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**Missing Godzilla And Ricky**

**By Jonathon Hardcastle**

None expected me to return home holding a tiny living fur-ball in my palms and announcing that

whether they liked it or not I would definitely keep my new friend indoors. As simple as that my female cat entered my life. She was actually saved by my father, who being an animal-lover all his life he decided to run to its rescue when he spotted the stray kitten walking the dangerous city streets. Two days later, I was introduced with my soon to become indoor cat and I was glad that me and my father were in fact on some kind of "secret agreement" to convince my mother that the kitty had to be adopted by us.

Although my parents have taught me to love and respect animals since I was a small kid, it was amazing for me to be able to touch and play with my cat in the comfort of my own bedroom. One of my friends, who is afraid of animals in general due to a misfortunate event with a dog when she was a child, came one day at my house to watch a movie with me. Since she was not informed that a cat was present—it totally slipped my mind to tell her—and as we were relaxing on the couch, she suddenly jumped surprised and screamed "For God's sake! Who is this Godzilla?" I laughed so hard that tears came out of my eyes, as I was seeing my adult friend being afraid of a kitten not bigger than a palm. As you can probably guess, this is why my cat took that name.

Next summer, as I was vacating at my favorite island, I woke up one morning from a noise a cat made outside my door. This for me was a unique experience, as my ability to sleep through any kind of noisy disturbance is legendary. When I opened the door, there was on my doorstep another tiny soul looking straight into my eyes, begging for some food. This male cat instantly became the mascot of that year's summer vacations and I was not willing to leave the cat behind upon my return. My parents had to experience, for the second time in their lives, how determination can lead a stray kitten into our home.

A year later, Godzilla and Ricky—my father thought of the second name—became a couple and gave birth to five kittens, which I had to give away to other families as I could not keep seven cats in my apartment. Four months after the birth both of my cats were spayed or neutered—my veterinarian suggested that this procedure was necessary since the cats were always together and in less than a year I would have to find more families to adopt the new kittens that would be born. Although I was extremely reluctant to the idea, I finally agreed to perform the operations and the truth is that

## Missing Godzilla And Ricky

afterwards my cats were calmer and much more affectionate; not only to each other, but also with family and friends. They never gained weight—one of those myths that you can hear—and they immediately began behaving as usual. Of course, I have always remembered to perform all the appropriate vaccinations and I bought colorful collars for their ID tags. At some point, I considered microchipping them too, but did not go ahead with the idea as I should and until today I regret not going ahead with it.

Godzilla and Ricky were two of the best friends I had during the last eight years and they were always there for me. Only those who have experienced the pleasure of having a pet can probably understand how I felt when I had to give Godzilla and Ricky away as I was about to leave my country and my parents, who had a third cat in their house which did not like intruders, could not handle this triple challenge. I was fortunate enough to find two kind friends, who offered Godzilla and Ricky a new home and the love they so much deserved. But, although I know Godzilla is totally happy in her new premises, I must confess that Ricky has gone missing two months after I left; that is almost two years

ago. Even though my friend did everything in her power to locate the missing cat, he has never returned to her house or to mine. I terribly miss both and there are moments when I still imagine entering the house and finding them waiting to go back to sleep at my side. I never forgave myself for not microchipping my cats, since that unique pet ID might have been Ricky's ticket home. I am one of those animal-lovers that want their pets to feel free and happy and not for one second have I even thought the possibility of one of them getting lost during my absence. Although some are reluctant to the idea of keeping their cats indoors at all times, life has taught me that you should do everything in your power to keep your beloved cat safe. I never blamed my friend for having a garden and Ricky for deciding to explore the world outside her fence. I regret for not being proactive and concentrating on my own fears instead of their future safety. Do not do the same mistake. Take good care of your cats so you will sleep better during the night.

Jonathon Hardcastle writes articles for

<http://ipetcentral.net/>

– In addition, Jonathon also writes articles

for

<http://universeofbeauty.net/>

and

<http://tipsforgardening.net/>

**RICKY SINGS..A SONG HE DID NOT KNOW**

**By Irvin L. Rozier**

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Luke 1 verse 37 "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

I have been ministering at nursing homes for over 17 years. I have seen God move mightily during these times. I want to tell you what God did yesterday...it was a genuine miracle on 10 October 2004.

Ricky is a young man in his early 40's. He is mildly mentally handicapped, but he loves to sing gospel songs. His favorite is Victory in Jesus. His voice is so sweet, although he would get the words mixed up. Charlie, a cripple at the nursing home, died over two years ago, and Ricky sang Victory in Jesus at Charlie's funeral. I had the privilege of speaking at Charlie's funeral.

A few months back, Ricky had a stroke, and it affected his speech....he quit talking. About four weeks ago, I was at the nursing home for our Sunday morning service. After the service, I saw Ricky in the hallway. I spoke to him, and asked him to sing Victory in Jesus..he did and everyone was amazed.

Well, yesterday (Sunday), I had a service at the nursing home, and Ricky was sitting in the back in his wheelchair. I always play gospel music on the stereo before we start. That morning, the LORD told me to take the CD with the music of the song I had wrote. The words to the song was not on the CD, just the music my son, Joel, had wrote.

The title of the song is "When Will the Answer Come". The first verse goes, "When will the answer come, What will the answer be, Where will I be waiting, On the LORD's answer to me, So long I've been anticipating, on the answer I'm awaiting, Many sleepless nights spent talking, To my LORD with whom I'm walking." The chorus goes, "The LORD hears and answers my prayers, I cast on Him my cares, I know somehow, somewhere, The answer will surely be there."

As the music started, I heard a sweet voice, and it was Ricky...singing the words to my song...a song he had never heard!!!!...He was singing so clearly, and clapping his hands, and tapping his feet. After the song was over, he sang Victory in Jesus..in a loud and clear voice. Everyone was astonished and amazed, including the nurses who work there..Ricky sang a new song he did not know. There was barely a dry eye in that room, and the presence of the LORD was so strong and so loving and compassionate.

I know with God, nothing is impossible. By the way, when I wrote that song, it only took 10 minutes to write..I was inspired..and my son was inspired to put the music to the song. Pray that the LORD would continue to bless others through the message of this song.

Psalm 40 verse 3 "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

Irvin L. Rozier

Author, preacher, retired CPT, US Army Author of My Walk with the Lord, [www.selahbooks.com](http://www.selahbooks.com), amazon, barnesandnoble, booksamillion...member of faithwriters



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