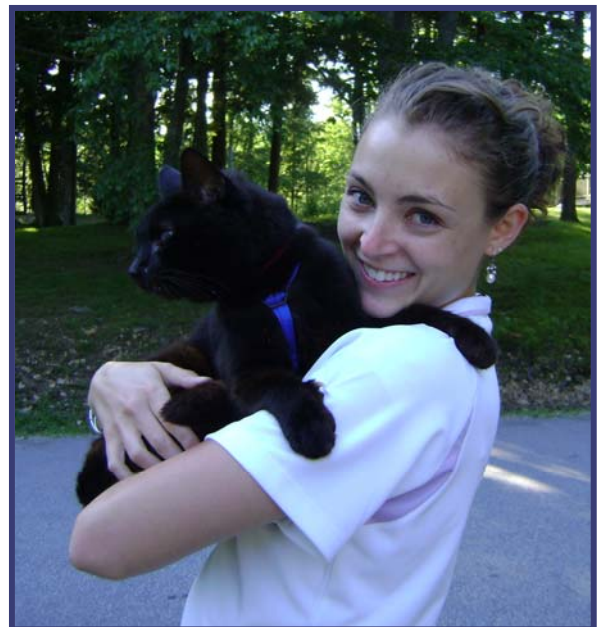


SHADOW



Walking into the room with cats, it was hard to miss Shadow. He sat in a pink cage at eye level, smiling in a way that only he can. Shadow was hit by a car 4 years ago and because he was not properly taken care of, his jaw healed partially fused shut and he lost sight in his left eye. Still, Shadow smiled. When we left that day with a different cat to take home, the image of Shadow in the shelter stayed with us – to the point where we knew we couldn't leave him behind. Something other than his physical limitations made him special and not even 48 hours later, we were back and more than willing to take him in. We had discussed the responsibilities endlessly and the decision to adopt him was unquestionable. He was going to require that extra bit of work, but it honestly felt that no one could love him more than we already did.

Now, it seems like our home was never without him. Shadow adapted quickly to having a place with people so readily available to water down wet food into a soupy mix, wipe his face after he's done eating (Shadow has a tendency to drool a bit; it's adorable), and religiously put his artificial tears in for him. It was most likely a smooth transition from the shelter for him because of the level of care he received there (Thanks staff!), but he certainly has been enjoying life with seemingly endless laps to fall asleep on. He is quick to curl up on us, whether it be on our chests, laps, or even directly on our laptops while we're working.





He adores leading us through the woods on walks (on a cat leash; it's quite the site), and seems to be able to hear a can of cat food being popped open from across the house. He has come to enjoy reaching up and latching onto our shirts while we're making his food with the cutest look, like a toddler that's tugging on their parents for a snack. He crawls up onto our shoulders for rides, and gives us a loving headbutt while he's up there. Sometimes, we swear he's saying "Thank you" with the amount of undying adoration he gives us. At least we know the feelings are mutual.

Adopting Shadow has become one of the best "investments" we ever could have made. It started as an investment to better his life in the way we wanted to, but has quickly grown into bettering our own. There has been no limit on the amount of spoiling that Shadow has received. We feel so lucky to be able to say that we don't ever plan on changing a thing and that Shadow is finally home! Thank you ARLGP! This could not have happened without you all.

With love and gratitude,
Sam, Monique, & Shadow

