

SANDFORD, THE CONDO-CAT

BY EILEEN ROBINSON OCTOBER, 1990

MRS. CRAIG WAS UPSET. PETS WERE NOT ALLOWED IN HER NEW CONDOMINIUM APARTMENT AND THAT MEANT SHE WOULD HAVE TO PART WITH HER CAT, SANDFORD

SANDFORD HAD ARRIVED AT MRS. CRAIG'S HOUSE A YEAR AGO AND JUST STAYED. MRS. CRAIG HAD TRIED TO FIND SANDFORD'S OWNER BUT NO ONE CLAIMED HIM, SO HER HOUSE BECAME SANDFORD'S NEW HOME.

AS CATS DO, SANDFORD SOON HAD MRS. CRAIG ADAPT TO HIS ROUTINE. EVERY DAY HE SLEPT IN THE SUN AT THE LIVING ROOM WINDOW AND EVERY NIGHT HE ASKED TO BE LET OUT TO ROAM THE WOODS NEAR THE HOUSE. MRS. CRAIG HAD DISCOVERED THAT SANDFORD WAS A NOCTURNAL CAT, SLEEPING BY DAY AND ROAMING AT NIGHT.

AT THE TIME THAT SHE BECAME ADOPTED BY SANDFORD, MRS. CRAIG WAS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO MOVE FROM HER HOUSE INTO A CONDOMINIUM APARTMENT IN THE NEXT TOWN. AND NOW THE DAY HAD COME FOR THE BIG MOVE

IN THE YEAR SHE SHARED HER HOUSE WITH SANDFORD, MRS. CRAIG BECAME VERY FOND OF HIM. SHE NOW FOUND IT HARD TO THINK OF GIVING HIM UP AND, FOR HIS PART, SANDFORD ALSO SEEMED HAPPY WITH HIS DAILY ROUTINE.

AS THE TIME FOR THE MOVE CAME CLOSER, MRS. CRAIG ASKED HER FRIENDS IF THEY KNEW OF A POSSIBLE NEW CARETAKER FOR SANDFORD, BUT NO ONE DID.

SO MRS. CRAIG SMUGGLED SANDFORD, HIS FOOD BOWLS AND HIS LITTER BOX INTO THE CONDO. SHE KNEW IT WAS AGAINST THE RULES BUT THE THOUGHT OF SENDING HIM TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER BROUGHT TEARS TO HER EYES. SHE HOPED THAT SANDFORD WOULD ADAPT TO APARTMENT LIVING AND NOT MISS THE OUTDOORS TOO MUCH, BUT MOST OF ALL SHE HOPED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE DISCOVERED UNTIL SHE COULD DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.

WHEN HER FRIENDS CAME TO SEE HER NEW PLACE, MRS. CRAIG TOLD THEM ABOUT SANDFORD, THINKING THAT ONE OF THEM MIGHT HAVE A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

EARLY ONE DAY, ABOUT A WEEK AFTER MOVING IN, THERE WAS A NOTE LEFT AT MRS. CRAIG'S DOOR. IT WAS FROM THE LADY WHO LIVED BELOW HER. THE LADY WAS PUZZLED ABOUT "BANGING AND THUMPING" THAT KEPT HER AWAKE ALL NIGHT. MRS. CRAIG KNEW THAT SANDFORD, WITH HIS NOCTURNAL HABIT, WAS THE CAUSE OF THIS MYSTERIOUS NOISE.

WHILE MRS. CRAIG WAS THINKING ABOUT IT, THE OWNER OF THE APARTMENT COMPLEX KNOCKED ON HER DOOR TO DISCUSS THE LADY'S COMPLAINT. HE SAW THE CAT FOOD DISHES AND KNEW WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS. MRS. CRAIG COULD NOT HOLD BACK THE TEARS AS THEY DISCUSSED WHAT TO DO WITH SANDFORD.

NOW MR. HENSON, THE OWNER, ALSO LOVED ANIMALS. WHILE HE WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING, HE HAD TO POINT OUT THE RULE OF NO PETS IN THE CONDO. BUT HE ALSO THOUGHT OF A POSSIBLE SOLUTION THAT COULD KEEP EVERYONE HAPPY.

SANDFORD, MR. HENSON SAID, COULD BECOME A "CONDO-CAT". HE COULD LIVE ON THE GROUND FLOOR WHERE HE WOULD HAVE A BED AND BE FED, BUT HE COULD ROAM FREELY AT NIGHT, KEEPING THE BUILDING FREE FROM MICE AND OTHER SMALL VISITORS.

A GREAT BURDEN HAD BEEN LIFTED FROM MRS. CRAIG. SHE FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR SANDFORD BUT COULD NOT KEEP HIM WITH HER. NOW HE WOULD BE NEAR ENOUGH FOR VISITS DURING THE DAY, BUT COULD BE SENT OUT AT NIGHT. HE WOULD NO LONGER DISTURB THE SLEEP OF THE LADY DOWNSTAIRS.

MRS. CRAIG AND MR. HENSON MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS AND IN ONLY A FEW DAYS ALL OF THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING BECAME AWARE OF SANDFORD AT FIRST MRS. CRAIG WAS WORRIED THAT SANDFORD WOULD NOT ADJUST, BUT WHEN SHE TOLD THIS TO HER NEIGHBOURS THEY ALL AGREED TO WATCH OUT FOR HIM AND TO FEED HIM WHEN SHE WAS AWAY.

MRS. CRAIG WAS RELIEVED AS SANDFORD SETTLED INTO A NEW ROUTINE AND SHE STOPPED WORRYING SO MUCH. THE LADY DOWNSTAIRS WAS GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP. AND SANDFORD, THE CONDO-CAT, WAS ABLE TO ROAM FREELY AT NIGHT

THANK YOU, MR. HENSON!