

Celebrating Animals

Leonardo came to live with us after my aunt had a house fire and needed help caring for her cats. He was about a year old—just a big kitten—and had the most amazing blue eyes I'd ever seen. Our other cat, a rescued stray named Oreo, showed Leo how things worked, like when to come running for food and where the litter box and toys were.

Now 3 years old and weighing about 16 pounds, Leo has come into his own. In wrestling matches with Oreo, he doesn't back down like he used to. The two cats roam around the house

like best friends and even groom each other. Sometimes Leo steals a toy from my dresser, drags it onto the floor, and pounces on it like a kangaroo. It's amazing how high he leaps, and I can't help but laugh.

My favorite time is in the morning after everyone leaves the house and I have Leo all to myself. He follows me from room to room. Always the perfect gentleman, he walks me to the front door when I leave. He's my little companion and a great cat.

— *Nicole DiGiovanni, Glen Cove, New York*

YOUR BEST SHOT

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in *All Animals*, along with an explanation of 150 words or fewer about why it's meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 5-by-7" and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humansociety.org/yourbestshot. Send hard copy submissions to All Animals—Your Best Shot, The HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. (Hard copies cannot be returned.)