

Michael's 'Buddy'

Tichael lives in a NO PET building. So why does he have one?

Michael and his 13-year-old kitty, Tara, spent 2 1/2 years care-taking Michael's mother. Shortly before his mother passed, so did Tara. Michael's devastation and grief led him to not focus on his business. He sank into depression and eventually lost the house, so he loaded up his car and moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon.

His grief counselor told him that she would know when he had turned the "emotional corner" when he was able to take on another pet.

'With my disability," said Michael, "a companion animal was possible. I told the counselor about our NO PET building. But, my awesome building manager gave me the paper work to legally qualify me for a companion pet.

"Thrilled at the prospective of being a pet parent, I went to the Humane Society's shelter looking for a fur baby that would melt my heart.

They had a neutered 12-weekold kitty relaxing in a top cage. I wiggled my finger at him and he nonchalantly looked at me, stretched, rather bored, sniffed my finger and immediately began purring. My heart melted!

When I held him he climbed up onto my shoulder and comfortably sat there. I asked him, 'Am I your human?' It is always a good union when the pet chooses you because they bond faster as family.

I originally named him after the Sanskrit word 'Vajra' because he is the 'light of my life'. But I had to change his name to Buddy — because we are best buds.

My life is more fun now and my FUR-niture is different. Buddy redecorated my apartment with a prominent 72" cat tower! I rearranged 'our'

apartment in compliance with Animal Planet's 'My Cat From Hell' star, Jackson Galaxy's expertise allowing for Buddy's high-speed kitty-highway.

Buddy runs at full tilt; the length of 'our' apartment, like a racetrack, tears over the top of his kitty tower, over the bed's head board and out of the room...all the while he appears to be smiling!

Buddy has learned that when he brings me his squeaky toy, I will toss it. He responds by fetching it, over and over, until my arm feels like it is falling off. His other favorite toy is a crumpled piece of paper over anything I spent money on.

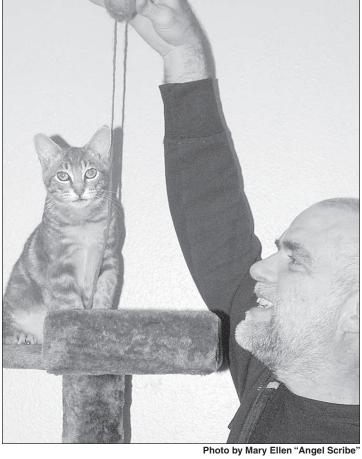
I can't explain how wonderful and beautiful it is to have a furry companion sitting in your lap who purrs. Occasionally, when a friend asks me for a walk, I decline because I have a sleeping kitty on my lap, and at that moment, he is my joy and priority.

It is scientifically proven that the vibration and frequency of a cat's purr has healing properties...and it is true for me.

It is the oddest experience to be alone in your home, only you and your pet, and you burst out laughing! It happened the other day when Buddy came running out of the kitchen, jumped onto the bed, and body slammed me with joy and gusto. He was so happy to join me that he made me burst out laughing at his exuberance. Yes, animals are wonderful companions, and their ability to heal depression should be legendary. They are vulnerable, so it is up to us to appreciate and care for them as the gift they are to us."

TIPS

"Buddy's sweet story illustrates the power of a pet to heal," emailed Erin in Austin, Texas, "and provide joy. My friends and I call it the power of the puppy, but it obviously works for kitties, too!"



The gift of a pet can be life changing. Michael discovered this after rescuing his best bud, Buddy.

Sonja in Cottage Grove emailed, "Photographing pets is not easy, so when my dog, Ben, received a present from his Marine K9 Trainer, Joe Gallagher, I placed a tidbit of a weenie between my lips to hold Ben's attention. It worked!"

"We stopped giving/applying flea/tick/heartworm meds to our Pomeranian, Sophie, years ago," emailed Suzka in Portland. "She had seizures from all kinds of products. In my opinion, that stuff smells and acts like poison! Our Vet said it wasn't worth the risk, so I keep Sophie well groomed, wash her blankets and bedding often, and vacuum, vacuum, vacuum."

"Our indoor cat doesn't often go outside," emailed Kathleen of San Mateo, California. "When she began scratching, I did not think about fleas, but when I looked, they were crawling all over her!

I immediately started doing what I had done for years, in such emergencies, and within one week, all the fleas and eggs were eliminated. A daily combing ends the flea cycle without any kind of external powder or other remedy. She loves being 'gently' combed and I dip the flea comb into hot water killing the fleas."

Does your pet have an unusual adoption story? angelscribe@msn.com

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Humane Society for Neuter/ Spay Assistance Program. (541) 942-2789



since 1889



Feb. 8, 2016

To Amber Dea Clemons of Creswell and Mario Sampedro of Eugene, a daughter.

To Aaron Scaletti and Shauna Doughty of Lorane, a son.

Feb. 13, 2016

To Jessika Kaziska an Dustin Modrell of Cottage Grove, a

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

For the Sentinel

his Thursday, Feb.18, the **▲** Crow-Applegate-Lorane School Board meets at Lorane Grange. The executive session is at 6 p.m. with the board meeting open to the public at 7 p.m.

The public is invited this Sunday, Feb. 21, to Sizzler's in Springfield for a friendship dinner with members of the Lorane Christian Church. Everyone is invited to enjoy this dinner and wonderful company starting at 5:30 p.m. It is always fun and inspirational.

Several ladies are hoping to start an exercise group at the Grange. Those interested can call Pam Kersgaard at 541-942-6193. There was an exercise group there on Tuesday, so give her a call for more information.

Next Saturday, Feb. 27, there will be a delightful Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo evening at Lorane Grange. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. No one has won the progressive black out yet, so it has to grown. There is also a 50/50 drawing.

The Rural Arts Council/Lorane Grange Talent Show is Sunday, April 3 at 3 p.m., and it looks like some intriguing talent has committed to perform. To sign up in advance contact Lil at 541-942-5701 or contact the Rural Art Center at ruralartcenter@gmail.com. Performers may also sign in that day by coming a little early.

Well, high-school seniors, be sure to get your FAFSA applications in no later than March 1. Several local scholarships are due in the next two months. The School District is still looking for budget committee members. Those interested can call Lee Ann at 541-686-2100.

Congratulations to the students and staff at Crow Middle/ High School for exceeding their goal of 770 acts of kindness with a grand total of 833!

Meet Dorian Perkey



Territorial Land Company welcomes Dorian Perkey as a newly licensed Real Estate Broker. Dorian was born and raised in Cottage Grove. She is a graduate of CGHS and of the University of Oregon. Her father has been a local Real Estate Broker for over 25 years, so it would seem as though Real Estate is in her blood. With ambition and high expectations, Dorian plans on making this a successful life-long career.

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