



KittyKind.org

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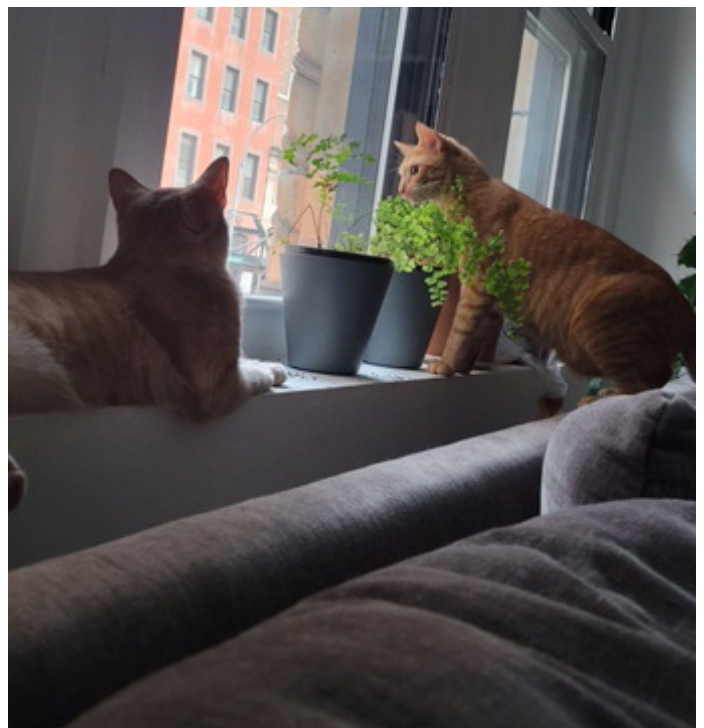
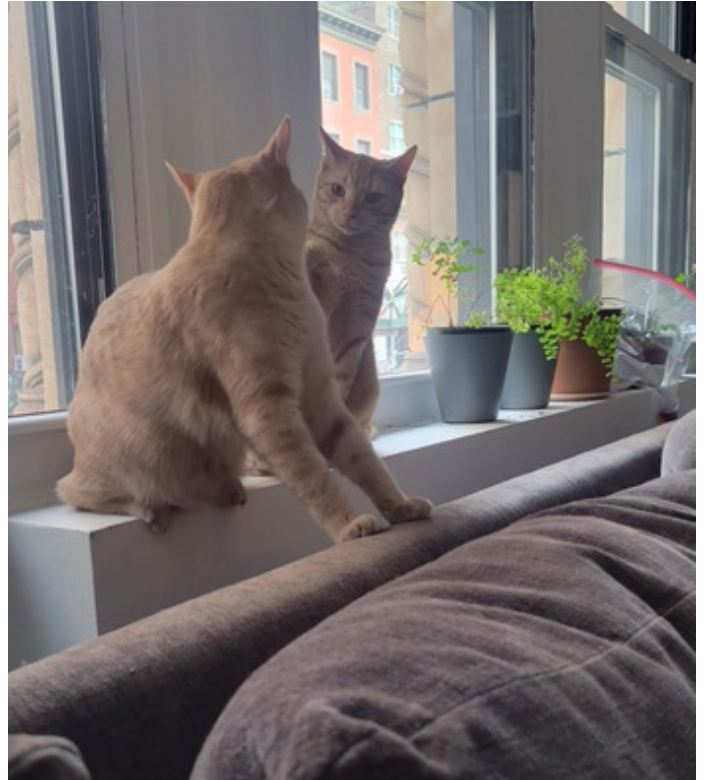
Newsletter, October 2024

It's back to school for pets and people. For homeless cats, school can be a foster home where cats relax, play, and sniff out humans without danger. They recover from physical or emotional trauma. Other times, they learn feline manners. And, sometimes, as in the story of Jasmine, Ginger, and Chai, three kittens struck with feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) – a viral disease with a dismal prognosis – their caretakers learn or re-learn just how thin the margins between life and death are for vulnerable animals.

