

# The Cat and Dog Peacemaking

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Here you will hear part of my life story, the story of a young cat and dog cross-breed who solved all the problems between her two species.

Not too long ago in the pride of the forest I was born, shortly after my mother named me Ellwinde, but everybody could tell that there was something “off” about me. I was larger than most of the other cats, and my fur wasn’t quite as soft as the other cats’ either. But none of that mattered everybody loved me just the same, at least for the first few days.

Just yesterday I did something very very strange, not normal for a cat, I barked, could you imagine! A cat!, barking! huh. But this is only the beginning.

Because of these strange attributes, I have trouble making friends. Really the only one who willingly spends time with me is mom.

“M-mom wh-wh-why doesn't a-anyb-body l-like me?” I asked, tears streaming down my muzzle, “I-is there s-something wr-wrong w-w-with m-me?”

“It’s not that they don’t like you, sweetie” she replied, soothingly “They just don’t know how amazing you truly are.”

“I-i-i wish that I c-c-could make s-some friends.” I said, still crying.

“You will, just give it some time, they’ll come around eventually.” mom says.

“R-really?” I said finally calming down.

“I promise.”

Mom says as I start to fall into an exhausted emotional doze next to her warm, furry body. Sleep has never been this enticing. A few weeks later I woke to an unsettling noise, hissing and barking. Stalking towards the noise I see dogs in the pride's territory confronted by most of my other pride members. I can clearly hear that these dogs are attempting to apologize and leave, but what is unusual is my most forgiving clouder seems to be ignoring these pleas for forgiveness. As scary as this is, I can't let them hurt these innocent creatures.

Running into the fray, I say, “Stop!!, what are you doing?”

“These creatures are obviously hostile, can’t you see that little kit?” says the pride leader.

“They are apologising, they want to go, but you aren't letting them.”

“What are you talking about? These creatures can't even speak!”

“Yes they can, I can hear them just fine, can't you?” I say, somewhat confused.

“I don't know what you are talking about, I suggest that you get out of here before you get hurt.”

“They won't hurt me, or us, just let them go.”

“FINE!! Let them go.” As the pride leader says this, the rest of the cats part, allowing the dogs to leave. Watching the dogs leave peacefully the leader of the pride speaks, “I didn't think it possible to have dogs leave without a fight. You are a true heroine Ellwinde.”

After this all the cats crowd around and praise me, suddenly wanting to be friends. And at this moment mom comes over and tells me, “I told you that they would eventually come around, now they finally understand how special you are.”

Realizing the problems between dogs and cats I decide to somehow get us to work together. When I told mom about this she hesitantly told me that I am half dog, half cat, confused at first I eventually found it astonishing. After speaking to mom and the pride leader we come up with a plan, mom and I will go find the pack of dogs and speak with them. We decide that it would be best for a small amount of cats to go, so it seems less hostile.

Padding through the forest for the first time, mom right beside me we searched for the dogs. “How will we find the dogs?”, I ask

“You can tell by their smell, we can follow the scent track of those other dogs that were in the camp the other day.” mom replied.

“Oh, ok.”

After about two hours, we find ourselves surrounded. Dogs everywhere, they have terrible, hostile looks in their eyes. Just at that moment the two dogs I saved walk into the circle and explain that I talked my pride into letting them go. After this the dogs let us into their territory willingly.

Speaking to the dogs I recite the practiced speech my mom and I came up with, “I understand that most of our species are unable to communicate with your species. But I am here to mend our relationship.”

At this the leader of the dogs asks in a suspicious tone of voice, “How are you going to accomplish this? And how are we supposed to trust you!”

Throughout this conversation I have been translating the dog's words for mom to know. "Tell them that we understand that they might be unable to trust us, but we are sincere and will do just about anything to gain the trust that we rightfully never earned in the first place."

After repeating my mother's words the leader of the dogs finally seems at ease. "Very well, we will give this 'alliance' a try."

After this decision some of the dogs, including their leader, came with us back to camp. At the camp we tell the others how the dogs are willing to give this a try. Most of the older cats are in an obvious state of discomfort with the dogs around, but don't act on it. The younger cats, when the dogs come too close to them though, they take a few swipes at the dogs. Every time this happens though their parents apologise for their behavior and suggest for the dogs to keep a distance from the kits. Of Course the other cats can't directly speak to the dogs, so I'm running all over the place translating.

After a few weeks, we are finally at peace. We even hunt together! We have taught the dogs some techniques for hunting, and they have taught us some too. We expand our territory together, multiplying our hunting opportunities. I sometimes miss the old days. But then I remember how depressed I was, I never want that again.

Eventually the workload is significantly lifted from my shoulders because there are more cross breeds. I now have plenty of friends, I will never feel alone. And I stop ever even thinking about the old days.

"Mom, you were right. I have a lot of friends now. How did you know?" I say.

"I'm your mother, I know everything." She replied.

I look over to dad, after finally meeting him I can do nothing but thank him. "Thank you, if it weren't for you, I never would have never existed, let alone brought our species together."

"Don't thank me, thank your mother. She is the one who enchanted me."

Snuggling into the space between my parents, I fall asleep. Purring peacefully.

THE END