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[Home](#) > Tater Tot's Sister, A Life in the Balance

Tater Tot's Sister, A Life in the Balance

Mon, 2012-06-18 13:36 — Robin Olson

WARNING: GRAPHIC PHOTO OF EYE INFECTION BELOW *(There are also images of it cleaned up and looking better so it's not too bad).*

We've taken five cats from ONE property in McDonough, GA. Every time Maria drives past the home, she sees more kittens in the yard. Using her best, most diplomatic approach, she's been trying to work with the owner to convince him of **how important it is to spay and neuter the cats that are roaming his yard.**

To our knowledge, **in only a month, we know two kittens were lost, never to be seen again and the owner admitted just yesterday that he'd found a third one dead in the yard.** I cannot begin to fathom how these things can go on; cats giving birth, kittens running around, sick, starving and dying. He seems to understand he needs to do something, but he just doesn't get around to doing anything about it while the cats on his property keep reproducing.



©2012 Maria S. *Flea covered and sick, but finally in a place where she'll get the care she needs.*

It's taken Maria almost a year to get to the point where he is somewhat open to the idea of spaying his cats if we find a way to pay for it. **Maria estimates there are 8 to 10 cats on his property and one she saw last year who was just a kitten at the time, is pregnant now.**



©2012 Maria S. I thought this kitten was going to lose her eye when I saw this photo, but look below and you can see she's better once her face was washed. She still has an infection so she must be monitored carefully.

A small rescue like mine doesn't have the resources to correct this situation, but I'm looking into finding some help on a local level. If I can't find help, I'm going to do a fundraiser to get these cats to the low cost S/N clinic as soon as I can. We can't take in all the kittens that are being born. No one can. **It makes me sick to think that Maria just drives home from work and collects another kitten or cat on her way-just to get them off the street. She can't look away and do nothing and I am very glad for that, but it does make me concerned that we now have ten kittens plus three adults with only me to find them good homes.**



©2012 Maria S. Now that her eye is cleared of the pus, this little girl can see out of both eyes. If left untreated the infection could cause her to lose her eye.

As you may recall, **on Friday Maria rescued Tater Tot ^[1], a little buff and white kitten who was so weak he could barely stand.** We got him to the Vet and he received fluids, a B12 injection and other supportive therapy. Maria said after she gave him a bath, he ate really well, then basically passed out, exhausted. **It may have been the first time his belly was full in his life.**



©2012 Maria S. *Much better!*

Once Tater was safe, **Maria turned her focus on getting the other kitten she saw wondering in the neighbor's yard.** This kitten ran off when approached and Maria feared she was feral. **She was also clearly sick with an eye infection, so we had to try to help her.**

Before she could return to the property to look for the kitten, Maria got a number of texts from her neighbor, then an urgent call. She found a cat up a tree, could Maria help get it down?



©2012 Maria S. *Tater gets his eye medication. He's very sweet and friendly even though he doesn't feel well.*

Maria let me know about the situation. **My first reaction was that there are so many cats who need help in her area that they're falling from the sky? What is going on here?** It seems everywhere Maria turns there's another cat who need her help.



©2012 Maria S. Tater Tot Burrito.

This rescue deserves a special post, so I'll tackle that next because this kitty has an amazing story which is still unfolding. I hope you'll stop back to see a video of the rescue along with an update on how she's doing.



©2012 Maria S. Tater gets some rest after being fed.

Rescuing the cat from the tree meant the little torte kitten would have to wait. **Normally this wouldn't be an issue, but the last time we thought we had another day, two of the kittens died. I feared this little girl would be next.** There are foxes in the area. Maria sent me photos of them playing in the yard. Kittens don't stand a chance against them.

Yesterday morning Maria got a call from the neighbor that he had possession of the kitten! Not only did he make the effort to catch the kitten but he called Maria. This is hopeful news even though I wish he would have done more sooner, but we have to pick our battles. This is a great start.



©2012 Maria S. Tortie Burrito!

