

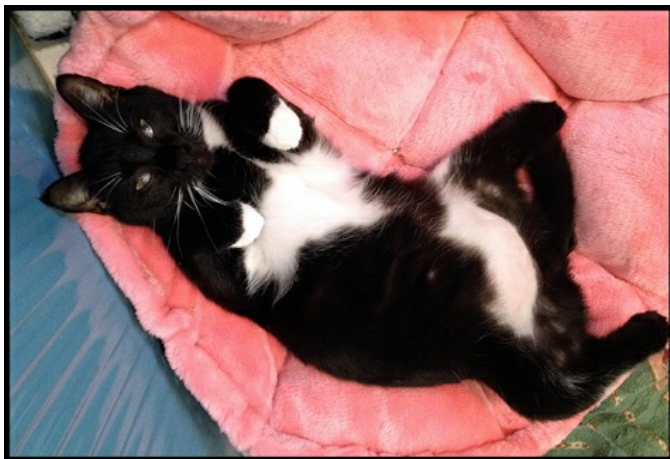
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Freya 2.0. Freya and Friends

Thu, 2015-12-10 13:25 — Robin Olson

There are things I never planned for when I first opened my non-profit cat rescue, [Kitten Associates](#) ^[1]. One of them was what to do when I encountered a cat that for some reason, finding a forever home would be difficult, if not impossible. I assumed that because we're a small rescue we'd never have to put a cat down (boy, was I wrong about that) or encounter horrible illness (wrong, again) or cats I'd be scratching my head about who I can't put up for adoption (yep, wrong).



©2012 Robin AF Olson. [King](#), the day before leaving for his forever home. King had some health issues after his adoption, but I'm glad to report he is doing great now.

Along the way we've had cats like [King](#) ^[2], who was born with no back paws. He was barely getting by on the grounds of a palette factory in Georgia, where he dodged fork lifts and ate scraps. I wasn't confident we'd ever find him a placement, but in the end King found the most perfect home with his mom, Judy who lives 1300 miles away in New Hampshire. I've come to see that there IS a home for EVERY cat no matter what. It just might take a great deal of time to find that home.

It's relatively straightforward to provide care for kittens. Yes, often times it can be touch and go. During those early days the odds are greater for loss to occur and sadly we have lost more than I'd care to recall. **What surprises me is that those cats who are the most difficult and emotionally draining to care for are the ones I love the most, even if it meant a lot of tough times as I witnessed their struggles, riding wave after wave of joy and anguish.**



©2015 Robin AF Olson. [Lady Saturday](#) ^[3] after she was released from ICU and only needed day to day monitoring at Dr. Larry's.

Last year I innocently offered to help my friends with a senior cat they found on the side of the road who was nearly starved to death and seriously ill. **I had no idea that 14 months and MANY thousands of dollars later, that cat would still be with us.** Lady Saturday's recovery was a miracle, but it also left us with a dilemma. Saturday is over 10 years old. She's deaf. She doesn't do much more than eat and sleep and purr during petting-time. **She's been available for adoption for most of this year but it's very unlikely we will EVER get an adoption application for her. Her foster family loves her very dearly, but they cannot afford her care so we've picked up the tab and will continue to do so.** We'll need a way to keep our commitment to this deserving tuxedo cutie, but in truth, fundraising for a senior cat isn't usually very successful.



©2014 Randy Szendy. Used with permission. First known photo of Freya before rescue.

Then there's Freya. Who knew that my last blog post about her ([HERE](#) ^[41]), which revealed the surprise that Freya no longer needed additional surgery and was stable enough to be adopted, would cause such a passionate firestorm of comments. Every one said the same thing; "You've GOT to KEEP FREYA. She loves you and you love her. How can you let her go? Who would provide the right care for her because she'll always be a special needs cat?"

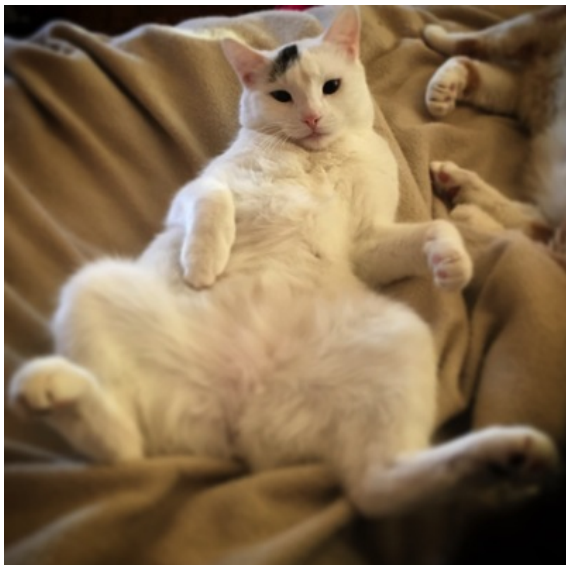
Some of you even cried at the news, as I did when I wrote that final line. I walked around like a Zombie the day I realized that all the hard work was probably over and that Freya really didn't need me as she once did. **I looked at the first photos of her the day I met her and I cried again. What a journey we've had.**



©2014 Robin AF Olson. Little Freya the first day she was with me.

