

Foreword

Raised with a dog, I always thought cats were scary. You could never really see how they felt and they caught little birds. The cat in the student house where I lived did not make it better when he left a dead mouse in my bed.

My idea about cats changed slowly when I got Bepje from a friend. Bepje was weird, monstrous and often afraid. But still I fell in love with him – Bepje was a boy.

When I moved in with my boyfriend and his two cats Rover and Mercedes, I was definitely convinced. Cats are fun! And when we choose Daffie in a litter full of little kittens, I was unstoppable. Cats are so sweet! And they are so easy; they take care of themselves, you do not have to walk them and you can leave them alone because they do not attach themselves to you. Right?

Daffie was the first cat I had to raise from the beginning. And I started to doubt. She gave me so much happiness. But how did she feel about me? I wanted to take care of this cute little cat and decided to start my research. I spoke with veterinarians and cat behavior experts. And I discovered that cats are different than I thought, and that it's easy to misinterpret their behavior. That's why I made this book, to put the most important knowledge all together so everyone could understand their cat better. And to spend a lot of time with his or her cat. Because as Sigmund Freud once said:

Time spent with cats, is never wasted

Annemarieke Piers

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