



# The Country Kitty B&B<sup>SM</sup>

Winter 2017  
Now In Our 19th Year!

## Casual Boarding for Feline Friends.<sup>SM</sup>

We know that a stay at the B&B can be a relaxing experience for cats. In fact, more than once we've received comments from happy customers inquiring, "What did you do to my cat!?" After a recent stay, **Buster's** mommy called to tell us he came home a different cat, not nipping at her anymore. When we spoke to her a couple of months later regarding a future stay, she said **Buster** is still, "acting like a normal little boy". I said, "it's B&B magic".

After picking up her 3 cats, Jennifer e-mailed to let us know how they were settling back in at home, even shy **little Mia**. "Everyone is doing well. In fact, the homecoming vibe is working its magic on **Simon** and **Mia**. For the past few days **Mia** has been separated from **Simon** and **Sera** only at night - during the day she's out and about in the house with very encouraging results (no altercations, and the occasional half-hearted stalking episode). *CKBB* is good medicine!"

So then, do we really weave any magic with our boarders? Well, we certainly feel we created a special environment here almost 19 years ago. The B&B is peaceful. The cats hear soft music and voices, not barking dogs. They feel safe and secure in their very own rooms with a big window that provides hours of entertainment. On top of all that, they have some new human friends who feed them, clean their room, scoop their litter and most important, if they like, spend time with them. Hmmm. Maybe it *is* magical.

*Kip*

### Always In Our Memory

Guests who are sleeping in their final resting place

Barney, 20	Sadiqui, 17
Gracie, 10	Sassy, 17
Hoover, 16	Simon, 16
Margot, 13	Squeaks, 6
Moochie, 8	Tasia, 16



Pumpkin and Sargent Mac

On a Friday morning more than 18 years ago, *The Country Kitty B&B* greeted its first furry guests. On that day, Aunt Jean and Uncle Kip made the first of many new feline friends: **Shuttle**, **Heidi Ho**, **Binks**, **Matty**, **Charlotte** and **Jeremy**. 9,000 cat stays later, we have made 1,823 new kitty friends.

I joined the fun in 2006 and have loved every day of those 11 years. I never tire of hearing how much the B&B means to so many people. A note from Laurie, after **Rocky** passed away, said it all. "We wanted to thank you, because we know that when he was with you that you cared for him like we did. We never would have even given a thought to going anywhere if it wasn't for your WONDERFUL B & B. He loved all of you as well. Many thanks for being there for us, but more especially for him."

We love what we do and we thank you for letting us make *The Country Kitty B&B* a special part of your cat's life.

*Lynn*

"It's not Christmas 'til you get scratched behind the ears." (Charlie when saying good bye to **Ella**. on December 23, 2016)



Casual  
Boarding  
For  
Feline  
Friends



"Dear Friends—We enjoyed our stay & feel refreshed and ready to take on the rest of our '9-Lives'! We give you a '5-star' rating! We will return! Thank you!" **Sophie & "B.G."**

**The purrrfect place for your best friend!**



## CAT TALES

During a recent stay, Lynn e-mailed **Sadie Noodle's** human, Judy (aka "Hoo-maan") to let her know how well **Sadie** was doing. She attached a photo of **Sadie** lounging on her pillow bed to the e-mail. Judy replied, "**Sadie** looks very relaxed. Of course you and Kip are so less stressed going to Country Kitty than she ever has been anywhere else. Thanks for doing what you do. Have **Sadie** tell you about the time she was dropped at camp in a blizzard and could only get in by toboggan, in the dark, through the woods. Or, if she won't, I will when I pick her up." Subsequently, we got both of them to tell us their version of that dreadful day.

**Judy:** "The day I had planned to travel, in April, it started to snow in Minneapolis. And it kept on snowing. The 47 mile commute home took over two hours that evening. My cat, Sadie Noodle, was scheduled to stay at her boarding facility, Casey's Place (aka "camp"), starting the next morning. I called Sadie's camp counselor, Nancy, to see if I could bring Sadie that night instead, knowing that by the next morning, we wouldn't get out of the driveway. Nancy told me to come on up and call her from the road when we arrive. Frazzled, I ran around the house packing my things and Sadie's things, got in the car and headed up the road."

**Sadie Noodle:** "I was busy napping when "Hoo-maan" flew in the door, ran around the house like a crazy person, scooped me up, installed me in my deluxe, Tartan-plaid kitten carrier with brass fittings, and took me out into the snow to the noisy box on wheels. What does she think she's doing? This is not in my contract. It's 6:30-where's my dinner?, I was thinking."

