



Second Chance

Sheridan Rescue

Currently on the WishList:

- Food
- Blankets and Towels
- Cat beds
- Litter
- Paper towels
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent
- Food & water bowls

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<http://sheridancatrescue.org>

Finding our Spirit

It was a sunny, beautiful November day on Monday, the 16. We had just gone to Gillette to make a proposal for grant money and were headed home to the cats.

That's when she found us.

Driving down a county road, a young cat ran out in front of the car. Luckily, she was far enough ahead we had plenty of time to stop. When we got a closer look at her, we realized she was in bad shape.

She was young, probably 6 months or so, had crusty eyes and a runny nose, and—most noticeably—she was pure skin and bones. With some encouragement and a short chase, we were able to catch her and rush her to our veterinarians in Sheridan.

Even though she hadn't eaten in days, was sick and surely felt miserable (she had a fever of 103.8°), she purred throughout her entire examination. It was obvious she knew we were going to help her and everything was going to be ok. She stayed overnight at the vet to receive fluids and get some rest. At this point she didn't have the energy to hold up her own head.



Spirit

Age: 6 months
Weight: 3.14 lbs

She is still recovering, but has adapted quickly to life at Second Chance. She is still in a quarantine room so that she will not become stressed from new animals and a large new environment. We know with complete certainty she will make a wonderful, loving pet for a family.

Her sweet nature and determination to live prompted the only name that really could suit her: Spirit.

SCSCR Update

We have been fortunate enough to find a local attorney willing to help us with our 501(c)(3) status application. We are extremely grateful as this allows us to continue to use our time caring for the animals instead of filling out paperwork! We hope to receive our official non-profit status from the IRS soon.

The website will continuously be added to, but please check it out and sign up for our newsletters. We are in the process of setting up a bank

account and will have a PayPal link up soon for any donations you might be willing to provide. Remember, even a \$5.00 donation will buy 10 cans of moist cat food. Every little bit helps!

We thank you all for your support.

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A Tail of Two Kitties



Niran (above) and Kiet (right) on their first day at SCSCR.

Kiet and Niran are purebred Siamese, and want nothing more than to love you every second of the day! The brothers were abandoned by their former people. They were found in the family's now-empty house with no food or water. Their collars were so tight they had to be cut off, and a ring of rubbed-off fur can be detected easily. Despite their older age (approximately 8 years), they adapted quickly to life here at SCSCR, and certainly love to be petted. Sometimes you can

hear them purring from the next room! Very sadly, we discovered cancer in Kiet's mouth. We were told he might have two months to live, and those months would be very painful. We sat with Kiet while the vet helped him pass over. Niran appears to be doing fine despite the loss of his brother. He has picked out his own pillow and gets along with all the other cats. We are worried his eye-sight may be failing, as he often falls off things. He is also recovering from a urinary tract infection.

“Over the course of several weeks, we enticed Tchook to the back door with plates of scrumptious cat food”

Cat of the Month: Tchook

Tchook (*the T is silent*) has a long history with SCSCR. His mom, Angel, was a sweet stray that knew to bring her two kittens to our garage for safety. Angel and her two sons lived happily in the garage for several months. However, when winter started to come, we knew we had to get them inside. Picking up Angel was never a problem—she loved attention. Her kittens, however, had limited human contact and were, essentially, feral. We did man-

age to catch Tchook's brother and took him to the Dog & Cat Shelter to find a home. Tchook, however, proved to be more of a challenge. Over the course of several weeks, we enticed Tchook to the back door with plates of scrumptious cat food. Little by little, we got him closer to the door until finally we managed to shoo him into the house. We didn't see him for a few days, but we knew he was safe and indoors! Tchook is now three years old,

and still feral. He sleeps on the window sill and allows us to be near him, but not touch him. His best friend is Baloo, and they cuddle together on a daily basis.



Zip and Galadriel take a nap after a hard day of playing.

Veterinary Expenses This Month

Spirit: \$271

Spirit (see cover story) required immediate attention when she arrived at the vet. She was tested for FELV, given fluids, and had x-rays taken to ensure no internal injuries.

Kiet: \$278

Kiet had an extremely infected mouth, and during his dental cleaning a large cancerous mass was discovered. To prevent Kiet from further pain, we helped him pass over. We miss him dearly.

Niran: \$430

Niran is the sweetest Siamese you will ever meet! He needed his teeth cleaned and some infected teeth removed, and had to go on antibiotics for a very bad urinary tract infection.

Monte: \$314

Monte was abandoned on Decker Highway with his crate and no food. A Good Samaritan brought him to SCSCR. Monte needed his teeth cleaned and some infected teeth pulled. He was also treat-

ed for a urinary tract infection. **Andy: \$1,200**

Andy became very sick, very unexpectedly. He lost a significant amount of weight and had to be fed through a syringe every hour. He spent many days at the vet under close observation and didn't begin eating on his own until 3 weeks had passed. His blood work showed problems in the liver and gallbladder. He is still on antibiotics trying to recover.

What is Stomatitis?

You've heard of gingivitis—but what is stomatitis? Unfortunately it is a dental disease that affects 70% of cats. Basically, it is a very painful inflammatory condition. Symptoms include swollen or painful gums, obvious pain in the mouth, cessation of eating, crying when eating, weight loss, and bad breath. If your cat has bad breath, he may have an infection and should be immediately taken to your vet. No one really knows the cause of stomatitis. Cats tend to be sensitive to bacterial plaque,

which can suppress the immune system. Stress and infection of feline leukemia virus (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) may also suppress the immune system. Feline calicivirus (FCV) is believed by some vets to be the leading cause of stomatitis. Some breeds may also have a genetic predisposition to the disease.

