

# Cougar learns the ropes



Cougar fit right in. He had the run of the house his very first week!

**Cougar had the run of the house** the first week. He was so intelligent and responsible Verne had to cut short the "acclimation room" routine.

Cougar was able to jump up on the chair seat that helped the big cats up to the counter surface where Verne placed the food & water. He was eating with the big boys!

Rusty sniffed Cougar's, uh..back side, and decided he was OK. In fact, Rusty acted as if Cougar was invisible. Verne was puzzled.

When Dusty joined the Cactus Farm the year before Rusty would sniff her, uh..back side, and decide she was NOT OK. Rusty would run out of the house. In fact, Rusty did not tolerate Dusty in the house for many months.

**Verne figured** out why Rusty sniffed Cougar and accept him so readily. Years ago they had another male cat named Zircon who was Rusty's pal. Later they adopted a "rescue cat" named Alice. She was seriously crazy; taken away by the county from a mentally ill woman who had a house full of cats. Alice would scream, hiss & fight with Rusty. She was a terror! Rusty would dash inside, eat & run! Finally Verne took her back.



Cougar was very intelligent and learned the rules quickly.



Cougar liked to play outside! *He thought that was the best.*



**Rusty remembered crazy Alice.** When Dusty came along he associated her smell with Alice. *But Cougar smelled more like his old pal Zircon.* Verne had hoped Dusty would be a pal for him like Zircon had been. Maybe Cougar was meant to be his pal! Verne sure hoped so. *He wanted Rusty to be happy.*