



Meet Phil the Three-Legged Cat who Proves that Disabilities Don't Make Anyone Less Desirable

Meet Phil (Phil Le Magnifique of Currahee) the three-legged nine-year-old Household Pet cat who, along with handler Gwyneth Hayes, uses his disability to break down barriers with patients in rehab centers that might have given up.

Phil, the victim of a former hit and run, was taken to his local shelter ten years ago. While there he received medical attention and had his leg amputated. He was adopted by Gwyneth and for the past seven years has been helping people with disabilities build back their confidence by proving to them they are lovable through his snuggles and affection.

One wouldn't think a former street cat, who is disabled himself, would enjoy so much human contact and affection, but Phil does. He gives his love and attention to patients at local rehabilitation centers who read to him and spend a lot of time cuddling and talking to him.

Gwyneth recalls one visit she and Phil paid to a rehabilitation center in which the patient had also lost a leg. The patient was distraught with her inability to get around as well as she used to due to her missing leg. She was upset and felt unneeded. The first time Phil met the patient, almost instinctively, he cuddled up to her leg. She soon realized that Phil was also

missing a leg. They connected over their shared disability and grew a deep bond. Phil made a connection no other human had been able to make with this patient, changing her outlook and disposition.

“It was a very touching and moving experience,” said Gwyneth. “Animals don’t judge, they accept us for exactly who and what we are.”

“Being able to reach someone who is depressed or withdrawn and pull them out with the nonjudgmental love of a cat is incredible,” continued Gwyneth. “Animals are just more perceptive than humans to other people’s needs.”