



Published on *Covered in Cat Hair* (<https://coveredincathair.com>)

[Home](#) > Petunia Inside-Out

Petunia Inside-Out

Thu, 2015-03-19 18:12 — Robin Olson

(continued from Part [1](#) ⁽¹⁾ and [2](#) ⁽²⁾)

I wondered if I was seeing Petunia for the last time when I dropped her off early yesterday morning at Dr. Larry's office. It had been barely a week since I'd found out she had a bladder full of stones, causing her incredible pain that resulted in a flood of inappropriate urination all over my house.

Petunia was quiet in the car as I drove along the river, choosing to take the slow route to the Vet. The brilliant sunshine of early morning began to warm us through the windows, keeping the harsh late winter cold at bay. The winds of March were raging outside the car, but inside it was peaceful.



©2015 Robin AF Olson.

I thought about Celeste and about how she died; very possibly because she was so stressed from being at the vet her body shut down on her. I knew that I had to do everything I could to keep Petunia from following the same path. **Petunia could be just as fearful as Celeste so I drove slowly and carefully, talking in soft tones to Petunia. I told her it would be all right. I tried to make myself believe that, too.**

Once we arrived and before I let one of the techs take her, I told her to **NOT** do the surgery if Petunia was too upset and to give her another day to calm down if needed. **Petunia is 12 years old.** We have to respect her if she is just not ready.

In the end, Dr. Larry performed the surgery while I waited for news.

Meanwhile, I'd gotten word that a very special, cat-mama had fallen ill. Her name is Jodi Ziskin and she's a [pet nutritionist](#) ⁽³⁾. She contacted me, asking if she could help formulate a diet for our foster kitten Freya. She'd been following Freya's story and was charmed by her and also concerned that without proper nutrition, Freya would have a difficult time passing stool since Freya had just had surgery to create her rectum.

Jodi and I emailed often and spoke a few times on the phone. We discovered we both went to the same high school in Connecticut, but somehow missed meeting each other back then. She told me about her cats and her husband, Zach. She was training for a marathon she was going to run in LA to help raise funds for a cat rescue. **She just amazed me by all she could do and by how well she cared for herself as well as her family.**

I got news that at some point after she ran the marathon, Jodi collapsed. She missed her flight home and that's when people started looking for her. **She had been unconscious for a day once she was located. She was not in good shape and was taken to the California Hospital in Los Angeles while her husband dropped everything to leave their home in Florida to be with her.**

I should have been thinking about Petunia, but all I could do was worry about Jodi. She wasn't able to remember much about her life. She knew her husband, but not the names of her beloved cats. We started to fear that Jodi would have a

very long road to recovery—if she would ever recover at all.

They began doing tests. Apparently from the extreme exertion of the marathon, Jodi may not have hydrated properly afterwards. Her muscle tissue was shredding, going into her kidneys. It made her collapse. **In some people it can kill them.**

After a few days Jodi began to recover. She was remembering things 25 years ago. Her kidney values were normal. She messed up her teeth very badly from falling. She hadn't lost all the memories of her 17 year marriage. **She remembered Obi and her other cats, but there are still some scary memory issues going on that are mysterious in origin. More tests are being done to find the root cause. It's a very scary time for Jodi's family and friends.**

This is a BIG reminder to all of us NOT to take ANYTHING or ANYONE for granted. Jodi, stay strong. We love you!

It was 4 PM. Where was my call telling me to pick up Petunia at 5 PM? I started to wonder if that meant she was dead. Dr. Larry always takes a very long time to tell me bad news. I can't say I blame him. Maybe he was busy and she was fine? I decided to call and find out.

Petunia did well. She was ready to go home, but I didn't get any more information than that.

I raced over to Dr. Larry's and waited to speak with him. It was the end of the day and the clinic was quiet. I wondered what he was going to tell me. Was it really bad? Did he find something else? Would Petunia be all right?