LESSONS LEARNED IN FOSTER:

Jasmine, Ginger and Chai:

These kittens were born in July 2023, to a mom who gave birth the day after she was rescued. When the female kitten Jasmine was spayed, she became sick and ended up in the hospital on life support. The Emergency Room veterinarians suspected FIP and, as is often the case with such diagnoses among vulnerable kittens, recommended euthanasia. However, the rescuer knew of a group, FIP Warriors, that was using the drug Remdesivir (at that time, experimental) for successful treatment of FIP. She took Jasmine home, and with veterinarian guidance, started her on a course of FIP meds. The medicine worked wonders, and quickly.

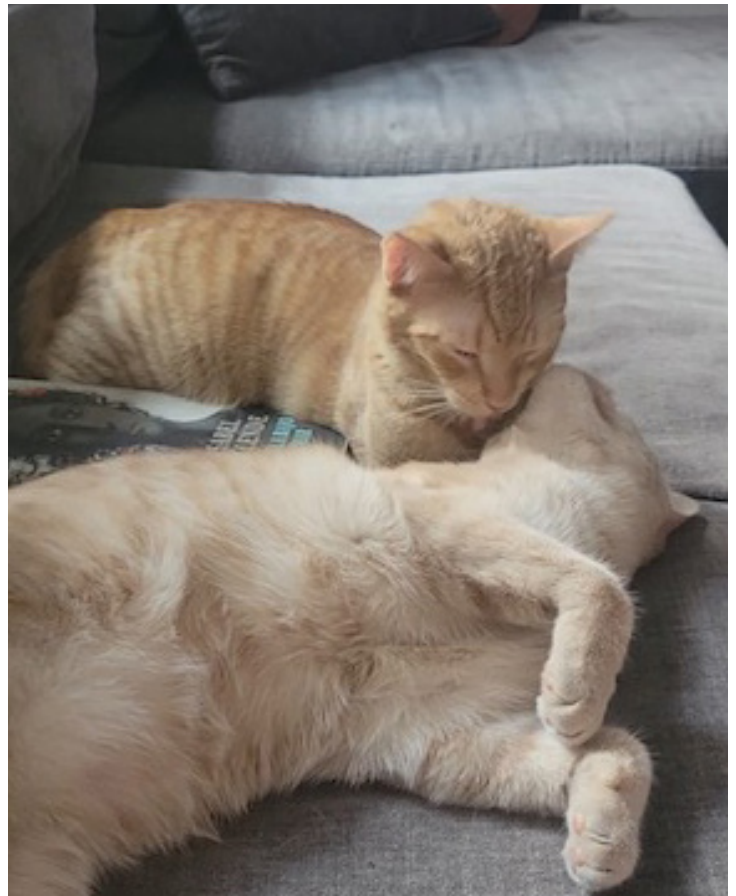


Ginger and Chai feeling 🏖️ after life-saving FIP treatment!

Toward the end of November, the team was feeling positive about Jasmine's outlook and agreed it was time to have her brothers, Ginger and Chai, neutered. While the surgery was routine, within a few days, each started declining like Jasmine before them. KittyKind suspected FIP, which was confirmed as probable by the vet given the sister's history. Working with the foster parent, KittyKind funded another 12-week (84 day) cycle of treatment for these little orange brothers. The foster parent took them for blood work every four weeks, with an additional test at the end of the treatment. Since the course of the medications, all have remained healthy, happy and symptom-free in their forever homes.

Because of the care-team – rescue, foster, and adoption personnel – all three kittens have had the opportunity to learn to live, without the FIP “death sentence” hanging over them.

