

Featured Felines: Escapes and Rescues 23 (2025)

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Grandpa Mason

Old feral cat who loved being with kittens



TinyKittens is a no-kill rescue organisation in British Columbia, Canada. In autumn 2016 they heard of a property where a series of derelict barns was due to be demolished and redeveloped – but there were some 60-odd feral cats and kittens living there! Gaining permission to mount a rescue operation, they set about trapping and neutering the cats; they'd be rehomed where possible, with others returning to the farm where the barns were. But one particular old cat stood out from the others as needing special attention.

Brought in to the shelter and named **Mason**, he had a large growth on a front paw, his tail had been broken several times, he had infections, and he needed extensive dental work. Rather than euthanising him, it was decided to give him a chance, so he had surgery to remove the growth and his infections were dealt with. After a suitable recovery time, his dental work was then carried out. It had been planned to return him to the farm afterwards – but then blood tests showed that Mason had advanced kidney disease, and he would suffer if returned there and left.

So he was taken into foster care by one of the shelter staff, hoping he'd be able to experience warmth, safety and love for whatever time he had left following the hard life he'd obviously had previously. As a former feral cat he didn't want to be touched, but after a while his fosterer would find in the morning that things had been moved around and displaced, and Mason had clearly been playing! So, as an experiment, with great care and stranding by, she introduced two kittens, thinking he'd was likely to lash out at them.



But, to her surprise, he loved them! When they 'invaded' his lair, she expected he'd probably go and hide somewhere – but not at all. One kitten started licking his ear and he leaned into it. As time went on he'd play with them, bathe them, wrestle with them, trill to them, and then snuggle up with them.

As different kittens came along, he'd act like a giant kitten himself, rolling on the floor with them, chasing them round the house and getting so excited!



The old warrior became known then as **Grandpa Mason**. His kidney disease, although it initially worsened, eventually stabilised with suitable medication, And so things continued for 1069 days – almost three years, and much longer than had been hoped for. In September 2019 his kidneys finally failed, and this remarkable old gentleman was put to sleep to avoid further suffering. It had been an amazing journey.

[Tiny Kittens](#) | [Cole & Marmalade](#) (both Sept. 2019) | [Facebook](#)

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