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Newsletter, December 2022

Do you ever look at the photo of a rescued cat and want to ask: What happened? What's your story? We may never hear the answer, but we can sometimes see the answer through ears, whiskers, and tail, cat language.

Because of you—rescuers, volunteers, foster parents, adopters, and donors—there are approximately 265 stories to tell in 2022. Our December newsletter has two of them—read about Tommy on page 2 and Layla on page 5.

## WHO GOT ADOPTED?

### 2022 October: 32 Adoptions

Arcadia, Bentley, Betsy, Brody, Carlos, Cookie, Daisy, Dexter, Django, Dusty, Eva, Finley, Frankie Pumpkin Pie, Haiku, Jayden (FKA Peaches), Josef, Leopold, Lila Maxine, Lililana, Lucy, Mango, Morgana, Mosey, Powder, Quinn, Rocka, Rosie, Smokey, Snickerdoodle, Timmy, Toffee, Zoey

### 2022 November: 25 Adoptions

Abby, Abby Peanut, Abony and Abby, Acorn, Annie, Aurora, Bandito, Becca, Benji, Bodhi, Butternut, Dennis, Emma, Hazel, Leonardo, Lucy, McGee, Mittens, Olivia, Pierre, Polo, Rex, Robin, Sebastian, Shana

### 2022 December: 17 Adoptions (so far)

Bambi, Ben, Bess, Boston, Brooklyn, Carmelo, Fritz, Houdini, Lily, Misu, Musya, Noah, Reuben, Sheba, Sophie, Tigress and Cinnabon 12 Years Old!



*Top: Tigress and Cinnabon*

*Below: Lucy*



*Abby Peanut*



# TOMMY, CHALLENGES, WITH A CAPITAL “C”

Meet Tommy, a story of a “hoarder house scaredy-cat” who is now an “affection-craving bundle of love!”

FROM GREG C: Foster parent of Tommy

“This is a story about Tommy the cat. Below is what he looked like when he 1st came in. He had the funniest but sad & displeased face. I was told that he came from a hoarder house but not much else. He had tried to escape from KittyKind and had trouble adjusting to another foster family. I knew I was up for the challenge.

Tommy found a hiding place under my bed which he lived in and watched me from afar. He wasn't interested in treats or toys. He was simply untrusting and scared, and he demonstrated that by flattening his ears at me whenever I came close. I gave him the space he needed, gave him a guarantee of 2 meals a day and a clean bathroom. I also talked to him and said his name 100 times a day. I sang “Goodbye Horses” to him frequently supplanting his name in the lyrics. At some point he found another hiding spot that he liked that was behind a wall of firewood for my fireplace. This way he was still unreachable but high enough to

peer through the cracks in the logs, watch me and figure out what my role was. I started delivering his food to him to the log pile (breakfast in bed) so he didn't have to race by me to the kitchen.

It took at least 4 months of him hiding and observing me before he began to relax and I could even tell he looked forward to watching me to see what I was doing, peeping his head above the woodpile while I sang to him. The day he let me pet him for the 1st time he looked so scared but when he finally took the leap and learned his head into my hand, he just fell into it. It was at that moment that I saw how much he craved love. After that day it was still gradual but progressing. He began to come out and lay a few feet away from me while I worked. Soon he was on the bench next to me and then the couch, ...and then on top of my head on the couch.

Tommy has not only endured the journey of learning how to receive love but now that he knows it, loves with his whole heart. His purr is a loud unapologetic and grateful engine. It's beautiful hearing how happy he is. Sometimes I will stop petting him and he will immediately swipe me with a soft paw saying “no, I can use some more, thank you” One could even argue he has become a little needy LOL. And the funny thing is I even think he may have become a little protective of me. If there is a sound in the outside hallway, he has run to the door with a low rumbling growl

*Continued on p. 4*





Should I? Could I?



Really, I didn't ask for this. It just happened!



Don't Move!



Blanket Time





*Tommy, cont from p 2*

like a mountain lion protecting his cubs. Then he runs and hides under the bed:)

The most recent achievement is that Tommy has just learned to play again. He is still a kitten (a big kitten) at 3-4 years old, but I remember his early report when I got him saying he did not play. I see him comfortable and safe in his environment now that he actively plays with the wand, crumpled up pieces of paper or balls. He also now sleeps with me. He is at his happiest sleeping against me in bed and to my dismay he now sleeps under the covers with me! He can't wait for me to say it's time to go upstairs to bed. He races up after me, waits for me to get in and then starts to nudge me to open up the covers. He will sleep through the night with me.



**THANK YOU!**

**CHAPTER 1**



Below is a picture of the same picture of when he first arrived, his ears flattened, and his nostrils flared next to what he looks like today. His whole body language is different. He is relaxed and content. He even likes belly rubs. Tommy has so much love to give to someone that not only wants a cat but is ready to give love back to him. He will be so loyal to you. **If you love Tommy's story, take a chance and be a part of it."**



## LAYLA, A TRIBUTE

KittyKind knows that Layla started her story fifteen years ago and that her first thirteen years are a mystery. However, we know her last two years are a legacy of love.

The story below is from Heather, one of KittyKind's foster managers. KittyKind took Layla when her owner went into a nursing home. Layla was a senior with a lot of health issues. She was in permanent foster with Barbara T until she passed. Heather agreed to foster Layla. Heather and her family took care of Layla and when they realized that she would not get better. They adopted her to give her an official home before she passed.

