

Looking for a new family to share my lives with

Furever 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.

We are grateful for this opportunity to use this column in a number of ways: featuring cats that are available for adoption, sharing stories of cats that have already passed through our rescue (happy ones and sad ones, because those happen too), announcing fundraising events, and providing educational content.

My name is Melody. I was born in the country. I hardly saw the people that lived there. They never pet me, fed me, or cared about me. I didn't even have a warm place to sleep, so I slept under the hood of a vehicle. It provided shelter from the wind and snow, and sometimes it was nice and warm. It certainly was a cozy little space to snuggle up in. One morning I forgot to set my alarm, I overslept and went for an awful ride!

When the engine started, it made a terrifying sound, and I just froze in fear. I was jostled and bounced around, hanging on for dear life, as the vehicle sped down the highway. I knew that if I fell out, I could be crushed by the tires, stranded on the road, and injured in the midst of winter in unfamiliar territory. I probably wouldn't survive a situation like that.

So when everything came to a stop and the engine was silent, I crawled out of my hiding place with just a little tuft of fur missing from my side. I pretty much used up 6 of my 9 lives just on that ride to town! I used up number 7 trying to survive the cold nights that followed.

During the day, I tried to catch some sun

beside a building, and I was spotted by a person! She came over and tried to pet me. No way was that going to happen! I ran, of course. The people in my life had never been nice to me. The next day I went back to that sunny spot, out from under the shed, and found food there. It kinda smelled like the lady that tried to pet me, it sure was yummy! The day after that, there was another pile of food. I ate that, too. This became a pattern, and one day the food was inside a metal container that slammed closed as I ate it! It was terrifying, but I didn't lose my 8th life, so I knew this wouldn't kill me - but that didn't stop my heart from pounding!

I heard the lady's voice as she quickly covered the cage with a blanket. She was telling me not to be afraid, that it was going to be okay. She must have been watching nearby, I can't believe I didn't notice her!

After that it was a whirlwind of food, warmth, vet trips, and people trying to pet me. It's taken me months to get used to being in a house. It may take even longer to get used to being petted and picked up. I'll tell you what I got used to really quickly though...food! Glorious food! My foster family feeds me every day. They try to pet me every day too, and I don't even run away now. Instead, I get this crazy urge to rub against their legs. I want to be in the same room as them and I love to play with the toys they have. They have a cat tower that is great for naps and sometimes I even let them rub my belly.

I've never wanted to go outside again, not even now that the weather is nice. I only have 2 lives left, so I am being really careful. I want to make my last life the best life! With one life to spare, you know...just in case.

Melody is a female, shorthaired, tortoiseshell cat. Her birthday is February 16, 2019. She is fully vetted. For more information, please contact us: call/text 204-304-9173, email furever_friends@icloud.com, visit our website www.fureverfriendsaltona.com, or find us on Facebook.

