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# CATS ILLUSTRATED

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**Wilbur Spots has fallen into a rushing stream!**



As the weather is so warm in Pawsville this December, Juliet took Blackpelt and their kittens on a picnic. It started out well, with great food, but then Juliet's kittens started playing by the creek. Then, Graypelt crossed the stream and taunted his siblings about how they were too chicken. All but Wilbur Spots crossed immediately, unable to tolerate the insult "chicken." However, they had all used a certain rock in the creek to cross, and the rock was coming loose. So when Wilbur Spots finally decided to cross, the rock tumbled out of its place and Wilbur Spots was dunked into the creek. His siblings raced to help, Juliet and Blackpelt hard on their heels. There was a small waterfall nearby, and Wilbur Spots could get very hurt if

Image above - Juliet, who leaped up to help Wilbur Spots.

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he went over that. However, Juliet and two of her kittens jumped into the creek and caught Wilbur Spots before the current sucked him away. Now, they have taken him back to their house.

Wilbur Spots was traumatized by the experience of stepping confidently onto a rock to have it tumble away beneath you. He was also bracing himself to go down the waterfall. He wasn't struggling or trying to paddle against the current. Juliet is very worried about Wilbur Spots, and she and Blackpelt have been taking turns watching over him. He has a blanket right now, and Harvey has been called to help out with some therapy. When you put your trust into something and then it doesn't go as you planned, the effect can be great on the body but mostly the mind.

At first, Juliet was furious with her other kittens. But a little later, she realized that they couldn't have known about the loose rock until it happened, and that they must be feeling very responsible for Wilbur Spots, even though the incident had been an accident. Right now, Blackpelt is bringing back lots of food from the Wish for Fish, because there isn't anything in the world that beer battered fish can't cure. Wilbur Spots has started to feel a bit better, and his few scrapes and bruises have been seen to.

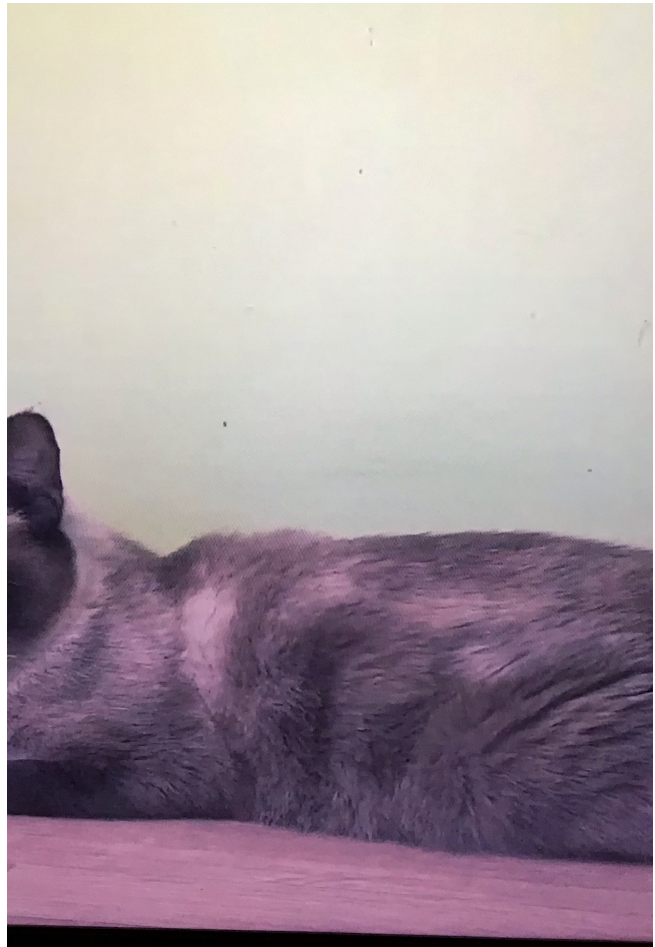


Image above - Lunch, who knows how it feels to have a kitten in danger.

**“I went over the waterfall — even Wilbur Spots is too chicken for that!”**

- RICE JR., BOASTING

Because of this incident, the town has put in a fence by the creek so kittens don't fall in or play too close. However, Wilbur Spots's trauma faded quickly, and he has been asking his siblings if they are too chicken to ride the stream like him. Luckily, Juliet put a stop to that nonsense before any kittens actually went and threw themselves in the creek to prove that they aren't too chicken. But kittens are kittens, and Juliet had to make a late night trip to the creek to fish out Rice jr.

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