



February 6, 2019

#LoveToTheMax #MaxUpdate - Days 1 & 2: When MAS posted on Facebook that Max needed a foster for a couple of weeks because he was so miserable at the shelter, I volunteered to try my hand at being less like @kittenlady and more like @thecatdaddy.

It's only Day 2, but already I can appreciate that it's so much harder when you can't just purrito them and persuade/force them to give in to your loooove.

Anyway, Max isn't exactly happier here yet, but at least I've managed to get him into a little house with a heated/padded cushion. I like to think he's scared and comfy now, rather than just scared. Maybe tomorrow he'll be unable to resist the tuna... he's displayed amazing fortitude thus far.



February 7, 2019

#LoveToTheMax #MaxUpdate - Day 3: Max was lying in his litter box this morning when I left for work, and it would appear he didn't move in the 10 hours since. He's still a no on the tuna, and he "meowled" (meowed/howled) when I tried to touch him. I kinda feel like that's an improvement because he was too scared to protest on day 1. At least he ate some kibble last night.

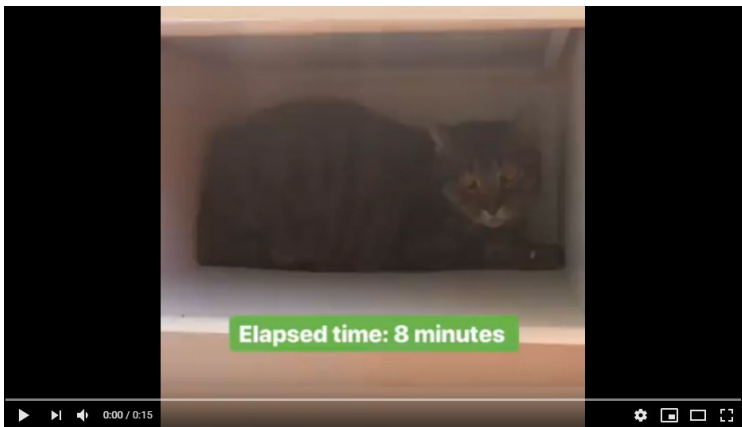


February 8, 2019

#LoveToTheMax #MaxUpdate - Day 4: Before Max arrived, I took the guest bed off the rails and put it on the floor so he couldn't hide underneath and avoid interacting entirely. Instead, I gave him a couple of places where I thought he'd feel safe, but where I could still see/reach him if necessary: a towel-covered carrier on the floor with the door open and a new K&H Pet Products heated house.

After I saw him camping out in the litter box yesterday, I cleaned a Kitty Kasas (so it wouldn't smell of other cats) and put that in in his room, as well.

Well, he didn't quite use it like I had expected but seems to appreciate it nonetheless. I clearly want him to have a cushioned surface to lie on far more than he does. ♀☐ Whatever floats your boat, Max! I'm working from home today and brought my laptop into his room, so we're hanging out all day. He's going to be exhausted at the end of the workday because he can't get a wink of sleep with me around since he refuses to take his eyes off me. Someday he'll nap, but not yet.



[Click here to watch Max fighting sleep](#)



February 8, 2019

#LoveToTheMax #MaxUpdate Victory! Max finally gave in to his sleepiness and is snoozing with me in the room. He held out for HOURS, but it's just so booooring when there's nothing to be afraid of. He hasn't yet lain his head down, but that's definitely next. I have some serious warm fuzzies right now.



[Click here to watch Max letting Mindy pet him for the first time](#)

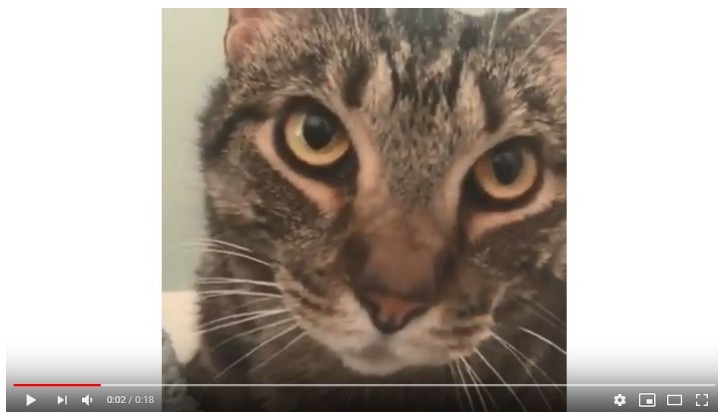


February 9, 2019

#LoveToTheMax #MaxUpdate - Day 5: BIG NEWS!!! Max lifted his chin for scratches today, and I have been able to confirm his elevator works! 🐱💖👏

Unfortunately, he has a bit more nasal congestion today. This is pretty common in cats when they're in stressful situations. I've started adding lysine to his food in hopes of combatting it so he doesn't develop an upper respiratory infection.👉

PS please forgive Carl (dog) singing the song of his people in the background. 🐶

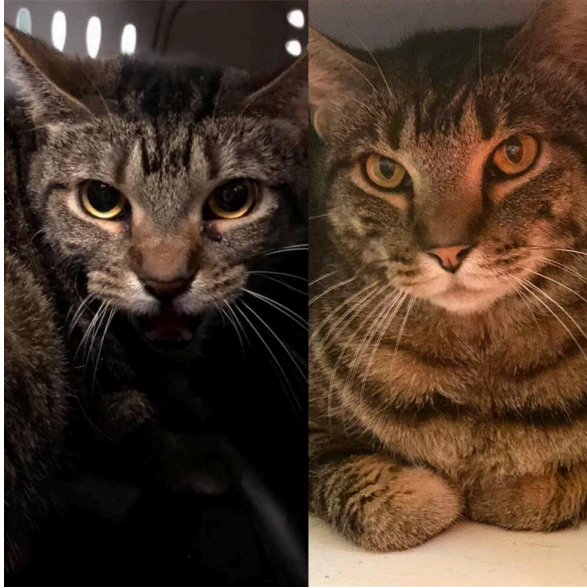


[Click here to listen to Max purr!](#)



February 9, 2019

#LoveToTheMax #MaxUpdate - Day 5(b): Well, that was fast. @danirutherford was right! Max really just hates the shelter and WILL blossom in a home... and pretty darned quickly, too. He's already pressing his head into my hand for scratches and PURRING! This guy is going to be an amazing companion for someone special. 🐾 Now to find him a home so I don't have to take him back to Memphis Animal Services for another bout of misery! 😊👉



February 9, 2019

#LoveToTheMax #MaxUpdate - Day 6

Fewer than six full days have passed between these photos. Max still isn't 100% comfortable yet, either, so I can only imagine how fabulous he's going to be once he is.



February 9, 2019

#LoveToTheMax #MaxUpdate - Day 6

Max continues to come out of his shell, and he jumped several hurdles today. These things might seem inconsequential, but they're a big deal for him:

- He gave me the coveted slow blink 🤍
- He ate treats in front of me
- He changed positions in front of me
- He groomed his paws in front of me
- He let himself fall all the way asleep with me in the room... laid his head down and was dreaming and everything!
- He inched ever so slightly closer to me for head

scratches

- He alllllmost flopped onto his side during some particularly euphoric petting 🐾

He also used the scratching post overnight, presumably for the first time in four months, and I had to check his feet to make sure he still had claws. 😊

I admit I had to refrain from dragging him out of the cubby and forcing him to cuddle with me today. One part of me was thinking, "I know I could make him love it." But the more sensible part of me said, "He'll come to you when he's ready." #patienceyounggrasshopper 🐌 🍄