

Paws up to Pets

Upsides way outweigh downsides of four-legged pets



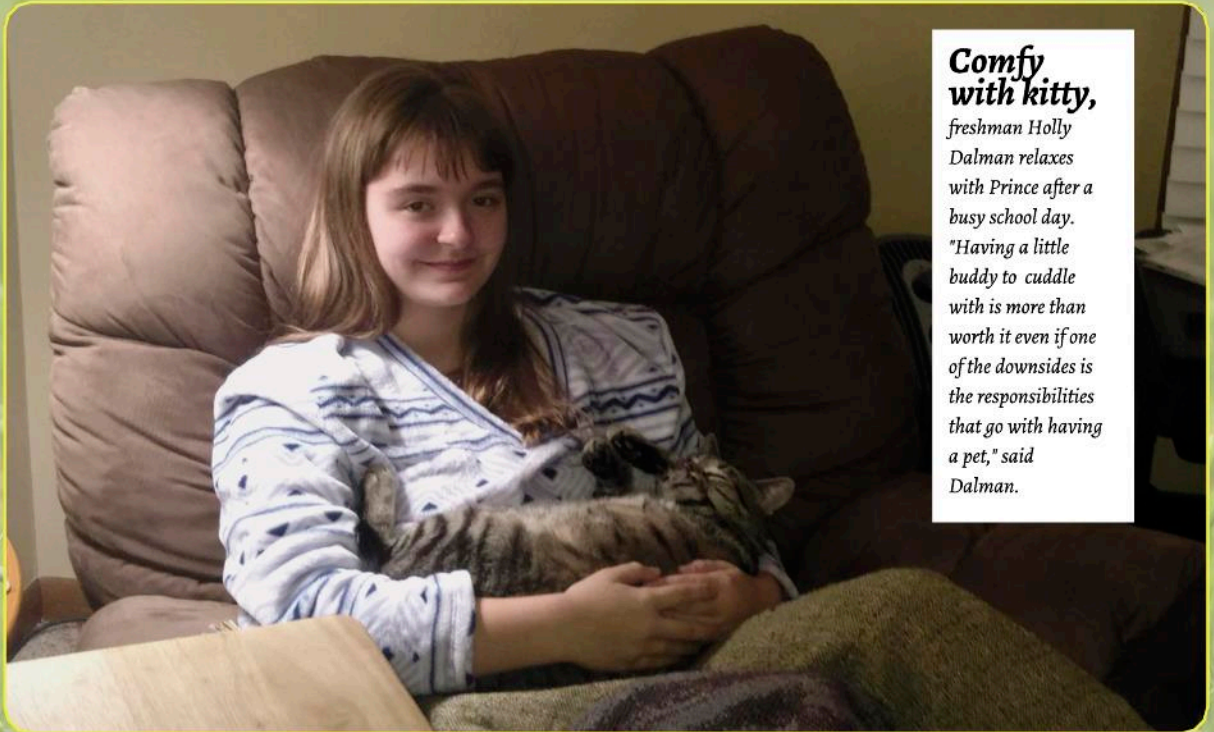
Honey takes a chew toy to senior Jessica Tran Moss with hopes of playing chase.



Happy takes a break after a game of fetch with sophomore Angelina Ewoldt.



Handsome, who was a stray on a rainy day, loves to cuddle with sophomore Samantha Bladel.



Comfy with kitty,

freshman Holly Dalman relaxes with Prince after a busy school day. "Having a little buddy to cuddle with is more than worth it even if one of the downsides is the responsibilities that go with having a pet," said Dalman.

Prince's personality keeps life at the Dalman's movin'

"Having a pet definitely livens up a household," said freshman Holly Dalman. Since Prince has become a family member, there have been many memories of games, escapes, and loving moments in their home.

One of Dalman's favorite memories about Prince is one of his escapes.

"First, my mother heard a noise and saw that Prince had escaped outside where he was not supposed to be because he was to be an indoor cat. She noticed that he had broken through the screen door. Upon scooping him up, she noticed that he had a chipmunk clutched within his jaws.

Screaming, she shook him violently yelling 'Let it go! Put him down!' But Prince refused, tightening his grip and whipping it around like a chew toy. Finally, Prince let go and the chipmunk limped off into the bushes, squeaking pitifully as he died.

When my mother and Prince returned into the house, my cat was letting her have it. Then she angrily said, "Okay, all right, I get it! You're a cat; he's your prey. Good boy, catchin' it,

but BAD BOY..NEVER DO THAT AGAIN!!!" said Dalman.

Prince, like most pets, has his crazy moments of which "one of his is to hang halfway off his cat tree and paw at us as we walk by. Another one of his crazy games is to hide on one of the kitchen chairs under the table so he can surprise us as we pass by," said Dalman.

Students gave many reasons in the survey as to why they wanted a pet. The Dalman story begins like this.

"We always wanted a cat, but my dad was allergic. Therefore, my mom and I would visit the animal shelter to get our kitty fix. One day there was a cat behind the desk at the shelter and the sign said that he had a PIV, an immune disorder. My dad let us have him and since we have had him, my dad has not had allergy problems for the two years that we have had Prince," said Dalman.

Though Prince is a common breed of cat, a brown Mackerel tabby, he is definitely a fun, loving, and special pet at the Dalmans.