

Whiskers, Ephron, Winkin, Blinkin and Banana

In April of 2008 Jon and I came to the shelter hoping to find a kitty that would match up well with our personalities. I wanted a snuggly cat who had a lot of energy to play. When I got to the shelter I was devastated to see so many animals. Angela at the front did a great job calming me down (I got very emotional) and I decided that I would suck it up and go see the kitties. Gloria took me back to find a cat and that's when I found my Whiskers. Sleeping in his food, I knew that he was my baby. So we took him home. Since we let him out of the box he has been a nonstop ball of energy. That was a year ago. He loves to snuggle on the couch and burrow under the sheets. If there is something to explore, he is all over it. However he is the most well tempered cat I have ever met. Whether you're cutting his nails or taking him to the vet, he just goes with the flow.



A few months later we went back to the shelter to show some pictures of our baby to Gloria and the girls. Gloria asked us if we were interested in adopting a cat, in only a way that Gloria could ask. So we met Ephron. There for almost a year, adopted, and then returned for medical reasons, the poor thing was sitting there in my lap just loving and purring. I didn't see why we couldn't get another one. He loved to snuggle up on my shoulder and there was no way I could say no to him. We brought him home and there was an instant bond between the two boys. They're time together at the shelter was short, and they probably didn't even meet – but they're like litter mates. Ephron is our alarm clock. Every morning starting at 4, he is up waiting for his breakfast. To be polite to his new parents, he didn't start this trend for a few months after adoption. When it's time for him to nap, he'll let you know, and your head best not be on his pillow. As fussy as he can be, he is a big love bug and he does love his people. And black clothing.



We were back a few months later with pictures of the boys. Then Gloria broke our hearts again with the sad story of two sisters who needed a loving home. Strays from Westbrook, the two were separated because one of them had very bad pneumonia, while the other one was put on the floor for adoption. Winkin and Blinkin are their names. We took Winkin in. The poor thing was hiding in her cage under her blanket. She was very small and very, very shy when we brought her home. She lived under our bed and behind our couch for two weeks before she showed her face. Sick to my stomach with the thought of splitting up the two, I went back to Blinkin two weeks later when she was ready for adoption. Of course the girls could not have cared any less to be reunited, but they appreciate it now. My baby girls are so adorable I just don't even know what our home would be like without them. They are very shy, but every day is a growing experience for

them. Little Winkin just recently started jumping up onto the bed at night to snuggle with Mama for a few minutes which is huge for her. Looking back on how timid they were, I'm so proud of each of them.



(Blinkin is on the Left Winkin is on the Right)

Last but certainly not least is our Banana (although I call him Nannies). Brought in to the shelter in a Banana box we kept his name because it's just as crazy as he is. Certainly our most spirited boy, he is the life of the party at our house. Starting at 3, he run, run, runs through the house chatting with himself. He loves a clean litter box and rolls around in the fresh litter for a good half hour before he's decided he's dusty enough to come love Mama. We're still not sure why we decided on Banana (Gloria didn't help us this time), and when he's driving us crazy, Jon and I blame it on each other. However he is really a sweet cat. He loves to play and snooze on the bed with me. Always giving kisses to his people one minute and tearing through the house the next minute. Still a kitten at heart, we're working with him to positively reinforce the rules (no scratching woodwork or furniture!!) and he is learning. He is a great addition to our house and we love every minute of being with him.



We're thankful every day for the ARL bringing us together with our animals. While we can't responsibly adopt any more, we're so happy to know that we've changed the life of 5 innocent cats whose lives were saved by the shelter. It saddens me that so many animals are surrendered every year, but it's amazing that so many people donate their time and money to take in [almost] all creatures. We love our kitties and I know we'd do just about anything for them. We just celebrated Whiskers' 2nd birthday and Ephron's 3rd (or 4th...we're still not sure, but he got a present and extra wet food, so what does he care??) and hope that all our cats are around for celebrations for years and years. Thanks, ARL!

LOVE,
Jon and Caroline
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