



“Paquita”

October 6th 2007

Last evening, as the clock chimed eight, our dear Paquita died.

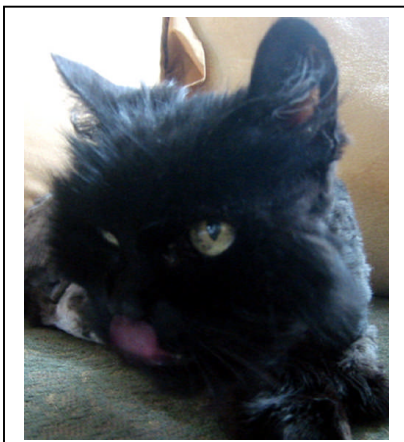
You may recall last year’s fundraising letter where we told you of Paquita’s arrival here after being left at a shelter in a cardboard box.....

Well this little old lady’s life certainly changed then for the better. We knew she did not have long to go. She was not well; but happy she should be – and she was!

Her terrible matting forced her tiny body to be shaved completely and it was such a delight to finally see such long and luxurious black fur making her beautiful once more.



Paquita was very much afraid of other cats and shared her days and nights happily with Richard in his den, where she became safe, warm and loved. It was such a delight to see her slowly gain trust again and lie upside down in our arms purring madly with paws stretching out and “pudding”. Later she switched accommodations with “Pasha” and moved to live in the office with Susanna now as her closest friend. Much to her delight, meals were served with regularity three times daily and there was always an attentive human on hand to offer a treat or a helping hand if dinner proved too difficult to manage alone.



For more than a year and a half Paquita’s health stabilized thanks to our wonderful Dr Chris, but for the last several weeks it was obvious she was nearing her journey’s end and yesterday proved such a special day for her - and us too.

After her usual morning and repast, Paquita ambled slowly to her garden for a nap in the sunshine. At lunch I brought her back indoors to offer her food, but she made it plain she would have none. I laid her down in her bed and there she slept peacefully as I worked. She seemed so very relaxed, calm and peaceful that I knew something was “different” and so kept a very close vigil. Paquita later snuggled on the couch with Fray as I fed everyone their evening meal and then Richard and I joined Fray and we all gathered around this old soul as she proffered a paw in farewell and left on one of the most peaceful departures I have ever seen.

The candles are burning brightly here today to light her way.



“Until one has loved an animal,
part of one’s soul remains unawakened.”
—Anatole France

