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NOT ON MY WATCH: A Rescue Fit for a King

Thu, 2012-02-02 11:45 — Robin Olson

There are times when you just have to do something to help rescue a cat. You can't sit idly by and do nothing. Even from 1000 miles away, my heart is breaking for one particular tuxedo cat I just learned about. Even if I don't have a shelter and know I'm going to have trouble finding a home for him, I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING and it can't wait until I can sort out details. I HAVE TO ACT FAST.



©2012 Bobby Stanford. A lonely stray calls out for help. Where white paws should be on his back legs, there are only stumps.

Our wonderful supporter and driver, Bobby, alerted me about a cat that's been living around a palette factory in Georgia. In the daytime it's okay to walk around there, but at night even Bobby does not feel safe. **This is not a place where a cat will have a long life expectancy.**

He'd seen the cat six months ago, but thought it had died so he never mentioned it to me. **A few days ago he was surprised to see it again since the last time he saw the cat, he noticed it's back paws were either deformed or crushed and he was hobbling around the plant on his two front legs.** The workers feed him scraps. They didn't provide him with proper food or vet care of any kind.

They simply don't have the funds or the interest to concern themselves about a disabled cat. How this cat survived this long is beyond my comprehension.



©2012 Bobby Stanford. What a life-dragging his legs around in the dirt and living under a building.

I told Bobby to grab the cat next chance he got. Maria, our beloved foster mom, said she would foster him. **Her heart melted when she heard about the poor cat hobbling around and she wanted to get him off the streets as badly as I did.**

A few days passed, then Tuesday afternoon I got a call from Bobby. He got the kitty! It took a bit of coaxing to get the cat into the carrier. He's lived outdoors his whole life and though he wasn't feral, he was probably going to be very skittish. Bobby was told by one of the workers at the Plant **that some of the folks could rub his belly-so why didn't then TAKE HIM TO A VET? Didn't they NOTICE something was WRONG with him? Okay, at least he could be petted-or so we thought.**



©2012 Bobby Stanford. Our latest rescue, moments after Bobby got him. Where are his BACK FEET??!!

Bobby told me he was on his way to the clinic to have Doc Thomas take a look at him or her-he wasn't sure which. It's funny we all assumed it was a male cat for some reason, and turns out we were right. Bobby didn't get a good look at the back feet. The cat was too nervous to be approached. **Bobby said he heard rumors that someone cut the cat's feet off, but he hoped it was not true.** We decided to let Doc do the basics, for now and fill us in more the following morning. It was late in the day and she just had time to run his tests and get him neutered.

As always, I'm on pins and needles until I hear the snap test results-**his were NEGATIVE/NEGATIVE for FIV+ and Feline Leukemia.** Next he got his vaccinations and was neutered, but what about his **FEET?!**



©2012 Maria S. King, relaxing on a soft towel, probably the first comfort of his entire life.

Initially I didn't know what would be in store for King. I was told this boy is going to need a lot of socialization. At the clinic he laid in his litter pan and was covered with his own filth. He's never even used a litter pan before and with his short back legs, there's no telling IF he can use a litter pan. Maria would have her work cut out for her, but I knew she could handle it. In the meantime, I've been introduced to someone who works with handicapped cats and hopefully she will share some ideas of how we can help this kitty. **I've never rescued such a severely handicapped cat before and though I'm a bit scared, he needs us, so our fears will have to be put aside.** No matter what, he is safe now and we'll just take it one day at a time.

There's also a very friendly, fluffy little lady at the palette factory. I offered to, at least get her spayed, but when I heard how nice she was, I realized we needed to take her into foster care, too. Looks like Maria had all of a week-long break from fostering, but am so grateful she could and wanted to help! Bobby is going to go get Miss Fluff as soon as he can and we'll start the vetting process all over again.



©2012 Bobby Stanford. Miss Fluffy Pants, living at the palette factory. If we don't spay her soon, we know what's going to happen!

We went through a long discussion of what to name the kitty. The options ranged from Ahab to Footloose or iHop but I wanted him to have something noble and brave. **Maria and I chose, King Arthur.** I liked the idea of calling him "King"-of course because of nobility, but also because my Mother's maiden name was King, and two of my good friends are also "Kings" (Ingrid and Marcia).

Late last night, Maria got King back from the Vet. **She said she thought the problem was a deformity, but would need an x-ray to confirm it. We'd have to bring King to another Vet to get that done. Meanwhile, Maria prepared herself to foster a semi-feral cat she could not touch, who would probably be very stressed out.** She was going to keep him in her bathroom, away from all the other cats. **With Maria as his only connection to another living thing, hopefully he would learn to trust her and have less fear of humans. With his leg issues and fear, this was going to be a VERY LONG ROAD.**



©2012 Maria S. Does this look like a skittish cat to you?

But the surprise was on us. King Arthur is more than just a brave kitty. From life on the streets into a stranger's home, this cat did not bat an eye. Instead of showing fear or aggression, he rolled over and showed his belly. Did he run off when Maria tried to pet him for the first time? No! He just wanted some love and she was more than happy to oblige.

