



EMILY'S STORY:

My sister rescued a feral cat in eastern Washington. It was obvious the cat was pregnant. Nancy put her in the garage, and within days 9 babies were born. It was a real challenge to see to their care, as you could not get close to this wild cat... but eventually mama cat realized that my sister was not going to hurt her or her babies.

I visited about a week after they were born, stopping at a pet store for baby bottles. We spent days helping to feed all the little ones. When they were old enough, I brought home two of them... Hannah & Emily.

My first thought and concern was that a neighborhood tomcat would come over into my yard and cause them harm. Because of this I was quite protective and kept them in my house for four months. Finally, I started letting them out as I guarded them and observed the tom watching from a distance. It was really interesting to watch because it was like he knew they were babies, and eventually he would just sneak up to smell them but never hurt or harassed them.

Hannah disappeared one day (coyotes, I am sure), and Emily became an only child. It was devastating, but much to my pleasure, the old tomcat adopted her, and I strongly think he loves her to pieces. Never once has Emily been beaten up by other cats, and I feel that maybe the tom protects her. He plays with her and they are great friends! When one comes for treats, the other one is always there. Well, eventually I let the tom into my home. Now they tussle over which one is going to sleep with me at night, however, as they will not both sleep on my bed at the same time. Since both had some really 'tough' history, its incredible to see how they interact with each other, and how much they both accept me now. I am really blessed to have them in my life and I love them so much! If you ever have a chance to adopt a stray, or "socialize" a feral kitten, their love is just incredibly special.

