



Cosette Before



Cosette After

A Month In The Life of Cosette

Cosette was born in a shed in downtown Virden and grew up in the streets and alleys with her siblings. Many people who live or work downtown have spotted her trying to cross a busy street or scrounging for food in dumpsters. Her brother, a cute orange tabby, was picked up and taken home by a local cat lover. But Cosette was too fearful to let anyone help her.

So some merchants put out food for her, which probably kept her alive. In the coldest part of winter, she took shelter below ground, huddled against a building foundation. As far as anyone can tell, she had never known the inside of a warm, safe home.

Cosette recently came into rescue at the Virden Pet Network. Dirty, hungry and scared, she wouldn't allow anyone to touch her. When the door to her room opened, she would hide. Not even wet cat food or a dish of cream could convince her to come out.

But there was one thing Cosette couldn't resist: the allure of a dancing string on the end of a stick. And that's how her journey into human society began – with a dainty white paw reaching out to bat a string.

Over the course of several weeks, I began to see more and more of Cosette's tiny grey and white body emerge from under the bed as she became braver and more trusting.

Then came the turning point... the day Cosette let herself be touched for the first time. Another milestone: the day I petted her and she didn't startle and run. Then, finally, picking her up in my arms and holding her baby fine fur against my face. Hearing her purr for the first time.

From then on, the firsts came more frequently: letting me clean her mite-encrusted ears, her first foray outside her room, and her first encounter (a peaceful one) with the other cats in the house.

It took just one month for Cosette to transform herself from fearful waif to sweet-natured companion. And the journey isn't over yet. She still has her first trip to the vet, her spay operation, and her adoption. But as you can see from the pictures, Cosette has already taken some giant steps for such a little girl.

For your next pet, please consider adopting a cat or dog through the Virden Pet Network.

<http://geocities.com/virdenpetnet>