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King's Amazing Journey Continues on Four Paws

Mon, 2012-02-06 13:08 — Robin Olson

Over the years, I've fostered many cats and I believe, that for those of us who take this on, we get to a place where we specialize in the type of fostering we do. I know people who take neonatal, orphan kittens and with a very serious commitment to a schedule of feeding, cleaning and nurturing, help the kittens survive those delicate early days. There are others who focus on Feline Leukemia positive cats, giving them a chance to live a full life, for as long as it may be.

For myself, I seem to take on mama-cats and their offspring. I don't know if I have the chops for bottle feeding kittens or the nerve to remain calm during the most trying of times, so I have the mamas there to take on the feedings and care and I step in when they're about four weeks old and help them make the transition to being socialized and ready for adoption.

I've never rescued a cat with a disability. I don't even know what the politically correct term for a cat who's missing his feet is called. Is he handicapped? Special? I don't know. I'm naive, but learning. I'm a bit uncomfortable and somewhat freaked out by seeing a cat without hind paws. It hurt my heart when I saw him take his first, stiff-legged steps. I wanted to turn away, but my desire to help him outweighed my own feelings.

I have other concerns, as well. **Without a shelter, where adoptions of adults are easier to pull off, I'm wondering if having a disabled adult cat will be an even more long-term foster.** Maize was here for 14 months and she had no physical issues. How long will this cat be with me? Am I crazy for rescuing him?



©2012 Maria S. *After a day in foster care, a bath and good food, King is looking much better already!*

King has been in foster care for six days. In that short time he's surprising us at every turn. **If we have a concern, he proves us wrong.** If we have a worry, he gives us a lovey-dovey look and "makes muffins" on the bolster of his cat bed. It's easy to forget there are any challenges with this cat.

King is NOT feral or semi-feral or skittish. He must have gotten a lot of attention from the workers at the Palette factory because this cat has no wild beast lurking in his heart. **King is all about LOVE.**



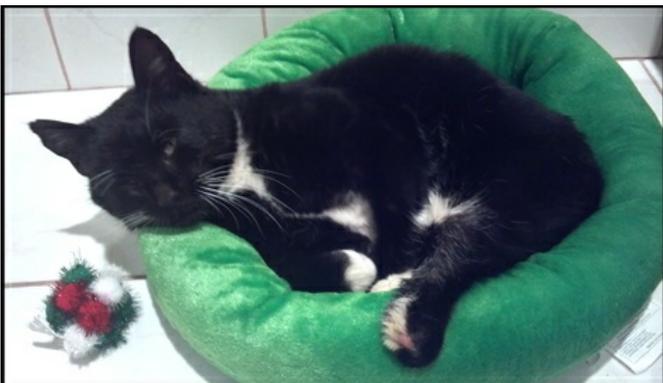
©2012 Maria S. Yes! King does his business just where we hoped he would.

King is NOT incontinent as we first feared. After passing the first day living indoors, Maria found King urinated all over his bed and the floor. He'd used his litter pan for moving his bowels but not urinating. We discussed it and thought **we'd make sure the Vet would check him for neurological issues related to his back legs-which may have effected his ability to control his output.** Another day passed and Maria found that King was using his litter pan properly, though with a bit of difficulty getting in and out of it so she made some adjustments.



©2012 Maria S. At the Vet, is King stressed out? No way!

The second Vet we took King to did an exam, **but only after all the staff held, petted and cooed over King who was more than happy to get the attention!** King's legs were x-rayed. The Vet felt it was likely his legs were deformed and this was not abuse. I think Maria and I were both relieved to hear that, but were also at a loss-NOW WHAT DO WE DO FOR KING?

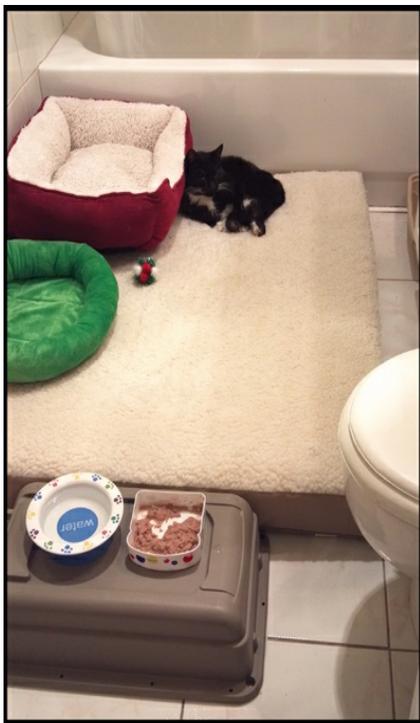


©2012 Maria S. Little tux cat on a little green bed.

