



The Newsletter of the New York State Humane Association

## Saved by Fate

As a nonprofit organization that focuses on educational workshops and seminars, NYSHA does not normally engage in rescuing cats, or other organizations take on that mission, but a situation was thrust upon us when we had to help. Since we do not have a shelter, we take people who call for assistance with any animals or ourselves to local shelters and rescue groups. However, this was a unique circumstance.

A disabled woman, who spent much of her time in a wheelchair, reached out to NYSHA. She had been finding one strays, one stray cat and wanted to give them a home, but first wanted their rescued. She needed help in finding a low-cost spay/neuter facility, as well as help in transporting the cat there – something she could not manage to do herself. A kind NYSHA volunteer agreed to make the appointment and to transport the cat to the spay/neuter vet.

The day she arrived to transport the cat to the spay/neuter appointment, the NYSHA volunteer saw a third cat in the woman's driveway. The usually long-haired cat was light-colored and emaciated. The volunteer could not leave it there. She placed some wet food into an extra carrier and the hungry cat walked right in and began gulping down the food. The volunteer quickly shut the carrier door. After transporting the wet food to the spay/neuter vet, she took the third cat to her home and worked in a room with food and water. Once she had to pick up and return the wet male to the woman later, she decided to bring the newly cat to a local shelter the next day.

The volunteer was certain the next morning when she opened the door to the room where she was keeping the cat – she was greeted with soft meowing sounds. The cat was lying on her side with four kittens huddled by. The volunteer stood there to think she had not yet checked the sex of the cat. Who would have thought that this poor emaciated cat was pregnant, let alone ready to give birth? In, during the night, four seemingly normal kittens were born who were now happily nursing on their mother's milk. This baby



One of the kittens poses for a picture, while the others wait their turn.

She changed the plan, the volunteer felt that the best place for this cat and her four kittens was right where they were. She knew that the lightest part of a cat's coat will be overexposed by moving her and her kittens to a shelter. She called with NYSHA Board members and they agreed. NYSHA approved the adoption and veterinary care of the mother and kittens. All were subsequently tested for any diseases and were found to be healthy. The veterinary exams indicated that the mother was emaciated from a simple lack of food, not an underlying condition. Weeks went by and the kittens grew big and soon were ready to be placed in forever homes.



Kittens mother, Tabby, was happy to give life!

As the girls, NYSHA reached out to a second area humane agency which agreed to take the kittens and find them good homes. As the NYSHA volunteer had finished with the photos, the mother cat who had an unspayed but, she decided to provide her with an inside foster home. And, of course, here we agreed.

We could not have hoped for a better outcome in what would have been a long road for this tiny cat and her kittens had she not appeared in the right time in the right place. It seems that fate had led her there.