

HAPPY ADOPTION STORY (How we love them!)

About three months after our beautiful little Kona passed away, my wife and I decided it was time to bring a new member into our family. So off we went to 9th Life. Our first visit was just to see all the cats. Whoever we brought home was, after all, going to have to not only adjust to a new life but also to get along with Rusty, our 8 year old dark orange tabby. Several cats caught our eye but we wanted some more time before we made a decision.

On our second visit one of the young cats that we had been considering started following my wife, Phyllis, wherever she went. Not only was this a sign but this particular cat, "Elmer", also bore a striking resemblance to our beloved Kona. He even had a kink in his tail (two really) just as Kona did. Cynthia, the adoption counselor, who was helping us called it a "Maui tail".

As we were sitting in the cat room pondering what to do, another young cat came up and walked across my lap, got petted for a few seconds, then walked off. This cat was larger than Elmer and was a mackerel tabby rather than Elmer's classic pattern. There was something about her attitude that I liked but I knew that my wife was really falling for Elmer. Then Cynthia told us the cats were actually brother and sister. Well, that did it. We decided that two cats were better than one.

Though these two, five month old kittens were litter mates they are quite different. Elmer, renamed Max, weighed in at a whopping 5.7 pounds while his sister, now named Maggie, was over 7 pounds. Where Max has a short "Maui" tail, Maggie's tail is as long as the rest of her body and is usually carried in a large graceful "C" high over her back. Max is becoming a great lap sitter but Maggie prefers to stretch her body out on the floor and wants us to come to her for petting. On our cat tree Max has a U shaped section that he loves to lie in while Maggie would rather curl up in one of the circular beds. Also Max is a great hider. It often takes us a half an hour or longer to find his newest resting spot. Maggie, however, can usually be found sprawled out on the floor somewhere within easy sight.

They are both adjusting very well to their new life. And Rusty is adjusting too. However, while he used to be a bit of a bully to Kona, he's not sure

what to make of these new arrivals who think they own the world (or at least the house.) But he still gets a lot of love and the kittens get locked up when we feed him his daily, canned, food treat so he can eat in peace. When he's done, we let the kids out and there is a mad rush to see if he has left any food. So, while Rusty may not have the whole house to himself anymore at least he's no longer bored. And the two new siblings are truly enjoying their new home. And we are truly enjoying them.

Phyllis & Paul

