

HEAT DOME

Cat's Freedom means I get to come and go, in or out, as I please. I stand at the door when I want the Big Owner to let me out (it's why I have this 'house-servant'). We have a routine going: He opens it just enough for me to quickly slither through and slams the door shut just behind me. But when it's really hot outside, he takes great delight in opening the door and watching me make my move and then screech to a halt when I get that first blast of intensely hot air blowing through my whiskers. All of a sudden, I am twisting and contorting my body, bumping my head into the door as I change course 180-degees and head back inside where it's cool. Cat-astrophe avoided. Lately I've learned to shift gears on my kitty toes and back straight up the way I tried to step out. It's like a cat ballet.

I did not know it could get as hot as it did this past month. Humans are calling it "the hottest month in the history of the planet." Scientifically, we cats are engineered to tolerate outside temps up to 100-degrees - quite easily, in fact. Our 24-hour-a-day fur coat acts as a type of temp control – moderating our internal purring systems. We don't get too hot; we don't get too cold. Another reason cats rule.

On sunny days I've been known to surprise the Big Owner by sauntering out to the deck and splooting on the boards to soak up real warmth. Nothing like it. Lately, however, when the thermometer on the wall runs up to 105, or 106, or even up to 110-degrees – meowza! – even the chilliest cat gets singed! The Big Owner broke out his laser temperature gun and aimed it at the deck boards which glowed 145-degrees hot! Best thing to do on days like this: Sleep in the bathroom sink. I highly recommend it.

With more and more hot days around here I am thinking I need a buzz cut for summer. I am so jealous of those hairless cats. We used to laugh at them, they looked so funny being....naked. Now, they're the coolest of cats.

The humans are calling this a "Heat Dome." If it has a name, there's someone to blame. I'll blame humans. For that reason, I'll call it the "Heat Dumb."

It was a hot day.

Copyright Mark Mason 2023 Cat Diary



Dedicated to the Cool Cat Café, Lahaina, Maui. One of the great places lost in the Lahaina fire, 2023.
(Still there in San Luis Obispo and Pismo Beach, Ca!)

