

ROOTS-OF-LIFE

Benji Application

Awkward and Ambitious
@hawkthespork

ROOTS-OF-LIFE



NAME
Benji

GENDER
Male

COLONY
Meadow

RANK
Butterfly

About

Name	Benjamin
Name meaning	Named after a friendly resident at the nursing home Simon visited as a housecat
Nicknames	Benji (exclusively), Benny, Flower Bud/Bud (by Simon)
Gender	Male
Pronouns	He/him
Sex	Male
Sexuality	Gay
Age	12+ months
Colony	Meadow
Rank	Butterfly

Appearance

Appearance	Benji is a small black mackerel tabby tom with white spotting.
Scars	
Impairments	

Accessories	
Genotype	Ll Bbl Aa Mcmc spsp titi wsw

Personality

There are two sides to this little tom. What cats see most often is Benji's shy and awkward disposition. He tends to keep to himself and around cats he's unfamiliar with, he's self-conscious and has trouble figuring out how to respond. His go-to is a smile and a nod, or an awkward chuckle, but he knows that that's not always an appropriate or correct response. He's not the most socially affluent. When it's a topic he's more sure about, though, he's able to give good advice and hold an easy rapport with the cat he's speaking with. Benji is eager to help out when he can. He's flattered when someone feels comfortable enough to open up to him, and honors their vulnerability with compassion and empathy. He just becomes easily nervous (in conversation or out of it). Like his mother, he's peaceful and avoids confrontation when he can help it.

The other side of him is seen by friends and close family - playful and loud, he approaches them with a caring and vibrant personality. Around those he loves, he's drawn out of his shell and becomes more talkative and sociable. He's devoted to them and it's obvious. Benji has a fierce protective streak for them, ready to defend them or hotly argue on their behalf. He cherishes them greatly.

Despite his shyness around others, Benji keeps a good reputation in the colony for his industrious and enterprising nature. He wants to sure that everything he touches becomes better after he leaves it. He has ambitions to become as highly regarded as his parents in the colony. There is no future if he doesn't work hard in the present; the world is for the determined, after all.

Family

Silk • Mother • @eclecticsky

White silky-furred molly with bright orange eyes

Simon • Father • @eclecticsky

Cinnamon mackerel bicolor tom with green eyes, messy fur and long ears

Margot • Sister • @eclecticsky

Silky-furred white molly with heterochromia

Ingrid • Sister • @sn0wspark

Longhaired white molly with green eyes

Forsythia • Sister • @Jaykobell

Longhaired black mackerel tabby molly with white spotting and green eyes

Squirrel • Maternal Grandfather • @eclecticsky

Large long-furred black tabby tom with orange eyes

Honeysuckle • Maternal Grandmother-in-Law • @eclecticsky

Large long-furred black tabby tom with orange eyes

Chipmunk • Maternal Uncle • @pumpkinspice

Red broken tabby tom with white

Frankie • Maternal Aunt • @sn0wspark

Black broken torbie molly with white

Rusty • Maternal Uncle • @mt26

Red broken tabby tom with white and heterochromatic eyes

Chicklet • Maternal Aunt • @eclecticsky

Black tortoiseshell molly with white

Pearl • Maternal Grandmother • NPC

White long-furred molly with blue eyes

Donna • Paternal Grandmother • NPC

Torbico molly

James • Paternal Grandfather • NPC

Cinnamon mackerel bicolor tom

History

Early Life

Born the youngest in his litter, Benji had three older sisters, Margot, Ingrid, and Evelyn. He was the smallest in many ways - of course, by his age, but also his size, and his shy personality lent to it. Their parents were Silk and Simon, both who were important in their own way. Silk was the Meadow Colony's mediator, and Simon was a pollinator. Their family seemed...complicated, and even a kit could see it. Their groupmates didn't visit them very much, and there was unspoken tension between their parents and the rest of the colony. Even Silk was distant from them. He really didn't fully understand it...but she would play with them sometimes! And it didn't matter- Simon would play with them a lot. Benji liked his dad the most. He was fun and sweet and joked around with them.

There was an unspoken rift drawing lines in the sand in the family. His grandfather, Squirrel, obviously loved his grandchildren and daughter. He played with them, letting the kits crawl all over his back, tug on his ears, and bite his tail. But the way Squirrel stared at Simon sometimes unsettled him. On picture, they were great. But in reality...Benji wasn't so sure.

