# MY CAT ON A LEASH?

BY STEPHANIE CLIFFORD

THERE are outdoor cats and there are indoor cats. When **I** brought home Mac, a 4-year-old orange cat, [from a shelter](http://www.animalhavenshelter.org/site/PageServer?pagename=all_cats) last year, I realized I had acquired a demanding combination of the two. While Mac liked a cozy bed and two squares a day, he enjoyed staying at my one-bedroom apartment, and he went outside whenever I opened the door to my deck, returning hours later.

The idea of walking him on a leash came after a series of unleashed mishaps. He killed a mourning dove, wounded a pigeon, tore a drumstick off a turkey that a neighbor had left cooling in his window and hung from another neighbor’s screen door close to midnight, making her awake in terror. Mac wasn’t winning any friends in the apartment building. And I realized that letting a cat get into trouble seven stories above Brooklyn’s streets was dangerous.

But when I cut off his access to the great outdoors, my cat, usually friendly, threw himself against the door, attacked my legs with frustration and sharp claws. I’d heard about cat walking on an Animal Planet show, [“My Cat From Hell,”](http://animal.discovery.com/tv/my-cat-from-hell/) (its second season starts Jan. 7), starring a cat behaviorist named Jackson Galaxy. In one episode, he advised an owner to leash-walk his cat as a way to burn off extra feline energy. So I bought a Chihuahua harness and fastened it onto Mac. He refused and refused to move until I removed it. Clearly, we both needed professional help.

Mr. Galaxy is one of a growing number of animal trainers who believe that training and walking cats is not only possible, but good for the cat. They say that cats need lots of human attention, and are not the solitary, selfish creatures they’re often thought to be. During training, he had me move a few steps away, shake the bag of food at Mac and call him. I’d move back, give him a treat when he approached, and repeat. After about 15 minutes in the harness, Mac’s [tail was moving](http://jacksongalaxy.com/2011/10/18/the-tail-speaks-louder-than-words/) and he had dropped to the ground.

During harness time, Mr. Galaxy was also constantly praising the cat with head pats and lots of “Good boys.” The cat nestled at his feet as soon as the harness was off.

# (adapted from “NINE LIVES, ONE LEASH”[nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), December 28.2011)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** | What information is given in paragraph 1?  |
|  | (i) | How different outdoor and indoor cats are. |
|  | (ii) | How Mac was a combination of outdoor and indoor cats. |
|  | (iii) | How Mac behaved after he came from the shelter. |
|  | (iv) | How Mac made a perfect combination of both outdoor and indoor cats. |
|  | (9 points) |  |
| **2.** | What do we learn from paragraph 2? |
|  | (i) | Why Mac was a threat to the neighborhood. |
|  | (ii) | How often Mac got into trouble in the neighborhood. |
|  | (iii) | How Mac got different enemies in the neighborhood. |
|  | (iv) | What kind of mishaps Mac got into when he was unleashed. |
|  | (9 points) |  |
| **3.** | Some of the mishaps that Mac got into are mentioned in paragraph2, **except** |
|  | (i) | killing a mourning dove |
|  | (ii) | running wildly over the roof of the neighbors at midnight. |
|  | (iii) | wounding a pigeon |
|  | (iv) | wearing off a drumstick of a turkey |
|  | (9 points) |  |
| **4.** | How did Mac react when his master cut off his access to the great outdoors? (paragraph 3) |
|  | Answer: …………………………………………………………………………. |
|  | (9 points) |  |
| **5.** | In paragraph 3, Mac’s owner learned from Animal Planet show, [“My Cat From Hell,”](http://animal.discovery.com/tv/my-cat-from-hell/) that (-). |
|  | (i) | He needed more energy to walk Mac. |
|  | (ii) | Both needed professional help. |
|  | (iii) | He had to bring back Mac to the shelter. |
|  | (iv) | Jackson Galaxy, his favorite cat behaviorist, was the star of the show. |
|  | (9 points) |  |
| **6.** | PUT A ✓BYTHE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS |
|  | What do we learn about animal trainers from paragraph 4?  |
|  | (i) |  | They believe that walking cats is tiring. |
|  | (ii) |  | Cats are impossible to train. |
| (iii) |  | Walking is good for cats. |
| (iv) |  | Cats are solitary creatures. |
| (v) |  | Cats need lots of attention. |
| (vi) |  | Cats are very selfish creatures. |
|  | (2\*9=18 points) |  |
| **7.** | In paragraph 4, some facts about cats are mentioned. Copy the words in paragraph 4 that show this |
|  | Answer: ……………………………………………………………………………. |
|  | (9 points) |  |
| **8.** | According to paragraph 4, among the steps that Mac’s trainer made the owner do during training was (-). |
|  | (i) | to give Mac a treat each time he obeyed so that he didn’t lose weight. |
|  | (ii) | to shake the bag of food at Mac so that he could gain energy. |
|  | (iii) | to give Mac a treat to have him calm and collected. |
|  | (iv) | To move a few steps away, shake the bag of food at the cat, and call him. |
|  | (9 points) |  |
| **9.** | According to animal trainers’ expertise, what is important to do with cats during harness time? (paragraph 5)  |
|  | Answer: …………………………………………………………………………… |
|  | (9 points) |  |
| **10.** | According to Mr. Galaxy, What was the ending result of praising Mac during training? (paragraph 5)  |
|  | Answer: …………………………………………………………………………… |
|  | (10 points) |  |

