



Scooter's Month – November 2013

Our first charity event and fundraiser was an event called "Scooter Month". Scooter Month's objective was to raise funds for a small kitten named Scooter who suffers from Manx syndrome.

The event ran for the entirety of the month of November 2013 and raised \$28 for him. We were able to double that due to compensation from the bank for an unrelated clerical error.

The event was run in conjunction with [The Geminites](#).

Scooter's Month Information - [From our Facebook Note](#)

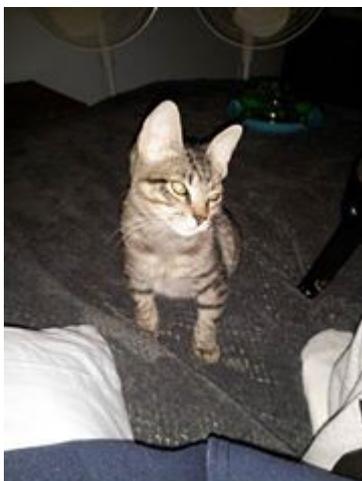
Scooter Month is a fundraiser for a small kitten named Scooter who suffers from Manx syndrome.

I came across his story a while back on The Geminites page and felt that I wanted to do something to help him out. Owning Gold Orchid Publishing means that I can offer him some of the profits from our sales to help his mama care for him.

This is how it works -

For the entirety of the month of November (so from 0:00 on the 1st till 23:59 on the 30th), every sale OVER \$3 means that Scooter gets \$1 and every sale OVER \$10 means that Scooter gets \$2.

Here is Scooter's story as written up by his mama, Laurie -



"Scooter was born one of a litter of 8 kittens. Three of them, including Scooter, suffered from what's commonly known as "Manx Syndrome". His two siblings, however, didn't survive more than a few hours. Manx Syndrome is a blanket term, used to describe various defects that occur in the Manx breed. It is common with Manx kitties because there has been so much inbreeding to create the breed. What actually happens with most is that their spinal columns do not develop properly. Manx have no tail by design. But that has caused the defect to continue to increase as they breed.

In Scooter's case, he actually has spina bifida. This is where there is actually a hole (sometimes visible, sometimes, as in Scooter's case, not visible) somewhere in the spinal column or in the brain. Scooter's last 2 vertebrae did not develop correctly. So he was born with both back legs mangled and deformed and has no control over his bowels or his bladder. The condition is not reversible. There is no "fix" that can be done to help him.

His back legs were so badly mangled and, basically, were starting to die. The left leg was the worst when he was born. It actually curled up underneath him and his right leg would rest on it as he walked. This caused a sore to develop and then an abscess formed. He had no feeling in the leg and our best option was to amputate. He went through the surgery with flying colors and was up moving around, wanting to be out playing the same day!

He was taken to Oklahoma State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital for an evaluation. They discovered that the muscle tissue in the right leg was starting to deteriorate and it was dying at a quick rate. The best option was to do a second amputation and remove it, as well, just above the dead portion. Again, he came through the surgery like a trooper and was trying to get out to play the same night!

Nothing slows this little guy down! He was turned over to the Humane Society by an elderly woman who owned his mother. She wanted to keep all the kittens except Scooter, only because she was keeping them as outside cats and the sore on his leg was getting worse as he got older. She knew he needed constant care, which she could not provide. But for the first 8 weeks of his life, he continued on like any other kitten, outside with his mother and his siblings! To him, this was life. He's never known anything different. Losing his legs was actually a relief to him. We didn't realize that there was actual physical pain in the back legs until they were no longer there. Once they were gone, there was an instant change! He has more stamina and can actually out-play the other kittens in the house!

