Kittens: The Good, The Bad, and The Fuzzy (An overview of 10 observations from 10 different litters)

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Introduction

I grew up around lots of dogs with little exposure to cats. My family had a dog, and most of my extended family and friends had dogs. Additionally, the majority of my volunteer activities with the Washington Humane Society in D.C. involved dog handling at various adoption events and fundraisers.

The SPCA, like most (if not all) shelter organizations, spays and neuters all animals prior to adoption. Kittens cannot undergo that procedure until they are at least 8 weeks old and 2 pounds. Therefore younger kittens take space and resources away from adoptable animals until they are ready for surgery. The foster program is a significant benefit for everyone since it reduces the burden on SPCA staff, places animals in an environment better for their health and socialization, and generally lasts around 3-4 weeks which is very convenient for foster parents who cannot care for animals on a permanent basis. With the opportunity to foster animals, I figured kittens would be easier than puppies, and most of the important aspects were rather innocuous. Even though some litters might require medications, kitten care would consist of providing food/water and a clean litter box.

However, any feline owner could tell you they are slightly more complicated. A recent conversation discussing my foster experiences included my comment that I essentially learned something new from each different litter. The following document reviews 10 interesting aspects of kitten behavior from 10 separate litters of foster kittens.

Disclaimer: This has expanded far beyond the intended document, and is somewhat indefensibly long. I recommend reading when there is plenty of free time to waste; on an international flight, at the DMV, or waiting for Comcast customer service.

1. General Kitten Notes

Kittens are energetic and playful, and similar to puppies in many ways. They both like to play with toys whether kittens are chasing a laser pointer dot, or puppies playing tug of war. From spending a lot of time with kittens I have also considered some differences between kittens and cats, and puppies and dogs. In some ways a dog is better than a puppy since they are usually house trained, do not have to be let out as often, and some other aspects. In contrast, kittens have been far more entertaining and fun than some cats I know that are often boring and distant.

One of the first interesting observations I had when I started fostering was how often kittens can get kicked. This can be difficult to avoid sometimes when there are 3 or 4 small and silent kittens shuffling around your feet and you are trying to feed them, or clean their litter box, or just walk around.

It should go without saying there is a distinct and significant difference between a **kitten getting kicked** (common among good kittens) and **kicking a kitten** (based on legal jurisdiction, a Class A misdemeanor or Class C/D felony).

Comparing kitten kicking from certain litters, fantastic and affectionate kittens get kicked often, and kittens that never get kicked probably need more socialization.

It is also important to recognize that not all foster kittens arrive as fun and affectionate. In fact, they may arrive fearful, anxious, and defensive/aggressive. Many pets may need some time to adjust to a new home regardless of origin. Foster kittens may require more time to adjust from the stress of the shelter environment to a foster home. Additionally, foster kittens may have been strays with barely any interaction with people expect for SPCA clinic staff that may consistently poke and prod them, and give them uncomfortable medications if they are sick.

One kitten arrived terrified of people, and spent her first day constantly avoiding me, including hiding under the dishwasher (*below left*) and in the gap between the wall and refrigerator (*below right*) where she spent 6 hours.



Initially I was somewhat concerned by her behavior, but with some good socialization and play time she quickly became very affectionate, and considered me her personal jungle gym and sleeping accommodations (*below*). When I was home she would spend most of her time with me, or trying to when there was a paw under the bathroom door.



Newly arrived foster kittens should always be provided an escape route to a safe hiding place. Otherwise if they are scared or threatened they may hiss, claw, or bite from a defensive manner. I have accomplished this safety measure by providing them guaranteed access to their carriers as a default hiding place with limited/denied access to other areas.

Eliminating kitten access to certain areas is especially important for litters on medications. Foster kittens are commonly on various medications for minor health issues and receive them through oral syringe or eye drops. It is **not** convenient to retrieve kittens from under the sofa at 6:15am for their morning medications before leaving for work. My procedures for all kitten arrivals includes blocking access under the sofa with t-shirts (*below left*), and a recently established refrigerator gap barricade (*below right*).



Unsurprisingly, kittens do not enjoy getting medications, so the optimal way to handle them during this process is to hold them by the scruff of their necks. Their mothers also use neck scruff when they pick up kittens with their mouths. Typically, holding them like this will produce a very passive kitten with a funny somewhat catatonic expression on their faces with their front paws either limp, or lazily waving around.

