

A Sad Note...

At approximately 12:00 noon, Sunday, July 30, "Data" the tortoise-shell Calico cat after which Felicity and Rowan's feline, "Emily" was modeled, succumbed to her advanced age. Her passing was peaceful and for all intents and purposes, painless. She had been declining in energy during the previous week, and she simply drifted off in her sleep.

This particularly amazing feline was the sole survivor of a litter of five which was plagued with misfortunes from day one-- anything ranging from Feline Leukemia to Brain Tumors. One of the litter expired within his first six months, the rest within a few years following birth. All except for "Data" who lived to nearly 19 years of age. In surviving, she was faced with overcoming an inoperable intestinal birth defect which did not allow her to process food properly, a severe injury to a hip from a scrap with a local Tomcat which left her missing a large amount of muscle tissue from that leg, and a dangerous bout of dehydration after giving birth to her own litter, all of whom subsequently died from Feline Leukemia with their first six months.

Her resilience, uncanny immunity to FeLeuk, and consummate skill at wiping out an enormous displaced rat population during the Midwestern flood of 1993 were of constant amazement to us given her diminutive size and weight. Her scruffy looks and curmudgeonly demeanor will be sorely missed around the Sellars household. Still, she will live on through "Emily" between the pages of the RGI novels, for a while yet to come.