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Not on My Watch: Finding a Way to Say Yes

Thu, 2011-04-21 16:51 — Robin Olson

I want to rescue every cat who needs help. As far as I'm concerned, they could all live here with me. It's "Kitten Season" and so many cats are giving birth right now—kittens everywhere. It will only get worse in the coming weeks. This is the time when most cat rescue groups gear up for the onslaught with calls coming in from frantic owners or just folks that find a surprise litter of kittens in their yard. Many of those cats aren't going to see their first birthday. Thinking about that makes my heart ache.

I want to be one of those groups who can say YES to taking in pregnant mamas or mamas and kittens, but the reality is that without foster homes, my hands are tied. Between my own cat, Bob having lymphoma and ringworm and my current fosters too sick to be adopted out, I have nowhere to put any more foster cats—plus it's just not good to bring more cats into this environment until we can do a serious scrub down.

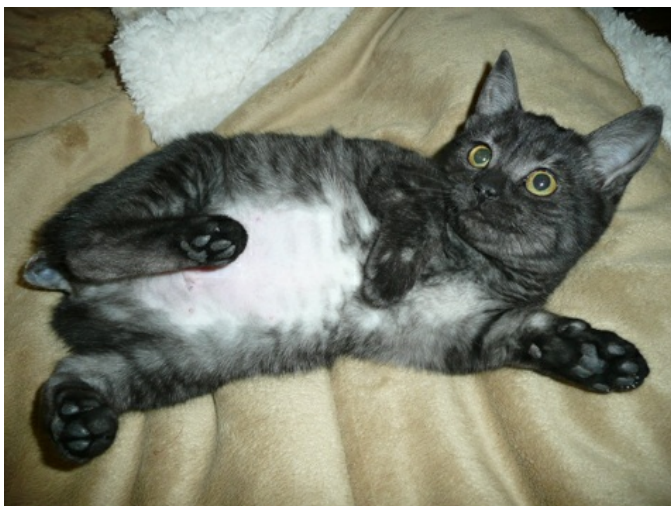
I can't tell you how much I HATE not being able to say YES. I want to get going; get more cats into our Program so we can help save lives. I know it's temporary. I'll work it out. We'll get more foster families. We'll get our funding going. **The thing is...I know that more cats will die because I can't say YES.** I know it's not my fault, but knowing that I could have helped, but couldn't put all the elements in place to make it happen—that troubles me greatly.

A few months ago I said my last "YES" to helping two more kitties: **Noelle and Amelia.**



©2011 Maria Sandoval. Sweet little Noelle.

Noelle was lost. A little kitten, cold and starving, hid under the hood of a car to get warm this winter. It was her mistake, but maybe her saving grace that she did what she did. Someone heard her cry when they started up the car. They were able to get to Noelle before she died. For her troubles, she had to give up most of her tail, but she got rescued and found herself in a warm home with our foster Mama in Georgia.



©2011 Maria Sandoval. Rub the belly!

Because I've been partnering with [Animals in Distress](#) ^[1] in Wilton, CT, I've been able to help out an extra adult cat or two. When our foster Mama, Maria, asked to rescue one more kitty, I could say YES because AID was there for us. Her name is Amelia and she's a lovely tortie/calico and over the months has formed a deep friendship with Noelle.



©2011 Maria Sandoval.

The girls just got onto a [PETS](#) ^[2] transport headed north-the same one they use on [Last Chance Highway](#) ^[3] on Animal Planet. They'll be here early Saturday morning and I couldn't be more excited to finally meet them! Their arrival is another success-another sigh of relief. They're on to the next part of their journey-going to a small shelter that loves their cats, where they will make new friends and await their forever families to find them. Once they're adopted, we'll try to make room for rescuing a few more, but it's not enough.



©2011 Maria Sandoval. Amelia and her awesome white toes.

We've GOT to find a way to save more cats. **If you happen to live near us in Newtown, CT and you'd like to know more about fostering kittens for a few weeks, please contact me at [info\(@\)kittenassociates.org](mailto:info(@)kittenassociates.org).** and if you want to save lives in your own hometown, contact your local shelter or rescue groups (*you can find a list of them on Petfinder by doing a "[search by state](#)"*^[4]). It doesn't take a big commitment-just a few weeks until the kittens are old enough to be adopted. You'll literally save lives, right before your eyes.

Help me say YES! Let's DO THIS!

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