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[Home](#) > The Hot Potato Rescue of Miss Muriel

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Two weeks ago I got a call from one of the Vets we work with in Georgia. She told me that a couple brought a very sweet stray cat to be examined because she appeared to be pregnant and the couple couldn't give her, or her unborn kittens, a home. I took one look at the photo of this sweet calico and knew I had to help her.

The problem was-where would she be fostered and if she was pregnant, that meant having to make a very difficult decision-do we have her spayed, aborting her offspring or let her give birth to the kittens? If she had the kittens it would mean she'd have to stay in GA for at least 10 more weeks which is a lot to ask a foster to take on.

Maria was full up with King and Miss FP and I didn't have a lot of options. Maria hit the phones and emails and I did the same. **I started to devise a plan to drive to Georgia to pick up the cat and bring her back to Connecticut as soon as she would be legally allowed to travel out-of-state.** She could give birth here. I just didn't feel right about taking her babies. In all the years I've done rescue, I've spayed or neutered every single cat. I figured if she had a few kittens it wouldn't tip the balance since it's not going to change cat overpopulation problems this one time. *(At the time I thought that Jakey & Teddy would be leaving for their forever home so I had the space to take her on.)*



It's hard to describe trying to rescue a cat when you get "maybe" or "if she is or if she is not" answers to if they can help. It's as if the cat was a hot potato, and no one wanted to hold onto it for too long or they feared getting burned. Helping a pregnant adult is tougher than helping kittens. Everyone wants to rescue a kitten, but finding a pregnant cat a rescue? That's a lot to take on. Pregnant cats can't be around other cats and after they give birth their kittens are very susceptible to disease. This is why Humane Societies and big shelters keep their pregnant cats off-site in a foster home if they can-sadly many of these cats end up being put to sleep because of how fragile these families are. If the mom needs emergency care or the kittens...the vet bill can go through the roof.

I can't tell you how many different plans Maria and I came up with-but there were a lot. It all revolved around this cat being ready to deliver in a few weeks.

Maria found a temporary foster home for the cat and a possible rescue IF she was pregnant. **We got the cat back to the Vet and the vet said that MAYBE she WASN'T pregnant after all! We offered to pay for an ultrasound or X-rays but were told if she wasn't far enough along that we couldn't know for certain.** Her mammary glands were not as swollen as they were before so it's possible she was in "heat" not pregnant...and maybe she needed to be fed a bit less?!

So now what do we do? Where is this cat going to go?

If she was not pregnant, I couldn't take her. She's between 4 and 5 years old. Though VERY friendly, she's not a cat I can place because I don't have a shelter and she'd have to be here for a VERY LONG TIME, tying up valuable space I can use for kittens. What other options did I have?



I knew it was a long shot, but I contacted my friend, Jennifer H. who is in charge of intake at the [Humane Society of Forsyth County](#) [1]. I knew I needed to make it as easy for her to say "YES!" as possible so I devised a plan.

I offered to pay for the cat's vetting-her vaccinations, her spay and arrange transport to their location which is over 70 miles from where the cat is now. They would have to find her a home, but they get the adoption fee so it offset some of the costs for her care. I crossed my fingers and waited. Everyone else I asked either didn't get back to me or couldn't take her on. This HAD to work.

Jennifer wrote me back saying they were re-doing the floors at the shelter and couldn't take the cat right now, BUT could we wait a few weeks? If so, she could take the cat.

YES!!!!

I checked with the foster mom and she said it was all right with her!

Sounds easy, right? I literally cranked on this for almost a week before things were worked out. It was totally worth it to help this cat even though I will never enjoy meeting her in person.

I need to do a mini-fundraiser for Muriel. Our funds are stretched this time of year so even this little fundraiser will really help a lot! Your donation, as always, is tax deductible and any funds not used for Muriel will go to help other cats in our program. My non-profit, [Kitten Associates](#) [2], provides the funding for these rescues.

Muriel has been in foster care long enough for us to feel safe that it's okay to have her spayed tomorrow. In a few weeks she'll be headed north. **I'm very grateful to HSFC for offering to help-especially after they just took four kitties out of Henry Co. Care & Control just before they were due to be euthanized.**

Another one saved, so many more to go...hopefully Miss Muriel will find her forever home soon-with that sweet face, I think it's almost a given.

If you live in Georgia or neighboring states and have fallen in love with Muriel and want to know how you can adopt her, just contact me (until the second week of March-afterwards HFSC should have her). You can reach me at info @ coveredincathair.com (remove spaces before emailing).

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[Cute Photo](#) [3]

[Georgia Rescue](#) [4]

[Buddy Can You Spare a Dime?](#) [5]

[Fundraiser](#) [6]

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Look at that face!

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- [1] <http://www.forsythpets.org/>
- [2] <http://kittenassociates.org/>
- [3] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/48>
- [4] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/georgia-rescue>
- [5] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/buddy-can-you-spare-dime>
- [6] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/fundraiser>
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- [8] <https://coveredincathair.com/users/annazed>
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