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TAILS FROM THE PAST

MYTHICAL CATS OF THE WORLD

Most owners will tell you their cats act like ancient deities. Majestic, scrupulous, and utterly unpredictable, these fascinating creatures have long captured our imaginations. Even before cat videos took the internet by storm, humans have been idolizing felines, placing them alongside some of their most important mythological figures.

Bastet – Egypt

Of course, a list of mythical cats has to start with Egypt. While many people know the pharaohs and their followers thought cats were sacred, you may be surprised by how deep the connection goes. The earliest depiction of Bastet, the feline deity of protection, is a lion-headed woman in battle. But, over the course of 2,000 years, Bastet evolved to resemble the domesticated, pointy-eared cats we know and love today.



招き猫 (Maneki-Neko) – Japan

Legend has it that in the 17th century, a monk living in a small temple in Edo (now Tokyo) was struggling to survive, but he still split his meals with his cat, Tama. One day, Lord Nakaota li got caught in a rainstorm while hunting and took shelter under a tree near the temple. Nakaota spotted Tama near the temple, and the cat raised its leg, beckoning the noble to come toward him. Curious, Nakaota complied, stepping out from beneath the tree just before a bolt of lightning struck it down. The lord's life was saved, and to this day, the Maneki-Neko (the beckoning cat) is a symbol of wealth and good fortune.

Freja's Skogkatts – Norway

In Norse folklore, the goddess Freya had a unique means of travel: a chariot pulled by two cats. These were skogkatts, or Norwegian Forest cats, that were only a little larger than your average house cat. Still, these small felines towed Freya around battlefields as she gathered warriors to send to Valhalla. On top of being the goddess of war, love affairs, and magic, Freya may well have been Midgard's first cat lady.

JOHNATHAN GARZA ON FIGHTING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

I love being an attorney. If you ask any of the attorneys at Herrman & Herrman, there is a good chance they will say the very same thing. But it is not just that I love being an attorney; I love being an attorney at Herrman & Herrman.

I've been with the firm for three years now. I'm just one of the few pre-litigation attorneys here, and I manage our McAllen office. This means I wear multiple hats on any given day. I can tell you that running an office and serving as an attorney offers many unique challenges, but it can certainly make the day interesting.

I spend part of my time making sure our McAllen branch is running smoothly. If there is anything that needs to be done, I'm there. In one moment, I may be a manager running a team meeting, and in another moment, I'm the temporary janitor. Whichever role I need to fill, I fill.

Of course, managing the McAllen office is only a small portion of my day. I still have plenty to handle on the litigation side of things. Though, no matter the role, I love it.

Balancing roles comes with a number of pros and cons. For one, I set my own schedule, which is a huge pro. This way, I can stay organized and keep things reined in. But the biggest pro is the fact that I get to be the attorney I set out to be.

What do I mean by that? Before I joined Herrman & Herrman, I was with a firm where my role was more fractured. There was a time when I was doing many ancillary things, like working at political functions. This wasn't why I got into law. I wanted to serve the interest of the client.

Thankfully, that's exactly what I get to do at Herrman & Herrman. I got into personal injury law because I wanted to help people, to fight for them, and to fight for what was right. So many people who come to us do so because they were injured in a way that was not their fault.

They need someone in their corner to help fight for them, and that's me. I can be that person who fights their battles. That's really why I got into law.

When I'm not in the office, I love to get out to the beach or out to South Padre Island when I get the chance. My wife and I spend as much time outdoors as we possibly can. We've actually done a few trips around the country just to go hiking. Colorado has been one of our favorite destinations.

We also try to take a yearly vacation, but this year I ended up getting sick a couple of days into our getaways. That put a damper on things, for sure, but I may be able to make up for it next year.

For now though, now that it's fall, I'm looking forward to the 2019-2020 football season! Go Aggies! Go, Cowboys!



-Jonathan Garza

NO-CARVE PUMPKIN DESIGNS!

JUST IN TIME FOR HALLOWEEN

Jack-o'-lanterns go hand-in-hand with Halloween, but digging through the inside of a pumpkin is not something everyone enjoys. If you aren't keen on cutting open a pumpkin, here are a few no-carve ideas you can try this Halloween!

Haunted House

Take a few pumpkins, stack them on top of each other, and create a spooky pumpkin haunted house! Then, use paint, balsa wood sheets, and hot glue to create silhouettes, ghosts, windows, and doors for a haunting effect!

