

N ow in our  $20^{th}$  year, the *B&B* is old enough to have shared entire lifetimes with some cats. **Calvin**'s folks were the first to book a room at the *B&B*, and one year-old **Calvin** was one of our first guests when we opened in June, 1999. **Calvin** stayed with us during annual family trips, including this past summer. We'll never forget the kitty who helped us christen the *B&B* and came back every year to play. We often comment that our frequent guests become family. When **Calvin** went to kitty heaven in August, we were again reminded how true that is.

**Tessie** first came to stay with us a little over a year ago when she was just 3 months old. We've seen her 17 times since then. Still only a year and a half old, **Tessie** will get to grow up with us too, which is pretty cool.

**Jackson** is down the hall in his guest room as I write this. A good little guest. He's been staying with us for many years. We look forward to his visits, an old friend, part of the family.

There are new guests down the hall too; **Bernard** and **Gene** are having what we hope is the first of many stays. They've already made their way into our hearts.

We do our best to make all of the kitties feel at home when they're here. Our 16 year old feline friend, **Twiggy**, said it purrfectly when she wrote to us after a recent stay: "Dear Lynn, Jean, and Kip, How can I thank you? Let me count the stars! From spa grooming, the coziest bed in the world, food all but served on a silver platter-to loving kind words, petting, and even dispensing my ear meds-it is no wonder I feel you are my home away from home and part of my family. See you for Christmas! With love & silent meows, **Twiglet**".

Our love to you too, **Twig**, and to all of our feline friends. We'll be here when you need us, ready to welcome you back to your home away from home, *The Country Kitty B&B*.

Lynn

#### Casual Boarding For Feline Friends

Always In Our Memory Guests who are sleeping in their final resting place

- Anna, 16 Bounder, 13 Calvin, 20 Mittens B., 18 Mitten D., 12 Monk, 13
- Otto, 14 Sammy, 14 Smokey, 7 Snofrid, 16 Tacoma, 17 Velvet, 13





Lately, I've been noting some amusing peculiarities among cats who visit the B&B, all having to do with food.

For example, kitties who like a certain flavor one day, may turn their noses up at it the next. Often, when we enter a room bearing the cat food du jour, we'll hold the bowl near their face for a sniff to see if we've picked a winner. If we haven't, we get a look that says "That's not what I ordered". But if we've read the cat's mind (like that's possible) and picked a good one, the cat will lick its nose. It's not uncommon to even hear one of us call out, "It's a nose licker!" This will prompt a "Yay" or at least a smile from whoever is within earshot.

Some cats, like **Annie**, have faith that we've made a good selection and will lick their nose as soon as we enter their room, bowl in hand. If you've picked the wrong food, you'll get one of those attitude looks that says, "Really?"

Treats are another subject. Say "treats" or even display a treat bag and they lick their chops. A strange oddity among some cats, however, is their difficulty in finding treats, even if they're in plain sight. We lead them to the treats or if necessary, keep moving the treats to them.

There's another look. The "What???" look. We see that one when we happen to walk by a cat's room and they're in the litter. But that's a story for another day...

Kip

"Thank you for making my (shy) **Charlie** comfortable and well taken care of. Don't change a thing at the B & B. It is a lovely home away from home for kitties. **Charlie** continues to toss mice way after bed time! Sincerely, M. M."

The purrfect place for your best friend!















Stories About Favorite Felines

We recently gave Carol an old photo of her daughter and the first cat she boarded, Louie. Luther, "Louie", was a black cat named Martin Luther King - at least until they found out Louie was a girl. She quickly became Martin Luther Queen, but was always called Louie.

Daryl called to say she has two new cats from North Shore Animal League. They were named "**April**' and "**Rain**" at the shelter, but Daryl couldn't keep that straight and kept calling them, "**Amber**" and "**River**'. In the end, she named them, "**Rain**' and "**Pippa**".

