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## Foster Cat Journal: A Farewell to Phil

Sun, 2011-08-07 11:34 — Robin Olson

**I rescued Phil from Henry County in early June when it didn't work out that he could live there as a shelter cat. [his rescue story is [here](#) <sup>[1]</sup>] He didn't like the dogs, so he had to go. Over the past few months, Phil's been enjoying life with Bobbie, his foster mama and cat-blogger of Cats-Goats-Quotes.**

While Phil was in foster care, I got lots of updates. Every one said what a sweet, pretty cat he was. **He was laid back and got on with Bobbie and her other cats.** He didn't make a fuss, wouldn't jump on furniture, but would rather just sleep inside his cat carrier.

She noticed scars on his nose and started to wonder if Phil had been abused and maybe shoved off the furniture, never being allowed the sense of comfort most cats enjoy.

Bobbie graciously held Phil longer than I expected because Cara, Polly, Mac and Mazie were still here. After Cara went to another foster home and Mac and Polly were about to be adopted, I let Bobbie know it was time to say her farewell to Phil and to get him on the next PETS transport north. I have never felt worse about asking to take a foster cat from someone, but it was time.

Of course Bobbie was completely gracious about letting go, but I know how much it hurts. **Bobbie wrote a lovely [post](#) <sup>[2]</sup> entitled: "Friday without Phillip" about how much she loves Phil and misses him,** but she made sure he got onto the transport headed for Connecticut.



©2011 Bobby Stanford.

What made matters worse was the heat. It was far too hot in the suburbs of Atlanta in late July. The inside of the transport was too hot. Phil, and his traveling companions, [Muddles & Cuddles](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, who were going to my partner-shelter, Animals in Distress, were not too happy. In fact they were panting. **They were supposed to be in a part of the trailer that was away from the dogs-they were not.** I got frantic calls from Maria, then I called PETS, but could not get through to anyone. Maria wished she had kept the cats off the truck. Bobby, who had delivered Phil to the transport looked at Phil. He had the saddest look on his face. **Bobby said it was as if he was saying "what did I do for you to do this to me?"**



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This was Thursday afternoon. **The transport would not arrive until Saturday morning. How were these cats going to survive?**

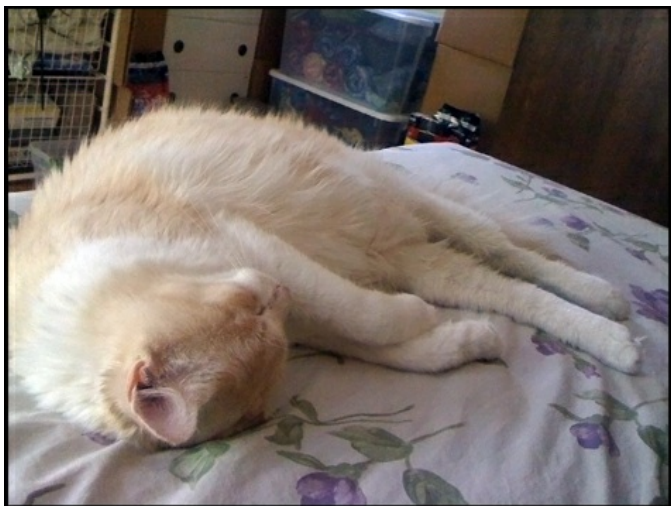
I made calls and sent e-mails. I paced. I fretted. I know Kyle Peterson who owns PETS <sup>[4]</sup> transport. He's a good guy. He runs a good service. I've never had a problem but I've never done a run in such blazing hot weather.

Friday morning I got an email, assuring me everything was all right and asking me to call them on their private number. When I called, **I was told that Phil and the other kitties had overnighted in the office at PETS which had A/C and was away from the dogs.** They ate well and were relaxed. I was assured that the A/C on the truck worked and that they were doing everything they could to monitor the transport, the animals and their well being. That they even had a cat lover on the truck to keep extra attention on our three cats-the only cats on the truck (*as usual*).

The next day passed uncomfortably. **I kept envisioning Phil dying or being so messed up from the trip that I could never adopt him out.** At 6:30AM PETS called and said the truck was running late, a first. That they would be in about 90 minutes late. 90 more minutes to fret.

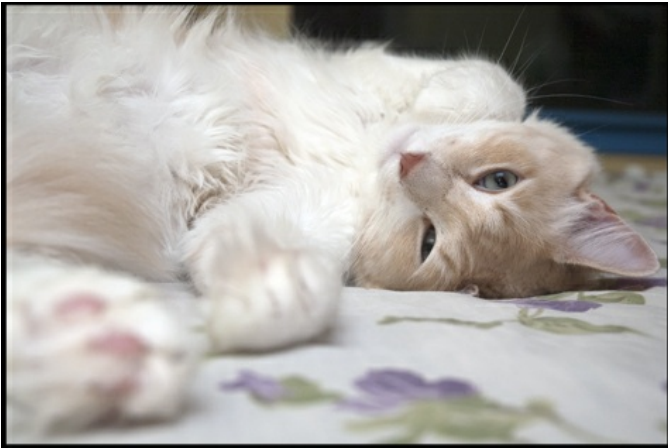
It was going to be 90°F in Connecticut the day the transport arrived. All I could think of was to get Phil, get him into the car with the A/C blasting and get him home! I ended up following the trailer into the parking lot! What timing! I didn't have to wait long to get Phil off the truck. **When they brought him to me, he started to cry-a big loud siamese-ish ME-OW! I knew what he meant. GET HIM OUT OF HERE!**

Connie came to get Muddles & Cuddles. I saw them for about 10 seconds, but made my excuses to get going. As soon as we were in the car, Phil settled down. It was so quiet, I think he finally felt like he could relax. By the time we were home, he was asleep.



