

Nine Lives: Exiting

Traditionally when exiting from a student who has just been managed the sequence is one of, “Teacher intervenes....student changes...teacher leaves.” With a cat student, we are more likely to be successful if the sequence is changed to, “Teacher intervenes...teacher leaves...student changes.” The cat, being the independent creature it is, would find it distasteful to change “on demand”. If the teacher walks away, this allows the cat to change and keep its dignity intact.

Discuss a student who you’ve been employing the traditional “exit” strategy with, (Teacher intervenes-student changes-teacher leaves) and how it hasn’t been working.

Over the next few days employ the following technique. Approach the student, and without eye contact say, “I need to see you working within 2 minutes.” Then walk away. Peripherally watch the cat. Describe the results:

Reflect on how this approach might work better for your cat students and why. Is it more difficult for you to do? Easier?