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## A Mother's Day Wish: No More Mothers, Please.

Sun, 2012-05-13 07:57 — Robin Olson

**Note: I felt the message in this post from 2011 was worth sharing again, along with some revisions and updates. I've included helpful reference information at the end of this article you'll want to take note of and hopefully, share.**

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**Motherhood is a sacred institution, but not if you're a cat.** Motherhood can mean an end, instead of a beginning. This year, with a warm winter behind us, cats around the country bred in record numbers. "Kitten Season" which usually starts in April, began earlier. More pregnant cats have been surrendered to shelters. More are struggling to survive on the streets. More will die.



©2010 Maria Sandoval. [Tansy with daughter, Pattycake](#) [1]. Patty and her brother, Moonpie were adopted by a big family who spare no expense on their care. They are so lucky. **Update: Tansy is not doing as well. Her adopter is facing allegations of animal hoarding and Tansy has been in a North Carolina shelter, as part of a seizure of the animals in the home, waiting for a judgment since September of 2011. 2013 Update: After 2 years in a cage, Tansy, renamed Mabel is living with me, safe and sound at last!**

**Motherhood is the worst thing I could wish on a cat** that isn't a purebred show cat (*and I won't get into what I think of THAT right now*). Most shelters aren't equipped to deal with pregnant cats, especially because their offspring can so easily and quickly get sick, then spread that virus through the shelter since most don't have a quarantine room. **They treat newborns like hot potatoes-MUST get them OUT of the shelter and into foster homes BEFORE it's too late!** Many of my previous foster cats are a very good example of that. They were born in a shelter and by the time they were 3 weeks old, they were so sick, their care cost thousands of dollars and the end result is a lifetime of waxing and waning illness. **To make matter worse, if we hadn't gotten them out the day we did, they all would have been euthanized.**



©2009 Henry Co. Care & Control. Cupid with "Santa's Team <sup>[2]</sup>." Cupid, the creamsicle-colored mama, gained 5 pounds after rescue. She almost died she was so thin from nursing her kittens. She is adopted and with a family who loves her dearly. Her best buddy is her Nanny, yes she has a Nanny and she's pals with the family dog. If you look closely, the creamy fur-blob at her feet, is my boy, Blitzten.

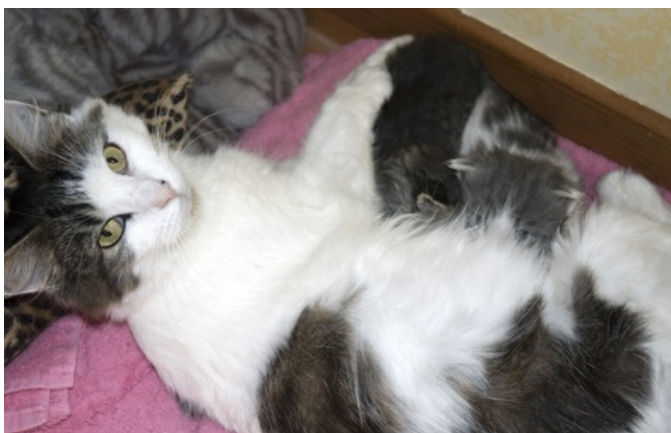
**There's no bouquet of flowers or box of mouse-shaped treats for a mama cat within the concrete walls of animal control and the people that work there have their hands tied.** I KNOW they want those cats (and dogs) out, but the numbers are rising so fast—especially this time of year, how can they keep up? **Where's the town budget to add a quarantine room for newborns? Who would happily see their Property Tax go up to make this happen? Where are the guards at the doors that tell people with pregnant cats they shouldn't even step foot inside a shelter!**



©2010 Henry Co. Care & Control. Our own Mazie with Chester, Polly and Cara. <sup>[3]</sup> All were very sick for months after they got out of a shelter and all are in forever homes and doing well.

I go back to square one—we all know this: the mamas don't get to BE mama's if they're spayed. **There's simply NO excuse not to spay your cat. There are low cost Spay and Neuter clinics all over the country. Many Humane Societies and Municipal Shelters will offer low cost vouchers. You're doing your cat (or dog) a HUGE disservice leaving it intact.** Not only is the cat apt to get mammary cancer and tumors in the uterus and ovaries, but spaying avoids birth complications. Your cat will greatly reduce its chances of getting FIV+ or Feline Leukemia. **But most importantly, you're preventing MORE cats from being born into a world that cannot handle them—there are TOO MANY CATS and NOT ENOUGH HOMES.**

**Cats are still being euthanized in the MILLIONS. When do we put our collective foot down and say NO MORE to this insanity? When do we stop making excuses as to why it's ok for our cat to have just one litter or look the other way when our neighbor doesn't get their cat spayed or their male cat, neutered?**



©2009 Robin A.F. Olson. *Rose, Poppy and Daisy.*

**We've got to stop this nonsense.** We've got to make sure our neighbors stop this nonsense and take care of their cats, females AND males. **We have to tell our neighbor why they MUST do the right thing and make sure it gets done and not just wag a finger at them, help them. Offer to pay for their spay. Offer to drive the cat to the clinic and pick it up afterwards. Do whatever it takes. Just ONE LESS MAMA means potentially hundreds of less cats!** It takes more than a village, but even if it's just a handful of people who do this, it's a great start.

Maybe someday, not in my lifetime, but someday, we won't have cat overpopulation and allowing cats to have kittens will be thoughtfully controlled. **Until then, we need to truly revere Motherhood and respect it and respect the fact that some times NOT being a Mother is the smartest and most appropriate thing we can do.**



©2009 Robin A.F. Olson. *"Last Chance <sup>[4]</sup>"-Angel with her son, Spyder.*

Today, I sit here feeling sick. I already know there are thousands of Mama cats who have already given birth now that spring is here. **Personally, my little rescue group can't even take ONE family in unless we get some foster homes.** As for the other rescues, they are full up, overloaded, scrambling to help as many as they can, **but with thirteen new mamas at ONE shelter in Georgia and half a dozen at another, WHERE are these cats going to go?**



©2008 Robin A.F. Olson. CallaLily and her babies. Callie is doing great in her new home.

I can tell you. They are not going anywhere. **They won't even live to see Mother's Day.**

### **Is this the legacy we want to leave, as a society?**

Where we're overjoyed if a woman is "expecting," but if a cat, or dog becomes pregnant, odds are, if those animals aren't in a safe and loving home that will care for them, they'll be given up to a shelter and soon, we'll kill them.



©2009 Robin A.F. Olson. "Huggy Mama" [5], Dash & Snuggles. All got adopted TOGETHER! Yes, all three!

**Let's make it a better world for our cats and show them how much we really DO respect and care for them by making certain they're ALL spayed and neutered.**

No more Mothers, please.

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**If you'd like to find a Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic here are some resources. There are MANY MORE OUT THERE. Odds are, check with the biggest Humane Society in your area and they will also either have a program, or know where you can find one. A few minutes of research online will save you hundreds of dollars AND you'll be doing the right thing for your cat.**

[ASPCA & PetSmart Charities® Database](#) [6] for locations in the USA

North Shore Animal League's [SpayUSA](#) [7]

Live in Georgia? Try [Spay Georgia](#) [8].

Here in CT: [Nutmeg Clinic](#) [9] is terrific.

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