

We wish to acknowledge a generous donation we received in memory of KittyKat whose owner also wished to thank Upcountry Veterinary for their kindness.

The following true story is dedicated to Midnight and all the other older kitties still longing for their forever home.

TRUE LOVE WAITS

Although, I already had two dogs and a cat, I was doing a fair amount of traveling and decided Kolohe, my cat, needed a companion while I was away. Driving to the Animal Shelter, I thought to myself "What was I looking for?" No specific color, sex or breed came to mind. I concluded I would have to wait and see if there was a connection, a bond, some kind of sign from any of the adoptable cats. I do take my pet adoptions very seriously. Every adopting parent should because a pet is a lifelong commitment and should never be taken lightly.

Arriving at the shelter, I headed straight for the Cattery and looked at every cat before returning to a longhaired, black cat with almond-shaped eyes the color of bright sunlight. She was a beauty. As I started to open her cage door, she bounded forward into my arms and rammed me with her forehead. She almost knocked me out with the force. OK well maybe she didn't almost knock me out, but she gave me an instant headache. You could say that was a sign. And for those readers not familiar with cats, butting heads is just one way cats have of marking their possessions. I was hers and I was hooked.

I took Midnight home and introduced her to Kolohe. He was afraid of her. She weighed 6 pounds and he weighed 17. It was funny, but not to him. For months he hugged the walls, slunk around corners and if she came into a room, he would leave. So much for bringing him a companion. For her part, Midnight was quite timid. The first night and many nights thereafter she slept in the corner of my bedroom. Gradually as we bonded, she became less fearful and slept on the floor beside by bed eventually progressing to sleeping on the bed by my feet. Finally, one night, after many months she came up to the crook in my arms and slept real close to me, as she did the remainder of her life. Midnight had come home.

Unfortunately, Midnight came home with skin allergies. After months of various treatments by my vet and watching her continue to rip at her "itchies" which drew blood and boo boos, the vet and I concluded we should try cortisone. (Continued on next column)

TRUE LOVE WAITS (continued from prior column)

The cortisone worked but unfortunately only for a short time and then the scratching started again. By now it was obvious that she had a chronic problem but I would no longer think of bringing her back to the shelter than I would return a sick child. She was family. So the cortisone shots become the routine therapy. I realized that although it might shorten her life, she would be comfortable and not tearing herself to pieces.

As Midnight and I bonded, she stayed hidden from visitors. Most people never knew I had two cats because they NEVER saw her. Her favorite hiding place was my closet. One day, I became very ill and dialed 911. Paramedics came barging into my home, making a huge racket shouting for me to identify my whereabouts. They ran into my bedroom and I was still bleeding heavily and could not talk, but oh boy did I notice Midnight.

Midnight came out from where she had been hiding, jumped up on my bed and sat on my pillow. She watched everything the Paramedics did and never left my side. I was absolutely astounded. This little cat who was so frightened of everyone was staying right by my side with four strange men shouting instructions in a very chaotic situation. She did NOT leave my side because she knew something was terribly wrong. She was protecting me. This tiny ball of fluff, afraid of everything, stayed right by my side and never left my bed pillow.

I do think that when you save an animals life by adopting it from a shelter, they know and return the gift. Many such pets become our living, breathing guardian angels. So if I was Midnight's guardian angel in rescuing her, Midnight in turn was my guardian angel.

As Midnight grew older she developed diabetes and the insulin shots were becoming less effective. She became very ill during one of my business trips. When I returned home, she could barely move. The person caring for her in my absence said "she was waiting for you". She slept one final night by my side and then passed to Kitty Heaven.

Midnight had waited for me for one final goodbye. Midnight has been gone several years now and while I have more cats and I love them, Midnight was my protector. I know when it's my time to walk through those pearly gates, she will be waiting to protect me once more. Midnight with eyes the color of bright sunshine. Midnight can still make me cry for her passing. In fact, I am crying now. By Phyllis Tavares

9th LIFE HAWAII

NO-KILL CAT RESCUE & SANCTUARY

A non-profit 501C3 Organization

Dedicated to the Protection of Homeless Cats in Hawaii

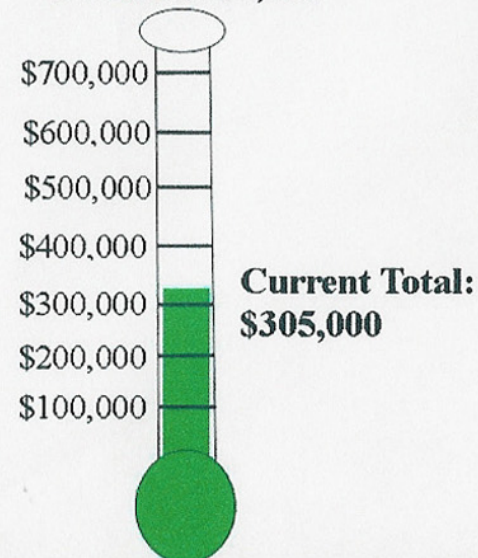


Remember Pele? She was the tiny, orphaned, feral kitten that we trapped on a busy, main street. She would surely have lived a short life. She is now a total house cat and our poster kitty for "Save the Ferals" as we believe they too have a right to live. Isn't she beautiful?

