

Long-time feline squatters on the move again

Regulars in Regent Park laundry room will make a good pair together

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For five years, they were furry squatters, living in a laundry room in a Regent Park apartment building, two cats dependent on the kindness of strangers.

Buddy and Holly came and went through an open window and some residents of the building, and at least one person from outside who knew about them, would feed them.

But not everyone was a fan of the spayed and neutered cats, believed to have been abandoned by renters who left the building on River St., south of Gerrard.

Someone complained about the cats and the window was blocked off. But fans of the felines in the building were not deterred and someone broke a window to let them back in the laundry room.

Holly, a small, skittery, smoky grey female, could jump in through the jagged-edge window, but Buddy's a big guy and he couldn't get through. A friendly, long-haired orange cat, he'd hang around the door waiting to be let in and out. But it was apparent that this situation couldn't go on and one of the cats' benefactors got in touch with a Toronto Cat Rescue volunteer who knows Jennifer Moore, a singer, composer and music teacher that lives in the area and also helps take care of a downtown feral cat colony. At the end of December, Moore easily took Buddy into custody and was able to trap the wilier, less trusting Holly and put the two into foster care. But the person who's hosting them in her apartment is moving at the end of February and can't take the two cats with her. So Moore is looking for more kind strangers to step forward and adopt the two cats, hopefully together, as they are a bonded pair and Holly is still very fearful of people.

"I think it would be far too traumatic for her to be separated from him," says Moore.

They've both been examined by a veterinarian and given their vaccinations.

Holly may be about six years old. Buddy, believed to be about eight years old, is FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) positive.

With proper care, cats with FIV, which is spread only to cats and mostly through bites, can live for many years.



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