
CATS ILLUSTRATED

Harvey is playing for the first time!

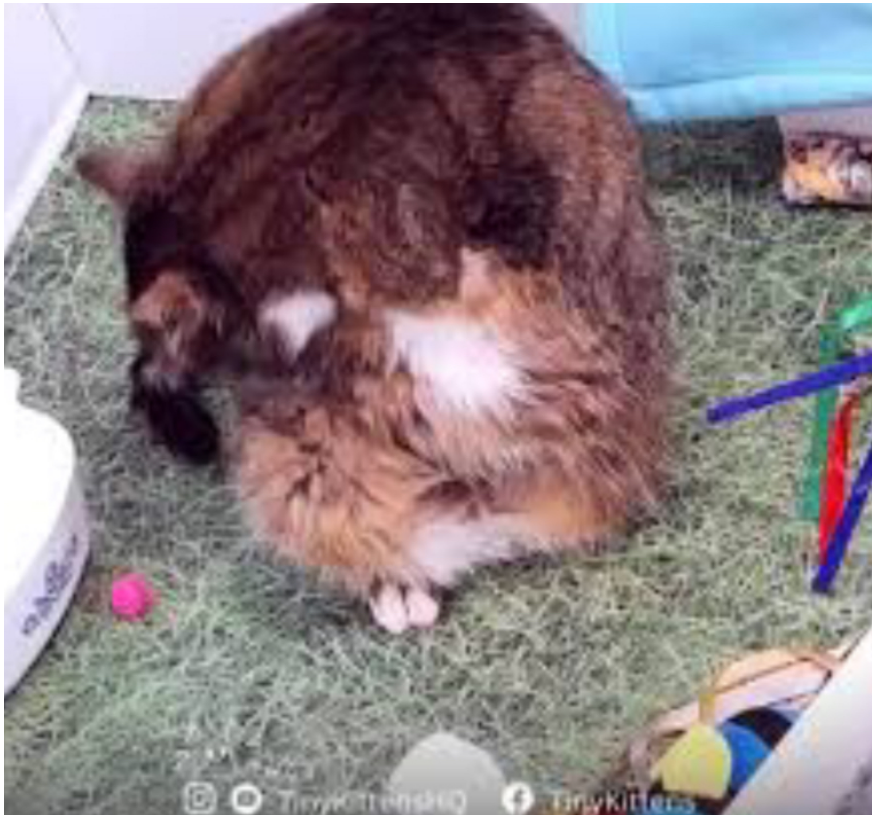


Image to the left -
Harvey plays for the
first time!

At 5:56 P.M. yesterday, something truly amazing happened on the Tiny Kittens live stream. Harvey was seen playing when a human wiggled a toy in front of him.

North, a multi species behaviorist, and Harvey's son has been speechless. Harvey hasn't acted this way since he was four - his joints and his three legs protest every time he moves a lot. Playing at eight years old is a hard thing for any cat - let alone any cat with three legs. An image of this (above) has already been posted, re posted, and posted again because every cat is trying to make sense of why Harvey has gotten enough energy to play.

Every cat is happy, though. Harvey has not had a lot of ways to exercise, but the video above shows how nimble his front paws are. Over nine out of every ten cats who watched Harvey were shocked about how he could balance on his chubby forelegs and bat out with his thin hind legs.

Because Harvey is playing, it means that he is becoming more accustomed to life with humans. It means that Harvey might be up for adoption after all..., but he is an old cat, a full eight years old. He would need a family who were really gentle - I don't think he could tolerate kids. Harvey is very gentle though, he loves to scratch, sleep, and to be scratched. He's the perfect cat for someone who is more low - key.

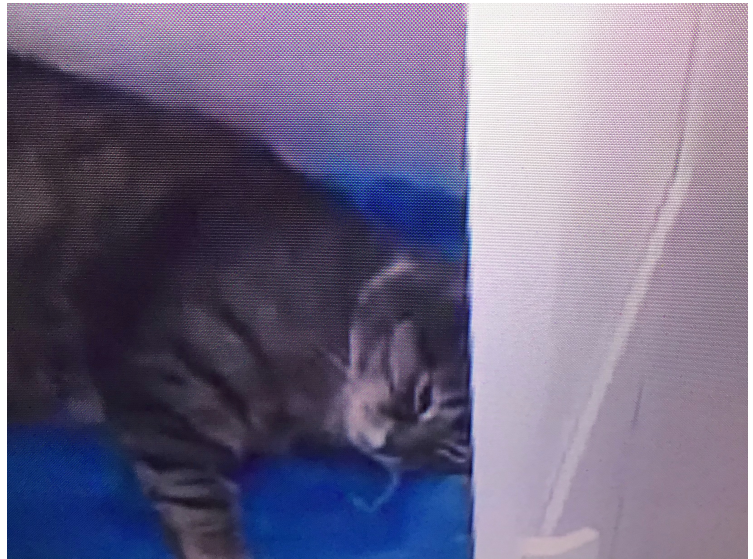


Image above - Harvey, resting.

It seems that Harvey might play again, this was just his first time, and he seemed to enjoy it. Harvey's going to be at the door every time a human comes into the room - he'll be waiting to be played with. He'll get some good exercise from it, and he'll build back his hunting instincts. This is healthy for all cats - especially the older ones. They need to keep their instincts sharp as their memories start to fade.

"Harvey has definitely surprised us all," says Stripy, "I never thought that he would be playing with toys - but his remaining front leg is quite strong! No wonder he survived for 8 years in the wild with only three legs!"

Any behaviorist (especially North) would call Harvey's actions surprising, at the very least. "Pretend a kitten of one week old, just having opened their eyes," says North, to help describe the situation of Harvey playing, "recited the entire pledge of Catallegiance, before they had even learned how to speak completely! That is about as strange as Harvey playing."

"I just can't begin to believe how much Harvey has changed over the years!"

- REPOSADO, HARVEY'S LIFELONG FRIEND

Harvey's usual mindset, features sleeping, eating, moving spots, and then sleeping some more. When playing became a part of this routine, Harvey surprised everyone, including Reposado, who has been Harvey's friend all his life.

"Now there are a lot more options for Harvey's birthday presents," muses Mavis, who has joked with Harvey about how the only things he wants are softer pillows and the most gourmet food. He also makes a big deal about not getting the same present twice. This makes it very, very hard to get him a present. "Now," Mavis says, "toys are an option too! There are a lot more present options now!"

Subscribe again for more of the best stories of cats!