In his new home, he has 2 new "brothers" that are around his same age and the three of them are inseparable! They play and run and jump and fight like any other kittens! He has his favorite toys that he enjoys. They are ring toys with little balls in them that he pushes around and chases! His very favorite toy is the FroliCat Pounce! It's a ring toy with a mouse that runs on a track that he can chase! It runs on batteries and mama can barely keep enough batteries on hand! He will chase that mouse for hours! Manx cats were primarily bred to be "barn cats" because they are so fast and good at catching their prey! He is definitely a Manx!!

Another good quality of the Manx is that they are a very loving, gentle and loyal breed. He exhibits all these qualities! He's a very patient little guy! Because of the problems that he has with his bowels and his bladder (he has no control and never will) he has to wear diapers when he's out playing with the rest of his siblings. He's so patient that when he has to have his diaper changed, he sits perfectly still and allows it to happen without fussing or squirming at all! When he has to have any kind of meds, he just sits still and takes them without a single complaint!

There will always be problems that we will run up against with him. He will always be prone to bladder infections as a result of not being able to empty his own bladder at times. He has to be watched closely for infections. And there's always the possibility of a rectal prolapse from constant bouts of diarrhoea and constipation. The most difficult thing we've faced is trying to adjust his diet to keep either from happening. He needs a diet that is very high in fiber and also high in protein because he is, after all, a growing kitten! We also have to add a probiotic to his diet to keep the bacteria in his system.

Scooter is a joy! He's just like any other kitten, just without the back legs! He can climb a cat tree in a matter of a couple seconds, even without them, though! He's working really hard on his balance, trying to walk and run on his front legs with his rump held in the air! Right now, he's still practicing that move, but he's getting good at it! Once his little back stumps grow their hair back, he'll be back to drifting around corners while he runs after his brothers! We are so blessed to have been given the chance to be his caregivers in this life! He is such an inspiration to so many people and his fan base is growing every day. Everyone looks forward to their daily dose of "COOTness"!!

His life expectancy may be much shorter than a "normal" cat, but the time he has here on earth will truly be blessed! Who has a crystal ball, anyway, right? With his spirit, he could live a good, long life!!"

Don't forget to share this event, to tell your friends and to chip in, which you can do by purchasing our books!

Don't forget to also check out Scooter and his kitty family's page - The Geminites (www.facebook.com/Geminites)!



Scooter's Month By Gold Orchid Publishing With The Geminites

Our Thank You - (4th December 2013)

Scooter Month is officially finished and we've done the count up of the funds raised for Scooter. We're pleased to say that we've raised \$28, and we are even more pleased to say that, because of a clerical error on the part of our bank, which played havoc with how much we could do in terms of commercial, we will be able to double Scooter's share from the compensation we received due to that error.

Overall, it's been a blast, even though we would have wished for more involvement and interest from people in general; it was sad to see that many of those we asked for help, including some quite high profile cat related sites, did not even respond to us - that may be due to us landing in Junk Mail or just a lack of interest, but it would have been great to see them and many others stand together for a good cause.

There are, of course, many who did, and we want to use this opportunity to thank everyone who DID help us help Scooter.

First things first - we want to thank Laurie of The Geminites (www.facebook.com/Geminites) for even embracing the idea when approached by total strangers, and for helping us promote the event tirelessly; had it not been for Laurie, this would not have been possible.

We next want to thank the following pages, sites and individuals for their share of help in Scooter Month:

- **Jackson Galaxy** and his team, who, in spite of being very busy, kindly permitted us to share the event on Jackson's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/JacksonGalaxyCatDaddy)
- **ASPCA**, who took a great interest in Scooter, and who do seem to have an interest in pursuing this event when it next happens, as well as follow Scooter's story together with the stories of other disabled kitties, in hopes of raising awareness about special needs cats (www.facebook.com/aspca)
- **all the Facebook pages for sharing** (particularly Paws For Princess (www.facebook.com/PawsForPrincess))
- **Helidith Ravenholm** (Culture Contact) for pro bono consultations on approaching people and organising the event (www.facebook.com/RavenholmConsultations)
- and, last but not least, **everyone who bought a book or several to support Scooter**- you guys are great