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Our Lovely Ladies Find Their Forever Home-At Last!

Thu, 2013-03-14 11:27 — Robin Olson

The main foster room is quiet now. I don't hear the thudding, stomping, or occasional crashing sounds from above my office in the room where Coco, Latte, Willow, Barney and Fred lived. Three young cats still live there, waiting for their forever homes, but as of this afternoon, two have moved on.



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. *The perpetually lovely, Coco.*

I'm sad. I'm always sad to see them go. They were here far too long. **These cats were in our program for almost a year-which astonishes me since we had them when they were kittens, but at that time, when they were most adoptable, many of them had health issues and we had to wait to place them.**

I was also up to my ears here, having taken on a litter of all black (save for one) kittens who were taking far too long to adopt out, as well. **It meant this group from Georgia had to wait even longer to arrive and once they did it seemed like either no one wanted them or one adopter after another fell through.**



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. *Ready to pounce.*

I must have gotten 50 inquiries and many of the applications on Coco. Of course everyone would want her being a Flame Point Siamese mix. Who wouldn't want a cat with peach and china blue eyes and delicate orange points (*a creamy coat with darker facial masks, ears, tails, paws, nose leather and paw pads. These darker areas are known as their points.*).

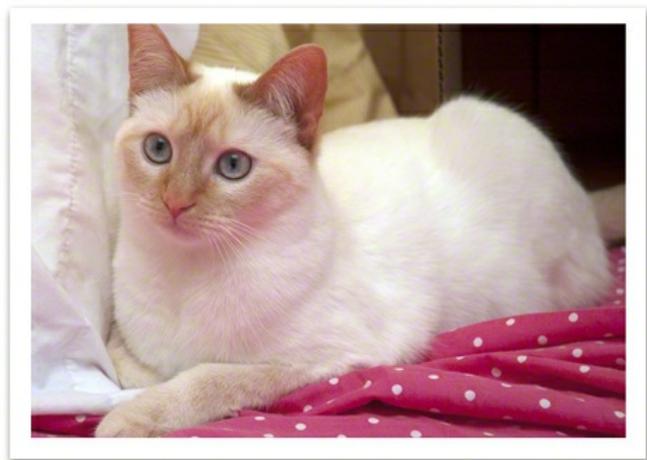
Of the many applicants there were a very few good options. Some just lived too far away, in states with tough animal importation laws, and there were too many other things going on, too. I have no volunteers to help process applications and the task can be daunting for me.

I did one home visit, thinking I had Coco's home, but with all due respect, it was too cluttered and though the people were so very nice and lovely, I just couldn't place Coco there. **Knowing she tends to be a bit "Princessy" I imagined her hiding under a bed for the rest of her life.** I still feel badly about that, but I had to move on for her sake.

A local family stepped forward to adopt Coco and I thought this was FINALLY who I'd been looking for. They came to meet Coco a few times. They promised they were going to adopt her just as soon as another family member's cat returned to his home with his guardian (*they were visiting*). Two months went by and I got an email; "*Sorry, our daughter didn't do some [no idea what] chore and she can't have the cat.*"

What could I do? I moved on. **Coco was 7 or 8 months old by now. Lucky for her she still had her looks even if she wasn't a sweet little kitten.**

Sifting through more and more applications I finally hit a good one from a very nice lady and her husband. They live north of here and didn't currently have any cats or pets. **I was worried that Coco would be sad, but I also was feeling like I had to get her a home and she would be treated so well that perhaps she would be happy being on her own?** Her new mom didn't work full time so Coco wouldn't be alone a lot.



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson.

I did the home visit and it went very well so we made plans for the couple to meet Coco in a few days.

The next day, I got an email from the couple; "*Family emergency. We have to fly out of town. Can you please hold Coco for us?*"

"*Oh no, not this again.*" I thought.

I liked this family so I gave them a break and said to let me know when they got back from their trip, worrying that I would never hear from them again.

