

## Part 1: Never Forget the Day We Brought Melo Home

I will never forget the day we brought Melo home. He was just a kitten, lucky number 7 weeks old. It was quite a story how we ended up with him, so I guess I should start with that. My girlfriend and I live in the middle of nowhere, nothing but mountains and land. You can understand why the spirit of a kitten could be wanted in such a place. The cat we had was only a temporary fix, seeing as though the person who gave him to us ended up taking him back. If that's not a letdown, then I don't know what is. Anyway, we were back to square one with no cat.

We searched online for a couple of days for the perfect addition to our home. We came across this lady who had 2 kittens left from a mother that birthed 7. For the love of me, I can't remember where we went to meet this lady. I just remember it was somewhere far. Let's just say it was the middle of nowhere for the sake of time, because to me, it was anyway.

We met the lady at this old-school 1960s looking diner. The place we were in needed a real 2023 update. Everything was old, and it only made matters worse that it was a blizzard outside. That didn't matter to me and Ada that much, we really wanted a kitten.

When we pulled into the diner parking lot, it wasn't long before a silver car pulled up next to us. I saw a lady in the passenger seat, a guy driving, and a little girl in the back seat. Ada got out of the car first. I watched as the lady pulled a box out of the back seat of her car. I hopped out of the car and started walking up. There was a kitten trying to jump out of the box, and Ada picked it up. The lady told us it was a girl. I walked closer to the box and saw another kitten just sitting with his head down. The lady said that was the girl kitten's brother. I pointed out I liked him because he didn't try to jump out of the box, and honestly, he looked sad. She liked him too, so we took him, and he was free!

When we got back in the car, we were pretty excited, so we started driving and decided to think of a name for him. I was the driver, so I couldn't hold him much, but for a new kitten, he really was no trouble at all. We went for about 10 minutes and came up with nothing that fit the new kitty. I thought for a second and said, "You know he's so chill, kind of mellow," and he looks up at me and boom, it hit me. We named him Melo. It was perfect.

When we got back home that night, all we did was play with Melo. He was such a joy. And he was just the cutest thing you had ever seen. His hair colors are dark grey with black stripes and a white coat for his belly, paws, neck, and lower mouth.

There was something different about Melo. He wasn't like any other kitten, or any other cat for that matter. No, he was different, almost human-like. And when I say human-like, I mean he didn't do much at all. He really only slept all day the first week we got him. And no, he could not sleep at night without being in the bed with us. I had started to get so attached to him that I would bring him with me every morning to go for a ride. He loved to either be on my lap while I was driving, or on my shoulder so he could see through the window. One morning, I took him to my favorite coffee shop with me to pick up me and Ada's daily cup. He was just the sweetest breath of energy when I rolled down the window to give my order to the barista. She immediately smiled. To everyone, Melo was so friendly - he was just very sociable, I think. Another time, we even went as far as bringing Melo on a business trip with us. We were so attached to him, and he was so young that we also kind of didn't have a choice. We didn't want to leave a kitten alone in a new place all by himself. So yes, we took him. We packed a mini kitty litter box that was made out of a plastic bin, packed his cage, some blankets and food, as well as snacks for when he got hungry.

It turned into about a four-hour drive as I remember. He didn't use the bathroom once on the way there either. I was pretty proud deep down. The last thing anybody wants to do is be trapped in a small space smelling anybody's bathroom business. But he was good there and back. Food was never a hard thing when it came to Melo. He sure loves to eat, and it

doesn't matter what it is. The first night we brought him home, we had ordered food from my favorite pizza place, MOD Pizza. When it got here, I looked over at Melo to see him with his wee little nose in the air, sniffing and coming closer to the smell of delicious all-meat pizza that was sitting on my lap. Now don't get me wrong, I do love Melo, but I don't play when it comes to pizza, so of course, I did not give him any. But Ada, she thought me not giving him any was animal cruelty, of course, so she called him over to give him a nibble. And if you ask me, I thought it was a bad idea. Melo went crazy for more, jumping on her to get more nibbles. I just shook my head. Because now we really have a cat that acts like a human. He loves pizza too! As the days passed, we went to different stores to grab toys and food for Melo. The thing is, I guess me and Ada never had a kitten before. So we really didn't know what we should be feeding him. Lucky for us, we had no idea what was in store for us the next few weeks with our new kitten. No idea at all.