

SONNY – The musings of a black cat ambassador (Part 1)

It is a well-known but sad fact that animals that are black are much more difficult to rehome from rescue centres. Nobody really knows the reason why, but as one who represents the black cat group, all I can say is that adopters are missing out on a very special type of feline! We are beautiful, brave, loyal, loving ... oh, and did I say, beautiful! And we make fabulous companions if you just give us a chance. I want to share with you a typical tale of a rescue black cat ...



A year ago, two tiny kittens were found in someone's garden. Sadly, one of them had already died, and the other one, a little black boy, was barely alive. As there was no sign of the mum, he was rushed to the Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre where kind staff members took turns to hand feed the little scrap. Fortunately, at the time in the Centre there was a

female cat called Zimi who was nursing her own litter. The little black kitten was placed with them in the hope the mum would accept him as her own, but still received extra feeds from the animal care staff. However, Zimi's own kittens were much larger than the little stray and they started pushing him out. So, one of the vet nurses, Sophie, began taking him home at nights to help feed him up. Her own cat at the time, Pembroke, really took a shine to the little black kitten.



The little black cat began to form a bond with one of the other kittens – a black and white female – and as the rest of the litter grew bigger and were eventually rehomed after being neutered, the little black cat and his foster sister played together and had lots of fun.

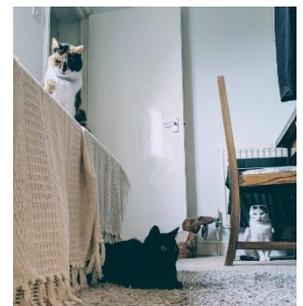


After several weeks, the black and white cat was old enough to be neutered but the little black cat could not have the operation yet as he was not quite mature enough. Staff had to face a heartbreaking decision ... do they keep both kittens together until the black cat could be neutered, which could be several months away? Or do they find someone to adopt the girl as she was ready to find her forever home? It was decided it was best to find the black and white girl a home, but the little black cat would have to wait until his body was ready for the neutering operation.

Dear readers, that little black cat was me! I said goodbye to my foster sister, and lovely vet nurse Sophie offered to take me home with her so she could look after me and build me up ready for the dreaded operation! She gave me a name, Sonny, because of my stunning amber eyes and sunny disposition. It really suits me!

By this time, sadly Pembroke had passed away and Sophie had adopted two new cats, Bella and Mia. I tried so hard to be friends with them, but they really didn't like me at all. I couldn't understand it! I am gorgeous and would look at them with my fabulous orange eyes, but it didn't impress them at all, and Sophie reluctantly had to take me back to the rescue centre.

I was beginning to think my life was doomed – first I nearly died when my mum left me; then my sweet sister was taken away, and now I had to leave the home I so wanted to live in. So this is how it feels to be a black cat? Not wanted, not loved, no home to call my own....



(Read the second part of Sonny's story next month. Does he find the home he so craves?)