It is worth mentioning that while kittens are generally inactive and docile like this, they are not fond of it, and cannot be held like that indefinitely. In fact, some are completely in control and irritated by the neck scruff carry. Do not be distracted by the funny expression and waving front paws. Kittens are incredibly flexible, and their rear paws can easily reach your arms, and what they can reach, they can scratch.

Some kittens have enough squabbles that if your friends and family looked at your wrists, they might think you are a danger to yourself. One particular foster litter were extremely gentle and affectionate, but on 2 different medications, and they were tremendously difficult to handle for medicine time. Even the protection of a long sleeve shirt was not enough to prevent severe scratching. Eventually, I started wrapping the kittens up in a towel with only their heads exposed (*below*), which successfully eliminated the scratching (and bleeding).



Kitten bathing was another interesting learning process. Generally, kittens and cats do not need baths since they groom themselves, but some kittens have gotten themselves filthy far beyond their own cleaning ability. If a kitten bath is required, it is very helpful to prepare ahead of time and arrange everything you need to wet, soap, and dry them. All of these aspects are very important since kittens are very sensitive to water temperature and certain soaps, and lose body heat very quickly when wet. An assistant is also recommended at least to take pictures since as cute as kittens are in general, they look ridiculous when getting a bath.



Spending time with kittens on a consistent basis will definitely include encountering ...

2. Shedding/Scratching

Shedding is nothing new for anyone with pet experience, and is generally guaranteed with most breeds of cats and dogs. That being said, as helpful as a lint roller is, "Praise be unto the designer and manufacturer of the Dyson vacuum cleaner, with whom I be well pleased."

Scratching on the other hand was an entirely new experience.

Kittens will scratch at any surface they come in contact with. Although a scratch pad/post will redirect some of their scratching impulses away from carpet, walls, sofas, coffee tables, and foster parent skin, the only way to prevent kitten scratching on anything important is to move it where they don't have access. If a foster parent lives in an apartment where kittens have no bedroom privileges, this might require moving a lot of items out of the living room.

It should also be mentioned that the amount of effort kittens will put into scratching something is directly proportional to its cost, and the extent of damage scratching can cause.

A cheap pair of jeans or sweatpants will never encounter a single kitten claw, whereas a business suit will be irresistibly attractive to scratch, and will be assaulted like a lion attacking a gazelle.

This has been consistent with every foster litter for every morning comparing weekdays to weekends.

All the scratching sharpens their kitty claws to prepare them for...

3. Climbing

Kitten climbing was also a new experience even though I was obviously aware of cat's ability to climb.

If you want to keep a 1 month old puppy or kitten in a certain area, an easy and inexpensive method is to use a large 3 ft high cardboard moving box as a barrier since regardless of breed, neither is likely to be able to jump that high. However, a kitten's ability to escape is not limited to how high it can jump, but how high it can climb.

Kittens can extend their claws like Wolverine from X-Men and climb straight up and over the cardboard to escape into the living room prompting an immediate search for a replacement barricade.

An excited puppy will definitely jump on you, and a larger puppy may jump up to your waist. An excited kitten will jump on your legs at ankle height and climb up to your waist, and any clothing lighter than a lead blanket for x-ray protection will be insufficient to protect your skin. To quote a kitten caretaker, "My legs look like I have been shaving in the dark."

Additionally, I have never encountered a 1 month old puppy that could climb up your leg, and continue climbing to your shoulder, only to get scared of heights and dig in with all claws to stay in place.

That being said, regardless of how damaging to clothing (and skin) as climbing may be, it is difficult to stay irritated at kittens who climb up your pants to greet you in the morning and evening like this..



All that cardio from playtime, sharpened claws from scratching, and strengthened legs from climbing prepares them for...

4. Kitten Fighting

One of the best aspects of kitten fostering. From a general standpoint, kitten fighting is similar conceptually to puppy fighting, except more violent and entertaining.

Comparing puppy fighting to kitten fighting is like comparing boxing to mixed martial arts. Although both kittens and puppies will bite and jump on each other while fighting, kittens will also employ punching, swatting, kicking, NFL-style tackling, and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Occasionally, kitten fighting will produce a squeal loud enough I will think an emergency visit to a veterinarian is required. But when I check on the combatants, the kittens immediately stop fighting and stare at me wondering why I am looking at them.

