



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

A 'purr-dicament'

A treat for our inside cats is to be carried, one at a time, out the front door and then down the street. This way they can investigate the world from the safe vantage point of my arms. Who knows...they might spot something to relieve their boredom and add excitement to their world!

One hot summer evening, one that was way too hot to be wearing a fur coat, I stepped barefoot outside wearing an eight-pound male Silver Persian draped on each arm.

I walked down the street with my arms covered in their beautiful white fur, wondering why I felt the need to take two at once.

I rotated this way and that so the cat-brothers' huge green eyes, designed for hunting, could discover a wonderful unexpected mystery.

Our cats have the best manners. These two male siblings never had an argument or fight. They are like well-behaved nobility, always exhibiting the best of manners and respect for each other.

Before my "boys" saw them, I spotted a pair of neighborhood cats seeking relief from the heat under a bush.

I taught my cats English by word repetition and "cat" is in their vocabulary, so I alerted them to the presence of the hiding cats by whis-purring, "Cat! Cat! Cat!" My cats immediately spun their heads around scanning with their eyes and using their ears like radar devices searching for the cat that had made the major kitty offense of being on their visual turf.

Myster E. spotted the two offending cats first. He emitted a low growl that sounded like,

"You dirty rotten cats! Get off my street!"

Nymbus had not yet spotted the "enemy" cats, but he heard Myster E. and was confused. He had never heard such language from his mild-mannered brother. In response, he turned and began hissing and hitting Myster E. like a boxer wearing big puffy white paw-mitts. This caught Myster E. and me totally by surprise!

Myster E. returned the favor by hissing and batting back at Nymbus. Oh, my gosh! I had been turned into a human boxing ring! In the midst of their confrontation, thankfully they somewhat still behaved as gentlemen and did not claw each other or me!

I gently talked to them and the CAT-erwauling subsided, and we continued our walk.

That is when Nymbus caught sight of the two now-startled "stranger" cats. Imagine what those pair of cats were thinking watching a mobile cat fight!

Now it was Nymbus's turn; he began growling at the cats. Of course, Myster E. assumed Nymbus was growling at him, and the boxing match began all over again.

They were furiously fisticuffing. I kept spreading my arms further and further apart so they could not hit each other. But the cats have very long legs, and my arms seemed shorter than I remembered!

It was obvious that the battle would continue, so I began a swift retreat back to the driveway. That's when something else went wrong!

The house telephone rang. So, I sprinted to the front door,

struggling to hang on to the on-going cat fight!

Visualize this: two quarrelling cats, a ringing phone and not a single finger available to open the screen door!

No one was home to call for help to open the door latch, let alone relieve me of one of the brawling cats or answer the persistently ringing phone.

Normally I would stack one Persian on top of the other so I could release the door latch, but in this case, with them still scrapping, growling, and hissing, they were hardly in stacking mode!

By now, our other three cats had heard the cat commotion and had gathered at the screen door like curious fans at a ball game.

Now, my problem was twofold. Cats in arms and cats indoors. How could I keep any of them from escaping and running after the neighborhood cats?

It is not easy hosting a cat fight in your arms, worrying about missing a phone call, and thinking on how to solve the problem!

Finally, I lifted one bare foot and released the door latch with



PHOTO COURTESY MARYELLEN ANGELSCRIBE

Nymbus (now deceased) and his brother Myster E. purr-oved that wearing a live fur coat (them) was fraught with dangers!

my toes.

Thankfully the door opened wide enough for me to put Myster E. and Nymbus on the floor in the hallway, prevent the other three from escaping, and run for the phone - all while maneuvering around five cats running ten different directions!

Too bad the entire escape was not videotaped! The cat-crazy video would have won America's Funniest Home Videos!

So much for a quiet walk for the bemusement of two bored cats! All of our adrenaline was pumping now!

I wish we could read the minds of the bush cats as they observed the walking cat fight. We must have relieved their boredom, too!

If the neighbors saw this crazy scene, they might ask for advance warning of our next walk so they can have their video cameras handy! One thing is for sure, we relieved everyone's boredom and found some excitement that hot sum-

mer evening! And who was the purrs-on on the phone? We will never know, they hung up just as I stepped over scattering cats and picked up the receiver. Making another mystery for another day!

TIPS

Relieve inside cat's boredom by appealing to their sense of catching prey. Buy them: catnip toys, scratching posts, teaser toys, and meow-vies to watch on TV! Walk only one cat at a time and use a harness and leash! Tips and the secret on how to train cats to walk outside on a leash; http://www.angelscribe.com/tnt_cat-walking-on-leash.html

My dog, Dolly, sheds so much that I always say that I'm always dressed in "Dolly" (Not "Dior")," said Christine in Vancouver, B.C. "I should name my next dog Dior!"

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Edythe Ann Stromme 1940-2018

Edythe was born on July 22, 1940, in Kansas City, Missouri. She lived with her mother, Le-Tain Cutrell, and her father, Earl Luther Thomason, and her siblings. Her working life took her to San Mateo, Chico, Sacramento, Anchorage and Olympia. She retired from the IRS to Cottage Grove, OR. Edythe and husband Chuck traveled often during their life together including to Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Saipan, Mexico, Turkey, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Hong Kong, mainland China and may times to their beloved nation of Georgia. She loved to visit Kauai.

Matriarch, wife, daughter, sister and friend who loved her community as her community loved her. She was a philanthropist, co-founder of the Causasus Children's Relief Fund charity, a wonderful cook, a welcoming hostess and once a scuba diver in such diverse locales as Alaska

and Saipan.

Edythe was an author, playwright and active member of writing communities locally and in the Seattle area. Two of her plays were staged and a third, "Hotel Potempkin", premiered in the Seattle area in January 2018. She was a clever card player, especially hand and foot and cribbage. Gardening was her greatest passions. Blueberries were always a summer bumper crop in her backyard. As a certified master gardener, she kept her back porch and yards beautiful with colorful plants.

She was a member and elder of the Creswell Presbyterian Church. She loved her family, visiting Oregon coast and camping. She hosted a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner this year, full of family and friends. Edythe was plucky and one who persevered and found her way through life's difficulties with enthusiasm and a great sense of humor.

Kindness was the core of her

being. It was her standard and her benchmark for the decision she made and the way she dealt with people. Edythe can live on in how well we treat each other and how kind we are to one another.

She is survived by husband, Chuck Stromme of Cottage Grove; her children Jim Siekman (Dawne) Sutherland, OR; Kathy Nelson, Sierra Vista, AZ; Lisa Stromme Warren (Luke) Seattle, WA. Siblings Adrienne Oyler, Penny, Bill Cutrell (Stephanie) San Mateo, CA. 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. It's quite a clan.

We welcome your comments on the Smith Lund Funeral Home online guest book.

There will be a celebration of life on Saturday, February 3, 1 pm at the Creswell Presbyterian Church, 75 S. 4th St., Creswell, followed by friendship, food and music.

She was a perfect wife. I will love and miss her forever.

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