

Smitten WITH A 3-LEGGED Kitten

by **ASHLEY FLAWS**
photo **SHANNON GREER**

David was still a squirming kitten—hurt, hungry, and helpless—when he was abandoned on church steps in Queens, New York. A rat had bitten his hind leg, injuring it beyond repair.

Luckily he was found and brought into the Humane Society of New York, where the veterinary team had no choice but to amputate his leg.

Since David has the strong-willed personality of a lion, he was soon prancing around on three legs like it was the most natural thing in the world. He became the shelter's beloved pet and was promoted in the

newspaper and on TV in hopes of finding his forever family.

The Humane Society's strategy worked. Carol Campbell was reading the newspaper when the ad showcasing a small black-and-white kitten caught her attention.

"He looked like my cat who had just died, and his name was David like my father who had just passed away," Carol says. "I took it as a sign from God."

At the shelter, she was surprised to learn more than 100 people had already applied to adopt him. But when shelter staff learned Carol had a cat, Olive, and a dog, Daisy, their

eyes lit up. They knew David's big personality meant he would be happiest in a family that included furry friends—and multiple-pet households were hard to come by in Manhattan.

Soon David headed home with Carol and instantly became a part of the family.

And David, now 8 years old, is in

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no way limited by his missing leg. He fits right in with his four-legged friends and even enjoys walks down Third Avenue with a harness and his very own leash. Carol says he is unlike any cat she has ever seen, and she's thankful she spotted him in the newspaper that day.

"It wasn't like I was out there looking for a three-legged cat named David," Carol says. "It's just that there he was. And now I would be more likely to choose an animal missing a limb because they have a greater need to be adopted."



Meet **David**