
Post No. 23

A BABY HAMSTER!

I have some very exciting news this week. I have a new baby cousin! I am so excited that if I had to give you all the details in my own words, I am sure I would forget some of them, so I have pasted a copy of the e-mail I received from Aunt Hattie into this blog post. She sent the same e-mail to our entire family.

From: Hattie Hamster
To: Hamster Family
Date: 29th February 2012
Subject: An Addition to the Family!

Hamilton and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our new baby daughter, Derby - a little sister for Harley.



Derby is a beautiful little hamster. She looks a lot like Harley did when she was a baby.

At first we were not sure what to name our new baby. Due to the family legacy of



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towels monogrammed with the initials HH, we had been thinking about names starting with an 'H'. We had thought about Hilary, Helen and Hortensia, but none of them seemed quite right for our little girl. We decided not to name her until she fell asleep. After all, we had not been able to think of the perfect name for our darling Harley when she was first born, but then she fell asleep and inspired us to come up with the perfect name for her. (OK, so perhaps 'inspired' is not quite the right word, but you all know the story: her snoring sounded like the revving of the engine of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, and that's why we named her Harley.)

Well, when Derby fell asleep, she too started snoring. Unluckily for us, she snored very loudly. (We had hoped for a quiet sleeper this time, but no such luck!) Luckily for us, Derby's snoring did not sound like the revving of the engine of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. It would have been very confusing for us to have two daughters both named Harley! Would you believe that Derby's snoring sounded like the neighing of a horse? Well, it did, and that got Hamilton thinking about how much we love the races. Well, Hamilton loves the races, and I love any place where I can wear a fancy hat. Thinking about it, that makes Hattie a very fitting name for me, doesn't it? Now, getting back to the point of the baby's snoring sounding like a horse's neighing and reminding us of happy times at the races, thoughts of the races made Hamilton think about his favourite horse racing event: the Kentucky Derby. I'm sure you can guess why we named our baby Derby now!

We can't wait to introduce her to you all.

Lots of love,

Hattie

xxx

Well, needless to say, I wanted to get a present for my new baby cousin. I did not have to think hard about what to get. It sounded as if Derby was a very noisy sleeper, just like Harley used to be. I thought that perhaps, like Harley, she just needed a comfortable sock to sleep in. My loyal readers will recall that once Harley had



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started sleeping in a sock, she had stopped snoring. I thought that a sock would make a wonderful present for Derby. It would also make a wonderful present for Uncle Hamilton and Aunt Hattie. After all, if Derby was anything like most babies, she probably cried a lot when she was awake, and Aunt Hattie had told the whole family what Derby sounded like when she was asleep! Poor Uncle Hamilton and Aunt Hattie were probably not sleeping very well at all. Lucky for Harley, she had already moved into her own box and did not have to put up with her little sister's snoring.

There was one problem. When I went to the shops, all the socks I could find looked very big. Newborn hamsters are very small. I thought that the socks in the shops would be far too big for little Derby. The fact was that I needed something smaller than a sock. I lifted my hand to scratch my head (because I sometimes scratch my head when I am thinking hard), and I had an interesting thought. Hands are smaller than feet, and mittens are smaller than socks. A mitten would make the perfect sleeping bag for Derby. That was how I came to buy a little pair of pink mittens, one of which I sent by overnight post to Uncle Hamilton and Aunt Hattie, with a note explaining that the mitten was actually a sleeping bag for Derby.

Instead of writing out the moral of this blog post, I have pasted a copy of the thank-you note I have just received by e-mail from Aunt Hattie into this blog post. I think that it says it all.

From: Hattie Hamster
To: Harrison Hamster I
Date: 2nd March 2012
Subject: Thank you

My darling Harrison,

Thank you so very much for the delightful little mitten you sent over for Derby. Now, instead of putting her down for a nap, we tuck her into her mitten. When she is in her mitten, she sleeps like a quiet little angel.

Without all the snoring, we thought we might have given our baby the wrong name, but yesterday she fell asleep in my arms before I could tuck her into her mitten and started snoring very loudly. I guess she wanted to give us a loud reminder that Derby is the right name for her after all!



I thought you might enjoy this photo of Derby. Doesn't she look adorable, sleeping peacefully in her little pink mitten?

We hope to see you in New York soon.

Lots of love,

Aunt Hattie

xxx

I expect that all this will leave some of my readers wondering what happened to the second mitten of the pair that I bought. Well, for those of you who like to have everything neatly tied up, here goes. I really love to play miniature golf.



It turns out that mittens are a very good place for a hamster to store his miniature golf clubs. Enough said.

Bye for now!

Harrison Hamster I
2nd March 2012