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Just One Person. How to Save the Lives of Shelter Cats.

Wed, 2015-06-17 16:46 — Robin Olson

*Many years ago when I was first fostering, I'd heard about conditions cats and dogs face in the southern United States at overcrowded municipal shelters. At the time I didn't want to know any details. I kept my eyes to the ground and just fostered a few kittens here or maybe an entire family, but never too many to feel overwhelmed. **I was protecting myself from a heartbreaking truth that I was convinced I couldn't do anything about because I was just one person.** Fostering a few kittens meant giving back to my community and helping cats. I didn't have to find them homes, my "boss" did that. I didn't have to get too attached because I only had the kittens for a week or two.*

In fact, there were times when I could have learned more about terrible conditions right here in my own state when the rescue I volunteered for helped out with a hoarder, but I couldn't handle it. I told them not to tell me or "I'd lose it."



©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. Clyde is an adult with very sad eyes who was pulled from a Georgia kill-shelter because Joan knew he was doomed. He turned out to be FIV positive, but is a sweet cat. He has been neutered and given his vaccines. This VERY lucky adult may even have a home waiting for him thanks to Joan!

Because I write this blog, invariably someone will see my words and it will effect them, which in turn will end up changing my life, too. That's how I finally gained the courage to open my eyes to the plight of cats and kittens in the south-one person who already knew about the horrors contacted me, asking me to help. She ended up being one of our most important volunteers, our first foster home and the key to beginning to make a difference in the lives of cats from the south.



©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. **Polly is a tuxedo polydactyl** who very sweet. She is due to be spayed soon, but otherwise is fully vetted and healthy. Please contact Joan to inquire about adopting this cutie.

The horrors these days, with Facebook abuzz with pleas for help, seems almost trivial because it's not a secret: overcrowded shelters euthanize cats and kittens, even ones just born, to make space. Most don't get more than a day or two to get out via a rescue or adoption. Since kittens get sick so quickly, with their lack of a mature immune system, often they are the first to die. It makes me cry to even write about it, even after all these years of facing the ugly truth that if people don't spay or neuter their pets, this will continue on and on.



©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. These kittens had runny eyes and were pulled in the nick of time right before the shelter killed 21 other cats and kittens. Without a foster home these kittens wouldn't have made it.

Even though my rescue is small, we've made a difference in more than 500 cats' lives by directly rescuing them from shelters or by networking online to help others. It's like emptying the ocean with a spoon, but it's something-and for those cats **it means everything.**

That's why when someone else, who is "just one person," reaches out for help to rescue cats in need, I will try to do something and that's the case for my friend, Joan Flores.

Joan is based in Chattanooga, TN and has been helping dogs and cats for as long as I've known her. Even though Joan is admittedly flat out exhausted and trying to step back from doing rescue so she can work on rebuilding her business (*which took a big hit earlier this year*), she can't let animals die without trying to do something, anything to help.



©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. Happy and safe and no more sniffles, thanks to Joan.

Joan recently contacted me telling me the bad news-that this “kitten season” is one of the worst anyone can recall. Every week cats and kittens are being put down for no good reason other than there’s no place to put them all.



©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. This little one, her mother and the rest of her family were put down before 8AM, before Joan had a chance to beg for their lives. **She had no open foster home for them. That's all it would have taken to save them.** This post is dedicated to these little angels.

I realize that this scary and sad news might make you want to tuck your head under the blanket, but I'm going to ask you to try to be brave with me, with Joan, with our foster mom, Moe, with Bobby, Warren, Mary Jo, Kendra, Jame, Dorian, Katherine, Connie, Connie S., Adrienne, Amy and SO MANY MORE “just one person” who is trying to make a difference by fostering cats and kittens. If you add up all the cats each of us has fostered, you're starting to look at some very impressive figures. Be just one, of many and join us.

