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cats to be euthanized. One of the cats was not feral and was very calm, just sitting there. They stated there was nothing wrong with this male cat. In good conscience, they could not euthanize him. Could we take him?

Yes. His name is Phil.

Phil hiding under a cedar chest Photo by Nancy McVicar



He was brought into foster and placed in quarantine as is typical for new cats coming into the rescue. In the bathroom, he was so scared that he hid behind the toilet for several weeks. I moved him into a spare bedroom so he could prop himself on the top level of the tall cat tree and look out the window. Surely, he would be more comfortable there. He found his safe place, under the cedar chest. He would come out of hiding at night and slink around the room but always retreated to his hiding spot. More weeks passed and little progress was made. Next, I set him up in a large cat crate located in the family room with different level perches, a hiding cubby, food, water and litterbox. I covered the crate with a sheet so I could control his exposure to the room. After a couple weeks he seemed more comfortable. I could scratch his head, and he spent time outside the cubby looking out the doorwall and watching us in the room. One day, I purposely left the crate door slightly open. Next thing I knew, he was no longer in the crate. No idea where he was hiding. Days later, he was lounging on the arm of the sofa. Major progress, though he would run if I approached.

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“Time spent with a cat is never wasted.” ~ Sigmund Freud

A couple weeks later, he was freely moving around the house. Then one night, he jumped on my bed, rubbed his head on my hand and accepted scratches on his head. Major breakthrough! Now he waits on the bed for me to give him lots of loving, and I get paw taps if I stop petting too soon.

He is still a work in progress but he has come so far. All cats adjust to a new environment on their own schedule. We as new kitty parents need to understand this and have patience. It is so rewarding when they make such a turnaround. 🐱

A GIRL NAMED ED YOUR MONEY MATTERS

by
Nancy McVicar

March 2018, a small 14 ½ year-old female Himalayan named Ed, was relinquished to BDF. During her incoming veterinarian exam, her bloodwork and further test results led the vet to believe she had liver cancer and the prognosis was poor.

It seemed her time with us would be very limited. She was treated like the princess she was. I gave her comfy spots to nap, lots of snuggles and love. Such a funny girl! Favorite napping spot? In the laundry basket and the pillows on the bed. Favorite food: Milk flavored treats. She was happy and loved.

For such a poor prognosis, amazingly Ed remained with me for two years! Late this summer, she passed away. I still look for her napping in the laundry basket.



Photo by Nancy

What greater gift than the love of a cat. ~ Charles Dickens