This is my sweet little Sissy cat. I got her when she was around a year old from a friend of a co-worker's mom back in 2008, because I wanted a companion for my other cat, Shanti, since I was gone so many hours a day. Poor thing hid behind the toilet for 3 days before she was brave enough to venture out to the rest of the apartment. She has the cutest little pink nose and high-pitched squeaky meow, and a tail so long, it touches the top of her head when she walks! Shanti has always been a "Mama's Girl", but Sissy knows no strangers, and is liable to lick you to death if you let her. I brought them both with me when I moved from Cincinnati to Indianapolis in January of 2010 to take care of my mom, who had been given a terminal diagnosis the week before Thanksgiving 2009. Mom instantly fell in love with her because she reminded her of our other beloved fur-baby, Peanut, that had passed the year before. Three months after I moved to Indy, my dad was also given a terminal diagnosis, so I moved him up from Knoxville, TN to live with me. He was never much of a cat person before, but he and Sissy became inseparable Couch Potato Buddies. When ever I would come home from work, she would be sitting right beside him on the couch getting "scritchins" while he watched TV. After dad passed, she became a "Granny's Girl" with my mom. She will always run into mom's room to visit whenever the door is opened, and jump up on the bed with her tail just a-quivering.

Back in June 2013, I noticed that she looked like she had lost some weight. Turns out she had lost 4 pounds! (She was 12# at her annual visit in September 2012, and was now 8#). Her regular Dr. did a full blood panel on her and got a couple x-rays of her abdomen. All the blood work came back normal, but the x-ray had an anomaly in the abdominal area, so Dr. J sent us to Dr. G, an Internal Medicine specialist, for an ultrasound. Dr. G discovered enlarged lymph nodes around Sissy's intestines, and that the front wall of her bladder was 3 times thicker than normal. Dr. G did a biopsy of the bladder that came back inconclusive, and tried to get a biopsy of the lymph nodes, but they kept rolling around too much. The initial diagnosis was Inflammatory Bowel Disease, and Sissy was put on daily prednisolone so that she could absorb her food again and gain weight. Six weeks later, she started having extremely bloody urine, so I took her back in to Dr. G. They did an ultrasound guided cystocentesis on Sissy to get a urine sample for urinalysis and culture, at which time Dr. G saw that the bladder wall was even thicker, and now had mineralization. The urinalysis showed signs of bladder inflammation, but the culture came back negative for bacterial infection. Dr. G now thinks that Sissy may have some type of Cancer, but needs to do an exploratory laparoscopic surgery in order to get the lymph nodes for biopsy and testing, to get a visual on the bladder, and possibly remove some of it. The estimate is $2500 - $3500 for this. I only work 30 hours a week (the minimum I need to pay rent/bills while still being able to have time to take care of mom) at a non-profit agency that helps people with developmental disabilities, so there is just no way I can afford all of this on my own. Thanks to Paws 4 A Cure, and another agency, I have been able to get $1300 of it funded so far. Keep your fingers crossed that it's either not Cancer, or if it is, that it was caught early enough and is treatable. It would devastate my mom if Sissy passes before her.