

CATS and Stuff

Cats

Even though I am not a "cat person", but a "dog person", my family has always had at least one dog and one cat, so I do love our cats. (If I had my way, it would be 50 dogs and 10 cats!)

One of the first cats I remember was a black and white cat named Boots, for his four white paws. He was born near an Indian reservation in a tiny town in Alberta, Canada named Duffield, located about 35 miles west of Edmonton. There was a small general store in that town, with a wood floor and groceries and other items for sale spread all around. Boots was a kitten, lying in some of the soft goods, where my mother saw him and asked to take him home.

Boots was a typical cat – aloof, not terribly friendly, and fiercely independent. He lasted the 2 years in Edmonton, our move to Indianapolis (6 years) and another move to San Bernardino, where he became very sick and died. In Indianapolis, he was lost for weeks, but a woman found him, and curious about a little barrel on his collar, she opened it to find his address there and returned him to us. He became quite affectionate after that.

Boots was followed by an assortment of cats, both at the store and at home. A few memorable cats were Sheba (as in Queen of) who was a wonderful mama; Browns, a white cat with black eyebrows; Schnicky (short for Schnickelfritz) who decided she was my dad's cat despite his allergy to cat hair, and who followed us around more like a dog than a cat.

'Way back in about 2005 or so, a staffer had to get rid of her pregnant mama cat, named Cleo, so we took her and inherited her five kittens also. We still have a couple of her descendants here. She was a real sweetheart and a great mother.



Moses

able to read and write commandments at age 5 weeks or so!

Why do I write this drivel about our cats? Because I'm so TIRED of the bad things going on in the world around us and writing about it here. It reminds me that there are still joys and pleasures in our lives, and pets contribute much in that way. They exact quite a price, too, since they don't live as long as we do, so we have to experience the sadness when one passes.

It seems that God uses things like our mutual love and affection for animals as a great lesson to us about His love and affection for us. I can hardly believe how or why He might love us, as weak and fallen as we are. And yet He does care about us, with a fierce love of which our fierce affection and care for our pets is only a dim reflection.

I love that lesson of His, and I love the thought that someday, when we get to be with Him in eternity, those critters we love so much will be restored just as we will be, to that condition for which God created us – open communication with the critters, and best of all, open communication with Him and living in His presence!

Stuff

Just a couple of days ago, we experienced a rare landfall of a Pacific hurricane/tropical storm/storm-storm, aptly named Hilary. We were prepared for the worst by the mainstream town criers. Yes, there was some flooding, some road closures, some wind damage, especially in other areas, but we found it to be milder than some of the worst storms we have experienced in Lucerne Valley over the years.

I admit it. Some of us asked God to protect and spare Lucerne Valley from the worst of a hurricane. Images floated in my mind of damage in hurricane areas like New Orleans or Florida, which is pretty scary. Some places did experience serious damage, like Baja California. Palm Springs declared a state of emergency due to the flooding, I suppose. It's hard not to make snarky remarks about all of the rich folks who didn't want to get their 4" heels and thou-

Great Spots For A NAP

~A Guide For Cats~

SATIRE!

9 Great Spots Around The House For You To Take A Nap - A Guide for Cats

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Choosing the best spot in the house for a nap can be a tough decision, especially if you're a cat. Here are nine excellent choices for a feline looking to bed down for the afternoon:

1. **In front of TV screen during movie's most important scene** - a football game's biggest play is also acceptable.
2. **On top of your human** - Unless human starts to pet you, then run away.
3. **Right on top of keyboard while human is typing** - It is so comfortable here for some reason.
4. **Wherever the dog wanted to nap** - it just feels sweeter.
5. **On the Bible** - preferably on Sunday before church.
6. **In the middle of the hall where humans are rudely trying to walk** - they can be so insensitive.
7. **On the only set of car keys** - a perfect place to settle in for a few hours.
8. **On the magical vibrating box the human calls a "printer"** - it's like a massage while you nap.
9. **In an Amazon box** - Just make sure it isn't marked "Return", you might wind up in Abu Dhabi.

Go forth with this handy guide and get to cat-napping!



Miss Beautiful

Presently at the store we have an assortment of strays, whom we immediately get fixed, and the most special of them all is named Blackfoot according to the insensitive, neanderthal males in the hardware department. I call her Miss Beautiful, for she has a beautiful multicolored, soft coat.

At the house, Amos and Zorro have been around since 2008 or so.



Amos



Zorro

Then about a year ago, there appeared at the store a young gray tiger cat, about 4 months old. He seemed friendly, so when I saw him sitting there, I asked him if I could pet him. He said "Yes", so I picked him up.



Elijah

Since he was so mellow, we took him home. This character cat's name is Elijah.

Just a few days ago, Bob, our assistant manager, told us of a small kitten hiding under a shed outside, but it was friendly and starving. Knowing how Little Debbie (of Tootle fame) loves cats and has been dying to have a cat of her own, I jumped at the chance to take this sweet little kitten home so Debbie could have her cat. To go with the name Elijah, we named this wonderful all-black kitten Moses. The name seems almost too big for his tiny body, but he already has issued his nine commandments, with the help of the Babylon Bee. Please see "Great Spots for a Nap" on this page. Obviously Moses is a wonder cat,

sand-dollar shoes wet. So I won't. (Or did I just do it? Bad Linda!!!)

Bottom line: thank You, God, for protecting Lucerne Valley from much serious damage or disruption. And as a bonus, for providing some spectacular shows in the skies, starring the clouds and sunlight at dawn and dusk!



Here are some pictures of the heavenly show of those few days!

Linda Gammel



On The Lighter Side . . . from the Web



Me yelling "REPRESENTATIVE!!" to the automated customer service



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Guys after washing their hair with a bar of soap

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