



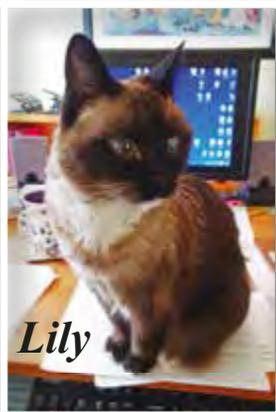
Winter 2020
Now In Our 22nd Year!

The Country Kitty B&BSM

Casual Boarding for Feline Friends.SM

The pandemic has given most of us an opportunity to spend more time with our furry friends. For me, this has been a gift. While **Daisy** seems to stick to her routine and go about her cat business as usual whether I'm home or not, **Lil** has been by my side just like the old days when we had our accounting office in our home.

I was quickly reminded of what an able assistant **Lily** has always been. In March, I reorganized the dining room and set up an office. Soon enough that office also contained a cat tree by the window and a couple of extra chairs with cushions. You know, just in case **Lil** needed a place to sit. I'd brought up an old desk chair from the basement and you'd have thought it was **Lil's** long lost friend. She slept in it every night for a month.



Lily

She frequently helps me out on the computer, sitting on the desk between me and the monitor, squarely on top of whatever papers I am working on. She's fascinated by the mouse pointer and follows it around the screen. She likes to step on the keyboard as she zeroes in on me with those crossed blue eyes, looking for a chin scratch. I've learned to quickly hold the escape key down so **Lil** can't type as she steps. She also loves to watch the paper tape as it advances from the calculator. Those strips of paper make great little paper balls to chase too. Just ask **Lil**. I can't tell you how many of those are covering the floor of the house after a day of "work".

Lily turned 16 in July and her health is starting to decline as a result of thyroid disease. **Lily** was my first pet and forever changed my world. Without **Lily**, the *B&B* might not still be here today. I will always love her and am grateful for the time I've been given to spend with her now. Give your feline friend some extra love today ...just because.

Lynn

Always In Our Memory

Guests who are sleeping in their final resting place

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Diamond, 15 | Mia, 18 |
| Jackson, 16 | Roscoe, 15 |
| Jesse, 18 | Spooky, 11 |
| Little Toot, 11 | Twin, 15 |



Kitty Gus

A radio commercial today began with "Things sure are different now." Boy, is that an understatement! The pandemic has affected everything and the *B&B* is no exception. Since spring, when someone calls, it's usually to cancel a future stay. Cruises and tours aren't happening, and almost no one has wanted to fly, stay in a hotel, go on vacation or travel to visit family members.

Here at the *B&B*, Lynn manages to blend optimistic with realistic. She knows "normal" is months away and plans accordingly. For example, she has created a thorough disinfecting regimen for every aspect of our operation. In March we created a place on the porch to receive cats and interact with their owners. No one is allowed in the building which hurts because you know how much we want you to be a part of the *B & B*. But we're taking no chances.

Lynn decided early on that we would carry on normally and we have. Business as usual but with a lot less "business". While virtually no one is traveling, some kitties still come to avoid work being done at home, or while someone's moving, or while mom and dad have rented a cabin just to get away.

Recently we hung holiday lights and decorated inside too, even though only we will be able to enjoy our little lighted tree, greeting cards, and decorations. Please know that we're still here every day just in case you need us. Yep. Feeding, scooping, sweeping, and straightening up rooms, all the while entertaining and being entertained by our furry guests. You know, just like "normal".

Kip

"Wow! What a fantastic experience. You certainly have perfected this whole process to make both pet owner and cats feel at ease and pampered. Great job. Will definitely come back with **Willow**."

J. M.

The purrrfect place for your best friend!

Life at the B&B

While vacationing, customers often e-mail to ask how their furry friend is doing. Some of our guests even receive post cards while they're here. Susan, "The Mama", said she was nervous about leaving 3 year old **Eugene**, but got a "very good vibe" from us. Susan said she'd be e-mailing **Eugene** and even mailing him a card while they were away as a post card would take too long to get here.

