**ArPets**

**By Joan Brady**

**Arlington Connection**

These Two Cats Have Six Legs Between Them

I watched as Hank stopped dead in his tracks to observe the jaunty step of the three-legged dog as he passed us on his way up Wilson Blvd. Hank didn’t turn away until the canine and his pet parent were well out of sight. While I obviously can’t read Hank’s mind, it looked to me like he was marveling at the sight; enthralled by the dog’s ability to take the hand he was dealt and not let it deter him.

While many may have seen a three-legged dog or two walking the streets, how many of us have observed a three-legged cat? The Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation (LDCRF) apparently sees 4-5 a year, so they are way more common than I would have thought.

Today I want to introduce you to not one, but TWO tripod cats. Kobe and Mia are not litter mates, soul mates or particularly interested in being adopted together. But they each hope to find a forever home. Here are their stories…

**KOBE**

Kobe came to LDCRF all the way from Mississippi. Many rescue animals end up in this area because they are significantly more likely to find permanent homes here. Not much is known about why the Mississippi vet thought that Kobe’s front leg had to go, but apparently there was some trauma that precipitated the decision. While the surgery may have been done down south, Kobe did his rehab with foster dad and cat room coordinator for LDCRF, Steve Swart.

Swart has previous experience with three-legged felines and says, “Three legged cats lead very healthy normal lives. They adjust well to life without a limb and don’t seem to worry about it much at all…they learn their limits and find solutions easily.”

According to Swart, it took just a little time for Kobe to gain enough confidence to jump on and off furniture, but he adjusted pretty quickly. Other activities have required a bit of cat ingenuity. Without a left paw, how would Kobe groom the left side of his face? Kobe figured out if he licks Swart’s hand, he can then smash his face into that wet palm and use it a bit like a washcloth. Now that is pretty creative.

Swart reports that Kobe is a “good guy who wants to be your buddy.” He doesn’t have an adorable story to tell of mayhem created by the Kobe-ster, but mentioned that Kobe is the sort of bathroom attendant he “never needed.” I’m guessing quite a few pet parents out there can relate.

If Kobe would talk, he could tell you that his handsome face, cool scars and perseverance are hard to resist. And he would want you to know that he is a great napper and would love to share your bed. Swart says that anyone who is lucky enough to bring Kobe home will feel loved, needed and appreciated every day. Check out Kobe’s page at lostdogrescue.org or email Steve at cats@lostdogrescue.org

**MIA**

Mia hails from West Virginia and recently arrived in this area. Her foster mom reports that she is “mellow-tempered, loves to be with people and cat friendly.” She likes to relax in the sun and watch the birds through the window. And she LOVES to be showered with attention. But hey…

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By Shirley Ruhe
Arlington Connection

Camps Excited to be Back in Person

Adopting

Activity

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dia https://alexdriaanimals.org/
Homeward Trails https://www.homewardtrails.org/
Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation https://www.lostdogrescue.org/
PetConnect Rescue https://www.petconnectrescue.org/
Wolf Trap Animal Rescue https://www.wtarecues.com/
ArPets is a weekly feature for highlighting the well-loved pets of Arlington as well as animals who are available for adoption. If you or your dog, cat, iguana, bunny, rat or any other pet, has an interesting pet story to tell, send email to: joan@joanbradyphotography.com. Joan is an award-winning Connection Newspapers columnist and local photographer specializing in pets, children and families and contemporary business portraits.

Steve at cats@lostdogrescue.org
page at lostdogrescue.org or email Steve at cats@lostdogrescue.org to help you find your perfect match:

Adopting

Mia
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