

A Cautionary Tale

Cats and Window Blind Cords Do Not Mix

As we all know, there's lots of information out there regarding kitten-proofing your home when your new bundle of fluff arrives home. I know I went through the house with a fine tooth comb making sure that all ornaments were out of reach, pot plants went outside, all electrical cables were encased in plastic cable protectors and all vertical blinds had the chains removed and pocket weights inserted in their place. All the pull cords were secured to the wall so that they did not dangle freely, or so I thought. I was so careful about all these safety measures. Time passed and my cats are no longer kittens but found out last week that they can still get into trouble.

I had just been to the airport to pick up my mum and dad who had just flown in for their annual holiday to get away from the weather in England. We had literally only been in the house a matter of minutes, just enough time for my parents to put their suitcases in the bedroom when disaster struck.

It was about 7pm and I stated getting the cats meals ready. Like every other day I would put their food bowls on the laundry bench to dish out the latest gastronomic meal. And as usual up jumps Rossi, a Tawny Somali neuter, and Anakin, a part-pedigree. Anakin is part Abyssinian, but looks like a Somali with his long coat and brush of a tail, and acts very much like an Abyssinian, always walking on tippy toes, head butting etc.

Now Anakin's usual trick is to walk on tippy toes on the bench top arch his back and circle around the top all at the same time whilst I am preparing their meals. He has done this ever since he was a kitten and he is now over 3 years old. Well unfortunately today was not a

good day for Anakin. As I was preparing the meals Anakin caught his tail on the cord dangling by the side of the venetian blind. Unfortunately as he kept circling the cord got wrapped tighter and tighter around his tail.

At this point Anakin started to panic and tried to walk towards the edge off the bench top. This only made the cord tighter around his tail. Then before I could stop him he leapt off the bench top to try and get away and like a bungee jumper went flying to the floor. He was suspended a couple of feet off the ground by his tail. I tried to free the cord from his tail, but he just panicked even more. With my right hand I lifted him up to take his weight. I could feel his heart pumping in his chest. Unfortunately at this point Anakin was so frightened that he bit into my right hand that was supporting him. I have never felt such pain. At this point Anakin managed to get free and ran off into the other room. He was not hurt in anyway, just a little shook up.

However as I looked at my hand, blood was pouring out of numerous puncture wounds. The pain was intense. I tried to cool my hand under the cold tap but the pain would not ease. So off I went to the hospital for a tetanus injection and a course of antibiotics. What a great start to my parents' holiday! To top it off, Martin, my husband, dropped me off at the hospital and said to call him when I was ready to come home. Well, when I tried to call him he was fast asleep on the sofa. It took a few calls to finally wake him up.

We were lucky this time. I have now gone around the house again and have fastened the cords high up on the venetian blinds.

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