



Francesca with young Atticus

I connected with Francesca via a zoom call in between in her many projects to learn more about her adoption of Lucy, an orange tabby from Shanti's House. When I asked Francesca if she has always been a cat person, she chuckled and answered my question by reaching over to grasp the tail of a nearby cat, waving it at the camera. The tail belongs to Atticus, a sweet-natured male cat, who loves to help Francesca with her emails by walking across the keyboard and with keeping her workspace tidy by knocking everything possible off the desk. Along with Atticus, Francesca has an older female cat named Sara Mae.

Back in July of 2019, Lucy presented herself at Shanti's House after spending a few nights crying from a tree on a nearby hillside. Lucy's cries were met with gentle encouragement and offers of food from Kristina and others at Shanti's House. When Lucy's hunger exceeded her fear, she climbed down the tree and into the welcoming arms of volunteers. Francesca learned about Lucy from Kristina. Francesca was intrigued by the description of Lucy because a female, orange tabby had been a much loved part of Francesca's family years earlier.



Lucy shortly after rescue



Lucy and Atticus

When a new cat joins other adult cats in a home, peaceful co-existence is never a certainty. Francesca hoped that Atticus and Sara Mae would accept Lucy without too much trouble, but what happened came as a great surprise. Atticus and Lucy hit it off almost immediately. My theory was that Lucy's red hair reminded Atticus of Francesca, but Francesca reminded me that cats don't see color well, mostly muted blues and grays. Whatever the reason, Atticus had a new little sister and he loved spending time with her almost as much as with Francesca.

Besides time with Atticus, Lucy loves the catio space attached to a bathroom. Lucy can access the catio from the bathroom window and spend the whole day watching birds and catching lizards. When it is too hot for the catio, Lucy will often cool off with a nap in the sink.

Lucy remains shy around other people, but she has the run of the house and is the official taste tester of all food offerings. Lucy will sample Atticus' and Sara Mae's food before settling into her own meal. Lucy also hates to see food wasted, so she will happily finish off the leftovers.

Lucy has come a long way from her days as a skinny, abandoned stray. A stray that wisely put her trust in the kindness of the folks at Shanti's House.



Staying cool

