



The Country Kitty B&BSM

Casual Boarding for Feline Friends.SM

Summer 2020
Now In Our 22nd Year!

We have been open every day throughout the pandemic, and since March, we've only spent two days without feline companionship at *The Country Kitty B&B*. We think that is the first time in 21 years that there haven't been any cats here. This sudden availability gave us the opportunity to help some customers with some unusual situations. Instead of having to say, "We're sorry but we don't have a room available", and offer the waiting list, we've been able to say, "Yes, we can help you."



Edwiener and **Sweet Pea** were originally going to stay with us for a week while their owner moved to a new home. That was delayed and we got to enjoy **Edwiener** and **Sweet Pea** for 25 days. Every day I'd say, "What a good Wiener! And what a pretty Pea!" Makes me smile every time.

Molly kept us company for 43 days as her people were visiting their new grandchild when the seriousness of the virus became known. They decided to stay put rather than risk the trip home. **Molly** was our only guest for many of those days. "Who wants to feed the cat?!", one of us would say, smiling. Needless to say, **Molly** was showered with extra love and attention.

We've had the pleasure of meeting **Mocha**, an 18 year old cat that originally came from the island of Guam. She came to us a couple of weeks ago and is here indefinitely until her humans' house can be repaired. The house was badly damaged in the tornado that touched down in Corinth back in May.

We continue to be here for your furry companions. We appreciate all of the friends we've made over the years, human and feline, and we're looking forward to making many more.

Lynn

Always In Our Memory

Guests who are sleeping
in their final resting place

Aja, 6	Isis, 17
Andrew, 13	Oliver, 13
Buddy, 13	Twiggy, 17
Indy, 12	



I feel that we've been preparing for the pandemic forever. Since we opened in 1999, our air exchange system has changed the air in the building as much as ten times each hour, faithfully introducing fresh air from outdoors, 24/7.

To make the *B&B* air even healthier, we installed a HEPA filter in 2001. The filter grabs viruses, spores, and other airborne enemies down to 0.3 microns. A further enhancement was to send return air from some rooms straight to the filter to, in effect, create "isolation rooms".

When the pandemic hit in March, we wondered what more we could do to improve air quality in the *B&B*. Our HVAC contractor suggested installing an ultra violet air purifying system that would put us on par with medical facilities and hospital operating rooms. In June, we did just that. The system uses high intensity UV light to sterilize or neutralize airborne bacteria, viruses, fungi, and mold for pure-air.

We have also changed some of our policies and procedures to address the current situation. We are not allowing people inside the building for now and exchange cats and paperwork "curbside" in our parking lot. We are not allowing items from home such as blankets, beds and toys. Necessary items such as carriers and food containers, are disinfected in our lobby before being stored. And of course, we wear masks and gloves and maintain a social distance when we interact with people.

Since 1999 we have followed procedures to ensure a safe and sanitary environment. While inconvenient, the additional steps we're taking to meet the pandemic have been more of an enhancement than a sudden reaction. I feel we've been preparing by adhering to high standards for more than 21 years.



We intend to return things to normal but only when we feel it is safe for us, for you, and our shared feline friends. Meantime, I can assure you that for the kitties, life at the *B&B* is as much fun and relaxing as ever!

Kip

"Hi Kip, Jean & Lynn!

Just thought we would drop you a note! This is a time of year we thought we would see a lot of you! Hope everyone is well and that the cats are singing! **Tessie** misses you too!

Be well!"

KK & AK

The purrrfect place for your best friend!

Life at the B&B

Andrew stayed with us 41 times over the years. Many of those times just for a day. Sadly Andrew recently passed away. His mother, Connie, shared some of her fondest memories of this very special boy.

Every cat I’ve owned has been special in some way, but **Andrew** was unique.

“I’ll take the first one out,” I said to my friend Al. While two other 7-week-old kittens cowered in a corner of the box, a feisty one scrambled over the side, shook himself off, and looked around his new home.

I couldn’t think of a suitable name—he was in those early days a nondescript gray-- so I sat on the floor, kitten on my lap, and read aloud from a book of names. “Aaron. . . Abner. . .” When I reached “**Andrew**,” the kitten lifted his head and meowed. “Okay, cat, if you answer to **Andrew**, I think you’ve just named yourself.”

From that day, **Andrew** ran the house. He ordered breakfast—loudly—at 7 a.m. He told 12-year-old **Jillycat**, “Move. I want your chair!” and she complied. Fiercely determined to do everything the adult cat did, he went everywhere. On a typical day, he fell twice, got stepped on once, and stuck his head into the refrigerator just as the door was closing.