One Sunday evening during the July heat wave, the front door bell rang at home, and Jean went to answer it. She didn't recognize the woman on the porch but opened the door to see what she needed. The woman was very nice and explained she was a driver for a local taxi company, and they had a call to pick up someone at the Country B&B on Ridge Road. Quite sure none of our visiting cats made the call, Jean said no one from here requested a ride. As they chatted, the woman complemented the gardens, loved the lavender, and our sign up at the road. Jean told her about *The Country Kitty B&B*, and the woman immediately took out her cell phone to show pictures of her cat (We think his name was **Ollie**). What a cat! Tiny head and a great big body, all stretched out on his back! The woman said she would love to have him stay with us when needed, and Jean gave her our website info. In the meantime, they both agreed the call must have come from a B&B for people down the road, and off she went to find her human passenger.

**Lili** is one of our frequent guests at the *B&B*. She was diagnosed with diabetes mellitus in November of 2017. Both male and female cats are at risk for this disease, with obese cats having an elevated risk. **Lili's** mom recalls asking the vet, "Is she really fat or is her head too small?" Although cats over age 10 are more susceptible than younger cats, diabetes can affect cats of all ages and sizes.

The earliest warning signs of this disease are increased thirst (polydipsia), increased urination (polyuria), excessive appetite, and weight loss. Owners who notice these signs of diabetes in their cats should not delay in contacting their vet. Fortunately, **Lili** was diagnosed early and is doing well with her dietary therapy and insulin shots twice a day.

So remember, any change in your feline friend's daily routine should not be ignored. Sudden changes in eating and drinking habits, litter habits, or sleeping routines, as well as rapid weight loss, can all be signs that something is wrong and should be evaluated by your vet before it's too late.



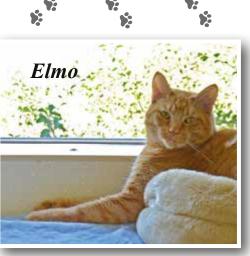


"I wish I was a cat so I could stay with you. Every detail is designed for comfort. Your photo of **Murphy** and **Pearl** relaxing in the sunshine tells they were truly happy. Thanks for all." *M.C.* 

*Photos at left, from top:* Molly, Noah, Lili, Pippa, Francis, Esther

# *Life at the B&B* Elmo and Fable

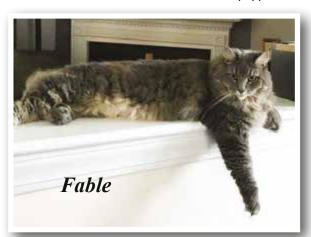
July 11 began with a sad message on the answering machine from the emergency contact for one of our customers. The reason Ed hadn't picked **Elmo** and **Fable** up on the 10th was that Ed had died at home. Ed hadn't designated an heir for the cats because he had no one who would take them. He'd told us that should he no longer be able to care for them, they'd have to go to a shelter or be euthanized. Now, we were suddenly faced with that reality.



**Elmo** and **Fable** were Ed's first cats. They were two months old when they first stayed with us. We saw them 30 more times while Ed traveled the globe. In those seven years, **Elmo** and **Fable** became family. I knew they'd never do well in a shelter, and I couldn't face having them euthanized. I loved them. I also wasn't willing to put my own cats through the stress of **Elmo** and **Fable** coming home with me.

I called customers, friends, and local vets looking for help,

explaining to each that Elmo and Fable are demanding cats, not for the faint of heart and definitely not a match for the elderly or the very young. They both have extra toes and cleverly use their front paws like hands. Often 20 pound Elmo would jump on my back and hold on while I swept their room, gnawing my hair as I urged him to leap onto the windowsill. Traditional lap cats they are not. They also don't adjust well to change. Each stay would begin rough and tumble but always after one or two days any aggressiveness would disappear. But having said all that, there really isn't a mean bone in their bodies.



catnip sprinkled around. Elmo likes the rugs. Fable is probably On July 16, out of desperation, I called an old customer from snoozing under the bed upstairs. He's now sitting on the step Pennsylvania, Daunice. She and her sister, Paula, in South behind me purring. We've had some growls. Fable swiped at Carolina, had boarded cats here years ago when visiting Elmo when Paula was trying to play with them— they don't know Saratoga during racing season. Daunice travels a lot and how to play with toys or bat & follow a wand. Paula already couldn't take them. She didn't think Paula would be able to working on that. Daunice" either, but she'd ask. Daunice called back almost immediately. "Paula said yes. She'll take the kitties." Missing feline Four months later. Elmo and Fable (and Paula), have settled companionship, Paula was hoping that like always, her next cats into their new lives together. Elmo and Fable have each found would find her and they did. She told Daunice, "Country Kitty their spots in the house and they both know how to "wand". called. Country Kitty never calls. This was meant to be."