What I do as a cat rescuer occurs in phases that repeat over and over again. I come to the aid of cats and kittens who face dire situations or health crises. Then we all work together to support those animals until their time comes to find their forever home. Along the way I help the cat learn to trust and love humans, be comfortable getting claws trimmed, treat their parasitic infections, their upper respiratory tract infections, keep their belly full.

I teach them to be confident and emotionally balanced and when I feel they've accomplished these things and are in good health, then it's time for them to be adopted. I've fostered close to 500 cats by now and you all know that I can't keep every one.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. Weighing just over 7 pounds, Freya has grown into a lovely little lady. She will always be very small, but her big personality makes up for it.

Over the years a few kittens have gotten under my skin and I've had to keep them here, but we're already beyond the limit of what we can provide for. There's also the issue of the stress it causes on some of our cats and the resulting inappropriate elimination nightmare that follows. Our cat Petunia can get so stressed she gets struvite crystals in her bladder (*which we had surgically removed earlier this year*). Is it fair to her for us to keep Freya? Is it responsible to keep Freya even though we cannot afford her care? Will Freya get enough attention from us? These are things I must consider. **Ultimately, I will always aim for what is best for our foster cat, not me.**

©2015 Robin AF Olson. Something to giggle about...

I agree that there aren't going to be a lot of people in our area who can provide care for Freya, unless they already do rescue work or are very experienced cat guardians. They would have to monitor her diet and track her output. She'll have more problems as she ages because of her spinal deformity and bowed legs. She's already hearing and probably vision impaired, though she doesn't let anything get her down. One day she may need acupuncture, medications and/or surgery to keep her comfortable as she grows older.

I love Freya very much and our journey has been one of the most meaningful of my life.

Without being arrogant, I'm really proud of what I've been able to do for her and it inspires me to perhaps change course from rescuing more kittens, to focusing on only one or two who need a lot of care to get them back on their paws. Freya's story has helped other kittens like her and even some young children who have atresia ani. It's an honor to know that she serves as an inspiration to others to not give up even when the Vet says "she's got a 10% chance to survive."

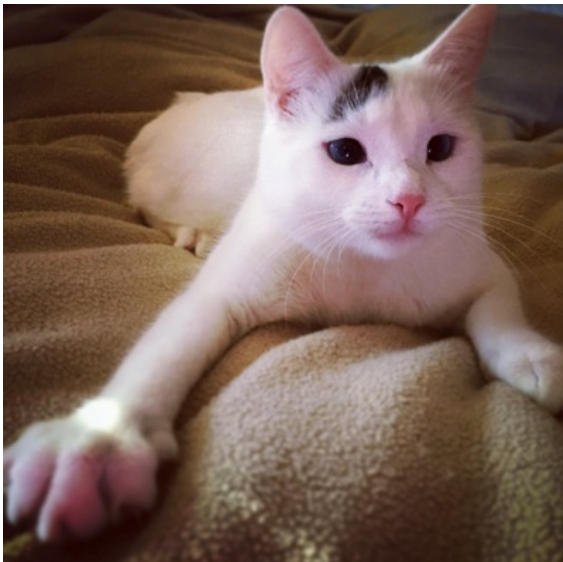


©2015 Robin AF Olson. Spring!

As I sit at my desk writing, I hear Freya's familiar me-ow. She wants my attention so of course I turn to see what she wants. She can't reach up very comfortably so I bend over and carefully lift her. I place her on my chest and sit back so she doesn't slide down to the floor. She walks on me purring away, not caring her butt is in my face. She turns and rubs her wet nose onto my cheek. I give her a few pets while being careful not to let her slip. Although I have to stop writing, I enjoy taking a moment to interact with her.

Freya often makes me smile and this time is no different. I put her gently back down on the floor and she runs off looking for her favorite spring toy. I ask myself how I can let her go. How I can be okay with never seeing her funny little *wiggle-butt-action* or how silly she looks when she suddenly stops, mid-step, then stretches out her back legs perfectly flat and straight, before going back to racing off just for the fun of it.

Rational "I should do this or that" thoughts aside, Freya is part of our family and I think I've found a solution that will make it possible for her to stay with us.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. Adorable as always.

