



KittyKind.org
instagram: @KittyKindCats
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Newsletter, August 2020

Hello everyone,

If you're in the Petco store and pause at KittyKind, a customer will invariably ask, "Where's the cats?" This is after the person has just finished reading the flyer explaining that the cats are in foster care. What is foster care? Read about it below and meet some of KittyKind's amazing foster parents.

MEET FOSTER DAD TOBY

Who's a better foster parent than a Daddy cat? Meet Toby! Doreen M. rescued Toby as a kitten, with his three siblings and mom. They were on a rafter in a garage in Howard Beach, Queens. A friend of Doreen's adopted Toby. Now, Toby LOVES kittens. "He teaches them good manners and gets them ready for their forever home." Valerie V., Intake Manager, assumes Toby even fills out adoption applications, under assumed names, for his kittens. Why not? "He LOVES" the babies!"



Toby and Olaf



Toby , Kirk and Spock

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Toby, Tesla and Penelope



Toby, Moon and Star

Toby, working his magic with Malcolm



MEET THE PEOPLE FOSTER PARENTS

Amanda M.

Now fostering Sox and Rockie

When did you start fostering, and why?

My partner and I started fostering in 2016 and then with KittyKind in 2017. We love cats and we would love to have one (or many!) of our own, but we live away from NYC 3-4 months out of the year. We recognize with our scheduling that having a pet isn't right for our circumstances, so fostering was the perfect option to include some furry friends into our lives while we are here! When I look back, I always wish we started fostering sooner. Our apartment always feels like it's missing something when we don't have any furballs lounging around.

What is most enjoyable about fostering?

Fostering is incredibly rewarding to us. We enjoy having a temporary pet, the cats get the freedom of a home, and we all enjoy the companionship; where the alternative might be a shelter/cage or still out on the streets. I love learning all their personalities and assist them on their journey to finding their forever home. The foster motto is "goodbye is the goal" and it's always the happiest of goodbyes. I gain a new friend, but then someone else gains a new family member ... That warms my heart immensely!

What can be a challenge?

It can be challenging to learn the needs of each individual cat. No two are ever the same. Some are easy, some can be divas. Sometimes, there could be a medical issue or personality quirk that needs some particular attention, but it's great to problem solve and work through each obstacle to meet their needs.

Do you have a memorable foster story, good, bad, funny?

Funny cat scat warning We fostered an amazingly smart, affectionate orange tabby named Benji. He was an incredible cat that knew his name, could do tricks, and would give you all the cuddles; but Benji had some medical issues that needed a lot of trial and error with food and medication. I often had to watch him defecate to check consistency to see if what we were trying was working or needing changes. One time I heard him in the litterbox and ran in camera ready (for extra proof) to catch him in action. Benji was about to get in



his stance to do his thing when he sneezed and shot out diarrhea straight over the edge of the litter box all over the floor. What a sneeze "shart"!! And I caught it all on video!

Any personal advice, stories, or advice you'd like to share?

Patience and attention are important.. and not just affectionate attention but attention to detail to be able to pick up on any potential problems or ailments. In regards to understanding cat behaviors, something that has helped me a lot was a takeaway from a seminar with cat behaviorist consultant Beth Adelman, MS, where she introduced the thought process of "What's the function? What's the compromise". This method has helped me with determining what function a certain action might be and what can I do to alter it to where both me and the cat's needs can be met. Example: A cat's knocking things off of the dresser early morning causing you to wake up. What's the function? It might be hungry or bored because you haven't woken up yet to feed or play. What's the compromise? You could remove anything breakable or loud from the dresser. Then before bed, leave out a little extra food for overnight/morning snacking and line the dresser with soft toys for the cat to push off (that hit the ground quietly so as to not wake you up).

I am constantly impressed and inspired by the long-term volunteers at KittyKind and am very proud to be a part of this non-profit rescue.

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Eva V.

When did you start fostering, and why?

We submitted our request to become foster parents for KittyKind in May 2018 and became first time fosters in June 2018! Me and my partner have always loved cats and always wanted to be proud cat owners. However our nomad lifestyle, we move cities every couple of years, wouldn't be too great for a cat, so it's hard for us to offer a permanent home for a cat right now. At the same time there are so many loving cats waiting for their forever home, but just need to get used to the love humans have to give, so fostering was a great way to help out other cats get adopted while also bringing some fluffiness in our home!

What is most enjoyable about fostering?

The most enjoyable thing about fostering is meeting all these cats and their different personalities! It's unbelievable how cuddly one cat might be and how independent and opinionated others can be. It's also very rewarding to see your foster cat change from shy and fearful to playful and loving to then find their permanent home.

What can be a challenge?

