

Reprieved and ready for my new family

Forever Friends Cat Rescue is a nonprofit organization based in Altona. We operate with volunteers, donations, and support from our community. Our mission is to rescue the lost, abandoned, and homeless cats in our community. We are dedicated to the care and wellbeing of our local feral cat population and to help educate the public on the need to spay/neuter pets, the prevention of animal cruelty, and the importance of responsible pet ownership.

My name is Esme
This is my story.

I was in cat jail. I had a small cell in a large building with many other cats. We were all on death row. I was scheduled to be euthanized by lethal injection in 5 days from the first day of my arrest!

No trial! No lawyer!

My crime...being outside unsupervised.

I called it "going for a walk".

That is all it takes to get a death sentence in some towns.

I did not know this law. I have always gone for neighbourhood walks. Ignorance is no excuse in the eyes of the law. The by-law states cats are not allowed to roam free.

At first, I was sure I was getting out. My family would come get me, but they did not show up. Surely, they were looking for me, right?

Well, I was confident my shiny yellow collar would be a clue to help find my family. Once they knew I was going to be "put down" they would rush to get me.

My collar did not have a tag! That was no help at all!

But wait! I have an ear ID tattoo! This is going to save me, and my family will come to get me! Turns out they managed to trace

the tattoo to my original family, but they had no record who they gave me to. My original family refused to get me, and my new family had no idea I was in here. Did they notice that I did not come back home at mealtime? Did they notice I was not in bed at night?

I spent day one in jail just waiting for my family.

I spent day two being frustrated because no one could track down my family and help me get back to my home.

I spent day three in desperation because I was told the local humane society was full and they could not help any cats on death row.

I spent day four in complete despair knowing that I was going to die.

Day five - what would have been my death day - a miracle happened! Forever Friends Cat Rescue had 2 spaces open up. This was not enough for all of us, and some good cats died that day. If everyone would spay and neuter their cats, there would not be so many cats ending up on death row.

I was lucky. I still don't know why I was saved and not others, but I am alive, and it is a very good day!

I want to say if your cat goes missing, do not wait. Five days is not a long time... I am currently in a foster home waiting to be adopted by another family. I hope this family will be my last. I really need a place to relax, be safe and decompress from my terrible experience.

Needless to say, I will not be going for walks anymore.

For more information, please contact us. Call/text 204-304-9173, email forever_friends@icloud.com, visit our website www.foreverfriendsaltona.com, or find us on Facebook.