I have such significant interest in facilitating this activity; I could be considered the Michael Vick of kitten fighting. If I could develop an arrangement to monetize my library of kitten fighting videos, I could retire true baller style.

However, for all my enthusiasm for kitten fights, they can only be spontaneous kitten-initiated events. No confirmed methods have been developed for a foster parent to instigate a kitten fight.

Also, kitten fights rarely begin with a face-off. They almost always begin with a sneak attack by the aggressor going after an unaware litter mate playing with another toy, eating, sleeping, or using the litter box.

One absolute truth I have learned from fostering is to whatever extent kittens may enjoy socialization, having their fur stroked, and playing with toys, nothing makes a kitten happier than kicking their litter mate in the face.

Eventually, all their energetic play, scratching, climbing, and fighting makes them hungry which they express by...

5. Meowing

Meowing is unique to cats, and is a very interesting way for an animal to communicate a want/need. Compared to a hungry puppy barking or infant crying, meowing seems like a highly ineffective evolutionary development for the domestic cat, considering no one dislikes hearing a kitten meow.

Meowing is usually cute, enjoyable, and funny, which explains why there are approximately 1.4 billion kitten meowing videos on YouTube. For example, the following video is the best representation of every kitten meal time I've experienced: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiHXASgRTcA If watching that clip doesn't at least make you smile, consider seeing a therapist.

Conversely, there are only 14 videos on YouTube of dogs barking, and most of the views were from prisoner interrogations at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay.

One of my recent kittens who didn't appreciate her medications would minimize the 'me' while getting her eye drops resulting in her 'me-**OW**' which sounded just like a 3 year old girl saying 'OW'.

This sound did not result in an un-medicated kitten, but did delay her receiving the eye drops. Not from a desire to comfort the kitten and give her time to adjust, but to allow me time to sit down and stop laughing.

However delayed from the cuteness and humor of meowing, kittens always get what they want leading to ...

6. Mealtimes

Kitten drinking is not particularly interesting. I think the level of their water bowl lowers mostly through evaporation, and without the evidence of kitten drinking in the litter box; I would not believe they drink anything. Every time a fresh water bowl arrives on the floor they immediately run over, realize the water is not food, and walk away uninterested. Even after strenuous cardio workouts of playing, scratching, climbing, and fighting where a puppy might drink an entire bowl of water and dunk its head, kittens just do not seem thirsty.

Their greatest interest in the water bowl is not the water, but the opportunity to watch the other kitten at the bottom of the bowl who never comes out to play. I really enjoy watching them dip their paws in the water trying to get their reflections to leave the bowl.

Kittens are definitely far more interested in eating. In relation to their body weights, kittens eat far more than cats, and are hungry often. From my observations, Friskies[®] Prime Filets Turkey Dinner in Gravy is the kitten equivalent of Chinese food when after eating an entire combination platter of Kung Pao Chicken and an egg roll, you are hungry again in 1 hour.

In addition to eating in general, kittens are more interested in their litter mate's food then their own. Providing 3 kittens an equal amount of Friskies Meaty Bits Gourmet Grill, they will only eat a portion of their serving before deciding another bowl has better options. Sometimes they will switch bowls so often kitten A and B will be butting heads to eat from kitten C's bowl, kitten C will be using kitten A's bowl, and kitten B's bowl is without a kitten.

The best way I can describe this behavior is that they are playing the kitten food version of musical chairs even though there is always 1 bowl for each kitten and no bowl ever gets taken away.

Their little bodies and stomachs don't hold that much so they digest their food rather quickly. Unfortunately, the first indicator of kitten food digestion is ...

7. The Kitten Fart

Without a doubt, the worst aspect of fostering kittens. THE WORST ASPECT.

(In fact, in a list of the top 10 negative aspects of kitten fostering, the kitten fart would rank 1st, 2nd, and 7th)

It is important to note the distinction here that all further references to the kitten fart are associated with wet food, and not the generic and unremarkable kitten fart associated with dry food. Many of the kittens I have fostered arrive with Upper Respiratory Infections (kitty colds) which can affect their sense of smell and appetite. So they are primarily fed wet food since it is easier for them to smell, as well as digest for the younger ones.

