

CHARL-E- ZINE



PLUS:

ADVICE FROM CHARLIE

Room Disorganization

and

D.I.E.T. Dilemma

Late Summer 2020

THE EQUAL
TIME ISSUE
WITH
GUEST EDITOR
NAHLAH

Avoiding Going to the Vet -
Don't Be Fooled

Back to "Normal"

Pandemic Q & A

Letters to the Editor

Dear Charlie,

I was inspired by your column about things to do when trapped in the garage. Sadly, my garage is not connected to the house and I am not allowed out. How can I practice my time-passing skills?

So Disappointed

Dear So Disappointed,

That is a problem. Do you have a messy basement? I have heard stories (in my own family!) about basements that are so full of stuff that a human has a hard time walking through it all. A cat could be lost there for hours! Perhaps that is something you could explore (so to speak).

Charlie

CHARL-E-ZINE

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To send a letter to the Editor or ask for advice from Miss Nahlah, email:

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Editor's Note:

In the interest of sharing the limelight and because Mom said so, I am pleased to welcome Nahlah as Guest Editor of Issue 3, The Equal Time Issue. See you in the Advice Column!

Charlie

Guest Editor's Note:

Hello, dear readers. You may notice that some of the articles are different from the ones listed in Issue 2. That's because I didn't like some of them, so I made up different ones.

Nahlah

About this Pandemic

There is a great deal of mis-information circulating about this COVID19 Pandemic thing. Here are answers to some of the most common questions humans ask about COVID19 and cats.

Q: Is the COVID19 Pandemic just a hoax by cats and dogs to get humans to stay home with them?

A: No. Cats could have done it, but we don't care that much. Dogs care that much, but they couldn't have done it.

Q: Can I get COVID19 from my cat?

A: No, your cat doesn't have COVID19.

Q: Can I give COVID19 to my cat?

A: Why would you do that?

Q: Could I give it to my cat by accident?

A: No, your cat doesn't want it. Remember the last time you tried to give your cat something it didn't want? Not so easy, was it?

Q: What about my dog?

A: Your dog is not a cat, stay on topic.

Q: If humans fail to get COVID19 under control, will cats take over the world?

A: The process is already well underway. We don't need the pandemic to advance the cause, but we would appreciate it if you cleaned up your mess before we take over.



Masks

A final word about masks. As you may know, many cities have made it mandatory for people to wear masks when out in public. The masks don't protect the wearer, it seems, but the people around them. In theory, this means that if everyone wore a mask, everyone would protect everyone else, and then the pandemic would be over.

It's a good theory, but we all know that **Theory** and **Actual Practice** don't usually have much to do with each other, so get used to seeing masks for a while.

We, of course, do not have to wear masks in public or anywhere else.

Do We Really Want To Go Back to “Normal”?

In Issue 1 of Charl-E-Zine, we noted some of the challenges of the sudden work at home situation. Disrupted routines, nap spots commandeered for desk space and drastically increased supervision responsibilities. On the other paw, having your human(s) as a captive audience opened opportunities for additional training (of them) and purr sessions. Now that businesses are starting to bring staff back to the workplace, we could go back to normal. The question is, do we want to go back?

It might not be so bad to have them go back to their office, at least a few days a week. Afterall, constantly watching them type gets boring. While they are away, we can catch up on our naps, seriously plan our home improvements and generally unload the extra weight of responsibility we have been carrying since March. They will also be reminded how much they miss us when they are at work.

I am not in favour of going all the way back to what used to be normal, however, because I think with enough intensive training, our humans can learn to be more appreciative of our contributions to their well-being. It does not seem to me that **The Outside World** is a very healthy place for delicate creatures like humans. It is noisy and hurried and unpredictable and it burns out their sensitive psyches. I think that as their Superiors, we have a responsibility to protect them from the very bad effects of being out and about for days in a row.

I think that if my human really feels the need to put on high heels and “Go Somewhere” once in a while, that will be okay, but I think she will be a much happier purrson if she spends most of her time here with us.



AFTERALL, CONSTANTLY WATCHING THEM TYPE GETS BORING.

Advice from ~~Miss Nahlah~~ Charlie

Dear ~~Miss Nahlah~~ Charlie,

I have read your answers to questions about furniture with interest. My problem is similar. My human recently decided to rearrange all of the furniture in the room. She turned it completely upside-down! I just don't know what to scratch or where to perch anymore. How do I get her to put everything back where it belongs?

Disoriented

Dear Disoriented,

I am not sure whether you mean that the room is now back-to-front or literally upside-down. If it is back to front, you will have to readjust your patrol pattern. For example, if you usually travel the room clockwise, try going counter-clockwise until the new arrangement makes sense. If you are not sure where to perch, try stretching out on the floor while you evaluate the new options, which are probably the old options in a different spot. If the room really is upside-down, try rolling over the other way until you and the room are turned in the same direction. Good luck!

Charlie

Dear ~~Miss Nahlah~~ Charlie,

My veterinarian has convinced my human that I need to go on a diet. I am strongly opposed to this because everyone knows 1) that diets don't work and 2) that I am perfect the way I am. How do I put an end to this cruelty?

Fluff Is Not Fat

Dear Fluff Is Not Fat,

As it happens, I too, am presently dealing with this weighty issue and as you know, I am a very athletic cat. Sometimes humans confuse fluff and/or muscle with fat. I suggest a subtle campaign of pretending to go along while actually maintaining your consumption. Since it is summer, you may also be able to confuse the matter by coughing up extra hairballs. Also consider kicking the odd leaving out of the litter box to communicate your displeasure. Not too much, remember subtlety is key. Hopefully, if you are clever and persistent, your human will make the right choice, give up the diet thing and recognize your true beauty once again.

Charlie

**TRY ROLLING OVER
THE OTHER WAY
UNTIL YOU AND THE
ROOM ARE TURNED
IN THE SAME
DIRECTION.**



How to Avoid Going to the Vet – Not What We Thought

Nobody likes going to the vet. Being there isn't so bad, but going is no fun at all. Charlie gets so scared – he says he doesn't – that he loses his breakfast, lunch and other stuff too. I like to hide under the queen-sized bed, right in the middle, but somehow, I always wind up getting caught and put in a carrier anyway. So imagine how happy we both were when Mom said we weren't going to the vet any more. Victory!

Then it turned out that the reason we weren't going to the vet anymore was because the vet was coming to us. Ambushing us in our own kitchen! This new tactic presents a whole new set of challenges. How are we going to know that we have an appointment when we do not hear the carriers being taken down from the shelf? How can we make Mom feel guilty about the torturous car ride when there isn't one?

On our first meeting with Dr. Stephan, the only option was to be as difficult as possible. I screamed, I hissed, I pretended I was going to bite (I wouldn't in the middle of a pandemic but he didn't know that). I got examined and vaccinated anyway, but I had to set negative expectations for next time, you see. Charlie did his best too, but I was much fiercer.



So dear readers, I'm afraid I am still working on how to avoid the vet. If you have techniques you would like to share, please write to the Editor. I am sure that many felines would like to know.



New Tricks to Get Treats

In light of the newly emerged D.I.E.T. emic, I am pawsing this series to consider strategies to flatten the campaign to flatten my curves, while maintaining proper treat nutrition.

Please continue to practice the techniques I have shared so far while I research this serious health issue.

We are all in this together!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Managing Separation Anxiety

D.I.E.T.ology

Winterizing Your Human

Plus Regular Features:

Tricks for Getting Treats

Advice From Miss Nahlah