

Cedric and Seamus



Cedric on the left – Seamus on the right

We are thrilled with our relatively new additions Seamus (formerly Tonka) and Cedric (formerly Tuffy).

We went to your shelter in July 2007 on our return from my husband's confirmation of a diagnosis of cancer. We had had 4 cats for years but lost 2 suddenly in April as a result of the Chinese pet food poisoning. He announced that the house was much too quiet and he wanted more cats.

As we had 7 & 11 year old males at home we were looking for adult males preferably ones that had already been together to make their adjustment and your placement of them easier. When we walked in Seamus and Cedric were in the first cage on the right seemingly made to order. They were large cats which was another requirement as small in our house is anything under 14 lbs. Seamus slept through the interview but Cedric was very friendly and we were told it was the first day that either of them had shown any interest in the customers. They must have known suckers were in the offing as my husband was sold immediately.

We took them home that day. They had been color-coded as mildly timid with a suggestion that they be kept secluded for 2 weeks. For what it is worth, we did not follow that suggestion. Seamus, the bigger one, took great offense to the traveling box and clawed his way out on the 20 min trip home to Windham. Once out he was completely relaxed and that attitude continued right into the house and his intro to the new home and current occupants. Cedric was a bit more timid and hid in a closet for about 2 hours but that was the extent of the trauma and after that when he came out he stayed out. Having his brother with him made a huge difference.



Seamus taking a nap

That's not to say that the adjustment with the other cats was effortless or immediate. There were outright squabbles and bullying for a while. Even now there's ongoing adjustment but as we celebrate our 2 year anniversary, bouts of hostility become increasingly rarer and harmony, if not universal affection among them, generally rules. It is helpful that all 4 of them are pretty much wooses. One funny thing is that, when Cedric hears me scold 1 of the 2 originals or hears them complain when they get medicine he comes running up to defend me by swatting the offender and then running away really fast. He also does this if he witnesses his big brother getting harassed by another cat. We call him "The Enforcer." He will also take a swat at one of the others if he should get scolded or if something happens that he doesn't like such as one of the other cats getting ANY attention.

With us the 2 newcomers adapted immediately - Seamus to my husband and Cedric to me. As for Seamus, basically no one else exists on the planet except my husband. We were careful to make sure that our original 2 (also ARL adoptees) were not usurped in any way. So no one suffers.

Cedric has blossomed into a much more confident cat who allows us to ruffle his coat - something he would not have tolerated never mind enjoyed originally. He seems to have outgrown the skittishness of what we assume was the result of spending his first 9 years with a couple of young boys. Both cats displayed a tell-tale (no pun intended) sensitivity to being touched around their tails when they first arrived and skittishness around quick movements. Such is not the case any longer.

As for their health - Cedric is a chubby self-satisfied cat. Seamus has asthma and gave us a scare when we thought he had injection-site caused cancer between his shoulder blades. After a serious surgery to fully remove the lump we found out it was simply a benign fat spot and he healed up and is fine. As is BTW my husband.

Basically Seamus and Cedric, like our other two, spend their days lounging, eating and playing in the style to which they are accustomed and for which my husband and I are employed to keep up!