

Rusty & the \$288 Possum



Cone head Rusty shows off his wound with the drainage tube Dr. Williams installed.

Verne often left the house door open in the evening when it was cool. This made a short cut for the cats; *instead of them having to go around to use the cat door.*

But a possum began wandering in to steal food. *Cats, the possum figured, were a push over.*

ARRRWHARRRRL!
ARRRWHARRRRL!
Rusty howled in protest—screaming out the universal cat danger alarm.

Verne came to the deck (from the greenhouse where he toiled during the evenings) only to see a possum tail disappearing off the edge of the porch.

A few nights later Verne found possum poop on the kitchen counter near the cat's food dishes! *But Rusty wasn't eating.* Verne found him hiding in his carpeted cat condo that Rusty only used when he was seriously injured.

Verne knew immediately that the old Rust Bucket was sick. Sure enough, Rusty's left cheek was swollen from infection, bloody pus leaking out around his mouth. By 11 PM he was in the care of the all night Vet in Modesto.

Dr. Williams saved Rusty's life with surgery to purge the abscess and install a drain tube. This cost \$288. *Damn possum!*



Rusty was now known as "funnel head" and confined to the spare bedroom; turned into a cat hospital room for the recovery period. Twice a day Verne cleaned the wound with peroxide, administering penicillin and grooming the old fur ball.

Each evening Little Dust Ball insisted on visiting her pal Rusty—*she would not leave him* and made every night a sleep over! *The next day Verne would let her out.*



Little Dust Ball wanted to be with Rusty every night so she slept over in his hospital room!



Verne killed the possum with a kitchen knife.

