



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Time share kitty

"I have run a tax accounting business out of my home for 17 years," said Kent. "There is an office entrance for clients, but they are not the only ones who use the door!"

Several years back, a neighbor's beautiful black-and-white cat made herself welcome in my office. Her 'work' name became Paperweight because she plopped herself unceremoniously down onto the papers I was working on. Paperweight visited each morning for five years, until a neighbor at the end of the street moved out, and apparently so did my co-worker kitty, never to be seen again.

Almost immediately, another black-and-white cat showed up. She was younger, but just as purrs-istent. I never learned Paperweight's 'real' name, nor do I know the new arrival's name, so the newbie's 'office' name became Apprentice. It is obvious that Paperweight had told her about the snacks to be had and the comfy cat napping locations. So, when Apprentice applied for the 'job' she was hired along with all the fringe benefits.

Ms Apprentice, as I do not know if she is married or not, is very punctual and arrives as I open the doors at 5 a.m. As far as she is concerned there are no holidays, she does not take days off, and she shows up for treats every day. She is well groomed for her paws-ition, and also believed to be owned by neighbors. Just like her predecessor she wanders in and plops down precisely on the papers that I am working on. In order to reclaim my work area I "bribe" her with cat treats, and eventually had to 'present' her with a designated employee cloth cat bed.

At first Apprentice refused the bed, still purr-furr-ing the papers or my chair. So I put two and two together and sat on her bed so it would remind her of me. Then I had to build a special back for the chair, for her and her bed, so they would not slide out. I did not have a camera handy, because it caught both of us by surprise. But, one moment, all was well, she was sleeping, and unceremoniously she and the bed slid out from under the back of the chair. Stunned, sitting on the floor, she gave me 'that look'! In no uncertain terms, it meant that I had to quickly remedy the situation. If not, her 'look' was a hint at blackmailing me with a quick return to snoozing on tax papers.

This is a full service office, if you are a cat. Apprentice arrives with an appetite. I give her a treat, a drink of water, and some attention. In the summer she enjoys greeting



Courtesy Photo

Tax Accountant Kent with his non-deductible office staff, Apprentice, who must belong to a secret cat union. When she learned she was not going to be paid for this photo, she immediately began a wiggle protest.

clients, and changes things up by sleeping just outside the door, either in the shade or the sun. After 'my' visitation time is up, she continues her day, wandering off checking out the rest of her trap line.

Having a visiting cat and not owning one has all the advantages and none of the disadvantages. She is a TIME SHARE cat who does Day-cations at my home. When I go on holidays, I know that she is fed and groomed by her pet parents who love her. I don't have to pay for a cat sitter, or incur any vet bills on her behalf. All she costs me is a cat bed and treats.

I tried training Apprentice to answer the phone, take messages, and shred paper. She walks over the phone dialing wildly, stands on the answering machine deleting messages, and even the 'tools' (her claws) she brings into the office have not shredded one piece of paper - just the side of my desk. Apprentice plainly feels that manual work is for others. She reminds me that dogs have owners and are trainable, but cats have servants and do their own thing as they please - when they please."

OFFICE DUTIES (According to her.)

1. Look cute.
2. Demand clients' attention.
3. Purr when given attention.
4. Protect the flower bed from roving bugs.
5. Only eat the treats I love.
6. Command 'subjects' when to let me in/out of the office.
7. Loudly voice disapproval from having disrupted the office and snack routine when Kent returns from vacation.

TIPS

Feline Facts:

- Cats have the largest eyes in the mammal kingdom.
- Cats have more bones and ribs in their body than humans. Cats - 230, humans - 206.
- Petting a cat relieves stress.
- Egyptians are the first known to employ cats to control mice, protecting their grain.
- Family cats can run 30 mph, but for a very short distance.
- A cat's tail is used for its balance skills.
- At night, cats' eyes see six times better than human eyes.
- A cat's hearing is more acute than a dog's or a human's.

Kitty Obit

The results of our rescue kitty, Mini Purrl, ravages of her abandonment and subsequent starvation played havoc on her little five pound body.

Last fall, she passed away with the loving help of a gentle vet.

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CALENDAR

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anyway.

"We thought it would be best not to create extra work for ourselves," Linoz said. "We'll figure out in future years what to do going forward."

Star Riding Group 339 seems to be in about the same holding pattern with its annual Bike Fest, which has drawn motorcyclists and cycle enthusiasts to Cottage Grove in the late-spring for a number of years.

