

# Cat Companion at Corner

## Age doesn't matter...

A Rescue Story

by Mary Sue Rubin and Kristin Nowell

In May 2011, Angela Gruenberg of the DRRL was contacted by a man asking for help placing seven Devons. He said the cats belonged to his elderly father who had previously bred and shown Devons. His father's health was now deteriorating to a point where he was not going to be able to continue to provide the cats with the care they needed. Angela posted an email on Planet Devon for help with fostering and Kristin Nowell responded immediately with an offer to help coordinate the rescue. On further investigation, Kristin found that there were only three Devons along with four Devon wannabees, of uncertain breed. There were perhaps two long-haired Devons and two other hybrid type cats that had been shown as Household Pets. The family member estimated the cats' ages to be between seven and thirteen.

Angela provided the information to Kristin and Mary Sue and Kristin arranged all vet visits for the cats to have their exams, spay/neuter for four, SNAP tests, vaccines, nail clipping and other needed procedures. The family member who met Kristin with the cats for all the appointments also paid all the vet bills. The DRRL incurred no expenses with this rescue as all volunteer expenses such as mileage and short term fostering were donated. The owner was in the hospital at the time and the cats remained in their home and were being cared for by a family member who lived nearby.

Serena and Venus, the pair of seven-year-old Devon sisters, were the first to find a new home. This was initiated by a referral from a Planet Devon member who had a friend who wanted to adopt a Devon. While the cats were being vetted and spayed, Angela completed the adoption screening with the potential adopter, who agreed that a pair would be a good idea. She passed the application process with flying colors and then Angela put her in contact with Mary Sue for further questions, adoption agreements, and final adoption plans.

Once the girls were vetted and spayed, Kristin drove them to

Mary Sue's house, along with two of the other cats, Tasker and Acapella, who were going into a foster home. Acapella, a striking curly-coated dilute tortie female and Tasker, a stunning



Philly (aka Tasker)

chocolate male, were delivered to Leigh of Friends of Montgomery County Animals (FMCA), a rescue in Montgomery County Maryland. Leigh is

always ready and willing to collaborate with other rescues and has assisted the DRRL in the past. She has a particular fondness for curly cats so she and Mary Sue always communicate about Maryland area Devons in need. (Her last collaboration involved her fostering a Selkirk Rex and Mary Sue fostering a Devon Rex from a woman who had to place about a dozen cats of various breeds. They both found forever homes. As of February, Leigh is fostering two Devons relinquished to FMCA.)

Kristin and Mary Sue met Leigh at a Petco where FMCA holds adoption events. Leigh fostered these two beauties, had Tasker's dental taken care of, and found loving permanent homes for each. Acapella, now Daffy, lives with a couple in whose home she is Queen of the roost, being the only cat. She shares her domain with a 30-year-old African Grey parrot named Opie. After some medical issues were addressed she was settled in well to her new home and her curly self is much adored. "We love that cat! What a riot!" reported her new mom. "Daffy is very entertaining. She plays, runs, carries odd objects around in her mouth, sits on our laps and purrs. She is just perfect."

Tasker, now named Philly, was adopted by a family who already had a Siamese cat. The two are now best buddies.

After Tasker and Acapella were delivered to Leigh, the second leg of the trip was to deliver the Devon sisters to



Daffy (aka Acapella)

their new home. They are the first pets of a woman who has wanted a pet all her life, but whose mother would not allow her to have one. She decided the time was right for her first pet to join her. The girls started out their new adventure in the bathroom with boxes, blankets, and their transport carrier for hiding. One chose the bathtub filled with blankets, baskets, and pillows. The other chose the safety of her carrier. Their new mom soon realized she was spending hours in the bathroom with the cats helping them acclimate and that the cats were taking over her life!



photos submitted by Tina Chitick



Samantha (aka Venus) and Serena



It wasn't long before the girls were given the run of the hallway with their beds, food, water, toys and a large kitty condo. Within two weeks they had had enough of that and transitioned themselves to the living room, kitchen and then into the bed of their new mom who enjoys the symphony of cats meowing to each other. Initially, the cats provided 2 am – 5 am serenades, but thankfully, that soon stopped when the girls became more comfortable. Serena and Venus, now Serena and Samantha, seem to dislike classical music in preference for Bruce Springsteen. Though their new mom at first wondered what she had gotten herself into, she soon realized this was one of the best decisions of her life. She and the cats are in blissful everlasting love!



Sadly, the curly brown tabby male cat had some severe and debilitating medical issues and did not survive. The third Devon was spayed and will remain with a family member.



Benny

Still looking for his forever home, as of February, is Benny, a gorgeous black neutered male who had been treated for a URI which has resolved nicely. He might be a straight coated Devon hybrid, but this is not known for sure. He should be fine with a family with other cats and older children. He has

had no dog experience. Please help Benny find his forever home!