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King of My Heart

Wed, 2012-07-18 10:14 — Robin Olson

It's hard to believe that we rescued King from a [palette factory](#) ^[1] in Georgia six months ago. In that time, King has been transformed from a thin, filthy rag ^[2] of a cat into a lovely, chubby cuddlebug.



©2012 Maria S. King getting settled prior to transport.

King is very special to me, even from afar. Knowing he must have had a difficult life living outside, handicapped by a deformity that robbed him of his hind paws, made me imagine the worst. How he must have suffered trying to get around with two stumps for back legs-especially with trucks, cars and fork lifts buzzing around him. How did he manage? How did he not get run over and killed? How is it that he's so darn friendly? I know the folks at the factory fed him scraps when they could and they put a piece of cardboard down under an outdoor staircase so he's have some sort of shelter, but someone handled this cat. That much is clear.



©2012 Maria S. Not so sure about going for a long ride.

Six months is a long time to be in foster care waiting for a forever home, but Maria and I both knew that finding King the right home wasn't going to be easy. **In fact, a small rescue like mine shouldn't even take on anything other than cute**

little easy-to-adopt-out kittens. We don't have the staff or the foster home space to take on a cat we can't find a home for within a short amount of time. If we had a brick and mortar shelter we COULD take on more adults. If we took on as few as three adults who would be tough to place, it would prevent us from saving MANY more kittens from Kill Shelters. It's a very tough place for us to be in, **but I know in time we'll take on more adults when we have the resources.** I'll still help the few I can and get the word out on other adults I can find another rescue to take on.



©2012 Maria S. Maria watches the transport make it's way north.

But King had something about him, from the moment Bobby called me, describing this cat's plight. Bobby had seen him a year ago, then not again for a long while. When he saw him again, he knew he had to ask me, knowing full well that this is not a cat I can usually help. I understood that taking King on would cause some issues for us, but I couldn't say no. I'd never sleep at night thinking about him out there struggling to survive.

I had lots of questions and concerns. **What could I do for him? Would he need surgery? Was he semi-feral? What was I getting myself into?** I'd cared for a cat who had a limb amputated but not one without back feet who could not walk on a floor unless it was carpeted.



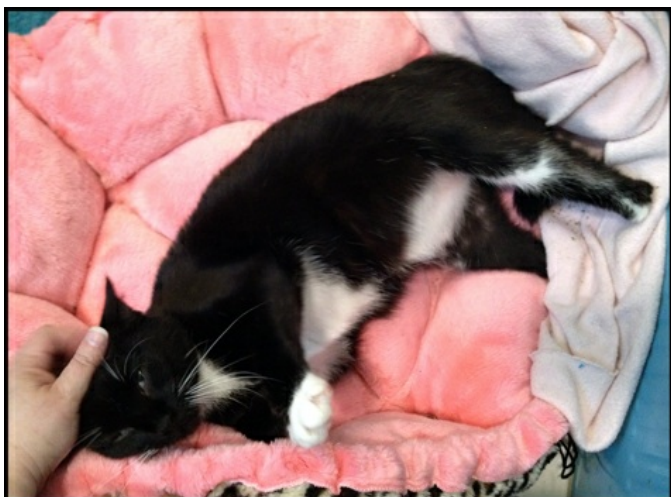
©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. I saw many black dogs come off the transport. Black animals in the south still carry the stigma of being bad luck.

©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. King arrives, though not very happily.

On Saturday, King's transport arrived. Whatever concerns I had about him would be put to the test. The Vets and Specialist declared there was nothing more to be done for him. What would I do with a cat who couldn't jump or run around-who could only travel as far as I placed rugs or towels on the floor? **Would I feel strange touching him...seeing his back legs end prematurely into rounded stumps that showed signs of a paw pad and deformed toes-but which didn't function as such?**

©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Meet King.

The trip was tough on King. He was crying and upset off the transport because it was filled with barking dogs. I **HATE** to put him through that, but the trip ends and the damage to his nerves won't last forever. It's a necessary evil if I want to get King here reliably and safely for a reasonable amount of money.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. Getting to know King.

King was clearly confused and upset, but once he was in the car with me, without the sound of the dogs, he got very quiet and just sat towards the back of his carrier. I spoke to him as we drove along, but he didn't move or make a peep.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *He loves to be loved. King has a heart of gold.*

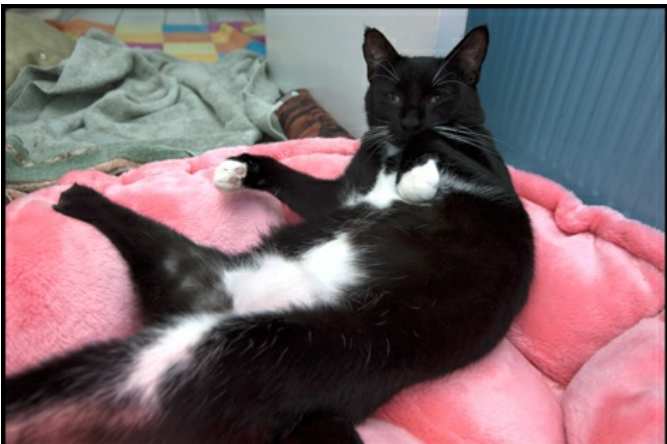
I brought him upstairs to the bathroom which would be his temporary home. He hid and cried.

