

Microchips: Merlin's Miraculous Journey

You've heard the slogan many times: microchips save lives. Well, in the case of a little black cat named Merlin, that is very true.

Merlin was adopted from TAAG as a cute bottle baby kitten in the winter of 2015 with his buddy, another bottle baby named O'Malley. The two boys got along really well together, and their adopted mom loved them so very much.

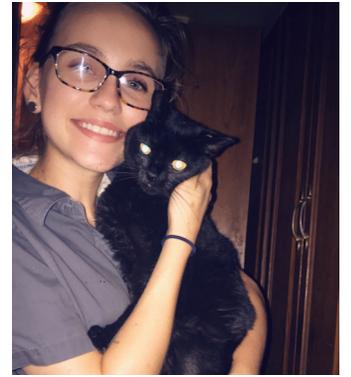
Fast forward to the summer of 2018. TAAG received a call from Buncombe County Animal Services about a cat picked up as a stray in the Canton area. This black back was skinny, and had obviously been on his own for a while. While this kitty had a microchip, it had not been registered. We poured through our records searching for this kitty's family, and Merlin's name came up. We called the number in his file, and sure enough, Merlin's mom told us that they had just moved, and Merlin slipped out of the door two weeks ago! In Rosman!



For those of you unfamiliar with the area, Rosman and Canton are separated by two big mountains, and to drive around them takes about an hour. Merlin's mom had been constantly checking the Transylvania County Shelter...no one ever thought he might end up in a different county. We sent Merlin's mom over to BCAS to verify it was him, and it was! There is no way he could have done this on foot, and we suspect that he stowed away in someone's vehicle and went for a ride.

This little kitty had traveled so far, and lived on his own for two weeks. We wanted to get him home fast. We sent one of our volunteers to pull him from the shelter (Merlin at that point was still on a stray hold, so his person was not allowed to pull him), and she drove him to Brevard, where he stayed with one of our fosters until his mom could pick him up after work. When he heard her voice, he started meowing, and was purring up a storm when he was back in her arms. We made sure that Merlin and O'Malley's chips were updated with their family's new address.

It is SO important to make sure that your companion animals are microchipped, and to keep your microchip information accurate and up-to-date. Being microchipped, and the wonderful people at Buncombe County Animal Shelter are the reason that Merlin is alive today, and safe and sound at home.



Special Needs Roll-Call!

TAAG has some special needs kitties that are looking for their forever homes! If you have any questions about our special needs kitties or interested in adoption and what it takes to care for a special needs animal, please seek us out at our adoption days on Saturday!

CLARK – You may remember Clark as “Clark Kent, Super Kitten” from a couple years ago. Clark is a dapper gent in his body suit and cart! He came to us as a 4-week old kitten with a spinal injury that eventually ended up with his back legs needing to be amputated. This doesn't slow him down one bit. Clark can snuggle and zoom through the house with the best of them...he just can't get on your counters.

Clark is afraid of dogs, and not overly fond of small and active children.

LUCY – Lucy is a fluffy calico with a lot of attitude! She is timid around strangers, but once she gets to know you, her personality shines. She came to us with a spinal injury as an older kitten, and because of this she absolutely hates using a cart, and prefers to drag her back legs. She would do well in a home with no carpet where she can zoom around to her heart's content. Lucy is also currently on a raw diet of rabbit. We are trying to isolate a food allergy.

TIPPER – Tipper is not fully considered a special needs cat, but he does have a condition called Cerebellar Hyperplasia. This is a neurological condition that causes Tipper to be very wobbly on his feet. CH is not progressive, but a birth defect. Tipper will not get any worse, and his condition won't shorten his life. This doesn't slow him down at all, and he plays, eats and has fun like any normal kitty.



CHARLOTTE - Charlotte is a special little girl! She has neurological issues stemming from a fight with toxoplasmosis. After a course of strong antibiotics, the toxoplasmosis is all gone, but Charlotte is left a little wobbly as a result. Her condition may improve over time, but it won't get any worse. This doesn't seem to slow her down much as she tears around her foster home chasing her favorite toy.



