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That Which Doesn't Kill Us...Part 2

Thu, 2012-12-13 09:04 — Robin Olson

Jackson made it to the Vet without dying, but he cried pitifully once we entered the waiting room and were met by two big dogs. I blocked Jackson from seeing them as much as I could, **fighting off the urge to grab the dogs and run them out of the building and release them into the parking lot while their owners ignored their interest in my cat.**

One of the Techs took Jackson into the back room. This time I wasn't invited to join them. She came back out and we discussed Jackson's symptoms. We'd noticed he was a bit off and on over the past few days, but he'd maintained his good appetite until that day. He'd regurgitated his food after eating two days ago, but other than that he was just a bit more quiet than usual.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *At the Vet, now would he survive the Exam?*

That was it. Now we wait. **We wait for two cats who are at some risk of having a really bad day.** I asked after Spencer, but they hadn't gotten his blood work back yet, which would either allow them to do his surgery or have to postpone it. Sam drove us home. Neither of us spoke a word. I closed my eyes and tried to rest. I realize stress is a killer and I have to work on how I deal with situations like this. **What I really wanted to do was crawl back into bed and pull the covers over my head.**

When we got home, as I walked in the door, I stepped on my stupid-jeans again, re-igniting my irritation. If it hadn't been such a cold day I would have yanked them off then and there. Instead, I got to work and focused on keeping myself busy. **I kept looking at the clock, trying to imagine what was being done.**

Shortly after 2PM Dr. Larry called me. He's just finished working on Spencer and wanted to give me his findings.

Spencer's mouth was a **MESS**, his gums were like "hamburger meat." Spencer needed two molars removed which were very difficult to get out. The other teeth looked remarkably good. ***I need to insert a note here that I've recently learned that the theory about WHY cat's teeth are SO BAD is because they no longer gnaw on food as they would if they were killing a mouse or chewing on a bone. They can't crunch dry food and canned is too soft. Since their teeth have no real pressure on them the blood supply is reduced, hence poor oral health. To solve this if you're like me, you'd give the cats raw chicken necks, wings or turkey necks or wings to give them something to sink their teeth into. NOT COOKED with brittle bones-just rinsed with cold water and served raw.***

Dr. Larry removed the small wart on the back of Spencer's leg (*that I discovered as I was loading him into his cat carrier that morning*).

He removed the ugly black growth on Spencer's left ear and sent it out to be biopsied. He DID NOT remove the growth INSIDE Spencer's right ear-why? IT SHRANK. It was TOO SMALL to excise without a scope and a laser...

...and Dr. Larry didn't feel comfortable taking it now. We'll keep an eye on it instead.

The good news was that Spencer's blood work was "very good," "nothing remarkable." Considering Spencer is about eleven years old, having good blood work results is something to be proud of-Go Raw Diet!

Dr. Larry offered to give Spencer a shot of Convenia to which I adamantly opposed. He doesn't like it for oral issues anyway so I'm to give Spencer [Clindamycin](#) ⁽¹⁾ for the next two weeks as well as give him pain meds for a few days. **Spencer is to get cage rest and wear "the cone of shame" until "he doesn't need to any more."**

I HATE CONE OF SHAME, but not as much as Spencer does!

By 6PM Spencer was ready to come home, but what of Jackson? I hadn't had any update. I didn't even know if he was ALIVE. When we reached the Clinic the first thing we asked was: "Do we have one or two cats to bring home tonight?"

The answer was **TWO**.

Okay, good start. They brought Jackson out. He was sitting up, meowing loudly. **He looked GOOD, perky, ready to go HOME.** Dr. Mary did his examination and talked about how she worked hard not to upset Jackson, which also meant she couldn't do many tests other than an examination and get his temperature. She gave Jackson more lasix to help move the fluid out of his lungs and around his heart. **Jackson sounded VERY WET when he coughed and I'd already spoken with Dr. Larry about changing the dose,** but he wanted to wait. **Cats don't do that well on diuretics so adding more has to be done very soberly and thoughtfully.**

After the injection, Jackson took a big pee, then perked up. **Because his lungs are really wet and they could be breeding bacteria, she also gave him antibiotics (which I will continue for two weeks).** We discussed changing Jackson's meds and will work something out there. For now he was to go HOME, get something in his belly and see how he does.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Feel beter, Jackson Galaxy!*

The one thing they wanted to add was something quite surprising-JACKSON MAY BE HEARING IMPAIRED OR DEAF!

