



Heartland News



July 2023

MORE HAPPY CAT NEWS FROM HEARTLAND

Single Kitten Syndrome

If you know anything about kittens, you know how playful they are. When wrestling together, they sometimes bite and scratch each other and yowl when it hurts. They are learning that this rough play is not the best way to make friends.

In order to become well-socialized cats, kittens need to learn appropriate behavior from each other. A human is not a substitute for a feline companion. You can provide love and interactive play, but it's simply impossible to replicate the play behavior of another species. If they don't learn to play gently when they're young, kittens may develop play aggression. In other words, it may be cute when your kitten grabs your ankles when you walk by her, or when she playfully nips your fingers...but it will be far less cute when your cat is full grown and capable of doing more damage.

Many single kittens are returned to shelters because of play biting that's gotten out of control. Cat behaviorists believe that cats raised without feline companionship transfer their instinctive playful biting behavior onto humans.

In addition to teaching each other to inhibit predatory energy, litter box habits are established at a young age and kittens show each other how to go to the right place when nature calls.

Watching kittens play together is extremely entertaining. Cats raised together also provide each other with company when their humans aren't home. Alternatively, a lonely or bored cat can become anxious and destructive.

If you feel you are unable to care for two kittens, we encourage you to consider one of our wonderful adult cats instead. Many of these are scarcely more than kittens themselves. They're still playful and friendly and most have learned good manners from being around other cats in their youth.

The difference between a kitten and a cat is only 6 months. A happy cat can bring you joy and companionship for twenty years so it's well worth setting them up for success in their early months.

These two handsome boys are Cisco and Poncho.

When strays come to the shelter we don't always know their date of birth. When these boys came to us in February they looked to be approximately two months old, so we decided they would be our Christmas kitties. December 25, 2022, is their estimated date of birth.

These guys have plenty of energy with fun personalities. They are, of course, siblings and do everything together. They eat, sleep, play and wrestle together and are seriously bonded. Most siblings become independent, but these two boys should definitely be adopted together.



Black cats are sometimes overlooked at shelters, and asking for two to be adopted together can be an overwhelming thought to would-be adopters. The advantage of these two is since they are best friends they will entertain each other and provide twice the fun for their new family.

If you or anyone you know is thinking of a d o p t i o n this pair deserves a look. They are best friends and provide double the fun . . . and double the love. Call the shelter for an appointment to see if these two are still available. You will fall in love.



Happy Endings

Many of you are already familiar with the story of Stranger. He was a kitty when one of our volunteers found him sitting on her front porch alone and scared. He has a front paw that is misshapen and he was not able to use it normally. Our concern at the shelter was how well he could use the front leg but the concerns were quickly eliminated when he settled in at the shelter. One of our volunteers fell in love with Stranger and took him home to foster. We were pretty confident that this would end up a "foster fail". After a short period of adjustment and tolerance of him from the other cat residents his name was changed to Bobby, and he is now part of his new family. Thanks for loving this awesome kitten Scott. We love happy endings.



Don't forget to follow HPW on Facebook for all the latest news and available kitties up for adoption.
facebook.com/HeartlandPetWelfare



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