

**I SPY WITH
MY ONE
LITTLE EYE**



**Animal
Samaritans**

Unconditional love is only a shelter away.
Don't shop, adopt!



It was a warm day in March, exactly at the beginning of what is known as puppy and kitten season, when a good samaritan walked inside a no-kill animal shelter with an ill kitten.

1

The kitten looked fragile and had difficulty breathing. She was possibly three weeks old and was all skin and bones. She was found in a box with her lifeless siblings, holding on to dear life.

The shelter staff knew that only a miracle could save her. Still, they accepted the responsibility of doing what they could to give the kitten a fighting chance.

If cats have nine lives, she was on her last one and it was not looking promising.



An advanced upper respiratory infection was the reason she was struggling to survive. Due to the infection, her eyes had sunk in, causing her third inner eyelids to swell up covering her eyes. It looked extremely painful.

The kitten had gone home with her foster mom who kept her inside a warm room with vaporizing water to help her breathe better. She also did warm water compressions on her eyes and used the medicated ointment prescribed by her veterinarian.

Feeding her was a messy mission since she could only breathe from her mouth. Latching on to drink kitten formula from the bottle was impossible. Instead, she chewed the bottle top to be able to swallow the drops.

2



Her foster mom bottle fed her every two hours, day and night, to help her gain much needed weight. They were both tired. Her foster mom had only slept three hours per night the first few days to properly care for her, but it paid off.

Three days later no one could believe the kitten was still alive. She had a horrible appearance. Honestly, she looked like a zombie kitty, but she was responsive. She started moving and meowing.

The kitten's health condition was still poor, but her foster mom was not going to let her down. They were a team now. She had become her mother, and the kitten her daughter. She named her Iris.

3



Iris' foster mom worried she was never going to open her eyes. She thought about how Iris responded so well to her voice. Her heart started breaking. She knew if Iris recovered, she had to take her back to the shelter to be adopted.

How can she return her when this had been her only home?

As a long-time foster volunteer, she had committed to fostering many kittens to help them grow until they were adoptable. But none had been as ill as Iris. None had lost their sight as she did. None were as special as her.

Iris' foster mom had two rescued cats of her own and had recently lost her 19-year-old tuxedo cat. She was not looking for a third pet.

4



It had been two months since Iris was rescued and her eyes were completely shut. They were still swollen and crusty.

She was growing. In fact, she had finally reached the weight of 1 pound which is the ideal weight for a 1-month-old kitten.

Considering the odds, she was doing well. She was half the size she should have been for her age, but she was full of life. Iris finally had a personality, a fun one. Sadly, her eyes showed no improvement at all.

At this point her foster mom had decided she was going to adopt Iris whether she was able to see or not. She knew and understood her needs so well.

5



Three months after being rescued, a miracle happened. One of her eyes opened.

Finally! Iris was fully recovered from her upper respiratory infection. She could smell and see. What a wonderful thing!

The new mission was to introduce the litter box. Without her sense of smell, Iris was not able to detect her litter box before. Kittens start using the litter box at around 1 month and a week of age, but Iris was barely catching up.

All foster kittens before Iris played with the litter then used it properly. It was as if they were told about it the day they were born and knew it was their bathroom. But not Iris.

6



Iris' mom had left her alone in the room to give her time to explore her litter box. When she checked on her, she noticed the litter was untouched. Suddenly, a funky smell caught her attention.

It was her brand-new shoes; Iris had urinated on them! These were hand-painted shoes she had ordered as her birthday gift. Yes, she loved those shoes.

Iris' mom shook her head, then put the palm of her hand over her face and started laughing. Iris looked so innocent and adorable right next to her crime scene.

Her mom understood it was an accident and it was okay. Her shoes did not matter. The fact that Iris was acting like a kitten was priceless to her.



Iris' personality bloomed! It was like her **ONE LITTLE EYE** was a magnifying glass and it was obvious she could see clearly through it.