It wasn't long before **Eugene** received his first e-mail. He and "The Mama" continued to stay in touch throughout his stay in exchanges like this:

"Hi **Eugene**,

We are going to miss you. I hope you have a nice time at The Country Kitty B&B.

Please don't be mad at The Mama. We love you!

Love,

The Mama, Mama, Angelina, Braydin, and Dave"

"Hi Mama,

I am not mad at you. I'm on vacation!

Love, **Eugene"**

Then one day, our letter carrier brought mail for **Eugene**!

"Thank you for the card! Here I am reading it. I love you all too. I'm having a great time here! Everybody loves me.

Meow, **Eugene"**



ARE YOU BEING TRICKED BY TREATS?

You may have noticed that those little bags of your cats favorite crunchy treats now also come "super sized". The bags and containers are so large that some of our customers have mistaken them for dry cat food.

Also, more and more wet food treats are on store shelves, adding to the confusion. Again, more than one customer has assumed that the wet treats are actually food, designed to meet the nutritional requirements of a cat. The packaging is cute, that's for sure. Friskies makes "Lil' Soups", Fancy Feast makes, "Broths", and Nutrish makes, "Purrfect Broths", just to name a few. If you read the fine print, they all say they are "cat food complements", to be fed along with a complete and balanced cat food diet. The Nutrish brand also says, "Nutritional Adequacy Statement: This product is intended for intermittent or supplemental feeding only."



This is not to say that wet food treats are harmful or bad for your cat, just be aware that they can't be the only thing on your cat's menu.

A bag or can of food should say: "Formulated to meet the nutritional levels established by the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles." AAFCO is the Association of American Feed Control Officials. Its members are charged with regulating the sale and distribution of animal feeds and drug remedies.

Keep these things in mind the next time you're shopping for your best friend. The cat food aisle can be full of surprises.

Photos at left, from top:
Lucy, Misty, Xena, Peaches, Gertie, Kashmir

CAT TALES

Stories About Favorite Felines



We told Kevin and Alyssa that **Tessie** shot right out of her carrier and into her room. Alyssa was not surprised. She said maybe they should have named her "Zip", or something. Kevin replied, "And if the Boston Red Sox mascot was named 'Zip', we would have." Being an avid Boston Red Sox fan, Alyssa named **Tessie** after one of the Red Sox mascots, Tessie the Green Monster. For readers who aren't baseball fans, the Red Sox' Wally and Tessie are green monsters in homage to the 37 foot high left field wall at Fenway Park known as The Green Monster. **Tessie's** eyes are green, but she's not a monster, just a little irrepressible.



Speaking of sports fans, Carol writes from their winter home in North Carolina to tell us that **Scout and Pixie** have been doing quite well.

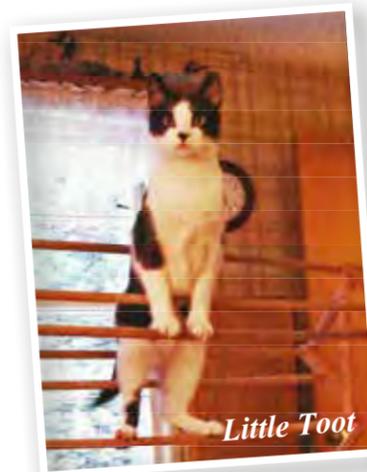
"They are getting used to their dog sister, Nellie, who is now a little over a year old. And they are somewhat telepathically learning about football. Duke University is not allowing in-person fan attendance at any

sports events this year, but they are trying to recoup a bit of revenue by giving fans the opportunity to buy large photo cut-outs to place in various seats at home football games. Animal photos are welcome, so **S&P** are there! You'll see from the photos that whereas **Scout** seems to like football, **Pixie** is not so much of a fan."



