



SCRATCHIN' POST

January 2011

MEET THE JOLIES

by Linda Lea Fox



AKA the 'closet of doom' the previous night. I started emptying till I could aim my camera into the far back corner. There they were. Angelina had climbed the barricade, dragging her kittens one at a time back with her.

4 weeks: Time for baby kitten food. Vivienne was the bravest and growled as she devoured her first meal. However, kitten food meant litter training too.

4 weeks and one day: I popped each kitten into the corn litter. Maddox ate it, Zahara looked terrified, Vivienne, Pax and Shiloh performed.

4 weeks and 2 days: All five trained. Litter scooping became my new obsession after kitten finding. I spent my days counting heads: 1,2,3...1,2,3,4....1?... 1, 2,3,4,5, HOORAY!

7 weeks: Already? It was time for the first vet visit, shots, de-flea, de-worm and off to the shelter for adoption day viewing....I must admit I shed a tear or two.

Pax went first to a lovely family with two little girls. He was rechristened Scoop because that is how they love to pick him up. Then it was Zahara's turn to go home with a sweet couple. Next Maddox left with a darling girl who had studied for weeks on the responsibilities of having a cat. Maddox became Gravy because he is grey and has an inverted "v" on his forehead. Vivienne, who became Snickers, was the fourth to go. Shiloh was passed over again and again. Twelve weeks had passed since he first came into my care.

Finally a family with two little boys appeared and chose Shiloh to share their lives. Now Angelina could move to the shelter and I could let go. So I thought. It was not so easy. At

first I found myself at the shelter every day, lying on my stomach to reach under the sofa to pet terrified Angelina. Now she is coming out to meet volunteers and other cats.

I learned so much from this tiny angel. My home was constantly full of family, friends and new people who came to meet the Jolies. Adoption Saturdays became four hours of nail biting and worrying about whether they would be chosen or passed over.

I was also rather surprised at my ravaged budget. Kittens eat a lot. Moms even more. Six cats use many, many bags of litter. Treats are necessary to corral felines. Scratching ramps, a second carrier and litter pan, catnip mousies, laundry every day to keep the bedding fresh.... Wow!

It took over \$900 total to raise this feline family to adoption readiness. Luckily, veterinarian costs were minimal. Angelina arrived dehydrated and required subcutaneous fluids; all other vet costs were for the standard initial exams, vaccinations, and spaying or neutering costs. It was fortunate that one or more of the kittens were not sick. In that case, the veterinarian costs can substantially increase the expense of raising a litter.

It costs a lot to rescue a kitten. Definitely Not For Profit.

Joining the foster club for Royal City Humane Society enriched my life and filled my days, weeks and months with laughter, joy and tears. According to many shelters, only 26% of rescued cats ever find a forever home. So is five out of six good enough? No! Angelina is still waiting.

I will continue to make time for this little angel mom until she is brave enough to meet someone understanding and is also chosen. Hopefully, soon, it will be "could I please foster the next litter"!



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BUGSY MEETS VI



These are photos of Bugsy (now Oscar) at his new home. Amazing cat, so friendly, so gentle. We knew he had picked out Vi when he walked into the cat carrier on his own at RCHS. When he got to his new home he claimed her condo, her heart and her neighbours for his own. I have never met a cat quite like him.

Written for Vi and Oscar by Nick Balachanoff



PUSS PROFILE

MADDIE & JAKE



Maddie and Jake were feral kittens that were rescued and adopted in 2005. Since then, they happily shared a house with a woman until her recent sudden death. These poor cats spent three days alone with their deceased owner before neighbours and police discovered the situation. Maddie and Jake were quite traumatized from this horribly frightful experience. All they have known is life with the woman who rescued them as kittens.

While Jake is the more timid of the duo, both are friendly and loving. You can tell they have both been well loved and are a very sweet pair looking for a home together.

King of beasts



complete with washing instructions

A Quiet Night At The Shelter

by Janette King



Cast
(in order of appearance):

Mr. Friendly...
as The Beast

Candy...
as Mrs. Beast

Renji...
as himself

Bugsy...
as a throw cushion

VOLUNTEER PROFILE LYNN WHYBOURNE

Lynn Whybourne volunteers at the shelter on both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. She started with RCHS in March 2009 after recently retiring. Not one to just sit still, she was looking for an organization to become involved with where she could enjoy helping out. Having had pets in her home most of her life, ranging from cats and dogs to snakes and very fertile gerbils, she has a passion for animals. RCHS was a perfect fit.

Lynn grew up in Vancouver and has lived in the area most of her life. With her many family and friends in the area she keeps busy. When she does have downtime and is not at the shelter, she likes to read, do crossword puzzles, bike and explore the city.

