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Foster Cat Journal: It's Time for a Miracle

Sat, 2011-03-05 08:04 — Robin Olson



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. Mazie (left) and Cara (right) enjoy a game of tug of war.

If you spent any time with Cara, you'd think she was just an average 5 month old kitten. She loves to play with her sister, Polly and brother, Chester and her mama, Mazie. Sure, they had a rough go, sick for MONTHS starting just days after the little ones were born. **They had a URI that just wouldn't go away. They were loaded up with antibiotics and expensive antivirals. Nothing made them better and KEPT them better. I started to believe they would be here, forever and be sick for the rest of their lives.**



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. You can see how small Cara is by comparing her to the yarn ball(which is as big as a golf ball).

Fortunately, Chester is just about all better and Cara has no sign of the URI. Polly lags behind, but we will get her well! Sadly, having a Upper Respiratory Infection was the least of my concerns. **As many of you know, Cara, has been vomiting at least once, almost every day for a few MONTHS. Her growth has been stunted and her weight is one half of her siblings.** Even with that stress on her tiny body, she still has a great will to survive.



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. Cara's tabby pattern is really evolving nicely.

We've done many tests that got us no answers. I had a fight with my Vet about what to feed her. I won out and tried baby food with water. It worked, but it wasn't enough nutrition in the long run, so I added grain-free canned food and some water. Some times it worked, some times the same food made her start to lick her mouth furiously. Then I'd hear this awful gurgling sound as she'd violently twist and turn her head, as if she was trying to shake out whatever was causing her distress.

Then she'd start to buck backwards, her stomach would contract. I'd grab the paper plate she'd just eaten off of and put it in front of her. I'd catch the vomit on the plate-sounds funny, I know, but **I HAD to get it AWAY from her or she'd hastily try to EAT whatever came out of her. Clearly she was HUNGRY. So VERY HUNGRY, but unable to keep her food down,** she just looked at me so very desperately with those huge green eyes. Some times she'd start to gurgle again and vomit a second time, this time not much food, but a lot of foam. What could I do for her?



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This has been an ongoing issue-**MONEY. Cara MUST have endoscopy done.** We've got to have an Internist sedate Cara, then take a TINY camera and insert it into her mouth, go down her throat, into her belly. Hopefully she will see SOMETHING that will tell us WHY Cara can't keep her food down. They'll take biopsies of some of the tissue to see if they can learn anything from that.

The problem is-WHERE does this money come from? I'd happily pay the money and then some, but I've got nothing left. Between Cara's vet care and my own cat, Bob, who has cancer, I have maxed out my resources. **I need a miracle. I need an uber sugar-mama or papa who believes that every life is sacred and who is financially able to make a difference for Cara, where I have failed her.**

I've had quite a few of you write to me and offer me help with where we should have this procedure done and what clinic might give us a good discount. **I'm not going to ask for help without trying to find any way we can to get the cost DOWN.** Sadly, there are no coupons for endoscopy that I know of!

We called this brand new facility in Stamford, CT. On their website and in their fancy, die-cut, printed folder, it says they are not out to make a profit, but to provide the best care. **They would NOT give us an estimate and would only give a 5%, yes FIVE PERCENT discount** on their already sky high fees (*they gave us their exam fee which was \$25 more than everywhere else*).

We haven't given up. We've called, begged favors and have done what we can. We tried locally and out of state. **We finally found someone we feel is top notch who can do the procedure and give us 20% off. That means we need to raise at LEAST \$1200.00 to \$1600.00-and YES, that is the DISCOUNTED PRICE.** We pay through-the-roof prices on the East Coast. We even considered traveling far out of state, but if you add the travel costs to the discount, it's not worth the effort.

Then there's the next hurdle.

What if they don't find anything?

What if they DO find something?



©2011 Robin A.F. Olson. *Cara looks just fine, but inside her, something is terribly wrong.*

Either way, we need to raise enough funds to pay for more tests and/or surgery-all for one, charming, adorable, sweet natured, kitten who is struggling and fighting to live a decent, normal life.

I know if we do nothing, Cara will not make it. **Although she gained 9 ounces from last Tuesday to Saturday, from Saturday to today, her weight is unchanged. She vomited many times this past week. This is a bad sign.**

Cara can limp onward, eating thin gruel, but the longer it takes us to cure her, the more potential we have for losing her.

