

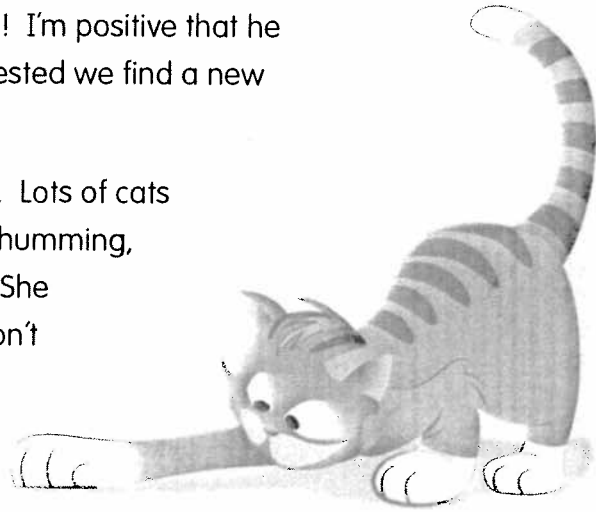
Pluto the Space Cat

My cat, Pluto, is from outer space, and I can prove it. First, he rejects any type of cat food and insists on eating dog food instead. This annoys my dog, Terra, because it's her food that Pluto keeps eating. While Terra whines over her empty dish, Pluto casually grooms himself—as if he has not just stolen food from a canine five times his size!

Second, Pluto hums instead of purrs. You would recognize it if you heard it. Most cats purr when they are comfortable and content, but Pluto hums just to hear himself humming. I think he's trying to communicate with other alien cats. Why else would he spend so much time staring up at the sky? While other cats skulk through the darkness, pretending to be fierce tigers, Pluto sits on my windowsill, gazing up at the stars with his tail twitching. I'm convinced he's homesick.

Finally, Pluto does things I have never seen normal cats do. When we're eating dinner, Pluto perches on top of the extra chair. And when we have family meetings, Pluto not only attends but meows as if he's giving us his opinion! I'm positive that he understands our conversations. Once, my sister suggested we find a new home for Pluto. He gave her the evil eye for weeks.

My mom doesn't think Pluto's behavior is weird. Lots of cats prefer dog food, she says. She claims not to hear the humming, and she says that many cats enjoy staring at the sky. She even says that pets often act like they are people! I don't accept that; Pluto is unique. Any day now, I expect a flying saucer to whisk him away to his home planet. I sure will miss my space cat!



MONDAY

Match each word from the story to its definition on the right.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| rejects | • demands |
| insists | • to sneak about in a secret way |
| annoys | • staring in wonder |
| skulk | • refuses |
| gazing | • moving suddenly |
| twitching | • bothers or angers |

TUESDAY

What is the meaning of the phrase, "He gave her the evil eye"?

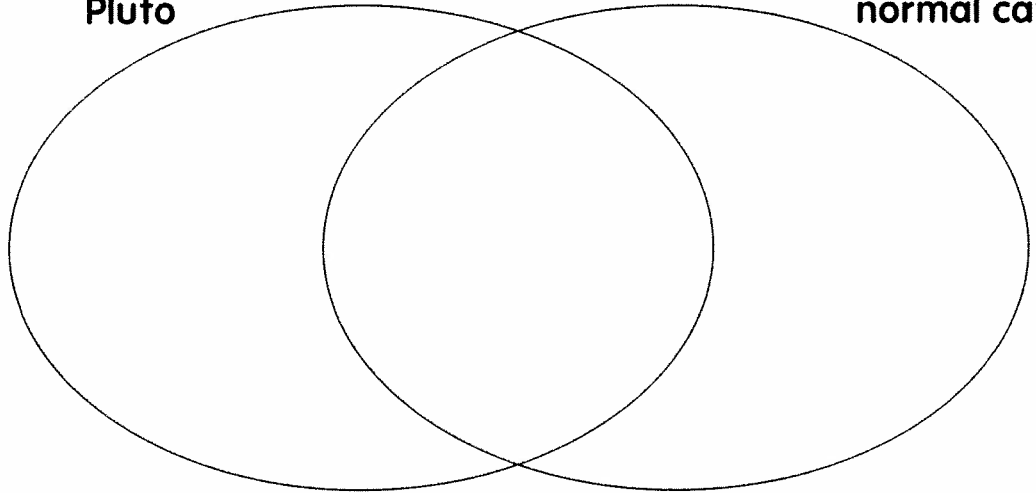
WEDNESDAY

Write the descriptions in the Venn diagram.

purrs
hums
meows
acts like a person
understands conversation
eats cat food
stares at the sky

Pluto

normal cat



THURSDAY

Write F if the sentence is a fact. Write O if it is an opinion.

- _____ Pluto must be homesick for his home planet.
- _____ Most cats purr when they are content.
- _____ The family should find a new home for Pluto.
- _____ Pluto's behavior is weird.
- _____ Pluto likes to eat Terra's food.

FRIDAY

Do you think Pluto is from outer space? Provide details to support your opinion.
