

Enduring the 'Wrath of Pounce'

For the most part, I like to think I'm fairly organized when it comes to keeping a well-stocked house. I always buy toilet paper long before the last roll is put on the dispenser, and I never, ever run out of beer. But Tuesday, I let one commodity lapse.

I ran out of cat food.

Anyone who has visited my house knows I co-habit with the snarkest, most self-engrossed 17-year-old Maine Coon feline living in the GTA.

And she's not one to suffer fools or incompetence very well. I've written about Pounce before, and her regimented lifestyle.

Everything is done by the clock—her clock.

Daily at 6:45 a.m., Pounce starts howling at my bedroom door, wanting to go outside and walk about the veranda—just to make sure it's still there. Weekdays and weekends alike, it matters not to her.

She rarely ventures off the veranda, but she feels compelled check it out, otherwise the universe will just not be right in her world.

Depending upon the weather—cold, wet, foggy or sunny, she'll be back at the door, howling to be let back in, in three to five minutes.

And once back inside, THERE HAD DAMN WELL BETTER BE FOOD IN THAT DISH...

Tuesday morning wasn't quite perfect in Pounce's world. You see, that dish was empty.

Two solitary white golf balls in an empty dish greeted her when she came hissing and howling back into the kitchen. (The golf balls were covered in a previous column—they act as an obstacle, making her eat more slowly, so she doesn't throw up on the rug.)

I'd forgotten to buy cat food Monday after work, as I'd emptied the last of the bag of kibble into her dish Monday morning.

No cat food and someone was gonna pay...

Buying cat kibble for Pounce has always been a challenge. At one time, she'd only eat Iams, THE most expensive cat food on the market.

A
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BIT



Ted Brown

But by some stroke of luck (actually I didn't have the \$11-12 bucks for the Iams that day) I bought Purina Light, at half the price, (Pounce was getting a bit heavy). After two days of bitter complaining, hunger finally took over and she started to eat the Purina Light.

Imagine my horror as I went to buy kibble Tuesday, to find that the store was out of Purina Light. They had Whiskas, Iams—hell, they even had other types of Purina—but no Light.

Palms wet with sweat, I pondered the consequences of going home with the wrong kibble. I picked up one called Special Blend with a hair-ball additive. As the old cat is losing her fur (as she does every fall,) I opted to give it try.

As I entered the house, the howling resumed, as she scolded me once again for letting her dish run empty. I ripped open the bag, scooped out a level cup and dumped it in her dish.

She approached the dish cautiously—something was different. I wondered if I was about to suffer the 'wrath of Pounce' for my efforts.

She ate it. In fact she ate it quite willingly.

And after she finished, she even took a stroll over to rub against my leg, purring, to let me know I was, for the moment, off her sh*t list. I smiled to myself, basking in the fact I'd scored another coup on the damned cat.

If she only knew that new kibble is cheaper than the Purina Light...



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