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A House Panther's Painful Story.

Tue, 2016-03-22 14:37 — Robin Olson

It's been a long road with Laney and her family, from two failed adoptions to a seemingly endless number of inappropriate adoption applications. After over a year in foster care I'm starting to wonder if the cats will ever find their forever homes.

Yes, it's my fault. I've decided that after everything they've gone through, Laney, Winnie and Piglet **MUST** be adopted together. Finding an adopter to take one cat is tough enough, but three? I must be insane. I've also decided that JellyBelly and brother Lollipop have to stay together, too, but Lolli is fearful. Who would want to adopt him? Lolli has never been cuddly and though he **will** sit next to me and sleep, he's very jumpy. **I know that in time he could improve, with the right family who would go slowly with him, but that's a lot to ask.**



©2016 Robin AF Olson. Lolli's hidey place.

Over the past few weeks I've been trying to spend more time with the cats, playing with them and having cuddle-time, to encourage the kitties to be better socialized. The girls love it and Lolli loves to fly-high after the toys.

Jelly was equal to his brother in enthusiasm, jumping almost as high as my head to get after a feather-toy. But lately Jelly hasn't been jumping. I had a gut-punching-fear that maybe Jelly had the dry form of FIP, just like what ended our 10-month old kitten Fred's life a few years ago.

But Jelly didn't have any of the other symptoms Fred had. Jelly just seemed to be a tiny bit off and more interested in having me bring him the toy, then to chase after it. **I started to wonder if he twisted his leg or hurt his back from jumping, but he wasn't obviously limping.**

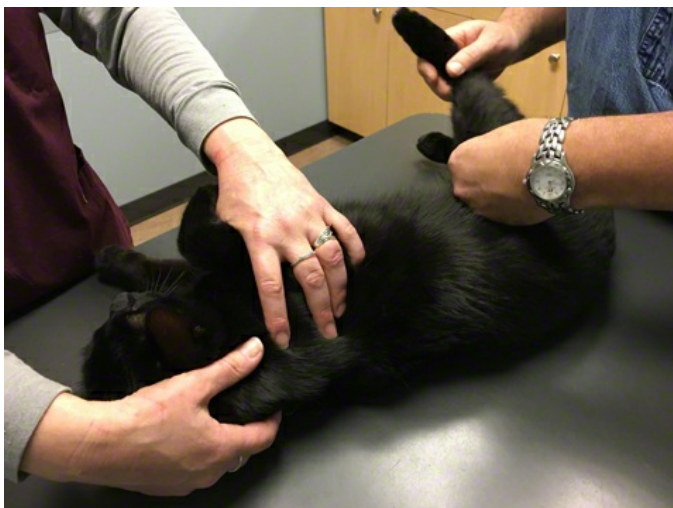


©2016 Robin AF Olson. Mr. Handsome-JellyBelly relaxing on his blanket.

The other night Jelly did something very strange. He laid down during play time. I knew something was wrong.

Jelly **never** lays down for the feather toy. I stopped playing with the cats and carefully observed Jelly. There it was a very slight hitch in his back right leg. Almost as if his leg was giving out on him. When he jumped onto the bed I could tell he wasn't pushing off from the floor, but rather was pulling himself up by his front legs. I slowly ran my hand over his back legs, trying to feel for an obvious sign of a break or imperfection, but found none. Jelly walked normally, then his right side would subtly dip down, or did it? I wasn't sure. It wasn't an emergency, so I didn't have to get him to the vet that night, but I also couldn't let this go on without getting him checked out.

I brought him to see Dr. Larry the next day.



©2016 Robin AF Olson. Dr. Larry & Super-Deb examine Jelly's legs.

As much as I believe I have a good basic understanding of our cat's health issues, I still get surprised by what ails them, and some times not in a good way. **I expected to have to do x-rays on Jelly's leg, to cage-rest him and that he sprained his leg, but I was wrong. Dr. Larry made the face that I have come to fear; the grimace, the stern look as he felt along Jelly's leg. He knew what was going on, now he was thinking about how he was going to break the news. My heart sank as Dr Larry told me that Jelly's kneecap was going in and out of place.** That's why he seemed to be fine, then wasn't fine. That it was likely a genetic problem, which is why we didn't notice it sooner. These things get worse as the cat ages and gains weight. It also can effect both kneecaps. Thankfully in this case, Jelly's is only on his right side.

I asked what can we do for Jelly? The answer: surgery. A luxating patella is graded in a range of 1 to a 4, 4 being the most severe. He rated Jelly's at a 3, which also means the only thing we can do is surgery, which will repair the problem. Because he's not at the most severe stage yet, he has a great chance to make a full recovery.



