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## The Sweetest Cat in the World Needs Us.

Wed, 2016-12-14 17:58 — Robin Olson

*Maybe it was the big paws, the "mits" that look like baseball gloves, that did me in. When I first met Annie and her brother Andy, they had recently been rescued off the streets from a rough and tumble town south of here. It only took a look at Annie's curious markings, her kohl lined eyes, her "tail light" white-tipped fluffy tail, and her extra toes, to capture my heart.*



©2016 Robin AF Olson. My first meeting with Annie.

**There was something else about Annie, a gentle sweetness that is rare in kittens. She didn't fuss or fight. She didn't hiss or growl during her veterinary exam. She was relaxed and calm. I couldn't believe it. I thought maybe her true kitten-nature would come out once she had time to eat some good food and relax in the safe surroundings of her new foster home with me, but she remained as-ever, relaxed and at ease.**

I admit I love Annie, and Andy far beyond how I feel about most of my foster cats. They are very lovely animals. I knew they'd get adopted right away so I made sure to spend a lot of time with them, knowing we'd only have a short while together.

I got many applications for the kittens. Most of them I turned down for one reason or another. One of them was from a VERY affluent senior citizen who lives in a multi-million dollar home overlooking a lake. She and her husband could provide anything they wanted, but, during the home visit I didn't see anything for the cats other than a very old, ratty cat bed and some well-worn toys **and a poisonous plant I warned her about. Her reaction was that the last cat never touched the plant so it wasn't an issue and I had to insist it be moved or removed from the house. Judging by her reaction I felt I was getting lip-service. She had no intention of moving the plant.** As I spoke with the woman, she went to great lengths to show me her amazing home and tell me the history of it, but when she began to tell me about her former cats I began to have serious doubts about her as an adopter.



©2016 Robin AF Olson. Never far from each other Andy with sister, Annie.

Thankfully, I was with one of our dear friends, who also is an amazing artist and volunteer for our rescue. She heard the same things I did about the woman putting her cats down after either not providing care for them, even though she knew they were sick (*because apparently in her mind that's what you do, just let them decline and die in pain*) OR she spent a lot of money only to give up on the cat when the cat needed further care for a few weeks to a few months. **She acted as if she was a Saint, when she was heartless and cold. I thought perhaps I was misjudging her, weighing too heavily that she was also 74 years old and I wasn't sure any of her adult children (one had 6 kids of his own and is a busy physician) would even step in should something happen to her.**

No sooner than we left the opulent grounds of the estate, my friend said; *"No f-ing way."* I agreed. You can't have cats, then not provide proper care when they were in bad shape. You can't let them just die especially if you can afford to provide whatever care they need. If it takes effort and work, you do it. You don't just kill your cat. **She was cruel.**

**I got a lot of flack from the woman because she was not used to anyone saying *no* to her. I'm sure she just threw money at whatever she wanted because she'd hinted to me at a big donation to my rescue at adoption. Money doesn't buy me or my kittens. Now, I'm even more glad I said no because surely Annie would be dead right now if she was in that home.**

Not long after the failed adoption, Annie got sick. She had a soaring fever, was slightly anemic, had high white cells. We did tests and put her on an IV. She got somewhat better, but not truly well. We later found out via ultrasound that she had an [intussusception](#) (1), a folding in of the intestine into itself causing a blockage, which is a life-threatening emergency.



©2016 Robin AF Olson.

I got on Facebook, crying, and begged for help. So many of you jumped at the chance to provide a precious gift so Annie would get the surgery ASAP. **It was one of the most difficult, but amazing days of my rescue-career because Annie did great. The surgery went smoothly and she recovered very well. The surgeon was thrilled. We all thought she was out of the woods. Next stop, find Annie and Andy a forever home.**

**But something still wasn't quite right.**

Annie seemed thin. She also seemed a bit too quiet. She was always a quiet cat, but...

**I compared Annie to Andy. Andy is bigger, more robust, but kittens often aren't the same size. Annie was eating. She wasn't vomiting. Didn't have diarrhea. She just seemed to be a bit limp. Was she really sick or was I imagining it?**

Last Friday I was to drive Annie and Andy to Fairhaven, MA, to attend a cat show where they would be our Kitten Associates representatives. For fun I was going to have them judged, too, in the Household Pets Division. The night before we left I thought Annie was a bit flat, but by morning she was perky and eating like a champ. I decided I was being too protective and thought she'd be healthy enough for the trip.



©2016 Robin AF Olson. *Chillin' in the hotel, but sadly no room service.*

**Annie did great. She and Andy were superstars at the Cat Show. Out of 20 cats in their division, they always made the top 10 over the 5 times they were judged that weekend. I was so proud of them. They had fun in the hotel room. They ate well. They used the litter pan, but...one of the judges thought she felt a bit thin and that set off alarm bells.**

I decided to get Annie checked out. I found a good adopter for her and Andy, but I wanted to make certain she was all right first.

**We visited Dr Larry yesterday. He did an exam and thought Annie looked good. I told him my gut feeling was that she was not well and he told me that 18-25% of the time the only way a Vet can know if a pet is ailing is because the owner is very observant and knows when their pet is not right. That's when he knew we needed to do some tests.**



©2016 Robin AF Olson. First time in the judging ring Annie scores 4th place!

