



The LITTER SCOOP

A quarterly newsletter for members and friends of FosterCat, Inc.

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A Future for Felix

It doesn't take a crystal ball to predict the futures of most cats born outside to stray or feral cats. With no reliable source of food, no shelter from inclement weather and no access to veterinary care, their prospects are uncertain at best and more likely than not, quite bleak. But sometimes the mysterious hand of Providence intervenes and lifts one of these hapless creatures out of his dark circumstances and rewrites the course his life will take. And so it was to be for Felix.

I was introduced to Felix early last October when I received an email from Tanya, a friend from my church, asking if any of its recipients might be interested in a kitten that had shown up at their home a few weeks earlier. She indicated that he was very sweet and friendly, but that due to allergies in the family, they could not bring him indoors. She hoped to find a good home for him with someone she knew before pursuing other alternatives. She attached two adorable photos of Felix with her sons, Emmitt and Wyatt, which clearly showed that Felix was a very handsome and people friendly kitten.



I responded that if there were no other takers, I would take Felix in and find him a good home through FosterCat. She was delighted with that offer and we made plans for her to bring Felix to me the day after next.

During the very brief interval between our email exchange and Tanya's arrival at my home, the perils of life in the great outdoors had caught up with Felix. When he emerged from the carrier, his right eye was badly swollen and seeping. But as he explored the foster room where he would be staying until I could get him scheduled for testing, vaccinations and neutering, he seemed otherwise healthy and not much bothered by his eye, though it looked nasty to us.

After Tanya and the boys had left, I decided to clean Felix's eye and perhaps get a better look at it, but he screamed so loudly when I touched the moist cotton ball to his eye that I decided I needed to take him to the vet instead, and was able to get an appointment for later that day. The vet was able to perform a general exam, but even after numbing Felix's eye, was not able to see much due to the swelling. He surmised that infection was causing the conjunctiva to swell to the extent that it was protruding from the eye, but couldn't be sure until the swelling had subsided enough for a closer exam. He tested Felix for FELV/FIV, treated him for worms and fleas, and sent me home with pain meds, an antibiotic ointment for the eyes and an oral antibiotic, which I started him on that afternoon.

As the days passed and the swelling began to subside, I was able to observe that there was a nodule of reddish tissue pro-

truding from the center of Felix's right eyeball. Since it moved in concert with any movement of his eyeball, it was apparent that it couldn't be conjunctival tissue. I reported this to the vet and he suggested I bring Felix back for another exam. This time he was able to determine that Felix had suffered some sort of trauma to the eyeball, which had left a tear in the surface and some of the tissue from the interior of the eyeball had erupted through the tear. Yuk!

Despite the nasty appearance of this protruding tissue, the vet was pretty confident that Felix's vision had not been compromised and that he could surgically excise it and stitch up the tear with minimal risk to the sight in the eye. I made an appointment for the procedure the following week.

I had kept Tanya up to date on all of these developments and she and the boys had come to visit Felix a couple times. He had proven to be a real trooper about taking his meds, had let me trim his nails with no fuss and whenever I came into the room, immediately flopped down on his back for belly rubs.

By God's grace, Felix's surgery went smoothly and he recovered with no complications. I scheduled his neuter surgery and vaccinations and began to think seriously about finding a really special home for him. That's when I thought of Jeff and Deb.



Deb had come to my home to meet and subsequently adopt a kitty from us in FosterCat's very early days. Andy was a special kitty and had turned out to be a great companion for their other kitty, Max. When Max had passed away, they had adopted a young male kitten named Remi from us to keep Andy company. Sadly, Andy had also

passed away during the past year and I thought Felix would make a great companion for Remi. I knew Jeff and Deb would give him an excellent home and because Felix had been so affectionate and cuddly with me, I had hoped he would help fill the void left by Andy's passing.

In early November, when I called Deb to tell her about Felix and ask if she would like to meet him, she wasn't so sure that she was really ready for another cat. But she and Jeff were going to be in my area the following week and agreed to stop by. After spending about an hour with Felix sleeping in her lap, Deb began to succumb to his charms and Jeff thought he would be a perfect buddy for Remi.

Because they were going to be away around the holidays, Jeff and Deb thought it would be best to wait until after they returned to bring Felix home and begin to introduce him to his new family, so I had the joy of keeping him with me for a few weeks longer. Tanya and the boys were able to come and say their final goodbyes, knowing that Felix would be safe and loved for the rest of his life. As Deb put it when she recently emailed me some photos: "Six months later, we can't imagine our lives without Felix. He has been a great buddy for Remi and has given us much laughter and joy."



Saving Lives . . . one cat at a time.

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to develop and sustain an organization to provide temporary foster care for cats and kittens in private homes until permanent homes can be found.

FosterCat, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Happy Tails!

And now, enjoy these updates about our kitties from their adoptive families:



Willow is wonderful. She loves to look out the window and watch the birds and play with her toys. We love her.

C.M.



Teagan and Bailey are both doing very well. Bailey is becoming more confident every day. We are very glad we decided to make them both members of our family.

C.H.



Duke (formerly Diesel) is having such a great time. He plays a lot with our soon to be one year old female. He loves to lie in the sunlight streaming in from our skylight and he always sleeps under the covers. We are so happy with him.

E.Y.



Here is a photo of Sage. He has settled into his new home very well. He is so affectionate and super friendly with everybody who comes to the house. I just love him.

B.T.

Dempsey (now Solo) is doing great and loves his buddies Treble, Symphony and Banjo.

J.R.



Dory Nemo

Nemo and Dory are doing great. I'm so glad that I decided to adopt both of them. They play and snuggle together and are so sweet and affectionate.

S.B.

Flynn is doing very well in his new home. He was afraid of my son at first, but now he is seeking him out. He is very playful and affectionate and we love him.

T.P.



Mateo (formerly Keanu) is doing great. He and our dog have become good friends already. He is very cuddly, but also likes to play. He is the perfect kitty for our family.

C.P.

Please mail to: FosterCat, Inc., P. O. Box 23414, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-6414



Yes! I want to support FosterCat's life-saving efforts for cats like Felix.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$100 \$50 \$35 \$25 \$15 Other \$ _____

Please credit my contribution towards:

Membership General Support

(Annual membership: Family \$25.00 • Adult \$20.00 • Student/Senior \$15.00)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

I would like to become a FosterCat volunteer.

I would like to become a foster parent.

All contributions are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

The official registration and financial information of FosterCat, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

Registration does not imply endorsement.

2017 Membership Drive Sets New Record

We are very pleased to announce that thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of our friends and supporters FosterCat was able to raise \$4004.00 for the care of our kitties through this year's membership drive mailing, surpassing last year's record of \$3780.00.

We are sincerely grateful to all of you who became members or renewed your memberships for 2017.

**Visit our website,
www.fostercat.org,
to see our upcoming events!**