©2016 Robin AF Olson. Poor Jelly was scared but he was a really good boy through his exam.

This is where things get really tough.

The repair will cost \$2700, including pre-op blood work (*blood work is not listed below*) and our discount. It has to be done by a Board Certified Surgeon. This is NOT a typical repair for a cat. Dogs get this issue all the time, but not cats. Jelly will need a long recovery afterwards, too and lots of cage rest. **How will I ever get him adopted? And what about Lollipop? Does Lolli have the same problem, too? Will I have to separate the cats and adopt them alone?**

Maple Ridge Animal Clinic
775 Main Street South
Southbury CT 06488
(203) 262-0595

3/15/2016
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Kitten Associates
P.O. Box 354
Newtown, CT 06470

Client ID: 2329
Estimate ID: 6179
Expiration Date: 3/25/2016

Patient ID:	Species:	FELINE	Weight:	13.12	units:	Sex:	Neutered Male
Patient Name:	Breed:	DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR	Birthdate:	06/16/2014			
Description	Low Qty	Low Amount	High Qty	High Amount			
3/15/2016 HOSPITALIZATION (FELINE)	1.00	\$44.00	1.00	\$44.00			
3/15/2016 MEDICAL WASTE IN PATIENT	1.00	\$6.50	1.00	\$6.50			
3/15/2016 BUPRENEX INJECTION	1.00	\$33.35	1.00	\$33.35			
3/15/2016 SURGERY SUITE FEE	1.00	\$200.00	1.00	\$200.00			
3/15/2016 CATHETERIZATION IV	1.00	\$50.00	1.00	\$50.00			
3/15/2016 FLUIDS INTRAVENOUS	1.00	\$42.00	1.00	\$42.00			
3/15/2016 ANESTHESIA (SQ/AMONITOR 30 MIN	1.00	\$120.00	1.00	\$120.00			
3/15/2016 ANESTHESIA (SQ/ADDL MINUTES	30.00	\$67.50	80.00	\$180.00			
3/15/2016 LICKING PRETILLA	1.00	\$14.60	1.00	\$14.60			
3/15/2016 3M Custom Care Collar 13cm	1.00	\$14.60	1.00	\$14.60			
3/15/2016 MEDICATIONS-ESTIMATE- FELINE	1.00	\$100.00	1.00	\$100.00			
Low Subtotal:	\$2,577.95	High Subtotal:	\$2,840.40				
Less Discount:	\$10.10	Less Discount:	\$10.10				
Low Total:	\$2,567.85	High Total:	\$2,830.30				

©2016 Robin AF Olson. Here's the estimate. We get 20% off the totals thanks to our super-awesome vet, Dr. Larry.

Then another problem.

We just did a fundraiser through Fairfield County Giving Day. We raised \$3700.00. Great, right? Well, firstly I had prayed that we could have used the funds to refurbish our truly awful foster room. It looks like a dump and the cat trees are all shredded and falling apart. Updating the room is something I've been planning on for awhile now. **Okay, that can wait another year but, Jelly's leg cannot.**

Then it gets worse.

[When will my organization receive our donations?](#)

The K Foundation, Kimbia's grantmaking partner, will distribute donation and prize award checks to each nonprofit within 60 days from Giving Day on March 10, 2016.

We don't GET the money we raised for 60 days! This is a BIG PROBLEM. The longer we wait, the more pain Jelly will be in and worse-THE BIGGER THE CHANCE JELLY WILL COMPOUND HIS INJURY AND MOVE IT TO STAGE 4. If that happens, even with repair from a stage 4, there's about a 50% chance it will happen again later in his life. If he gets the repair as a stage 3 the risk is zero! Who will adopt a cat knowing there's a big cost involved one day?

We can't wait. We can't afford it with the funds we have on hand, so we have to try to raise the funds for him NOW and we know it's going to be tough.



©2016 Robin AF Olson. Jelly with Auntie Winnie (who is still hoping to find her forever home!)

Is Jelly a critically ill kitten? Nope. Is he a sad sack dirty, injured old kitty? Nope. He's a gentle giant of a cat, a black "house panther" who loves his feather toy, his brother and his mom. **He needs surgery to be pain-free, but we can't afford to help him and that's devastating to us.**

Many rescues like ours face the sad truth that it would be a lot less expensive to go ahead and amputate Jelly's leg instead of spend the money on repair. We could still afford to feed our remaining foster cats and Jelly would manage on three legs, but I just can't stomach knowing that we'd ever let money stop one of our cats from getting the care they need. Also, what would happen if Jelly's left rear kneecap luxated one day and he didn't have his right leg any more?