It would answer the question of why he yowls just as we go to bed each night. He can't hear where we went off to and wonders where we've gone. He may be causing fights with the other cats because he can't hear their cues/warnings to get away. I said we'd observe him and report back. My goodness Jackson's certainly keeping me on my toes.

They brought Spencer out and he was growling a little bit, clearly whacked out on painkillers. **They forgot to give me the cone of shame and I silently hoped he wouldn't pick on his stitches. Ears can bleed a lot and if he messed with the stitches I'd have to get one on him right away. He can get very crabby. Having to cage rest him for a few days would be asking too much of him already.**

I had my boys back home and I hoped they were changed for the better. **It was back to watch and wait to find out if they'd benefited some long term positive results.** I had a better idea of what I was dealing with and they both survived the day.

I made the right call about Jackson. Who knew how bad his condition would have become if we hadn't acted so quickly? Jackson probably would have drowned in his own fluids. I guess it wasn't so crazy to run him to the Vet because he missed a single meal.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Spencer in his pen with Blitzen wondering what's going on.*

Once home, I was finally able to take off my annoying jeans and toss them into the laundry. Next stop the dry cleaners to get the damned things hemmed up or maybe dig out some duct tape to do the job?

But what happened once Spencer was back home? Did he blow his stitches out and bleed all over my ancient oriental rug? What about Jackson? Did he relapse? Is he really deaf?

Stay tuned for part three!

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Comments

Thu, 2012-12-13 12:31 — [Kjelle Bus aka ... \(not verified\)](#) ^[18]

Whew, what an ordeal ! ^[19]

Whew, what an ordeal !

Thu, 2012-12-13 16:25 — [jmuhj \(not verified\)](#)

RE: SPENCER & JACKSON ^[20]

Gosh, you have us on tenterhooks! So glad Spencer is seeming to improve and is basically healthy boy. As for Jackson, you were so perceptive to know that he wasn't acting normally and to be better safe than sorry by taking him in. (The waiting room experience is one I've also had, and cringed at, as I do NOT like dogs and I have a deep aversion to being near them, especially when one of my loved ones is sick!)

PRAYERS and healing thoughts of wellbeing ongoing for them both!

Thu, 2012-12-13 18:32 — [LaurenHas24 \(not verified\)](#)

Cats ^[21]

Im sorry to hear that you cats have so many medical issues. I can't imagine being in such a tuff situation. I've been looking at your blog and youtube. I am very happy that you have raised money for your cats. I'm thinking of doing the same because you've inspired me. Not sure how to go about it though.. I'm sick today of a cold, taking care of 2 cats with colds. It's like looking after babies with illnesses.. If I don't keep them indoor they won't cooperate.

Fri, 2012-12-14 10:00 — [Val \(not verified\)](#)

Hemming your jeans ^[22]

Hi Robin,

I am a person who sews. My mom taught me. She made all my clothes until I left home except for jeans which she let me get once I entered into junior high.

If you can iron, I have an alternative for hemming your jeans or other pants (nice ones you will want to make sure you like the look first). It's called Stitch Witchery. You can get it at any fabric store or online. It's a fusible webbing (glue basically). You just use an iron. Fold over the hem you want. Iron in a crease and then put the stitch witchery between the two layers and iron (with a damp cloth between iron and fabric) for a few seconds and let cool and you are done! A roll will hem many pairs of pants for under \$4. Here's a link:

http://www.onlinefabricstore.net/sewing/stabilizers-and-stiffeners/dritz-stitch-witchery-fusible-bonding-web-regular-weight-.htm?utm_medium=shoppingengine&utm_source=googlebase&cvsfa=2700&cvsfe=2&cvsfhu=3630313633&gclid=CLuVis6TmrQCFck7MgodOnoAZO

^[23]

If you have any questions, email me....

Val

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