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Bobette's Secret Pain

Wed, 2011-11-23 15:52 — Robin Olson

Our dear "Bob's Pumpkin Patch" family is growing up. No longer are the boys squirmy and plump orange gourds. Their mama, Bobette, no longer needs to care for them with the intensity she once had. It's been ten weeks since we rescued them from Henry Co. Care & Control, a Kill shelter in McDonough, GA.



©2011 Maria. S. *They baby boyz!*

Our little family of four, was once a family of seven. The spirits of the three kittens who passed away still linger in the shadows, watching their brothers thrive, as their own lives were so unfairly cut short. Their foster mom, Maria, still pines for those babies, but it is a testament to her love for them that the others did survive.



©2011 Maria. S. *Growing like weeds.*

Jakey, Teddy and Mikey are doing well. Today, along with their mama, they're off to the Vet to be spayed or neutered and get their first vaccinations. The boys were born in a cage at a shelter where horrific upper respiratory infections thrive. That these boys did not break with that illness is a small miracle. At each sign of a sniffle, we gave them homeopathic remedies, which stunned us in their effectiveness. We'll always be on the watch for that dreaded URI to appear, but at least at eleven weeks of age, these kittens have the chance to build up their immune systems-unlike our Polly, Chester and Cara who were sick for many months after we pulled them out of the same shelter.



©2011 Maria. S. Our little Pumpkin Patch family.

Bobette has not fared as well. **Barely a year old, Bobette has had a very difficult life. Not wanted by her family, dumped at a kill shelter, pregnant; hopes were slim that Bobette would survive.** At the shelter she refused to eat, while her six newborns struggled to get proper nutrition—and most likely the reason why three of the newborns did not survive.



©2011 Maria. S. What's out there?

When I heard about Bobette not eating for four days, I grew very concerned. I was fortunate that Maria was willing to take in another family after only having a short break on fostering. **We busted Bobette and family out of the Kill shelter and rushed her to the Vet.** She was given a thorough exam, but Bobette sat crouched in a corner, frightened of what was going on. It was easy to miss that Bobette's secret pain.



©2011 Maria. S. Teddy & Jakey.

The family settled in Maria's bathroom. It was small, easy to keep warm and safe from Maria's cats getting too nosy with the newcomers. Bobette spent most of the day feeding her boys. She didn't walk much, nor did she have the room to run around. It didn't trouble her at all. **It was time to focus on her offspring and not worry about herself, but what we didn't know was that Bobette wasn't all right.**



©2011 Maria. S.

Bobette ate like a champ. The boys did well under her care. **It seemed that after her loss, Bobette paid even more attention to the remaining kittens.** She cleaned them and fed them and kept them safe. It didn't matter to her that something was wrong. She had her babies to care for.

©2011 Maria S. Teddy's Cat Nap.



©2011 Maria. S. Mama and Jakey.

Maria recently moved the family into a bigger room, with plenty of sunshine, windows and toys, it's an ideal location for a growing family. **The cats could finally RUN, stretch their legs, jump!**

©2011 Maria S. Pumpkin Patch Boys Go Wild!

...and that's when Maria realized something was wrong with Bobette. **She was limping. Her left rear leg had a hitch to it as she walked.** Maria called me and I told her to get Bobette to the Vet. I hate waiting, wondering what was going on. Maria called a few hours later. Bobette seemed sensitive in her back. **Perhaps it was an old injury, but the Vet couldn't find anything obviously wrong.** He suggested to give it more time. I asked if he ran an X-ray and Maria said he didn't feel it was necessary.



©2011 Maria. S. Triple threat of cute.

