

THERE ARE 'CAT PEOPLE' AND THERE ARE 'DOG PEOPLE

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'Writer's Corner'

I never owned but one cat and that was for a rather short period of time. The brown eyed girl and I were living in an upstairs apartment on Grandview in Nashville, she working for less than \$100 per week to support her husband, a college student and to supplement the family income. I was working on Friday and Saturday nights at the Opry, and although marriage was supposed to give us oodles of time together, as often is the case, we had slightly miscalculated.



Since I was working late on Second Avenue every night (it was a warehouse district then) and working Friday and Saturday nights at the Ryman, she spent way too much time by herself. I decided what she needed was a pet. Being an inexperienced husband, I foolishly decided to forge ahead with the project without her knowledge or consent. I drove out to where Highway 100 and Highway 70 part ways in Bell Meade and picked out a cat at the Humane Society.

I brought home the cutest, most cuddly kitty you ever saw, bounded up the fire escape stairs, knocked a the door and when she answered I said, "Surprise: and set the cat down in the doorway. At that moment the cat went crazy and began to run wildly through the apartment, climbing curtains, bounding off furniture, running headlong into the footboard of the bed which was covered by a chenille bedspread and knocking itself nearly senseless. Finally, it disappeared under the bed and when I tried to retrieve it, exacted a literal "pound of flesh" for my efforts to liberate it to a good home.

In Spite of my attempts to convince the brown eyed girl that better days were ahead, I found myself returning it to the animal shelter, where the cat that had cost me \$10 to set free, now cost me \$10 to return. I never owned another cat and never tried to make such momentous decisions without adult supervision again.

It is important thing to know where your responsibility and authority begin and end and then to work within those boundaries. It is often the difficulty we run into in our relationship with the creator. We keep trying to make decisions and take responsibility that is not ours to take.

Have a blessed day.

*Read more about Robert Rogers Chaffin in the Chaffin files and read more Writer's corner stories at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>