At 4 months, he made his first visit to *The Country Kitty B&B*. It was the only way I could keep claw and teeth marks off my display panels for the spring garden show. This became the pattern for the future. If I needed to sort my tax records or spread landscape plans across the dining room table, **Andrew** got a *B&B* vacation. He always came home so relaxed that in years to come we’d often have a standing reservation for “cabin fever Tuesdays.”



In springtime he watched the returning wildlife—not quietly with a twitching tail, but giving noisy play-by-play commentary. A loud meow, low and steady? There’s a squirrel in the driveway. High pitched meows, soft and quick? That’s a flock of sparrows on the fence. Sudden disapproving silence? Dog walking by. **Andrew** had absolutely no use for dogs.

Summers were for dozing on the porch. In autumn, he’d beg me to bring leaves into the house. Maples were his favorite, especially bright yellow ones. He wanted the best leaves to be twirled by the stem and floated down from the second-floor stairway railing. Winter meant a daily dish of snow. (This request raised eyebrows at the *B&B*.) He’d pat the snow with his paw if it was fresh and fluffy; otherwise he’d watch it melt, then lap the icy water.

You’d think a cat with such particular preferences would be fussy about his food, but no, **Andrew** ate the same brand of dry cat food every day for years until—crisis!—one morning we ran out. Fortunately someone had given us a special can at Christmas. For the first time in his life, **Andrew** encountered a breakfast dish filled with gourmet grilled beef and gravy. **Jilly** practically inhaled her share. Not **Andrew**.

“What’s this stuff?” (He took two sniffs.) “Where’s my dry food?” He walked all the way around the dish, peering underneath, hoping to find a stale stray kernel. No luck. With a last glare at the dish, and one final dramatic sniff, he turned away in defeat and plodded to the front door, where he just *sat*. “I’ll wait right here while you make a special trip to the supermarket.”

About a year ago, **Andrew** was diagnosed with thyroid disease. Efforts to control it with special medication were generally unsuccessful and his condition worsened.

In late April, **Andrew** had a sudden stroke from which there was no recovery. On May Day he was laid to rest in the front lawn, in a spot that sees all of his favorite things—sunlight, squirrels, cardinals, maple leaves, and deep, deep snow.

Photos at left, from top:
Finch, Molly, Mocha, Eddie & Binx, Zaphod, Pumpkin

CAT TALES

Stories About
Favorite Felines

***Oliver**, one of our “regulars”, recently crossed the Rainbow Bridge. His Mom’s remembrance shows what a cool and lucky kitty he was.*

It was Thanksgiving 2006 and we were headed to dinner with friends. As we were leaving, I saw tiny eyes reflected in the headlights. “Stop I see eyes!” Something very small darted into the woods. I called “Here Kitty, Kitty, Kitty!” A tiny kitten came running towards me and I scooped him up. He was purring. I called again but he didn’t have any friends.

We returned home where I fed and watered him. I always have cat food on hand. Any cat or dog that enters my yard will be fed, and if possible, petted. I put a blanket in a basket for a bed. We made an emergency run for cat litter then went to dinner.

While we were building a new home we’d be living in a condo. I feared we wouldn’t be able to keep him. When my husband found me later that night holding the kitten he said, “We can keep him. I will work it out.” I said, “His name is ***Oliver***.”

I spent ***Oliver’s*** formative years home with him. When we moved to Lake Luzerne, he had his own path up a hill, through the woods to a big rock. He learned how to walk outside on a leash and truly loved it. Actually, it was more of a meander-stalk situation. I told Lynn once that **Oliver** would wear a pink dress if he thought he was going outside. If I attempted to bring

Many of you might remember **Elmo** and **Fable**, the two cats whose owner passed away while they were boarding here a couple of years ago. We’re lucky to get updates from Daunice, sister of Paula, who graciously took them in when they needed a new home.

We’ve recently learned that **Phoebe Fable** (as she’s now known), likes to, “Wheel and deal”. Whenever Paula goes online on her laptop to manage her stocks, **Phoebe Fable** hops right up to help. Daunice warned Paula, “Don’t let her push the keys!”

Lynn asked for a photo of **Phoebe Fable** managing her portfolio, but couldn’t get one because it was too difficult for Paula to take a picture and keep **Phoebe Fable** from typing at the same time!

Baby Keeper of the garden

Jean spent several months in 2019 helping to care for a friend who suffered from Alzheimer’s. She passed away in June of 2020, and her memorial service was held at her home in her beautiful gardens. With permission from her son, Jean took Amy and Emma to tour the gardens.

