

Northwoods Humane Society – Melissa Spero, Guest Writer

Anyone else still paying off Christmas? Just me? Okay, fair. What do you think I spent my money (ahem, credit) on? My wonderful guy? He came in a close second. The dogs? They almost tied with Josh. The real winners of Christmas were our sister cats, Sage and Clove. Their hangout is a huge basement that allows them the freedom to hunt dust balls and the privacy from Finn and Pepper to relax. The genius fur mama that I am thought, the cats need more stimulation. That was my first mistake. Ever gone down a rabbit hole of pet toys? It starts with what's a toy or two? Suddenly, you're buying your dog a fitted car seat that also floats in water and has the capabilities to fly if needed. Okay, okay, too far, but you get my point.

The first purchase was for them and myself. An electronic litter box. It keeps their bathroom clean and saves me the hassle of cleaning up after my two little queens. How did the girls reward me? They found other places in the basement to go to the bathroom. That is not a treasure hunt I willingly participated in.

My second gift was solely for them. An extra, extra large cat tree...that neither of them have climbed on since Josh and I spent a day putting it together. Do you want to test your relationship? Build something as a team. That's the true assessment of love, patience and forgiveness. We tried to put treats on every level of the cat tree to entice them. The treats never moved.

Oh, but I didn't stop there. Next came all the toys! Motorized toys so they could play while Josh and I were at work. The toys, sadly, never moved. Spring toys that are supposed to bounce stayed rigid. Birds that should have chirped remained silent. Mice that could have chased Sage and Clove never scuttled across the floor. Even the colorful cat wands barely swayed in the cool, basement breeze.

We gave the cats a couple of months. Then we sold the litter box. The cat tree remains since I ordered one that reaches cathedral height ceilings.

What expensive lesson did I learn? You can't buy quality time; it's priceless. Thank you for the reminder, Sage and Clove. My girls' remind me to spend quality time with the ones I love and that an afternoon cat nap with two fluffy, purring and cuddly girls is a perfect way to rest, recharge and relinquish in their unconditional love.

Want to donate your quality time? I know the best way and place! There are cats and dogs at the Northwood's Humane Society that would love some extra attention through volunteer efforts, fostering or (hopefully) adopting your own fur baby. Please call or stop by the Northwood's Humane Society today. After all, what's a little time?

Notes: Tickets are now on sale for Art For Animals to be held June 15, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Flat Creek Inn in Hayward. Tickets sold at Art Beat of Hayward, NHS Thrift Shop, NHS Shelter and Redbery Books in Cable. Join us for an evening of champagne, appetizers, live and silent auction, raffles and door prizes.

The NHS Thrift Shop now has summer hours – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday Thru Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. To volunteer as a cashier or part of the pricing team call the shop at 715-934-3121, stop and pick up an application or download an application on the NHS website: northwoodshumanesociety.org

Dates to Save:

June 15 – Art For Animals – Flat Creek Inn

July 1 – Boulder Lodge – Cardboard Boat Races and Barbeque