

OFF COURSE

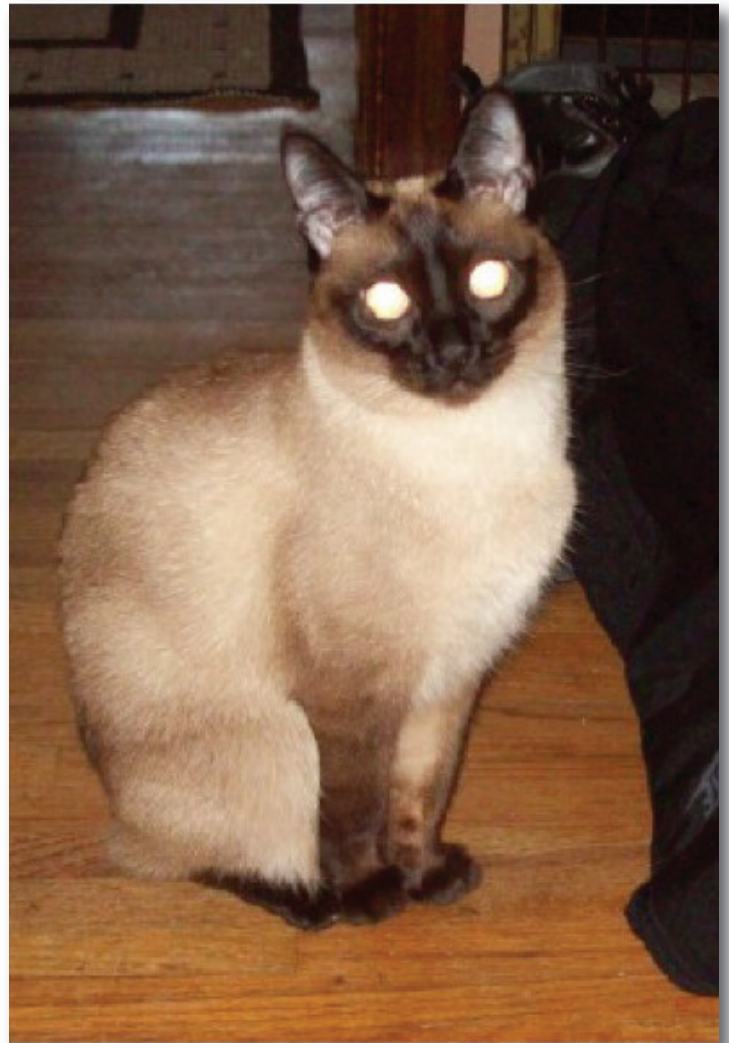
Virgil Range III, Aurora Country Club

"SASSY" our Siamese Dog

I've heard stories about dogs saving lives, but never a cat. Recently, my brother Chad's 2½-year old Siamese cat Sassy did just that. Chad has always called her his little dog. Her personality is unique and similar to a dog's in so many ways. Here is Sassy's story.

My mom was in the hospital for a week and was released on a Saturday afternoon. A few hours after getting home, she got sick. She was vomiting for quite some time. My brother, having a weak stomach for that kind of thing, had to come downstairs. Next, we heard a thud. Chad ran upstairs thinking it may have been our mom. I was right behind him, sensing somehow that it wasn't her that fell. At that time I called 911, and the ambulance came and whisked mom back to the hospital with a brain hemorrhage. A few days later I was driving home from the hospital thinking about things and it hit me. I asked Chad what was the thud that we heard that night? He said it was mom's vase filled with seashells. We put two and two together and realized Sassy knocked the vase off the railing to get our attention. That vase was sitting on the railing for over a year and was the only item on the rail. The next day I told my mom about it and we were amazed. When Sassy knocked the vase off the rail, my mom was trying in vain to call for us, but we could not hear her. When she told us that we realized Sassy might have saved our mom's life. We had just minutes to spare and Sassy got our attention when time was critical.

We are big animal lovers and have a house full of them. Max and Paco are our dogs. Kitty and Sassy, our cats, keep an eye on our 75-gallon tank full of fish. Although I can't vouch for the fish, the dogs and apparently now the cats have unique senses. They know when we are happy, sad, even hurt. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Sassy—she played a big part in saving our mother's life. **-OC**





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