

For the past couple years I've visited a Chiefs bulletin board called "Chiefs Planet."

<http://www.chiefsplanet.com>

For the most part, the talk about the Chiefs on this board has been fun and pretty harmless. Over the past year there's been a disturbing trend of members who like to promote the mistreatment, torture and death of domestic house cats. Some is in jest, some I'm not so sure. And why a subject like this would be considered topical on a "Chiefs Fan Board" is truly beyond me.

Anyway, after at least a dozen threads of this nature popping up, this one really bothered me:

<http://www.chiefsplanet.com/BB/showthread.php?p=2606115#post2606115>

The lead post, written by a CP member named "Zebedee DuBois" Here is his post in its entirety: " Subject: I want to commit catricide. We have a cat that thinks outside the box too often. I don't think this animal has any redeeming characteristics. It is afraid of the outdoors. It is afraid of mice. It might beat up on a cricket. It considers the litter box as just one of many options. **It needs to die.** Of course, there are other family members that seem to think the cat is cute. Thus, I need to find a way to dispatch the cat and yet have it look like natural causes, or at least like I didn't have anything to do with it's demise. That means the corpse can't be mutilated or wet... and I can't have any incriminating scratch marks. If I could do the deed, and then leave the body on the stairs or somewhere for someone else to discover....that should dispel suspicions. I've thought of putting her in a cooler and displacing the air with nitrogen or some other gas. Any ideas?"

So after a string of posts that included "run over it with a lawn mower," "put it in the garage and carbon monoxide it," or "Put Anti-Freeze in its tuna," I posted a response:

"If you can't care for a pet, you don't deserve to have one. Take it to a no kill shelter and make a donation. How bout I send a link on your post to the ASPCA and your local municipal government? Still want to kill an innocent animal? Hey, here's a funny thread. Some guy set a puppy on fire and tried to kill it. Hee hee! What a knee slapper. Bet you'll get some yucks since you think hurting animals is fun. Read the whole thread. Maybe you'll laugh so much you'll get snot bubbles:

<http://www.chiefsplanet.com/BB/show...802#post2594802> (Story about a Jack Russell Terrier set on fire by its owner). I'm not kidding, this kind of stuff pisses me off. Don't do it. And kidding around about killing pets isn't funny either. It's just wrong, and it's extremely poor taste. Dimwit. And all you guys who think its funny, shame on you too."

So more suggestions come along on how to kill this cat in equally graphic detail.

About an hour later, I post again:

"Hey you wild and wacky CP guys and gals. Let's have some fun figuring out how we can torture and kill house cats. Ha ha ha....boy I just love talking about this stuff. I'd really like to kill a little 15 pound animal that loves me and trusts me and sometimes doesn't understand human rules. Hey, let's see what the State says about it. I bet they think killing house cats is big fun too!

<http://www.animal-law.org/statutes/missouri.htm>

Well, gee. what a bunch of killjoys. Since we can't legally torture our cats, let's enjoy some pictures of other people that have starved, burned, injured, or left their pets to die. Oh these'll be hysterical. HOO HOO HEE, yeah, that's real funny stuff right there! (pics of cats maimed or killed by neglect and abuse). Maybe I can do this to my kids or my parents too. I mean, if its fun with cats, its probably five or six times more fun with family!"

So along comes a post by a CP member who calls himself "Iowanian The Terrible, " who is apparently the Dr. Kavorkian of animal euthanasia. Remember, we're talking about a cat who peed in a clothes hamper. Note: the multiple spelling and grammar errors have been corrected for coherency:

Iowanian: "It's that bullshit attitude that pisses me off. Yeah...instead of taking it out, and putting a bullet in it to end it quickly, be a fuggin coward, and take it to the shelter....where it won't be adopted, and THEY will put it down, with your conscience eased, because you don't have to do it. It would be very humane, as ways to put an animal down, to hold it near your car's exhaust. I've personally taken probably 20 cats, that other people didn't want to the happy farm...where if they survive nature, will have ample food, shelter and children to play with them. As of last count, there was 1...ONE that nature hadn't polished off...coons, dogs, tomcats apparently don't like kittens, cattle hooves, cars. Nature is a hell of alot more cruel than Humans(check that..the average human) could think of being. Sometimes, putting one, like the one I found that had been stepped on by a cow, down is the most humane, kind thing you can do....and it doesn't' mean I enjoyed it."

