



KittyKind.org

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Newsletter, January 2024

Long Way Home

Rescued cats have many stops before they reach home. To their dismay, there's the exam table. Then, there's the fun of a foster home, and, maybe, a panoramic view of dog creatures at the adoption center inside of Petco. This newsletter highlights the many stops it takes to reach safety.

LENA, HAVE CARRIER WILL TRAVEL: From Norma C. "Timing is everything!"

A feeder of stray cats near a junkyard in College Point, Flushing, spotted a newcomer to her colony, a slow walking cat with a huge belly looking for food. She knew right away that it was a pregnant cat and hurried home and returned with a trap. Sure enough after setting up the trap with a plate of delectable chicken pate, the about-to-be mama cat couldn't resist. She, completely oblivious to the shuttering of the trap, and clearly ravenous, proceeded to wolf down the food until the dish was licked clean.

A friend of the rescuer who is running a small B&B business in the Catskills offered shelter to the homeless cat. Only two days after being rescued and one day after arriving in the Catskills, she had five kittens: two calicos, a tortie, an orange tabby and a tabby on white. Had the mother not been rescued, the kittens

would have been born on the street with no certainty of survival for all. Even if all had survived, they were destined to become feral, homeless, scavengers subject to abuse and at the mercy of the mean streets. Instead of that sad ending, good timing changed their lives forever!

After weaning off, a B&B guest adopted the tortie and a neighbor adopted the orange tabby. The remaining three went to a fosterer in Manhattan who listed them with KittyKind. Soon after posting, the two calicos, Lucy, and Luna, were adopted together by a loving family with two kids aged 6 and 8. They renamed them after their favorite foods, Mango, and Sushi.

Lena, the tabby on white, was adopted by another loving family who already had a cat. On her first day in her adoptive home, Lena was adorned in a beautiful holiday coat, becoming all the more gorgeous and radiating confidence from the love and pampering she was receiving in her forever home.

The rescuer, the B&B owner and the fosterer could not have been more delighted with such a happy ending for the little kitties they encountered by chance.

A happy footnote: Mama cat, who is feral, was spayed and now lives happily and safely on the property of the B&B owner with a community of other rescued cats."

From Queens, New York, to upstate New York, to Petco, Manhattan, to her home – Lena is a well-traveled lady. Despite her frequent-paw miles, she's now safe and warm and home.



Back: Lucy and Luna; Front: Lena

RAY: NOT ANOTHER VET VISIT! From Mara and John

"We have always had a soft spot in our hearts for cats who need special care. After we lost our last cat in the spring, we weren't sure we were ready for a new cat. We found KittyKind shortly after and could not stop looking at all of the precious cats in need of a good home. It wasn't long until Ray, with his hamburger-shaped head and little pink nose, caught our attention. We knew that he had issues with his eyes, and wanted to give him all the love and care he deserves because of it. We knew that cats with special conditions are often overlooked, so we were even more moved to bring him home!

He was immediately the most friendly cat we had ever met. He loves belly rubs and napping alongside us (with his belly up!). He has one of the most unique meows we have ever heard to boot, and definitely communicates when he wants love and play. We are happy to say that his eyes have improved dramatically since his surgery. Ray has brought so much life into our house. He is our built-in alarm clock and our best little buddy. We are beyond happy to have him in our lives. We implore other people who are looking into adopting to consider the underdog and take in a cat who needs a little extra love. You won't regret it! "



Left: Ray before surgery



Right: Ray after surgery. "More belly rubs, please!"



Lower left: "Yes, we're rubbing the belly again."

Lower right: Ray is getting in touch with his inner kitten



Below, center: Fangs!!



HELP NEEDED

As with other rescue groups, KittyKind has seen an increase in requests to take in cats. There are many reasons: shortage of pet-friendly housing, cost of living, loss of job, relocation. Without resources, each request lengthens the stay of a current cat in care. There are increased expenses. Without foster homes, a cat has to stay in a cubby/cubicle. Extended confinement can compromise health. For every health expense, that's less money to take in a new cat that needs testing, vaccination, and spay/neutering.

We know that you may be overextended in time and expenses. However, please reach out to like-minded friends and families and see if they can help. Click on the link, choose a role, and fill out the application form: <https://kittykind.org/volunteer/>

KittyKind is in particular need of administrative volunteers. We will provide training. Click on the link above for a full description. Below are some of the volunteer opportunities and skills needed.

VOLUNTEER POSITION	SKILLS
INTAKE TEAM: virtual or onsite Virtual: Respond to emails from rescuers, good samaritans, and general public looking to rehome cats or place cats for adoption Onsite: greet people bringing cats to Petco shelter; fill out paperwork, move cats from carriers to cages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patience• Customer-service oriented• Attention to detail• Timely communication to other volunteers, as needed
ADOPTION TEAM: primarily onsite Assistant: Help show cats and answer questions at Petco Union Square during adoption hours (Tues, Wed, Friday 6-9pm, Saturday 1-5 and Sunday 1-4) Rep: interview prospective adopters, view home videos, educate regarding cat safety, food, and health. Virtual reps interview candidates via zoom or FaceTime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of cats, both KittyKind cats and cats in general• Patience• Customer-service oriented• Attention to detail• Timely communication to other volunteers, as needed
TRANSPORT: Onsite, different locations, primarily Union Square and East Village: Pickup or drop off cats at the KittyKind veterinarian's hospital in Cooper Square; pick up refills of prescription medication, etc. Kittykind will reimburse for transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daytime availability• Attention to detail• Timely communication to other volunteers, as needed• Comfortable putting cats in carriers and traveling via subway, bus, or cab with cat

FOSTER PARENTS are critical for a homeless pet to decompress, stay healthy, and resume relationships with people. Click on this link for this essential role: <https://kittykind.org/foster/>

OTHER WAYS TO HELP: The cats always appreciate your toys, beds, food, and, especially, the carriers that carry them home. Please click the Wishlist on the next pages for their choices.





**Support KittyKind via our
Amazon Wishlist!**
<https://kittykind.org/donate/>

Support KittyKind with Your Photos and Videos

The North Shore Animal League has invited KittyKind to host a virtual **Rescue Party** during Superbowl weekend in February. It's a party to promote adoptions!

<https://www.animalleague.org/great-american-rescue-bowl/>

"After years of watching the fur fly in the most highly anticipated battle for glory on the gridiron, the Great American Family Channel and North Shore Animal League America are changing the game. On February 12, 2023 at 10:30AM ET (en-core 4PM ET), tune in to watch dogs, cats, puppies and kittens take the field in the first annual Great American Rescue Bowl."



Closer to the date, connect to KittyKind's social media for details. **Meantime, please forward us photos or videos of your all-stars in action. Please submit them by the first weekend in February. We love goofy, silly, funny photos and videos, as high-resolution as you can make them. Send to catcaremanager@kittykind.org**

As we've seen, with the proper guides, we can shorten the long way home. Thank you for your continued support.

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