I've created the Freya & Friends Fund ^[5]. *It's a special fund that will only be used for cats like Freya, who cannot be adopted, and who need long-term care. Lady Saturday will also benefit from this program* because she WILL need a lot of support since she's already a senior cat (*and she needs fluids at least once a week for the rest of her life*). **It will also help us provide for Mia**, who has not improved in over a year and is clearly not going to be social enough to find her forever home any time soon. **In fact, she may never be adoptable as she's still too fearful of humans. We need funds to cover her care, too, but these are things that are not easy to fundraise for and that is my fear.**

We need about \$15/day to cover the basics of food, litter and a tiny bit towards regular vet care for these cats. We'll have to do special fundraising as our cats age or as infirmity or unforeseen health issues occur.



If I didn't have to worry about how we were going to afford to provide for Freya, then keeping her here would be possible, but if I can't be certain we can always provide for her then it will be more difficult.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. Please keep me with you always!

The bonus, of course, if we keep Freya, means you'll always be able to stay in touch with her and watch her journey as it continues to unfold. She has a lot of growing to do and new friends to make.

Knowing she's been an inspiration to others makes it even more important to keep her with us. She could eventually visit our local schools to help children not only learn about compassion for animals but to see that just because a cat is different doesn't make her any less lovable—perhaps it makes her *more* lovable.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. A few nights ago with her family, [the DOOD](#) [6] and Spencer.

I guess that's what it comes down to in the end-love. Love trumps reason. Love overrules "should." I love Monkeypants and now I hope you'll help me keep her where she belongs by joining Freya & Friends as a supporter.

FRIENDSHIP OPTIONS

Dinner is on Me : \$15.00 USD - monthly

Subscribe



If you'd like more information about this program visit our web site [HERE](#). [5] Kitten Associates is a 501c3 non-profit so your gift is tax deductible. Our IRS EIN is 27-3597692.



©2014 Robin AF Olson. The night before [Freya's](#) [7] surgery I knew I could never let her go.

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Comments

Thu, 2015-12-10 13:49 — Jacki (not verified)

YES!!! ^[15]

I'm so happy I'm crying! Thank you, Robin, for falling in love with one of the sweetest, craziest cats I've ever met on Facebook. Thank you for adding her to your family. I was waiting on pins-and-needles for this blog entry. <3 My Evil Plan Bureau thanks you, too.

Thu, 2015-12-10 13:51 — Jen (not verified)

I KNEW it! ^[16]

I knew too, the night before her surgery, that she would be a foster fail. I KNEW there was no way you were going to be able to let her go. I AM SO HAPPY. She belongs with you! YOU saved her. YOU fought for her. YOU pushed and pushed and never gave up on her!

I am so thrilled. I need to double check with hubby on our finances, but I would love to contribute monthly!

Thu, 2015-12-10 14:17 — jmuwj (not verified)

RE: Those Special Cats ^[17]

Wonderful post and photos, Robin! Sharing to twitter, in hope that those who are so fortunate will be moved to help.

Thu, 2015-12-10 16:48 — Rosemar (not verified)

Freya ^[18]

Yay! This makes me so happy. Freya is yours and you and Sam are hers. She is home. YAY!

Thu, 2015-12-10 19:18 — Catnonymouse (not verified)

Happy tears ^[19]

I've subscribed to a monthly donation for your beautiful babies. It is hard for me to see the page to write this, but I just had to tell you, Robin, how thrilled I am for your selfless decision to keep little Miss Monkeypants and Lady Saturday and Mia. I'm jumping up and down in my heart.

Thu, 2015-12-10 19:28 — Meowpfht (not verified)

freya & friends ^[20]

I'm so thrilled she's gonna stay with you! She's like a part of your family especially with how she is with the Dood! RhanK you for all you've done & all you continue to do!! :-)

Fri, 2015-12-11 01:13 — Rebecca (not verified)

Happy!!!! ^[21]

When my husband lost his job last year, that morning I heard "don't worry, everything will be alright " even before he was laid off. This year has not been the easiest, but the one thing that has kept me going is my faith in God. He provides for us, all we have to do is ask. You might wonder where the next dollar is going to come from, but He will provide for you.

I have been following Freya on Facebook for awhile and have enjoyed her page. Thank you for sharing her life with us. I am so happy that you have decided to keep her. She is going to be such a joy with her silly antics and Monkeypants! !!!

Looking forward to more Monkeypants antics!!!!

Rebecca

Fri, 2015-12-11 09:23 — GD (not verified)

Donated!!! :) ^[22]

Donated!!! :)

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

Links

- [1] <http://kittenassociates.org/>
- [2] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/king-my-heart>
- [3] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/not-moment-too-soon-saturdays-story>
- [4] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/freya-20-dreams-really-do-come-true-part-17>
- [5] <http://kittenassociates.org/specialprograms>
- [6] <https://www.facebook.com/HisRoyalDOODness/>
- [7] <https://www.facebook.com/forFreya/>
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