

OUR LITTLE SHADOW

Vader

2011 to 2026

*Stubborn. Loving. Brave.
Completely irreplaceable.*

A memorial from Christina & Jeremy



FROM CHRISTINA & JEREMY

It is incredibly hard to write this.

We lost Vader at fifteen years old.

He was so much more than a pet to us. He was family, our little shadow, our constant companion, and a huge part of our lives for many years.

He was there for countless ordinary days and big moments alike, and somehow made all of them better just by being there.





WHERE IT BEGAN

PetSmart. Midland. December 31, 2012.

We went to meet another cat. Then Jeremy saw Vader and picked him out. He was older, sick, and easy for someone else to pass over. We wanted to be the ones who finally chose him and gave him a home.

He knew this was his house.

Less than a year after Vader came into our lives, we moved from Saginaw to the Detroit area. Vader seemed to understand immediately: this was home. He settled in, stretched out, and claimed the place - and us - as entirely his own.

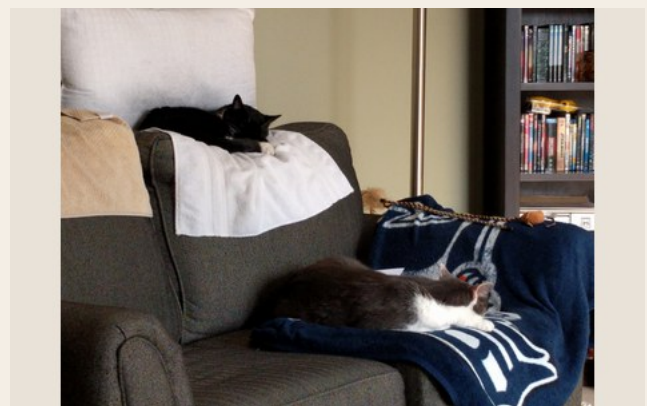
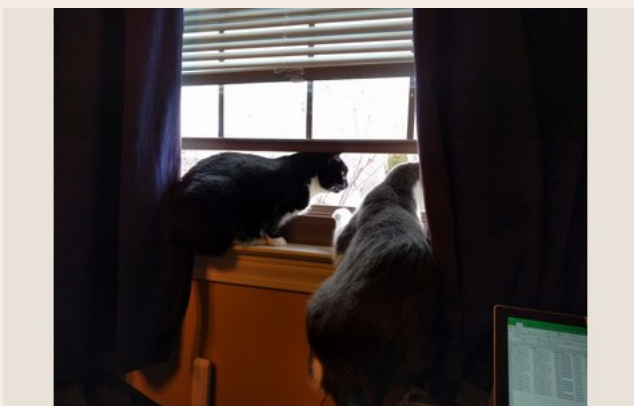