UPDATE ON PROPERTY SEARCH

Unfortunately, we have not received a matching donation of \$250,000.00 towards a permanent sanctuary as our anonymous donor had hoped. However, we are making progress. Since we are presently renting in a leasehold situation and the property eventually must be vacated, it is critical to find a permanent sanctuary.

GOAL: \$750,000



MISSION

There may be more than 100,000 homeless cats on Maui. 9th Life Hawaii seeks to compassionately and non-lethally control the cat population by utilizing TNR (Trap, neuter, release). Cats are trapped and neutered and when possible, the cats are returned to their colonies. Volunteer caretakers then continue to monitor the colonies and provide regular supplies of food, water and medication. However, some of our rescues are disabled cats, blind, deaf, or are missing limbs, kittens and cats from colonies that have been under attack by humans or dogs. Other kitties have been dumped in the cane fields that are routinely set on fire as part of the harvesting process. Cane field kitties are never returned to the cane fields after they are neutered. All of these kitties will remain at our sanctuary until a loving home is found. 9th LIFE HAWAII is the only NO-KILL, non-profit, cat rescue on Maui that maintains a sanctuary for those kitties that have no other place to safely stay.

9th Life Hawaii

P.O. Box 538

Makawao, HI 96768

(808) 572-3499

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address _____

We need your help.

Donations can be mailed to our P.O. Box or made with a Credit Card through PayPal at our Website

www.9thlifehawaii.org

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP

9th Life Hawaii is now able to accept donated vehicles, *running or not, anywhere in the U.S.* Call (808) 572-4183 for more information or check out the link to **Donations LLC** on our website.

WISH LIST

Still need a small SUV, station wagon or pickup truck to transport cats for surgery. Cat food, kitty litter, cat condos, cat & dog carriers and chain link. Gift cards for Costco, Home Depot, Lowes and Wal-Mart to purchase building and cat supplies

9th LIFE'S NEW EBAY STORE

Please check out our website www.9thlifehawaii.org for the link to our brand new EBay store. Many shops, tourist activities, hotels and business on Maui, indeed nationwide, are contributing gift certificates for our ongoing EBay auctions. Since we are run solely by volunteers, 100% of the proceeds from these auctions go directly to benefit Maui's homeless and abandoned cats. Can you donate something for our auctions? Check us out!

SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS

(We love these stories. Please send more!)



Recently, we received a call from a distraught woman who was not allowed to have cats in her home as part of her rental agreement. (More on that later) She had however befriended a young mama kitty who was about to have babies and had kept her in her apartment for the delivery and afterwards while mama cat was nursing her infants. She could not keep them permanently due to her rental agreement and was in a panic as her home was due for an inspection and the kitties were only a few weeks old. Within that same week, we had received a call from a couple in Pukalani who wanted to make a home for two kitties. We gave this couple the woman's phone number. They went down to see the kitties and the rest is history. It was love at first sight. Who could resist these two babies? We do have a 3rd male, orange tabby sibling of these two available for adoption. He is full of the devil, very active, playful and purrs immediately upon being picked up. If interested in providing a loving home for him, please call us.

Gorgeous Dreamboy (photo next column) waited many, many years for his forever home. His new Mommy and Daddy, (Carol and Dale) believe they were lucky indeed to find Dreamboy on Valentine's Day 2005, so they renamed him Cupid. In 2006, they celebrated his Valentine birthday with a party.

Cupid is the constant companion of his brother "Bow" a 70 pound Australian Sheepdog. They eat, sleep, and play games together. Carol and Dale added that they love and cherish Cupid and Bow and are loved dearly in return. Wouldn't you like to add an older kitty to your family? Believe me; these animals know when they have been saved. (Story of Midnight next page.)

ALOHA, I'M CUPID



HOUSING DILEMMA ON MAUI

Innocent pets are put to sleep every day because their owners cannot find a home that will be rented to them with pets. Apparently, it is illegal for a landlord to charge an extra pet deposit above and beyond a normal security deposit which can be no greater than one month's rent. This law benefits no one. Because landlords are restricted by Hawaii State Law as to what they can charge for a security deposit, prospective tenants who would willingly pay an extra pet deposit are often forced to give up a loving family member. Most of these family pets are put to sleep. **This law benefits no one and directly causes the death of innocent animals.** If you agree, let your elected officials know. It's time to change this law.

GOOD NEWS

We completely expended the PetSmart grant for spay/neuters that enabled us to sterilize 133 cats in six months. Another foundation has just given us a grant to continue our free spay/neuter program. A big thank you to PetSmart and the Handsel Foundation and to Dr. Roger Kehler and Dr. Ronald Moyer and their staff who have been handling the surgeries for us. We are extremely grateful for their support. We can help with spay/neuter services and in many cases, we will even shuttle the cats in to the vet's offices for you. Please call if you need help.