

Curious case of the Christmas cat

Pets and people, people and pets. Rural Routers are the worst it seems. Country yards make the best homes for dogs and just about every rural house has one. If you don't, chances are a cat is lurking around somewhere in your life.

Animals are part of rural life. From the foxes and deer to the dogs and cats, we Rural Routers wouldn't have it any other way.

Pets become a part of your life whether you want it to happen or not. Animals each have their distinct personalities just like people. Like kids or bad adults, sometimes they listen and other times they listen but pretend not to hear!

Take the case of the Christmas Cat. It was a cold dark snowy night in December when a neighbour came knocking at the door.

Quickly he explained that his cat had escaped his fenced yard when the gate was opened.

Feeling freedom, the cat raced away through the snow. Crossing the street, it dodged into the our cedars and climbed high up into a tall fir tree. Our neighbour was close behind and was now asking for our help to get it down.

Hidden on a snowy branch, the frightened cat was howling for its life by the time we started our rescue.

The Big Guy and I along with our worried neighbour figured if we jumped and grabbed the tip of the huge branch we could jiggle the cat off or try to grab it.

The jumping went great, it was



Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

when we held onto the strong branch forcing it lower and lower to the ground that disaster struck. Spotting the cat and feeling victory close at hand, we gave one final heave down on the branch and CATastrophe struck.

The limb trembled and all at once it shot out of our hand sending clouds of powdery white snow and one black cat flying. Like a live cartoon, that cat flew high into the air and right over our 10-foot tall cedar hedge.

It must be some sick human reaction to the unbelievable, but we all stood with eyes and mouths wide open and started to laugh.

Stumbling through the snow around the cedars we spotted the cat. It was back at gate, fit as a fiddle just happy to be back on solid ground.

Now with Christmas approaching just three short weeks away, it becomes a happy time for rural routing pets.

Cats watch from hidden spots under the sofa as the trees get decorated and that delicious tinsel is hung. Oh yes the caviar of kitty treats, tinsel is the stuff cat dreams are made of.

Dogs love the Yuletide season just as much.

Food and goodies are everywhere and the smell of a good cheese tray just drives them nuts. They watch your hand go from the plate to mouth looking like they are from the village of the damned.

From furry flying felines to drooling demanding dogs, like love and marriage, country life and pets go hand and hand.

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