



Meet Darius and John David, Reminders to Some of Happier Days

Meet nine-year-old Darius (Magicbobs SilverSpring of Currahee) and five-year-old John David (Magicbobs HavUForgotten of Currahee), both American Bobtails who along with handler Gwyneth Hayes, bring snuggles and joy to patients at local rehabilitation facilities, making them the perfect candidates for their roles as therapy cats.

Darius started out in the show ring and in 2014 earned his TICA Supreme title days before his first birthday. Known as Big D or Fluffy by kids at the Ronald McDonald House, he spends most of his volunteer time at care homes and helps at his local library by participating in 'Read to the Animals' events. Visitors to his local library can typically find him sitting at the counter greeting them as they search for a new book.

Prior to COVID Gwyneth and Darius visited their local care home and met a very special resident who missed her cats. Darius loved to visit her, and Gwyneth remembers spending many nights talking to her about the cats she had owned. Gwyneth recalls, "the moment she and Darius laid eyes on each other it was a match made in heaven. They had a special bond. When he visited her all you could hear was joy and laughter coming out of her room. He seemed to take all her worries away and transport her back to a happier place in her past." Darius visited her until she passed, making her days less lonely.

Gwyneth also remembers a therapy visit with John David last winter and meeting a patient who was very distraught. “As soon as John David crawled into her lap the patient started crying. Gwyneth apologized and said she was sorry if he was hurting her. The patient, very emotional, said that John David wasn’t causing any pain, in fact she said that he was taking all her pain away.”