If you can help Cara, just click on the "ChipIn!" button on the ChipIn widget, below. Give whatever you can COMFORTABLY give and if you've been so kind as to help us in the past, then don't feel you have to again.

All I ask, is that you SHARE this post with your cat-loving friends. We've come together and made miracles happen before. Hopefully we can do it again.

*We set the ChipIn widget goal HIGH because it's very likely that Cara will need surgery or more tests and we only want to do ONE more fundraiser for her. If we find out we don't need more tests or surgery, we'll drop the goal down ASAP! Should we have any money leftover, it will go to another Kitten Associates foster cat who needs medical care. **Your donation is tax deductible.***

Thank you again for your love and support and for sharing Cara's story with your friends.

If you'd prefer to mail a check, please make the check out to "Robin Olson" and use the following address:

Kitten Associates, Inc
P.O. Box 354
Newtown, CT 06470-0354
Please note on check: FOR CARA

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Comments

Sat, 2011-03-05 09:22 — Lindainkansas (not verified)

[Cara](#) ^[17]

I went to donate on the page you told me to but I get a disturbing message and an not going to use this site to donate. Maybe you can look into it to see what the problem is :

This Connection is Untrusted

You have asked Firefox to connect securely to www.chipin.com ^[18], but we can't confirm that your connection is secure.

Normally, when you try to connect securely, sites will present trusted identification to prove that you are going to the right place. However, this site's identity can't be verified.

What Should I Do?

If you usually connect to this site without problems, this error could mean that someone is trying to impersonate the site, and you shouldn't continue.

Sat, 2011-03-05 10:50 — jla0214 (not verified)

[Vet College???](#) ^[19]

Did you try contacting a vet program at a college to see if Cara could be a case study???

It would need to be a highly accredited college for our baby girl!

Sat, 2011-03-05 10:55 — [Craigie \(not verified\)](#) ^[20]

[Vet suggestion](#) ^[21]

Hi, I'm sure you've found the best rate possible but if you'd consider going to Bayonne, NJ, I cannot recommend my vet enough. I found Dr. Mammias after not liking the attitude and the price at the vet in Jersey City. He charged half what they were charging in JC and everyone in his office is so kind. Dr. Mammias: 201-437-0100

I hope your poor kitten gets the care she needs!

Sat, 2011-03-05 12:48 — Catnynouse (not verified)

[CARA](#) ^[22]

Have you contacted Purdue University Veterinarian School in Lafayette, In.? Might get more help if your vet makes the referral and advocates for you. Regarding transportation, you can probably find a group of people who will transport state-to-state or whatever distance arrangements can be made. Good luck. Cara is precious.

Sat, 2011-03-05 19:01 — Anne (not verified)

[Have you considered having](#) ^[23]

Have you considered having Cara checked out by a vet who practices homeopathy? I realize they are not cheap but if something holistic can stop her vomiting so that she can start eating again (and keep it down), with any luck you won't have to worry about any surgery. You can do a search for homeopathic vets in CT or check out the list I found on the AHVMA site: http://www.holisticvetlist.com/ahvma_query_advanced.php ^[24]

Our prayers are with Cara. She's a beautiful kitten.

Sun, 2011-03-06 14:07 — [kelskruse](#) [25]

Chip In [26]

I had the same problem as the post above. I have used Chip-In to donate before with no problem. Is there an issue with this site? Would mail be the best alternative, though slower.

Sun, 2011-03-06 15:24 — [Robin Olson](#) [27]

ChipIn... [28]

We checked the ChipIn and it seems to be fine here. You could try using a different web browser like Firefox and see if that helps any. We'll still look into this issue and if we can find any problems, we'll correct them ASAP. You CAN send a check to "Robin Olson" and the address is:

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

Mon, 2011-03-07 11:17 — Alexis (not verified)

Donated [29]

I would just use paypal if I were you and donate that way...
That's how I did it and I didn't get any weird messages like that.
You guys raised enough for the test! Yay!!! I hope that it helps Cara!

CICH @ [Google+](#)
Robin @ [Google+](#)

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