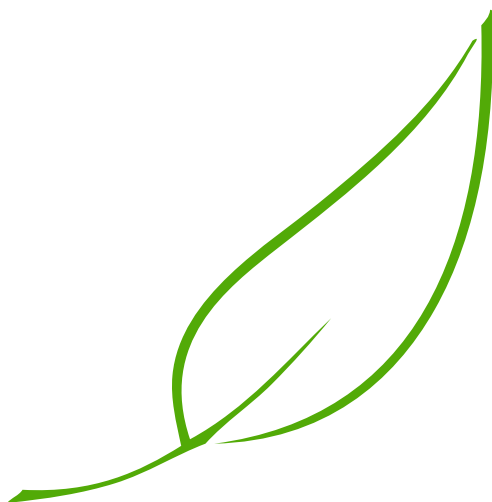


THE CAT'S MEOW

by Robert L. Crowe



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Thank you for tuning in today to Channel One, the first number in TV entertainment. Each week at this time we bring you exciting adventures from all over the world. Our regular viewers remember that last week I did the program “Hand Fishing for Water Moccasins.” Before that it was “Grab a Gator by the Tail,” and voted as the viewer favorite of the month, “How to Slap a Bengal Tiger and Tell About It.” In that same vein today’s program will be equally challenging for me. Although other programs have taken me to the Florida Everglades and rural India ... that’s rural India, not rural Indiana ... today’s show is a little closer to home. As a matter of fact our show today originates from the bathroom of my home. Why such an exotic setting you ask? Today I’m going to show you how to bathe a cat.

Some time ago I did a practice session for this program and I’m pleased to report that my wounds have healed and I have some real important information for you about watering a cat. During that practice session, my cat was surprised but she is very smart and I can tell today that she is ... suspicious.

Now, if the TV cameras will tilt down ... *(points)* down ... down here ... notice there is a cat tied to the drain pipe beneath the sink. That is my cat, a female cat named Sheba. Why tied to a drain pipe?

That's so we can find the cat when the water starts running.

I'll just start the water running in the tub. Not too hot and not too cold. Make the water just the temperature that you like because you're going to be getting in there and you might as well be comfortable. *(turns the faucets on and jumps back from the cat)* Oh! See that? Sheba almost pulled the pipes from the sink. Yes, well, same to you, sweetie.

While the water is running, let me tell you some interesting facts about our feline friends. Cats are the most popular pet in America. Over 25% of homes have them for pets. In the U.S. each year, more money is spent on cat food than baby food. I'm not sure what that means. Cats have five toes on their front feet and four toes on the back. I assume that they can run faster on their front feet than they can on their back feet. They sweat through their paws and I'm sure Sheba is sweating at the moment. *(turns off water faucets)* Well, enough of the interesting stuff, let's get back to our task at hand.

Rule One in preparing to bathe a cat is to prepare yourself. Notice, now, that I am getting dressed for the occasion. This is a baseball chest protector. *(As she slips it on, she continues talking.)* You know, I had an idea and if someone out there wants to steal it, I won't mind. It's an automated cat wash. Yes, like a car wash. You put the cat on a bullet-proof conveyer belt and it's all done by machine. No

threat to the owner. But while we're waiting on that invention ... here we are. *(puts on gloves)* These are hockey gloves. The gloves are a little awkward but worth the bother. Oh, I can hear you say, "Where will I get hockey gloves?" The obvious answer is "at a sporting goods store." But, you don't have to use hockey gloves ... welders' gloves will do nicely. I'll take these off for the moment. *(She does.)* And this is a bee-keeper's hat. *(holds it up for the camera and then puts it on)* It doesn't give much protection from the cat, but there is a chance that the cat will not recognize you and hold a grudge. *(removes hat)*

Rule Two is to prepare the work area. We are here in the bathroom as you can see. Behind me is the bathtub. Notice that there are glass doors that slide shut and create an enclosure. Do not ... I repeat do not try this at home if you have a plastic shower curtain because when you are done you will not have a plastic shower curtain.

You are watching this program because, like me, you are a cat lover so I don't have to spend much time explaining cats. Cats have this attitude. They think they are superior to us and simply tolerate us between feedings. Why are cats the way they are? Thousands of years ago the Egyptians worshipped cats and there's a part of them that still remembers. Perhaps you think your cat doesn't like you now, or is at least luke-warm about your presence. Savor that feeling because it's going to get worse when you're done.



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