



The Scoop



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And The Winner Is...

By Mark Giloni

The scene is the 20th annual Platinum Coast Cat Fanciers' show. 150 purebred cats vying for coveted ribbons. Persians, Himalayans and Ragdolls over there; Siamese, Birman and Maine Coons over here. Even a smattering of Abyssinians, Havana Browns and Sphinxes.



Bojangles letting the judge look him over

In addition to all the purebred cats are numerous rescue groups with cats for adoption including, in a prominent spot, Helping Paws. Lastly there are vendors galore selling catnip, cat toys, cat beds and every conceivable thing a pampered cat could possibly need (or ignore at their choosing).

We brought a number of cats to the Cat Show to demonstrate what great cats we have available for adoption. Our feline attendees who especially wooed our visitors included Bojangles, Bailey (who we were informed is a Lynx Point Siamese), Petra, Persephone and Rizzo. We also talked to everyone who would listen (and some who wouldn't) about Helping Paws – our mission (to take in all kinds of cats including FIV+, FeLV+, older cats, handicapped cat, etc.), our location, our history and, of course, our cats.



Bojangles being crowned "King of the Household Cats"

Complementing the judging of purebred cats was the Household Cat (HHC) Division where any neutered cat could also compete for ribbons. Helping Paws received a complementary entry to the HHC division and we entered Bojangles, a wonderful 3-4 year old male orange tabby kitty. We had no idea how well Bojangles would do especially as he was socializing almost non-stop between judging rounds. Well, Bojangles did great - he won 5 ribbons including one Best in Show!! A Girl Scout troop also had to pick the King and Queen of the HHC division and they chose Bojangles!! Could it get any better than that for a cat?

Well, it turns out that it got much better. Bojangles was also adopted!! A lovely lady whose cats had passed came along and fell in love with Bojangles – and the feeling was clearly mutual as Bojangles melted right into her arms. Bojangles' new mom went on a shopping spree both at the cat show and at a pet store to get everything the new King of her household could ever want. As a final topper our local Fox affiliate picked up the story of Bojangles' adoption as part of their coverage of the Cat Show. See:

<http://www.fox4now.com/news/local/Cats-compete-in-CFA-competition--217306711.html>

And the winner is: BOJANGLES !!

One footnote: Persephone has been adopted since the show but Bailey, Petra, Rizzo are still available for adoption along with many other fantastic cats.



Peters Purr-spective...

It's Back to School time. So who better to teach a class than me?!? I have decided to teach "How to get adopted 101". Here are a few of my sure fire techniques:

For starters, always put your best paw forward, in another words, groom, groom, groom.

Never grab any ones leg with your nails out. Just rub on them. Make sure to leave some fur, so they don't forget you.

If they are watching, be sure and use the box. (A class on litter education will be held at a later date). They like to know you have good habits. Very important! Jump in their lap, not on their back.

Be extremely cuddly and needy. You can also be "kneady". People seem really into cats that "make biscuits." (You can get all independent after you get adopted).

Try not to hock up a hairball when they're watching, Everyone knows you should save them for when no one is around and make sure to bury them. Don't make them too hard to find, you want them cleaned up. I suggest a shoe or on a rug of matching color.

Purr a lot!

Lie on your back and let them rub your tummy. Someone wrote in a cat book that it means you're docile. I just think it feels good.

Eat any treat or food offered, even if it's disgusting. (You can show your finicky side after your home).

Last and most important!! When you pick out your human, get him or her in your sites and be sure to get noticed! I don't care if you have to degrade yourself and do tricks like a dog. You have to make them want you.

I'm good, but I'm willing to listen to suggestions. If you have any more sure fire tricks email me at the shelter and I will add them to the curriculum.

On another mater, August is Marnie's birthday month. When I asked what she wanted, she told me, "I have I everything I've ever wanted. I have Helping Paws Animal Sanctuary." What she meant to say was, she has ME!

Peter Draggin',
Resident Philosopher

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