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Everything was new to her and she wasted no time. She ran back and forth, climbed everything, and played with her cat toys. Grooming her brother, sister, and even her mom was her favorite hobby. Not to brag but she even learned how to use a fidget spinner!

If it was not for the good samaritan who found her, the no-kill animal shelter which accepted her and the foster volunteer committed to her care, she would not have survived. The sad reality is that only one third of a litter survives when the mom is a stray or feral cat. Iris was that lucky one third of her litter.



Iris finally reached her appropriate weight for her age. At this point she was ready for her spay surgery along with eye surgery, vaccines and microchipping.

She had lost one eye due to the upper respiratory infection and it had to be removed to avoid any health problems in the future.

Shelter animals are not adoptable until they are spayed or neutered and microchipped. In addition, they must be up-to-date with vaccines as part of their proper care. Iris was still a shelter kitten in foster care, so the shelter took care of everything.

In no time, Iris recovered from both surgeries like a rockstar! She even dressed up as a pirate for Halloween. One-eyed cat pirate, that is.

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Then it became official, Iris was adopted by her foster mom.

It had been a little over five months of hard work and dedication, but they made it through.

Everybody at the no-kill animal shelter was so happy for Iris! They all knew her struggle, and loved her dearly.



After her adoption, Iris started chasing tiny moons which were hanging on the wall of her mom's bedroom. They were bright and they caught the attention of her **ONE LITTLE EYE.**



Iris started hanging out with her sister cat by the screen door. They liked to look at the feral cats who came to their front yard for food and water.

Iris was able to spy with her **ONE LITTLE EYE** leaves falling from the trees and birds flying in the spring.



About two years after her adoption, Iris fell in love with her second human.

She finally had a Dad, and she adored him.

She took naps with him, gave him awesome hairdos with her tongue, and purred none-stop when he was around.

Her Dad adored her too!



Iris loved looking through windows with her **ONE LITTLE EYE**, so her Mom and Dad made a catio out of their small patio. The outdoor enclosure was for all three cats to explore the outdoors without being exposed to danger.

The catio became a little jungle with lots of plants. Iris loved sitting outside for hours. The birds chirping rocked her to sleep.



One day, Iris looked to the sky with her **ONE LITTLE EYE** and was thankful for her life. She was full of love.



Iris was happy!



Iris was taken to Animal Samaritans SPCA No-Kill Animal Shelter in the Coachella Valley on March 23, 2017. The shelter staff quickly administered subq fluids to help her recover from extreme dehydration. This saved her life right there and then. Their Humane Educator, who was also a foster volunteer since 2011, fostered her until she was available for adoption. Iris was adopted by her foster mom on September 9, 2017.

Animal Samaritans wants to thank every person who is improving the lives of animals. From staff and volunteers at veterinary clinics, animal shelters, and rescue organizations, to Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) groups caring for cat colonies, to those who donate to animal welfare organizations, and to teachers for allowing Humane Educators with Animal Companion Therapy volunteers present in their classrooms. Most importantly, to responsible pet owners for spaying and neutering their pets, thereby, saving lives.

THANK YOU!

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Animal Samaritans

Animal Samaritans was founded in 1978 by local animal lovers determined to end the suffering, abuse and unnecessary death of local shelter animals and educate the pet owners of tomorrow on responsible pet ownership. After more than four decades of service, Animal Samaritans has grown to become the desert's largest, most-comprehensive animal welfare organization by adopting out more than 11,000 homeless dogs and cats, rescuing more than 14,000 adoptable, at-risk shelter animals, and spaying and neutering more than 220,000 pets. We've educated more than 250,000 school children on kindness to animals and responsible pet ownership and made tens of thousands of pet therapy visits to people in need. Animal Samaritans views all living creatures with compassion and respect, with a primary focus on dogs, cats, and the people who love them.

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HUMANE EDUCATION

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