

TAB: *Love beyond eyesight*

What can I say about Tab? Where do I start? After our girl Misty passed on.. it took some time to get over her death but I know I wanted to carry on in memory of her and adopt more animals that needed a home. After her death, we decided to start up a retirement home for all senior and physically impaired animals. One day Ingrid brought my attention to one of the havens residents.. Tab. Tab was a middle aged blind boy who needed a home. I must admit.. I was rather unsure when I first discovered Tab.

Not because I didn't want to take him but he was blind.. and I had never even met a blind animal before let alone know how to care for one. It did take me some time to make the decision.. ill admit. But I did decide to adopt Tab. I just had no idea how to care for a blind cat. I didn't know what to expect. I drove up to Ingrid's in Wallan and went and had some one on one time with him. He was curled up in his leopard print bed and I had a chat with him to see how he took with me. I didn't have second thoughts.. I wanted to take Tabby home. I was so afraid and unsure and no idea what to expect but I wanted to take Tabby home. And it was one of the best decisions I have EVER made in my entire life and wouldn't change it for the world.

I took Tab home and it wasn't what I expected. I expected him to not cope. But it couldn't have been further from the truth! Tab adjusted so quick. I was amazed. He adjusted to everything so quick.. and he began eating immediately! (which now knowing Tab as well as I do.. doesn't surprise me. Tab may be blind.. but he knows where the food is!). Soon enough Tabby got used to where everything was.. he toilet.. his meals area.. and of course the heater!. Tab was a mystery. I didn't really know anything about him.. his age.. his past.. All I knew was that he had come from a home where the woman was a horter and had kept many animals and most were removed by RSPCA and Tab managed to end up at Ingrid's instead. He was such a mystery and we had so much to learn from each other. Each day Tab grew more and more at home and were starting to learn more and more about him.. his quirks.. his likes.. dislikes. One thing that I have learnt about Tab.. is that he ADORES nothing more than to be held and loved. Tab loves physical contact.. hugs.. kisses. He literally can't get enough of it! He also ADORES it when I kiss his little head (like I used to do with Misty). He loves when I hold him and kiss his head. He is a purring machine. Tab also loves the heater. In winter Tab is permanently in front of the heater. He also loves his bed and he has discovered what the fridge is so has been known to stalk out the fridge from time to time.

We recently realised Tab's age and worked out that he must have been 13 when we got him from Ingrid.. and so far Tab has celebrated his 14th and 15th birthday with us all and has shared 2 Christmas's with us all. We are eager to celebrate his 16th birthday this August! Early this year Tab started to act a little strange physically. He started sitting weird and walking weird. He didn't seem to be in pain.. but just walked and sat awkwardly. So I took him to his vets and his vet kept him there for the day and later told me that Tab had diabetes! Wow. Diabetes. I was learning so many new things with Tab. Not only was he my first blind animal.. but he was now my first animal with diabetes and it was such a learning curve for me. I took Tab home with his insulin, needles and food and so began giving him shots twice a day after meals and I do that every day now. He knows the drill.. we have our routine. We get up.. he has his meal and he gets his insulin for the day.. then has his dinner and night time insulin. I think he was a little sad by this as he no longer got to have little midday snacks!.

I must admit.. I took Tab on very unsure.. not that I wouldn't love him and care for him.. but I admit.. there wasn't that instant connection between us. Today.. it couldn't be any more opposite. Tab and I are INSEPERABLE!. Tab follows me everywhere around the house. If Tab isnt on my lap at the computer, he's on our laps on the couch. Tab and I have the most amazing strong bond that I have never fully had with an animal before like this. Every morning and ever night I give Tab huge cuddles and am always telling him how much I love him and how much we all love him. Tab is so cheeky. He has such a cheeky personalty. He talks back to us all the time. He loves being kissed and hugged. He loves being love! Tab is my world. I live every for Tab. Each day I think of Tabby and wonder what he's doing at home and cant wait to get home and give him a big hug!

When were not home during the day.. we play movies for him on the computer. He loves watching Jurrasic Park.. The Simpsons and Ghostbusters. Tab loves sitting on the couch looking out the window. And even though he cant see.. I know he sees things in other ways. Tab knows me without me even speaking. Ill walk into a room in the morning and without saying a word.. he knows ive come into the room. Tab knows when I get home. He'll hear the garage door open and if its my car he'll get up. He only does this with me.. noone else.

No words can describe how much we treasure Tab. He's our life. Tabby is a little man and has stolen the hearts of anyone that meets him. When we go on holidays.. Tab has his own room to stay in at Nan & Pop's house and is spolit rotten by them. I hope we can spend a few more years to come with our Tab and don't want to think about when he has to leave us.. lets just take one day at a time and make every day the best world a little blind cat can have! Thank you again Ingrid for loving Tab as much as we do. Thank you to Alison who sponsered him and also didn't give up hope. Your love and committment has paid off as Tab now can spend the rest of this earth life living it up.. living life to the fullest!



Tab is such a lazy bones!! He loves sleeping under the blankets and curling up with us when we watch TV.

Mummy & daddy loves you Tabby..Nan & Pop love you Tabby. Ren & Authur love you Tabby. Winnie & George and Misty love you Tabby. Ingrid and Alison love you Tabby. xoxoxoxox

MISTY: A Senior's Long Wait is finally over!

