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## Now We are Seven-Covered in Cat Hair's Blogversary

Tue, 2013-03-26 11:17 — Robin Olson

Who knew the need to vent my frustrations, living with an ever-changing number of cats, would lead to all of this?

It began with **this post** <sup>[1]</sup>.



©2006 Robin A.F. Olson. Here's my cat, Cricket (center) flanked by his brother, Boo-Boo and sister, Sophie. Back then, Boo-Boo was one of the inspirations to starting my blog (because he was so annoying!) Boo and Sophie were later adopted together.

**For those of you interested in the origins of Covered in Cat Hair, you should know that this blog was meant to be a book project entitled: *Covered in Cat Hair: the Mostly True Stories of a Life Spent with Cats* .** James Frey had just been busted for lying about his tome: *A Million Little Pieces* <sup>[2]</sup> and I figured I had to add the "mostly true" part just in case I goofed up on some facts.

**My brilliant idea was that since I stink at cold-calling Editors and Publishers and writing pitches, that simply the fact I was writing a blog would be enough fodder to lure them into discovering my fresh voice, and shortly thereafter offering me a lucrative book deal (*which, to date, I'm still waiting for*).**



©2006 Robin A.F. Olson. A few months after *Covered in Cat Hair* began, I inherited my Mother's cat, Bob Dole, after she passed away. My Mother never read my blog or any of my work, saying she would wait for it to be published, first.

In the meantime, I began writing my book, not really focusing too much on blog-length posts. **I wrote about 90,000 words**

(yes, that's a lot, but not quite enough for a book). Each chapter is a short story. **Some of the stories are poignant and some flights of foolish fancy.** I was determined to finish my book, but I realized no one would want to read such long posts online so I had to change course on my blog.

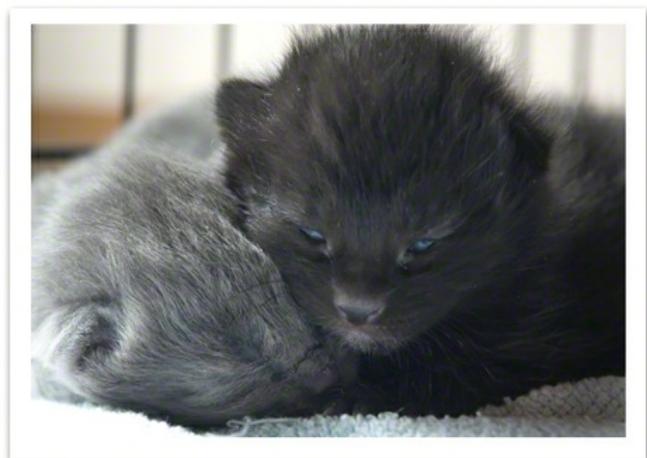
I was fostering for a rescue group and thought I'd write about the cats in my care. **There were many stories to share, but my "boss," the Director of the group, did NOT like me writing about her or anything else we were up to. I also couldn't post photos with my stories, which frustrated me endlessly.** I grew up with a camera in my hand and telling stories and sharing photos is natural to me.



©2009 Robin A.F. Olson. Blueberry and her brother, Blackberry were rescued from South Carolina.

#### **So what did I do?**

I kept writing. I used aliases. I waited for technology to get to the point where I could share photos and I began to write posts to help other people with their cats, as well as to continue telling stories about my foster cats.



©2008 Robin A.F. Olson. Two of the Pi Day babies, Happy and Jelly Belly.

**In 2009, I came face to face with the cruel truth of what happens to cats in the southern part of the USA. It was something I'd already heard about, but I didn't know just how horrific it was. I'd been sheltered, pardon the pun, from knowing about abuse, over-population and mass euthanasias of cats, because I felt I was "too sensitive" to handle the truth. I did my fostering and kept out of the rescue part. Once that curtain was parted, my life changed forever.**



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson & A. Merritt. *The Halloween Express*-four kittens in a kill shelter in Georgia didn't have a chance. We rescued them, did quarantine, and placed them in a month-ALL TOGETHER with ONE FAMILY! You can see how well they're doing, laying crammed next to their Mom's lap in this recent photo.

**When I found out that about 95-98% of cats don't make it out of southern (and other) municipal shelters, I thought I would die from the news.**

I imagined all those cats, many of them newborns and kittens, dead in a pile waiting to be...who knows...taken to the dump? Incinerated? Used in pet food? (I'd heard that was true, but could never prove it).



©2006 Robin A.F. Olson. *The now infamous, Huggy Mama*, the first cat (and her two offspring, one pictured here) I rescued out of a kill shelter in 2009. She and her two boys were adopted TOGETHER.

