

# Animal Instinct



Our cats have this all figured out.



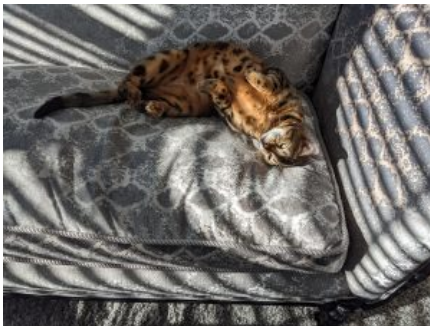
At first it was pretty clear that by being around all the time we had interrupted our cats' usual routines. They were accustomed to us checking on their whereabouts, turning off the lights and heading off to work each morning. You never know what your cats do while you're gone but evidence showed they took naps. Long naps.

They still take naps but some of their behavior has changed in light of our being locked down and staying home. Tattoo (the itty bitty kitty) has become super cuddly. She's always been affectionate, but she's ramped it up to a whole new level.

Here's one example: Every time I get in bed, she hops right up with me. Several times during the night she will come up next to me and wants to get curled up in my armpit. If I'm not lying in a position where she can do that easily she will paw at my shoulder until I comply.



Then she takes it up a notch. She insists on putting both of her front paws at the bottom of my neck. After that she pokes her nose into the bottom of my jaw. She turns on the purring and settles in. She will stay like that for almost an hour. At that point I guess she feels like she has tucked me in, and she will wander off the bed and settle back in her fuzzy bed.



Titan (the big Bengal) has decided he wants to help and stand guard. Most every minute he's stationed somewhere he can see me. Sometimes he even insists on sitting on the stool next to me. If I get up to do anything he hops right on my stool. I wish he could type. I could find projects for him. The other thing he does now is every time I walk past him he rolls over on his back to get a belly rub. It's not like he's never done that before. It's just a consistent thing now. People talk about dogs who roll over to get their bellies rubbed. It's not quite as common in cats. Mine is loving this frequent attention.

We did the big downsize so when we moved to Chattanooga a year ago we got a 1300 sq ft place. I no longer have a home office.

These days my office is the kitchen counter. Thankfully my kitchen stools are pretty comfortable and so far my back is not barking at me.

I'll look forward to going back to the office when the "all clear" is called, but I will miss my cats.

Cheers,

*Zola*



# Exotic Egg Salad

This is great as a light lunch time meal and a great holiday recipe. The juxtaposition of the sweeter apricots with the curry has the exotic taste I was looking for.