FIP Resources: Speak with your veterinarian regarding oral treatment with Xraphconn® containing GS-441524; reach out to compounding pharmacies such as Stokes Pharmacy in New Jersey. “Stokes Pharmacy started selling a compounded prescription treatment for feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) on June 1, 2024. This allows veterinarians to prescribe medication for their patients and hopefully carry small amounts of the compounded drug on their shelves to allow their sick patients to start treatment immediately.”* Research rescue-affiliated links such as <https://www.fipvitality.com/> * <https://www.aaha.org/>



For gentle Beau, a foster home was an escape from bullies

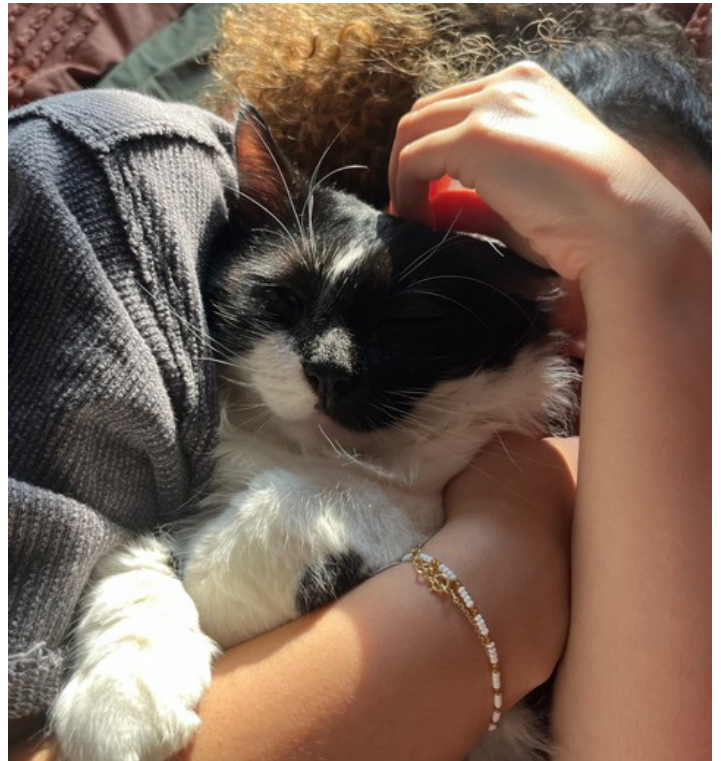
About three years old, Beau was found during a TNR (trap-neuter-release) project. The rescuer felt that he was so “ridiculously friendly” that she couldn’t release him back out and knew he belonged in a home. As sometimes happens with gentle cats, Beau was “bested” in a cat fight, and from a bite, developed feline immunodeficiency virus. FIV does not mean that the cat is sick, only that his immunity to fighting off disease is lower. FIV is not contagious to humans or other species and, while contagious among cats, it is difficult to transmit – typically through deep bite.

We usually assume cats will pounce on toys, ready to play. An abandoned cat, though, may find toys alien. In foster care, Beau learned to play and to shine. From his foster parent, Nancy C.:

“Beau was definitely cautious when he first came to me, but he was so eager for love that he would immediately come out from hiding if we called his name and quickly lean in for pets. It was also a little bittersweet to find out that he didn’t know how to interact with cat toys—our first attempts at playing together with a wand toy were uncoordinated for sure, but he ultimately figured things out. It was also a delight to see how his coat became healthier and shinier during his stay, and my partner and I would often joke about his ‘glow up’ when we looked at his photos from before and after his stay with us. I can’t tell you how happy

and relieved I was when I heard that he was adopted and I’m looking forward to seeing his updates in the newsletter!”

Beau, the gentle giant, escaped the bullies. Since the diligent and compassionate care of his foster parents, he has now been adopted into a wonderful home. Cuddled, not bullied, he learned he was THE BEAU.



