

## Teddy - The kind little heart

My wife and I recently adopted little Teddy and wanted to share with you our wonderful experience and invite you to visit the shelter to find your Teddy.

After recently adopting an 8 week young abandoned kitty (Cedar), we found that he needed a playmate. Our older kitty (Lucky) just didn't have the energy to keep up with Cedar. We decided to visit our local humane society (GDHS - Gananoque and District Humane Society) to find a young playmate for Cedar. We were overwhelmed by the number of kitties we found at the shelter who are waiting for their forever home. We could only take one. It was a hard choice. We made up our mind to take one which we called Susie.



While sitting with the kitties in the Romper Room, a shy watery eyes and runny nose gray kitty (Teddy – pictured here) rubbed against us purring, even licked us and was quietly asking us in his own way to take him with us.

We only wanted to adopt one and we already chose Susie. At first glance, Teddy looked like a sight for sore eyes. He didn't look promising but he touched our hearts. Later, we found out that our new adopted Susie was Teddy's sister. We also found out that Teddy suffered a severe eye infection when he was abandoned and required surgery. During the surgery his eyes were permanently affected and they will now always look watery. This young man already suffered enough.

Two weeks have gone by and we couldn't get Teddy out of our minds. That little kitty's chances of being adopted were slim. He was destined to become a permanent member of the shelter. After all, who would adopt a kitty which looks like

Teddy? Knowing that we adopted Teddy's sister, we knew that he would be depressed and would likely decline in his confidence to survive. We had to do something to help Teddy.

We returned to the shelter and there was Teddy as affectionate as we first saw him. We just wanted to have another look at Teddy. This time, with his sad look and quiet purr he was asking us again, please take me with you. He won our hearts. We could not leave Teddy at the shelter. We had to give Teddy a chance. We decided to take Teddy with us that day.

When we arrived home with our new family member, Susie recognized Teddy immediately. She took him under her care and showed him around the house. Our two other kitties Cedar and Lucky accepted Teddy right away. Our concerns about integrating Teddy with our three kitties simply disappeared. They were meant to be together. They found a way to accept Teddy into his new family and his forever home.

Today, a week later, Teddy continues to regain his confidence. He continues to show us his affection. For the first three days, he ran around the house as if for the first time he could stretch his legs. Teddy loves his playmates and his new forever home. And for us, this was a best decision we made. Teddy is a beautiful life that simply wanted a chance to show his affection and to give his little heart to a family that would give him his forever home and we are grateful to have this opportunity.



**Pic 1.0** Here is Teddy enjoying his stretch in the warm afternoon sun



**Pic 2.0** He loves to cuddle with his new brother Cedar



**Pic 3 & 4** Here is Teddy with his sister Susie sharing an afternoon nap and our oldest kitty Lucky loves to share a leisurely morning on the bed with Teddy

There are other wonderful kitties like Ken and Fiona who may not look glossy, vibrant and playful, but they will give you their hearts in a moment for a chance to have a forever home. Ken, who may not be the Brad Pitt of kitties, has a heart of gold. After being hit by a car and abandoned to die, has fully recovered with the help of shelter volunteers. He lost many of his teeth, but he never lost his heart. Fiona who may look a bit overweight, will cuddle with you and stay at your side as long as you give her a chance. There are many other kitties that have already given so much to raise their young. They were abandoned and left to die in the cold without food. They have already suffered enough. Why don't you chose a Teddy of your own and give him/her a chance to enjoy family life in their forever home.

If you are considering adopting or know someone who would enjoy the company of a kitten or an adult cat, please visit the GDHS shelter. When you see a kitty that may not be the best looking, look deep into their eyes. Try not to judge them by the way they look. Remember, deep inside is a kind heart that is yearning to join a family who will give them a chance. Like our Teddy, they will shower you with love and affection for the rest of their life.