Though there was very sad news for the family, they wanted to move forward with the adoption and let me know when they returned, as promised.

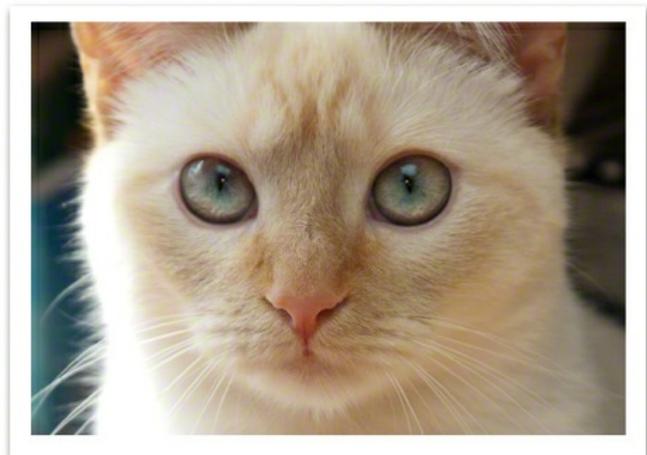
But now Coco was sick! She had a slight fever and wasn't eating. She wasn't running after her toys so I took her to the Vet. They gave her SubQ fluids and sent her home. Hopefully whatever it was would pass. Of course-perfect timing.



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. *The goofy twosome.*

I almost lost the adoption again when I had to tell the family Coco was sick. There was some confusion, but in the end it worked out. They waited a few days and came to visit Coco when she was nearly well enough to be adopted. **It had**

taken almost a month to get to this point. I was very hopeful this was going to be the one that would stick.



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. *Those heart-stopping eyes.*

During the visit, Faith, Coco's new mom, talked to me about adopting Coco as a sole cat. I was honest, but not pushy. I preferred Coco go with one of the others, but I would never try to manipulate someone to do that. I explained the benefit of having two cats who are already friends—watching them play, groom each other, sleep together. She'd know they'd keep each other company when no one else was home. Since the house was large and there were no other pets, why not, if the family could afford a second cat.

Right away Faith started looking around the room. Her eyes fell on Latte who was rolling around on the floor getting litter dust on her fur.

“I like that one. What do you think of her going with Coco?” Faith asked.



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. *I nicknamed Latte, La-La and she often came to me when I called her by that name.*

I tried not to jump up and down. Here was the cat I had NO applications for—NONE—possibly going to be adopted with the cat who had the MOST applications of any cat we've ever had!

There was some discussion back and forth about maybe Barney being a better choice. The husband wasn't a big fan of Latte's but I had a feeling she would win him over later. **In truth, these were Faith's cats. He just had to nod and smile, which he did with resigned elegance, I must say.**



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. Latte and Barney ready to pounce.

I encouraged them leave without taking ANY of the cats. I wanted them to think about it over night. I promised I'd bring the cats to them, whatever they decided. **This is a big commitment to take on and it should not be rushed.**

The next morning I got an email from them. I was afraid to read it, but once I did a big smile spread across my face. They wanted both girls and could I please come soon? They didn't want to wait any longer.



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. Raised together as sisters and will now be adopted together!

This afternoon I packed the girls up into cat carriers and also packed up some food, toys and two cat beds that were made for us by Mrs. Medaugh's Third Grade Class at St. Rose School in New Lexington, Ohio. I packed Latte's favorite Kong toy and I added a catnip banana to the mix since we had a few that were donated to us. The girls were silent the entire journey. I knew they'd be scared, but I knew they'd work past it. My job was to get them settled and say my farewells though I had a very heavy heart.



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. Latte and Willow had become very close with Latte turning to Willow as she would her own mother. I saw them grooming each other from time to time and I hoped that Latte would find the same affection from Coco one day.

