

LIFE'S PURRFECT

It's a Deal

Try bargaining with your cat to make New Year's resolutions stick.

IT'S JANUARY AGAIN AND TIME TO attempt to put my life in order with some New Year's resolutions. Last year, I tried writing a list for the feline members of my household to follow, but needless to say, that didn't work out.

You would think that cats, resolute creatures by nature, would be good at adhering to resolutions. However, that characteristic backbone because they are only prepared to do things one way — their way! If we're lucky, though, cats can be persuaded to change their behavior if their humans meet them halfway. Here are some examples of New Year's compromises between cats and their people.

"I promise not to scratch your new drapes if you replace that awful old scratcher in the living room and buy me something tall that I can really get my claws into."

"I promise I won't jump on the dining

table every time you serve that irresistible spaghetti/bolognese and knock the fork out of your hand and splatter tomato sauce on the white linen tablecloth if, when you dish up, you automatically put a little in my bowl..."

This year, with a little help from Pudge, I have decided to help my fellow feline lovers out. So here it is, cat people, some feline New Year's resolutions for you from your cat. Kindly note however, that from now on they will be known as "trade-offs."

No. 1: I know you love that weight-loss reality TV show and are always ascribing that "you" must lose a few pounds. If you want me to be thin, you have to get off the couch and play with me. And if I can't lose that extra pound, remember there's just more of me to love.

No. 2: Face this fact. As long as you keep putting a fish in that bowl, I'll keep taking it out. I am simply honoring my natural hunting instincts. But, if you spice up the toy box with new gadgets and wands, I'll lose

interest in the fish.

No. 3: If you want me to dress up in that ridiculous Halloween outfit or that silly Santa hat again so you can take photographs, I expect a bribe. Forget those treats in the crinkly packet; I want fresh fish, lightly poached.

No. 4: Accept that I will never greet your friends when they come to visit. Have you ever snifled some of those smells they bring in? If you want me to be friendly, spray them with catnip.

No. 5: I'll stop hiding stuff behind the couch when you stop hiding chocolates from the rest of the family.

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No. 6: If you don't want me to disturb you with my nighttime antics, change your sleeping habits and become a night owl. Problem solved.

No. 7: Keep your friends away from my food bowl with a little sign so they know that the lovely dinnerware on the kitchen counter is actually mine. Then I'll stop retaliating by annoyingly knocking on the restroom door every time you get in there.

Note to self: Remember next year not to bother with a list, and accept that cats rule. ☺

CATS ARE ONLY PREPARED TO DO THINGS ONE WAY — THEIR WAY!



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