**Judy:** "I told Sadie everything was ok, but my voice was shaking as we crept up the road."

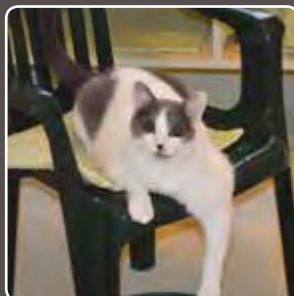
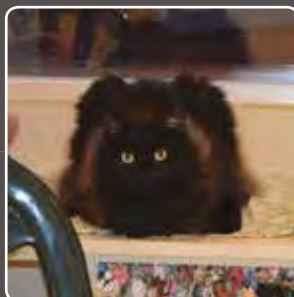
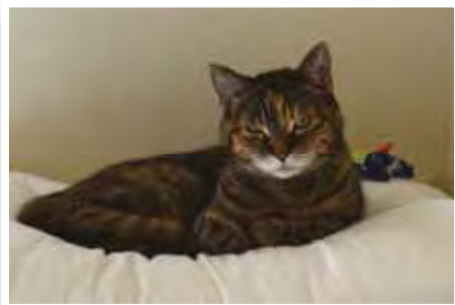
**Sadie:**, "Hoo-maan knows I don't like being in the wheeled box and I especially don't like turns or bumps. She is trying to calm me with the classical station, while at the same time she is shrieking that the plows aren't even on the road because the blizzard is so bad. There is nothing calming about Vivaldi combined with screaming. And who knew Hondas could be driven sideways?"

**Judy:** "In any other circumstances, I would have turned back, but if I didn't get Sadie to camp, the rest of my plans would snowball out of control. So like a moron, I forged on through 8 inches of unplowed heavy wet snow. I couldn't find the turn to Casey's Place and I couldn't call Nancy to say we were there because I'd left my cell phone home. My arms were numb from gripping the steering wheel so tightly. When suddenly, Nancy appeared, bundled up and holding a toboggan on a rope. We piled Sadie's belongings and then Sadie, on top of the toboggan, covered it all with blankets (except the front of her carrier), and tied it all down. Nancy headed through the woods, towing Sadie behind. I watched them disappear into the woods."

**Sadie:** "I thought I would faint by the time we reached camp, having had nothing to eat but kibble since breakfast. Then I spotted my camp counselor with a sled! I'd dreamed of this chance: A one-kitten Iditarod sled and a chance to show the dogs who's boss. Mush!, Nancy!, Mush!"

**Judy:** "As I headed back to the airport, I cried because I was surely going to die in this storm and who would take care of Sadie?" I made it to the hotel and onto the plane the next morning, vowing never to be so stupid again."

**Sadie:** "I settled into the Pink Room and started planning for next year's race. Doesn't she know I like the Peach Room best? All the rooms are great, but I like the Peach Room. I need someone to come in and fluff my blankie. Didn't Hoo-maan pack my stuffed banana?"



Photos at left, from top:  
Miss Phoebe, Dusty, Elsa, Sammy, Trouble, Dorothy

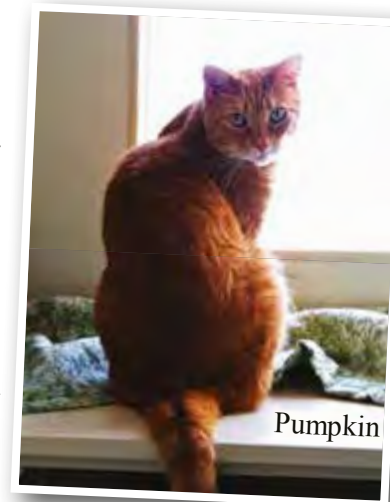
## Life at the B&B



We are proud of the *B&B* and the special place that it holds in the hearts of our customers. It's simply amazing. Looking back at the comments we've received from people of all ages and backgrounds, the same theme rings true.

Perhaps the most humbling phone call we ever received was from the daughter-in-law of one of our long-time customers. She called to let us know that because of Alzheimer's, her mother-in-law was no longer able to care for herself or her kitty, **Pumpkin**. She had reached the point where she didn't even recognize close family members. Yet, despite that, she insisted that her family take **Pumpkin** to *The Country Kitty B&B* to live out the rest of her life because she knew that she would be loved.

Although Pumpkin was really being welcomed by some nice people who lived on a farm, her owner believed that **Pumpkin** was here with us at *The Country Kitty*. We were instructed that if **Pumpkin's** owner ever called, to just play along and let her know that **Pumpkin** was doing well. She never did call, but her love of the *B&B* lives on in our hearts and in the hearts of all who have shared their kitties with us. We are honored to mean so much to so many.



### Batter Bella Up!



Although we try to follow set routines for building and room maintenance, sometimes Lynn, Kip or Jean have a special way to complete certain tasks.

Since Jean's back can be a little unpredictable, it's easier for her to sweep a cat's room and collect the debris (including litter and toys) into the corner next to the litter box. Before using the small whisk broom and dust pan, she shakes the toys to remove fur and dust from them. After that, she gently tosses the toys into the air toward the cubbies.