Our customer Kathy shared a sad but also uplifting story about **Little Toot** and some very caring strangers.

"It is with great sadness I relay a phone conversation I had yesterday around supertime. Noelle and her daughter Julia were going shopping, when she saw something in the road. It was a cat and he was still alive. Her daughter was directing traffic when another car stopped and Kiernan got out to help. He wrapped the cat in his coat. Another car stopped. A teenager, Andrew, also wanted to help. Police were called to the scene and told them about the emergency vet clinic in Latham. Kiernan and Andrew decided they would take the cat there. Police even gave them an escort part of the way. Kiernan called ahead and someone was there to usher them right in.



I was able to spend some time with him; hold him and say my goodbyes to my rambunctious, but snuggly little cat - **Toot**."

A doctor gave the cat pain meds but told them it's injuries were too severe. Andrew held him as he was put to sleep.

Kiernan called Noelle and told her the outcome. She was determined to find his owner, having lost a cat but never knowing what happened. She knew the terrible feeling. Noelle's daughter and grandmother started knocking on doors. It didn't take long because that morning I had distributed a flier with **Tooter's** picture, my name, and number.

And that is how four strangers, four very kind and caring strangers, came together to give comfort and peace to a little fur ball - **Little Toot**. Thanks to the effort made by Noelle and her daughter, I was able to contact the emergency clinic, and identify **Little Toot**.

One morning upon entering **Allie Acorn** and **Cricket's** room, we discovered the door to their wall cabinet open. The catnip container was on the floor but luckily the lid was still on. When telling their mommy, Karen, about their antics, she said she has to keep all of her cabinets at home closed with bungee cords or rubber bands because **Cricket** opens them.



She discovered this when she brought a Brillo pad from the kitchen to the upstairs bathroom to scrub a hard water stain. The next day, she found a Brillo pad in the bathtub in a large bowl of water she keeps there for the cats. (**Cricket** loves to play in water). Karen wondered if she brought the whole box of Brillo pads upstairs the day before but she hadn't. The "Brillo pad in the tub" routine went on for a few days till Karen discovered that **Cricket** was stealing them from the cabinet under the sink, carrying them upstairs like prey, and drowning them in his water bowl.

The Country Kitty B&BSM
1195 Ridge Road
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*"We're settling in at Kitty Camp. All is well. **Harvey** and I like to hang out together, just like at home. We have appointed **Wilson** as the official greeter. This morning when the people came in to give us our breakfast, we all came out to say 'Hi!'. " Love, **Lulu** (and **Harvey** and **Wilson** too)*

- 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.

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!



www.countrykitty.com

China has been coming to the B&B for years and at age 19, says, "You're never too old for a catnip party!"



A CAT BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

We were expecting **Gunnar** and **Mia** to arrive at 9:30 am. At 10:30 their "parents" called to say that **Mia** was outside and every time they went to collect her she evaded them and would disappear. It was noon when they finally called to say they were on the way, joking that **Mia** had lived up to her name, M-I-A (Missing in Action).

* * *

Susan told us that it took a week for her to pick out her cat's name and settled on **Bella**. She still needed a middle name – **Rose**. **Bella Rose**. Susan excitedly introduced **Bella Rose** to all the family members. Next trip to the vet, she found out that she was a he! She exclaimed to the vet, "Oh no. My **Bella** is a fella?" Susan didn't hear another word the vet said and had to call back later to get the rest of the report. His new name is **Griffin Binx**.

"I knew **Misty** would be well cared for and I never hesitated calling for a reservation. She was terrific on the flight to Florida. Not one peep from her the whole way. She loves her new home! **Misty** says, 'Thank you for the love and great care!!' Love from me too! P.S. You 'are' the best service!" *R.S.*

* * *

"You were wonderful and I loved leaving my cat, **Xena**, in your care. She was glad to be home, loved her **B&B** toys and will see you again." *S.U.*

The Country Kitty B & B

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