

In case you don't intend to read this long testimonial, I'll get right to the point: If you're looking for an awesome Siamese friend or two, your search can be over. Tom and his girls raise these stunning kittens like they are members of the family so they can easily adapt to become loving members of your family. Tom is so generous with his time and expertise about kittens. He sends a weekly email starting with the one announcing the birth of your (likely) litter that includes updates on the kittens' development along with many pictures. You can see how well they are treated and what wonderful surroundings they are raised in. (In contrast to a breeder we used in Virginia for our previous kitten where we felt like we were rescuing her from her surroundings, when we brought our boy home, we felt almost guilty taking him away from all of his playmates.) All of the kittens are gorgeous, of course - they ARE Siamese! They are also well behaved and well adjusted. You will know immediately, on the quiet ride home, that they are ready for whatever adventures you have in store for them. We have had no issues getting the kittens into their carrier for travel any time we move them - they always enter quietly and willingly. And Dax just got 5 stars for good behavior from the vet when I took him for his check-up before being neutered - and that was with me waiting outside due to COVID restrictions. You can't go wrong with these kittens.

Now, for the extended cut: I had a Seal Point girl when I was single. The two of us had an amazing bond as we each only had each other for many years. She moved into my now husband's apartment before I did. After we got married and moved into a house, we decided it was time to get her a playmate. We added another Seal Point girl to our family and the original cat was less than thrilled. Unfortunately, she never got to become friends with her new "friend" because she suddenly passed away only a few weeks later. We were happy to have a new kitten in the house as my husband was traveling overseas a lot for work and I appreciated the emotional support of my snuggly Siamese. When she passed away in June of 2019, we were of course devastated. As we were mourning her, I realized that I had never properly grieved my original love so it was doubly hard for me. We knew that we had a kitten-sized hole in our family, but also knew that we needed to wait to allow some time for emotional healing.

When Covid lockdown happened in 2020 and our summer travel plans got canceled, we figured it was the perfect time to get a kitten. We considered getting a pair, but weren't sure. I started looking online and found a breeder down in Southern California. We knew we wanted a Seal Point girl, and that's exactly what she had. She was available to pick up in a few weeks. Perfect, right? We convinced ourselves that two would be too much to handle. We were all set to get one kitten. My husband was eager to bring her home, but something didn't feel right to me. I always said that I would trust the Universe to bring us together with the perfect kitten, and since I was uneasy about the whole thing, I decided at the last minute that I had to trust

my gut and call it off. It wasn't easy because my husband was desperate to have a new kitten and thought I was just being silly. But I am so grateful that I did. That's when I went back online and found Black Thai Cattery.

On April 28th I sent a message and got a response almost immediately. Within a few days, my husband and I spent the better part of an hour talking with Tom. He told us all about how he and his family raised the kittens and answered all of our questions. We were no longer undecided as to whether to get one or two kittens. It had to be two. We excitedly put down our deposit on May 5th. The only disappointing part was that we would be put on a waiting list and would have to wait several months before being able to bring home our babies - but we knew it would be worth it. After that call, I spent hours looking at pictures and reading all of the testimonials on the Black Thai website. I knew that we were on the right path to bringing home the perfect kittens. We even picked out names, after much back and forth between the two of us. Tom let us know that it would be a while before we heard from him, but that we could call anytime if we had questions.

We got an email on September 13th letting us know that Winter and Ellie were pregnant. We were on the list for two kittens. We for sure wanted a Seal Point girl and were somewhat flexible on the second one, although I'm very partial to the brown ones! Tom let us know that the kittens were due in mid to late October. I was just about to check in with Tom when we got notice that three litters of kittens had been born on October 16th, 17th, and 18th. My husband had said something about wanting to watch the birth, but I didn't realize that he was serious. I mentioned this to Tom and he graciously invited us to come and watch another litter that was being born about a week later. We are lucky to live less than 30 minutes away, so we were able to be there to see the last two kittens of that litter being born. We spent several hours talking with Tom through the night (did I mention we got the call about kittens at 02:15 am?!?). It was definitely worth missing sleep for. We were also able to see the three litters of kittens that were born the week earlier. There wasn't a whole lot to see, of course, because they were mostly just sleeping and occasionally eating. But we were thrilled because at this point, we were certain that we had seen our two future kittens and were very excited about bringing them home in just 11 more weeks. Now it was REAL.

