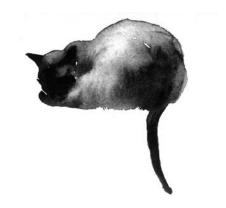
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## The Ten Commandments of Pet Ownership

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.