



Paws and Purrs

By Scott Lebin

Photos of Mona and Lisa by Scott Lebin.

It was three weeks before Thanksgiving week of 2010 when we received our two kittens from Paws and Purrs located in Montgomery. We had a cat that had to be put to sleep in the spring of that year and weren't really looking for a replacement kitty.

As fate would have it though, I went to Kane County Fair Grounds on a Saturday in mid-September to see the pet supplies that were being displayed. As I turned a corner filled with dog food, leashes, and feeding bowls there was a booth with two small kittens being bottle fed. They could both fit in the palm of my hand and were absolutely adorable. Norma Goebert who was taking care of them and heading Paws and Purrs said that these two black and white American short hair kitties had been left by their mother on a driveway and she was hand feeding them to see if they could survive with the formula she was giving them. As I recall, the bottle was a children's toy baby bottle that she was using to feed each little kitten. Without a thought, I said, "I will go

get my wife so she can see them, but we want them before anyone else makes an offer."

My wife returned with me and there was no doubt that those kittens were going to have a home with us if they were able to survive. My wife spent several weeks after that going to Norma's house in Aurora to visit the kitties.

There are many gifts that come into our lives either by a lucky chance of being in the right place at the right time or by a lucky unexplainable reason. This was one of those events. I saw them, I was immediately captured by them and their circumstances, and I acted without even giving a thought about the decision.

Had I taken time, Norma told me there was someone just after me who wanted the kitties too. Sometimes going with your gut feeling turns out to be the right decision.

We named the kittens Mona and Lisa and they have been a true joy in our lives. Lisa, the larger cat loves people and is a real lap cat. Mona is

more skittish and she doesn't like to be held but loves to talk and let you know that she is present. Although they are sisters, each has her own personality and reminds me about the way children in a family each develops their own personality and interests.

I have often talked about the need to plan for future insurance protection needs, college education needs, retirement needs, and estate planning issues. I have pointed out that money is only a tool to make our life easier and increases our ability to reduce stress and be happy. In the case of animal shelters and adopted pets we also discover how easy it is to bring joy into our lives with pets that are entertaining, loving, and appreciative of the life they live. What a joy as we begin a new year to realize there are many people committed to the rescue of animals that will make great friends and bring great joy to our families. ●