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. Poor Phil. He was completely wiped out after the trip.

I got him into his room. He meowed loudly to be fed. **I felt bad taking him off what he was used to and starting him on grain free canned. Better get it over with! I gave him a can of food.** He ate the whole 5 ounces. He had a good drink of water. He laid down on the wood floor. I encouraged him to climb on the bed, but he seemed reluctant, so I put him on the bed. I petted him a bit and looked at his blue eyes. I didn't want to do much to him right then and there. He needed rest. I left him on the bed and he passed out cold.



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. After sleeping for the better part of a day, Phil starts to perk up.

Phil slept a lot over the first two days. I just kept him fed and spent those days sitting near him on the bed. We, okay I, watched dumb movies on TV. I petted him and talked to him. **He was not overly friendly, but not mean. He was just tired. Poor guy.**

I'd been getting applications on Phil from before he arrived, so after just three days of being with me, I went on a home inspection of a couple that lives in the neighboring town. Their home was spotless. They're retired and very active. They have no kids, but love cats and all animals. **Their home overlooks a waterfall and the woods. There are windows everywhere you look.** They are really nice people and they have one kitty named Tiger who misses his friend, Cisco, who passed away just about the same day I rescued Phil from the shelter.



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. Finally sitting up and looking well rested at last!

Two days later, they came to meet Phil. **They talked about possibly re-naming him, Big Poppy after one of the players on the Red Sox.** They liked how big he was, but didn't think he was "that" big! Are you kidding me? He IS a big guy! They were a bit nervous about how Tiger would react to Phil. **At least I knew Phil loved other cats, but if Tiger doesn't like him, then Phil has to come back to my house.**



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson.

They wanted to give it a try and they filled out the Adoption Contract and **I helped them pack up Phil, along with his favorite toy balls, his catnip banana and some feather toys.** I gave them some food, too and they gave me their promise that they'd do their best for Phil.



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. *Phil with the infamous Catnip Banana!*

Phil leaving was like ripping off a bandage. He wasn't here long enough for me to fall head over heels. He was here long enough for me to see what a special guy he is and how lovely he is. He really perked up and got playful before he left. He would "lumber" instead of run. It was really cute. His legs go for miles. **I think he can't get out of his own way some times.**



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. *One last road trip to make it home.*

The next part of Phil's story is up to fate and the faith of his new family. **Will Phil end up coming back? Maybe. I can't say for sure.** I know that he did well after his first day and that his new dad, **Joe, enjoys sitting on the bed, with Phil curled up next to him. Joe reads a book and pets Phil. They were buddies after a few hours.**



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. Farewell, Phil! I hope you have the most wonderful rest-of-your-life, ever!

This feels good and right, but time will tell. **For now, Phil is safe and in a loving home. With all my heart, I hope that this is “the one” for this gentle giant and if not, I've always got his back.**



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. The words every rescuer hopes to hear!

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[Maria](#) <sup>[17]</sup>  
[P.E.T.S., LLC](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

## **Comments**

Sun, 2011-08-07 14:50 — [Marilia \(not verified\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

### **Own** <sup>[20]</sup>

I was thrilled. For the successful adoption of Phil and him being so much like my cat Bartolomeu. Tears rolled here. A big big hug!!

Sun, 2011-08-07 15:54 — [MeowPrints \(not verified\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

### **Best Wishes for Phil** <sup>[22]</sup>

Phil is such a Beautiful cat! I wish him all the Best in his new home with his new family.

Tue, 2011-08-09 12:11 — [Bobbie](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

### **Waving :o)** <sup>[24]</sup>

We're waving at 'our' Phillip, what beautiful photos of him!!!

Hope he is doing well in his new home, and we sure are praying that Tiger will like him. It took a little while for some of us to accept him, but he was such a nice kittycat, we all became furriends.

Sending lots of good wishes his way!!  
~ The Bunch and Mom Bobbie at Cats ~ Goats ~ Quotes

Wed, 2011-08-10 08:41 — Amy Sikes (not verified)

### **Wow! Phil sure is gorgeous!** <sup>[25]</sup>

Wow! Phil sure is gorgeous! Look at those eyes! And you really take the best cat photos! :)

I hope things will keep working out at his new home!

Tue, 2011-09-13 05:10 — [Cat Pictures \(not verified\)](#) [26]

**Re:** [27]

This breed of cat has round whisker pads, making them look like they're got a permanent smile. They are thought to have inspired the iconic. Males are always larger than females and they are one of the larger cat breeds.

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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#### Links

- [1] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/not-my-watch-chapter-1-today-i-was-rescued>
- [2] <http://bobbieandbunch.blogspot.com/>
- [3] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/not-my-watch-hell-home-call-their-own>
- [4] <https://www.petsllc.net/>
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- [26] <http://catphotos.org/>
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