

CAT DIARY

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## ...EXCERPTS FROM My Cat's Diary

E-book by  
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## INTRODUCTION

I am owned by two cats, a Siamese (the author) and a buff domestic longhair. My cats refer to me as the *Big Owner*, obviously a facetious reference (I had hoped it was an endearment) as I fully understand my role as servant to these two felines. My wife and three kids enjoy their roles as their personal toys. We have been owned by as many as four cats in recent years (the subject of a couple of diary entries inside), but these two have been our foundation.

Reading the diaries began as part of my KEX radio show in Portland, Oregon, USA. But thanks to the Internet and streaming audio, Cat Diary now has a world wide following. Readers in Singapore, England, Israel, Japan, Canada, and Mexico write to tell me they enjoy Cat Diary along with readers from all 50 United States.

I originally discovered my cat's diary by happenstance. While cleaning the closet I came across the journal hidden under some sweaters. I knew better than to look inside, but the temptation was just too great. After artfully picking the lock (yes, it had one) I took my first glimpse. What an astonishing experience to actually read what my cat thought!

Since then I have found the diary in the most conspicuous places – in my mailbox, wrapped inside my morning paper, tucked behind my toothbrush holder – which leads me to believe that my cat intends that I find the diary.

I have never confessed to sharing these entries with

## CAT DIARY

you for fear of reprisal from my cat. You would think that would be enough to keep me from reading the diary entries. But each time I come across the diary I cannot resist a peek inside. And each time I am more mystified. Looking into my cat's diary fills me with a peculiar blend of emotion. I don't necessarily feel guilt. I feel bewilderment, wonder, incredulity, delight, surprise, and joy. But perhaps most of all I feel humility as I realize our true standing in this life is not what we think it is. It is what our cats allow us to think it is.

This newly edited e-book book represents the Cat Diary collection (books 1-4). In addition, I have added color pictures of the cats and their antics along with some bonus notes not included in the paperback editions. Enjoy the true-life stories in the Cat Diary.

*Mark*

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USA



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## SEVEN QUICK WAYS TO GET EVEN WITH THE BIG OWNER

① When the Big Owner gets up in the middle of the night for a midnight snack, be in his spot when he comes back to bed. Spread out. Cover as much acreage as you can. Pretend to be asleep. Chances are he won't disturb you and will go sleep on the couch.

② When the Big Owner sleeps past feeding time, play cat hockey with items on the headboard. Loose change and watches are easy to knock onto the bed. You score one point for each 'puck' that whacks the Big Owner in the forehead.

③ When the Big Owner goes to all the trouble to change the litter in the cat box, use it right away. And be sure to toss a few grains of litter out of the box onto the floor. You don't want it looking unused for too long.

④ When the Big Owner puts down food you don't like, never touch it. Sniff it. Look at the Big Owner and then back at the food. Scratch your paw on the floor in an attempt to cover up the food. He will get the message. Then, **DO NOT TOUCH THE FOOD UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING.** It's quite a statement when he has to lift the old, crusted lump of lard back to the sink to run it down the disposal.

 ⑤ When the Big Owner hands out kitty treats, look for the hidden meaning. Trips to the vet or baths are usually close at hand. Never approach any treat-

## CAT DIARY

bearing human within their arms' reach. I make the Big Owner place the treat on the floor and wait until he backs up. Then enjoy.



⑥ When the Big Owner lays out his clothes on the bed each morning, make sure you sit on them while he is in his shower. Nothing is more fun than the look of the Big Owner stepping out of the shower to see your light cat hair decorating his freshly laundered black trousers.

⑦ If coughing up a hairball, be as dramatic as you can. The Big Owner will notice and race to get a towel (or something) to place under your chin to catch the surprise. Let him prepare all he wants. Then, at the last moment, turn your head.

These are just a few of the things I did *today*.

## MR. CLEAN

Some cats take pride in their clean households. When I say *clean* I'm not talking about proper kitty box care, cat beds turned back, or toys correctly stored each night ... that is human work.

