

## Mending Broken Hearts

Coco & Lulu - their adoption story told by their new family

During the pandemic when we were all in lockdown we started to see a lot of a beautiful blue Tonk in our garden and little by little over that summer he became so regular a visitor that he eventually moved in. We got in touch with his owner and learned that he had chosen to leave home because he didn't like one of the family's other cats – and she very kindly allowed us to adopt him.

Very sadly, he suddenly developed heart failure aged only 3½ years and we lost him just when we had found him. We were heartbroken but the Tonk spell had been cast.

A couple of years went by, and there was always this feeling that something, or somebody, was missing from the house. In the end I contacted the Tonkinese Cat Club to register as a potential adopter and we struck gold.

The call came in March 2023. Two little sisters, Coco and Lulu, 2 years old, were looking for a new home as their owner had died and they were living with a Cats Protection volunteer in Croydon. The foster mum knew they would need a family that understood Tonks so got in touch with the TCC, who phoned us. Of course we said yes, and if it hadn't been for a most inconvenient bout of Covid we would have set off that day to fetch them – but we finally brought them home on 31st March 2023



Poor little things, they didn't like being on the M25 and had no reservations in letting us know, all the way home.

They had lived in a flat and never been outdoors, so we kept them in one room to start with and gradually let them have the run of the whole house. Stairs were a novelty and they were soon thundering up and down, playing chase, knocking things over and eating flowers and houseplants, especially at night. Every morning brought fresh ruination.



We would let them sit at the open back door while they took in the sight of the garden. After about a month we had a whizzy new catflap installed that reads their microchips and keeps them in at night. We wondered how we would teach them to use it but no need – it took them less than an hour to work it out on their own. And they were off!

Coco and Lulu are now living their best lives. They have a fairly wild garden to explore and spend most of the day outside in the good weather. Lulu has visited a couple of the neighbours and has brought us one bird (which was able to fly away, thank goodness). She's the adventurous one. Coco is more vocal and likely to loudly demand help when she is stuck on a roof or the wrong side of the fence. We love them to bits and they are very happy little cats.

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