



## A Dog's New Years Resolutions

I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc.

I will not eat "kitty box crunchies".

I will not eat any more socks and then re-deposit them in the backyard after processing.

I will not chew my human's toothbrush and not tell them.

I will not chew crayons or pens, especially not the red ones, or my people will think I am hemorrhaging.

I will not insist on having the window down in the car when it's raining.

I will not drop soggy tennis balls in the underwear of someone who is sitting on the toilet.

I will not play tug-o-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.

The sofa is not a face towel. Neither are Mom & Dad's laps.

I will not bite the officer's hand when he reaches in for Mom's driver's license and car registration.

I will not suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.

The garbage collector is NOT stealing our stuff.

I will shake the rainwater out of my fur BEFORE entering the house.

## A Cat's New Years Resolutions

I will not slurp fish food from the surface of the aquarium.

I must not help myself to Q-tips and stuff them down the sink's drain.

I will not lean way over to drink out of the tub, fall in, and then head for the box of clumping cat litter. (It took FOREVER to get the stuff out of my fur.)

I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.

I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare into her eyes until she wakes up.

We will not play Herd of Thundering Wildebeests Stomping Across the Plains of the Serengeti over any humans' bed while they're trying to sleep.

Screaming at the can of food will not make it open itself.

I will not play "dead cat on the stairs" while people are trying to bring in groceries.

When the humans play darts, I will not leap into the air and attempt to catch them.

I will not swat my human's head repeatedly when she's on the family room floor trying to do sit ups.

I am a walking static generator. I will not help my human install a new board in her computer.

# Another New Year will soon be here!

...but for what reason? "Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, Babylonians celebrated the beginning of a new year on what is now March 23, although they had no written calendar.

Late March actually is a logical choice for the beginning of a new year. It is the time of year that spring begins and new crops are planted. January 1, on the other hand, has neither astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year on March 25, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of syn-

chronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. In order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

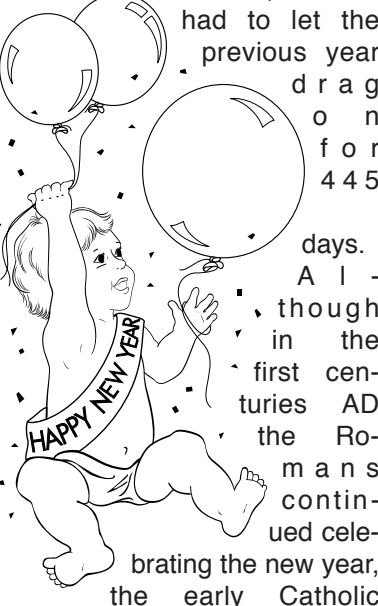
Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902, it was replaced by Roman chariot races the following year. In 1916, the football game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival. The tradition of using an infant to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth. Although the early Christians denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of the baby as a symbol of rebirth forced the Church to reevaluate its position. The Church finally allowed its members to celebrate the new year with a baby, which was to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus. The use of an image of a baby with a New Years banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early America by the Germans. They had used the effigy since the fourteenth century.

During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years. Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradi-

tion also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

The Tournament of Roses Parade dates back to 1886. In that year, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. It celebrated the ripening of the orange crop in California.

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## New Year's Resolutions

by John T. Baker

My New Year's resolutions,  
What a pleasure to describe:  
To be more neat, watch what I eat,  
Less frequently imbibe;

To be benign and patient,  
Ever caring and polite,  
With full aplomb serenely calm  
And nevermore uptight;

To suffer asses gladly,  
Cast aside pretense and pride,  
In all I wear look debonair,  
Genteel and dignified.

My New Year's resolutions,  
How inspiring to review . . .  
Spectacular! . . . too bad they are  
Impossible to do!

## Some New Year's resolutions you really can keep!

Are you sick of making the same resolutions year after year and yet you never keep them? Here are some resolutions that you can actually accomplish! Enjoy!

10. Read less.
9. Gain weight; put on at least 30 pounds.
8. Stop exercising.
7. Watch more TV.
6. Procrastinate more.
5. Drink. Drink some more.
4. Start being superstitious.
3. Spend more time at work.
2. Eat out more.
1. Take up a new habit: maybe smoking!