The group enjoyed the best-ever turnout for the Bike Fest in 2014, according to Star's John Logan. The event featured performances by a motorcycle stunt team, in addition to the regularly scheduled bike games, and it found an ideal home at Bohemia Park. The Bike Fest has raised over \$15,000 for local nonprofit Parent Partnership's 'Youth on their Own' effort.

"We just had our 10th year, and it was the biggest and best yet," Logan said. "But the plan is to take a year off and regroup, to see how big we really want this thing to get. There's a core group of about 20 people that make it happen, and we have to decide if we want to have a bigger event less often or just keep letting it grow."

Also noticeably absent from the 2015 schedule is the Cottage Grove Board of Realtors' Wiener Dog Races and Pet Fest, a wildly popular event in recent years that features what may be the most exciting few seconds in the yearly calendar. Held since 2007, the races were one of the first events to take place in the heat of the Cottage Grove summertime, and the 2013 version raised funds for the South Lane Dental Clinic.

Still, event organizer Shane May said last week that he's had little luck shopping the races to other people or organizations in the community that may wish to plan such an involved event. After attempts to transition the races into a fundraiser for Relay for Life or an event run by the Chamber of Commerce, the races were not held in 2014, and it appears that, unless an interested organizer or group steps forward, there will be no races this year, either.

NASA visit, Home Show, standbys still on

Though these three key events are a no-go this year, Cottage Grove still boasts a packed schedule of both recurring and one-time offerings:

Organizers at the Cottage Grove Library are excited about this year's Star Party, scheduled for Monday, March 16. NASA Astronomer Teena Della and the Eugene Astronomical Society (and their telescopes) will be on hand for the event, which begins at 7:30 p.m. A total of nine astronomy workshops will also be held at Cottage Grove High School and Lincoln Middle School on Monday and Tuesday, March 16-17.

Early April brings KNND's Home Show and Gathering of Gardeners juggernaut, scheduled for April 11-12 at Cottage Grove High School. And of course, standbys such as Bohemia Mining Days (July 16-19 this year), Relay for Life (June 19-20) and perhaps the most packed day on the summer calendar, July 25, which features the Tri at the Grove triathlon, Main Street Chili Cook-off and Rock, Roll and Rumble Car Cruise, can be found in their usual spots on the calendar, as can the Jim Wright Memorial Stearman Fly-in, scheduled for July 31-Aug. 2.

Recurring events such as the Concerts in the Park series (beginning June 17 and taking place Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. until Sept. 9) and the Growers Market, which has been moved to Saturdays at the Coast Fork Farm Stand beginning May 23, will help ensure that there's always something to look forward to this summer in Cottage Grove.

Cottage Grove Sentinel
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February is National CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

A CHILD'S SMILE IS ONE OF LIFE'S GREATEST BLESSINGS

Three common childhood dental health concerns

When your baby's first teeth come in, everyone rejoices; it's a sign that all is progressing as it should. But as your child ages, various dental concerns can come along as well. Some issues are genetic and will require orthodontic work a bit later on, but there are others you can prepare for right now.

1. BABY BOTTLE TOOTH DECAY

Prevent early childhood caries, or cavities, by nursing or putting only mother's milk and formula in your baby's bottles. Don't let your baby fall asleep with the nipple in the mouth; gently wipe your infant's teeth with a sterile gauze pad before sleep time.



2. THUMB SUCKING

Thumb sucking is generally accepted to be a harmless habit in young children; sucking is a natural reflex in babies, and for toddlers it is

an effective self-soothing strategy. However, the American Dental Association says that thumb sucking after the age of four can affect the alignment of your child's teeth and jaw. Talk to your pediatrician for advice about thumb sucking.

3. ACCIDENTAL TRAUMA TO THE TEETH

A blow to the mouth, cheek, or jaw may cause damage to teeth above or below the gum line. Take your child to the dentist's or to the hospital emergency room if a tooth is cracked or knocked out or if an object gets caught in the mouth or between the teeth. In the case of a knocked-out tooth, try to recover it and bring it to the dentist or hospital. Keep the tooth moist, ideally in the child's mouth; if your child is old enough to not swallow it, place it between the teeth and gums or in the gap from where it fell out. You can also place the tooth in a cup of milk.

Douglas G. Maddess, DMD
Brightening Lives One Smile at a Time

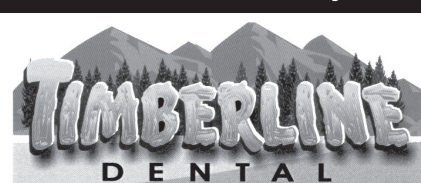


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