

Autumn's Story

By Wendy Gardiner

It's amazing how a pet can bring you years of companionship, joy and love. That's what I had from my beautiful Siamese, Katie. My Mom rescued her from the Humane Society and gave her to me. Katie was my first pet that was my sole responsibility. I had her for ten years when a sudden change in her health led me down a sad and distressful path.

Katie was diagnosed with cancer and one month later, she was gone. I struggled with the decision to euthanize her to ease the agony she was experiencing. But on September 12, the day after I decided it was time, she left me on her own will.

I was devastated and felt the kind of lost feeling that only other pet owners can understand. My Mom told me that, "all pets will eventually bring heartache," and that you have to appreciate the many years of happiness they did bring.

Knowing that I needed another kitty, I wanted it to be the "right" kitty. One that needed me as much as I would need her. When I was visiting my boyfriend in California, we found that "right" kitty shivering and hungry, abandoned at a Shell gas station. I gave her some food, scratched her ears, cried silently and then left. What was I to do with a kitten when I had to get on a plane soon headed for Atlanta?

Days later, I called my boyfriend and told him that I had made a big mistake and regretted leaving the kitten. I knew that kitty was to be mine and I had left her! Two days later, Pete surprised me by e-mailing a picture of the kitten we had seen. He found her on a Los Angeles county animal shelter's website!

Pete said he would get and keep her until I would be able to fly back to San Diego. The following week I was headed out west again. When I arrived, Pete had the kitty and I hugged and kissed her even before I greeted him!

Her beautiful Torti coloring inspired us to name her Autumn. She is the most beautiful kitty I've ever seen! And her personality is one-of-a-kind. While she weighed a measly 1 ½ pounds, we outfitted her in a ferret's harness and leash since the kitten's harness was too big.

Autumn traveled with us 2,000 miles all over California in the car. She became accustomed seeing new things and meeting new people. She was constantly held and loved, which I believe was the impetus of how she developed her amazing personality.

She loves to cuddle and sit in laps. Autumn enjoys riding in the car and has more frequent flyer miles than the average person since she has traveled by plane between San Diego and Atlanta five times! While she still hasn't vocalized her meow very well, she certainly knows how to communicate by giving kisses and cuddles to show her affection for her new home and family.