



The Country Kitty B&BSM

Casual Boarding for Feline Friends.SM

Summer 2019
Now In Our 21st Year!

We are so excited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *The Country Kitty B&B*! In 1999, the B&B was created so cats feel as much at home as possible with lots of love and kindness. On page 2, you will read about **Rosa**, the cat who inspired the B&B.

We all know cats do not like change. They'd much rather be in their home than tricked into a cat carrier with treats or snagged from of a nap to find themselves in the dreaded case. Then, of course, is the even more dreaded car ride!

"Where are we going today?", Kitty wonders? "I hope it's not to see that human who sticks me with a needle. That's foul play. Maybe we're going to that place with the big window and the cubbies that I play in. I like that place! I get a lot of attention, well, as much as I'll put up with. I have to let them know I'm still in charge now and then. They feed me just like at home, with treats and catnip too. They brush me when I allow it and sometimes occupy the chair in my room so I can have a lap to curl up in. They scoop the presents I leave them in my litter and clean up my messes, too. Oh, yes, I hope that's where I'm headed today, to see my old friends, Aunt Lynn, Aunt Jean and Uncle Kip. They're all so good to me!"

Well, we'd like to think that's how the cats feel, and we do our best to make that happen. Thank you for believing in us and sharing your kitties. Because of you and your feline friends, we are celebrating 20 years of fond memories at a very special place called *The Country Kitty B&B*.

Lynn

Casual Boarding For Feline Friends

Always In Our Memory

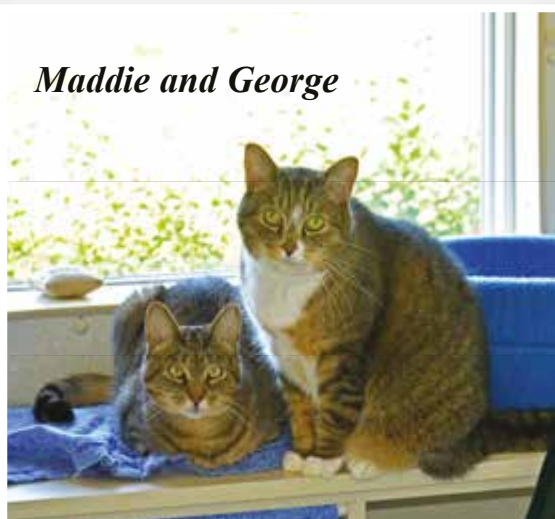
Guests who are sleeping
in their final resting place

Goozy, 14	Precious, 14
Jasper, 18	Sugar, 22
Kitty, 16	Thunder, 14
Oprah, 19	Ziggy, 5
Otto, 14	Zoe, 7



Twenty years ago, Jean and I had this unique idea for retirement. It became *The Country Kitty B&B* and twenty years of great memories! From the amused doctor who offered to give up his home phone number so we could get 792-MEOW, to the best memories of all - two decades worth of our two and four-legged friends.

Maddie and George



We boarded five cats on opening day in June, 1999 while finishing touches were still being put on the B&B. I have a photo of Jean taking a reservation kneeling by the front steps with a portable phone and reservation form! By mid-summer we were already full many days thanks to stories in newspapers, all the area TV stations and radio interviews as far away as Canada and Dallas. Retirement from our "real jobs" happened sooner for me than Jean, so our daughter Amy and Jean's sister, Karen, capably pitched in to help in those early days.

By 2006, we were facing additional responsibilities including caring for Jean's parents and their property. After much soul searching, we put the B&B up for sale with the stipulation that it remain a B&B just for cats. All potential buyers wanted to board just dogs or dogs and cats. We said no. And then along came Lynn. No sooner had she found a wonderful place to board her new kitty, Lily, than it was for sale! I remember the day she said "Well, what if I buy it?" And after some mutual back and forth, she did! Twelve years later, she still calls it her "happy place".

People often remark how comforting it is that the B&B remains unchanged - cozy, inviting and friendly. Sure, there have been improvements and fine-tuning through the years, but we are always pleased that people notice what hasn't changed - the B&B experience. We hope it's your cat's "happy place", too.

