

CATS ILLUSTRATED

Jake has returned!



Lunch stared in awe at the cat that was standing before her. His vibrant orange pelt seemed to shine in the late evening sun. “Hello Lunch,” Jake said, smiling. “How - How - Why - Why - What?” Lunch said, stuttering for once. “I’m going to take a little snack break, okay?” Lunch told Jake, who nodded. This was Lunch’s way of understanding the world. Everything made sense when you could shape your feelings with the mushier kinds of food. Lunch shaped a heart, and then Jake’s face. It was a bit off, and one of Lunch’s kittens, Somnolent, saw her paw shaping Jake’s face and tried to stifle a giggle. Lunch saw this, thumped her chubby against the ground, and Somnolent started running.

Image above - Lunch, who is taking a snack break before talking to Jake, her mate.

When Lunch had finally felt like she understood the current situation, she walked back to Jake and looked him in the eye. “What are you doing here,” Lunch asked Jake in her best not aggressive voice. “Well,” Jake responded, “what else would I be doing? I’m visiting you!” Lunch nodded, and then started chatting with Jake like with an old friend. “How’s Rusty doing,” Lunch asked, curious to know about the kitten she had never known. “Well,” Jake told her, “he’s gone off to live in the wild.” Lunch nodded, a bit disappointed. She would have wanted to get to know Rusty, but things were just how they were. “Well,” Lunch asked Jake, “how are you managing?”

Lunch and Jake talked for over an hour, and then Lunch decided to introduce her kittens to their father. “Kittens,” Lunch announced, walking into their room, “this is your father, Jake.” And with that, Lunch stepped aside for Jake, who uncomfortably made his way into the room. The room was silent, and even the clock seemed to stop ticking quite as loud. “Hello,” Jake said, in a small voice. “Nice to meet you.” Lunch’s kittens echoed the greeting. Lunch was disappointed. But she had an idea. “Well, Mavis and Harvey are going to need reinforcements in their fight against the thief cat, so why don’t we go along and fight!” Lunch’s kittens cheered, and Jake grabbed

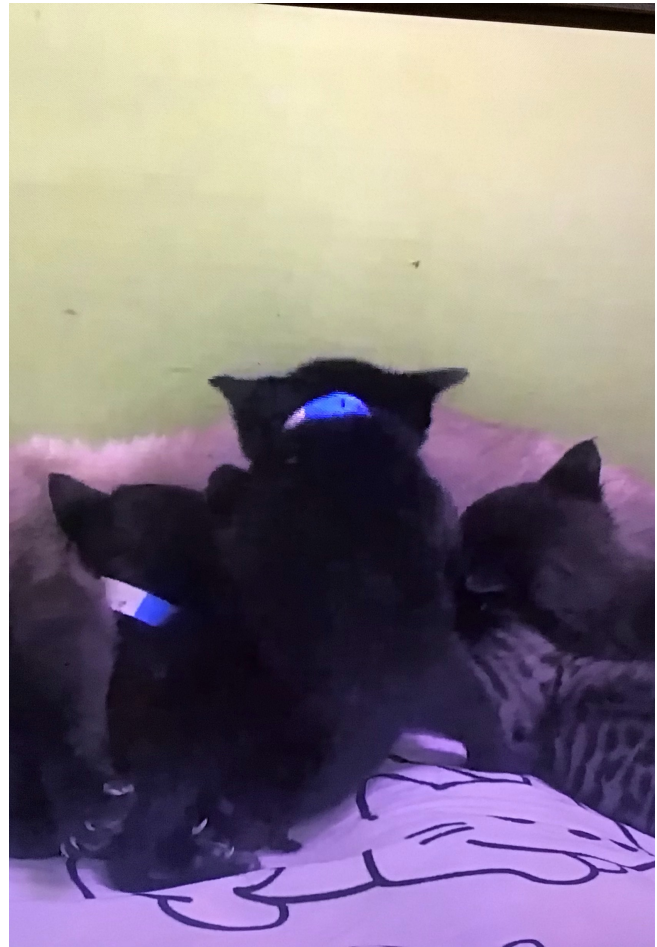


Image above - Lunch's kittens, about to meet their father for the first time.

“Kittens are obsessed with beer these days - let’s give them some real beer!”

- NAYA, WHO LOVES BEER HERSELF

one of Lunch’s kittens’ trophies and raised it like an old wooden tankard full of beer. Then, he raised it to his mouth and sipped. Lunch’s kittens fell silent. But then, they followed suit with the other trophies, pretending guzzle beer. Lunch looked on fondly as her kittens got to know their father. But a fight doesn’t last forever. Lunch, her kittens, and Jake grabbed their weapons, and headed out the door to go help Mavis and Harvey. But Lunch had a question for Jake. “Are you staying here for

good, or are you going to go back to your other home?” Jake smiled. “I’d stay here if you would have me?” Lunch smiled and added a swagger to her step.

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