



December 2010 – Chance Lighter

At the beginning of summer, my husband and I wanted to plant some trees on our property. I went out one morning to buy the trees. My initial plan was to go to Lowe's Garden Center, but for some reason, as I drove by, I was compelled to go to Farm & Fleet. When I arrived, the store was not to open for another 15 minutes. Again I felt compelled to sit and wait rather than just leaving.

I picked out my trees and waited for the girls who worked there to check me out, but they were distracted by something.... One of them reached down into a nursery pot full of rainwater from the night before, and picked up a tiny little 3 week old kitten that had been floating in the cold water. He appeared to be dead, and he smelled terrible, as the water was polluted and foul. There were no other cats or kittens around and it is a mystery why he was there.

"He's still alive!" said one of the girls, "But just barely..." I reached out and took him in my hands and could feel a slight heartbeat, but he was unconscious and cold, and so very tiny. He was so dehydrated that his eyes were sunken in. "I'll take him." I said as I wondered how this was going to work out. We already have quite a large family of cats but I was not about to walk away from this little soul who needed a chance to live.

At home, my husband was as concerned as I was that this little kitten might not survive. We cleaned him up, got him warm and began with drops of Pedialyte on his tongue to get some fluids in him. He remained only semiconscious for the better part of the day and I was sure he was going to die.

Drops of kitten formula were placed on his tongue one at a time and I held him and stayed up with him most of the night and he regained consciousness the next morning and began devouring the formula. Within a few more days he was gaining strength. The rest, as they say, is history.

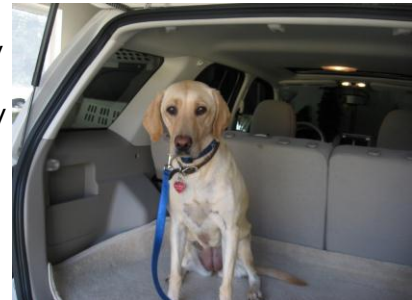
As for his name, it was "chance" that I went to that particular store that day, "chance that I didn't leave before they opened, and "chance" that he was found at that moment, still barely alive. So his name had to be Chance.

Chance is a very affectionate, playful little guy and is interested in everything! He gets along with all the other cats and loves his teddy bear, which he slept with as a tiny kitten, in place of the mother cat.



November 2010 – K8 Rastetter

K8 Rastetter was born on March 14, 2007 in the kitchen of Mark and Donna Rastetter. She was one of 9 puppies that were well loved, even rocked and sang to when they were young. The rest of her siblings were adopted by other families, but K8 worked her way into Mark and Donna's heart. She loves playing with her tennis ball, and needs her daily walks to use up some of her unending energy. She recently graduated from P.E.T.P.A.L.S. and now is able to provide companionship and therapy to many who need companionship from a pet. P.E.T.P.A.L.S. is a non-profit organization that has been in operation for 27 years which serves Black Hawk county. They provide volunteer opportunities for animal and human interaction by visiting local nursing homes, hospitals, group homes, schools, and other facilities with approved pets. K8 visited Friendship Village this past month for the first time and loved the attention she received from those she visited. K8 is a special dog who will use her love to impact many lives.



To learn more about P.E.T.P.A.L.S. contact Rachelle Yousefi 277-7418.



October 2010 – Rocky Petrucelli

Our first guinea pig pet of the month is Rocky Petrucelli. He was adopted by Vicki on April 21st, 2010. Guinea pigs make amazing pets. Rocky loves to be held and cuddled. One of his favorite places to sit is on the shoulder of a trusted person. He will occasionally get the chance to be out of his cage and run but he would rather spend time being held and played with. He is able to keep his sleep/awake schedule in sync with Vicki's, he is usually awake when she is. Guinea pigs eat many different things, but the staple in their diets is hay. Rocky also loves green leaf lettuce, kale, parsley and carrots. He will occasionally get some apple for a treat. One of Vicki's favorite things about Rocky is all the vocalizations that he makes. Guinea pigs purr when they are content and happy, can make loud noises when they are hungry or hurt, and other noises when they are scared or nervous. â□□Popcorning, or little jumps in the air, is what Rocky does when he gets excited. If you haven't ever had a guinea pig as a pet, give them a chance. Their personality and love cannot be duplicated.



September 2010 - Wrigley Hess

Wrigley Hess (named, of course, because of the Cubs) is a 4 year old German Shorthaired Pointer. His proud parents are Derrick and Lindsay Hess who adopted him when he was a puppy. Wrigley was a bit shy at first, but now he is a dog who loves people and being with his owners. Wrigley can sit, shake hands, lay down, and if you put a treat on his nose, he can flick it off and catch it in his mouth. He is learning how to give high fives as well. Wrigley loves cheese, carrots and any other dog treat. He has found his place to sleep in Derrick and Lindsay's bed and is truly a part of their family. He even tries to join in conversation, when someone talks to him, he will make weird dog noises in response. Wrigley is thrilled that his parents got married in August and has loved "helping" pack the boxes as they move into a new home. He is a very lovable, well-behaved, and smart dog that makes the Hess family complete.