When Lynn is at home, she is pampering her almost thirteen year old black cat, Kitty. Kitty's mom required assistance with the birth; Lynn was there in her usual helpful manner. Since that time, Kitty has had Lynn wrapped around her paw. While affectionate and loving, she is quite certain she does not want to share Lynn with any other furr-friends. When Lynn brought home a cat to foster, Kitty just curled up shaking and crying. With a heavy heart, Lynn returned Merlin to the shelter. Kitty may have just realized a stand had to be taken. To let one other feline in the home may open the flood gates. After all, when Lynn was asked who her favourite shelter cat is, she started naming them all. She is strongly drawn to those street-tough cats who appear rough on the exterior but are just waiting for someone to give them a chance to show what softies they are. However, regardless



of history, colour or personality, she gives all the cats that want it her love and affection. For those that don't want the attention, she slyly works on convincing them otherwise.

Lynn still remembers her first impression of the shelter. The glass window had not yet been put into the door from the garage into the kitchen. She opened that door and saw cats leisurely walking around and lounging on every surface to be seen. She immediately thought she had found heaven. In turn, RCHS had found another volunteer angel.

Lynn is a valuable asset to RCHS. When she is on shift, she goes beyond her duty roster. If she sees something that needs attention, it gets done. From finger

marks on windows to dirty cat bums, she tackles all tasks with cheer. She checks the willing cats over from the tip of their noses to tails, looking for any signs that all is not right. Lynn believes that sometimes it is better to ask forgiveness than permission. The cats know if they have a mat, Lynn will soon take care of it for them. While they may not appreciate it at the time, it makes them much happier after.

While Lynn treasures her alone time with the felines, she always has a warm welcome for any humans who also walk through the shelter door. With a natural knack for storytelling, she will shower you with tales about the latest cat antics.

Thank-you Lynn for your time and dedication. It is volunteers like you who make this organization wonderful. The humans and cats alike appreciate it.

AT HOME WITH MONKEY

Hi there... some updated photos of Jasper, also known as "Monkey" when he was at the shelter.



The other cat in the photos is our Serenity - she's 7 years old.
Tara & Rhiannon

THANK YOU!

We the animals who have been rescued from the streets, now and in the past, would like to thank all of the wonderful donors who so generously gave us money, food and supplies throughout the year.

Some of us have found new and loving homes. As for the rest of us we now have full bellies, warm dry beds, safety and love. Thank you, you have helped to make a world of difference in our lives.

We cannot forcibly change the wrongfulness of this world, but we would like to think that on occasion we are able to manifest its good will and lighten the heavy burden carried by animals living on the streets.

IN MEMORY OF JAKE

To all of Jake's friends who were touched by his easy charm and joy of human company,

On December 3, I so very sadly had to say good-bye to sweet Jake after 9 1/2 years of purrs, laughter, cuddles and unending love.

He came to me in the summer of 2001 as a foster cat from a private cat rescue & shelter the Royal City Humane Society. He had a bad case of ear mites that prevented him from joining the shelter cat community. When he was ready to be adopted, there was no way I could let him go - we had bonded and he was here to stay!

He was an ever enduring little guy with a commanding voice and insistent paws to get his message across. Bravely, he made it through hyperactive thyroid disease in August 2003 (treated successfully with radioactive iodine) and many dental appointments to relieve him of chronically infected teeth (the last and final teeth removal occurred in early 2010).

He was a lover and chomper of crunchies and gobbled them up despite no teeth! He adored yoghurt (especially vanilla flavoured!), coffee cream, cheese, salmon skin, tomato sauce and tuna. He loved his food until the very end devouring cooked chicken thighs with vigour.

In mid-October, he suffered from acute pancreatitis. The subsequent ultrasound revealed a massive tumour in his ab-



domen with a small growth on his pancreas. Despite this harsh diagnosis, he displayed spunk and liveliness. We decided to support him with subcutaneous fluids and a drug cocktail of anti-nausea and anti-pain medication for as long as he showed enthusiasm for life and displayed no overt signs of distress.

Living it up he did. He had it in him to still give chase to Molly, his friend & foe of 3 years. He "hunted" his catnip pillows and enjoyed his favourite foods without reservation. I was given this precious time to steel myself for the inevita-

ble and to love him a little longer enjoying his nightly cuddles and loss of my pillow to his commanding presence.

He suffered an embolism on the morning of December 2nd. Luckily the ever compassionate vet Dr. Nicky at the Vancouver Feline Hospital, was only minutes away. He died in my arms quickly and gently.

In memory of Jake, please think of all the animals in need out there and offer support to dedicated people working hard to improve their lives such as the friends at the Royal City Humane Society.

Jake's mom, who misses him desperately and is blessed to have known him, Eva

Royal City Humane Society

Mailing Address: Box 0102, 667 Columbia Street, New Westminister B.C. V3M 1A8 604 524-6447 www.rchs.bc.ca

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The Royal City Humane Society is a registered, no kill animal charity based in New Westminister, BC. As the only charity animal shelter in New Westminister, RCHS campaigns against pet overpopulation and cares for stray, injured and abandoned animals by testing them for disease, sterilizing and tattooing and finding them new homes. RCHS is 100% volunteer run. Funding is obtained through various fund raising activities, memberships and donations, and all funds are spent on the welfare of the animals.

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