The Vet was going to reach out to her peers to see if there was a specialist we could meet with-someone whose focus is on

orthopedic issues. I also spoke with a woman in Texas who works with handicapped cats and she told me **to forget trying a cart because cat's just don't like those.** Dogs can use them, but cats, with their independent nature, need to feel free (and how does the cat use the litter pan in a cart?). I asked her about orthopedic devices and the answer, again, was the same. **If you can get the cat to wear something, they get rubbed raw, they have to be adjusted all the time and frankly we'd be better off looking into a padded bootie to keep King's paws protected...**AND to keep him on a carpeted surface.

Maria tried a soft dog bed under King and he took a few steps. He didn't get up much and after just a day of being alone while Maria was at work, **King took a turn for the worse.** Maria called me, worried that King was getting sick. He was eating ok, but was very "flat;" a sure sign something is brewing.



©2012 Maria S. Alone for the first time, King begins to sink into depression.

That night Maria's cat, Kahlua, scratched at the door to the foster room. Though I warned her not to allow King to meet her other cats so soon, Maria went with her instincts and opened the door slightly. **She said that once King looked up and saw her cat it was like a light was turned on in King's eyes.** When he saw Kahlua, he stood up and tried to walk over to her.



©2012 Maria S. King begins to enjoy his life living indoors.

Maria allowed Kahlua into the room. **What happened next blew us both away.** Thankfully, Maria got some video of the meeting. I won't spoil it by saying more. Just watch and see...

©2012 Maria S. Prepare to be amazed...

It was obvious that King needed a friend. Sadly, Kahlua couldn't stay in the foster room with King all day. She just wouldn't like being away from Maria's other cats. **The solution was very simple, IF it worked...have Miss Fluffy Pants join King!**

Miss Fluffy Pants still lives outdoors at the Palette factory. Bobby made sure she had food over the weekend, but he told me that **she would rather be petted than eat**. Each day she lives at the plant, is another day we risk losing her to an accident or predation. We realize time is ticking, but we also have to factor in that Miss FP could be sick or carrying fleas, ticks, ear mites, etc. **We must get her vetted FIRST before she can be in Maria's house-even if the cat is kept away from Maria's own cats.** We can't risk sickening everyone.



©2012 Maria S. This is the third setup Maria tried with King. It seems to work well for him as long as he has carpeting under his paws.

Then there's the other question-one I have to tread lightly talking about. **Bobby thinks Miss FP might be pregnant.** Of course that's likely to be the case considering King wasn't neutered, why would Miss FP be spayed? It's very difficult to tell if a cat is pregnant until they are quite far along and the Vet could feel their heads.

This is where I get stuck like a deer caught in headlights. What do we do for Miss FP?



©2012 Bobby Stanford. The only photo I have of Miss FP-and I just found out she's BLACK, not gray!

Something I didn't know about until just a few years ago that most rescues spay-abort pregnant females. **Cat overpopulation is a very serious matter that effects all 50 states and each additional kitten being born takes away a family who might have adopted another cat who is already on death row at a kill shelter or digging for scraps on the street.** I'm a very passionate advocate for spay/neuter laws and legislation and, in fact, it's part of my rescue group's mission statement to support this issue.

That said...I foster kittens all the time. If they're already in the "oven" and I can provide care for them and find them homes, I have a very very hard time taking those unborn lives. I realize this is a very hot topic, especially if I were talking about humans, but humans can make choices for themselves and I'm not going to take a stand about those choices one way or another. This is about cats. Cats don't have a choice. I was also told that spay-aborting really messes up the mom-cat's hormones...but if this were done for Miss FP, then we could place her with King and IF they recognize each other and are friends it's a win-win for them, but that's a lot of IF's.

If we allow Miss FP to have her kittens, then what happens to her? Where do we foster her and can Maria take that on? I doubt the kittens can be near King, though he is so friendly, perhaps they could be in the same room. I talked to a rescue friend of mine about this and she blurted out; "What if Miss Fluff is King's mom and she has more disabled kittens?" THANKS KATHERINE!



