

## **December 15, 2023**

Well, here goes, yet another detailed missive of the year in review for my cat, Billy, and I, we have had another wonderful year!

**January** -2023 started out with a bang, a blizzard and pneumonia, I am getting too old for shoveling 9 feet of snow after Billy flooded the Toro 3000 snowblower when she was trying to help!!!

**February** – More glorious snow this month, it is sooo beautiful, I love it!! Billy, bless her, watched from inside this time just in case she had to paw dial 911! Thankfully no hospitalization this month, just a strained back and permanent frostbite, as I had to use the shovel to clear the driveway. Billy had been trying to tune up the Toro 3000, and it just wouldn't start up!!!!

**March** – Who would have ever predicted 31 straight days of snow??!! Snow, sprained ankle, bruised butt, but at least I have met my yearly health plan deductible already this year! Billy did fix the snowblower at least, clever kitty!

April – Sadly, no more snow, just mud duck season as we call it around here! 3 feet of mud, Billy couldn't wait to go out and play in it!! Her paw prints made an interesting pattern on my new paisley couch!!!

**May** – More mud , but thankfully the mosquitoes were a welcome distraction!! Dearest Billy kindly made a hole in one of the screens to wave at me while I was out rototilling to start the garden. The mosquitoes were pleased to be in where it was warm at night. Once it warmed up, I spent the month catching them one by one and letting them go outside. I did miss the white noise they created at night when I was trying to sleep.

**June** – More mud and even more mosquitoes!!! I was a little late getting. The garden planted, as Billy insisted on working on the rototiller, so I couldn't quite get the second tilling done before Memorial Day. Then she wanted to help dig in the garden and add some fertilizer before I planted! Garden was in by mid-month though!!!

**July** – The 4<sup>th</sup> was fun, great barbecue and huge fireworks show downtown! Jenny and Frank next door had a lot of fun with fireworks too. They set some off around 11pm, and poor Billy was terrified out of a sound sleep, sleeping straight in to the air and landing on my back, and sinking all 4 sets of claws in! There was some swearing involved, and a short trip to the emergency room, luckily I already met that deductible! I did some hiking later in the month, left Billy behind with a catsitter while I was gone. She was a bit upset I think, the paisley couch took a beating and has a lovely shredded look now!!!

**August** – Still working as an accountant and my company sent me to northern California for a week,. I only had to work four of the days, so did some hiking and enjoyed the scenery. Poor Billy really missed me! When I returned home, she had done some additional artwork on the paisley couch and peed in all the corners of my office. The cat sitter said she didn't realize the cat pee was there, since she had Covid and had lost her sense of smell!

**September** – Spent the month recover from Covid, possibly got it from the catsitter?? Contracted Covid 19 from the catsitter. DC Billy was a wonderful nurse, giving massages, although I should have had her claws clipped first! She did help me do some online shopping to chose a new couch as well!

**October** – Fall colors were gorgeous this year, or so I was told. I spent the month working 60 hours a week to make up for the month I lost to sick leave. Billy felt rather neglected, and started working on her latest art project. My new herringbone couch has a new look!!!!

**November** – Things calmed down a bit, until Thanksgiving, when my sister and my parents unexpectedly showed up to stay at my house. They don't believe in pet sitters, so my sister brought her two 30 pound cats, and my folks brought their very...energetic... chihuahua. Billy spent most of her time up on top of the hutch supervising while the other cats and the dog got ...energetically.... acquainted. The humans yelling at them all provided her with a lot of entertainment!!! She finally came down on Thanksgiving Day, when the dog and the cats banded together to pull the Butterball off the table and have at it. I think Billy felt as supervisor, it was her due to get that turkey leg. I think leg bone is still up on top of the hutch. The 3 visiting pets also had fun working on the art project that is my couch, and Billy joined in to finish it off after they left.

**December** – I treated myself to an early Christmas present – a plaid couch!! And even better, we had an early snow! I put up the bird feeders, and Billy really seems to enjoy trying to get outside to play with the birds! So far my new couch is looking really good, but the window sill and curtains may need replacing.

Wishing the happiest of holidays this year, however and with whomever you chose to celebrate. If you ever make it up here to the great white north you are welcome to come stay with Billy and I, we have plenty of room. You can even bring your pets, Billy would love to supervise them, and she might even let you all sleep on her couch!

All our love,  
Genevieve and Billy!