

Beatrice J. Dore'
SiamBaliRags
505 West Hickpoochee Avenue
200
La Belle, Florida 33935
863-675-4075 Home
[**AuntBea@SiamBaliRags.com**](mailto:AuntBea@SiamBaliRags.com)



The Ten Commandments of Pet Ownership

*If your cat could talk about life,
perhaps she might tell you...*

- 1. When you adopt me my life is likely to last 15 to 20 years. Please don't forsake me as any separation from you is painful.*
- 2. Please give me time to*

understand what it is you want from me. Change can be more difficult for me than for you.

- 3. Please don't be angry with me for a long time, and don't lock me up alone as punishment. You have your human family, your friends, your entertainment **and I ONLY HAVE YOU!!!***
 - 4. Please trust me and help me to trust you... it is crucial for my well being as well as yours.*
 - 5. Talk to me... even if you think I don't understand your words. I understand your voice and love when you speak to me and stroke me.*
 - 6. Before you would consider to hit me, remember that I have teeth and claws and could easily hurt you - but I choose not to bite and scratch - **because I love you.***
 - 7. Be aware, that **however you treat me, I WILL NEVER FORGET!!!***
 - 8. Before you scold me for being uncooperative or bad, ask yourself if maybe something is wrong. Is there another reason for my behavior? Perhaps I am sick, hot, old or just plain tired, frustrated and weak. PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE ME. **Put yourself in my place.***
 - 9. Please take care of me when I get old. Don't abandon me, for you too will grow old. Please notice when I am ill because I need you to take me to the vet for help when I am sick - just as you need to see a doctor.*
 - 10. Go with me on the most difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch" or "Do it when I leave". I need you with me even at the end of my journey. Please always do what is best for me even if it is unbearable for you to do so - because I love you and trust that you will.*
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