

# A Pawsitive Ending

by Jessica Beganski

## Bear

Bear is a very lucky black cat. Just before the holidays in 2006, a woman called Our Companions desperate for help. Her mother had just passed away and she was being evicted from her home where she and her mother were living with their eight senior cats.

In conjunction with local animal control, Our Companions was able to negotiate a temporary solution. The cats were allowed to remain in their home while new homes were found. Five of the eight cats were adopted while the other three, all with medical conditions, could not be placed quickly.

Bear was among the cats who were not adopted. Overweight and diabetic, ten year-old Bear was taken in by his previous owner who had found another place to live. After a few months, the twice-daily insulin shots and medical expenses became too burdensome and the woman felt she had no other choice but to euthanize Bear.

Just before bringing Bear to her veterinarian, she decided to contact Our Companions again. Bear earned another reprieve when Our Companions went to work trying to find him another home.

Around Valentine's Day of this year, Denise Worster heard Susan Linker on the radio, describing how she had a black long-haired, senior, diabetic cat up for adoption. The year before, Denise had said goodbye to her longtime companion, a black long-haired cat named Merlin. Denise missed Merlin terribly and her husband was looking for a long-haired black kitten to help mend her broken heart.

Although Denise and her husband were originally thinking about adopting a kitten, Denise was drawn to Bear's plight. Not only was he the perfect color, Denise and her husband could relate to Bear's health condition – they are both diabetic. For Denise, it seemed like fate. "Who better than two diabetics to take care of Bear," Denise remarked.

When Denise took Bear home to meet her five other cats and two dogs, he seemed to fit right in. "We put him in a large dog crate with the room door open so everyone could get used to each other," Denise recalls. After a few days with the crate door closed, they opened the door and Bear began spending more time outside the crate in the room and eventually outside of the room. "My other pets welcomed him like he was just another one of the kids."

In one additional way, Bear is a perfect fit into Denise's home. Shortly after adopting him, Denise talked with Bear's original owner who told her that he was born on July 29 and shares the zodiac sign of Leo with both Denise and her husband.

At the time of his adoption, Bear was grossly overweight. With proper nutrition and regular insulin shots, Bear is thriving in his new home. When asked if the insulin shots are difficult to give him, Denise says that Bear purrs loudly when he's getting his shots. "He seems to know I'm helping him."



Note: Just before publication, Bear passed away unexpectedly from a condition unrelated to his diabetes. Diane and her family find comfort in knowing Bear's short time with them was the best in his life.

Bear is happiest when being held, by his doting mom, Denise Worster.