

CHARL-E- ZINE



THE START OF
SUMMER ISSUE

PLUS:

ADVICE FROM MISS NAHLAH

Delivery Overload

and

Talking to Robot Cats

Early Summer 2020

Vermin in Your Yard -
Squirrels

Passing the Time In The
Garage

Avoiding Injury During
Roll-over Practice

Kitty Haiku

Letters to the Editor

Dear Charlie,

In your column, “Rules for Competitive Feather Wanding”, you noted that one shouldn’t land too close to one’s opponent’s head because they might swear at you. But if swearing at one’s opponent is against the rules, wouldn’t they get a penalty, giving one the advantage?

Future Olympian

Dear Future Olympian,

Swearing at your opponent is frowned upon and could be called as an error. If you get sworn at because you landed too close to your opponent’s head, and there is a referee, they could rule it your fault, giving your opponent the advantage. If there isn’t a referee, then your opponent will say it is your fault, and if your opponent is a girl, well, that’s that.

Charlie

CHARL-E-ZINE

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KITTY HAIKU

*Scented leaves dancing
Roll, rub, rub, roll, drool, roll, drool
Catnip happy dance*

by Charlie with spelling help from Nahlah

Vermin in Your Yard – Squirrels

One of the big frustrations with being a non-roaming cat is that while you can raise the alarm about an intruder in your yard, you cannot physically chase the critter out. Today I will discuss a particular repeat offender, the Squirrel. Squirrels are vermin. That is strong language, I know, but they not only look like rats (except for the tail), they engage in illegal behaviour. They

Set up a routine for surveillance, complicated enough that it seems random. While waiting for the nasty critter, practice your evil laser eye and threatening noises. It is also a good idea to perfect your Crouch-and-Wiggle so that your quarry will think that you are going to leap through the window and pounce at any second.*

When the intruder arrives, go into action. Do your best to make sure that a human is nearby to

**NOT WANTED!
REPEAT INTRUDER
SQUIRREL**



steal peanuts from Who-Knows-Where and then stash them in your garden. You don't have a garden? Check out the planters on your balcony!

Even though you can't get outside and chase them away, it is important that when one of these thieving vandals invades your yard, they know that you are watching and sending up an alarm. Find a perch with a good view of your yard or balcony.

witness your devotion to her or his safety. This can be used as a treat lever. Good luck!

***Tips:** first make sure that your human keeps the window clean so that the idiot squirrel doesn't know that there is glass between you and it. Second, make sure that your perch is deep enough to accommodate your wiggle. If you fall off the back of your perch, even an idiot squirrel will figure it out.

Passing the time When You Get Trapped in the Garage

Garages are very interesting places. They are especially interesting when it is cold outside so your human doesn't want to leave the connecting door to the house open, or when the floor is particularly dirty. Garage touring does come with the risk, however, that you may get trapped and be there for a couple of hours or even overnight. Here are some things you can do.

Check to see if the vehicle has a window open. If yes, bonus! Jump on in and have a nap. Be sure to leave a thank you gift of some spare fur, especially on the driver's seat.

If the vehicle is not accessible, there is still plenty you can do to pass the time. Get your paws good and dusty and then jump to the roof of the vehicle, walk to the front windshield and slowly, with control, *sliide*

down. Repeat as often as necessary to achieve a balanced look. If the back window has a reasonable slope, you can replicate your work there.



**TIGGER THE SUPER TIGER PREPARES TO
DECORATE HIS SATURN
(FILE PHOTO)**

If you have more time, re-dust your paws and create a pleasing pattern on the hood and the top of the trunk if there is one. Remember, claws sheathed! This is scratch-free decorating, not like upholstery upgrading.

Should your human be particularly absent-minded and not notice that you are not in the house for a protracted amount of time, it is never a bad idea to inventory the contents of the garage to ensure that all garden tools, snow shovels, bicycles and so on are properly scented so that you can identify them if they are inadvertently "borrowed" by your weird neighbour with the funny haircut.