11. **Reference:**

**What do the following pronouns refer to?**

1. I (line 1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. He (line 3)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. They (line 20)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. He (line 22)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

. ***12. Vocabulary***

1. ***Complete the following table***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Word*** | ***Meaning*** | ***synonym*** | ***antonym*** |
| 1. outdoor
 |  |  |  |
| 1. Indoor
 |  |  |  |
| 1. acquired
 |  |  |  |
| 1. demanding
 |  |  |  |
| 1. combination
 |  |  |  |
| 1. cozy
 |  |  |  |
| 1. squares
 |  |  |  |
| 1. leash
 |  |  |  |
| 1. series
 |  |  |  |
| 1. unleashed
 |  |  |  |
| 1. mishaps
 |  |  |  |
| 1. mourning
 |  |  |  |
| 1. dove
 |  |  |  |
| 1. wounded
 |  |  |  |
| 1. pigeon
 |  |  |  |
| 1. tore off
 |  |  |  |
| 1. drumstick
 |  |  |  |
| 1. turkey
 |  |  |  |
| 1. hung
 |  |  |  |
| 1. screen
 |  |  |  |
| 1. dangerous
 |  |  |  |
| 1. attacked
 |  |  |  |
| 1. frustration
 |  |  |  |
| 1. sharp
 |  |  |  |
| 1. claw
 |  |  |  |
| 1. behaviorist
 |  |  |  |
| 1. Planet
 |  |  |  |
| 1. episode
 |  |  |  |
| 1. harness
 |  |  |  |
| 1. fastened
 |  |  |  |
| 1. refused
 |  |  |  |
| 1. removed
 |  |  |  |
| 1. clearly
 |  |  |  |
| 1. trainer
 |  |  |  |
| 1. solitary
 |  |  |  |
| Word | Meaning | Synonym | Antonym |
| 1. selfish
 |  |  |  |
| 1. step
 |  |  |  |
| 1. shake
 |  |  |  |
| 1. approached
 |  |  |  |
| 1. repeat
 |  |  |  |
| 1. dropped
 |  |  |  |
| 1. ground
 |  |  |  |
| 1. constantly
 |  |  |  |
| 1. praise
 |  |  |  |
| 1. pat
 |  |  |  |
| 1. nestled
 |  |  |  |

***2. Complete the following sentences using words from the above table:***

***a.*** *The teacher\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_David because he achieved the highest grade in class.*

*b. This knife is so\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Be careful!!*

*c. Let’s go hiking. I like walking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

*d. The cat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the mouse and ate it.*

*e. Mira is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ girl. She cares only about her look and makeup. Her friends are not important for her.*

GOOD LUCK

Your English Teacher

Abeer Abu Akel