

## **A Home for Felix**

So often, the animals who come to us are victims of mistreatment or neglect. It's heartbreaking to know these sweet souls most likely never knew the unconditional love they give so trustingly and willingly. Sometimes, however, a beloved pet finds himself lost and alone as a result of a tragedy.

Felix is a big (19 pounds to be exact), beautiful lapful of love. Just a kitten when his owner, Bob, received him as a gift for Christmas in 2010, he had known nothing but affection, attention...and maybe a few too many snacks. But all that came to a heartbreaking end when police responded to a 911 call placed by friends when Bob didn't show up for work, and calls and pleas to open his door went unanswered.

Bob had taken his own life. And Felix was found, wide-eyed and terrified, cowering in his litter box. "Cats will often escape to the shelter of their litter box when they're scared or stressed," shelter manager, Tonya, explained. "It's likely Felix was seeking a safe refuge after experiencing the trauma of his owner's tragic death."

Based on the condition of the apartment, it appeared as though Felix hadn't had food or fresh water in days, but it was clear otherwise that he had been well-loved. To ensure he had the best chance at a safe, happy future, the Police had him brought to our shelter in hopes that he would find a loving family.

"When he came to us, Felix was very shy and nervous, but his sweet, curious nature was always bubbling just beneath the surface," said shelter volunteer, Linda. "We quickly found out that he absolutely loves neck and back scratches and he'd most likely never turn down a treat."

It took a little time, but Bob's sister finally managed to track down Felix's whereabouts. "It was devastating losing my brother this way," she said. "And we felt so bad for Felix. My husband and I never hesitated when it came to adopting him – it helps us keep Bob's memory alive. We're just so grateful for the kindness and care he was given at the shelter."

What's Felix up to today? He's happy and healthy, enjoying life in Massachusetts. He's also on a diet and a strict exercise regimen that consists primarily of being chased around by an oversized pup named Walter. Word has it he loves sunning himself on the deck, is very aggressive about receiving love and affection, and is quite vocal when he's not fed in a timely manner.

Remember, the work we do wouldn't be possible without your help. From volunteers to adoptions to donations of time, money, food, blankets, toys and more...all of it helps keep us going so we can be here for loving pets like Felix.