The cracks deepened and revealed themselves after Silk disappeared one day. Her and Simon broke up, and Benji didn't know what to make of it. Why would their mother leave them behind? That...just didn't make sense. She was supposed to love them. Didn't she love them anymore?

He tried to ignore it and held on even tighter to Simon. His dad was always his favorite cat, so obviously he was all they needed! Who cared if their mom left and - and didn't love them anymore? Him and his siblings had Simon, and Squirrel, and the rest of the colony! ...Even if the rest of the Colony gave them funny looks. Dodger, one of the butterflies, was also nice to the litter. Soon he became the new mediator of the Colony, replacing Silk's former spot.

Benji didn't know how to feel about that. But...Dodger was really nice. He'd do a really good job. Benji tried to see it as a good thing.

It wasn't until he was a bit older when he learned the circumstances of his birth - that being, Silk and Simon, er, *got together* before having an official hearts-joining ceremony, and Silk got pregnant before their mateship was official. That's why cats were always looking at the kids oddly. Benji tried to compartmentalize that and prove them wrong by being the best Meadow Colony cat he could be. Even before he turned six months and started official training, he would try to do little favors around camp, unintentionally appealing to the hearts of his groupmates. Who could hate such a small, shy and polite little cat?

Then they turned six months, and were able to start training. The adjustment period was hard on him - having to wake up early, learn so many new things. One of the older cats in the colony, a molly named Ambrosia, offered to help him and his siblings with their training. She was stern and intimidating, and Benji was a bit afraid of her at first. But beneath that stern tone was a genuine softness and pride when he tried his best. He grew to enjoy her company, even seeing her as somewhat of a mother.

Oh...a mother. Right. Sometimes Benji would look out into the territory and wonder if Silk was out there, and if she was thinking about them. But...no. He shouldn't think about her anymore. She...she didn't want to be their mom. So what was the point in aching for her? It was hard for him to even remember what she sounded like anymore.

Beyond the colony, Benji heard about politics brewing in a Colony called Pyre. But it didn't bother the Meadow Colony, so he didn't pay it too much mind. That would be for the others to think about. Anyway, he was so young - what could he do? He wished he could do some good, but that was unrealistic for now.

When he was a little bit older, Benji became more friendly with a slightly older tom in the colony named Chiffon. He was so silly! He wore this soft white wrap around his head that covered his ears, though sometimes he would pull it down. He even let Benji wear it once! He was soft and considerate and Benji loved his company.

Similarly, Benji bonded with a slightly older molly named Elisabeth. She used to be a housecat and had funny stories! Accompanied by his siblings, they would all train together and formed a little friend group that filled Benji with such softness and love for them. The companionship brought out his louder and playful nature, helping him get over more of his awkward disposition and become more sociable. He felt like he could do anything when he was with them.

Adulthood

By the time Benji became an adult, he could barely remember Silk at all. The sound of her voice, the length of her fur...it was all lost to time. And by then, he tried not to think about her. He had grown into a well-adjusted young tom. Ambrosia was a stern but kind teacher who he admired greatly. Chiffon and Elisabeth were close friends of his. He loved his siblings. Dodger was a cat he could always go to for advice. The colony swelled with friends and family he could lean on for support. Why would he get hung up on a cat that didn't want them anymore?

Speaking of family - his own grew with the announcement of Honeysuckle and Squirrel's mateship, and then their subsequent kittens. Benji was excited to be an uncle and shower on them the same love that he wanted and experienced at their age. The two had a litter of four, and they were named Chipmunk, Frankie, Rusty, and Chicklet.

Trivia

Interests

- ♥ - Jumping in puddles
- ♥ - Hiking
- ♥ - Flower symbolism
- ✕ - Unreciprocated effort
- ✕ - Popularity
- ✕ - Unexpected competitive games

Beliefs

- - Self-critique is important
- - Every situation has nuance
- - Do the work today that your future self would thank you for
- -

Other

- - His favorite flower are hollyhocks
- - Not usually physically affectionate
- - Replaces curse words with less offensive words
- - Probably believes that he has an empathetic link with animals (but he really doesn't)
- - Believes in the Great Pathmaker
- - Talks under his breath when by himself
- - Finds heart-shaped objects a lot
- - Young-looking face, smaller than average

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