

LIFE'S PURR-FECT

It's a Living

Find the perfect career for your cat.

EVER SINCE MY CAT FUDGE LOST HER job blogging for CatChannel.com (she was retrenched), she has had to find another way to pay for her treats. Cats, as you may well know, don't do chores around the house. Work for treats is a totally different concept in the feline world.

It's tough out there; nobody, it seems, wants to employ a professional sleeper. And, the circus isn't popular anymore. Besides, I can't imagine anyone paying to see a professional hairball thrower. Or, perhaps, in this weird world, they would! Anyway, I am not pursuing that on her behalf, as I couldn't put up with her practicing at home.

So what is she really good at? Well, she has lap sitting down to a fine art. Yes, a professional lap sitter could work. I guess nowadays the politically correct term would be a therapy cat. She likes people and laps.

Then I realized that transport was involved and, seeing there is no way the DMV is going to give her a driver's license, she will need a chauffeur. I have a day job, so that idea was crossed off the list.

Luckily I found my copy of *Careers for Your Cat*, by Ann Dziemianowicz and got the idea that Fudge could make a career playing cat Scrabble — trying to make a whole lot of words out of Ms. Dziemianowicz's name. There's *miaow, no, now, can, man, and, do, ice, zion, zone, ziz, end, wand, mend, canned, mean, wind, cow, name, done, dime* ...

It was starting to look promising!

I visualized her doing the talk show circuit. Jay Leno would definitely have her on (he's a cat person) and Ellen DeGeneres

would love her. But, Fudge got bored, so I guess it would eventually have become a dead end job. I needed to find her something that would hold the spotlight beyond just 15 minutes of fame.

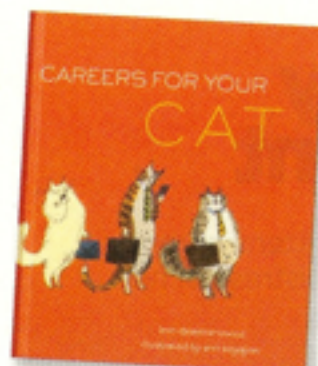
I persuaded her that the whole purpose of resorting to a publication that claims to offer career advice is to read it! So, albeit reluctantly, because it disturbed her nap-time, I got her to take The Meowers-Briggs Career/Personality Test offered in the book, and slowly some career options started to pique her interest.

Take museum curator for example. The book's job description says "Expert at examining and appraising objects.

Comfortable cultivating potential donors. Well-developed aesthetic interest and good taste. Acquires and arranges unusual *objects d'art*." Fudge to a T.

Then she read the job description for an Egyptologist: "Excavator who relishes the dig. Enjoys fieldwork. Intense study of the cat goddess Bast. Mastery of the sphinx and its riddles." Fudge isn't into riddles, but the fieldwork really interested her especially if it meant fielding small mice and lizards. But I put my foot down; I didn't want any samples stored at home.

Luckily, fate



intervened in the form of a phone call. Friskies was looking for cinematographers to make the first movie ever filmed by cats. All Fudge had to do was wear a video cam on her collar for a certain number of hours a day and film her life.

Well, we all know that the resulting feline masterpiece *The Cat Diaries* is an ongoing success on YouTube.

Fudge even made a documentary of how she made the film for CatChannel, her previous employer.

In fact, both were so well-received by the feline community at large, she discovered she had her work cut out for her all along — cinematographer! She has a natural gift for unusual angles and lighting. So, she's going to open a feline film school.

**ENTER OUR WORKING CAT
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CATCHANNEL.COM/
EXCLUSIVES**

Video cams for cats are now available on Amazon.com and other sites, and Fudge will happily dole out filming advice to other cats in return for treats. You can write to her via my email address (*sandyrobins online@gmail.com*) until she sets up her own. She is also busy scripting her next movie called *What's New, Pussycat?* It's "in development," as they say in the business.

However, with her work ethic, the completion of the project could rival the decade it took James Cameron to film *Titanic*. 🐾

WORK FOR TREATS IS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CONCEPT IN THE FELINE WORLD.



Sandy Robins is an award-winning pet-lifestyle expert who appears regularly on TV, radio and in international publications. She is an obsessed pet owner to her cats Fudge and Ziggy.