*Continued on page 7*





## Layla: A Senior Cat Love Story





"In August we adopted Layla who we had been fostering for 10 months prior. Layla came to us as a sick senior, and we could tell she had a hard life. Ear tipped in one ear, infected polyp in the other, smelly, only had one tooth and couldn't walk but we were able to nurse her back to almost full health. She ran, she jumped, she purred, she played. No matter what we did (with the help of many vets) the underlying health issues kept coming back. One day it was the ear polyp, the next, high blood pressure, the next, she was paralyzed and blind and we knew one of them would mark the end for her, but we were determined to give her a happy end to her life. Layla became dubbed as the "nice cat" in our house, where Kylo, a feisty tortie reigns. The kids, neighbors, cat sitters, even Kylo the mean cat, all fell in love with Layla, the muted calico

with green eyes, a screeching loud meow, and a wobbly walk. She would jump up whenever anyone was on the couch and steal all the pets she could and tap you for more. She loved to be brushed, she loved her orthopedic bed, which we set up on the first floor so she wouldn't have to climb stairs. We'd find her all over the house and she'd spring down the steps, like a slinky, first both front legs and then both back legs as she couldn't stabilize on the steps like other cats. We loved Layla and all of her quirks, she was a true member of our family.

Beth Stern says it best, "I allow my heart to break so theirs don't have to." My heart is broken but I hope more than anything that Layla felt our love this year. Adopt a senior pet, give them the best end to their life in your home, not a shelter. It's worth it."

## SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone who participated in Giving Tuesday, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday to help the cats. Here's a picture of some goodies the cats received.

Thanks to Erica L, Eric W. Jonathan P, Beverly W, Nat B, Cristal, Nirachara C, Jenna, Wang Y C, Loki, Luna, Noon & Richard W. And to all of you "Anonymous" contributors.

**This December, if you're holiday shopping on Amazon, can you add one extra step? First go to Amazon Smile and choose KittyKind as your favorite charity. That way, KittyKind cats get a percentage of your purchase.**

### Contributors:

Jean Fox  
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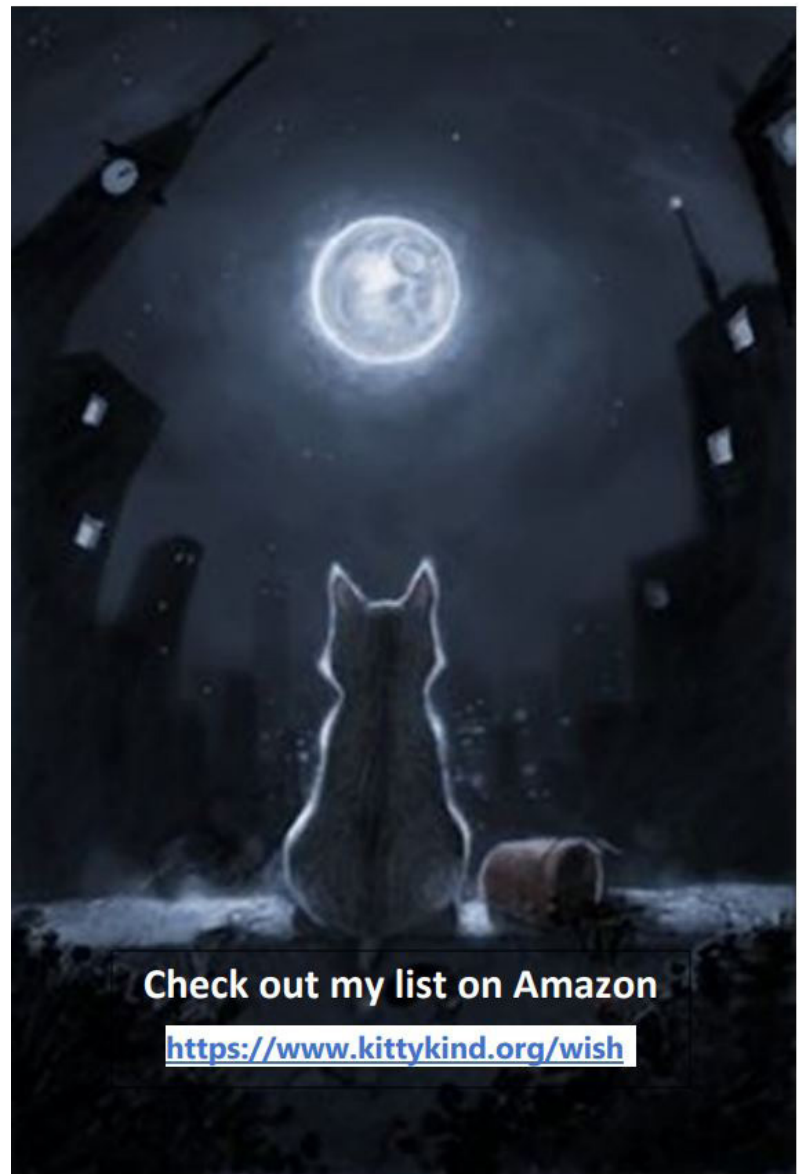
### Visuals:

Michael Ma  
Marie Mundaca



**HINT, HINT—**

The cats keep looking at the WishList —  
that's a one-click smile.  
kittykind.org/wishlist  
Thanks.



Check out my list on Amazon

<https://www.kittykind.org/wish>

**LOOKING FORWARD**

Thank you for all the help you've given to cats and to KittyKind. There are more chapters to write, but for now, let's close the book and spread the cheer! Happy Holidays!