I'm talking about the critters that dare to enter my household when I am on duty. By *critter*, I suppose you could jump to the conclusion that I am thinking of rodents – mice, moles, slithering reptiles, and the like. No, that's everyday cat stuff. I take great pride in keeping the house virtually *spider and fly* free. Yes, I mean insects! (An often-overlooked component of the cat food pyramid.)

## CAT DIARY

Many groan at the idea, but I enjoy this time of year when insects renew their acquaintance with my domain. A spider on the wall is a cat's delight. Jumping up a wall is no problem for a cat looking to get a little exercise and a between-meal-snack high in protein. If the spider is high on the wall, use the human furniture as a launch pad.

Spring Cleaning, for cats, is the ridding of the flies that circle the middle of the room. Wow! There tend to be so many flies it looks like a space battle scene out of Star Wars! There are so many targets – which does a cat choose first? And with the lack of furniture mid-room, a cat must rely on his leaping ability. It's the hardest work a feline will do for a bite to eat, but worth it. And remember, early season flies taste the best.

I swell with pride when the Big Owner stops to wonder aloud about what happened to all the flies that were there earlier in the day.

I just belch and say, "It was a good day."



## OPERATION KITTY BOX

They changed my brand of cat litter!


That's right, the Big Owner brought home a different variety of litter for my personal box! Whooaahh! He never checked with me first! I just got used to the clumping litter. Believe it or not, we cats enjoy that stuff! Clumping litter uses super-fine grains of clay, like sand, it's akin to a tropical beach. (Okay, it's

## CAT DIARY

more like the kids' sandbox next door!) And we cats delight in watching how the clumping litter can turn our *business* into a clay-like sculpture. No two are the same!

So the Big Owner waltzed in and told everyone that he "saved a buck or two" by buying the old-style litter. Who did he think he was kidding? *That's not litter, it's crushed granite*, I said. *It's torture on my tender talons*. It was time for action! **Operation Kitty Box** was a 'go.'

**Day One.** I ignored the box, opting to take my business outside. Bad move. The Big Owner LOVED that.

**Day Two.** I took to the box liner and ripped and shredded until all that remained were thin ribbons of mutilated plastic. The Big Owner, unfortunately, had the unmitigated gall to quickly change the liner, and only the liner. I have engaged the enemy. 

**Day Three.** I shoveled hefty pawfuls of the rocky litter on to the floor outside the box. The Big Owner swept it up, and put it back in the box! This was war.

**Day Four.** I refused to cover the offerings. Without them being buried they...well, it didn't work anyway. The Big Owner's nose was stuffed up that day. It's time for the heavy artillery.

**Day Five.** I stood on the edge of the box – with all my weight – leaning ever so carefully until the box slowly tilted up. I pitched back as the box flipped up and over spilling everything on to the floor!

The Big Owner spent 30 minutes cleaning up,

## CAT DIARY

grouching all the while, retrieving tiny boulders of cat litter from every last corner of my domain. He trundled off to the store and returned with a fresh bag of litter. I was happy to observe he had surrendered to my favorite brand.

Operation Kitty Box was a success!



## The truth about cats



It is time to dispel more cat myths that somehow proliferate among humans. It is embarrassing what the Big Owner actually believes about the feline race.

Recently the Big Owner heard that, because of genetic sensitivities, fifty percent of all cats won't raise a whisker if catnip is waved in their faces ... Frankly, it's probably the quality of the catnip. Fifty percent of humans won't drink flat beer, either.

Recently the Big Owner heard that today's cats live twice as long as their "fore felines"... The truth is it's the same nine lives. But thanks to today's technological advances, owners can now offer us cats an *extended protection plan* at no additional charge to the aforementioned humans.

Recently the Big Owner heard that if a cat has a warm nose, it is sick ... Chances are just as good that you have the furnace cranked up too high. Give us a break! We are the ones wearing the full-time coat indoors!

Recently the Big Owner heard that infamous dictators like Hitler, Mussolini, and Genghis Khan all hated cats