Yesterday, I wrote about Warren and his wife, Terri and how they ignored their Vet's suggestion to wait on having their kitten re-examined when they realized their foster kitten, Dexter wasn't getting better. Maria followed the same line of thinking; she kept looking at Bobette as she walked. Something was wrong. It wasn't something that was OK. **Maria called me again and this time we both agreed that no matter what, Bobette must be x-rayed. We did not want her to be in any pain.**

Once x-rayed it was clear that something WAS WRONG, Bobette has a rare condition called a Patellar luxation [1]. Basically, Bobette's kneecap is out of position. This is caused by a genetic malformation or trauma. **It's a rare condition in cats, but common in small dogs.** It wasn't completely clear to Maria or myself, but one of the bones in Bobette's rear leg fused with another or fused improperly. **Bobette's left rear leg is shorter than the right, hence Bobette's limp.**

Bobette doesn't appear to be in pain and I'm guessing that due to the bone fusion, she had a trauma to her leg. **The fact that once she was dumped at the Kill shelter she stopped eating, was perhaps due to the trauma, not to the stress of being confined.**

The Vet says to do nothing. Bobette can get around and that returning the kneecap to a normal position may not help, as the kneecap can slip back out of position. **Because there is more going on than just the kneecap problem, I've decided we need to look into this matter further.** Bobette is barely a year old. I don't want her to face a lifetime of pain or discomfort. Like Warren and Terri, this doesn't sit right with me. We need to do more for Bobette.



©2011 Maria. S. Bobette gives her son a kiss.

First, we need to get Bobette to Connecticut. I'm setting that up to be in two weeks. The transport costs \$300.00 for the family. I'd like to take Bobette to our Vet, first, then to an orthopedic Vet for a second opinion. If they all agree it's not worth doing surgery, that's fine, but if Bobette can live a better life if she has corrective surgery then we'll do a fundraiser for her.

What I need to ask for now, is for help with expenses to get them to CT and to pay for some additional Vet care for Bobette after she arrives. During this time of giving thanks, I hope you'll consider a donation to our efforts. Bobette has been through so much in her short life, let's help her get on the road to a long happy rest-of-her-life.

The donation you provide to Bobette and family is **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**. The money will go to my Non-Profit Cat Rescue: [Kitten Associates](#) [2].

If you'd prefer to send a check, please make it out to: Kitten Associates and mail it to:

**Kitten Associates
P.O. Box 354
Newtown, CT 06470-0354**

Thank you for helping Bobette and her family. All our best to you and your family on this Holiday week!

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Comments

Wed, 2011-11-23 16:01 — [Marilia \(not verified\)](#) ^[20]

OMG ^[21]

So lovely babies!

I'm so full of love!!!

Kisses from Brazil

Wed, 2011-11-23 16:14 — Julie (not verified)

Patellar luxation ^[22]

One of my cats (1 year) has bilateral patellar luxation - it's in both back legs and most likely genetic. He was found as a stray and was limping, but the vet put the knee back into position many months ago and it has stayed in place.

He will eventually need corrective surgery, but for now, he is doing fine. I am amazed at the acrobatics and jumping he does. It will be expensive and scary in the future when he will need surgery. His luxation is level 2 out of 5. For now, it is wait and see, with periodic follow-ups at the orthopedic surgeon. I give him senior vitamin supplements to help his joints.

If Bobette's knee was out of place for a long time, there could be more damage there. I hope she recovers well and isn't in too much pain.

Wed, 2011-11-23 16:27 — Catnynouse (not verified)

Poor baby ^[23]

I gave what little We can afford. I wish I could give more! I know the gaping hole the loss of the babies can bring. Sending Reiki energy also!

Blessings & Namaste,

Jena in Texas

Wed, 2011-11-23 17:40 — Catnynouse (not verified)

Patellar luxation can be ^[24]

Patellar luxation can be diagnosed with a simple basic exam. A vet takes each leg into a full rotation and can feel the problem and sometimes correct it when it is out of place (although that is a temporary fix). After diagnosis, of course, x-rays and orthopedic appointments may be necessary, but my question is why didn't your vet notice this during the first exam??? Even if you don't mention a leg problem, feeling and rotating the legs is always done with a first exam. BUT - especially since you mentioned the limp, I am angry at your vet for not doing a more thorough exam the first time. If there are other vets near you, you might want to find a new vet. So sad. Good luck.

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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Links

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- [2] <http://kittenassociates.org/>
- [3] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/32>
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