

Pets Are People Too



Cats: Our Teachers

by Carol Dorsey

Would you be surprised if I told you that once upon a time I had no kind regard for cats? However, after hearing about what remarkable pets they can be, I couldn't resist wanting to find one that met my match.

It was with a sensitive heart and a lonely soul that I went searching for my first cat. As I trod into the shelter and saw a room full of cats I thought, "How could I possibly choose the right one?" Well, she picked me. This one special cat jumped upon a tall perch, turned upside down, and started talking to me. It was love at first sight. I brought her home and, not knowing a thing about cats, we developed the most beautiful relationship that I had ever experienced in my life.

"Cats can be cooperative when something feels good, which, to a cat, is the way everything is supposed to feel as much of the time as possible."

- Roger Caras

Through all the pleasures and joy, heartache and pain, we endured life together. 19 years later, Chicona is still at my side weathering life with me. She never gives up on me, even when I feel like giving up on myself. She is always there for a scratch on her head and I can enjoy a warm, loving kitty on my lap when I need nurturing. She travels the miles with me and never falters with her loyalty.

The story goes on to reveal that Chicona gave me permission to love myself. She was the orchestrator of this life symphony of inner peace and

enlightenment. Her loving meows, feisty hisses, and adventurous nature allowed me to explore what it was like to accept and love who I am no matter what was happening in my world.

"There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats."

- Albert Schweitzer

When I need nurturing, I hold her in my arms just like I am holding my inner child, the scared, fearful, little girl who never really had a chance to find peace and safety in her family of origin, and who is still sometimes operating from a little girl's experiences instead of an adult's perspective and protection.

Maybe my initial distaste for cats was a reflection of the dislike I had for myself because I was numb to receiving love. I am grateful that my Inner Guide and Higher Power lead me to my wonderful teacher, Chicona. I am still growing spiritually and she is still teaching me lessons that I am grateful to receive. Even as she ages and her health declines, she isn't concerned with asking for exactly what she wants and needs, unafraid of the consequence.

When I grow up I want to be exactly like my cat. I leave you with another quote and a piece of wisdom I learned from my Chicona. When I follow what is joyful in my heart, I am led to creative magnificence. LCM



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