Creative With String

Use cotton twine and hot glue to create a web-like design on the surface of your pumpkin. Don't forget to add a few plastic spiders! You can also use string art to create ghostly words or images. Lay out your design with small pegs or nails and wrap the string around them to reach your desired effect.

Nothing but Net

You can create eerie pumpkins using fishnet stockings. Spray-paint your pumpkin if desired – just make sure the



design of the stockings will stand out. Once the paint is dry, cut the legs off the stockings, slide the pumpkin inside, remove the extra fabric around the stem, and use hot glue to secure it.

Colorful Paint

Painting your Halloween pumpkins gives everyone a chance to participate. Be creative by using different designs, cutouts for silhouettes, drip paint to create a marble design, or nail polish and water to give white pumpkins a unique and vibrant look.

A Spooky Monster

By adding a witch hat, wrapping a pumpkin in cheesecloth, attaching spider legs, or tying on a vampire cape, you can create a pumpkin version of the most popular Halloween monsters. Along with these accessories, you can also use paint, construction paper, and other craft materials to add the details that will make your creation pop!

For more detailed directions for these pumpkin designs and more ideas, visit WomansDay.com.



TESTIMONIALS

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT



"Herrman & Herrman did a great job handling our personal injury case. They were very thorough and professional – especially Cary Toland and Laura Barrera. Any time I left a message, I quickly received a call back from Cary Toland's assistant, Laura Barrera. She was so kind and professional that I thought she was an attorney herself. Herrman & Herrman turned our personal injury lawsuit into a better situation, and they represented my husband and myself very well. Thank you, Cary Toland, Laura Barrera, and Herrman & Herrman! Yes, we would recommend others using them."

—Beverly F.

"Steven and Teresa are the best! I called sometimes 2–3 times a week and they never got irritated! My case (my car wreck) actually occurred in Oklahoma and had nothing to do with Texas. I just happened to be moving here. I chose Steven Stratso because he went to Oklahoma University College of Law, and he is trained in international law! So, I knew he could handle my case. And he did a fantastic job. I highly recommend him and any attorney at Herrman & Herrman!"

—Shannon E.

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3 MORE Driving Habits

We All Need to Leave in the Dust

Tailgating We can all agree that this is perhaps the most annoying habit any driver can have. It can be frightening when you look in your rearview mirror and see the grill of a truck riding ridiculously close to your bumper. Tailgating is a serious occurrence that leads to over 2,000 deaths and about 950,000 injuries every year. You should always leave *at least* one car length in between you and the cars in front and behind you. The more space, the better. By creating this space, you can allow yourself time to react and protect yourself from being hit in the case you need to suddenly brake. This is especially true during inclement weather conditions.



other drivers to assume the light is green and mistakenly take off. Worse, another vehicle can hit yours as they turn to your side of the road. There's a reason for the broad white stripe in front of the traffic lights. It's for you to know where to stop. Pedestrians crossing should have ample room and not worry about traffic moving closer just because you're an eager beaver.

Taking Two Spaces in a Parking Lot

If you are afraid that someone might hit your car, taking up two spots in the parking lot is not the greatest buffer for that fear. If you are worried about your vehicle's well-being, park at the back or on the far side of the parking lot, away from vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The same rules apply in parking garages. Your car only gets one space, so choose wisely. Don't be "that guy" – there's a good chance someone will take a photo of your double-parked car and post it all over the internet.

Creeping Forward at a Red Light Did you ever play "red light, green light" as a child? You don't creep forward if the person says red light! You stop in your tracks and wait until they say green light. The same rules apply in a car at a traffic light. If the light is red, you are to make a complete stop. Rolling forward can cause



LEFTOVER CANDY SNACK MIX

This recipe from Momofuku Milk Bar chef and "Master Chef" judge Christina Tosi makes great use of those extra Halloween goodies. It's a quick and easy way to both elevate and get rid of unwanted leftovers.

INGREDIENTS

- * 2 cups mini pretzels, coarsely broken
- * 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- * 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- * 1/3 cup dry milk powder
- * 6 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- * 12 oz mini candy bars, such as Snickers, chopped into 1/2-inch pieces

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 275 F.
2. In a large mixing bowl, fold together pretzels, sugars, milk powder, and butter.
3. Spread mixture on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake for 20 minutes.
4. Let cool for at least 30 minutes and mix in candy bar pieces before serving.

Inspired by Food Network

MEMES

