

Dear Pet Owner,

We know you might be surprised that this is coming from us. Did you think that Snoopy, Garfield and Ed the talking horse were the only animals with talent?

This has been bothering us since last December, and as the season approaches again we want to be perfectly honest with you; we have been ashamed and embarrassed and are giving you the chance to redeem yourself in the next few months.

Do you know how much it hurt not to be entered in the pet contest for the *19 Days*? We can't believe how much attention a dead dog and 2 Jacka**es (donkeys) received! This year we want in, but we can't do it without your help, please do not let us down.

Here is what you can do- use the next 2 months and all your talents to make us stars! We will be glamorous on our walks, and while we lay on our beds (and your bed). We will even let you dress us up in cute hats, funny scarves and other outrageous outfits. Take us to all the naturally beautiful spots in the Upper Valley- those mountains, by the river, etc. The competition will be fierce this year, dog-eat-dog and we are sure that many cats will risk one of their nine lives to create the perfect Kodak (who even knows what this is anymore!) moment. Kitty "purred" (that's cat lingo for texting) the other day to say she had hired a manager who was photographing her in *water* of all places. We are friends, but we do need you to find something even more spectacular than that for us. We have time and resources so let's do it.

December may seem like it is far away, but it will be here soon, you *know* how fast fall goes. We want to win, but we can't if you don't enter us.

It is an honor to be entered into this pet contest! We haven't lived on "light" food and run all those extra miles for nothing this past year- We are looking our best! Now is the time to show us off.

The pet contest this year (as always) is open to any pets from *anywhere*. We have heard that there will be lots of entrants, not just dogs and cats like us, and not only donkeys, but lots and lots of different kind of animals. We already are looking for the details which will come out in Nov. but we want to give you plenty of time to get organized. Even that pesky reporter from the fake news network is leaving DC because they didn't want to miss this story. We all know this will be big if he thinks the pet contest is more newsworthy than all the dealing in DC. Kitty was telling us that there

are a few politicians that will enter the contest this year, perhaps getting their campaign started early. An email was leaked from Hillary, and Trump tweeted something too! Who knows if this is real- will both enter the contest? Maybe when pigs fly - we will have to wait and see, but I am willing to bet the farm that they will be in.

You treat us well- good food, fresh water, scratching posts, treats galore, even daily clean litter and my Saturday dog bone. However, this is important to us, really, really important. We want to be stars, we want to be the talk of the town, to see our pictures on display, to be stopped by residents in our tracks when they recognize who we are on our walks around town.

We do have ways to punish you and we aren't afraid to pull out all the stops if you don't enter us. I know how to howl all night long, wake you every hour to let me go out to sniff. I am capable of catching skunks. It is not below me to pee on the hardwood floor, to chase the Fed Ex driver and bark at the mail carrier. When the furnace repairman comes I can bolt all the way to Hanover (and you will have to pay the holding fee to claim me). And I can make taking me to the vet difficult- fighting you the entire way, chewing the leash in the car, growling at all the other dogs in the waiting room and nipping the tech when she takes my temp and finally a little vomit after the round of shots.

Tabby also has her tricks- shedding on the new white sofa, missing the litter box, scratching those new cherry kitchen cabinet doors. How about a dead mouse every day when you wake or would you prefer a half live one that you can spend the rest of the day chasing around. Yowling like you have never heard. Remember the circus- those big cats are not the only ones who can jump; red wine wouldn't be pretty if it spilled into your laptop accidentally. Clawing and scratching are some of my favorite hobbies. Together the two of us can make your life pretty miserable.

You have a choice- start taking those pictures for the pet contest or endure our wrath! We are not going to cooperate if we have to sit it out of the contest again this year. Get busy!

Love from,
Fido, (your loving dog) and Tabby (your loving cat).

Prepare now, look for the details later- The 19 Days of Norwich (and beyond) 1% for the Haven - The pet contest. If last year is any indicator- it is sure to be entertaining, so be

sure to be a part of it!

Thanks for keeping it local,
Dan