We get very excited when we foster new cats and we obviously immediately want them to love us, but these foster cats often need some time to get settled and

it does require some patience. But the hardest part is probably giving up the cats. We do know it means these cats have found their forever home, which is great, but sometimes we wish we could keep all the cats we foster.

Do you have a memorable foster story, good, bad, funny?

SO MANY. When we gave back our first foster cat to Kittykind, Gabriel, we discovered he was a very expensive breed, worth about \$3000. Our second cat, Leila, had epilepsy so she needed to get her daily medication. As we had never pillled a cat before, it was a daily struggle of trying to trick her to eat different treats with the pill included. She was a smart cat and would stop liking the treats after a couple of days. And we've also had a share of shy cats stay with us, Rita and Petunia. They needed some more time to come out of their hiding spots and get used to us petting them, but after a couple of months of luring them with treats and toys they blossomed into sociable and confident cats.

Any personal advice, stories, or advice you'd like to share?

There doesn't seem to be a "rulebook" to fostering a cat, as they've all got so many different personalities. It does require some patience, toys, treats, and sometimes tears when giving them back to KittyKind, but to see them turn into social cats and help them find their forever home is just so rewarding!

Lauren R.

I started fostering in September 2015, just a few months after graduating college and moving to New York City. I had heard of Kitty Kind and it looked like a great organization. Growing up I never had pets, though I loved cats so I started visiting the local shelter with my Dad at 13 and volunteering weekly at 16. Seeing how you could impact local animals by donating a few hours of your time per week was simply amazing. When I moved to NYC I didn't want to commit to adopting right away and decided to foster.

Turns out - I've never been a foster failure after almost 5 years and 40+ fosters! Though, I did consider adopting Mia and definitely thought about Pops and Sterling. There have been quite a few stories over the years: lots of adorable yet sometimes destructive kittens, sweet cats, and scared cats. The volunteers and foster team have taught me everything from how to give kittens medicine to how to socialize a semi-feral kitten!

One of my most memorable stories was in late 2015.

One of my first pairs of kittens I couldn't find after a day of work and searched every nook and cranny of my tiny apartment. I thought I lost my kittens! Little did I know, I hadn't found a kitten-sized hole in the side of my kitchen cabinets - so when I opened the cabinet four glowing eyes were staring back at me. Kittens will certainly test your limits and keep you on your toes!

While it is always challenging to foster it keeps things interesting and gives you an opportunity to learn so many personalities and have flexibility. Kitty Kind has been extremely supportive when it comes to vet bills, advice and understanding my travel schedule when I used to often travel for work! I also find it to be one of the easiest ways to volunteer (without even needing to leave your home usually!) and so rewarding to help a cat who may not have been lucky enough to have a second chance. It's a great way to have a pet without the 18-20 year commitment up front!



Bill and Kel

When did you start fostering, and why?

We started fostering in 2015, as we are both animal lovers but had lived for many years in the city without any pets. We thought fostering would give us a chance to bring a new companion into the house without a long-term commitment expectation since we weren't sure that's what we wanted or could easily manage with our lifestyle at that time. We felt that we could meet and help out a lot more cats (including those that aren't agreeable with other pets) this way, so it was kind of a win-win in our mind.

What is most enjoyable about fostering?

B: I have really been amazed by how unique each cat or kitten has been, both in looks and personality. I didn't have cats in the house growing up and assumed they were primarily independent and kept to themselves, as opposed to dogs who are always engaging their owners, but this hasn't really been the case. Nearly all of our foster cats have shown a genuine interest in at least some level of routine human interaction.

K: In addition to enjoying the opportunity to get to know the uniqueness of each cat I particularly appreciate the peace of mind that Kitty Kind offers. Rather than sad goodbyes, I have had confidence over the years that our foster cats will transition to other good hands.

What can be a challenge?

B - The challenging aspect of fostering, particularly with recently rescued cats is there is often some issue that needs to be resolved, either a health condition that requires medication, or the cat has been on the street for some time and isn't quite ready to be a natural human companion, so it takes time and patience to build mutual trust.

K - There have been a few cases where the cat hasn't warmed up to the domestic setting and has brought us concern that they may not progress beyond "feral" behavior, so we have worried that the relatively short time they spend with us may not be worth the traumatic transition on their end. Seeing a cat that isn't content can be distressing, but we trust that the cats are now part of a secure network of caring individuals who will continue to help them transition well in time.

Do you have a memorable foster story, good, bad, funny?

B - We find that the shyest of the cats and kittens are very adept at finding places to hide even in a small apartment with limited options. Some favorites include inside the radiator or a cardboard box within a cupboard...

K - We've had great experience working with all of KK's volunteers and have felt fortunate to have learned from well-managed guidance over the years. I have to give a particular note of praise for a former foster care manager, Miriam Hibel, who introduced us to fostering in 2015. She was notably well informed and an excellent communicator on behalf of the cats (perhaps due to her adept sensitivity to all the all of the cats unique situations, emotional and physical states, and corresponding care requirements).