A GUEST IN THE KINGDOM

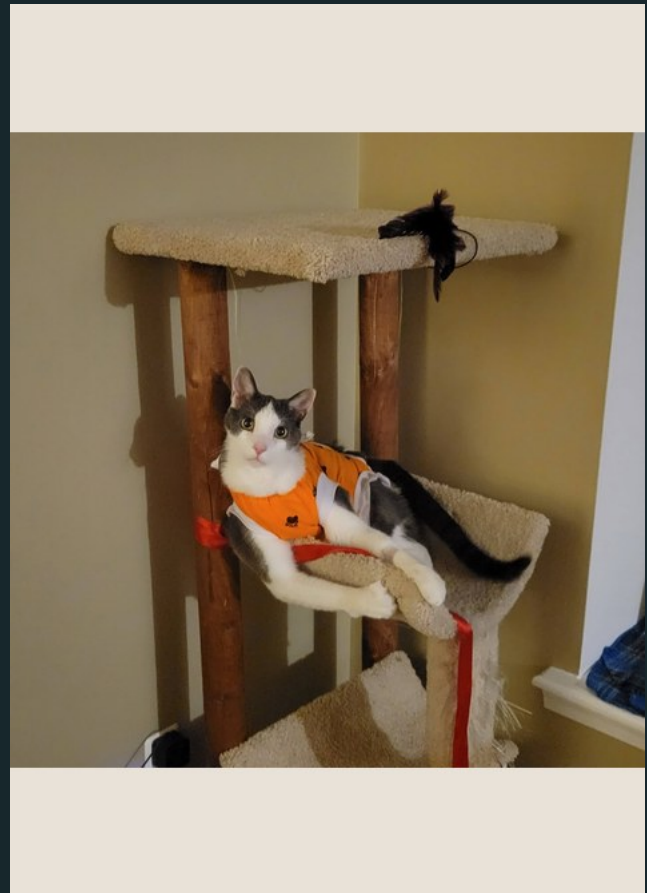
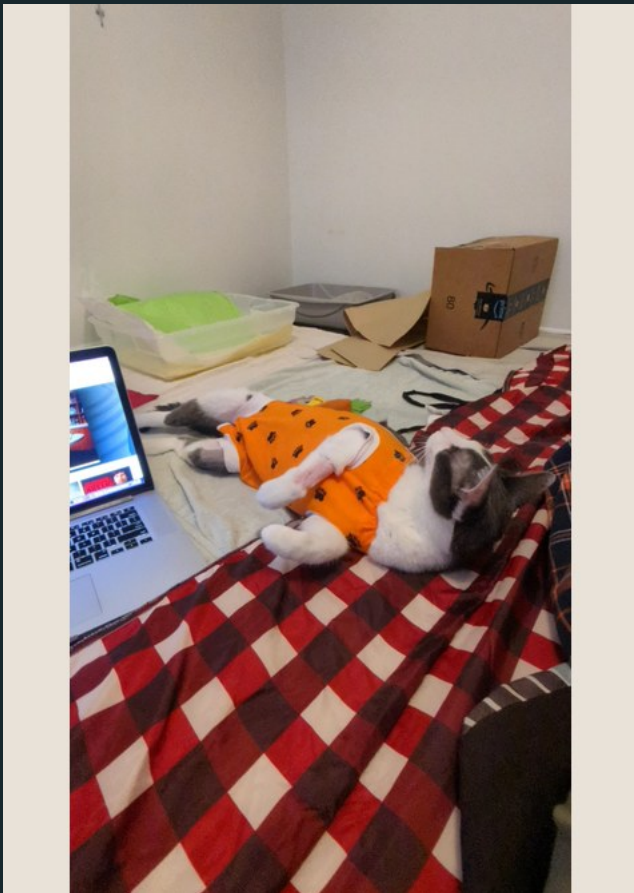
Vader made room.

He may not have requested a roommate, but tolerance became companionship. Vader and Lena shared windows, couches, floor space, and the quiet routines of home. When Lena was gone, Vader missed her. We remember Lena, too.



He kept bouncing back.

Vader fought cancer more than once and somehow kept returning to the serious business of finding warmth, supervising the house, and being wherever we were. He was tougher than anyone had a right to expect.



His house. His rules.

- 01 *Locate the warmest object.*
- 02 *All chairs transfer ownership.*
- 03 *Treats are not optional.*
- 04 *Suffer through Lions football.*
- 05 *Patrol the kingdom.*
- 06 *Keep watch over everything.*





THE BEST PARTS

He was always right there.

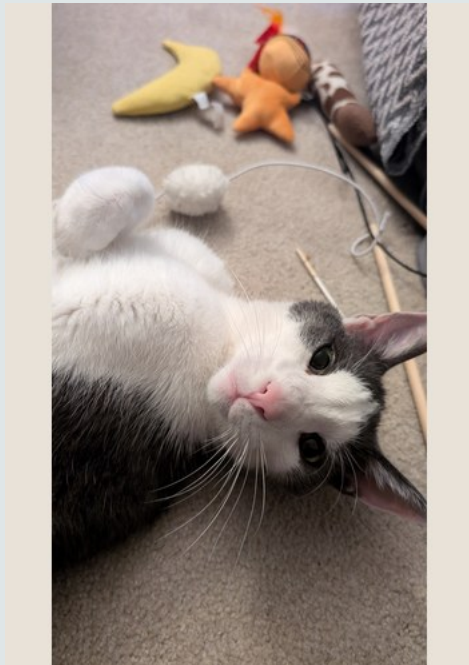
On the couch. In the kitchen. At the window. In the car. Curled under a blanket or occupying something warm that was absolutely not designed to hold a cat. Those ordinary moments made a life together.

We still expect to see him, hear him, or find him in one of his usual spots.

Peacefully at home.

Vader passed peacefully at home while we were away. Our pet sitter found him lying with one of his toys. There is comfort in knowing he appears to have simply settled down in a familiar place, with something he loved, and gone peacefully.

After everything he had fought through, we think his little body was simply tired.





FOREVER LOVED

Rest easy, buddy.

You fought hard. You had one hell of a life. We were incredibly lucky to have you, and we are going to miss you more than we can possibly say.

*Love always,
Christina & Jeremy*