

## **Welcome to our first column from Jim Newell - Jonah!**

*Cat: A small carnivorous mammal (Felis catus or F. domesticus) domesticated since early times as a catcher of rats and mice and as a pet and existing in several distinctive breeds and varieties.*

For those readers who do not like or allergic to cats, you may stop reading now and move on to something else. This column is about cats - one particular cat, named Jonah.

On October 30, 2010, somebody found a small black kitten wandering along the sidewalk on Louisa Street in Kitchener near Weber, one of the busiest streets in the city. That person, whoever it was, called the Kitchener/Waterloo Humane Society and they picked him up and took him to the animal shelter. The shelter veterinarian marked him as being nine weeks old and gave him the necessary first shots for kittens.

Just five days later, Dorothy and I decided to look for a kitten to replace the cat we had had to have put down a year ago. When we stopped by Jonah's cubicle at the shelter, he adopted us. He flung himself at the window, meowing what we interpreted to be, "Take me! Take me!"

To make a long story short, we did. Dorothy filled out a lengthy file of papers promising to take care of the cat, etc. etc, paid \$120 plus \$75 to have him neutered and agreed to have the \$75 returned when proof of the surgery was presented and \$90 returned when proof of rabies was also presented. When we took him home in a cardboard cat-carrier, he rode on my lap and didn't make a sound. We stopped at a grocery store for cat food and a bag of litter and again, not a sound or movement in the carrier.

Now Jonah is six months old. He is friendly, cuddles and gives kisses on the cheek or nose, takes a two hour afternoon nap with me every afternoon, has a play time every morning and early evening and sleeps on the bed with us every night. We have discovered he's not a domestic shorthair as we were told, but a UK Burmese. His shiny black coat is really a peculiar colour of dark brown when under a light, and his large ears, yellow eyes with, balding spots above them and one white spot under his chin confirm the breed.

Jonah is an ideal house cat and loves to be around people, especially if somebody is doing something he can supervise. Typing is difficult when there's a cat lying between the keyboard and the computer screen, following the movement of the cursor with his paw!

Jonah has had his hospital visit, left 12 parts of his body behind, including ten claws. We are so happy that Jonah owns us. He talks to us when he wants something, keeps himself shiny clean and generally makes us smile, even though he has forced Dorothy to make drastic changes in the arrangement of her many house plants.