©2016 Robin AF Olson. Jelly can bear weight on his leg-sometimes-but this is the knee that's giving him trouble.

There are LOTS of ways you can help. I am **not** going to use a fundraising web site because they take a percentage of what we raise OR they grossly hold up on releasing the funds when we need them **NOW**. I will report back here and on our Facebook page should we reach our goal of \$2700.00, so we don't take on more than we need.

3/24/16 UPDATE: WE MADE OUR GOAL! YOU GUYS ARE FABULOUS!!!! THANK YOU! I'm booking Jelly's surgery appointment today!

3/22/16 UPDATE: OMG! THANKS TO AN AMAZINGLY GENEROUS DONOR YOUR DONATION WILL BE MATCHED UP TO \$1000! So that means you donate \$1 and it comes to us as \$2 (and so on) 3/22/16 SECOND UPDATE: THE \$1000 DONATION HAS BEEN MATCHED ALREADY! WE ONLY NEED ABOUT \$550 MORE TO GO!

1. Use **DONATE TODAY** ^[1] **button** to make a donation via our PayPal account. **Kitten Associates** ^[1] **is a 501c3 Non-Profit so your donation is tax deductible.** Our tax ID is 27-3597692. [MAKE SURE YOU READ BELOW BECAUSE ALL GIFTS OVER \$25 GET A THANK YOU GIFT FROM US!]
2. **Call our vet's office, Maple Ridge Animal Clinic, at 203-262-0595 to verify our need and to make a donation to our account: Kitten Associates "For Jelly."**
3. **Mail a check** to *Kitten Associates*, P.O. Box 354, Newtown, CT 06470-0354 and put in the notes *"For Jelly."*
4. **Purchase cat food** from our [Amazon Wishlist](#). ^[2] **We spend a tremendous amount of money on cat food** and if we don't have that concern we can use some of our remaining funds for Jelly.
5. **Share this post socially, with your cat-loving friends,** and ask them to help. **It doesn't have to be a big donation because together they all add up!**

You Get Something Awesome, Too!

Everyone who donates \$25 or more will get a special gift from our friends at [Satiama](#) ^[3]. You WANT these gifts. I just got a set of them, myself, and I have to say between the quality and the love that's put into each piece, whether it be an a multi-award-winning CD, a multi-award-winning book or multi-award-winning *Spirit Animal Cards*, any item would bring great joy.



If you have kids or are grandparents or just love nature , they are especially meaningful. The **Spirit Animal Cards** are used to help parents teach children as young as 4 years of age (*and upwards into teens*) valuable lessons and gain compassion for themselves and others. The beautifully illustrated and high-quality cards come with a guide for parents, too. Partnered with that there are two volumes of **Children's Spirit Animal Stories** on CD, with music composed by Grammy-award winner Barry Goldstein. These stories dovetail perfectly with the cards and help make connecting with nature and our own hearts even more fulfilling.

The story of **"How the Trees Got Their Voices"** goes beyond simple storytelling, by combining colorful illustrations with entertaining facts about the flora and fauna all around us. This book is meant to be read over and over with a fresh meaning discovered each time.

Lastly, **"Come Walk with Me"** is a series of 4 guided meditation journeys by Eva Blacktail Swan. In these trying times, we rarely take a few minutes for ourselves. This CD can be particularly helpful in release and healing of painful feelings or for those seeking direction in life. Eva's voice is very soothing and for me is much better than eating cake when I'm at my wit's

end!

To take advantage of this offer, pop over to [THIS PAGE](#) [4] and look at the options. Remember which one you want then use the [DONATE TODAY](#) [1] button and add to the NOTES section which item you'd like (*1 book, card set or CD per person please*) making SURE your mailing address is included so we can ship the item to you! (*yes, shipping is free, too*).

We need 108 people to donate just \$25 to hit our goal. Do you think we can do it?



©2016 Robin AF Olson. Jelly is such a sweet boy but these days he feels better sleeping on the floor so he doesn't have to face the pain of jumping onto the bed.

A BIG BIG BIG Thank You to Karen Stuth one of the Founders of Satiama for her generosity. She is getting NOTHING out of any of the donations and is simply providing free books and CDs and shipping costs out of her own pocket. **We at Kitten Associates are VERY GRATEFUL to her for her support and love during this challenging time.**

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