

## **Housing Harmonies**

### **#4 Furry Friends and Beloved Animals**

#### **Living with pets**

Adrian describes how having a pet impacts his life and his living space. He shares how pets make a big difference in reducing loneliness, particularly when one lives alone.

Adrian:

Yes, I adopted, from the Furry Tales cat rescue. I adopted a cat 4 years ago, 4 years ago this August. And so he's a small short hair, slender, orange tabby. And, yeah, he's been with me, it'll be 4 years in August. And he was just 3 months old when I got him.

Margaret: And how does having a pet impact your living space? Let's start with you.

Adrian:

Well, you mean me or the space? If you mean the space, well, with me, I don't think I would be very happy to live totally alone. I'm used to animals. I've had, I only had a dog when I was a child, which probably is the reason I'm still alive today. Made a big difference in my life. And I've had cats pretty well all my life. So without an animal it's so lonely that I don't think I'd be able to manage very well. Yeah, so it makes a big difference for loneliness because much of my life I've lived alone. And I'm fine with that. I can manage quite nicely. I'm very independent. But it is lonely if you come home to an empty apartment when there's not even an animal there too, to be around.

Margaret: And how does having a pet impact your apartment then?

Adrian:

Well, if you have an animal, I'm not a type of person who's house proud. I tidy up but I don't care about fancy furniture, impressing anybody, having anything luxurious as far as furniture goes. Most of my stuff I either bought second-hand, was give. I don't care, I mean, if the cat climbs on it, if it gets a bit scratched, I really don't care. Which is good, which is the way you really need to be if you're going to have animals or I guess children too. That you can't be house proud because they're gonna make a mess and the cat gets his fur everywhere. He's got his toys all over the living room and in the bedroom he's got a few toys. He climbs on the bed. You know, he's everywhere because it's only a small apartment. Other than the kitchen counters and stove, which he is too smart to go up on. He just never has gone up there, he seems to sense that's not a good place to go. Other than that, I just let him, he roosts on my drafting table, he's on the table, he's everywhere. And I don't mind, I'm very easy going with animals, I mean. But yeah, it just looks like a big cat playground really, like a big playground for animals. Because he's got to have some place to be. And he's on the balcony as well. I'm only on the second floor and I've trained him, he's too smart to go and try and jump off the balcony. So he's out there, unsupervised. He's an adult cat. And he's fine. He loves the balcony, so I haven't got time to sit out and babysit an animal and he's fine. So he's too, all the animals pretty well I've owned are very smart animals, so I've been lucky that way. And yeah, it does make a mess.