August 2010 – Meika Olsen

Jodi Olsen has always loved animals, but has never owned a cat before. Her family have always been "dog people". When she recently bought her first house, she decided she was going to jump feet first into cat ownership. On her way home from vacation in Chicago on July 4th, she stopped at a friend's farm in Jesup and picked up Meika. Meika was born on May 1, 2010. Jodi's sister also became a cat owner that day with another kitten named Coco. The other names Jodi's friends suggested were Optimus Prime or Bella, but while boating, the name Meika popped into her head. Meika's two favorite things are playing and sleeping! She loves running laps around the house and racing up and down the recliner. She is still very curious and likes to peek into

everything. Meika makes friends easily when people come to visit. She will cuddle on your lap or sit next to you on the couch to keep you company. Meika has come in to visit Dr. Smith at Taylor Vet a couple times to make sure she stays healthy and has an active, long life. She has converted Jodi into being a "dog AND cat person!"



July 2010 - Velvet Austin

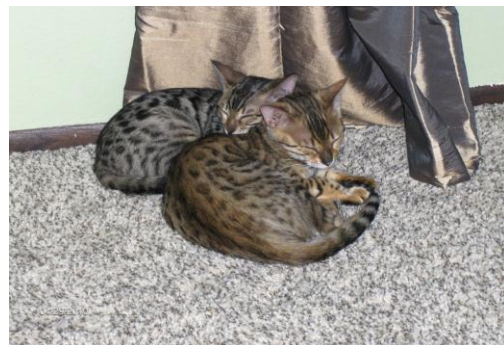
Velvet Austin is a black Lionhead rabbit that was born in the late fall of 2009. She was adopted by Megan from the Cedar Valley Humane Society in Cedar Rapids and named for the song Black Velvet. Her middle name is Lulu, which is Native American for rabbit. Her first visit to Taylor Veterinary Hospital was a busy one at the hospital when another rabbit had a C-Section to deliver her bunnies. It was one hopping day there!



Velvet loves any kind of veggies and greens (especially parsley and cilantro). She is very active and runs around both her cage and the house. She doesn't really like to be held for very long, but does love to be petted, especially along the bridge of her nose. One of her new favorite activities is to explore outside with her new harness. She found that she loves clover and has a "cousin" - Zoey the poodle who like to spend time together. They are an unlikely pair, but Velvet will even sit still long enough for Zoey to sniff and lick her. Velvet is usually a pretty independent bunny so new visitors and friends have to slowly introduce themselves to her. Velvet will soon be moving to a new home with more room to run and explore. She is one of Taylor Vet's many rabbit friends.



June 2010 - Atreyu and Moon Dalbey



The Dalbey family loves animals and wanted to add a pet. Unfortunately one of the children has allergies to most cats and dogs. Glenn, the father, decided to do some research and found out that Bengal cats do not have as many allergens as other cats. On February 12th, Empress Moon Child (Moon for short) joined the Dalbey family. Soon after Atreyu was also adopted from [Iowa Bengal Babyz](#). They were named after the characters in the "Never Ending Story". Bengals typically have temperaments more like dogs, according to Glenn, they come when you call, walk on a leash and love to be

outside with the family. They are very active, but also love to curl up in your lap and snuggle. They love kids and are very vocal when they want your attention.

Moon and Atreyu love chicken and will eat other meats, except pork. They won't touch cat treats. Bengal cats continue to get more coloration until they are about 2 years old. They typically have spots kind of like a tiger. They can do amazing jumps, Atreyu can jump about 4 1/2 feet straight in the air without running first. As they get older they will be able to jump closer to 6 feet! Moon and Atreyu love to play with anything that has a feather. Their favorite toy is a stick with a feather attached to the end of it. The Dalbey family is thrilled with their pets and amazingly enough these Bengal cats are not causing any allergy problems with the family. They are a perfect fit!



May 2010 - Deja and Maison Frank

February 25th, 2010 was a big day for Deja Frank. She was 5 ½ years old and about to have her first litter of puppies. After visiting Dr. Smith, it was decided that she needed to have a C-Section in order to deliver safely. Roxy, Bella and Mailia Frank came into the world at Taylor Veterinary Hospital. As Deja was waking up from anesthesia, she had no interest in her new puppies, but by the time they were home an hour later, she was licking them, feeding them and taking care of all their needs. Maison, the father of the puppies who's 1st birthday was the day before the puppies were born, is a very active dad. If Deja was not in the box with the puppies, he was. He is very playful and loves to be with his pups. This family of Pomeranian is taken care of by Mike and Kimberly Frank. Two of the three puppies have already found new homes with extended family. Bella is sticking close to home for now.



