

# Happy Ending

## Violet & Mathilda - their adoption story told by their new mum

Our first encounter with a Tonkinese cat was about 25 years ago. We were looking for a new cat to join our family when our previous Tortoiseshell rescue cat had died and we realised how empty the house felt without one. We approached the local Cats Protection branch who said they had a couple of cats that might suit and would we like to go and see them.

On arrival Poseidon, the 18 month old Blue Mink Tonkinese cat, who was running free in the annexe where the pens were, leapt into my arms, headbutted me and I fell in love. His constant companion, a terrified, spitting, hissing, large ginger British shorthair, came home with us too!

The ginger cat, Asopus, spent 22 months under the spare bed, only coming out for food and to use the litter tray, until he learnt to trust humans again.

They were inseparable companions who filled our lives with joy. We always had professional house sitters if we went away, even for a weekend, as Poseidon needed attention and our house sitters would regularly email us to ask about him as they too had fallen in love with him.

When Poseidon died at the grand old age of 22, we were heartbroken. He had shown us the marvellous characteristics of the breed, loving, playful, intelligent and above all their need for stimulation and attention, and ultimately how wonderful it was to have a Tonkinese in your life.



We never thought we would be lucky enough to find another one, but I registered with the Tonkinese Cat Club as a prospective adopter.

I hoped that no Tonkinese cat would ever need to be rescued but was realistic enough to know that sometimes things happen and people's circumstances change. I had regular emails from the register to check our status and had resigned myself to never getting the call. Until it came. There were possibly four Tonkinese needing rehoming, would we be interested?

I had just retired, so the timing could not have been more perfect. We sent off details of our previous experience to the local Cats Protection Coordinator. As the owner had been ill for some time, the paperwork for the four cats wasn't clear, in fact there was paperwork for 7 different cats and then some of the paperwork was missing! She put us in touch with the fosterer who gave us some more details and sent us some photographs.

The cats each needed a full course of vaccinations as it wasn't clear who had received what and one of the cats needed minor surgery to remove a small lipoma on her neck. This meant it would be a few weeks before we would meet them. The fosterer was using the time to work out the best pairings so we could adopt two of them.

Eventually we were able to go and meet them and bring them home. We have adopted Violet aged 12 and her daughter Mathilda aged 11, both Tortie Tonks.

Day one must have been quite scary for them and Mathilda was the first one to start exploring, very confident and investigating every nook and cranny in my husband's study whilst Violet hid behind the sofa. Within a few days Violet was sitting on my lap, headbutting me and the purring has just got louder every day. They each have their own double sized cat beds and watching them sleep, and knowing they feel safe is just wonderful. Both of them also love to nap in the spots where the sun comes through the windows.



KEEPING HUMOM WARM

They have been with us for less than two weeks but already they are enchanting us, taking up lots of our time playing with them and winning their confidence, the house is littered with cat toys and we could not be happier.

Over the next few weeks we will introduce them to the rest of the house and the garden. We are so please that we registered with the Tonkinese Cat Club as prospective adopters and feel really blessed to have them both.

If we can give them a happy loving home for the rest of their lives, however short or long that is, that will be a very good thing.

**Written by: Deb Laphorne**

