

## Budding Romance at the Domestic Violence Shelter

Being homeless is not much fun, especially when you are young. When the cause of homelessness is domestic violence in your family, that makes it more stressful. But sometimes, you meet others who are even worse off than you. And this is when your humanity comes out.

Edgar began taking his food to the back yard and wanting to eat alone. At first we thought he was just having anxiety and needed to work out some issues. He had been kind of a loner and while he could be friendly, he preferred to be left alone. Being afraid and homeless can have emotional consequences and cause a variety of behavioral problems. After a few days, we noticed he would disappear for hours at a time. After a couple of weeks, we started watching him more closely. We wanted to see where he was going, but did not want to scare him. When we found what was happening, we were surprised. He had made a friend.

Edgar's new friend was about his age and like him was also homeless, but she lived in a nearby group of bushes. She was even more isolated and afraid, but she had accepted and trusted Edgar. They had become very close. Edgar was doing everything he could to take care of her. Unfortunately, his time at the shelter was coming to an end. His family had found an apartment and was set to move in a few days. All of us at the shelter were worried about what would happen. Edgar had really fallen for his new friend and it would break his heart to leave her. Edgar had helped her out of her shell a little and she was beginning to be less afraid of people, but what would happen when he left. Would she feel abandoned?

Fortunately, Edgar's family found a way to make room for 1 more. She was little and didn't eat much. She was very well behaved. Edgar's family didn't have the stomach to break his heart by leaving her behind. So now, Edgar's family has 2 cats. A happy result of spending a few months at the domestic violence shelter.

