

Kiski Valley Cat & Kitten Rescue

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www.kiskicats.org
http://awos.petfinder.com/shelters/pa159.html
www.facebook.com/kiskivalleycatkittenrescue

KITTY QUARTERLY

Cat of the Quarter: Ragtime

Ragtime was born on October 17, 2006 as part of a litter of kittens born to a stray in Vandergrift, Pa. She was not tame as a kitten and lived in our feral building for many years, during which time she relaxed and became very friendly. She has really calmed down in the past years at the shelter, not to mention that she is very pretty with her classic tabby Maine Coon look.

Ragtime was adopted in January 2019 but was returned to the shelter just 3 months later as her adopter was getting renovations done on her house and thought Ragtime may be in the way. When asked about Ragtime's personality and behavior at the home, we were told that she had no bad habits. Her adopter said that she did not like to get picked up but she would jump up and sit on the adopter's lap.



The volunteers just love her! She likes to jump on the sink for attention when the volunteers are doing the dishes. She also likes to follow them around while they are cleaning.

It would be really great if Ragtime could spend her golden years in a home of her own where she could be rewarded for her great progress.

You can find out more about Ragtime on our website and on Petfinder or by emailing rgazarik@hotmail.com.

UPDATE: RAGTIME HAS BEEN AWARDED A PETFINDER FOUNDATION GRANT THAT WILL COVER HER ADOPTION FEE, MEDICAL CHECK-UP/BLOODWORK AND SOME ESSENTIAL START-UP SUPPLIES.



Clinton

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Check out our website at:

www.kiskicats.org

Brody: Lucy's Christmas Surprise!

In November 2019, we lost a special family member - Marilyn, our orange long-haired KVCKR kitty. Our 4-year-old daughter, Lucy, continues to talk about Marilyn living in her heart. Our family's favorite show is America's Funniest Videos - and we decided we wanted to do what so many people on the show have done. We wanted to surprise Lucy with a new kitty!

A couple weeks before Christmas, we told Lucy we were going to the shelter where we got Marilyn (and our other kitty Miles) to visit the kitties. Secretly, we were figuring out which cat she liked the most so we could come back and adopt it.



We carefully chose kitties to let Lucy hold - she is so gentle with cats. But then I turned around to see her holding a cat she found on her own. He was purring and she was smiling at him and carrying him around. We found the one!

Careful not to mention anything else about the cats, we left and emailed Renee to let her know we'd like to adopt "Brody." We picked him up during the day on Christmas Eve and hid him in the guest room. By the time Christmas Eve festivities were done, she was asleep in the car and we didn't have to worry about her hearing Brody's meows. Although, he did keep everyone else up meowing in the middle of the night! My husband finally took him to the basement and slept on the couch with him.



In the morning, Lucy opened several gifts. Then, the big one. We gave her a stuffed cat and told her it purrs, meows and walks. It did nothing. We said - oops, we forgot the batteries! After "putting in batteries" she tried again - nothing. She threw the stuffed cat. Then Steve went downstairs and brought up Brody. He said "now try!" Shocked, Lucy laughed and followed him around. She said "it's a real cat!!!" She picked him up and we reminded her that it was Brody from the shelter. Lucy remembered him and gently picked him up and held him, saying "Brody... you're my kitty now!"

After a month of Brody, I am amazed at how awesome he is. He's the perfect addition to our family, even if he's a little too curious sometimes. He goes in the freezer, the dishwasher, and sinks; he sits on trash cans and brings loud crinkly toys into our bed. He has broken several glasses and has knocked over a dozen drinks. Lucy says she is his mom and he's her kid. We just love him! Miles tolerates him, even when Brody jumps on his back and licks him.

-Megan & Steve DiTommaso

Cats are mysterious; they have more on their mind than we could never imagine. -Walter Scott

EVENTS

Fall for Animals—Dinner Dance

Saturday, April 25th 7pm-11pm

LOCATION TBD

For more information, please contact Mary Ann Schwan at 724-337-1867
or by email at masews@comcast.net

Shy Cats: How to Help Timid Pets

“Shy” is a word that many people use to describe cats who are fearful. Most often this “shyness” is a fear of strangers, but it can also be fear of new places, being handled, sudden movements or noises, other animals — or just about anything unfamiliar. The severity can range from mild (fear of a certain type of person) to very severe (fear of so many things that the animal is under constant stress).



It takes a special kind of person to adopt a shy cat. Nurturing a shy cat requires a lot of patience, since it may be months or even years before results are seen, but the rewards can be plentiful. Many shy cats, once they bond with their people, are affectionate and loving with them, even if they remain timid in other contexts.

Why are some cats shy?

Fear can come from many different sources, including genetics and previous bad experiences. However, many cats are fearful simply because, as kittens, they did not have enough of the right kinds of experiences. Here’s what we mean: When kittens are very young, they go through a once-in-a-lifetime phase of learning. This period starts when they are around three weeks old and ends around 12 to 14 weeks. During this time, providing kittens with many safe, happy experiences with strangers, sounds, objects, places and other animals can go a long way toward preventing a lifetime of shyness.

As people loving and living with pets, we need to be able to read their body language to discern what they’re trying to communicate to us, but it’s especially important with shy pets. Most cats who we consider bashful will simply retreat and hide, but sometimes expressions of shyness can be quite subtle. Reading body language to tell how a cat is feeling is critical to being able to help them. Some shy cats will freeze and “shut down,” while allowing someone to approach and handle them. Many people wrongly believe the animal is fine in this state, but he or she is actually experiencing a great deal of stress.

How to work with shyness in pets

There is one basic key to success when working with shy cats: Let them progress at their own rate. Pushing reluctant pets into situations where they are afraid is not only very scary for the animal, but it can make the fear much worse, and also increase the risk that they will reach a point where they are so afraid that they become aggressive. Some shy cats will bite or scratch if they are pushed too far.

If you’ve just adopted a shy pet, give him his own space, away from any household activity. Set him up with a comfy bed and water, and serve him his meals there. Let him adjust to the sounds and smells of the household. It may take time, but eventually most shy cats will venture out for short trips, which become longer as the pet’s comfort level increases. If you have a cat who is so fearful that he won’t come out of his hiding spot for any reason, consult a relationship-based behavior professional.

Once the animal is timidly venturing out, use food to help him form happy associations with new places, people, sounds and sights. If he won’t take food from your hand, toss treats gently to him and work your way up to hand-feeding.

Other friendly members of their own species can be a big asset in helping shy pets. Some pets who are shy with people may be comfortable and even playful with other cats.



Cat & Kitten Rescue

Kiski Valley Cat & Kitten Rescue is always appreciative of any and all donations. As a truly non-profit organization, all resources go only to the care of the cats/kittens. The shelter functions on the dedication of volunteers and the generosity from our donors.

Wishlist

The shelter can always use the following items

- Canned Cat Food
- Dry Food: Purina Naturals and/or Kitten Chow
- Toys/treats
- Vinegar for Cleaning
- Office Supplies (stamps, envelopes, paper, etc.)
- Monetary Donations
- Volunteers to help clean/take care of the cats
- Volunteers to help with “handyman” projects
- Help finding loving homes for them!



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