Right now Joan is in DIRE need of foster homes in Chattanooga, TN area AND pretty much anywhere in central

Georgia. I need foster homes HERE in Sandy Hook/Newtown, CT. It doesn't take much to foster but it will keep those cats from dying. Will you be sad when they leave? Sure. **But I would much rather be sad that they left me and went to their forever home, then left a shelter in a black plastic bag never having known love or joy.**



©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. **The Redemption 5** These kittens were given 24 hours by a shelter (basically because they were messy eaters and they don't want to clean up after them). Thanks to Joan, they are safe but need funds to help with their care. BTW Bath tubs are the BEST place to raise kittens under 8 weeks!

Also, Joan is desperately trying to raise funds to provide surgery for a very pretty Siamese kitty named Amara, who, along with her little scruffy kitten, were destined to be put down. **Thanks to Joan, they are safe, but Amara's eye is in bad shape and she needs surgery.**



©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. Amara and son. They tried optical ointments for Amara, but sadly her eye is too damaged to save. It's painful and she needs to have it surgically removed-after which time Amara and her kitten will be available for adoption. See Joan for details (contact info is below).

This is not easy or fun to write about, but I'm so passionate about this topic that I truly hope you'll take a leap of faith and open your home to Joan, our rescue, or ANY rescue in your hometown. Try fostering. Save a life, or two, or four. You'll feel blessed to be around tiny creatures who have no sadness in their hearts. You'll find your smile seeing them thrive-even on your worst day. You will make a pledge to be brave, for them, for the little ones who have no hope to live without you.

Let's Save Some Lives!

Chattanooga, TN area and Georgia friends: Please contact Joan Flores at mcnewappraisals@gmail.com ⁽¹⁾ if you'd like to

know more about the kittens posted here for adoption or if you'd like to offer assistance by being a foster home.

Please contact ME if you live in Sandy Hook/Newtown, CT at info@kittenassociates.org ^[2] if you're interested in fostering for us!



©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. Don't make them wait for a rescue. Foster today!

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©2015 Joan Flores. Used with Permission. Adopt us, too! Contact **Joan** for details.

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Comments

Wed, 2015-06-17 19:59 — [Arkansas Foster](#) (not verified)

[Thank you](#) ^[15]

Just wanted to say thank you. Your blog is one of the reasons I decided to get into fostering. We had our first foster after moving to arkansas last fall and since this evening just received numbers 31-34 which are settling into their roo for the night. Last week we had our first foster failure. We LOVE fostering and it IS worth it! Thanks again for all you do.

Thu, 2015-06-18 12:05 — [Robin Olson](#) ^[16]

[Thank you!](#) ^[17]

I'm so glad to see your comment and to agree how wonderful it is to foster. Yes, there's always the worry about wanting to keep your foster, but clearly you showed you CAN keep fostering and not keep them all. Keep up the great work. I'm thrilled you wrote! Thank you!

Thu, 2015-06-18 13:47 — [jmuwj](#) (not verified)

[RE: FOSTERING](#) ^[18]

Though it'd be difficult for me to foster with my family of seniors ranging in age from 10-21, I CAN share your article to social media with special message, and express my extreme gratitude to you and everyone who does this selfless and very necessary work. I have also had friends in the South who have told me stories of absolute horror, all of which are absolutely indefensible and completely unnecessary. Spay/neuter and adoption for life, along with fostering, would mean a loving, forever home for every cat and kitten, and a much higher status for all cats, since scarcity increases value in the minds of those for whom intrinsic value doesn't register.

Sat, 2015-06-27 04:54 — [Tracy Williams](#) (not verified) ^[19]

[Thank you](#) ^[20]

Thank you for sharing such a nice blog. Your blog is one of the reasons I decided to get into fostering. I appreciate it!!

Sat, 2015-06-27 04:55 — [Tracy Williams](#) (not verified) ^[19]

[Thank you](#) ^[21]

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[Robin @ Google+](#)

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