Acknowledging that, if I had any scientific data to quantify any difference in the severity of the kitten fart between Friskies Liver & Chicken Classic Pâté, Meaty Bits w/Beef in Gravy, Prime Filets w/Chicken, Savory Shreds w/Turkey, and Tasty Treasures w/Turkey, Chicken, & Cheese, this would significantly impact my kitten food purchasing.

Similar to *The Matrix*, the kitten fart cannot be fully believed or understood by written description, to really comprehend its magnitude; you have to experience it for yourself.

The kitten fart will peel the paint off the wall, disrupt cell phone reception, and has a greater impact on climate change than all cars and coal power plants. (the real inconvenient truth Al Gore forgot)

The kitten fart is so appalling and horrible; the only reasonable explanation for its existence is that The Law of Conservation of Cuteness was applied to kittens to maintain the balance of nature.

Although this information is not declassified, the reason President Obama delayed military action against Syrian chemical weapons facilities, was that after further analysis, intelligence community chemical warfare experts assessed with high confidence that the incident on 12 August 2013 previously attributed to a sarin gas attack was actually the result of a mass kitten fart release associated with Friskies Country-Style Dinner Classic Pâté.

NOTE: a mass kitten fart incident has also been possibly linked to the Union Carbine industrial disaster in 03 December 1984, and the nuclear disasters at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island on 26 April 1986 and 28 March 1979, respectively. There is also anecdotal evidence that small-scale kitten fart incidents may have resulted in the kidnapping of the Lindburgh baby, the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, and the framing of OJ Simpson for murder.

It is a lesser known historical fact that the kitten fart was first weaponized by the German army in World War I to break the stalemate of trench warfare. It was first deployed on 22 April 1915 during the Battle of Ypres against French defensive positions causing significant casualties. However, the logistical difficulties of transporting sufficient quantities of kittens and Friskies Prime Filets Turkey & Giblets w/Cheese to the battlefield for successful employment of the kitten fart could not be overcome. Therefore, it was eventually replaced with chlorine and mustard gas which were less effective, but had easier transport and dispersal mechanisms.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical weapons in World War I

As bad as the standard wet food kitten fart can be, it gets even worse. During the writing of this document, I began fostering my 12th litter, three kittens 2 weeks old. They were not fully transitioned off bottle baby formula, so they were fed slurry, a mixture of 1 part weaning powder, 2 parts water, and 2 parts Friskies Meaty Bits Chicken Dinner w/ Gravy.

Acknowledging that slurry likely addresses their nutritional needs, it produces a kitten fart of such severity I expect the U.N. to send chemical weapons inspectors to my apartment for violation of WMD counter-proliferation treaties.

The kitten fart functions as an explicit indicator and warning that kittens will soon head to ...

8. The Litter Box

The litter box is another unique aspect to cat ownership, and has been a fascinating new experience for me. It is one of the most significant differences between cats and dogs, and a considerable logistical convenience compared to walking a dog multiple times a day (early morning and late night), and in inclement weather (blazing heat, freezing cold, and heavy rain). Prior to fostering, my basic understanding of cats included a natural tendency to bury their waste, and their use of a litter box without training, provided it is placed in a quiet area and frequently cleaned. This may be generally true for cats, but consistent with all preceding observations, litter box use is slightly more complicated for kittens.

A. General Kitten Litter Box Use

For the uninitiated, a litter box theoretically works in the following manner:

- 1. Litter box is placed on floor with nominal 3-4 inches of litter
- 2. Cat enters the litter box, walks around, digs a small pit, poops and/or pees
- 3. Cat turns around to investigate, decides it smells, and buries waste to hide smell

To ensure a cat uses the litter box, it is important to place it somewhere the cat has easy access, is quiet so they are not startled while using it, and cleaned often so it does not smell. Otherwise, they may decide to poop and/or pee in another convenient, quiet, clean environment like under a sofa. I have always kept my foster kittens relatively confined until they have demonstrated consistent use of the litter box.

Although litter box usage theoretically may seem rather simplistic, actual kittens have exhibited varying degrees of ineptitude.

Some kittens were known to enter the litter box, poop, turn around and decide it smells, swipe only **one** grain of litter on the poop to bury it, leave the litter box, and look up at me with an expression saying, "Nailed it!"

