

PAWSitively Yours...

from the Sceptre King



...have I told you lately that I love you?...

I was sitting in the sun recently - my black coat soaking up the warm light and my white heart beaming it out again. I was feeling like a lucky kind of guy as I watched the neighbourhood felines parade through my yard. There were the usual crew of fellows who have homes nearby. They come every day just like you might have done as children, going to 'check out your friend's house just in case something interesting was going on. Nobody called ahead - it was a spontaneous act and if it wasn't appropriate, well... you quickly ran back home or over the fence into another yard. Such a freedom you enjoyed in those times, and even though children don't get to do that anymore...cats still can! I smile to myself at our good fortune. Hey, have you ever seen a cat smile? Well start paying attention because you might be in for a surprise!

As I was thinking about all this, in walked Rosie! Ah Rosie! Now that's a story. He (yes I said he - his name comes from earlier times when no one could get close enough to know what gender he was and we thought he was female). Rosie 'happened' as a name, because even though he

was scared and hungry, and hurting in more ways than one, he was a 'gentle spirit' and you could see his capacity to love beyond the norm. We now call him Raphael, as a formal 'temple-cat' named after the healing angel. But Rosie will always be Rosie, a great teacher of love and forgiveness - of never giving up, of being brave enough to trust again.

I am sitting here ever so grateful. I could not imagine not knowing where my next meal was coming from; being cold and hungry during the night and worrying if someone was going to hurt me. Most likely, the problem began somewhere in Rosie's lineage, with a cat who belonged to someone. Perhaps it was a cat that got left behind, or got lost and eventually became a stray that met another stray, and they had kittens. If you go back far enough, you'll note it wasn't the cats fault. It was a mix-up, a misunderstanding, or a lack of education of the importance of getting a pet 'fixed' so that it did not contribute to a bigger problem. I'm saying this now because I heard MamaG* read in the paper that some people are actually letting their pets go because they don't think they can afford them anymore. I hope you would think very hard before you did such a thing. You are the trusted ones and when you picked out your pet you made a lifelong commitment for their care. I know sometimes things change - but if it does - you need to make an effort to find them a new home. Of course, you would explain to them that you still love them and are not abandoning them. YES I AM saying you should talk to your pets - out loud!! We like it and we do understand! You know, it's taken over 3 years to turn Rosie from the dine and dash midnight prowler. Even now he still looks at you with his big blue eyes, hoping he's not making a mistake when he allows a human hand to gently pat him. Slowly, as the months go by the trust grows again. Heck, why stop with your pets. Some of your human friends could use the same gentle encouragement as well. MamaG* talks to Rosie out loud all the time, even though we think he is deaf. She thinks he can feel the vibration of the words and feels the love in a different way. I know she is right.

So let's give some extra loving consideration to the furry ones around you; assume they understand what you are saying when you speak. Share your joys and sorrows with us. We are good listeners, and our purring will certainly help you heal or celebrate, you'll see. And then let's start a new daily habit, with kindness - let's say something nice out loud.

with love from my furry white heart to yours, The Sceptre King

PS With Christmas coming, please remember pets do not make good gifts unless the recipient has actually asked for one. Even then make sure they are able to care for it, before you put a big bow around their neck!

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