

Animal Tales

NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2007

An Unlikely Valentine

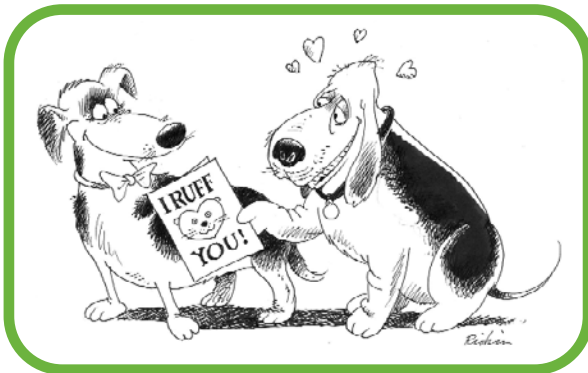
A cemetery is no place for a cat. Nevertheless, a beautiful calico sat atop a tree branch, with a badly swollen eye, looking down on the aging graves and grassy mounds below her.

Just as she was about to give up all hope, a young couple appeared at the far end of the cemetery. As they crossed through the rusted gate, the cat let out a meow as loud as she could muster, but the couple didn't hear it. They were busy looking into each other's eyes, not up into trees.

Using even more of her waning strength the cat meowed again. Still nothing. The couple, hand in hand, meandered and chatted their way through the grounds closer and closer to the cat's tree. The cat decided to wait until they were just under her perch and with the very last of her strength...

"MEOW! MEOW! MEOW!"

The couple looked up in astonishment.



They could see even from far below that the poor cat was injured and in pain. She needed help immediately! Looking around for a way to get the cat down, they spotted a contractor's truck across the street from the cemetery. The young man ran across the street to talk to the contractor.

The man returned a short time later, ladder in hand. He pushed the ladder against the tree and climbed it as quickly as he could. Though the cat was frightened, she was all too happy to receive help at last.

The young couple hoped Northeast Animal Shelter could help, and they rushed the cat over the very same day. Before they left, the couple requested one thing, that we name the cat in honor of the day she was found . . . **Valentine.**

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Nothing Special



Max, a Collie mix, was convinced that he was nothing special. At just seven weeks old, he had been taken from his mother, and placed with his brothers and sisters in a cardboard box on the steps of a church in New Mexico.

Northeast Animal Shelter heard of the puppies' plight through our Puppies Across America program.

Now in its 14th year 'Puppies Across America' enables the Shelter to save puppies like Max by taking them out of areas plagued by overpopulation. Without the shelter's assistance – and yours – these poor animals would face the risk of being euthanized!

It didn't take long for all the adorable puppies, including Max, to be adopted from our shelter and into several different homes with families in Massachusetts.

Max found a forever home with Scott, an Internet entrepreneur. Since Scott worked at home, Max always had good company, and all the walking, attention, and treats he could dream of.

Max was happy and comfortable. Little did he know that he would have a moment to shine in the future.

Max's moment arrived several years later when Scott decided to pursue his passion for cooking. Working at a restaurant as a chef, he was out of the house during the day. Not wanting Max to be lonely, and to make sure he got enough exercise, Scott hired a dog-walker named Kevin who took Max out in the afternoons.

One mild winter day, Max jumped into the back of Kevin's van which was full of other dogs – all ready for a good romp at Brook's Pond in Arlington, Massachusetts.

Once inside the boundaries of the park surrounding the pond, Kevin decided to let the dogs wander free, confident they would all stay close. The dog-walker opened the van door, hooked everyone up to leashes, and they were off – a pack of excited dogs, ready for a run!

But as the dogs approached the frozen pond one of them wandered out onto the ice. Before Kevin could grab the little animal, the ice beneath his tiny paws began to crack. Frightened by the



noise, and the shaky ground, the dog began to anxiously flail about.

It wasn't long before a hole was opened through the fragile ice, and the dog fell into the freezing cold water!

By this time, some of the other dogs had caught sight of what was happening. But thinking it was some sort of a game, they ran into the water too, not understanding the danger.

Kevin jumped in after them, struggling to move in the frigid water.

Knowing he couldn't save all the dogs at once, Kevin managed to grab one at a time, and then ran full speed to his van – the water freezing to his body. For five whole minutes, he went back and forth from water to land, becoming more exhausted with each trip. At last there were only two dogs left . . . one in the water, and Max surveying the situation from land.