**I could keep turning away or I could look, stone-faced and soberly at this HELL and I could raise my hand and offer to do something about it-even if it only helped a small handful of cats.**

I met with a great deal of opposition. It was difficult work, but I had an excellent team in Georgia offering to help me led by Maria and Bobby. It pushed all my boundaries. **I was rescuing cats I never had a chance to meet before agreeing to rescue them. I had to hope they would be nice, adoptable cats who didn't have serious illness. I raised money for these rescues and was overwhelmed by how many people cared, to the point of being willing to send me \$5 when that money was the WORLD to them.**



©2009 Robin A.F. Olson. 1 in 7 million are the odds that this little calico named Gingerbread would be a male. He surprised us all.

I left the rescue I was with under great duress and with a great deal of anger for how I was treated. **I opened Kitten Associates** <sup>(3)</sup>, **scared out of my mind that I was taking on more than I could handle.** I knew enough to get myself in trouble-and I did just that, **but I kept writing, buoyed by the supportive emails and calls I got from so many of you.**

**If nothing else, I figured I could be a warning to others about what not to do with your life.**



©2006 Robin A.F. Olson. Poppy, about a week old.

**Where Covered in Cat Hair has taken me, I could have never imagined.** I've been honored with many awards and accolades. I've met wonderful people who share my passion to save cats, enrich their lives, to help their guardians cope with behavior problems and to feed cats a species appropriate diet. **I cherish my cat-lady-babes, every one of them.**



©2007 Robin A.F. Olson. Will & Grace.

**The biggest surprise to me, and the most humbling, is that no matter what kind of trouble I get myself into, what heartbreak I share, what triumphs I achieve, you are right there with**

me, cheering me on, offering your shoulder when times get tough and sharing your insight and stories from your life in return.



©2009 Robin A.F. Olson. CallaLilly & daughter, Sunny.

**I am so in love with all of you and so very grateful for your support these past seven years. Thank you for being part of my journey—it's one I hope will continue for a long time to come.**

#### **CICH Content Categories:**

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[Foster Mom](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

[Bobby](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

[Maria](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

## **Comments**

Tue, 2013-03-26 13:10 — Judy (not verified)

### **August 17, 2009 - 1st Contact** <sup>[17]</sup>

A friend shared a Henry County Urgent Flyer that touched my heart and had me firing off emails to you and Kat 5 Rescue. It was Huggy Mom and her babies! Shortly after that I found myself tryig to win over a tiny calico, Demi, who found her way into my yard. With new found purpose, and your encouragement, I signed up for the PetSmart Charities Feline Forum being held in Chicago. Bust days and weeks followed. I successfully trapped the little calico the day before the Forum started, Septeber 24, 3009 and then I met YOU!!! Just 4 short days later, Demi delivered 6 beautiful babies. I have saved 3 more from life outdoors since and have TNR'd several others. I now volunteer at a wonderful rescue, Fat Cat Rescue Inc, and am so very grateful that Huggy Mom brought us together!!!!

Tue, 2013-03-26 16:53 — Judy (not verified)

**typos are free of charge! :P** <sup>[18]</sup>

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Tue, 2013-03-26 21:05 — Elke (not verified)

**And Judy led me to Robin and** <sup>[19]</sup>

And Judy led me to Robin and eventually to my sweet Sophie (formerly Coco) A rescue from Georgia! Thanks to Bobby for bringing her to me!

Tue, 2013-03-26 14:45 — jmuhj (not verified)

## **RE: SEVEN** [20]

BIG props, much gratitude, and lots of admiration -- oh, and not a little THANKS, for all you do, Robin, on behalf of the cats and kittens dearest to our hearts. Praise is one thing -- success in saving sweet lives and growing amazing cats from at-risk kittens, quite another. :)

Tue, 2013-03-26 16:23 — Michelle (not verified)

## **YAY!!!!** [21]

Thank you for being there for the fur babies. I really admire what you do and love reading about it via your blog and Facebook.

Tue, 2013-03-26 17:04 — [The Island Cats \(not verified\)](#) [22]

## **Happy Blogoversary! And thank** [23]

Happy Blogoversary! And thank you for all you do for the kitties. oxoxox

Tue, 2013-03-26 17:55 — Connie & The Crew (not verified)

## **so do you still think your** [24]

so do you still think your kitties don't know the meaning of "Cut that shit out!""???

:)

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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**Source URL (modified on 2013-03-26 11:17):** <https://coveredincathair.com/content/now-we-are-seven-covered-cat-hairs-blogversary>

### **Links**

- [1] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/ch-1-youre-not-boss-me>
- [2] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Million\\_Little\\_Pieces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Million_Little_Pieces)
- [3] <http://kittenassociates.org/>
- [4] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/33>
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