Kip

"I have no suggestions that might improve your Kitty B&B—all was exceptional and so accommodating. Thanks from **Peepers** and **Mini**. We won't hesitate to call on you again."
B. R. and T. R.

The purrrfect place for your best friend!



CAT TALES

Stories About
Favorite Felines

During Spring recess, Kip and Jean’s grand-daughter, Emma, left her kitties **Harvest** and **Stink** at the *B&B* while Em and her family went on vacation. Emma mailed this card to the kitties while she was away, asking if they’d “Been up to any mischief lately?” Little did she know . . .



On their last day, Jean drove **Harvest** and **Stink** home to be reacquainted with their dog-sister Velvet and wait for their humans to return later in the day. Before heading home, Jean made sure everything was in order, and Velvet was back in the laundry room. Just to be safe, she set the gift bag on the counter, out of reach! (When a cat goes home after its first visit, we give the owner a gift bag with toys, catnip and a KitKat.)

Later in the day, Jean returned to put Velvet out. When she walked in, she realized there had been a party! Obviously, Velvet was innocent, but there was no denying mama kitty **Harvest** was not. There she was, resting on the back of the couch with her head and shoulder sticking through the handle of half a gift bag. On the floor was a punctured catnip bag, an unopened bag of toys, their door name tags, and a KitKat! Close by was her 6-month old kitten, **Stink**, who also seemed very happy! While searching through the house, Jean found the other half of the bag in a bedroom!

Needless to say, the kitties had a great time, but a lesson was learned. Never leave a *Country Kitty* gift bag out, even if you think it’s in a safe location!



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There Wouldn’t Be A *B&B* Without Rosa

In 1998, Jean's beloved cat **Rosa** needed to spend a day at the vet's to be observed for some health concerns. When she arrived back home, Jean noticed how stressed and upset **Rosa** was. That's when she decided to inquire about what was available for cat owners who needed to board their cats. Learning that cages were the only option, Jean started to imagine, plan and slowly create a building design that would offer a cat its own spacious room with cubbies to explore, cozy bedding, toys, and a large window to watch endless wildlife. All this inspired the name *The Country Kitty*. When she told another woman about it, she exclaimed, "A B&B for Cats!". That's when *The Country Kitty B&B* got its official name, and none of this would have ever happened if it weren't for a special cat name **Rosa**.



Photos at left, from top:
Sugar & Spice, Isis, Sophie, Bart, Mazie, Alli & Abbi

Life at the *B&B*



Litter Box Savvy

Although a litter box is something one could take for granted if they have a cat, the cats who stay at the *B&B* often train us about their preferences. Some cats like to mound their litter in the center of the box. Should we forget and smooth over the litter after we scoop it, they’ll promptly step in and re-mound it. **Noah** wants his litter mounded to the left side of his box. There are cats who compartmentalize their litter, doing their business only in certain areas. Some will spend a long time making sure everything is covered, while others just walk away when finished! There are neat cats who somehow never leave a drop of litter on the floor, while others kick and toss it everywhere, as well as track it all over their bedding.

In an effort to meet their needs, we have a wide selection of litter box sizes and styles: large, small, shallow, deep, hooded,

rimmed. For one or two cats who like to eat our corn-based litter, we offer a different brand. Some cats might miss their box, so we have towels and puppy pads to set under the box. We might start with one type of box and find we have to try something different.

A vital part of litter box care is monitoring the contents. If a cat goes outdoors, the owner might not be aware of how many times a cat urinates. We try to count the clumps of litter we scoop and note it on their daily chart. We also observe their stools, chart it and note if we feel there is a problem. The litter box can also reveal health concerns that we share with the owner when they pick up their cat.

Most cats are happy to be by our side when we scoop out their box. We praise them, and they seem very proud of themselves. Typical cat!

