# Rare Intersex Tortoiseshell Kitten Discovered in Oregon Shelter



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A unique kitten was brought to the Humane Society of Central Oregon, capturing the attention of shelter staff due to its rare condition. Initially thought to be a female and named "Cindi" because of its tortoiseshell coloring and apparent external genitalia, the kitten surprised veterinarians when it was brought in for spaying.

Upon closer examination, the vets found no ovaries or uterus but did locate two testicles. Consequently, the kitten, diagnosed with "feline disorder of sexual development," was neutered and renamed "Cinder." This condition means Cinder has both testicles and a vulva, signifying the presence of an extra X chromosome (XXY), which is responsible for the tortoiseshell coloring.

Typically, tortoiseshell cats are female due to the two X chromosomes that determine their coat colors. Male cats, having one X and one Y chromosome, usually exhibit either black or orange coloring, but not both. This makes male tortoiseshell cats extremely rare.

Bailey Shelton, the clinic manager, and Annie Pulzone, a veteran veterinary technician, both noted the extraordinary rarity of encountering such a kitten. Despite the odds, Cinder has since found a new home through adoption.

Cinder's discovery comes amidst other notable animal rescues, including terrified cats found in Iowa and a blind cat needing a home.