

Natural Healing Express Weekly

Column 238 Kittens, kittens, kittens and Broth Update

Well, this week has certainly been interesting. Last Thursday while at a hotel in Wisconsin, my S.O. and I were alerted (at 2am no less) by the front desk clerk that a terrible tragedy was occurring. By the tears and the very scared look on her face, I assumed someone was being held captive and possibly being murdered. We quickly stepped into action only to find out that a Mama Cat had birthed kittens about an hour before and had not returned. It was believed that she was killed on the highway and the kittens were slowly meeting demise. Soon after, I find myself digging under a sewer grate to the "kitten" den quickly pulling out cold and chilly kittens. It was not my S.O.'s shining moment as he was declaring "let nature take its course"...Perhaps a little loudly and somewhat repetitively, if memory serves me.

That attitude changed rather quickly after he saw me performing CPR on the two that were limp. To say this was an experience is an understatement. Now, I grew up on a farm here in God's country and have seen a lot of life's processes in the animal world, but trying to warm chilly kittens and do CPR on their dying siblings while watching his face change from "I don't want to deal with this to, OMG, we are SAVING them" was something new. We got four of them warmed up and even though we tried our hearts out, we could not revive the two that were limp. One was gone at birth.

My S.O. huddled them on his chest to keep them warm and then proceeded to feed them utilizing a coffee straw and the hotel milk. We all made it through the rest of the night, although the smallest was looking quite tired. On my way to the first available vet a few short hours later, I learned that Farm and Fleet makes a kitten milk replacer. At the vet, I learned that the success rate in these cases is extremely low, especially with such trauma at birth. I must admit, the little guy wasn't looking good. Well, we have had the odds stacked against us before and made lemonade out of lemons, so off to Farm and Fleet I went, kittens in a bowl beside me, saying a special prayer over the little one.

After arming myself with the necessary feeding supplies, I called my "Irish sister" intending to give her the run down. Everyone should have such a great friend/sister that you can call and without even saying a word they know that it's time to get in the car and head your way.

Anyhow, Cam Cam was out the door and headed my way. Upon arriving at the store, I was to have a meeting with a pretty awesome lady and immediately told her I had been up all night so I would not be at my best. She analyzed the situation and started to help me feed the rascals, while discussing our business. She didn't miss a beat and we worked through our topic while teaching the kittens to eat. Chicks certainly can multi-task!

A few minutes Cam Cam arrived. Her first words upon seeing this dilemma are not printable, but she jumped right in. We starting feeding the babies again with the milk replacer and they seemed to really take to it this time. We learned that one has to assist them in going to the bathroom. That was quite interesting and apparently not that pleasant to said kitten. And, of course they needed to be kept warm.

After they all fell asleep, Cam started making phone calls to humane societies and other shelters. It is hard to hear that most of these are so understaffed that they cannot come to the aid of kittens such as ours. A shout out to all those who volunteer, you are truly saving lives.

But, as it goes in a small community, the word started to get out and by mid-afternoon, we had a very special family (I haven't asked yet if I can print their names, so out of respect, I will do so first) step forward. These folks offered to "co-parent" with us. Since these kittens needed fed every two hours, this was nothing short of a miracle, especially since I hadn't slept in 36 hours! Heck, ya, I think we can do this if we share the work load.

So, every day since meeting these little fur balls, this special Lena family and ours have been transferring a box of happy kittens back and forth sharing duties and milestones. I am happy to report at this writing that all four of them are doing well and the little guy has gained so much that he is within 15 grams of his next biggest sibling. What an adventure to watch a life with an enormous amount of spirit will himself into health. God sure has a way of reminding us what's important and that our struggles are not always so great when compared to what others go through. And, God is good. He is very, very good. You just never know what he is up to and where he will put you to be of service.

These kittens will be ready for visitors when they get a few more bottles in their bellies and their immune systems are built up, but I thought you might enjoy a picture in the meantime.

And, about that broth, our bone broth board will conclude our study this Wednesday, so I will have a plenty to share with you all. Let's just say that so far, it's been successful. Most of our folks are reporting more energy, less joint pain and better sleep. And to the folks who are participating – you are amazing and you are making a difference. Thank you all again. Keep rockin!

We just finished a batch today, so if you would like to try some, please come pick up a quart or six.

Enjoy! Hope to see you soon and as always, please contact us via one of the following methods. Natural Healing Express: Phone 815 990 8732, email: skscham@aol.com 204 W Main St, Lena, IL 61048.

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