

Niki has always been a really affectionate cat, letting me pick him up and pushing his head against my chin while he purred up a storm --- even when he lived outside our office. However, he's never really liked being photographed so the best shots are in my head --- chasing after a butterfly one day when he still lived outdoors, lounging casually with a skunk on the back stairs and showing up with Benjie one day. Benjie's ears were still about half the size of his head it seemed and Niki watched over him very closely. At first I thought he was Benjie's mom but, upon further consideration, maybe his uncle. Finally we were able to bring them both in and they lived for a while with my mother. They adapted pretty well to being inside although once the turmoil of a family party got to be too much and Niki escaped into a hole in the ceiling over the water heater. Getting in was easier than jumping out and I thought we might have to rip out the ceiling. Finally we jury-rigged a platform, my mother nice-kittied him endlessly and we were able to lure him out with some salmon. Now he follows me around the house when he's not rubbing noses with Benjie.

He means so much to me. I was horrified when we found out that he had hemangiosarcoma right before Christmas. Fortunately I was able to put together the resources to get a diagnosis and have the mass removed but it should make a big difference for him to be able to have chemotherapy too.

Thank you again.
Nicholas' mom