

# Dust Ball's first hunting trip



Actual telephoto surveillance of Dust Ball's first hunting trip.

**Little Dust Ball** often watched Rusty (AKA Old Grumpy Bear) hunt mice. Dust Ball learned that 1) Hunting required sitting cat-still, and 2) Nothing tasted better than a fresh mouse snack. *At least that is what Rusty told her.*

Dust Ball heard Verne say Rusty was "The Man" as he praised him for each rodent the old flea bag killed. Little Dust Ball wanted to be like Rusty. Then Verne would praise her, too! And, she thought, "I'll get my own tasty mouse snack!"



Lair of the mice



**Bravely one evening** Dust Ball crept over to the lair of the mice for her very first solo hunting trip! Many times she had studied Rusty's lion like gait as he stealthily approached the hunting spot. Now, knowing that Verne was capturing all this for the Dust Ball fan club on his digital camera, it was her moment. From this time forward Dust Ball was no mere kitten. *She was a hunter!*

**She heard a mouse!** Dust Ball pounced into the leaves... "Meeeeeep!" she exclaimed. "This is harder than I thought!"

Dust Ball could actually remain cat-still for several minutes without fidgeting!



**No mouse this time.** But Dust Ball was young and one day her mouse would come. And when it did Verne would praise her, and Rusty would be so surprised he might even lick her head.

She thought to her cat self "I'm a cat and mice are part of my soul. I'll have to keep watching and learning from Rusty. Even if he is an old grumpy bear nobody bags rodents like he does!"