This cat, who has suffered a painful and difficult life, loves Maria already. He has a soft, CLEAN, SAFE place to sleep-probably the first in his life; fresh wholesome food and clean water to drink. That he is friendly now will make our job of helping him feel better so much easier. I'm happy and hopeful for this kitty's future.

©2012 Maria S. Our first look at King in motion. It's sad to watch but so very sweet at the end. **You will fall in love with this boy!** Beware!

Our sweet handicapped friend needs a lot more vet care and x-rays. I don't know if he'll be able to benefit from prosthetics or if he needs surgery, so I'm going to start a fundraiser and leave the total open ended for now. I'll go back and adjust it down as soon as I know what he'll need.



©2012 Maria S. For Good Belleh-Rubbin-Times, Please Dial 1-800-LUV-MAHBELLY

I hope you'll consider making a donation to help King. He's been through so much, let's help him get on the road to a long happy life.

The donation you provide to King Arthur and his fluffy friend (*who needs to be spayed and get her vaccines*) is **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**. The money will go to my 501©3 Non-Profit Cat Rescue: [Kitten Associates](#) ^[1].

If you'd prefer to send a check, please make it out to: *Kitten Associates* and please note on the check the funds should go to "KING" mail it to:

Kitten Associates
P.O. Box 354
Newtown, CT 06470-0354

Any funds not used for the care of these kitties will go to helping other cats in our program.

If you can't make a donation, you can help us by getting the word out. We're going to need a solid base of donations to help King walk again. Every dollar helps and every Re-tweet or FB Share does, too. THANK YOU for caring about this very special kitty!

A special THANK YOU to Bobby Stanford for being willing to take action when he saw a cat in need-not only that, but he got King to the vet and oversaw his initial care without batting an eye or looking for a pat on the back. Without Bobby, King didn't stand a chance. And also another big THANK YOU to Maria for going above and beyond-again, opening up her home and heart to this wonderful kitty.

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Comments

Thu, 2012-02-02 14:31 — [Mummylady \(not verified\)](#) ^[21]

Info on kitties with deformed back legs ^[22]

Okay, he probably was born with malformed back legs. He doesn't know any differently and he will get along just fine. Eventually, if he is kept indoors, he will form calluses on the ends of his legs and you will have to be careful he doesn't tear them off on anything rough. He will need a very low-sided litter pan. We have had cats such as this at our shelter Neady Cats, and they do just fine, they just need a little extra help. Bless you for taking this neat little guy in!
www.neadycats.org ^[23] is the website for our shelter.

Thu, 2012-02-02 15:06 — [Robin Olson](#) ^[24]

Thank you!!!! ^[25]

I am completely naive on this subject so we appreciate the advice. King has a low pan, but if needed, we can work something out that's lower. I got him a padded, heated pet bed with no sides which I hope will help him feel comfortable. I will definitely check out your shelter's url and share it!

Thu, 2012-02-02 18:04 — MK (not verified)

king ^[26]

Can he wear little booties? I have seen cats at Best Friends with little nubs and they have on socks..wonder if that would help.

Thank you so much for rescuing him..I cried reading his story. I hope he finds a wonderful, loving home..

Thu, 2012-02-02 22:57 — [Catnymouse \(not verified\)](#)

King ^[27]

I am glad you took him in. I think he gets around pretty well for his disability. He will live being warm and cozy.

Thu, 2012-02-02 23:30 — [thecatguy \(not verified\)](#) ^[28]

rescue ^[29]

Taking a heart wrenching story and making it into something beautiful. Yahoo for everyone involved in rescuing King and his fluffy friend! You all are amazing.

Fri, 2012-02-03 11:13 — [Rhonda \(not verified\)](#) ^[30]

What a sweetie! ^[31]

Thank you so much for taking him in. I will be transferring some funds to my Paypal account then will be making a donation to you. It will take a few days, but it will get there. Give this sweet boy some scratches for me.

I agree with the lower sided litterbox, even if it is only one side. The booties would be a good idea, as well as looking into a cart for him. His little backside would sit on the cart, with some spaces in a sling for his back legs. The cart has wheels so he can get around easier. I have seen dogs use them, but honestly, I don't recall seeing a cat use one, but it seems like it would be feasible. It wouldn't hurt to contact Best Friends and see if they can give you some advice, or if you were really lucky, they would take him in. If you do contact them, don't be alarmed if it takes them a bit to get back to you. And definitely include the link to his video.

Fri, 2012-02-03 14:49 — Leslie (not verified)

King Arthur ^[32]

I definitely recommend contacting Best Friends Animal Society for advice (animalhelp@bestfriends.org ^[33]). They have lots of experience with cats who have similar issues and may be able to provide you with useful information. A friend of mine adopted Dakota, who was run over by a haymower and has only 2.5 legs now, from Best Friends, and he gets around just fine. I've met other cats there with twisted, paralyzed or missing back legs. I'm sure King will recover fully!

Sat, 2012-02-04 09:34 — Sheila in SA (not verified)

King ^[34]

What is the latest news on King please.? Thank you and Bobby and Maria for helping him

CICH @ [Google+](#)
Robin @ [Google+](#)

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