I got him something to eat and sat with him. I wasn't sure I could pet him, but I had to try. **The second I touched him, he softened up and pushed his head back into my hand. I scratched his neck and he flopped down on his side, rolling against me.** It took a few minutes, but I coaxed him out of his hiding place. Watching him walk made me sad. **His little back legs can't get a grip on a smooth surface so he slipped a little bit trying to reach the cat bed I'd put out for him.** He climbed into the bed. It was the first time I really got a good look at him.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *You know what King wants!*

King gained FIVE POUNDS since we rescued him and I could feel the weight of him as I stroked his back, then his sides. He quickly turned over, opening himself to me by showing his belly. He had no reservation allowing me to pet him there, too. He wriggled around, keeping eye contact with me. He loved being scratched under the chin and behind his ears. **If I hit a certain "right" spot, his back leg would twitch and dig at the air, just as a dog would do.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Chillaxin' on his "throne."*

My heart sank as I realized King could not scratch himself, EVER. He had no way to do that. Of course he'd LOVE it if someone would scratch him so I spent a long time scratching every part of his head and neck, allowing his twitchy back legs to guide me to the right places.

The longer I scratched, the happier King got. He seemed grateful for this small gesture. **He couldn't get up and run off or jump on the cat tree and look out the window. He could sit next to me and be my buddy and he seemed fine with that and I did, too.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Such a good boy! (by the way, King is going to the Vet this morning to re-check why his third eyelids are showing)*

Although I still feel sad when I see King's back legs, it hit me all of a sudden-of course it really didn't matter that he's handicapped. He's a great cat, paws or no paws. **King doesn't know what he's missing. He never had it in the first place.** He doesn't let that stop him from living his life to the fullest.

King is here today because Bobby and Maria offered to help him, but the gravity of this rescue hit me. If I hadn't said; *"I've got your back-yes I'll take you into my rescue,"* this never would have happened. I looked down at King. He flipped over and showed me his belly again. **He looked into my eyes and in that moment nothing else mattered. As the tears slid down my cheeks, I fell in love with this cat. This once miserable wreck of a beast, with no hope in his life, laying before me, completely surrendering himself to me, trusted me to do right by him-and I know I did.** I felt honored. I felt humbled. I felt hopeful that a cat as sweet and gentle as King would find his forever home soon...

...maybe sooner than I imagined.



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Comments

Wed, 2012-07-18 10:49 — Catnymouse (not verified)

King's third eye-lid ^[18]

Hi Robin

Its always great to read your blog and great to hear about King.

I googled to find out about third eye-lid as one of my cats had it and I did not have enough to bring to the vet. Sometimes the haw could be caused by worms, yes those nasty little things again. She had very obvious third eye-lid showing and was losing weight, and appetite decreased. So I gave her drontal twice, first time the third eye lid reduced by half, 2nd time it was totally gone. She's much more active now. Not sure if you might want to deworm him to give it a try.

Wed, 2012-07-18 11:36 — Bobbie ^[19]

Happy Tears... ^[20]

Thank you Robin, for taking in this more than special boy. He is a beauty.

I'm so glad his long trip from the pallet company to you has ended and his new life is beginning.

Hoping and praying for a good home with a nice carpeted house will be his soon. He is so handsome.

Thank you again!

Wed, 2012-07-18 13:32 — Teri and the ca... (not verified) ^[21]

Re: King of Hearts ^[22]

I like having lumps in my throat and tears in my eyes because of what people like you do, for the cats, and for giving King 'o Hearts a chance at a bright future...

Thu, 2012-07-19 14:10 — Catnymouse (not verified)

King ^[23]

Thank you for your work on behalf of this adorable guy. One of my babies is a special needs cat that was also rescued by a small rescue that should never have taken on him and his 1800 vet bill for a diaphragmatic hernia. But I'm so glad they did. He's the best cat I've ever had the pleasure of living with. I'm sure there is someone out there who will feel the same way about King, and give him the fur-ever home, love and care he deserves.

Thu, 2012-07-19 15:46 — Catnymouse (not verified) ^[24]

King ^[25]

I've come across a cat like this once before..only it was the result of an accident. The cat was made "bionic" back feet by a world famous vet. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10404251> ^[26]. so I guess if ever it seemed appropriate for King, this could be an option. Though he is lovely just the way he is.

Fri, 2012-08-03 17:20 — Cattywumpus (not verified) ^[27]

King ^[28]

I started reading the story of King's adoption, and then had to scroll down to see the beginning. Big lump in my throat - he is such a beautiful cat. I hope his fur-ever home works out. Thank you for the work that you do!

Thu, 2014-07-24 12:56 — jmuhj (not verified)

RE: KING ^[29]

What an amazing inspiration. And look at those starfish paws! The sign of a very happy cat. <3

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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Links

[1] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/update-rama-happy-sad-endings-hopeful-beginnings>

[2] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/not-my-watch-rescue-fit-king>

[3] <http://petties.dogtime.com/>

[4] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/33>

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