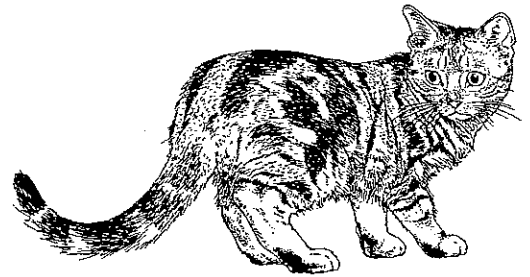


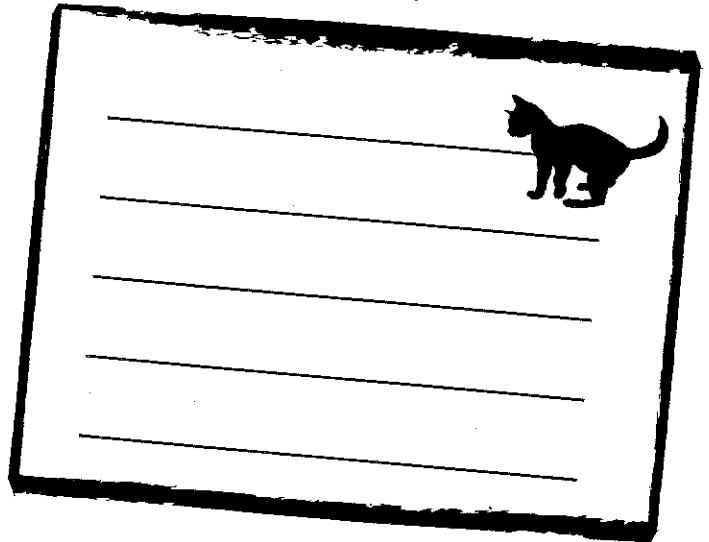
Tessa Wants a Kitten



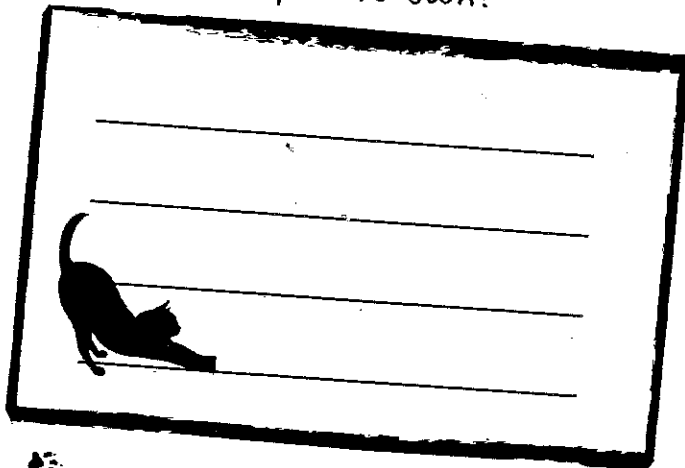
1. Describe a pet you have or have had in the past.



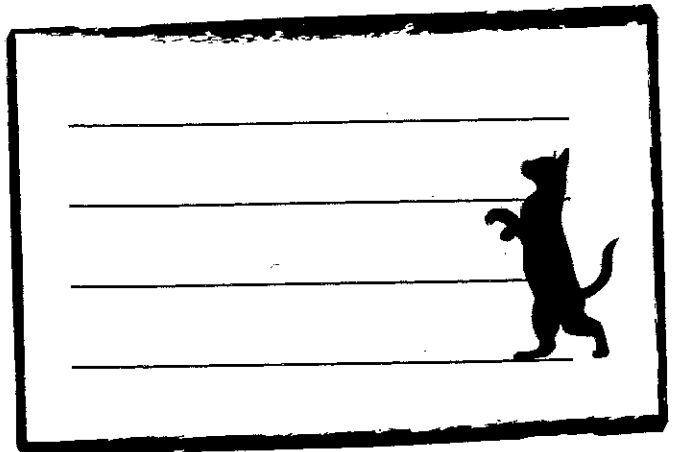
2. What are some reasons why a person would choose NOT to have a pet?



