in the final part of this post.

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Comments

Sun, 2012-12-30 15:33 — jmuwj (not verified)

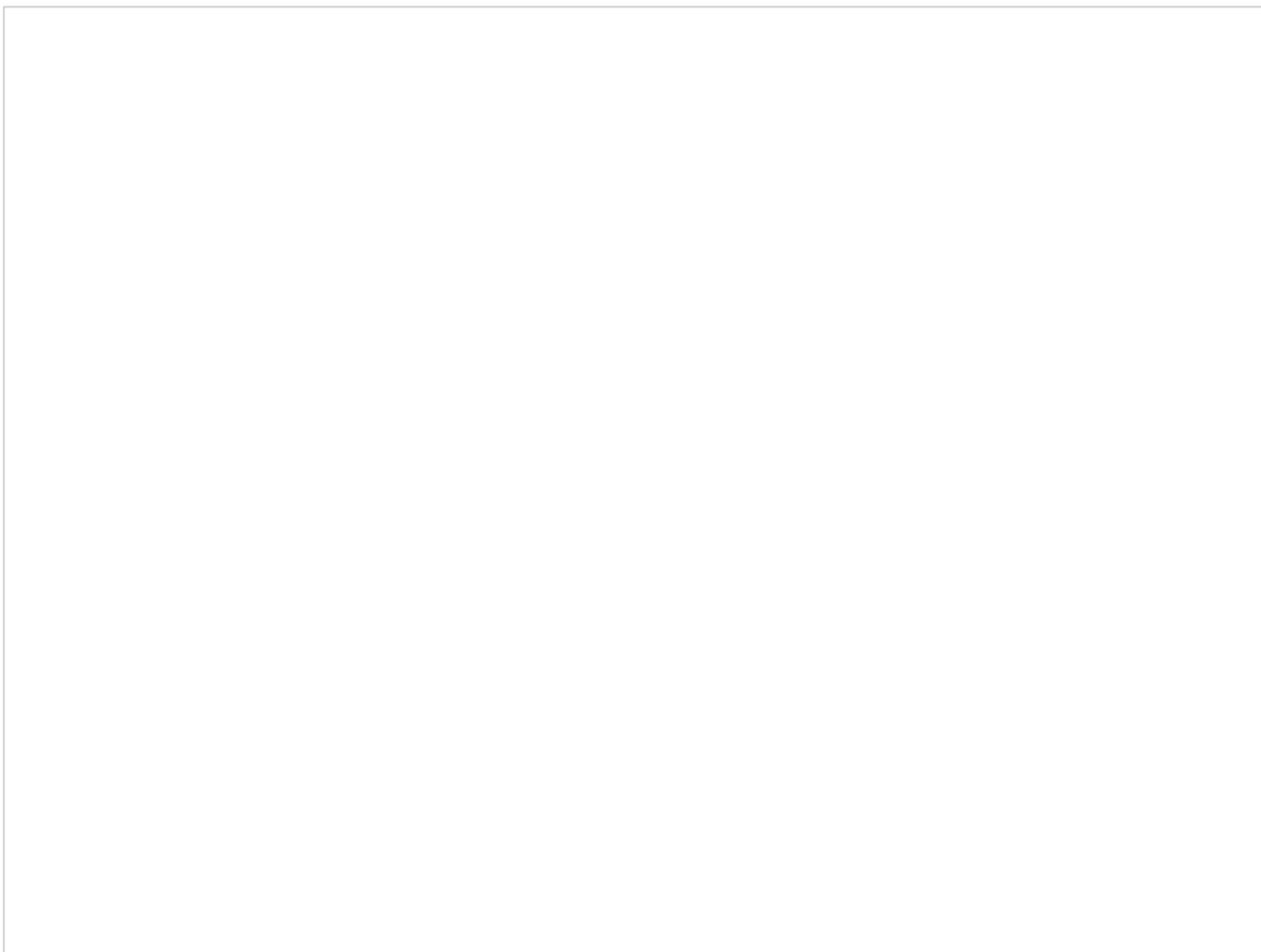
RE: 2012 ^[49]

Having followed you for only a few months, it's exciting to read of all of your amazing rescues/adoptions, and sad to hear of your losses this past year <3((((((((((^ ^)))))))))<3 I shared Willow, Fred and Barney on my s/n pages, with love and *PRAYERS* (Fred and Barney could not be shared on fb, though; the link didn't click through, as far as I know; though I'll have to check my page to be sure). May 2013 bring joy, safety, comfort, wonderful loving permanent homes and good health for cats and kittens, and healing and success for you and your loved ones.

Sun, 2012-12-30 19:32 — Xander and Jessica (not verified)

Quite a whirlwind year for ^[50]

Quite a whirlwind year for you, Robin! Hope 2013 has more good to outweigh any potential not-so-great. Keep up the good work!



Christmas Eve resuce, yay!

Sun, 2012-12-30 22:34 — [Chris \(not verified\)](#) ^[51]

Wow ^[52]

What a year.. thank you for fostering and sharing your stories of the kittens. I hope you are going to the BlogPaws in 2013, I will be going and I am so excited/nervous/scared about it.

What an amazing heartbreaking and wonderful year it has been for you. =^..^=

Wed, 2013-01-02 10:25 — Lynne Allison (not verified)

RE: 2012 part 1 ^[53]

You've made such a difference in so many cat's lives! Well done and thank you, Robin! <3

Tue, 2013-03-26 10:41 — [Hairless Cat Girl \(not verified\)](#) ^[54]

Cat Fostering Hero ^[55]

Hi Robin,

You're one of my cat fostering heroes. Thanx for continuing to help cats in need.

Cool that Jackson and Ingrid back your mission. Keep up the great work!

=^..^= Hairless Cat Girl =^..^=

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Links

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- [2] <http://jacksongalaxy.com/>
- [3] <http://animal.discovery.com/tv-shows/my-cat-from-hell>
- [4] <http://kittenassociates.org/>
- [5] <http://www.animals-in-distress.com/>
- [6] <http://www.freekibble.com/>

- [7] <http://www.halopets.com/>
- [8] <http://www.coveredincathair.com/content/best-worst-thing-ever-fire-animalkind>
- [9] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/>
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