It is important to check your cat's teeth and gums often. Any swelling or redness could be a sign of dental disease and should be examined by your

vet. Extreme stomatitis will present redness across the sides of the mouth and down the back of the throat. This is a very painful experience for your kitty. Keep a close eye on his mouth to ensure he is healthy. Preventative measures such as teeth brushing and regular cleanings may help prevent dental disease—however, they will not help in the treatment of stomatitis. Talk to your vet about any concerns you may have be proactive in the health and happiness of your cat.



Stomatitis in Padfoot, age 6.

About Laser Therapy

So now that we have told you about the hopelessness of stomatitis, we'll tell you how to treat it.

Many of our cats have gone through this horrible disease. We tried antibiotic after antibiotic, special foods—we even removed all the teeth on some. Nothing worked! Nothing, that is, except laser therapy.

Treatment with the Companion Therapy Laser

(companiontherapylaser.com) takes only a few minutes, and it expedites the healing process by stimulating deep cellular activity.

This, along with regular dental cleanings, is the only successful treatment we have found for stomatitis. Inflammation is reduced, all damaged tissue is healed, and the overall quality of our cat's lives has vastly improved.

Padfoot had such bad stomatitis we had considered helping him

pass on—he was in so much pain all the time he couldn't even eat baby food. After just one laser treatment, we saw an amazing difference. After 6 treatments, he was completely healed; not even a speck of red in his mouth. Truly a miracle after such a long battle with this disease.

If you have any questions about laser therapy, contact Bischoff Veterinary Service at 307-674-4500.

“After just one laser treatment, we saw an amazing difference. After 6 treatments, he was completely healed.”

Understanding Rabies

Did you know that you are required by law to have your pet vaccinated against rabies? This is because your pet could be in danger of contracting the disease, even if they never go outside. Because bats can enter houses, there is a lot of potential for exposure. Rabies is a deadly virus for both animals and humans. There is no cure, and treatments for symptoms are ineffective. Rabies has an average incubation period of 3-7 weeks. This

means if your cat is bitten by a wild animal today, you may not begin to see symptoms for another month.

Symptoms are produced as a result of brain swelling. The rabies infection causes inflammation of the brain. Symptoms may include anxiety and stress, drooling, convulsions, muscle spasms, and several more. Animals that are suspected of having contracted rabies must either be quarantined for six months to determine if symp-

toms arise, or they must be euthanized and their brain sent to the state lab for examination. Keeping your pet up-to-date on her vaccinations will prevent either of those options from ever occurring. Northeast Wyoming has seen an increase in rabies this year, especially in skunks. Be aware of animal behavior—if the skunk does not act afraid of your presence, it is most likely rabid. Call the Sheridan Police at 672-2413 for assistance.



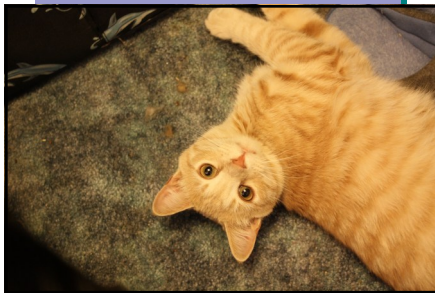
All cats at SCSCR are kept up-to-date with their vaccinations. Here, a few help themselves to some freshly bought food. Yum! (From top: Speedy, Les, Jayson, and Galadriel).



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“Thanks for reading!”
~Simba

Providing love and hope for those who need it most.

We are a private rescue group consisting of two cooperative all-volunteer entities. Currently we have two separate temporary facilities in Sheridan, WY.

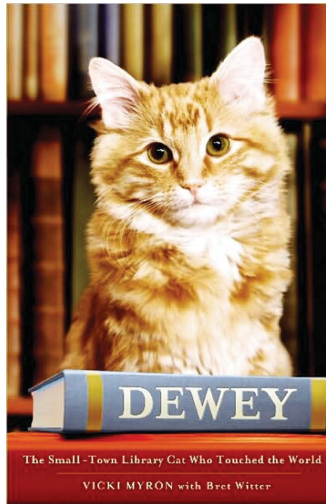
All of our cats are spayed/neutered and vaccinated. We are completely no-kill, and only euthanize animals that are in pain or suffering from disease.

We are not a public animal shelter. If you have a healthy cat that needs a home, please take it to the Sheridan Dog & Cat Shelter. We will only take potentially adoptable cats if the shelter is full or temporarily closed due to illness.

Book Review: Dewey

It's a story we can all empathize with: a tiny kitten, shoved in a library book-return slot in the middle of the night during a cold Iowa winter. This sad beginning quickly turns into an entertaining tale of life in a library with a cat in charge. We read about the ups and downs in Dewey's life, as well as the author's life—an alcoholic husband, living on welfare, and breast cancer take the reader on a ride through real life. All the while, however, Dewey is there to show his support and let everyone know (as all cats do) that he's the boss.

The story of Dewey was international news long before this book was written. Dewey sat with disabled children and helped them learn confidence, provided company to business men reading the *Wall Street*



Dewey: The Small-Town Cat Who Touched the World
By Vicki Myron

Journal, and, quite often, ate rubber bands. The story is written by a wom-

an who very obviously loved this cat. Critics complain of the anthropomorphism throughout the book—but those of us with cats understand quite well when she claims Dewey can read her thoughts and enjoys playing hide and seek.

As the book is about the full life of Dewey the cat, it does take us to the very end, where we must say goodbye to his beautiful spirit. Have a box of tissues ready, you'll dearly miss this cat you never knew. The only downside to the book is the occasional digressions the author takes on the history of her home-town (I mean, we're here for the cat, right?). Overall, a highly recommended read.

SCSCR rating: 4.5 stars