



SHAYNA THE SILENT SPHYNX



Adopting an older animal can be bitter-sweet. You know heartbreak is down the line, closer than usual.

Shayna was in and out of our shelter a few times. Housing issues were the most recent reason she came back to us about three years ago. An older, large and furry, silver dilute calico, she reigned over the shelter from her spot on our hearth. She didn't mind other cats or kittens, but an appropriately placed swat, or a low growl, let them know they needed to keep their distance. The kittens learned quickly that she was well over the mothering phase in her life. She was a constant at the shelter, a favorite of many volunteers who would brush her luxurious coat and speak with her. Not sure how much she spoke back, but her look of listening was probably enough.

As she was older, we thought she would be with us until ... this was not to be the case.

A local guy from North Truro, Paul, came by the shelter one day the end of last summer. What he does is adopt older animals, to give them the best life in a

home environment for the time they have left. After recently losing an older dog, he stopped by the shelter, met Shayna, and the pact was sealed. She was going home forever and quickly adjusted to her new life.

We know she enjoyed some outside time with Paul watching the wildlife, caught two mice and one bird, all gently released. She always was a good player at the shelter and we were happy to hear her catch and release story. Paul did say that it was "difficult to feed her less, she loves to eat!" A few months after Shayna had been in her forever home, Paul stopped by the shelter to let her fan club know she was doing fine.

Shayna passed recently, but we at the shelter are so glad there was someone to take her into their home, and give her the best at the end. We always hope to find good homes but some cats are overlooked because of age, personality oddities or girth. We are so glad that Shayna found peace in the twilight of her life.

RECENT ADOPTIONS

C'est Gris to Kat Marissal and Paula Candage

Leo to Kay and Bart Kuhns

Bella to Kim and Gino Furlano

Thelma and *Louise* to Kathy and John Hornyak

Gwen to Melissa and Edward Cestaro

Diane to Gregory Howe

Yamaya to Monica Smith

Midnight to Valerie Martin

Tabitha to Gail and Lloyd Juan

Jack and *Jill* to Herb Hintze

Simon to David and Anne Ditacchio

Houdini to Dave and Anita Butler

PRINCESS KATIE



Katie, one of our former shelter cats who we called Princess, relaxing at home with Don and Roberta Jamieson. We love to get picture of our adoptees.



HOUDINI

Adopting a cat from a shelter can bring joy to everyone involved. A stable home environment can help a cat's true personality and character shine. A formerly shy cat can blossom into a real love bug or be the life of the party. To make this transition as easy as possible takes time, especially if there are other animals already in the home.



CARRIE A. SEAMAN ANIMAL SHELTER
PROVINCETOWN

CASAS

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We just adopted Houdini, a cat who lived on the highest perches available at the shelter and would only visit a few special people. We didn't know how the situation would turn out but our resident cat needed a buddy and Houdini needed a home. We were ready to have our family grow.

We set Houdini up in his own room with his food, water and litter box. He had the choice of a high perch or a low bed in the closet. We spent time sitting and talking with Houdini and he rewarded us by coming to us for petting and head rubs. Of course he could smell our other cat on us and vice versa. After several days we placed a screen in the doorway so the boys could see each other. After a few more days, as Houdini gained self-assurance, we let them meet face to face. Taking the time for a slow introduction paid off with both cats accepting each other almost immediately. The following days brought more bonding, play sessions, and mutual grooming. Houdini is a different cat, walking around the house with confidence, sleeping with us, and being a calm, relaxed cat.

While this kind of success is time consuming, moving at the speed of the cats is the key to building a lasting relationship. We expect our pets to live for many years and those years should be filled with respect and good times not with stress and anxiety.

OUR REVOLVING DOOR



Leo

We are usually quiet over late Fall and Winter with intakes. This season, however, was very different for us, starting mid-November. Within a week,

we had two cats, *Leo* and *Dianne* from one home come in, and then two days later, another three, mom *Tabitha*, teenager *Gwen*, and kitten *Jasmine*; and then two sibs *Thelma* and *Louise*, with a complex medical history. Then, in December, three more on different days, *Posey*, *Yamaha* and *Midnight*. January and March brought us two Siamese sibs, *Jack* and *Jill*, as well as a special boy, *Simon*. We certainly were busy, getting them up-to-date on shots and getting them spayed and neutered, when necessary. All of these kits have been adopted. We always hope to get the best possible placement for our furry friends. Whether they spend a long or short time with us, they touch our hearts in many ways.



Louise

DWEEZLE & C'EST GRIS



Adopting out older cats can be a challenge but Dweezle, a 13 year old tabby, and C'est Gris, a fluffy grey 16

year old, are two of the happiest cats on the Cape. Dweezle's owner went into the hospital and she was left to fend for herself and C'est Gris' owner passed away. After life changing events it's very important to have a loving, stable environment again. Paula and Kat opened their hearts and home to these wonderful cats and it's a win win situation for everyone.