The kitten wasn't feral, thankfully, but like her brother, **she is underweight and had a nasty eye infection.** Maria had to bathe her to get the fleas off her. Under the dirt she discovered this kitten is a Tortoiseshell with dark brown and cream in her fur. **One of her paws has peach colored toes and she has a whisper of peach on her chin and one cheek. We both wonder how she'll look as she ages since her coloring is just starting to show now. Her eyes are green so we know she's over 8 weeks old, but she only weighs 1 pound, 3 ounces.** At this age she should be closer to 2 pounds.

The kitten was reunited with who we believe is her brother. Maria reported that they didn't seem to know each other, but they didn't hiss, either. **Even if they're not related, they need a playmate and the comfort of having a friend as they both recover from upper respiratory infection, eye infections and the damage that was done to them by the flea infestation.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL THE FOLKS WHO DONATED TO HELP TATER TOT & HIS SISTER!
WE HAVEN'T REACHED OUR GOAL YET BUT I HOPE WE CAN SOON.**

**If you can help us with a donation, we would appreciate it VERY MUCH!! EVERY DOLLAR
MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

The donation you provide to this Emergency Rescue is **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE** as we are a 501©3 Non-Profit Cat Rescue.

If you'd prefer to send a check, please make it out to: *Kitten Associates* and please note on the check the funds should go to "Two Kittens Fund" mail it to:

**Kitten Associates
P.O. Box 354
Newtown, CT 06470-0354**

Any funds not used for the care of this family will go into our General Fund.



©2012 Maria S. All clean and pretty, now all this little lady needs is a name.

If you can't make a donation, you can help us by getting the word out. Every dollar helps and every Re-tweet or FB Share does, too. THANK YOU for caring about these little babies!

CICH Content Categories:

[Announcements](#) ^[2]

[Cute Photo](#) ^[3]

[Disease](#) ^[4]

[Kitten](#) ^[5]

[Wellness](#) ^[6]

[Cat Rescue](#) ^[7]

[One I Hold in High Regard](#) ^[8]

[Georgia Rescue](#) ^[9]

[Buddy Can You Spare a Dime?](#) ^[10]

[Fundraiser](#) ^[11]

[Tortie](#) ^[12]

[Cat Bath](#) ^[13]

[Kitten Associates](#) ^[14]

[Foster Mom](#) ^[15]

[Maria](#) ^[16]

Comments

Sun, 2012-06-24 02:29 — [Tia, Alley Cats... \(not verified\)](#) ^[17]

[Thank you...](#) ^[18]

Thank you for all you are doing for these babies.

Thu, 2012-06-28 02:48 — Jen (not verified)

[naming her](#) ^[19]

She looks like a Serena to me :)

Thu, 2012-06-28 02:48 — Jen (not verified)

[naming her](#) ^[20]

She looks like a "Serena" to me :)

Sat, 2015-11-07 02:23 — Catnynouse (not verified)

Hey I was looking up this ^[21]

Hey I was looking up this because my new kitten named magic had the same type of eye stuff going on and you said it was an infection, I was wondering if you knew what it was from and what medication did you get to help them?

Thu, 2015-11-19 09:01 — [Robin Olson](#) ^[22]

It was probably Herpes Virus ^[23]

With eye issues you should take your kitten to the Vet. The can be very dangerous. Most eye meds are not expensive now that terramycin is back on the market again, but it may not be right for your kitten and is just one of many eye meds.

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Links

- [1] <http://coveredincathair.com/content/not-my-watch-emergency-fundraiser-2-4-wk-old-kittens>
- [2] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/33>
- [3] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/48>
- [4] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/51>
- [5] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/63>
- [6] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/87>
- [7] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/100>
- [8] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/102>
- [9] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/georgia-rescue>
- [10] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/buddy-can-you-spare-dime>
- [11] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/fundraiser>
- [12] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/tortie>
- [13] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/cat-bath>
- [14] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/kitten-associates>
- [15] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/foster-mom>
- [16] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/maria>
- [17] <http://www.alleycatsandangels.org>
- [18] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4928#comment-4928>
- [19] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4934#comment-4934>
- [20] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/4935#comment-4935>
- [21] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/9670#comment-9670>
- [22] <https://coveredincathair.com/users/robin-olson>
- [23] <https://coveredincathair.com/comment/9685#comment-9685>