When you are released from the garage, be sure to communicate sufficient indignation to make your human feel guilty but not so much that they never let you in the garage again. Do not be tricked if they say it is your fault because they "asked if anyone was still in the garage" before they shut the door. Remember, it is always their fault.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
BARB!**



Advice from Miss Nahlah

Dear Miss Nahlah,

Ever since this pandemic thing started, my humans have been receiving care packages for lunch and dinner almost every day. The doorbell just never seems to stop ringing. My Zen is shot! How do I get the doorbell ringers to go away?

Frazzled

Dear Frazzled,

I am so sorry that you are being harassed this way. One of the unfortunate consequences of the pandemic is that people who are perfectly capable of cooking their own meals are ordering them in from EVERYWHERE! Aside from the noise pollution from all of that doorbell ringing, this is very expensive. You should keep a close eye on your supplies to make sure they are not compensating by buying you a sub-standard brand of litter.

As for the doorbell, I suggest that you instruct your humans to tell the delivery person to quietly text them when their order arrives. This should reduce the strain on your nerves so you can regain your Zen. Doorbells are so last decade, anyway!

Dear Miss Nahlah,

A Robot Cat has recently joined the family. The humans answer it when it speaks but I can't understand what it is saying. It has a terrible accent! I don't mind it otherwise, because it doesn't eat out of my bowl or steal my sunbeam spots. It just is

very uncomfortable not knowing what it is saying. What should I do?

Befuddled

Dear Befuddled,

A Robot Cat is what we refer to as Artificial Intelligence. It is not really a cat, which is why it doesn't do the things you do. The accent is because it is speaking a human version of cat, which is why the humans understand it and you don't. I suggest that you answer it politely if it speaks to you and don't worry that you don't know what it said. It won't know what you say either.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



REAL INTELLIGENCE



Avoiding Injury and Getting the Most out of Roll-over Practice

I am a big proponent of regular roll-over practices. When you have a well-prepared and rehearsed roll-over, you are not only in better shape for Feather Wandering, you are able to take advantage of random opportunities for tummy-rubs. It is also a fun thing you and your human can do together. Here are some tips for staying safe and having fun:

- 1) Share the mat, you take your end, the human takes hers. This assumes, of course, that your human has a mat long enough to share. If not, instruct your human to get a better mat.
- 2) Be aware of what your human is doing. If she is on her feet, stay clear in case she moves in a weird direction. If you hear the words, “Take a big step back,” coming from the DVD player, DO IT!
- 3) When your human is actually doing roll-over practice (mine calls it “core work”) try to keep your timing similar to hers. You don’t have to do exactly the same exercise, but if you are keeping time with her, she will feel encouraged.
- 4) Don’t be too rigid. Look for opportunities to practice related skills. Is your human doing roll-up and roll-back? You could walk back and forth beside her so she can pet you going each way. Is she doing the superman exercise? What better time to practice your Tail-Hair-Up-The-Nose maneuver?
- 5) Remember, a safe roll-over practice may use a mat, but nothing else that qualifies as “exercise equipment”. If your human has strayed into using weights or some sort of cardio machine, you should refuse to participate, as this is dangerous. Go have a nap.



New Tricks to Get Treats

Trick #27

Choose a spot near the treat bag and run to it every time your human heads in that direction. Strike your **Patient Pose** and put on your **I-Will-Sit-Here-Until-I-Starve-If-I-Have-To** face. When you get your treats, eat them as fast as you can and resume your **Pose**. Assuming your human is of at least average intelligence, you should be able to train him or her to expect to give you at least two or three helpings of treats in each session.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

How to Avoid Going to the Vet

Do we really want to go back to “normal”?

Debate: Hard Food vs Soft

Plus Regular Features:

Tricks for Getting Treats

Advice From Miss Nahlah