



Written by Linda Chassman

Mazey was one of 5 feral (wild) kittens that I was fostering through Evergreen Animal Protection League (EAPL). Originally totally fearful and avoiding all human contact, Mazey was the quickest in her litter to become socialized and interested in human contact. After just a few weeks, when Mazey saw me she immediately wanted to be picked up and held.

Mazey was a therapy kitten first for me when I was going through a difficult transition in my life. It seemed Mazey always knew when she was needed, and would wrap herself around my neck and nuzzle her face into me while purring directly into my ear. Mazey needed human contact. While her siblings were playing with each other, Mazey would seek out other people. She was amazingly friendly and comfortable with strangers and friends of all ages and would easily cuddle into the lap of the person who needed her most. But because of her constant need for human contact, she was not adopted, while her other 4 siblings went to loving homes. She stayed with me and became my sweet baby and comfort.

I believe Mazey had a special gift. If animals are put on this earth to serve a purpose, Mazey was here to heal and inspire. She was a model of love and acceptance as she moved quietly through her world of young children, car rides, and doctor visits. It was because of these amazing qualities and her love of people that I began to think about how Mazey could share her gift of healing with others. I had previously worked with my older cat Norman as a therapy cat and knew the potential animals could have on others. I thought Mazey would be a perfect therapy cat.

Joining Ellen Kinney, we opened AATPC in April of 2010. Mazey came to work with each of my clients and was indeed a very special healer. Everyone who came in contact with her could feel her loving presence. Sadly, Mazey had only 8 months on her job before she became quite ill and could not come to the office any more.

Mazey was 17 months old when she passed away. It was just before Christmas, 2010 when she died after a brief illness. She most likely died of Feline Infectious Peritonitis, a fatal disease she may have contracted at birth. Mazey was a soul mate and her death left a serious mark on me personally. In trying to make sense of her life and death it felt as though Mazey deserved a lasting legacy. We started to dream about opening a Ranch in the City where people of all ages could come and feel the love and healing of animals. Our Ranch in Lakewood, Barking C.A.A.T. (Center for Animal Assisted Therapy) Ranch, in my mind is Mazey's Place. We moved in to our new Ranch in July 2011 and are slowly getting it in place to carry out Mazey's mission. We all look forward to sharing Mazey's gift, as well as the gifts from our other animals, with many others.