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Staying Strong for Gracie: Part 8. The Decision.

Tue, 2015-10-13 13:58 — Robin Olson

(Continued from Parts [1](#) ^[1], [2](#) ^[2] and [3](#) ^[3], [4](#) ^[4], [5](#) ^[5] [6](#) ^[6] and [7](#) ^[7])

Last week Gracie did really well. She started eating again; a good amount. Sam and I got into a routine of getting her medications to her on time and I continued to make notes in my log book about how she was doing. In the back of my mind was the weight of the decision about whether or not to have "one last test" done on Gracie's liver (an ultrasound guided Tru-cut biopsy) or whether we should decide to focus on providing only palliative care and let her go when that no longer was effective. I've been sick about this decision. I even asked all of you to offer your advice.

For the most part, many of you were supportive and caring. **You understood that the only way we can know what treatment Gracie needs is to know what Gracie is suffering from.** The tiny liver biopsy will provide that information to us.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. *Gracie up and perky last week. What a delight to see her like this again!*

One person was pretty cruel and accused me of being a Drama Queen and that I was unnecessarily harming Gracie by taking her to the Vet so many times. It's really painful to hear something like that, even if I know it's not true. I appreciate those of you who went to bat for me letting this person know that you had my back. I would rather not have to write this story at all. **I don't need attention, I just need my cat to be okay.**

On Saturday, Gracie's appetite started to fade. She'd done this just a week ago so I wondered if it was from her overdoing it. She'd been walking around a lot more the day before and maybe one of her liver cysts had started to bleed. We decided to give her another round of Yunnan Baiyo, a Chinese herb that helps stop bleeding. We also began to syringe-feed her, just as we had the week before. Once again I hoped that the same cycle would end and she'd begin to eat on her own after she'd had a few bigger meals in her belly.

I admit the one thing I like about syringe feeding is I can control what Gracie eats. I could blend together one of her favorite foods and add a bit of raw chicken liver and goat milk to the mix. It would help boost her iron and give her tummy some comfort. Though we had some struggles, Gracie was pretty calm about being fed, which was a good sign.

Yesterday Gracie ate a little bit on her own, but she wasn't as perky as she had been so we continued supporting her while I wondered if she would even be in good enough shape to have the biopsy done. The truth is she'd have a transfusion first so she should be feeling quite good after that, but if she didn't improve we'd have to re-think what we were going to do.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. Gracie, surrounded by Spencer and DOOD.

Last night after giving her some dinner I gave Gracie a kiss and told her to hang on. She was still Gracie, still chirping, purring away, maybe getting up a few too many times to lap at water, but she was still there. I went to bed with a heavy heart. I knew that in the morning I'd have to face the music. Either we do this or we give up. **Wednesday is the day of her appointment.**

This morning I didn't want to get up. No surprise. Freya heard me moving around and jumped on the bed. She curled up next to me wanting some snuggle-time so I gave myself an excuse to delay getting up a little while longer. Freya drools like a fountain when I pet her so needless to say I got up a short time later.

I made my morning trek down the stairs, pausing on the landing to look across the living to see if Gracie was still there, still okay, still alive. Yep. **She was sitting on her heated bed looking up at me.**

Morning chores take forever so I got started: warm up cat food, scoop litter pans, clean up Gracie's area, then put out freshly washed bowls with fresh water, add new litter if pans need them, clean up any "surprises" from the night before, go out to the garage to feed Barry and scoop his litter pan, then prepare some food for Gracie and pray she eats it (*and that's only for OUR cats, then I do it all over again for the remaining foster cats, too*).



©2015 Robin AF Olson. Resting in the sunshine.

Gracie DID eat, not as much as usual, but she ate. That was a good sign. I decided to keep syringe-feeding her because she's getting thin. She looked perky and was doing about as well as I could have hoped, but today is the day we decide about her future so Sam and I sat down to talk about it once again.

Sam was surprisingly blunt. He felt we needed to do this or we needed to prepare to put Gracie down in about a week. **She can't go on as she is and she needs help-more than what we can do for her at home.** Yes, it's a risk and yes it could end badly, but we need to help her and that means we need to do the biopsy.

And now I will be blunt. We need help to make this happen. Our fundraiser for Gracie only brought in about \$200.00 last week. We need to raise at least \$1200, even though it will cost \$1500+ for tomorrow's procedure.

Perhaps you're not sure it's worth it to help this time because there are no guarantees of a happy outcome. I get that. But if you look beyond it, you could help just because you like what I've been doing, the cats I've rescued, the stories I've entertained you with. **At this point of Gracie's crisis, I hope you'll find a way to share your love with us because we really need it.** It doesn't take much if a lot of people chose to donate. \$5 here and \$10 there can really add up.

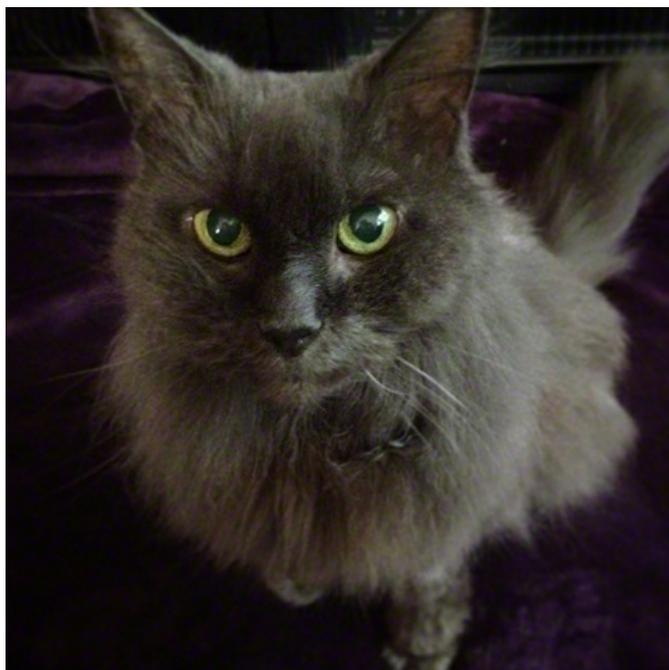
For every person who donates more than \$100, I will send them a special thank you treat (while supplies last and I have quite a few goodies!). I have some fun cat-centric things from books featuring cats to cute goodies and cat products.

We get more of your donation if you donate directly using our PayPal address: info@kittenassociates.org ^[8] or if you go through our **DONATE** ^[9] page on our web site.

You can **mail a check to Kitten Associates**, P.O. Box 354, Newtown, CT 06470-0354. Put a note "for Gracie" it so we can direct the funds to her.

Just SHARE this post with your friends who have kind hearts and love cats. That helps Gracie, too.

Your donation is Tax Deductible. [Kitten Associates](#) ^[10] is a non-profit rescue and our IRS EIN is 27-3597692.



©2015 Robin AF Olson. *This is the face that inspires me do what it takes to help my sweet girl.*

We will stop our fundraiser as soon as we've raised \$1200.00, which we hope will cover Gracie's care. Any funds we don't use for Gracie, we'll set aside for other kitties in our program who need help, like our recently rescued big guy, Barry.

Thank you.

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Comments

Tue, 2015-10-13 20:06 — jmuuj (not verified)

RE: GRACIE ^[16]

Sharing this post to twitter with special message, wishing I could help in a bigger way, and praying the needed help, as well as the good outcome, happens (^ ^)

Tue, 2015-10-13 23:27 — Martin Hooper (not verified)

Robin that last picture of ^[17]

Robin that last picture of her is so beautiful... Lets hope she pulls through as she is such a lovely kitty.

<3 <3 <3

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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