We ran blood work. Annie is anemic and her white blood cell count is up. There are other issues with her blood, too, but her kidney function and other organ function is good. **Dr. Larry thought the IDEXX machine was not working right and wanted us to come back the next day to re-run the test.** If Annie truly had these issues, something concerning was going on and we would need to get to the bottom of it fast. Kittens don't get anemic for no reason.

We returned to the vet this morning and after the year I've had, I was not happy to be there. I was scared. I was scared for Annie, that it was going to be really bad news. Our cat Nicky just died a few weeks ago and the health scares with our new foster cats Belle and Buddy did a number on me. Here we are at the cusp of the Holiday season and I am terribly behind in my work and holiday planning. **I have too much on my plate, but nothing is more important than the well-being of our cats.**



©2016 Robin AF Olson. Ready to go home. Annie jumps into my suitcase as I pack the last night of the cat show.

**The second round of blood tests showed Annie IS sick. She does have an infection somewhere and is anemic for some reason. They did an x-ray and saw nothing, but x-rays aren't the best diagnostic tool for a situation like this one. Annie needs to have an ultrasound done as soon as possible. Dr. Larry couldn't say what was wrong, but it could be a result of the surgery she had or sadly, it could be something that has been going on, undetected for a long time.**

**We looked back over Annie's medical records and saw that she was anemic before her surgery and now she's worse. She had a high fever and responded well to antibiotics back in October, but maybe she had TWO things going on...the intussusception AND some sort of infection that we didn't get a handle on 100% and now it's coming back...or does she have a chronic type of anemia? We just don't know right now.**



©2016 Robin AF Olson. On the way to the vet this morning.

**The only thing I do know is even though we just raised money for Annie, then for Belle and Buddy, we need to raise more. We are down to our last few dollars and between Annie's two vet visits and tomorrow's ultrasound with a specialist, we need to raise \$1500 by TOMORROW afternoon.**

*We may need more than that if Annie needs additional care, but I don't want to ask for more until I know we need.*

**Annie is the dearest, most lovely kitten I've ever rescued, but now she needs ALL OF OUR HELP so she has a chance to get better. Please consider a Tax Deductible Gift of any size. It all adds up! If you can't help with a gift, then please share this with your friends because that helps, too.**

It's easy to donate just use these links:

**To donate \$5:** <https://www.paypal.me/kittenassociates/5> <sup>[2]</sup>

**To donate \$10:** <https://www.paypal.me/kittenassociates/10> <sup>[3]</sup>

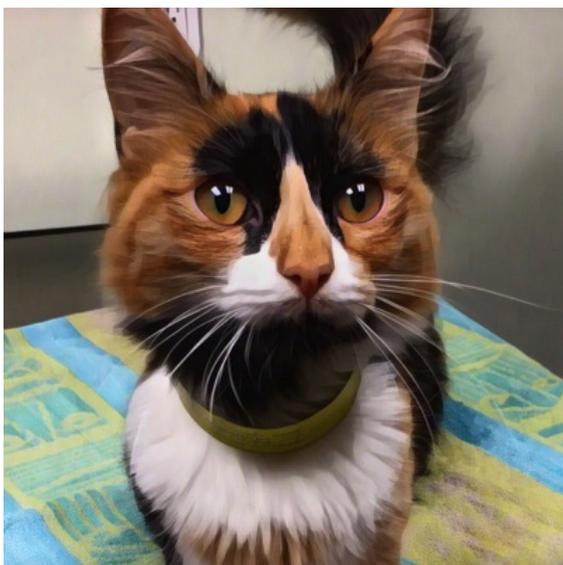
**To donate \$25:** <https://www.paypal.me/kittenassociates/25> <sup>[4]</sup>

**To donate whatever you wish:** <https://www.paypal.me/kittenassociates/> <sup>[5],[5]</sup>

*Please note: We choose not to use fundraising web sites because they charge a fee on top of the fee PayPal charges us so we get less of a donation. Some of the fundraising sites also take a LONG time to relinquish the funds and we do not have the luxury to wait. If we reach our goal I let you know so that we can close the fundraiser.*

To mail a check, make it out to: *Kitten Associates*, P.O. Box 354, Newtown, CT 06470-0354

**Your gift is tax deductible** . [Kitten Associates](#) <sup>[6]</sup> is a 501c3 non-profit. Our EIN Tax ID is 27-3597692. **Thank you for helping Annie!**



©2016 Robin AF Olson. *Can you help save my life?*

UPDATE 12/15: We are \$500 short of our fundraising goal. We did further testing today and it looks like Annie has some sort of infectious disease. We're to start antibiotics and shore her up with Vit B12 injections and iron-rich food as she has non-regenerative anemia and high white blood count. We REALLY need funds so we can continue with vet care costs. We're praying for a holiday miracle that we can still get help for this sweet girl.

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[1] [http://www.petmd.com/cat/conditions/digestive/c\\_ct\\_intussusception](http://www.petmd.com/cat/conditions/digestive/c_ct_intussusception)

[2] <https://www.paypal.me/kittenassociates/5>

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[4] <https://www.paypal.me/kittenassociates/25>

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