Schooling Egress: a case study in single-kitten syndrome

Lindsay, a KittyKind volunteer, kept finding cats in need on the website Nextdoor. She might have been perusing for cheap furniture, but inevitably, she'd end up with a troubled cat, flagged by one of her neighbors, living in her bathroom. Such was the case with Egress, an eight-month-old tuxedo cat, who was due to be surrendered to ACC by a neighborhood resident – however, logistical difficulties with appointments meant Egress had been spending much of his time in an otherwise empty apartment. Thus, Lindsay volunteered to take him in, see to his vetting, and find his perfect home through KittyKind. ...If only it were that simple.

If you have met a teen cat, you know that they push the limits of acceptable behavior for sport. You may also know that KittyKind is strongly in favor of adopting kittens out in pairs or into a household with a young cat to match their energy; in these two-cat environments, kittens and young adult cats learn to curb their play aggression, lest it be turned back around toward them. These are integral lessons for young cats as they grow into adulthood, when problematic habits that were cute in kittenhood become quite destructive if not addressed early. Such was the case with Egress, whose isolation and lack of company (feline or human) would have shown him how to behave.



Egress, confused after being dropped off in his dog crate!



With Lindsay, Egress's crash course in feline etiquette commenced. While we wish we could say he graduated with the highest of marks, that would be dishonest – several months later and despite marked progress, our sweet and energetic Egress still confuses hands for toys and overtures to pet him for cues to launch a well-meaning if misguided tackle. We expect that his energy and propensity for play aggression will subside as his kitten energy fades away, and he is, at his core, a cat who just wants to follow you around and be your buddy. Even so, a recent adoption ended with his return to Petco, with the adopters citing Egress's inclination toward jumping on their feet while moving from room to room as a deal-breaker.

The most difficult part of Egress's situation, from the perspective of a volunteer, is that he doesn't understand why he's being shuttled from Petco to home to Petco to foster home, and so on. We are thus looking for a patient and compassionate adopter, preferably one with a young resident cat, who will help and nurture this silly little guy as he continues to grow out of a difficult phase. If you are interested in helping our boy and giving him a stable place to come into his own, please reach out to adoptions@kittykind.org.

Cindy learns the great indoors

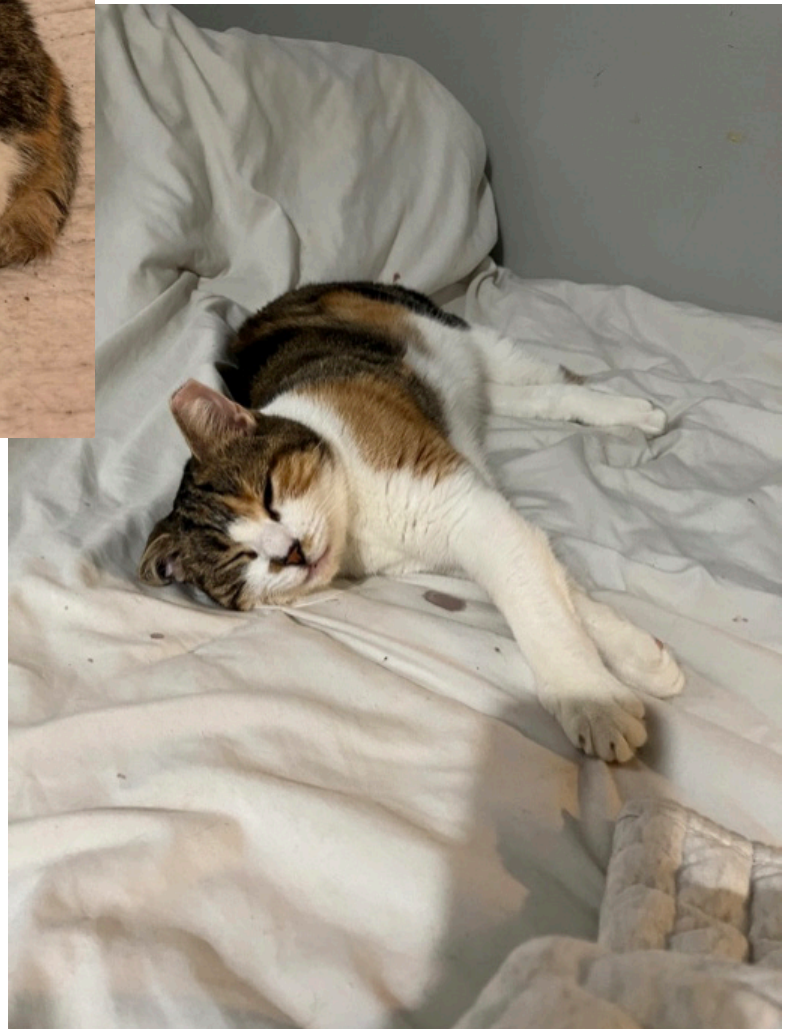
When a rescuer found Cindy, she was three pounds and wounded, living behind an apartment building in Bath Beach. Her inability to groom herself due to illness was reflected in her matted coat, and she struck a devastating image against that cold February day. Her condition was so bad that we weren't certain the clinic would be able to treat her. Thankfully, after a long day at the vet, Cindy was zonked out on pain meds in her foster's bathroom with drainage tubes protruding from her staples.