Others would occasionally enter the litter box, poop, turn around and decide it smells, and in process of burying the poop, step in it with front and/or rear paws, and leave the litter box with poop and litter stuck in their paws leaving poopy paw prints on the floor.

One specific kitten was never content to only dig a small pit in the litter, but would dig through 3-4 inches of litter to get to the actual litter box, and in process fling a massive amount of litter onto the floor.

My current fosters kittens have deviated the most from theoretical litter box use. This litter of 3 kittens arrived when they were 2 weeks old, and proceeded to poop and pee all over the floor. My 'favorite' incident occurred when one of them eventually entered the litter box earning significant praise, then decided he did not like the feel of litter on his paws, left the litter box and pooped on the floor earning significant scorn. A detailed conversation with SPCA clinic staff indicated they were not using the litter box for multiple reasons. First, at 2 weeks they were just transitioning off their mother cleaning up after them, and did not really care about the mess or smell of using the floor as a litter box. They were also so small; they had difficulty physically getting in and out of the litter box. Finally, even when they would

climb into the litter box, they had no interest in burying anything, so with three of them, it would not take long for them to decide that the litter box stinks, but the floor does not. Now, after 2 weeks of fostering, all these factors contributed to the current condition of my apartment (*below*) where they are using the multiple low-height litter boxes, and hopefully they will begin noticing and disliking poop smell soon to bury it in the litter box.



B. What Kittens leave in a Litter Box

This aspect of kittens is both amazing and gross.

Although Wikipedia defines a kitten as 'a juvenile domestic cat', a kitten should be defined as 'a small and mobile poop generator'.

Kittens produce a volume of poop that seems to defy the laws of physics. Specifically, Conservation of Mass, which generally states that mass can neither be created nor destroyed. However, kittens are somehow apparently able to create mass, since for every can of Friskies they produce double the amount in poop.

To examine this phenomenon mathematically, consider the following variables:

X = Can of Friskies

Y = Nutrients absorbed

Z = Poop weight

Clearly, when a kitten eats and goes to the litter box, the poop equation should be expressed as: X - Y = Z (where Z < X)

However, 10 litters of foster kittens have consistently exhibited different values for this equation expressed as:

X - Y = Z (where Z = 2X)

NOTE: if you are unable to follow these equations, step your algebra game up.

To restate this in simple terms, I have no idea how kittens can convert a **5.5 ounce** can of Friskies Beef & Liver w/Cheese Classic Pâté into **11 ounces** of poop.

I am not aware of any scientific theories or hypotheses to address this. At this point I am willing to consider that kittens develop an ability to cast poop-creating magic spells from an unknown Harry Potter novel, or some other paranormal method.

C. Cleaning the Litter Box

Interesting kitten behavior continues when cleaning the litter box.

This is a very simple process that only involves using a scooper to sift anything solid out of the box and place in a trash bag. There should be nothing remotely interesting about this to comment on.

Nonetheless, kittens are as entertained and fascinated by litter box cleaning as I am by kittens.

From the initial characteristic noise of litter scooping they will come running to observe the event. At first they will just watch, and then they will try to play with the scoop and the trash bag. They will also look with amazement and pride at the amount of poop that comes out of the litter box.

It is also important to mention that having fostered male litters, female litters, and mixed litters, I have seen enough of this behavior to distinctly associate it only with male kittens.

So, all things considered, it would appear that male kitten interest in the size of their poop is not much different from male human interest.

Finally, all the playful activity, and scratching, and climbing, and fighting, and eating, and farting, and litter box using exhausts all their energy leading to

9. Sleeping

I have a substantial appreciation for sleeping kittens.

Although sleeping might seem neutral since they are not engaged in entertaining activities like playing, meowing, or fighting, or irritating activities like scratching, farting, or spreading around poopy paw prints, I still rather enjoy it.

Occasionally, I will just watch them sleep since often they twitch violently like they are having crazy dreams about kitten fighting with their litter mate, a neighbor's dog, or a dinosaur.

More importantly, a kitten purring while passed out on your lap is a very pleasant experience, and a much better way to self-medicate for any personal issues than Prozac or Zoloft.