One day I decided I wanted to adopt a cat. But not just any cat.. a senior cat. Based on my lifestyle, I needed a cat who would be able to stay indoors and wouldn't require heaps of one on one time, as I didn't have the time. Being a long time animal rights activist and strong advocate for responsible pet ownership.. I wanted to make a responsible decision and knew a senior cat would be suitable. I had never adopted a cat before and didn't know where to find one. I am extremely anti pet shops and based on wanting an older cat.. I didn't know where to look. I joined a cat form and was shown to Ingrid's Cat Haven which was perfect as it was only an hour from home.

I had seen Misty's profile on the Haven's website and read her profile. 8 years she had been at the shelter! 8 long years she was waiting for a home. At that moment... I knew I was going to take Misty home. I drove up to Ingrid's (when she was still in Wallan) and met her for the first time. She walked me over to Misty's area and as she walked me over there.. she explained to me that she had been unable to find Misty a home yet due partly to her age.. Commenting on one woman's disgusting comment stating that it would be a waste of money to buy a senior!.. I didn't care how old Misty was. I didn't care how long I would have her for. Even if she passed away a week later.. I just wanted to offer her the home she had waited so long for... I wanted her to pass over being utterly spoiled and loved. Ingrid had also stated that many people wouldn't take Misty because they thought she was too ugly!??.. Yes, Misty had a very distinct face.. but I thought she was the most beautiful old girl ☺ and either way.... no animal should be denied a loving home based on what they look like. That is not unconditional love. That isn't even love.

So Ingrid left me with Misty... to have some alone time.. I picked her up and I whispered in her little old ear.. "your coming with me". There was no hesitation. I knew from day one that Misty would be coming home with me. Ingrid was so excited! And it was almost like she had given up.. afraid that Misty would pass over at the Shelter. And I couldn't understand why no one had taken Misty sooner. I took Misty home and she instantly ruled the house. Naturally, Misty remained predominately an indoor resident. I would let her out occasionally in the backyard.. but only on nice sunny warm days.. and I would stay with her and supervise the whole time. She enjoyed sniffing the garden and eating bits of grass.. but she much preferred to stay inside and peer out the window from the inside. There was nothing more that Misty enjoyed doing.. than curling up and having a long day time snooze on the couch. Misty wasn't the most affectionate girl. She didn't really like to be picked up or handled much and she was rather aloof.. (Understandably) but she did love to be kissed on her head. I used to always kiss her gently on her head. Misty lived on her own terms and kept to herself most of the time and that was fine. I just let her live out the rest of her time.. in her way.. on her terms.. just being in a safe, warm and loving "retirement home". She was a very vocal girl too. When she was hungry.. she would send out a very loud distinct call.. and spoke. It almost sounded like she would say "Huuuunngrny". Misty was permanently on Hills KD for her kidney disease. I used to be a vet nurse so each week id come home with a big slab of KD wet food and some bickies. She loved them.

We got Misty when she was 16 and we got to celebrate her 17th birthday with her in the November. We had a party for her and even wore party hats. Sadly she didn't get chance to have an 18th birthday. 5 months later in April, Misty suffered from a stroke. Still to this day I break down in absolute tears thinking about my last hour with my girl. I received a call from my husband telling me Misty wasn't well. He had come from work and had found Misty lying on the kitchen floor.. pretty much immobilized. She had wet herself and couldn't move. It was such a shock because she seemed fine in the morning when

we had both gone to work. I rushed home quick and was there asap. I kept begging Misty in mind to just hold on till I got home so I could at least say goodbye. And she did. I got home and she was on the floor. We instantly wrapped her up gently in her red blanket and rushed her to the emergency. We were told that she had a stroke and there wasn't anything that could be done to help her. And I knew. This was it. I broke down in tears.. holding her in my arms. I had never had to make that decision before but I knew I had to. My girl needed to go in peace.. with dignity. I couldn't speak.. Choking on tears I gave consent to euthanize my girl. I held her in my arms as they sent her to sleep.

All I remember is holding her in my arms and continually whispering her in her ears.. "we love you so much!!".. "you are so beautiful". And that was it. My girl had passed over. I got Misty cremated by a lovely lady who ran a service called "All roads lead to heaven". She came to our home.. and we spent some time with Misty before she took Misty away. She gave me chance to really say goodbye and gave Misty the utmost respect. Misty's ashes came back in a beautiful little wooden box which sits in the lounge room. We still have her red blanket which is now being appreciated by our new senior resident Tab (Also from Ingrid's Haven).

Misty was only in our lives for a short time.. but I knew she left us finally feeling like she had a forever home with us. Thank you Ingrid for never giving up hope! Thank you for never giving up on Misty. If she was in any other shelter, she would have gone long ago. Despite 8 years.. you never gave up on our girl. Misty was given her second chance in life just in time and its all because of your unconditional strength and love. Thank you. After Misty passed over, we decided to adopt more seniors. Misty has become a legacy for all senior animals. We have started a 'retirement home' for all senior (and disabled) animals. Allowing them to carry out their last moments in life.. living in absolute luxury.. in a safe, warm, unconditionally loving home... in memory of our first senior girl.



Misty having one of her classic daily day time snoozes on a comfy soft cushion. It's a hard life!



Misty out in the garden on a warm sunny day.

RIP: Misty. You are our forever BEAUTIFUL little girl.. and I know you'll be waiting to meet the other residents when they too cross over. ☺ see you again soon my girl.

Xoxox Love always Carolyn, Matt, Tab, Winnie & George.