Faith cheerfully met me at the door. She carried Coco into their new room while I took Latte. I suggested that we start the girls

off in just one room, so they didn't run off and hide somewhere, never to be seen again. **The room Faith chose is a lovely corner space on the main floor. There are french doors on one side, with windows all around. It's brightly lit, clean and warm. Faith set out a big cat bed-enough room for two, some cat scratchers, a tiny scratching post and some toys.** We sat on the floor together as the girls explored, but mostly hid, in their new home.



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. The part of the story we're never sure we're going to reach when we first do a rescue. Tiny Coco was living outdoors in terrible conditions when we rescued her. You can read some of her backstory [HERE](#) ^[1].

I probably told Faith too many little things to make sure she did, so the introduction phase went well...**things like not to go after the cats but let them come to her..not to move the litter pans too soon into the basement and to not move the girls out of the room until she saw them walking with their tails held high and were confident in their new space.** It would take time for them to adjust, but going slowly would pay off later.

I'd already kissed each cat goodbye before I put them into their carriers and left for their new home. I only had a last glimpse of Latte's nose and tail poking out from under a dresser and no sign of Coco at all. **I knew they were under the dresser together, but I was sorry our final moments weren't a bit sweeter.**



©2013 Robin A.F. Olson. Latte and her brother, Tater Tot were terribly ill-especially Tater. Latte blossomed into a big, strong beauty. She and Coco were born on the same property to different mothers. It's possible they may share the same father. Some of her backstory is [HERE](#) ^[2].

I have to let go, just like I always do, so I turned and said goodbye and quietly closed the door behind me. It's time to move on. I have more lives to save and Kitten Season is here. There's no time to waste. I need to make room for more...for more stories and for more sweet kittens to fall in love with, who I will gladly let break my heart again and again. It's an exercise in my dedication to these cats.

To Coco, you are a true beauty and I'm so happy for you. To Latte, watching you blossom has been an honor; from terrified to a little gem of a warrior. You have a sparkling soul and I adore you. I hope you and Coco will know a lifetime of love. I've done my best to make sure you have the best chance at finding it. The rest is up to you.

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Comments

Thu, 2013-03-14 15:00 — [jmuwj](#) (not verified)

RE: COCO AND LATTE ^[15]

SO grateful you rescued, rehabilitated and loved them, and *PRAYING* their new home is indeed the loving, forever home they (and every feline) deserve(s). Personally, while I love all cats, my preference is for black and tortoiseshell colors.

Fri, 2013-03-15 09:15 — [T. J. Banks](#) (not verified) ^[16]

Cocoa and Latte ^[17]

Lovely piece, Robin , one I could very much relate to. I was fostering a 9-year-old Aby over the holidays: she had come out of a horrible situation but with time and understanding, she detoxed enough that I could place her with a friend. Because we had begun to bond, it was hard to let her go. At last report, however, she was doing all right -- still shy around people but adjusting and running races with the other cat there.

Sat, 2013-03-16 10:12 — [Bobbi Hahn](#) (not verified) ^[18]

Coco and Latte ^[19]

Oh, Robin, what a touching story! I'm in tears because I know how hard you worked to get these wonderful creatures healthy and ready for adoption. And I know how hard it was to let them go. There's a special place in heaven for beautiful people like you.

Tue, 2013-03-19 09:47 — [Connie & The Crew](#) (not verified) ^[20]

congrats to their new people ^[21]

congrats to their new people for adopting two wonderful kitties, may they have years of wonderful time together

Sun, 2013-04-21 14:17 — [Erick Gonzales](#) (not verified) ^[22]

a home for those great cats ^[23]

Your hard work paid off - sounds like they will be very happy with the family. So glad Coco and Latte could go together, it is great for them to have a companion/friend.

Gosh, that's why it is called the adoption Process I guess - it can be a long and daunting task. Thanks for giving all these cats your love!!

And that picture of Coco and Latte in the box. HA so dang cute. What sweet cats.

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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