

For Immediate Release

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Kitten season is in full swing at West Valley Humane Society with an abundance kittens coming in every day. We talk a lot about the kittens in our care but today we are especially excited to share a rare kitten that came into our care- Cayson!



Cayson is more than just a cute little kitten looking for his forever home. He is a genetic rarity! Cayson is a black and orange MALE tortoiseshell kitten.

(Cayson Pictured left

To explain why this is so special, we'll need to briefly talk about genetics. Cats have 19 pairs of chromosomes and like humans their sex is created at the chromosomal level. The female sex has two X chromosomes (XX) while a male has an X and a Y chromosome (XY) that creates their sex assignment.

Cat's get their coloration from the X chromosome, so it is pretty common to see female tortoiseshell or two colored cats (for example: Black X chromosome + Orange X chromosome = Black and Orange Tortoiseshell). Because male cat's only have one X chromosome, male cats are typically only one color!

Cayson has a genetic abnormality that gave him two X chromosomes in addition to his Y chromosome (XXY). This allows him to have two primary colors while also being male! This phenomenon has about a 1 in 4,000 chance of happening which makes Cayson pretty special!

Cayson will be available for adoption in the next few weeks and due to his rarity we will be doing a special promotion and adoption process for him. Keep an eye out for more information on Cayson by following West Valley Humane Society on Facebook and Instagram and keeping an eye out on our website at www.westvalleyhumanesociety.org.

The West Valley Humane Society was founded in 2011 and serves over 7,500 animals in Canyon County each year. Located at 5801 Graye Lane in Caldwell, Idaho the shelter cares for a wide variety of domestic animals with the mission to provide professional and compassionate animal services through shelter, adoption, educational programs, population control and health care services while remaining fiscally responsible. West Valley Humane Society is a private, charitable, nonprofit Idaho 501(c)(3) Corporation that relies heavily on the support of the community through volunteer service and donations. Visit our website at westvalleyhumanesociety.org.