

## *Spirit the Cat*



Spirit the Cat was a carefully planned special birthday gift for my son's 6th birthday. We had successfully adopted Cody the dog about 1 year ago (Oct 23, 2008) from your shelter. Cody's success story is also on your website. While Spirit's success story isn't filled with all of the twist and turns and coincidences that Cody's story had, it is still special in its very own way.

Before our son David was born, my husband and I had adopted many cats from the Humane Society of North Texas (Fort Worth) as well as welcomed at least 2 strays onto our home. I would say we have experienced most everything one could experience from owning cats. We moved to San Antonio 6 years ago with 3 cats and 3 dogs in tow. All cats were elderly and eventually passed away due to age and or disease. Even though we had loved all of our cats, both my husband and I were relieved that there was no litter box smell or one to clean. I would say we were happily cat-less! However, with David on board, that wasn't going to last too much longer.

After attending a pre-school field trip to a home in Boerne with a litter of kittens, David was named the Cat Whisperer by his teachers and they happily took many pictures of David with Puff-Puff the small, fluffy white kitten. David cried and cried because mean mommy wouldn't let him bring Puff Puff home. I tried to explain to him that we only adopt our animals from shelters. Of course, his 4 1/2 year old mind could not comprehend that. He just wanted Puff Puff! Anytime we were around a cat, he was drawn to them. He would ask if he could have a cat someday and I would jokingly respond, "Sure - when you're 20".

As David approached his 6th birthday, I started browsing the HS website and wondering if it would be a good idea to be owned by a cat again. I knew David would love the idea.

Once again on my way home from my yearly doctor's appointment on Fredricksburg Road, I made the stop at the HS, just like I did in 2008 when I found Cody the dog. This time I found "Sachiel". I looked at many cats and tried to find an older one that had the right temperament, but this 7 month old was a perfect fit. He was lively, loving and not timid. I left without him that day knowing I had to think about the decision.

Even though my husband was not on board at the time, I kept thinking about Sachiel and went to visit him one more time. On Friday Nov 20, I asked David if he would like to have a cat and his response was an overwhelming YES! We left for the shelter after his Kinder Thanksgiving performance and he was dressed as a Native American. I do believe this had something to do with David naming him Spirit, but David says he named him that because he was full of spirit. The picture of David and Spirit at the shelter was their first meeting and it was love at first sight. His friend Faith also loves to play with Spirit since she cannot have any cats. Out of all the cats that have owned us, Spirit has turned out to be a great mixture of the best that was in all of them. He is extremely loving and gives me hugs. He plays and is gentle with David. Everyone who meets him says, "That's a good cat".

My husband, who didn't want any more cats, can now be seen with Spirit in his lap while he is at his computer, sleeping with him on the couch, or worrying about him if he thinks something is wrong. Spirit has changed our home from cat-less to Spiritful and we are very grateful.

Thank you for all you do for the homeless animals in our community. We will always turn to your shelter when looking for a new companion.

Sincerely,  
Julie Schuessler



