

Where would Stanford Be..?

Sometimes, we feel that looking at a rescue is like looking Death in the face.

It was obvious to the people visiting the neighborhood that this stray cat had had a very rough life. A very elderly man felt sorry for him and put food out. However, he had to go into a nursing home, leaving no one to give the poor cat even food.

He was starving, filthy, suffering from a horrible smell coming from his many rotting gums and broken teeth...the list of symptoms goes on and on. The daughter of the man came from Australia to finalize her father's home and personal arrangements, and she was horrified by what she saw. The low cost vet clinic she took him to found out that he is diabetic and also has FIV, which is a compromised immune system.

The clinic performed a dental procedure on him. However, they left many pieces of broken teeth and bones in his jaws.

The poor cat just couldn't seem to get a break. He also had long nails that had grown back into the pads of his feet, and his ears were tattered and beat up—a sure sign of his tough life on the streets.

The daughter contacted everyone she could think of, but no one wanted the poor cat. She could not take him with her when she left for Australia, and was desperate to think of his fate if put back outside.

What would you want to see happen in this situation? This cat is certainly not a cute, young kitten or some especially "marketable" (we hate that word when applied to living beings) cat. Stanford was simply a poor soul who needed, for once in his life, to be given a decent chance to be safe and loved.

As you probably guessed by now, we took Stanford in and got his dental situation corrected. No more excruciatingly painful experiences as he tried to eat food. No more cold, hunger, and fear. He eats well, remembering his empty belly when meals were very scarce.

The bloody drool from his mouth has been stopped. And we also discovered that he is deaf. He is definitely a cat who was not born feral, so we assume that at some point, he found himself out of a home and on the streets fighting for his life.

For perhaps the first time in his life, he knows Peace. He is now living in our special room for diabetic kitties and is starting to trust humans. When we first got him, he was afraid to look at anyone and would hide. He seemed sad and depressed, which is understandable, but we are slowly seeing some improvement. He will need time to find the confidence to trust again.

He seems to be a nice cat who has experienced nothing but pain and fear and loneliness until arriving at Animals in Distress. He may have several years ahead of him, maybe only a few. We don't know what the future will bring. However, what we do know is that he is safe and loved and cared for, for as long as he needs it. He is HOME. He will spend this Christmas and all other Christmases as part of the Animals in Distress family.

He will never know loneliness and fear again. He will be loved.