3. In your opinion, what animal is the easiest pet to own?



4. In your opinion, what animal is the most difficult pet to own?



Tessa Wants a Kitten

Tessa REALLY wanted a kitten. Her friends all had pets but she had none. No pet, she thought, is more adorable and precious than a kitten!

"Kittens scratch!" Mom said.

"Kittens become cats!" Dad said.

"Kittens stink!" her brother said.

But Tessa didn't care. She wanted a kitten to snuggle with at nighttime and to show all her friends. She pleaded with her parents on her knees. She even saved money to prove how responsible she was. And then, the best day of her life arrived. Her parents bought her a kitten, a little tawny kitten with four black splotches on her back. Tessa loved her instantly. She named her kitten Mirabel.

"You have to care for her," Mom said.

"You have to buy the food," Dad said.

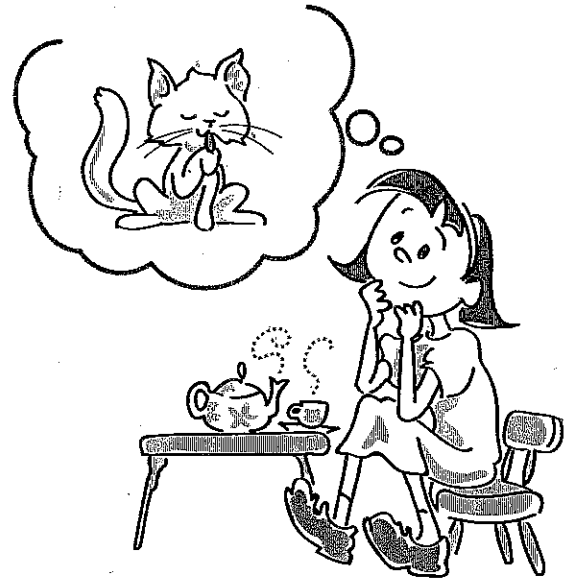
"You have to clean the litter box!" her brother said.

"I will!" said Tessa. And Tessa did. At least...she tried.

Tessa fed Mirabel twice a day. She didn't realize how stinky cat food was!

Tessa cleaned the litter box every day. She didn't realize how much kittens pooped!

Tessa took Mirabel outdoors. She didn't realize that kittens could climb trees so well!



How do you think Tessa is feeling about having a kitten at this point?

Mirabel scampered up trunks and branches as playful as a squirrel, but unfortunately, she couldn't get down! Tessa had to scale the trees to rescue her. One day Mirabel climbed twenty feet up a cottonwood tree! Dad set up his ladder for the rescue, scowling the whole time.

The worst problem, though, was that Mirabel refused to sleep in Tessa's bed. She would hardly even sit in Tessa's lap! And when she did, she clawed, scratched, and bit Tessa. Having a kitten was NOT what she imagined.

"Still want to feed her?" Mom asked.

"Still want to chase her down from trees?" Dad asked.

"Still want to clean her poop?" her brother asked.

Tessa wasn't sure anymore. She knew her grandpa adored kittens. Maybe Grandpa could adopt Mirabel, and she could just visit!


Just then, Mirabel leaped toward Tessa and curled up in her lap. She rested her furry head on Tessa's knee and purred.

"Yes," Tessa decided, then and there. "I still want to feed her and chase her and clean her poop!"


Tessa Wants a Kitten




1. What were Tessa's expectations for a new kitten?



2. What do you think was Tessa's biggest challenge in having a new kitten? Explain your answer.



3. What do you predict will happen with Tessa and her new kitten, Mirabel?



4. Tessa's family gives her three reasons for not getting a kitten (they scratch, they become cats, they stink). What are some other reasons that a family may NOT want a kitten?

5. Describe the ideal pet for you. Draw a picture of it. What is its name?

