

A howlin' growlin' spittin' session

I'd never refer to the cat in my house as a pet. Her living arrangement with me would be, at best, most accurately described as cohabitation.

Pounce is a big old cat, with a thick coat of fur, and an independent nature which some might venture to say gives her character.

Personally, I'd say she was a bitch.

Years ago, a vet commented to me as I carried her out the door after a visit, "That cat can be downright nasty at times, can't she Ted?"

Obviously the vet thinks she's a bitch too.

I can only imagine, hidden away in a locked filing cabinet in the vet's office, is a list of restricted pets, and Pounce (a.k.a. The Bitch) is at the top of that list with her triple-A nastiness index.

However, she's been around for years, and as she tips the age scale at 16 years (I have no idea what that translates into 'cat' years,) I tend to cut her slack for her little idiosyncrasies.

In other words, I put up with the bitch.

But lately, Pounce has been experiencing a few problems which are causing me some grief.

The first is her habit of wolfing down her kibble too fast, then re-depositing it on the floor—most often on a rug somewhere in the house.

And her second problem has been her fur—it's going through a 'matting' stage.

Now another cat owner told me of a neat trick to stop the throwing up problem. She places a couple golf balls in her cat's dish, presenting the cat with an obstacle course of sorts, so she can't devour her food quite so fast. I haven't tried that one yet (cuz I don't golf) but I have started to feed her smaller amounts of kibble at a time.

And that seems to be working, but I suspect the real problem is that the old cat's 16-year-old stomach is simply showing its age.

But the matted fur is a problem which requires a bit more tact. I know it's a seasonal thing, and will pass by the time winter is upon us—she's simply getting her new fur coat.

But it's still annoying.

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

With her less than sunny disposition, Pounce ain't all that fond of having her fur tugged at.

And though she knows it's helping her get rid of those mats (which I'm sure are painful,) she still has to offer her token howls, growls and spits when I cut them out. Let's face it, she has an image she has to live up to—the bitch.

Tuesday night I decided it was time to take the bull by the horns (or is that cat by the neck?) We had a real howling, growlin', spittin' session on the couch. And I'm still not sure who won.

I used the scissors and cat comb for a bit, as she went through her usual temper tantrum, calling me every cat curse name in the book.

Then she jumped off the couch and strutted away, ears flat against her head and tail slapping back and forth to show her annoyance with me.

But annoyed as she was, she repeatedly returned to the couch for another go at her mats.

After a grueling hour of snipping and combing, I decided I'd endured enough cat calls and attitude so I called it a night. Sitting on a chair across the room, she glared back her best 'cat dirty look' from her repertoire of expressions.

The next morning, in spite of the fact I detected some leftover animosity toward me, we were still speaking. I figure one more session will pretty well clean up the mats for another season, but I'll need to rest up before I go at her again.

After all, she is a bitch.

But most importantly, she's my bitch.

Step Into the Great Indoors



Enjoy Cash Rebates of up to \$300 and a chance to win a Coleman® Deluxe Outdoor Package

NO PAYMENTS NO INTEREST FOR 6 MONTHS (OAC)

Coleman® HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING PRODUCTS

Win the Great Outdoors

When you purchase and install a Coleman® Gas Furnace or Air Conditioner between Sept. 1, to Nov. 15, 2002, you'll receive a Free "Coleman® Lamp keychain" and an entry ballot from your participating Coleman® Dealer. This ballot makes you eligible* to win a Coleman® Deluxe Outdoor Package that includes:

- One Stainless Steel BBQ • One 3-Man Tent
- One Oversized Sleeping Bag to -5°C • One Propane Grille Stove
- One 2-Mantle Propane Lantern

FURNACE MAINTENANCE INSPECTION \$85.00 + tax

Items may differ slightly from items shown above. * No purchase necessary ** MSRP of the Deluxe Outdoor Package: \$2,000 *** Winner will be drawn on Dec. 15, 2002. Contact your participating Coleman® Dealer for a free estimate & more details



APPLEBY SYSTEMS 877-8990

Fireplace, Heating & Air Conditioning Sales & Service
118 Guelph St. Georgetown (at Maple)

Hours: Monday - Friday 9-5; Saturday 11-4; Appointments available after hours upon request

It's our 1st Anniversary

THIS WEEKEND ONLY!

SEPT. 21 & SEPT. 22

Featuring...

- GIVEAWAYS ALL DAY
- MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS
- MINUTE SPECIALS
- LOTION DEALS



DESIGNER SKIN
PARIS • NEW YORK • LONDON • SCOTTSDALE

HOURS:

Mon. - Thurs. 9 am - 10 pm
Fri. 9 am - 9 pm
Sat. 9 am - 5 pm
Sun. 11 am - 4 pm

118 Guelph St., Unit 1,
Georgetown
(beside Pizza Pizza)
905-873-8657

Smart Tan certified staff

White Rose Plaza
Brampton
(On Hurontario)
905-846-9996

Smart Tan certified staff

**DRAW FOR
3 MONTHS
FREE
TANNING**

FABUTAN
SUN TAN STUDIOS