Cindy's recovery was slow-going and expensive, but

ultimately, she persevered. From the beginning, it was clear that her time in the parking lot hadn't hardened her into a streetwise feral. Rather, she was affectionate even following her surgery, pleased to sit next to her heating pad and knead her blankets, gobbling up whatever food was put in front of her. Since coming inside, Cindy is content to have a screen between her and the outdoor life she used to know. She continues to study her new indoor amenities – cat trees, snuggly beds, and feather toys, lessons facilitated by her foster cat siblings.



Before: Fresh off the streets



After: Happy girl lazes away

CHANGE IN COORDINATORS:

KindKind is saddened but happy for Miriam Hibel, the long-time foster coordinator who has helped thousands of cats to find homes. Miriam is stepping down from her position on October 1, 2024, and we'd like to share her many accomplishments.

From Miriam Hibel:

"I have been with KittyKind for nearly two decades (with a break for a couple of years), since back in the days of Marlene, Hillary, Barbara and many memorable characters. In that time, I have served on the Board; run the foster program; created the Intake Sheet system; served as an adoption rep (adopting out over 500 cats); trained adoption reps; created the Adoption Rep Manual, the Assistant Rep Manual, and many other training and cat care materials; served as liaison to the Mayor's Alliance for Animals; and much more."

From KittyKind:

Once of Miriam's most remarkable accomplishments was coordinating the care and recovery of the FIP kittens earlier this year. At the time, the medication was off-label from the UK, and she spent days researching and following up. Pets and people – many will miss you!

KittyKind has two new foster-coordinators. Long-time volunteer Olivia Bryce will coordinate foster care on-site. Olivia also volunteers weekly for many hours at the Animal Care Center where she is a kitten specialist. Long-time rescuer and adoption rep Josh Wick will coordinate online foster arrangements.

From Olivia Bryce:

"I started volunteering as a cleaner with Kitty Kind shortly before our relocation to the new Petco. I was looking for something I could add to my life that was rewarding, but not related to my job. Frankly, my rescue cat is a diva, an elegant and independent longhair, so I was also hoping to find some cats who were a bit more affectionate! Over time, I've found such joy in helping the cats be happy and healthy inside the chaos of Petco. I do love the cute kittens but continue to find myself drawn towards our more scaredy-cats who need the extra care like my own (perfect) rescue.

In my new role within the Foster Program, I hope to help our cats blossom in their foster homes and move quickly into forever homes. I'll be playing cat-Jenga, moving them around homes and working closely with

each foster on each cat's unique situation. I will closely monitor their progress and keep adoptions up-to-date on who is ready to make their debut at Petco and move on from our care.

If you'd like to join us in the Foster Program, we'll be happy to have you! Perhaps you are an administrative master who can manage scheduling pick-ups and drop-offs, or maybe you'd like to be a cat case worker, working closely with certain cats to track their progress. Any extra passion you might have could help!"

