

## Jasper

One of Shanti house's adoption success stories came by a circuitous route, but turned out "purrfectly" in the end.

This beautiful orange kitty was dumped at the sanctuary, starving, and with a blue collar embedded into his neck, clearly placed there when he was a smaller kitten, leaving a furless ring when removed by staff. After the usual vet check and neutering, he was named "Marley" and also "Bond, James Bond" because of his extraordinary composure and "cool." He was adopted into a new home, which was thoroughly vetted and screened.

All of Shanti House adoptees are required to keep their cats indoors due to the many dangers and the potential harm to wildlife. Unfortunately, this particular home did not adhere to this standard, and Marley escaped to roam the neighborhood adjacent to a busy street, where, despite frantic attempts, sanctuary staff could not locate him.

Approximately a month later, in the same neighborhood, Isabelle and Joe noticed that an orange cat was visiting their yard at night. He took to spending the night on one of their outdoor chairs (the only one with a cushion!). They could tell because he would pop up on their security cameras. During the day, he stayed in the yard, sniffing and strolling around. They fed him morning and night and he would devour all the food in minutes. He followed Isabelle everywhere and continued sleeping on the cushioned outdoor chair, generally making himself at home, eagerly accepting food and pets. So they decided to take him in. He quickly followed these new friends into their home, enthusiastically meowing. Within an hour, he had curled up on the couch, and fallen asleep! It was as if he was thinking "I know how bad it can get out there, I don't need any thrills -inside with these humans is much better." Clearly, outdoor life had nothing on this wonderful indoor sanctuary, and a plethora of available food.



Marley was then christened "Jasper" and nicknamed "CatDog" due to his affinity for greeting his new family at the door like a dog, and also greeting every stranger, always with interest and a sweet sniff. Henceforth he has become a cherished member of the household and is loved and appreciated for his spirit, gentleness, and intelligence.

Isabelle says "He is always ready to play and has settled into his little habits: wake up, wake up his humans, eat breakfast, play-hunt, nap . . . repeat." Isabelle and Joe say he is the most affectionate cat they have ever met, and their relationship has continued to evolve.

Jasper speaks to them as well and replies to anything they say to him as if he were having a conversation with them. Each meow has its own intonation, in other words, it has its own meaning. Isabelle and Joe are starting to understand him – or so they think!

There is a definite sense by all in his new family that he was guided to find this furrever home and they can't imagine life without him.

Perhaps kitty angels really do help facilitate such meetings!



**The end**