©2012 Maria S. No more starving, dirty cat, now a proper gentle cat who'll one day have a forever family.

The short answer is-Bobby needs to verify that MISS FP IS A FEMALE, first. On Tuesday he'll take her to the Clinic to get snap tested. If she tests negative/negative they'll do an exam and determine what's going on. Then she'll either be spayed or she won't. If I take a big step back and try not to be emotional about it then I don't feel I should interfere in Miss FP's motherhood. It's not as if I'm breeding her and I've spayed or neutered every single cat I've ever rescued, so maybe that offset letting one cat have a litter or maybe I'm just fooling myself?

I can try to rationalize it all I want, but in the end it's going to be very difficult to find the right answer.

In the meantime, I'll start hoping that Miss FP is a boy.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO JUMPED AT THE CHANCE TO DONATE TO KING'S CARE & TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT HIS STORY. BECAUSE OF YOU WE COULD BUY KING A HEATED CAT BED, A RUG, FOOD & LITTER AND PAY FOR HIS BLOOD WORK AND X-RAYS AND

WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE COSTS TO PAY FOR A CONSULT WITH A SPECIALIST BECAUSE THAT'S COVERED, TOO.

As soon as I have a better idea of what King will need, in total, I will adjust down our Chipln goal. If you still want to help with King's care, because he may need more tests, perhaps orthopedic booties and transport to CT, just use the Chipln widget in the right column, near the top of the page. Yes, that donation IS tax deductible!

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[Not On My Watch](#) ^[11]

Comments

Mon, 2012-02-06 13:29 — Terri (not verified)

wonderful ^[12]

That cat clearly has a heart 3 times too big, wonderful! Thanks so much for sharing, I hope Miss FP is able to provide the companionship he is craving.

Mon, 2012-02-06 13:32 — catbyte6 (not verified)

Leggings for Life ^[13]

Have you heard of **Leggings for Life**? Check them out on Facebook, they knit/crochet leggings for kitties and doggies so that they don't develop sores on their damaged or deformed legs.

Mon, 2012-02-06 13:50 — Catnonymouse (not verified)

recommendation for King ^[14]

I would suggest Leggings For Life for King, Perhaps pimped out cushiony socks would give King the buffer to build up tough "soles" and get comfortable walking n many types of surfaces. Even perhaps exploring other types of rooms someday.

Mon, 2012-02-06 15:09 — Catkeypurr (not verified)

cat prosthetics ^[15]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ONDSGKU7hw> ^[16]

Mon, 2012-02-06 20:29 — Catnonymouse (not verified)

an addition to leggings... ^[17]

You know the stretchy self adhesive bandage that vets use on IV sites etc. (comes in numerous colours). That would keep socks or leggings in place without binding his little legs... also it would give him some traction on smooth floors.

<http://www.pet-dog-cat-supply-store.com/shop/index.php?page=shop-flypage...> ^[18]

It doesn't look like it is too expensive or maybe your vet will donate a couple of rolls...

Tue, 2012-02-07 10:21 — [Valerie Pegg](#) (not verified) ^[19]

Wow, great story, looking forward to hearing more ^[20]

King is a brave and beautiful soul. You are a wonderful person for rescuing him from the palette factory...so glad they loved on him and that it appears he was never abused. So, you are taking Miss FP to the vet today to determine if she is a she or a he? I hope to hear soon! I'll check back tonight. Good luck!

Tue, 2012-02-07 11:01 — Catnonymouse (not verified)

Leggings for life is a non profit group! [21]

<http://www.facebook.com/Leggingsforlife> [22]

They are a wonderful organization that has helped many of our fur friends and do it all for free. They do custom padded leggings that are made to fit each individual animals needs.

They started as an organization out of the need that a wonderful women made for her cat "Willow." Check out her page on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook.com/prettywillow?ref=ts> [23]

Tue, 2012-02-07 16:38 — [Lana G. \(not verified\)](#) [24]

I was going to suggest [25]

I was going to suggest Leggings for Life as well. I absolutely adore King. If I were anywhere near the east coast, I would LOVE to have him as a part of our family. Can't wait to follow his journey.

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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