



Winter 2024
Celebrating our 25th Year!

The Country Kitty B&BSM

Casual Boarding for Feline Friends.SM

We are privileged to have made so many human and feline friends over the years. Recently, we were saddened to hear of the passing of one of those friends, **Elmo**. **Elmo** and his sister, **Phoebe Fable**, were a big part of the *B&B* family. In 2018 their owner passed away unexpectedly while Elmo and Fable (as she was known then) were boarding with us. Elmo and Fable had stayed with us frequently for years, since they were kittens. After weeks of moving them from room to room here at the *B&B* while searching for someone who could adopt them, an old customer, Paula, from South Carolina graciously said she would take them. Her sister, Daunice, from Pennsylvania, also an old customer, picked them up at the *B&B* and drove them to their new home with Paula.



Elmo

At a vet appointment this past summer, the vet found a mass between two of Elmo's toes on his right paw. Less than two weeks later, during a follow up visit to the vet, they found a mass in one of his back legs that wasn't there during his original appointment. The vet had a suspicion about a rare and fast moving cancer called lung-digit syndrome, which is a condition in cats that occurs when lung cancer spreads to the toes or digits. They X-rayed Elmo's chest. He had some fluid on his lungs and a mass. There was nothing that could be done. Elmo was euthanized at age 13. Returning home without Elmo that day was devastating for Paula.

Daunice shared some memories with us:

"Elmo was a rock star everywhere he went. We boarded them at a number of places over the years which were usually too small for them (nowhere is like your place). At one place, they put Phoebe Fable in the biggest condo and Elmo in the bathroom off the office. He was the entertainment.

They remodeled supposedly making the condos bigger. That time, Elmo ended up near the dogs. Paula said when he came home, he was barking!

They really liked him. We liked the people but it was too small for them.

The place they have been boarding for the last few years is connected to a veterinary office (inland and higher elevation for hurricane safety). Elmo was one of their favorite cats! He kept them entertained. He demanded to be fed first too.

He was also a favorite of his vet's office even though he carried on so he had to be sedated for his appointment.

Elmo did call me 2 different times on Paula's phone.

He took his cone off after eye surgery & put it back on himself.

He worked the remote for Paula's recliner & the TV.

He was too much.

He really had a big personality.

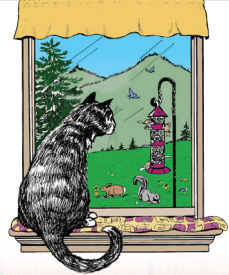
He was one of a kind."

Goodbye, **Elmo**.

You were dearly loved and you will be missed.

Thank you for choosing *The Country Kitty B&B* to be your feline friend's home away from home! We truly appreciate you placing your trust in us to care for your kitties. We know we say it all the time, but call as soon as you know you need us. It's never too early. Although we are sometimes able to help people from the waiting list, your best bet is not to end up on the waiting list in the first place. So, ALWAYS call, even if it is last minute, but PLAN AHEAD when you can so your cat can be here with us. You owe it to your cat. There is no other place like *The Country Kitty B&B*! Lynn

"Jack came home from his stay at the *B&B* and immediately went back to his usual routine. That tells me the stay at the *B&B* was a total success. Thank you. It was a relief to enjoy our son's wedding without stressing over **Jack**." P<



Always In Our Memory

Guests who are sleeping in their final resting place

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Arwen, 17 | Lily, 12 | Sassy, 9 |
| Diego, 16 | Louis, 15 | Squeaky, 12 |
| Elmo, 13 | Millie, 10 | Twinkle, 17 |
| Hot Rod, 10 | My, 14 | |
| Katie Jean, 20 | Orpheus, 17 | |

The purrrfect place for your best friend!

Life at the B & B

The Book



When you call to make a reservation, you may hear us say, “We’re checking the book”. Before construction of *The Country Kitty B&B* even started, Jean had created a business plan with ideas that filled a binder! Originally, she and Kip discussed using a computer appointment format to schedule cat stays, but Jean was more comfortable with an actual hands-on paper “book”. This led to the creation of *The Country Kitty B&B Guest Log*, an 8 ½ X 14 book with weekly pages and spaces for 10 kitty rooms – 70 spaces per page. As important as our office computer is, “the book” has become the cornerstone of the operation. Each year, we create a new book and fill in any stays already reserved for the upcoming year, making sure there are no mistakes.

When someone calls to book a stay, we first check the book to see what days and

rooms are available. Once dates are confirmed, a boarding checklist is completed with the owner’s and cat’s information, as well as the dates needed. This is then entered into the *Guest Log*, always in pencil so changes can be easily made. The checklists are also stored by date in a small file box. (All reservations are also included in our daily computer notes.) When adjustments or cancellations need to be made, we go to “the book”. If we notice a cat’s stay would fit better in a different room, we can easily “move” the cat in the book, rather than physically moving the cat from room to room after it arrives.

Despite all the computer technology available today, we can’t imagine using anything other than “the book” to keep our reservations in order and the *B&B* running smoothly.

Guest Room Décor

My story about the birth of the *B&B* in the last newsletter got me thinking of the fun Jean and I had decorating our 10 rooms. It’s been more than 25 years now, and I’m sure many of our present customers don’t know how we tried to make each room special. Most rooms were given cat-themed borders, some serving as memories of cats we’d owned. I still remember nights on stepladders as we pasted the strips of wallpaper border in place.

The room closest to Jean’s heart is Room 4, “**Rosa’s Room**”. Of all the cats we’d owned, **Rosa** was Jean’s feline kindred spirit. For over 19 years, whether naptime or bedtime, **Rosa** would curl up tightly in Jean’s arms for their cuddle time. It was pure love and contentment for both of them. Jean often felt they had such a special connection, saying when **Rosa** would reach up to touch her face and look into her eyes, it was as if she was looking deep into Jean’s soul.