Therese McGinn**Now Fostering King****When did you start fostering, and why?**

After my cat Fortitude died in early 2017 - his brother Patience had died earlier - I really missed having feline friends at home after 16 years. A few months later, I started fostering.

What is most enjoyable about fostering?

I love all the different cat personalities! I have fostered cats I've barely seen because they are so traumatized and stay hidden away and others who insist on constant petting. It's so rewarding to see the terrified ones learn to trust and even enjoy human interaction.

What can be a challenge?

Do all cat lovers take it personally when a cat doesn't take to them? It takes a lot for some cats, especially those rescued from the streets after tough kittenhoods, to trust humans. I haven't always succeeded in getting my foster cats to trust me, and have learned to settle for their wary tolerance.

Do you have a memorable foster story, good, bad, funny?

Some of my fosters like field trips to my building's hallway - they like the texture of the carpet and the fun smells through other apartment doors. One, Scarlet,

once took it a little far and jumped in the elevator when my neighbor came out! The doorman helped me find her on the top floor, and loved her little adventure. I, on the other hand, almost had a heart attack.

Any personal advice, stories, or advice you'd like to share?

I had to learn to stay calm when a new foster eats very little in the first couple of days. It takes time to adjust and they will start eating!



King!

MEET THE KITTYKIND FOSTER COORDINATOR

Lori Ann Kim

Heather, Jasmine and I have been on the Foster Team for a few years now. I believe Heather has been with KittyKind the longest. We are a small group of devoted volunteers who love cats and put time in each week to coordinate foster transfers, onboard new fosters, oversee meet-and-greets with potential adopters, troubleshoot cat behavioral issues, and more!

Each volunteer on the Foster Team is a “case manager” with assigned foster parents. The case manager is the first point of contact for these foster parents. This system works well, because it allows us to keep growing our foster team without one person becoming too overloaded. The Foster Manager recruits new foster parents and then assigns them to a case manager. From there, the case manager reaches out to the foster parent with foster requests, and coordinates the transfer.

We could always use more help, and are especially looking for long-term foster parents who have, or are willing to learn, different skills such as socializing shy cats, giving medications, figuring out litter box issues, etc.

- To apply for fostering, please fill out a Foster Application on our website. From there, you will be asked to provide a virtual home visit so we can ensure that there are no potential hazards to our cats while they are in your care.
- Once the virtual home visit has been approved, you will be assigned to one of our amazing case managers!

Fostering is more than just playing with cute kittens, or easy-going cats until they are adopted. It's hard work sometimes! We do get many kittens in during the summertime, which everyone loves, but the reason that the Foster Team exists is to give cats who are not immediately adoptable a chance to be in a home while we work with their issues, and hopefully get them to a point where they can be loving members of permanent families.

We love cats and the work that we do is addicting! Each person on the Foster Team is self-motivated and driven. We sort of need those traits, because we are not getting paid to do this work, and there are times when no one is around to hold us accountable. If we don't keep going, the cats are the ones who suffer.

For many rescued cats, a foster home is their first space of safety. With love and patience, foster parents groom their cat guests to be family members. They are the matchmakers. Thank you, all of you.



THE KITTYKIND CATS NOW IN FOSTER CARE



Andy



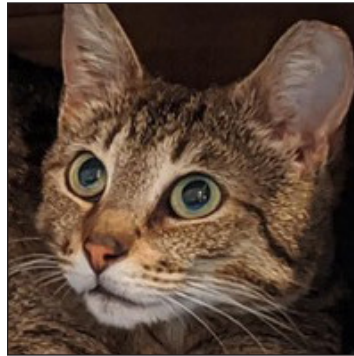
Archemides (aka Archimedes)



