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Another Orange Family Needs a Helping Hand

Wed, 2013-07-03 11:40 — Robin Olson

*I had just barely gotten Minnie and her five kittens settled in the now famous blue-bathtub you may have seen featured on my rescue, Kitten Associate's, 24/7 web cam called [Squee-TV](#) [1] when I got an email from a friend of mine who does rescue in the southern USA. **She sent me a photo of an orange mama-cat, not unlike my own Minnie, whose time was almost up-the delicate way to say she was going to be euthanized if we didn't get her out.***

She also had kittens, older than my little guys, but no less deserving of being freed from their cage and given a chance to live a full life. **The kittens had been separated from her because they were old enough to be weaned, but what we didn't know is that someone was putting them back with mama each night, which at first glance might seem touching, when in fact it was dangerous for the mama.**



I was asked if I could help get the mama-cat out of the shelter. I couldn't take her on, but I could help her if we could find a good rescue to take part. **I'd offer up what I could, including asking our dear-Bobby to help by picking up the family if, indeed, we had time to make this happen at all.** When time is up...time is up.

I hate calling animal control. I always feel like I'm going to throw up because I don't know if they are going to tell me the cat is "not available" (dead) or if for some bizarre reason I can't have the cats. I promised I'd call and ask for time, maybe a few days, to put things together. If I couldn't get the rescue sorted out, then I would let them know. They agreed to give me until the next morning. Oh boy...I had to act fast.

Thankfully, a rescue in the northeast offered to take the cats. They have been fully checked out and we know we can get the cats to them. The problem is money-we need to have the cats fully vetted to sweeten the pot for the rescue to take on the family. That's not a bad thing and some times we do this to help each other out.

What I couldn't have bargained on was the frantic call I got early the next morning. The mama cat was screaming in pain and would not allow anyone to touch her. The staff was going to put her down right then and there. Something was terribly wrong. They remembered I'd asked to put a rescue hold on this cat and one of the staff urged them to NOT put her down and to call me first. When I answered the phone and heard her anxious tone, I knew it was serious.

Without thinking I said "Hell, yes! Get her out of there! I'll have Bobby come over right away, hang on." Had I just signed myself up for a multi-thousand dollar Vet bill? **What was wrong with the mama?**

In no time at all Bobby picked up the mama and her six kittens. Mama was taken to the Vet. She had a very bad case of [mastitis](#) [2], an infection of the mammary glands. In her case it caused an ulceration of one of the glands, which is extremely painful. This often happens when kittens are too old to be nursing from their mama and their teeth puncture her skin and push nasty bacteria into the glands or the kittens claws can cause scratches or bacteria can go into the gland during rough nursing. **It can be deadly and must be treated right away.** Those nights of allowing the

kittens on mama probably caused the issue when separating them might have kept her healthy.

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Thankfully, we weren't too late. Mama is in a foster home with her kittens, though separated from them so she can heal. She's doing well and the kittens are free to explore the world beyond the size of a cage. **They have a hopeful future, we just need to lend them a helping hand so they can be on their way.**

This fundraiser doesn't need much to be filled up. I hope we can make that happen. If we all add a little bit to the pot, it will fill up in a jiffy! Just click the "GIVE NOW" button and you're all set.

Cats like Minnie and now, Ginger need our support. One day they will be spayed and chubby and in their forever homes. We're all part of the team that gets them there so they can find their happy ending.

Thank you for being part of our team and helping to save lives!

JULY 5, 2013 UPDATE: We made our fundraising goal AND in even BETTER NEWS, Ginger mama, her six kittens and SEVEN MORE ORPHAN KITTENS are on their way to the northeast to find safe haven in a rescue there! Our Bobby and Izzy and Mark are part of the team driving them over 1000 miles in the next few days so if you see a car full of kitties, give them a wave and let them know how AWESOME THEY ARE..and to Joan Flores who started this mission and was able to put a group together of strangers, all dedicated to saving lives. With the help of all of your donations and sharing this message, we DID IT!

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Comments

Thu, 2013-08-15 00:58 — Jeanne Voreis (not verified)

Lil'I Gracey and Stanley ^[11]

I turned on the drop cam to see how the kitties were doing and Gracey and Stanley were the only two in the pic. It was about 12:40 a.m. this morning and Stanley wanted to play with Gracey's tail. They both got up for a bit but you could tell Gracey wasn't feeling so good yet and laid back down. Stanley laid next to her, gave her some kisses or cleaning up a bit, cleaned himself up a bit and then they both laid down next to each other and back to resting. Hope they are all feeling a lot better later on today. Love, kisses and hugs to them all. Bless you CICH for taking care of them.

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- [1] <http://dropc.am/p/N7S3no>
- [2] <http://www.vetinfo.com/mastitis-in-cats.html#b>
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