THE PRESENCE THAT WAS MICRO



Micro was initially adopted from CASAS as a young boy. His first owner passed and he went to live with a woman who adored him. A Townie all his life, he was on our radar for some time as his current owner had been having health issues. Eventually, he came back to us in early 2016. We noted his increased water intake and had him immediately tested for diabetes. We got that regulated, insulin injections twice a day, but he was not to have dry food which is difficult for us as we free feed dry food in general population.

We set him up in a room of his own, with the mid-morning volunteer releasing him after she picked up all the dry food. As we all had witnessed, he did the "Micro dance" in front of his door, waiting for his chance to mingle with the rest of the crew and, when it was warm enough, enjoying the sun and bird watching of the outdoor enclosure. He ruled the roost when he came out, with a strut unparalleled. His litter box habits became increasingly non-existent, but we didn't mind. We knew he was going to be with us until his end, which came later than any of us thought. He would sit with me on the counter as I drew up his insulin, poke me in the back of my legs as I was

making up the supper plates, to say "don't forget me", as if I could. He always knew that he would get a "treat" of three or four crunchies while we were changing waters. He would prowl the upstairs, keeping an eye on everything, upright and regal. He intimidated some of the other cats on occasion, his fang-like teeth when he hissed reminded me of a poisonous snake, all just for show though. He loved to sharpen his claws on a raw piece of wood we have inside. I had the pleasure, most days, of picking him up and bringing him back to his room before we left. I will miss that weight in my arms, and the purrs against my chest. On the day before he passed, he was content to sit on my desk and help me answer email and phone messages. The next day, he wanted to be on his window cat lounger, and of course I obliged. We all will miss him. He was a great cat with a presence not to be denied.

CLAY LITTER vs. PLANT BASED

The bottom line about litter is to use whatever kind your cat likes. That being said, there are many types of litter available each with their own pluses and minuses.

All clay litter is acquired by strip mining. About two million tons of clay is mined every year in the U.S. just for cat litter. Clay litter is cheap. Along with additives it will help urine to clump and help control odor. Clay will not break down further making an impermeable barrier in landfills. Clay can be very dusty which is bad for cats' lungs as well as our own. Clumping clay litter should never be used for young kittens as they tend to try to eat everything including litter.

Plant based litters (corn, wheat, pine, and even walnut shells) are, in theory, by-products of the processing of other products which means, also in theory, less going to the landfills. Some plant litters can be composted once the feces have been removed.

At CASAS, we use plant based litter as often as possible. Some of the most favored boxes benefit from a small amount of clay added to absorb odors.

Before scrubbing boxes we scrape them clean to reduce harm to our septic system. Again, clay will not be broken down in the septic system as plants are.

We are always happy to receive donations of food, litter, and paper towels. For the health of the Earth and our cats, please note that we prefer plant based litters.



CAT CHAT The Amazing Color Changing Kitten

by *Roz Goldstein*

Last summer CASAS fostered a litter of kittens that came to us at about 3 days old. The mom was a feral cat that had evaded trapping. Amongst the four babies was one little boy who had a strangely colored silver coat. This little one went on to become healthy after a bout of intestinal upset. As he grew, his coat changed from black tipping with silver undercoat to completely black within a few months. One other male also had slightly silver patches which darkened as well. We were all fascinated by this unusual change

This change is called Fever Coat, also called stress coat. This is a phenomenon that occasionally is seen in kittens. It is caused by stress in the mother's system before birth which can be due to illness, environment or medication. This prenatal stress causes the pigment in the kitten's fur to be improperly deposited. It seems to be associated with black kittens. Fever Coat can affect the entire litter or only one or two kittens. Kittens do shed their baby fur, and as the little one ages the fur grows in black resulting in a gradual change. This in no way affects the health of the kitten although if the mother was ill certainly that can be passed on.

This is certainly an amazing change as the silver coat is quite striking. These boys went on to become healthy, handsome black cats. There is always something wonderful to learn about cats.

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OLD FRIENDS

You've been friends for a long time, 20 years or more. Your friend has been pretty loyal and hardworking but now it's time to part ways, to find someone who is more efficient, easier to control. That's the way we at CASAS feel about our old furnace. We've asked it to do a lot over the years, maybe more than it was designed to do. And now it is complaining. It would like to retire and we are happy to oblige.

To that end, we are asking our supporters to help us get a new, efficient furnace that can fulfill our needs for the next 20 or so years. You can warm your heart and warm the kitties as well by donating to the cost of our furnace.