

Stunning Sarah's Story

Meet Sarah! Sarah is 7 years young, spayed, up-to-date on vaccinations, microchipped, and negative for FIV/FELV. She does just fine with older or mature kids and other cats, and is safe with kittens (she will mother them!). She is a gray tabby with calico markings mixed in. By her markings, small size, and chattiness we think she may have Abyssinian in her. She is an indoor only cat. She is not much of a shedder. She needs to find a new home due to her owner's allergies.



Sarah is not declawed. She will scratch on approved surfaces only -- we keep a curly carpet or cat condo in the rooms where she spends most of her time, and she keeps her scratching to those places. However she likes the edges of carpets. She searches for the strings that hold the carpet together. We keep her from these by spraying pledge in the corners of our carpet periodically (she doesn't like the smell/taste).

Sarah has lived with us in Houston, TX since April 2004. She was rescued a number of years ago by a taxi driver in Phoenix, AZ. Some cruel person had thrown a crate off of a pickup truck on the freeway and the taxi driver pulled over to see what it was. It had 5 cats crammed inside. She took the cats to HALO, a rescue organization, and that's where we got her from. We don't know the fate of the other cats, but we believe they were her kittens, as she didn't bond with us until we brought home a kitten for her to mother. We have since found placement for her cat-mate, and she is doing well in her absence. She walked around the house mewing for her friend for 2 days, until she realized she had us all to herself!

Sarah can be tentative but surprisingly open to people she doesn't know. She will check them out, go right up to them and maybe let them touch her to see if she likes them. She will stay away from kids and dogs for the most part. She's not much of a kid's pet. We have her in foster care now and her foster mommy has a cocker spaniel. Sarah's never been too keen on dogs so we were worried for a bit, but she seems to be adjusting. With kids, she always gives warnings if she doesn't want to be touched, but if they are not heeded she will scratch or bite. She has only one tooth really that she can bite with, but if pressed she will use it. The vet removed all but one fang, a wee little tooth in the front, and 2 molars as she was simply born with bad teeth. Sarah's dental health should be okay for some time. Her future vet should inspect her mouth carefully in her annual exams--her gums are black, which makes it easy to miss teeth and gum problems. If she is in pain her behavior will change -- mostly she will eat less (she's not a big eater anyway) -- and she will ask for ice water nonstop (compared to now, where she only asks for it because she hears the ice machine!). She also gets grumpy if her mouth hurts. We feed her from a wooden bowl because when she had problems with her teeth, knocking them on a glass or metal bowl caused her pain -- she would scoop her food from the dish and eat it off of the mat we had her dish on. We have copies of her medical records, and our vet's records are digital so we can provide all that info electronically. She puts up with her veterinarian well.

Sarah has asthma. Asthma in cats works the same as asthma in humans. When properly managed, it causes no other health issues, and neither does the medication used to keep it under control. Sarah's medication costs \$193 every 50 days (we get her inhaler @ Costco) however there are less expensive options. Her current inhaler dosage is one puff twice daily. She responds also to oral steroids and the shot, but we chose the inhaler because it has very little chance of causing kidney or liver problems later down the line. Instead of the inhaler, oral medications are available, and Sarah likes how the taste. Their cost is approximately \$15-\$30/month and she would need to take those once per day if she is not getting the inhaler. Another option instead of the inhaler is a monthly shot -- to be used with an inhaler only as backup -- and it would be easier to administer for those not afraid of needles. But that option would be the hardest on Sarah over the long haul due to the side effects but it could be a good option at first to give her a chance to get used to her new caretakers.

Sarah's foster home is in Houston near the Woodlands, but we are willing to drive her almost anywhere -- and we mean anywhere -- for her to get a new home. Sarah travels well by car. We have been looking for a home for Sarah since March, and stopped for a while out of sheer discouragement. But we're giving it one last try. Thanks for listening. If you think you or someone you know can provide Sarah with a new home, please email us at thepurplepainter@yahoo.com