Tom sent us weekly updates with pictures of all three litters of kittens. All of the kittens were adorable, of course. I didn't know how we would ever be able to choose. One of them was a boy with a kinked tail. In the email, Tom let us all know that we could select that kitten if for some reason we wanted a kinked tail, or if we just wanted to know which one would be ours. My husband liked the idea of a kinked tail and when I found out after a few weeks that he was likely a Chocolate Point we jumped at the chance! That settled our second choice. It was going to be a

boy. It was so fun getting the new pictures of him each week knowing that he would soon be coming home with us. We anxiously awaited the KITTEN UPDATE email each week. Each week I would pick my favorite picture of Dax and make it the screen saver on my phone. Every night before going to sleep I would bring up the picture and show it to my husband saying, "look how gorgeous our little kitten is". Then we would talk to him and tell him how much we were looking forward to bringing him home. It became a really fun ritual. We were even able to go back to the earlier photos because his tail was easily recognizable. Unfortunately, there were ZERO Seal Point girls in all three litters. In fact, there were no Seal Point girls in the litter that we watched being born the following week either. So, we were going to have to wait longer. I was a bit concerned about not being able to bring them home together, but there was nothing we could do. We were already madly in love with Dax and desperately wanted a Seal Point girl. The day after Thanksgiving there was another litter of kittens born. This time we got the call at 7:30 am. We raced over and not only got to see two of the kittens being born but also got to hold and bond with Dax. I am so grateful that Tom opened up his home again to allow us to witness such a sacred process. Seeing the kittens being born was awesome. And holding Dax was a real treat. Happily, the litter that was born on November 27th included one Seal Point girl. Again, we were spared having to make a choice. We knew which kitten would be ours. So, we watched each week as she grew, knowing that she would soon be home with us. Now my husband had Dax as his phone screen saver so I started choosing my favorite pic of Jadzia each week. Each night before going to sleep, now it was: "look at our beautiful little girl!" Now we knew that we would be bringing Dax home on January 9th, and Jadzia 6 weeks later in February.

I realize that not everyone lives in the Bay Area and can quickly jump in the car to watch kittens being born, but the fact that Tom allowed us into his home numerous times is just way above and beyond what we expected when we first put ourselves on the waiting list for kittens. We got to hold Dax just 5 days after he had been born, and we may have witnessed Jadzia being born. How cool is that?!?

When we went to get Dax on kitten pick-up day we stayed for a while and got to meet Jadzia in person. We introduced the two kittens to each other and let them get a good whiff of each other, hoping it would make their future introduction at home easier. When we left of course he cried, but in just a few minutes he settled down and was calm on the ride home. My husband held him in his lap and he seemed totally content. Once we got him home, we could tell he was lonely. He was OK when we picked him up and held him, but every time he left us, he would call for his buddies and you could tell he was distressed that no one was responding. The first night was heartbreaking. We stayed up late with him to make sure that he had used the litter box before taking him to bed. Then in the middle of the night he got up and stood in the middle of the room meowing so loudly that we thought it might wake

the neighbors! But then he snuggled in bed with us and slept through the night. I love those snuggles! I'm sure it was hard for him to go from having dozens of playmates to none, but he adjusted. He LOVED the new cat tree we got, climbing and swinging, choosing the top ring as his favorite place to hang out. After a few days, he was drinking from the water fountain and eating both wet and dry food. He bonded with both my husband and me and we gave him tons of rubbings and he seemed happy. I was a little sad that he found lots of hiding places to nap (I would have preferred him hanging out with me) but he was adjusting to his new surroundings and he was very affectionate when he spent time with us. He loved getting all of our attention and was treasuring his role as "King of the Castle".

