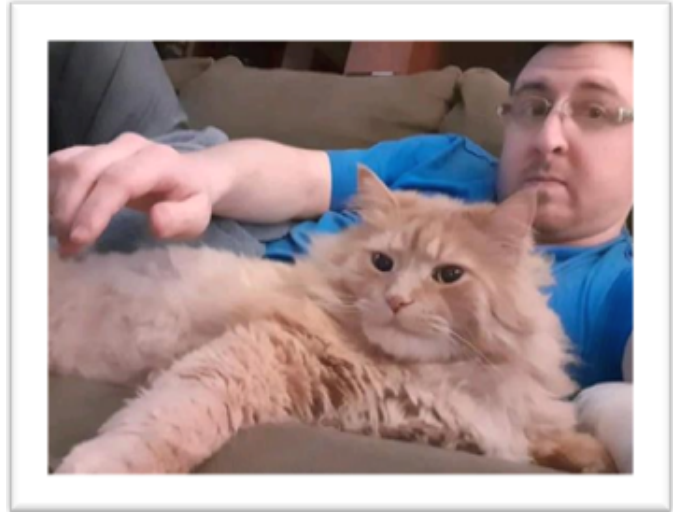


Cat Owner Spared from Administering Intravenous Medications at Home

Mustafa was feeling lousy.

The orange fuzzy cat had become blocked and couldn't urinate, was having toxins build up in his bloodstream and was sick. Like other male cats who have this happen, he eats dry food, is overweight and lives indoors. Mustafa stopped eating and began vomiting and discharging blood in his urine.

Mustafa hadn't led an easy life – at least for the first five years or so, until Jonathan Meyers learned a stray was living under a friend's porch for a year on the West Side and adopted him five years ago. "He was in really rough shape, and was just the sweetest cat ever," Meyers said. At around the same time, he took in a kitten that another friend had found in the wild, with the rest of his family apparently killed by a wild animal. That cat, who Meyers named Simba, and Mustafa became good friends in their domesticated life in the City of Tonawanda.



But Mustafa's health was in serious jeopardy when Meyers took him to see the veterinarian. To save the cat's life, the clinic sedated him and inserted a catheter to allow the urine to pass. Then they used IV fluids to flush out the toxins.

The veterinary clinic lowered the bill Meyers had to pay to \$700, but that was still steep for him, since he wasn't expecting the sudden expense. When Meyers toyed with the idea of taking Mustafa, with the catheter in place to give him medications at home, the vet offered to provide \$300 from the Pet Emergency Fund. The funds allowed Mustafa to remain in the clinic for three days to get the care he desperately needed.

Meyers was relieved. Mustafa had been resistant in the past when he tried to give his cat medicine orally. Now he was facing having to give medication with a needle. "I am sure I would have screwed up giving him the medication and it wouldn't have worked well, and it would have put his life in jeopardy," Meyers said. "The Pet Emergency Fund saved his life."

He's thrilled to have Mustafa back home and in good health again. "I know he's a cat, but I tell my friends that he's the best person I ever met."