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Wed, 2009-10-07 17:55 — Robin Olson

I got Gracie and Bob to see Dr. Larry today. Bob was due for his blood test re-check. This will tell me if his ALT is on the way DOWN and his liver function is improving. Also, it will tell me if his kidneys are still OK after the "metacam incident."



My poor Gracie. She's biting the fur off her hind end and on her back. Every other day, she vomits up the small clumps of fur. Either she is SO stressed that she's self injuring or she is SO uncomfortable she is biting off her fur in frustration from being itchy. I can't tell. What I can tell you is that Gracie will now be on [Amitriptyline](#) ^[1], an anti-depressant. The hope here is to help her to relax. If the stress goes away, maybe she will not pick at herself and her skin will clear up. Dr. Larry gave her a shot of Vetalog to keep her comfortable. She hasn't had a steroid in 10 months so I thought it would be safe. It's the only thing that clears up the dermatitis. That way she will stop itching and biting herself!



The worst news is not really news. Dr. Larry said that Gracie, in a home with no other animals, would probably resolve her issues and be fine. I know she's a nervous nelly and I do my best to give her attention, but with 6 other cats, that's tough to do. In my heart, I agree. Gracie (*and Petunia*) would be happier in a home together with no other pets. Finding a home for a 6 and 9 yr old cat, not so easy to do—certainly not one that would have to be a FANTASTIC owner. I'd HAVE to do a home visit and deeper background check before I'd let them go, but the idea of seeing them leave that really kills me. I also feel like a

failure.

It's not over yet. I'm going to keep trying to help Gracie feel better here. We'll try the meds for two months and see how she does. Maybe she just needs help coping for awhile and once she has some success she can go off the meds and stay here!

So with all that swirling around in my head, I'm trying to coordinate another transport of four kittens to CT from down south. It's been nutty and I seem to write an email, just as another arrives. Questions are many. Answers are hard to come by. I will be happy when this is wrapped up.

Then I get home from the Vet. No sooner than I get here, my Intern calls me into the kitchen. There's an injured hawk in a tree outside the house! Oh geez...we have a high wind advisory today, no wonder the hawk is hurt! So, for another few hours I was on the phone with our ACO, Carolee, someone from Wildlife in Crisis, a wildlife "guy" who comes to get the nutty animals out of your attic and such, and a raptor rehabilitator named Darlene, who was super nice and helpful.



This little Broad Winged Hawk had some sort of eye injury. According to Darlene it looks to be an OLD injury (because it's dry). She said he would learn to adapt and shouldn't just perish from the injury, though I swear I think my intern wanted to climb a tree to get the hawk so we could get it to the Vet! I put some "oops it expired" pork on the deck and some ground beef, hoping he'd come eat, but no luck. After a few hours of hanging around, he left.



I'm trying not to write that I'll "keep an eye peeled" looking for him, but I will keep an "eye out" for him...okay, I'll look out the window to see if he's in the yard. If I find him on the ground, I know how to capture him and get him some help. Meanwhile, where DID MY DAY GO? I have gotten nothing done. Wait, I'm finishing this...okay I got one thing done. Crap. I need more time, but I need a nap, first.

It was a crazy day! I'm emotionally drained and I didn't even tell you about the 3-day long fight Sam and I had, so I have a good excuse to rest now, and eat a cookie. I need a cookie.

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Comments

Wed, 2009-10-07 18:19 — [BusterConCat](#) (not verified)

Gracie ^[15]

We has a Gracie too! And though she is short-hair (she is a korat), she looks a lot like your Gracie!

She also does the same thing -- bites at herself, esp right rear, and has been known to "pick it clean". The degree of baldness seemed to be related to me being a bossy boy and Staff traveling.

Staff was opposed to meds unless REALLY necessary, so here is what she does: she sets aside some time every day for brushing Gracie. Gracie LOVES brushing! She has one of those wire brushes that I HATE. But she would let herself be brushed bald.

After Staff brushes her and removes all loose hair, she massages in some tea tree oil to any bare or thin patches. They have just about disappeared, but it took a few months. Sometimes Gracie relapses a bit, but overall, it is working very well!

VetLady said Gracie was overgrooming as "comfort". So Staff also made her a safe space (i.e., where I can't bother her!) and gives her morning time on the desk every day while she works. I get locked out, so now that's my nap time.

Took a while, but problem seems to be working itself out by Gracie having her own safe places and times I'm not allowed, her brushing, and her oil massage! (What a prima donna!)

Thu, 2009-10-08 11:10 — [Robin Olson](#) ^[16]

Great! ^[17]

thank you for the suggestion! My Gracie LOVES to be brushed, but because of her poor skin condition, I stopped. I'll get a new soft brush and some tea tree oil and see if that helps her, too! Great idea!

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