While strolling through the shade gardens, they suddenly had company! “**Baby**”, as Jean’s friend called him, arrived to give them a tour of “his” garden! Now, **Baby** didn’t belong to her friend, but rather lived in the house across the street. However, he often preferred spending the day in her house. Not only did he sleep on the couch and the bed, but he enjoyed checking out the kitchen counters and went anywhere he pleased, and Jean’s friend loved his company! (Apparently, **Baby** had forgotten all the afternoons and evenings Jean would have to put him out



Baby

him inside and he wasn’t quite done with his walk, I would have to carry him. Inside, I would remove his harness and he would lay there until he stopped being mad.



Oliver

He loved baths, chasing bubbles outside, trying to bring grasshoppers into our home, and biting my husband. He also had a special relationship with a fuzzy toy named “Lillian”. She didn’t have legs or a head but he didn’t care. If he lost track of us in the house, he would take Lillian to different locations and make special

noises while holding her in his mouth. Like little dates. We didn’t judge. If steamed clams came into the home you’d get a dirty look. Feet were not allowed above the covers while sleeping. You would wake with a start as he pinched the offending foot.

I only required two things from ***Oliver***; that he use his litter box and let me love him.

Oliver passed away on 4/27/20. I am still devastated. I loved him so much. He was such a happy cat. I know he is in a better place now, but I still miss him so much.

As the woman’s health declined, she was moved to a nursing home where she received wonderful care. No one knows if she remembered **Baby**, and he was not seen about the house after she left. On the day she died, another friend went to her home, and who should appear but **Baby**! It was as though he knew and was there to meet his special friend as she started her next journey.

While Jean, Amy, and Emma visited the gardens, **Baby** was so happy, so content to be there, as well. Maybe he felt it’s his role to watch over his special friend’s creation. Perhaps they still walk together in the evening, strolling among her beautiful gardens.

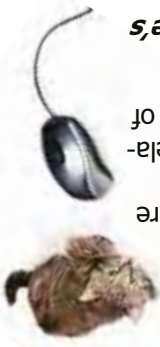
The Country Kitty B&BSM
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We get lots of compliments on our attractive web site. Pictures truly are worth a thousand words. And it's a great way to communicate!

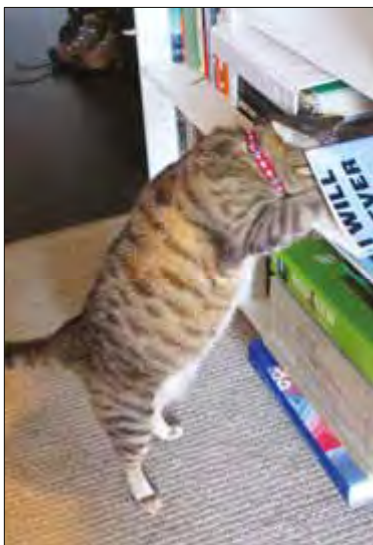
- Many customers book return visits totally via e-mail.
- Other folks have their family and friends check out the place where their cats are staying.
- Customers often e-mail us from hotels or homes of friends and relatives asking how their pets are doing. We even e-mail snapshots of our guests to their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

"Our plans are canceled so unfortunately we need to also cancel **Meunne's** reservation with you. We're thinking of you and look forward to spending time visiting you later this year. We are healthy and loved. We wish you all the same. **Meu** is purring as I write this." *P. and Meunne*



www.countrykitty.com

"Hi All! Been missing you a lot! I wish I could come hang out with you at the B&B again, but my mom and dad said we have to keep staying home for now. Oh, well, at least I've been able to catch up on some reading. Love, Tess"



*Kathleen and Randy shared a cute story about a little game they play with **Miss Miaou**.*

"**Miss Miaou** is currently doing her daily search for the last part of her breakfast. It gives her something to think about and a bit of exercise too! While I brush her in the bedroom, Randy hides pieces of her dry food throughout the rest of the apartment. When he says, 'okay' out she runs and begins her search. It's good for her and it amuses us!"

"Hi Folks. We so enjoy your newsletter – great photos and super anecdotes! This one was received with a pang of sadness—because we won't be able to take our trips this year. **Madison** is the saddest of all. :(

We haven't given up hope—we'll travel again! Take care, stay safe, and stay well!" *K., R., and M.*

* * *

"I am so pleased with everything @ *The Country Kitty B & B*. I did not worry about **Leo** at all and would HIGHLY recommend to others." *Leo and D.E.*

The Country Kitty B & B

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