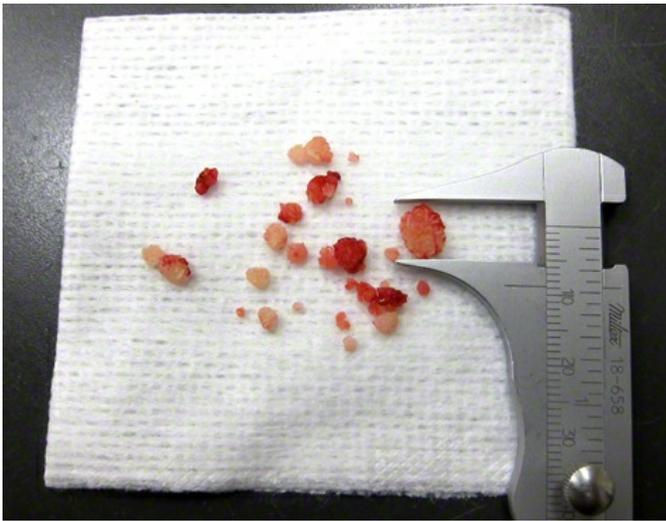
He looked tired when he entered the exam room. I readied myself for bad news. He told me that the surgery was a long one. Petunia's bladder was loaded with approximately 40 stones. Most of them had little spikes on them so it had to have been very painful. He told me her bladder was in good condition even with all the stones. The tissue was soft, as it should be, instead of leathery as it would become if her situation was more dire. He spent a long time flushing the bladder out to make sure any tiny grains of stone were cleaned away.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. Clean, plump bladder with little white dashes below. Those are surgical staples.

We looked at a new set of x-rays. He was clearly pleased with what he was showing me. Her bladder had a plump look to it, indicating it was already filling with urine. I could see a carefully placed line of surgical staples along the underside of her belly, glowing on the screen. Her incision was rather serious in size, which meant there would be at least a week or two of recovery time.

I'd asked Dr. Larry to take photos of the stones before he sent them out to be tested. When I saw them my jaw dropped and I got shivers down my spine. It's clear she needed that surgery and I'm glad I made the financial sacrifice to provide this for her instead of hoping to dissolve them with a diet change.



©2015 Dr. Mary O'Donnell. The painful stones.

It was time to bring Petunia home and get her settled into her big dog crate so she'd have a quieter place to recover. I didn't know what would come of this and if Petunia 2.0 would be better or worse off now that she was feeling well. **Would the other cats begin peeing around the house if she stood up for herself? Would there be worse fighting? Would Petunia expand her living space now that she was no longer in pain? Would she still need to be on anti-anxiety medication to keep her from erupting in more bladder stones?**

Only time will tell as I focus on doing what I do best—being her mom and caring for her, instead of vilifying her unfairly. Pee-tunia is dead, long live Petunia.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. Resting comfortably and on pain medication, now we wait to see Petunia 2.0 emerge.

CICH Content Categories:

[Announcements](#) ^[4]

[Blood Tests](#) ^[5]

[Dr. Larry](#) ^[6]

[Vets](#) ^[7]

[WTF?!](#) ^[8]

[One I Hold in High Regard](#) ^[9]

[Urine Marking](#) ^[10]

[Pee](#) ^[11]

Comments

Fri, 2015-03-20 16:12 — Catnonymouse (not verified)

Relief!! ^[12]

You and Petunia must be so relieved!!!

That is such a scary thing that happened to Jodi. A serious fall hard enough to cause damage to her teeth also could have caused some brain damage. There is such a jolt inside the brain, something called a **Coup-Contrecoup Injury**. -- Damage to the brain on both sides- the side that received the initial impact or blow and the side opposite the initial impact. It is a possibility that something like this could be missed....(maybe answers the mysterious??). --No, I do not have any medical training but it was the first thing that popped into my head while reading about her.
<http://www.northeastern.edu/nutraumaticbraininjury/what-is-tbi/types-of-...> [13]

Fri, 2015-03-20 16:34 — jmuwj (not verified)

RE: PETUNIA [14]

WONDERFUL news about sweet Petunia! *PRAYERS* and healing thoughts of wellbeing going up, and out, for her speedy recovery and excellent health from here on in. Thank you for getting her in to her doctor and getting her her operation! She must be feeling so much better already, if sore from having carried all of those horrible little pebbles around for so long.

PRAYERS for Jodi and her family as well. Absolutely hoping she will recover in time and consider saving her strength for the most important everyday "marathon" of living well and caring for her beloved ones.

Fri, 2015-03-20 19:12 — Michele (not verified)

Glad that Petunia is doing [15]

Glad that Petunia is doing good, have they told you what they think causes the stones? So that maybe they can be prevented in the future?

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

Source URL (modified on 2015-03-19 18:13): <https://coveredincathair.com/content/petunia-inside-out>

Links

- [1] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/suffering-years-shocking-truth-about-petunia>
- [2] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/suffering-years-shocking-truth-about-petunia-part-2>
- [3] <http://www.healthypetcoach.com/>
- [4] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/33>
- [5] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/37>
- [6] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/53>
- [7] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/85>
- [8] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/89>
- [9] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/102>
- [10] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/108>
- [11] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/109>
- [12] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/9438#comment-9438>
- [13] <http://www.northeastern.edu/nutraumaticbraininjury/what-is-tbi/types-of-damage/>
- [14] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/9439#comment-9439>
- [15] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/9440#comment-9440>