Arya



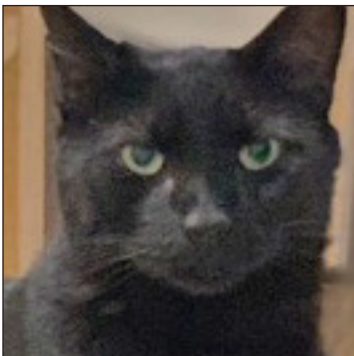
Bubbles



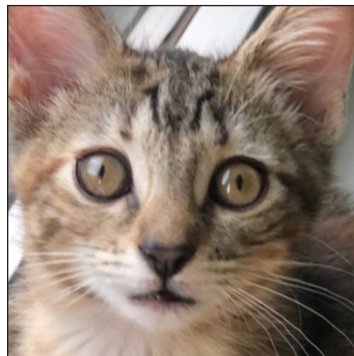
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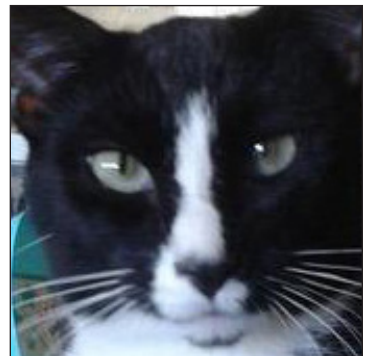
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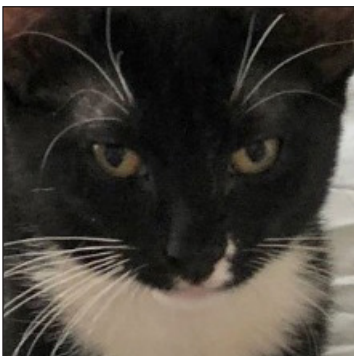
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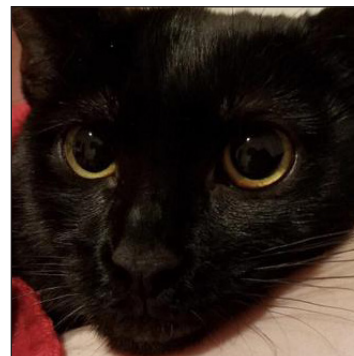
Kelly



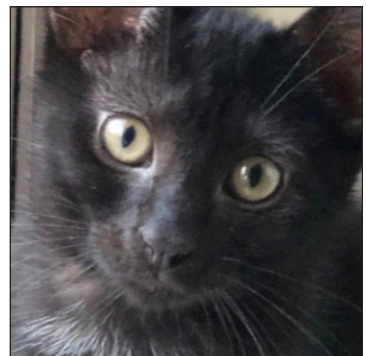
Martin



Mose



Rita



Toby

Naomi, 1 yr old, FeLV positive

Sweet Naomi is a special-needs cat who was rescued near Grand Concourse in the Bronx by a good Samaritan and cat lover. He planned to keep her, but unfortunately Naomi tested positive for Feline Leukemia (FeLV). Because of that, she can't be with FeLV negative cats, as she may transmit the illness to them.

Naomi is a mellow, low-key lady who, once she knows you, will happily sit (and nap) on your lap. She gets along with low-key dogs, but should only be with other FeLV-positive cats.

There is no specific treatment for FeLV, so most of the treatment of FeLV-positive cats involves supportive care. Because FeLV-positive cats have weaker immune systems, they do need to be treated for upper respiratory infections more often than FeLV-negative cats. Also, they tend to need dentals at a younger age than other cats. FeLV-positive cats can live perfectly happy lives, and they deserve to do so. People who have FeLV-positive cats just need to be aware that they may have a shorter life span and that they need to be taken to a veterinarian as soon as a problem is noted. FeLV can't be transmitted to dogs or people.

Please email us at adopt@kittykind.org and we'll get you in touch with her rescuer!



Annabelle, 15 yrs old

Annabelle is a lovely, mature lady whose owner has unfortunately moved into assisted living. .

Annabelle was very involved with her mommy. She spent a good part of the day on the couch next to her, or in her lap. She always slept leaning against her mommy's side. She was friendly with her mom's aides, especially around food times. She is mellow when her neighbor brought her cat in for a visit. She does not get rough or aggressive, at all. Once she knows you-she'll come over for a pet, then go sit in the sun. She meows only when hungry. She's a wonderful lady looking for a friendly retirement home.

Email adopt@kittykind.org and we'll get you in touch with Annabelle's current caretaker.

SAVE THE DATE!

- What: **Chipotle Fundraiser for Loli!**
- When: **Saturday, August 22, 4 – 8 p.m.**
- Where: **Chipotle, 864 Broadway, next door to Petco, 17th and Broadway**
- For What: **Chemo treatment for Loli who has lymphoma on her nose.**
- Details: **Order food in store or order online.**
If you order online, give this code: W2V9A9K
Pickup food.
Mention KittyKind.
Enjoy your delish Chipotle while helping KittyKind help Loli!

As soon as the orders reach \$150, KittyKind receives 33% of the proceeds.



PLEASE WEAR A MASK INSIDE OF CHIPOTLE. Eat outside, in the park, or take the food home.

We know that a trip to Manhattan may be inconvenient. Can we ask instead that you donate to Loli's Go Fund link on the KittyKind Facebook page? You can also donate on our kittykind.org/donate link.

AND, READ LOLI'S STORY ON THE KITTYPKIND FACEBOOK PAGE.

Loli was left in the Petco store with a note: "Please take care of Loli and find her a new home. I am unable to take care of her". Look at this cute little bear. You know her person loved her.



Stay well! We hope to everyone soon.

Mose and Andy getting a bath from KittyKind alum Julius