



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

A "Fancy" Cat

"My stepdaughter, Jackie, has a gift for finding animals in need," said Diane. "But what happened in 1999, on a hot day in her Arizona backyard, was even a surprise for Jackie!"

As for any stray, she had being feeding a matted-long fur, skittish, skinny and starving cat that had arrived at her front door. Two months later, the cat meowed at Jackie to follow her to the backyard shed, where Jackie found an instant family of five kittens! She was not sure if the young mother was showing off her pretty babies or asking for help. Either way, Jackie scooped the kittens up and welcomed the homeless family into her home.

Had the year-old cat's pet parents neglected spaying her and her resulting heat driven her to escape their home, run away with a young ne'er-do-well, only to be left homeless for the next 63 days of the kittens' gestation? Or had she, a little fur-princess, not listened to her human parents and run away with the love of her life, who jilted her and left her to mother their offspring by herself? Either way, it was a sad tale for the young family. It was fortunate that the helpless cat had found a safe manger to deliver and care for her alley-kittens.

Jackie fostered the young family and for weeks tried locating their original



Courtesy Photo

Diane cradles her "Fancy" house ornament!

pet parents. When no one claimed the cat, I was introduced to them; it was love at first sight, and still is. I adopted the mother and one of her kittens. Because the cat looks like the white Fancy Feast kitty I named her Miss Fancy, and the kitten became Smokie.

I have always had cats, but Fancy is the sweetest, loveliest cat to the point of being angelic. We are happy to have her and Smokie as purr-mament fixtures in our home.

It was not until nine years later that I learned that Fancy was a purebred! In 2008, I attended a convention and randomly sat beside two ladies; Mary

Ellen, from Oregon, and her friend Atira, from Seattle. Our conversation turned to cats. I had three by then, Atira three and Mary Ellen had four famous swimming cats. We shared our cats' cell phone photos and I was surprised to discover...we all had Silver Persians! Atira had one, Mary Ellen had four and apparently I had one too! Our cats all look alike! We almost fell out of our uncomfortable chairs! What are the odds of sitting down, at random, in a crowded convention and everyone has the same rare breed of Persian!?

Finding Fancy the way Jackie did was like discovering a rare gem in your backyard! Fancy is an aristo-cat with refined dignity. She is affectionate and like any Princess - a little demanding. She is highly intelligent and conversational. When something needs attention she finds me, and meow-talks for me to go and change the litter that isn't clean enough, or the drinking water; or she needs something else. Every day she 'expects' a clean bowl of water - one-day-old water is not to her liking! I used to think she was a fussy feline until I realized that all of us purr-fur fresh water.

Miss Fancy's movements and mannerisms are elegant, graceful and regal. She has a talent for finding aesthetic settings and posing with effortless beauty. She adorns our home like a signature house accessory or a piece of

jewelry. I often stop what I am doing and just stare at her 'purr-fection' as she quietly sits or sleeps. Her beauty is purr-fectly breathtaking and the only thing that brings my meditating mind back to reality is when she blinks or a whisker twitches.

I love when she meows to be picked up and cuddled even though she is a tad bossy. Sometimes when I'm in a rush, getting ready to go out, she pushes open the bathroom door, wanders in, and loudly meows demanding that I pick her up. When I look down at her and mimic her cat-chat, she responds with an adorable little squeak. Could she paws-ibly be trying to share make-up tips? Her large green eyes and brick red nose look like a make-up artist professionally drew black eye liner around them.

Thank you for asking me to share Miss Fancy's story with your readers. Sharing her sweet spirit reminds me of the depth of love that I have for her! I treasure our purr-ecious years together."

TIPS

"One of the challenges of Persian parenthood," admits Diane, "is keeping them well groomed and mat-free. I discovered, just like with people, that a poor diet makes for a poor quality of

hair/fur. So I've changed Fancy's food to human grade quality for a silkier coat. For trimming her hairballs, I use special scissors that are blunt and curved at the tip so as not to clip her skin. In the winter, when her fur is extra long, I trim her stomach and underarm fur to ½ inch so it won't tangle. She likes to look and feel good, just like us. She takes pride in the way her fur and skin feels. And so do I."

Videos

"Will You Marry Me" Famous Fancy Feast kitten commercial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VednEJhS1Og>

Airlines Canine Secret!

http://www.youtube.com/embed/NK-T_166TY?feature=player_embedded

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TURNER

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project involving the 20 or 25 quilts in its care, a project he's found fascinating.

"It's interesting to see how things have changed over the years, how styles have changed and how that change reflects a change in society," he said.

A group including Turner has taken about four of the Museum's quilts at a time to an appraiser that spends most of a day with a magnifying glass poring over the specifics of each item.

"Some of them are pretty old," Turner said. "They're believed to come from the 1700s up to the 1970s."

Quilts that old naturally have stories to tell.

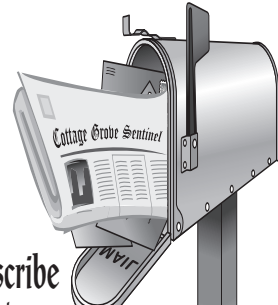
"They tell how people made things, how they took care of them," he said. "I've always liked old things."

The Museum plans to present the results of its quilt fact-finding mission at an August event, so others may discover the underlying beauty that Turner recognizes. "Artistry and craftsmanship are part of being human," he said. "We always explore ourselves artistically, musically or socially. It's a human drive, and I believe that if we're not doing that, we're not truly enjoying life."

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