Another benefit of sleeping kittens is the opportunity to acquire some good pictures of them. Similar to dogs ability to smell fear, kittens have a sixth sense which tells them to move at the exact second needed to turn a 'great kitty pic' moment into a blurry mess. On the other hand, when they are sleeping, you can get fantastic pictures like this...



Kittens will also sleep in some bizarrely uncomfortable looking positions, which if forced on them, would constitute a violation of the Geneva conventions, or might be considered an 'enhanced' interrogation technique. They may also choose to sleep in uncomfortable locations. Given the option of sleeping on the kitten bedding, living room carpet, sofa, or his litter mate (*below left*), one kitten curled up and fell asleep in the plastic umbrella holder of my coat stand (*below right*).





Finally, considering all the preceding observations I can comment on ...

10. Common Cat Sayings

A. Cats Have Nine Lives - NEUTRAL

I do not have any interesting comments on this saying. It may or may not have some entertaining relevance to cats or kittens in Saying B, but nothing worth discussing.

B. Curiosity Killed the Cat - TRUE

I completely understand this, and consider it 100% accurate. Thankfully, this accuracy is more theoretical since none of my foster kittens have actually been killed or injured from their curiosities, but knowing how close certain kittens have come to injury, this saying is definitely easy to agree with.

Kittens are curious about anything and everything. Compared to puppies, they are not as curious or adventurous with their food so they usually will not eat their toys or whatever else is lying around.

However, they will venture into any space, void, hole, cavity, or chamber. Especially spaces you think there is no way they can fit into. As a general rule, if their heads can fit, they can fit, and their heads are smaller than they look.

Additionally, kittens will attempt entry into any space even if the access window is only 5 milliseconds.

Some of their inadvertent slight injuries have come from running at full speed into a door being closed to a bathroom or bedroom. They are so small, fast, and silent it is very easy to never notice them running at the doorway from far away until there is a slight thud on the other side of the closed door and a kitten with a dazed expression on its face.

Most kitten near-injuries have come from them getting temporarily trapped in places not noticed, or would ever expect they got into. These include rooms, closets, cabinets, and other fun places like the refrigerator.

On one occasion, I went into my living room to find a kitten staring at his reflection in the glass of the entertainment center. Shortly afterward, I realized I could not find his litter mate prompting a 15 min search of cabinets and other potential hiding spaces. After running out of places to look I noticed the first kitten had not moved from the entertainment center. Only then I did I realize he was not looking at his reflection, but his litter mate who had climbed up the wiring at the back of the entertainment center, crawled into the wiring pass-through, fallen into the unit, and was wedged between the stereo receiver and the interior wall of the entertainment center. In my defense, both of these kittens were completely jet black, so the trapped one was nearly impossible to see through the glass of the entertainment center, between a black wall and black stereo receiver. Thankfully he didn't need the litter box while stuck; otherwise the stereo might have required some interesting cleaning or repair.

In my current apartment, when I am not home, I keep my foster kittens in the kitchen where they have ventured into all available spaces, and occasionally been briefly trapped from a combination of kitten curiosity and quickness, and foster parent distraction. They have also demonstrated significant interest in the oven. This has continued to the extent that every opening of the oven is preceded by mandatory reconnaissance for kitten proximity.

C. Cats Always Land on Their Feet - FALSE

This may be true for cats, but is not remotely accurate for kittens. A kitten jumping from a low height sofa or table onto the floor will land on its feet, but a kitten falling from a sofa, table, chair, or window will land on its back, butt, or head.

Essentially, any part of its body not its feet.

I do not know when the natural righting instinct of cats develops, but it is older than foster age.

SUMMARY

Kittens are guaranteed to wreck havoc wherever they reside, and are capable of significant destruction of property including the arms and legs of their foster parents.

Furthermore, that only regards typical kitten behavior without the slurry-enhanced kitten fart, and other unique incidents such as pooping behind the refrigerator, vomiting from early evening past midnight, flea infestations, unexpected late night poop-related bathing, and other random 'experiences'.

Regardless, even accounting for all these less desirable characteristics, kittens are a lot of fun to foster, and it is easy to understand why there are almost 100 million cats in American households.

Otherwise, my first foster kittens would have likely been my last foster kittens.

I hope my foster parenting has been successful, and resulted in returning well-adjusted kittens back to the SPCA for adoption in a good home.