

When the cat comes bearing gifts

By Ted Brown
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A Ted Bit

It's a little known fact that we have a cat.

A lot of it revolves around the fact that he really isn't 'our cat,' more 'the cat.' You see, one never really 'owns' a cat, they just allow you to live in the same house.

Up until a month or so ago, the cat just came and went as he pleased— just like most cats. He'd climb on our laps, if he felt like it, and he lay there and purr for a while, until that became old. Then he'd move on.

Suddenly, we noticed something about him. He was losing weight. He was also (if it's at all possible) less active— lethargic even.

So The Sidekick took him to the vet for a check-up, dropping him off on her way to work.

She called me later that day to tell me I could pick him up. I arrived, mortgaged the farm to pay the bill, and learned he had a liver problem. We had to force feed him a prescription cat food, as he had no interest in eating on his own.

He's been slowly responding to the food, but not a dramatically. He's happy, sleeps in his chair, gets up and stretches, purrs, you name it— even acts quite friendly and content. He just isn't gaining weight yet.

The cat sleeps in the basement, where his food and litter box are located. When we're out, we close the basement door, to keep him out of things upstairs.

But once he developed this condition, The Sidekick decided he needed some extra tender lovin' care. So she let him have the run of the house, all the time, even all night.

Of course, the cat ain't dumb. Having full access to the house means sleeping between two adults all night. Not only that, he has THE noisiest 'purr' on earth. Geez, I can hear him on the other side of the room.

And lately, he's suddenly found a new activity.

A week ago, in the middle of the night, I was dozing, as the cat jumped up on the bed. The Sidekick roused a bit, and I could feel the cat pouncing on the bedcovers on her side.

The Sidekick often teases him with her toes under the covers, and cat responds by pouncing on her feet.

I continued dozing.

Suddenly, The Sidekick catapulted from the bed in a single leap.

"WAKE UP!" she screamed, "THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE BED!!!"

I don't like being awakened that way. Matter of fact, I hate it. A person's heart could stop doing that.

Apparently, the cat wasn't pouncing on her feet. Nope, he'd brought The Sidekick a little gift from the basement.

And that little 'gift' was still alive. For maximum fun, the cat had turned it loose in our bed.

Hey, when you're a cat, it's waaay more fun to play with it, rather than kill it right away.

I scooped up a wad of tissues, and grabbed the mouse from between the pillows, where it was trying to make its escape.

Needles to say, when one has a mouse in your hand, it's a natural instinct to, well, squeeze it. Scratch one mouse.

The Sidekick threw the cat off the bed, and, after a thorough search of the bed, the room, and any other place a mouse might hide, she finally crawled back under the covers, and shivered at the thought of what had transpired.

I kinda laughed it off— silly me....

However, by morning, she'd forgiven the cat— all was well. Two nights later— well, you guessed it.

I will give The Sidekick top marks. She took the second 'gift' by the tail, and tossed it outside. (I'm guessing it landed in the front field, but for all I know, it may have landed in a neighboring municipality.)

And suddenly, the cat is back sleeping in the basement. The Sidekick says he can catch all the mice he wants— just so long as he doesn't share 'em with her.

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Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and Town of Halton Hills By-law 2008-0020 regarding the following temporary road closure for the purpose of the following community event:

Masquerade on Main

Saturday, October 31, 2015.
10:30AM – 1:30PM

Organized by: Georgetown B.I.A.

Main St. from Church St. to James St.
Main and Mill St. Intersection will be closed.

If you require any additional information regarding this road closure, please contact the Recreation and Parks Department 905-873-2601 ext. 2262.