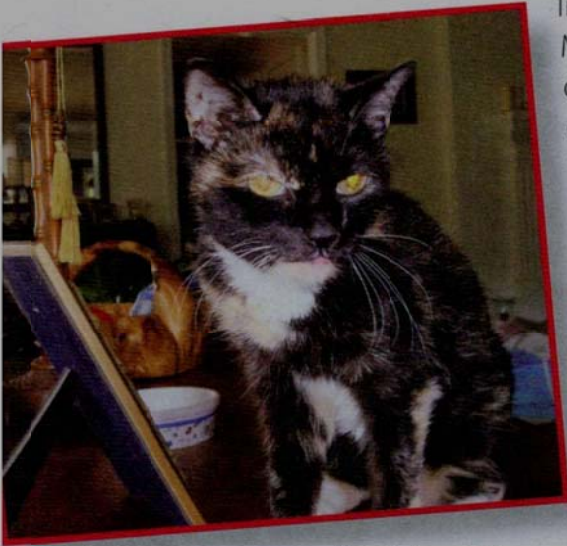


Forever Homes

Sage the Calico Cat



In January 1991, my wife Mahala and I adopted our first animal as a couple. We went to the Virginia Beach SPCA and found an energetic eight month old calico female pawing at us under from the bottom of the cage. We spent a few minutes in the get-acquainted room and quickly

realized that this was the animal for us. Her name was "China" which the SPCA staff member reminded us could be changed and causes no trauma to the cat. So, we renamed our new member of the family Sage.

Sage enjoyed spending about 20 hours a day sleeping, but she was always game for chasing a string around the house. She loved to enjoy a little catnip now and then, but this indulgence was only enjoyed in moderation. A few months after adopting her we were adopted by a stray we named Pepper. Sage and Pepper liked wrestling around the house and enjoyed each other's company. As the years passed, they seemed more content to rest quietly in their own special parts of the house. Pepper passed away a couple of years ago having reached the age of 17.

While we never knew Sage's exact birthday, our best estimate is that she turned 20 years old in May. Sage got a little thinner and preferred to sleep closer to 23.5 hours per day. We wanted to share her story of how a good start in life combined with clean living equals a long, happy life.

Sadly, on November 2 Sage had to be put to sleep. It was a difficult decision, but our vet confirmed that she was not comfortable and was having difficulty sitting or lying down. Still 20 ½ years was a good run for a cat.

Thanks for all you all do for the animals.

Jim and Mahala Vail