Sweeping Us Off Our Feet

Part of our daily routine is sweeping the floors in our cat rooms. While most cats just watch us or try to grab the broom, we have some cats we call “weavers”. **Cricket**, **Elsa**, **Diamond**, and **Tessie** just love to “help” us by weaving around our feet as we try to walk about the room sweeping. Throughout this process, we have to be “on our toes” watching to see just where they are so we don’t trip over them, which could prove to be a disaster for both human and cat. Occasionally, we’ll ask someone to sit and entertain the kitty so we can finish our task, but even that doesn’t always work. Once our housekeeping efforts are done, it’s naptime so they can rest and be ready for the next big sweep.



Karen M. told us a story about **Jack**, their 10 year old cat. She said all of the other cats she’s owned over the years have always slept on her bed at night, but **Jack** never has. He does however, have a special routine putting Karen and Tim to bed. Once Karen turns off the TV at night, **Jack** knows it’s their bed time. He races up the stairs ahead of them and waits at the top. Once Karen and Tim get themselves tucked in for the night, **Jack** heads back downstairs.

Kindred Spirits

One day, a very nice gentleman called about boarding his two male cats, **Smokey** and **Spooky**. He was very concerned about how they would do since **Smokey** was docile, and **Spooky** could be a little assertive. **Spooky** was also afraid of strangers and would need a space to hide. He was especially concerned about **Smokey** because that’s “his cat”, and he does not like people. After Jean spoke to him, he felt much better and scheduled a three-day “test run”, and a future three-week stay. A few days later, he stopped by with his wife for a tour. They had a nice time and felt even better about boarding the cats.

When they brought **Smokey** and **Spooky**, they spent almost an hour making sure they were settled in. We were cautioned that **Spooky** could be difficult and hiss but probably wouldn’t “attack” us! **Smokey** was more of a “regular cat”. We assured them we would take good care of their kitties, and off they went. We could pet **Smokey**, but **Spooky** lived up to his reputation, keeping his distance and hissing at us.

When it was time to go home, the man sat with his hand next to **Spooky’s** face. Jean watched as **Spooky** melted with affection for his owner. No hissing, no aggression, just pure love. Observing their special bond, Jean was told that

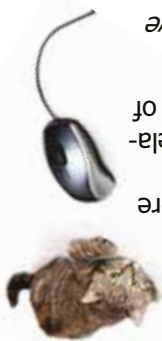
when **Spooky** was an outdoor cat, he would always climb a tree to hide from a neighbor’s beagle.

Once, he climbed so high he wouldn’t come down. In the middle of the night, the owner was so worried he climbed a tall extension ladder to rescue **Spooky**. He knew if either of them made a wrong move, it would be a disaster. He reached out to **Spooky**, who was more than happy to see him, and held him close to his chest. They made it down safely, and from then on, they were kindred spirits, and **Spooky** never went outside again.

The Country Kitty B&BSM
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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 kitty's having fun at the B&B.

"Wow! How great are you!!!! This was so nice to receive. Tell the crew we love them and Miss them madly. Florida is great... but we miss our kitties. So appreciative of this email. Thank you!! The P. Family"

"We had to make a quick stop in Warrensburg on our way home, and while waiting in the car with Lili, I let her out of her carrier for a min or two. She proceeded to jump up on the dashboard turning on my hazard lights, right signal, windshield wipers and AC. I knew right then and there that she had to go back into her carrier for the remainder of our drive home. She is (as we all are) very happy to be home." S. S.

"Cocoa appears to have really enjoyed her vacation at the B&B. We so appreciate how well you cared for her and will definitely bring her back." L.N. & B. N.
 "PS Cocoa says 'Hi'."

* * *

"The hour that it takes to get to Country Kitty B&B is well worth it. We know that Lexi is treated very well. Kip-Thanks for your welcoming attitude. Lynn-thanks for your Lexi report & photo. We are so pleased with your service and care." A.P.

* * *

"Bart seemed 100% happy when we picked him up. So whatever you are doing, keep it up. We will definitely use you again. Thank you so much." N.M. & R.M.

Minnie



The "comments" section in our B&B reservation form allows pet owners to offer some added insight into their kitties. Minnie Pearl's mom noted: "Sleeps a lot with spells of friskiness."

The Country Kitty B & B

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