I decorated three rooms to share some of my interests with our little guests. I’ve always loved trains, real and model, so Room 3 became “the train room” with an old railroad lantern and special signs on the walls. Room 9, “the 50’s room”, reflects my love of music and more than 50 years (and counting) on the radio. One of the walls features an array of 45’s chosen just for the cats, including “In My Room”, “Yummy, Yummy, Yummy” and “Surfin’ Bird”. Lastly, the trimmings in Room 10 are for my 30 years as a firefighter, New York State Fire Instructor, and town Fire Marshall. With an old helmet, nozzle, and other decorations, Room 10 became “the fire room”.

Next time you visit the *B&B*, please take a minute to check out the décor in all of our guest rooms.

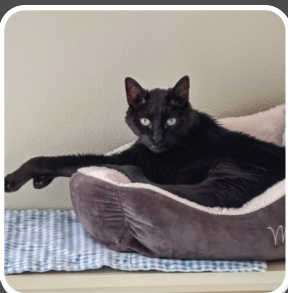
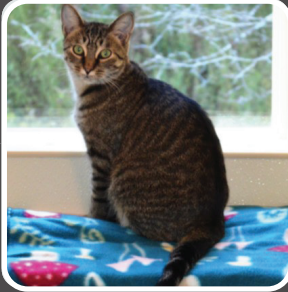
Kip

“Smudge’s experience with you all was wonderful—she even seems a bit calmer. Your loving care of her was much appreciated!” *LJL*

“**Brutus** was well cared for and was stress free. The quiet, cat friendly environment was perfect.” *BB*

Photos at left, from top:

Lilly, Peanut, Iliad, Sparkles, Maggie May, Roo





CAT TALES

Stories About
Favorite Felines



*“Kip, I'm home with **Pita** and I want to thank you all for the fine care he received. His coat, weight, general attitude are all great; of course, he's happy to be home for sure.*

*I attached a photo of **Pita**, "captaining" his ship, a 40' sailing catamaran a few years back. He did a few trips on the boat and tolerated the confinement well.*

Again, many thanks, Debbie”



Charlene and Ron e-mailed: “Our church had a ‘Blessing of the Animals’ last Sunday and we took **Ella**. There were only 2 cats and several dogs! **Ella** was so good, especially since there were barking dogs and lots of people and kids around! She was relaxed in her carrier!”



Lani reports that **Barney** sits on the neighbor’s porch yowling at the door until they let him in to play with their one year old cat, **Joey**. **Barney** plays with **Joey**, checks out the rest of the neighbor’s house, then waits by the door to be let back out.

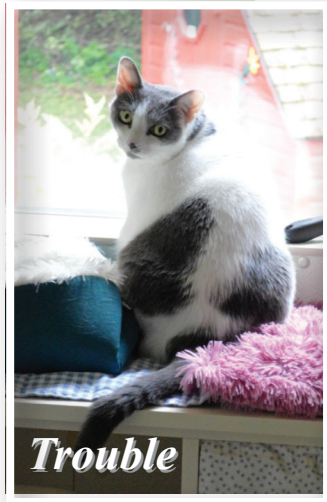


*“Hi **Troubs!** You have no idea how much Dad misses you! Every day Dad gets a notice that you are lost. Remember the harness that you wore on the airplane? You had a tracking device on your harness which is now telling Dad that you are not with him.*

Tell Aunt Lynn how you managed to get out of the harness at Security at Albany Airport. Luckily for you the nice man grabbed you and handed you back to Dad. And then you did it again at the Hilton Head Airport on the way home.

We are going shopping for you when we get home. Be a good kitty for Aunt Lynn. We will see you soon.

Love, hugs and kisses, Mom and Dad”



Nancy (not her real name) has to load **Marvin** and **Milton** (not their real names either) into their carriers while wearing only her underwear because **Marvin** always—and we mean always—pees on her when he knows he’s going for a ride. Then she has to take a shower, mop the floor, and then get herself ready so they can hit the road.

When it’s time to go home from the **B&B Lynn** places **Marvin** in his carrier because she doesn’t have the same problem. Nancy has asked Lynn if she could come to live with them at least on days when they have to travel.

(*Note—We changed the names to protect the guilty kitties and “Nancy”.)

Usually cats wreak havoc with a Christmas tree but **Kitty** helps Grant and Cindy decorate theirs!

The Country Kitty B&BSM

1195 Ridge Road
Queensbury, NY 12804



Celebrating Our 25th Year!

"Thought we'd check in & see how our fur babies are doing. Is Minnie still bossing Mazezy around? We're having wonderful weather & a great time, but still miss our meowers. Might have bought a toy or 2 for them!" NC

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.



www.countrykitty.com

When making your vacation plans, don't forget the cat!

Kitty e-mailed after her recent stay with us:

"Now that I'm back home in North Creek, I have to make sure my staff still remembers what to do. These humans forget so easily, but at least they're trainable. You get lots more practice, so you are a true expert - which makes all the difference!"



Kitty

Thanks for all you do!

Miss Kitty

PS It's great to be back baking in front of the fireplace. If you had one of these at the B&B, I doubt any cat would ever want to go home!"

*"A+++ We have never felt so welcome or so comfortable leaving **Lilly** anywhere. When Lynn offered to put **Lilly** in the carrier and **Lilly** was fine with it! Wow! You gained **Lilly's** trust and spent time with her! We are very impressed. Thank you! You are the best." S&RB*



Lilly

The Country Kitty B & B

1195 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804
(518) 792-MEOW 792-6369 FAX (518) 792-4186
www.countrykitty.com