

## CATS AND DOGS AND HUMANS, ETC.



Our family has a lot of animals. We have a golden retriever named Princess. (Patience, our last golden retriever, died last year. She was such a dear friend. (Now I don't have any more patience!))

We have an indoor cat named Frankie, a female. She is our daughter Amanda's. Actually, she belongs to our whole family. Amanda called one day and said, "Mom, can I have a cat? She is de-clawed and fixed and will stay in the house, and I will take care of her."



We also have two older cats that we have had for 8 years, they are sisters. We could not take one without the other!!! And then, last month, Dustin, our son, called, "Mom can I have a kitten." Of course my answer was, "We have too many cats now." And, of course now we have a kitten.

Who could refuse a Siamese

kitten?

And, lets not forget the chickens. We have 5. 1 rooster and 4 hens.

Dustin has a job taking care of all the animals. Amanda did help, but with school and work and friends, Dustin was voted in for the job!

I don't know why we have so many animals. I guess we like animals.

Princess, our golden retriever is loyal. She loves for you to throw her rocks. I don't know if it is good for her or not, but that is her first love. She will go and find the exact rock and bring it back to you. (At least most of the time.) She loves to just lay her head on your lap and just rest.

Molly and Missy, our outdoor cats, are totally different. Molly is stand-off-ish and independent and just goes off and does her own thing. Missy is a great mouser and brings us gifts quite often to the back deck. Last week we even had a squirrel!

Now Frankie is a cat of a different color. She either likes you or she doesn't. She likes water, and she likes to search for fly's and spiders, whatever. She has her own unique toys. A twisty tie, and piece of wadded paper out of the trash can, whatever.

OK, so where am I leading with all this???

I guess in my finite mind I think the Lord gave us personal pets, Domestic cats and animals for comfort and enjoyment. And maybe for us to learn from.

I watch Frankie as she “cat-naps” throughout the day. Yes, Lord, maybe that is a good lesson for me. Take a break every once in awhile and rest.

She also eats a little bit here and there, off and on all day sometimes. I remember the children of Israel and the manna. They were only given enough for one day. They could not save it, because it would go bad.

Now Frankie is a little different. Amanda has always called her retarded. Well. I don’t know about that. But she is unique in her own way. She loves for you to rub on her and sit on the bed with her. She loves playing with your hair. You know, God made us all different, maybe at times we may think “retarded.” But that doesn’t mean we don’t like to be loved and we each have our own special God-given qualities. We recognize and accept them in our animals and we should in each other too.



I am thankful for our chickens and the eggs they give us each day.

Princess is loyal and she never tires of your companionship and your attention.

Here are the Christian Virtues that our animals show.

1. Growth. We are helping them grow by feeding them every day. The Lord wants us to grow. However we have to go to His Word regularly for food.
2. Love. We give our animals love.

They thrive on it. The same for our Heavenly Father. He loves us with an everlasting love. He desires our love and companionship.

3. Mercy. We have mercy on our animals if they are hurt or need assistance. They rely on us for care, just as we rely on our Heavenly Father.



4. Respect for self and others .Our animals respect each other and watch out for each other. We are to do that as Christians. And, we are to respect ourselves, by taking care of ourselves. Notice how much time our cats clean themselves? And dogs too, though not as proficiently.
5. Gratitude. Our animals show their gratitude and thankfulness to us on a regular basis. We are to show our praise and gratitude to our Father.
6. Faith. Our animals have faith in us that we are going to supply their need. Our faith is in God who daily meets our needs. Emotionally, spiritually, financially and physically. Sometimes not in the way we want, but He IS there and our faith remains in him, and He knows what is best for us.