A few weeks later, we took Dax back over to Tom's for a play-date. We wanted to give him another chance to interact with Jadzia. He didn't show a ton of interest in her, but they seemed to get along OK. I am so grateful that Tom let us do that. Dax was over the moon excited to have playmates and we got to see our little girl again. She was growing, but still so tiny! We stayed for a few hours and Dax really tired himself out playing. He fell asleep in the car on the way home and pretty much slept for the next 12 hours. He was wiped out, but happy! And I was happy because I was a bit more optimistic that reintroducing the kittens when we finally had them both would go smoothly. Also, Tom told us that day that he would let us pick her up a week early because of the circumstances. We would have her home for Valentine's Day!

Finally, the second kitten pick-up day came. We took Dax with us so he could play with the others. Again, he tired himself out playing. We put a "cozy quilted pocket" into the cat carrier as we had before. My husband had bought it for Dax and put it next to our bed thinking he might want to sleep in it. He had had no interest in it whatsoever, but while we were at Tom's at least a half dozen kittens decided to take a nap in the carrier box and got their scent all over it. It suddenly became very interesting. We put both kittens into it as we left and the two of them peacefully coexisted in the box. We made a stop and took them out for the rest of the ride home. They seemed to be getting along just fine.

When we got home Jadzia discovered the cat tree and immediately took her place in the top ring (which was Dax's favorite spot). That's when the fighting started or was it playing? Dax pushed her out of the top spot and they proceeded to wrestle with each other up and down each level of the tree. I guess it was rough playing, but it would inevitably end with Jadzia pinned beneath Dax, squealing, and one or both of them hissing at each other. Often, they would snuggle together and groom each other, but it would always end the same way, with Dax hovering over her, and Jadzia squealing trying to get loose. This went on for days. After about a week there was much less hissing, but still a lot of squealing. Now, several weeks later there's little

squealing and they are absolutely inseparable. He is a very good big brother, but the playing still often gets out of control. I think most of it has to do with their size difference. Jadzia is soooooo small - Dax is at least twice her size - but she is often the instigator and always goes back for more. So, I guess it's just a kitten thing. She definitely holds her own. Sometimes I even think she is the alpha in the relationship.

I've only ever had single kittens before, so we had very co-dependent relationships. For better or worse, having two kittens creates a different dynamic that I am still getting used to. Dax bonded with me and my husband because he was a single cat in our home for several weeks. So far, Jadzia seems to have bonded more with Dax than either of us. Her introduction to our home was obviously much different than his was. He showed her around and introduce her to the space. She was never lonely. Even when they were hissing at each other she followed him around closely. Dax is a really great big brother. When we feed them, they both take a bite or two then Dax backs away. He protectively watches over her as she eats, then when she's done, he moves in to finish it off. It's really nice to watch. And each night they sleep together in that pocket next to our bed. Dax used to sleep between us in bed, but that stopped when she showed up. I kind of wished they would sleep through the night with me, but so far, they won't. Perhaps, eventually . . . During the day they will sleep in my lap or next to me, but at nighttime, they always choose the pocket, snuggled with each other. I'm learning to be OK with that.

I've been hesitant to end this testimonial because things are constantly changing. Recently they have started to wake up a few hours before we do and take their place snuggled between us in bed. In the mornings we snuggle before I feed them. After breakfast, they used to go off by themselves and find out-of-the-way places to nap. Lately, that's been happening less and less. A few times I grabbed Jadzia from her hiding place and put her on my lap while I was reading or working on the computer. Dax would never be far behind to join us, usually curling up next to me. Now they have both gotten into the habit of napping in the spot where they know I will be eventually, and both will snuggle in my lap once I sit down. Each of them grows more and more affectionate every day. Sometimes I can be trapped for hours - but it's a good trapped. It's definitely different having two of them around. I'm glad they have each other as playmates & bunkmates. They can keep each other entertained for hours, yet are both eager to play with us when we bring out a toy for them. They are both so much fun to be around. They have definitely more than filled the kitten-sized hole in our family.

To sum up, having these two kittens in our life has been such a blessing. We are so grateful that we found Black Thai Cattery. The long wait was worth it to welcome these perfect additions to our home.