

The cat came back, just 14 years later

By Lindor Reynolds, Winnipeg Free Press February 2, 2010



Tiger Lily seen in her home in Winnipeg.

Photograph by: Handout, Winnipeg Free Press

WINNIPEG — Fourteen years ago, a Manitoba family lost their three-year-old orange tabby when she wandered away from their home in southern Manitoba.

Last week, Tiger Lily arrived at their new home in Winnipeg — a little thin, but otherwise unharmed.

"We thought a fox got her," Ingrid Kerger said this week. "She just disappeared. We put up posters but she was never returned."

The family has no idea how the feisty feline spent her 14 years on the lam after going missing on Oct. 12, 1996.

"If only she could talk, what a story," Kerger said.

Tiger Lily didn't track the Kergers down on her own. She had considerable help.

Last week, Kerger got a call from an animal hospital. They wanted to know if she'd ever lived in Lockport, about 30 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg.

A staff member had found an elderly tabby and checked her tattoo. That led them to Kerger's old address.

"I was just in shock when they called," Kerger said.

She sent her 23-year-old son Richard to claim Tiger Lily. He took with him a picture of himself with Tiger Lily when he was eight.

"My sons were just incredulous," Kerger said.

She said she thinks the thin, 17-year-old cat knows she's been reunited with her family.

"I'd like to think she does. The very first night (back) she did sleep with Richard."

lindor.reynolds@freepress.mb.ca

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