From Josh Wick:

"I've been volunteering at KK as an adoption rep since 2018 or so (it gets confusing!). A year or two before the pandemic at least. The biggest reason for me I guess is that I'm a reluctant rescuer in that I've been overwhelmed since moving to Brooklyn 25 years ago w all the homeless cats I keep finding on the streets. I found Neighborhood Cats in 2015, and they empowered me with training on how to trap the cats I found. I got my certificate through them, but when my local shelter stopped accepting cats from me, I realized I had to be more proactive. Needless to say, keeping cats at home has its limit so that wasn't the solution; there's only so much room and an endless need. I just couldn't do it on my own anymore.

Volunteering w KittyKind felt like an effective way to get cats off the street working with a community of likeminded folks who also can't accept walking by and ignoring a homeless animal in need. KittyKind is so good at getting cats adopted I knew I could do more working and volunteering with them by working directly as an adoption rep myself and so making space for new homeless cats by getting the current ones we have into (good) homes. Through the years some wonderful, wise, kind people have mentored me on how to be selective but effective in approving homes for all the needy cats we do have. That's meant when the occasion arises, as it inevitably does, where I again find one in need there is a productive way to get them off the street and into someone else's home (other than mine). For the community of individuals working together to avert tragedy that is KittyKind, I will always be grateful and appreciative. Each cat adopted is a life saved. There's no more fulfilling work I could be doing then the time I give happily to work with our community."

**Support KittyKind via our Amazon Wishlist!
Check out the kittens' Wishlist.**



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

SHARE YOUR ADOPTION STORY! TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR SUBMISSIONS.



KITTYKIND ADOPTERS: Share your adoption story! How has your adopted cat transformed your life for the better?

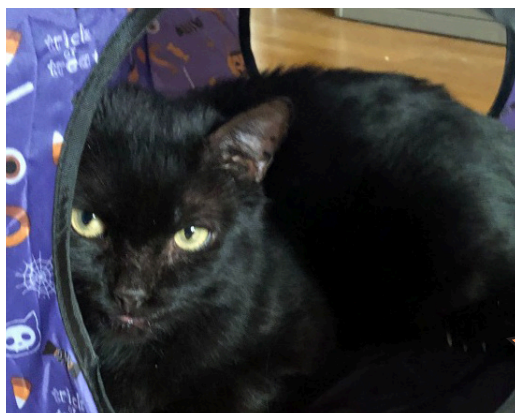
Submit your Love Story by 11:59 pm CST, September 30, 2024, on the link below!

<https://petcolove.org/adopt/love-stories/>

Help KittyKind win a grant again to help the rest of the kitties! YOU can do it!

LESSONS LEARNED:

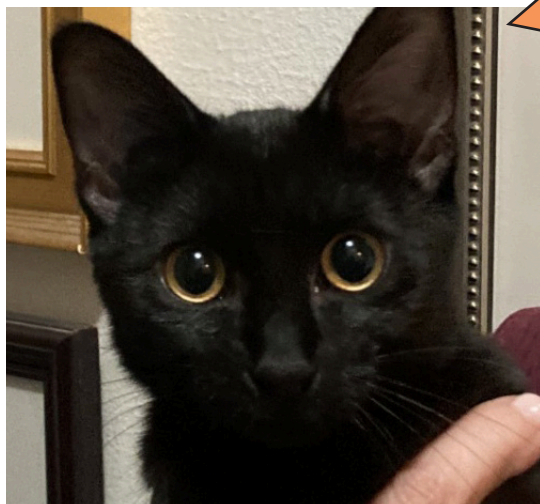
All right, we'll acknowledge it. We don't really teach the cats anything. School, Academy, College – cats know they're perfect as is. However, when they've faced the bumps in life, we can help them relax enough to let their inner cat GLOW. An A+ to all who make that effort.



Enzo



Lucy



**Evie Mae
(courtesy post)**

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