



All Is Forgiven!

When Linda was talking with a friend whose cat had passed away, it came to her that perhaps BoBo, her large black and white feral cat, might be ready to become an inside cat. She would have offered the inside of her home, but BoBo could be a bit of a bully and she already had two other cats inside.

So she contacted me to offer him the opportunity to be a single cat in a comfortable warm home for the rest of his days. He wasn't quite sure as he was pretty happy with his current living conditions, but the idea of a warm, weather free environment was a bit appealing. We also let him know if he got there and didn't like it, his porch at Linda's would still be available.

Bo easily walked into his cat carrier as we had instructed him to do if he was willing to try this and off he went to his new home.

The inside environment proved to be too much for the semi feral who was used to his outdoor existence. Outside felt free and made sense to him. Inside, he felt trapped and restricted. He was totally overwhelmed, so Linda lived up to her part of the bargain and returned to bring BoBo back home. Once she got him back at his beloved porch she opened his carrier. There was a black blur of fur bursting out of the carrier and streaking through her yard, disappearing to the outer edges of her property.

A few days passed by without a sighting of BoBo and his food that she left him had not been touched. Linda was devastated. I don't deal with helping to locate missing animals anymore, but when Linda phoned to say she felt she had betrayed him and wanted simply to apologize I felt a need to help.

When I connected with the tough street guy I could see him sitting staring at Linda's backyard from a distance. Had he been human, he'd have had his arms crossed with a scowl on his face. He was definitely angry and resentful. I reminded him that we had "discussed" all of this and Linda was simply trying to give him an opportunity for an easier more comfortable life. In addition, she had lived up to her end by bringing him back home.

I could feel him listening, but the only response I got was another wave of resentment and some anger. I asked where this was coming from and he related to me that a long time ago before Linda, he once had another person who left him. He had grown to love Linda and their interactions outside, but in his opinion Linda had proved to be untrustworthy like other humans. I felt a tinge of sadness for him, but it didn't last long. I know Linda well, I have actually been to her house before, and so I know what a generous, kind and loving heart she has for animals. Armed with that knowledge it was easy for me to respond to the hostile feline.

"BoBo, I am sorry for what happened in the past, that was crappy, but not all humans are alike and you are doing yourself an injustice to think so. This seems to be an opportunity for you to see this and move forward. To me you were shown how much you are loved and respected by this human. She may not understand why you would wish to live your life outside, but she accepts your choice and loved you enough to honor your wishes. She is still there offering you meals and your heated cat bed on the porch. She still wants to have your interactions when she goes outside. Her arms and porch are open for you to come back to."

He simply blinked at me. I closed the session by thanking him for listening. Deep inside I thought I had felt a shift, but time would tell. Linda and I agreed we had done all we could.

It was that early evening when I got the email with the headline all in caps, "HE'S BACK!"

I burst into happy tears as I am sure Linda did, as well.

It's funny how our past experiences shape us, but it's beautiful when we allow a new experience to shift us into a happier place.

Meanwhile, Linda says ever since he came back home all has been "forgiven."

In Kinship,
Patty



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