



Betsy, Zeus and Athena are waiting for you at the Georgia SPCA.

Credits: Georgia SPCA

Saving Betsy, the Maine Coon Cat

Friday morning I received the following email from Gail, a volunteer the Georgia SPCA in Suwanee. Another volunteer, Carol, is mentioned in the email as well. Their dedication to saving Betsy, the Maine Coon Mama and her kittens, Athena and Zeus, is just one example of the good work that goes on every day at the Adoption Center.

“Yesterday Carol and I (Gail) went to Newton County Animal Control and pulled 2 beautiful Maine Coon/domestic long haired kittens we named Athena and Zeus, and we couldn't bring ourselves to leave their mom, Betsy. At first glance, Betsy appeared to be a Scottish Fold, but upon closer examination, we saw that her ears were folded down not because of her breed, but due to ear mite infestation and infection. Probably from scratching the ear mites, the right ear had developed a huge hematoma, a solid swelling of clotted blood within the tissue, and the left had obviously had the same at one time, leaving the ear permanently misshapen and disfigured. When we picked her up, she purred so loudly, and was so sweet and loving, we just couldn't bring ourselves to leave her. I've attached a couple of photos. She's a beautiful long hair/maine coon gentle sweetheart. A wonderful animal control employee gave us antibiotics for her, and off we went.

“At 7:00 pm last night we had her at the vets office. We had the ear lanced, and she's now resting comfortably at my house. The problem is, this morning the ear filled back up, and so she will need surgery to install a drain in her ear, at a cost of \$500.

“Carol came up with the awesome idea of asking all our friends, neighbors and associates for a \$25.00 donation to help cover this cost. If we all pull together this won't be a financial drain for anyone. How about it?

I'll keep everyone posted on how much we collect. Please forward this email on to anyone you think might be able to help. Thanks alot.”

NOT the end of the story. Yesterday afternoon, this email arrived:

“As luck would have it, as soon as I sent my email to you about Betsy, we received another opinion from a vet that made a lot of sense. He seems to think that once Betsy's ear mites are taken care of, in time her body may absorb the fluid from her ear, and her ear will have the wilted appearance of her other ear, and that surgery may not be necessary. This seems to be what happened with the other ear, so if we wait on the surgery, and it heals on its own, she will have two matching ears! We will be watching her closely, and decide over the next

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few days which way to go. She's been exploring my house all morning, and is now sprawled out on a window seat. She really doesn't seem to be in any pain.

"I wanted to give everyone this updated information in the event you decide to help. Her vet bill was almost \$100 yesterday, plus she and her kittens will need continued earmite treatment, but the surgery may not be necessary. Should you decide to donate, I wanted to mention that any excess money will go to other pets at the center that are in need of medical attention."

If you'd like to help Betsy and/or all the animals at the Georgia SPCA:

Mail a check to Georgia SPCA or stop by 1175 Hwy 23, Buford Highway, Suite 110, Suwanee, GA 30024, or visit the [Compassionate Hearts page](#) on the website, and donate right there.



[Carol Aitken](#), Georgia SPCA Examiner

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