Daunice agreed to drive **Elmo** and **Fable** to South Carolina on August 13 after her annual visit to the track. During her stay in Saratoga, Daunice came to meet and spend time with the cats at the *B&B*. **Elmo** climbed onto her lap within a minute of her sitting down in their room! A good fit, it seemed. Daunice put a lot of thought into the journey south and everything was in place when she arrived to pick them up the morning of the  $13^{th}$ .

She planned a three day trip, staying two nights in hotels in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. She'd mapped out every Petco and PetSmart along the way for their public bathrooms and because they allow pets in their stores. One of Daunice's e-mail updates from the road included a photo of **Elmo** and **Fable** in their carriers, stacked one on the other, in a shopping cart, watching the fish in the tanks at a PetSmart. What could have been going through **Elmo** and **Fable's** heads? Two days ago at *Country Kitty*, now watching fish from a shopping cart.

They arrived at Paula's on August 15 and the following morning Daunice emailed:

"Paula didn't get much sleep. She sleeps downstairs in the recliner. **Fable** was up on the back of it fussing with Paula's hair. **Elmo** likes to sit on the arm. Paula got out the cat toys & was playing with them at 3am or so. **Fable** would growl at **Elmo** every once in a while. Sometime, in the middle of the night, I heard a thump thump in my room. I think they were trying to open the closet doors. I thought I saw a fluffy tail disappearing down the stairs. **Elmo** popped out from under the bed & fuzzed around my

leg. Then he hopped up on the bed. He likes his face itched. He didn't stay. This morning there are no kitties to be seen. I think they really are bonding with Paula. No photos. The one I took of **Elmo** in a straw box blurred when he jumped out toward me. Daunice"

Day two: "Kitties weren't as wild last night. They were prowling around. And they ate everything on their plates overnight. Who knows who ate what. And, they came out this morning & fuzzed around wanting faces itched & pets. We had appointments & left. When we got home, **Elmo** popped out. Here he is rolling around. There's

While I still miss them, I am forever grateful to Paula and Daunice for taking them on. A happy ending to a very sad and stressful time.

Lynn

The Country Kitty B&B<sup>SM</sup> 1195 Ridge Road Queensbury, NY 12804



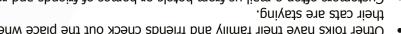
you and that you take such great care of me. Love, Jesse" you. My mom and dad said that it makes them very happy that I like to visit Thank you for a very nice vacation. I love it at Country Kitty and I love all of "Hi my friends,

our guests to their owners showing kitty's having fun at the B & B.

tives asking how their pets are doing. We even e-mail snapshots of

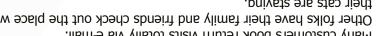
Customers often e-mail us from hotels or homes of friends and rela-

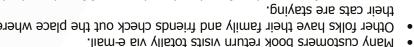
- rneir cats are staying.



- Other folks have their family and friends check out the place where

We get lots of compliments on our attractive web site. Pictures truly





With all due respect? the game mouse-in-the-bed. are worth a thousand words. And it's a great way to communicate!

giant scone and ate it? Plays to sleep with me. Stole a "Did you know Kato... likes

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Whether going on a business trip or vacation, or due to a family emergency, you can relax knowing your special feline friend is well cared for at The Country Kitty B & B.

## Our Daily Guest Fees Per Room

1 cat	2 cats	3 cats
\$25	\$45	\$60

We'll be happy to make additional rooms available for multiple cat families, space permitting. However, discounted rates shown for 2nd and 3rd cats apply only when the cats are in the same room.

"From pulling up to see "Welcome Nala" to how clean and meticulous the facility is kept, we were so pleased with our decision to board our cat with you. And will do it again in vears to come." D.K.

## Phone call July 24, 2018 at closing:

"Uh, yes, hello. Do you guys have a dog kennel?" "No, we only board cats."

"Oohhhhh. Only cats?"

"Yes."

"Can you take dogs?" "No."



"Good Night Everybody!"

The Country Kitty B & B

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