Having observed this daily routine, little **Bella** decided it was great fun to take part. After a day or two, she positioned herself on the other side of the litter box in anticipation of those flying toys. For the rest of her stay, she waited in place, ready to pounce the second her toys hit the air. Who would have thought housekeeping could be so much fun!

Julia says her husband Chip offered to look after **Bambi** instead of boarding him at the *B&B* while Julia went away.

When Julia called home to check on things, she asked if Chip fed **Bambi**. Chip said, "Uh, he didn't ask." "Didn't ask?!", Julia exclaimed, "He's a cat!". Chip said, "Well, we had some chicken. And he's been eating ham and American cheese." When Julia returned home, it was no surprise that **Bambi** wanted nothing to do with his prescription w/d food.



From then on, Julia decided it's safer to leave **Bambi** at the *B&B* when she's away. At least he won't have to ask for his dinner.



**Tessie** brought her favorite "chirping" toy mouse to stay with her at the *B&B*. One day, she gave him a bath and left him soaking in her water dish. When we rescued him that afternoon, his chirping mechanism had gone haywire and wouldn't stop. "Cheep cheep, cheeeeeeeeep, cheep. Cheep cheep, cheeeeeeeeep, cheep. Cheep."

His protests were heard throughout the building. We tried everything to make him stop. We towel dried him, we squeezed him, we unsqueezed him. "Take the battery out!", Kip offered. "We can't get to the battery, if there is one, without unstitching his seam", Lynn replied. Jean just continued to laugh.

We ended up putting the toy mouse in the clothes dryer with the door shut. You could still hear a muffled, "Cheep, cheep, cheeeeeeeeep" coming from the dryer. "Good Night Everybody!", we said as we closed the door to the cat rooms hallway for the night. "Cheep cheep, cheeeeeeeeep, cheep", came a cry from the laundry room.



"Thanks so much for the wonderful accommodations! **Pumpkin** and **Sargent Mac** are truly grateful for the attentive care during their stay with you!" CT

"**Lola** enjoyed herself on her home away from home visit. We always feel comfortable having **Lola** spend time with you when we are away." C&MC

"My recent surgery in NYC was very stressful, but knowing that **Elle** was safe and sound and loved at *The Country Kitty B&B* was a great relief. Thank you so much." LB

**The Country Kitty B&B<sup>SM</sup>**  
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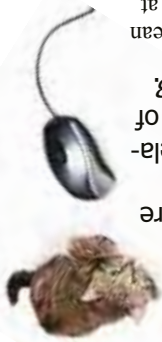
**www.countrykitty.com**

We get lots of compliments on our attractive web site. Pictures truly are worth a thousand words. And it's a great way to communicate!

- Many customers book return visits totally via e-mail.
- Other folks have their family and friends check out the place where their cats are staying.
- Customers often e-mail us from hotels or homes of friends and relatives asking how their pets are doing. We even e-mail snapshots of our guests to their owners showing kittys having fun at the B & B.

"Hi you guys! We've been chilling out here at home and life is good, but that doesn't mean we don't miss our B&B buds big time! We're already gearing up for our 2018 winter break at your digs. We just know it's going to be a blast again.  
 PS Attached are our current shot records. Not much fun going through that annual schtick but, then again, we'd do *anything* to make you dudes happy...so there you go!"

**T&T**



"Hi. Sorry I took so long to answer! But Miss Sassy started to chew on this and I put it up high and forgot about it til today.  
 I'm very happy (and my cats are also) with their stay at your lovely place. They didn't seem to mind at all about being there. They were happy to be home but I'm sure they wouldn't mind coming back. I found it to be pleasant and a clean place, also well taken care of.  
 Sassy and Buddy say hi.  
 Thanks again."  
 S&EM

## **Pay Attention**

Most cat owners know their cat's routine and habits. Any sudden changes to these norms should not be ignored. Cats hide their pain and illness and may seem perfectly normal until whatever is bothering them becomes intolerable.

A recent article in *Catnip*, a monthly newsletter written by the staff at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, talks about "The Top 7 Changes in Behavior". Those are; failing litter box habits, changes in sleep patterns (including location), grooming habits, increases in vocalization, changes in social interactions, changes in appetite, and weight changes. Aging and stress are noted as factors that can cause such changes.

You know your cat better than anybody. If something has changed and doesn't quickly return to normal, trust your instinct. Don't wait. Your cat can't tell you when something is wrong unless you're listening. Have a talk with your vet to see if your cat should be evaluated for a serious or life-threatening condition.

*Catnip* also has a lot of other valuable information on their website, [www.tuftscatnip.com](http://www.tuftscatnip.com).



**Kit**

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