Kevin plunged in to rescue the last dog. Just as he tossed the dog safely onto land, Kevin's muscles gave out. He feared he was going to drown!

In that moment, he cried out to Max:
“Max! Help!”

Max knew Kevin was in trouble. He carefully inched onto the ice, laid down, and let Kevin grab

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Nothing Special *(continued from page 2)*

his collar. Once Kevin was holding on, Max slowly stood up and backed his way off the ice, pulling them both to safety.

When Max returned home, Scott was there to greet him with extra treats. Scott had received a call from Kevin telling him the story of “Max the Hero”. As he looked down at Max who was wagging his tail, Scott smiled for he had known all along that Max was special – but now Max knew it too!

Max had traveled a long way to find his home with Scott. Because of Northeast Animal Shelter – and you – he got the chance to thrive, and find a place where he would always be valued and loved.



An Unlikely Valentine *(continued from page 1)*

The staff happily agreed. There was a lot of work ahead to bring Valentine back to health . . . so we wasted no time in bringing her to the vet. Once in the office the vet noticed that her eye was not only swollen, but filled with blood – it was likely he said, that she had been hit by a car. What made matters worse was that she was badly dehydrated, indicating she had been in the tree for some time, as much as three days.

The vet promised to do everything he could, but it was possible her eye would have to be removed. He gave Valentine some medication, to see if it would help, before having to resort to an operation.

Much to our surprise, despite the dire conditions, the medication worked! Valentine’s eye was healing. It was time to place her in a foster home



to allow her time to heal, and to prepare her for adoption into a forever home.

Just a few days after her foster caretakers brought her home, we received a panicked call. Valentine, they told us, was drooling, and clearly still in a lot of pain. They quickly brought Valentine back to the vet.

It turned out Valentine had not only injured her eye, but had sustained a hernia that had hemorrhaged and caused a large area of bruising. She would have to have an operation to heal the damage.

Once the operation was completed, it was time for Valentine to return to her foster home to fully recover. As the days passed, the brightness returned to Valentine’s eyes, and her step became more confident. She was ready to find her forever home.

She was scarcely in the shelter a few days when a woman named Karen came in looking to adopt a cat. Valentine’s gentle purr caught her attention, and she decided to take her home. Karen and Valentine are taking time in getting to know one another, Valentine is learning to trust, and Karen to be patient. They grow closer with each day, and Karen tells us Valentine can often be found nestled under the couch-cover, or even the warm blankets on her bed! It will take time for Karen and Valentine to create a bond, but just as it was love that saved Valentine, it is love that will fill the rest of her happy days as part of her forever family.

Things We Need

-  Canned dog/cat food
-  Dry food for adult cats or dogs/Nutro® brand (from pet supply stores)
-  Safe, chewable dog and puppy toys (hard rubber or Nylabones®, fleece, vinyl, or latex)
-  Safe cat/kitten toys, especially those with catnip
-  Liquid laundry detergent
-  Liquid or powdered bleach
-  Paper towels
-  Jars of all-meat baby food for orphaned puppies and kittens
-  Trash bags (13 and 55 gallon sizes)
-  Polaroid film (for OneStep camera)
-  First Class Postage Stamps – 39¢ & 24¢

Winter Pet Tips

Oh dear! Winter is here! Help protect pets with these tips for the cold months...

- Beware of potentially dangerous chemicals such as antifreeze or road salt. When you come indoors with your pet, make sure to wipe off his/her paws, legs, and stomach to avoid ingestion of these chemicals or contact skin irritations.
- Outdoor cats have been known to crawl up under the hoods of cars to seek shelter and warmth near the engine during the cold winter months. A cat may be killed or injured when the motor is started. Make sure you bang loudly on the hood of your car before starting it so a cat may escape.
- Leaving your pet in the car while running into a store is not recommended. Your car can act as a refrigerator by holding in the cold.
- Some dogs that do not have such a hearty coat may require a coat or sweater when going out for their daily walks.
- Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.

MAIL BOX



"Trixie is a very happy, healthy, loving dog. We are very fortunate to have adopted her! Keep up the good work and I love your new website!"

- Dracont, MA

"Phoebe and Kitty. We love them and they love each other!"

- Stoneham, MA

"I picked up the little guy last weekend... 'Jack' made himself at home within hours and Oscar accepted him very quickly. Thanks for everything you do and every animal you save."

- Email