April 2010 - Bogey Wyborney

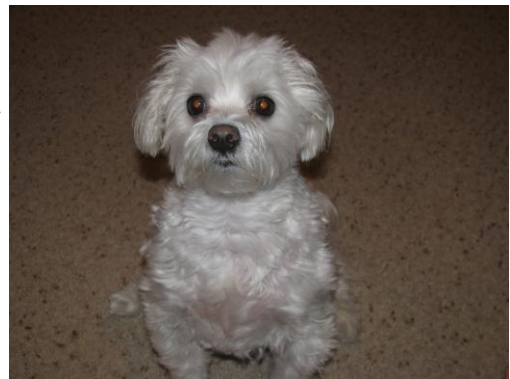


Bogey was a stray who arrived in the coldest part of winter in early 2009. It had been below zero for days and Bogey was yowling from beneath my car, eager for food, milk and attention. When he squeezed out from beneath my car, he was drooling and so bloated I thought it was a pregnant cat. I took him to see Dr. Smith expecting that he was too sick to treat, but to my surprise, every test came back negative. The good news that he was not suffering from anything untreatable meant Bogey could join our household. Unfortunately this was far from the last word on his health concerns. He suffers from a rare gum disease that caused him to lose all his teeth. He had frost bite which claimed both ear tips, hair and whisker loss, a heart murmur, a benign (noncancerous) tumor in his ear, and diabetes. His whiskers (when he had some) and his fur are brittle and sharp like porcupine quills. In spite of all his troubles, he is a very happy cat and very thankful to be inside, warm and well taken care of. He doesn't even mind his insulin shots!



March 2010 - Ozzie Bartlett

Ozzie Bartlett is the 7 year old Maltese dog of Luke and Becky Bartlett. He is named after Ozzie Smith of the St. Louis Cardinals which is Luke's favorite baseball team. Ozzie tells his people that he has to go outside by ringing a bell. In addition to being very smart, he has an amazing memory. His favorite time of the year is Christmas. When he sees the boxes of Christmas decorations come out, he immediately finds his stocking. He loves presents and loves to help everyone else open their presents. Ozzie is a great friend to Luke and Becky's two young sons and enjoys their attention. He also loves to chase their remote controlled



car. He has been helped out a few times by the doctors at Taylor Vet when he has been sick. He is a very important part of the Bartlett family.



February 2010 - Tiger, Stormy and Ebony Smith

Ebony, Stormy and Tiger are the three cats that live with Dr. Smith and his family. Ebony is 10 years old. When she was a kitten, she was a scrawny, sick runt. She has grown into a beautiful full grown black cat. She loves any and all attention, although is a bit wary of children. She is a very vocal cat, if we even look at her, she will "meow" to acknowledge us and try to get some attention. Anytime we sit down on the couch, she is up in our laps before we know it.

Stormy and Tiger both joined the Smith family in the spring of 2006. Their personalities are about as different as night and day. Tiger is a sweet, somewhat shy, but very cuddly cat. She loves to snuggle up with us on our laps and is content to just sit with us. She especially loves Megan, our seven year old daughter. If we ever can't find Tiger, she is curled up on Megan's bed. Stormy is more playful, often getting into trouble. She loves any and all toys and is constantly on the move. She loves to play with our two boys, but isn't so happy when they try to chase her! The three cats get along very well most of the time, and they often curl up in a big pile in a spot of sunshine.



January 2010 - Chessie Taylor



In Mid-July 2009, a concerned client found a thin, tiny kitten on the Evansdale railroad tracks and brought her to Taylor Veterinary Hospital. She strongly resembled the kitten logo of the [Chessie System Railroad](#). As we considered names, it became clear that she was "Chessie." Even more fitting since Dr. Taylor is very fond of anything associated with trains!

Chessie was malnourished, infested with fleas, ticks, ear mites and burrowing larvae on her neck called a [Cuterebra](#). She was so frail and vulnerable, we couldn't help but take her in. With loving care, our once-shy orphan has healed and become a confident, curious "handful". She spends her day as a free-roaming gal going from meeting and greeting patients to finding many ways to get into trouble. She is learning to drink from a slow-running faucet but forgets her manners as she pushes Jazz, our beloved senior cat resident, out of the way to ensure that she gets the first drink. She loves to play, and anything that isn't fastened down often disappears as she thinks everything is a potential plaything, including pens, trach tubes, even syringes! We love to watch her wonderment as she discovers snowflakes falling and icicles. Of particular interest to her are visiting Dachshunds, bunnies and parrots - she will sit quietly beside their carriers and reach in slowly to touch them. Chessie is full of surprises and no day is boring with her on the loose.

She has worked her way into the hearts and lives of all the staff who work at Taylor Vet and will never be without love.