I notice that my previous post has drawn what's called "negative reputation points," usually doled out when something racist, obscene or offensive had been said on the board. In the three years I've been on CP, I only slapped negative rep on somebody once -someone who said they were glad Johnny Carson was dead- and had never received a negative reputation slap, ever. Now I'm pissed. So I post again:

"Thanks for the neg rep, Mr. Kavorkian. " up meds psycho" (the comment attached to Iowanian's negative rep slap). Yeah, I'm the one with emotional and psychological problems here."

A response from lowanian:

" Yeah...and its hippy, animal rights, jerkoffs like you, who find an animal that has been run over, or stepped on my a larger animal like a cow...has a broken back, and keep it alive to suffer for another week, where as the "barbarian" is kind enough to put a quick round in its brainpan to end the pain. "You People". You'd have made a really shitty caveman. Now run along and Protest Disney for that whole "Old Yeller" thing. When you write up the "I hate lowanian" article for your web site, be sure to quote me on this: "Suk Mah Baows". Now, get along with your stomping off like a 13 year old girl-fit. If more of you Utopian Dipshits would have grown up on a farm, maybe you too, would have learned that sometimes, even though its not pleasant, the kindest act you can do for an animal is to shoot it."

Well, I hadn't really considered posting this on my hate mail page, until lowanian requested inclusion. So not one to disappoint, I'll include it here specifically in his honor.

For the record, not all of us grew up on a farm, where feral cats were part of the pasture's food chain. Most cats are loving, loyal domestic house pets. Bulletin board threads that solicit discussion of how to destroy house cats is not entertainment, it's just sick and misguided. The cat in question was not on death's door, the owner wanted to kill it to make his life more convenient. I may have 13-year old "girl-fits" over the avocation of cruelty to animals, I'll admit it. But even nine year old juvenile delinquents who abuse house pets-and later go on to abuse girlfriends or wives-can at least spell "Suck My Balls" properly. Buy a dictionary, Mr. Mensa.

Subsequently, more "kill the cat" threads have appeared as its become a more a source of amusement:

<http://www.chiefsplanet.com/BB/showthread.php?t=128160>

<http://www.chiefsplanet.com/BB/showthread.php?t=129498>

<http://www.chiefsplanet.com/BB/showthread.php?t=129664>

If I'm going to be ridiculed for speaking up and discouraging people from abusing house cats, that's OK with me. Taking a stand sometimes includes taking flack from those less principled. I can live with that any day. And I guess it's no surprise that kind of mentality is a bumper crop on an NFL chat board. It's not exactly heavily populated by The National Honor Society, if you get my drift.

Some of the Chiefs Planet posters seem to take offense at listing these threads publicly. Apparently in their world talk is cheap. I look at it this way: either you believe in your words or you don't. If you do, be prepared to defend your stance. If not, then withdraw your words and apologize.

You also have to consider the source of the criticism. For example, Google

"Iowanian" and all you'll find are listings on NFL chat sites and numerous matchmaking services. I guess the chicks aren't too wild about a 50-something chain smoking NASCAR fan who lives in the Iowa backwater and likes to joke around about abusing house cats.

Wonder why he's not more of a chick magnet?

Prologue 12/29/05:

Zebedee DuBois (the original author of this thread) took the cat to the vet to be euthanized. Here's his post:

I am not an animal hater.

Over the years, I have owned four dogs, two cats, a cockatiel, a guinea pig, a boa constrictor, and a bunch of fish.

The fish died of an ich outbreak, the guinea pig and snake were donated to a college collection, the bird was given to another family. One of the dogs ran away during a thunderstorm, and was never found after weeks of searching. The other dogs and one of the cats died of old age after many loving years in our family and were buried in the backyard of wherever we were living at the time.

Then there was the last cat, about which I wrote a (disturbing to some) thread earlier. We saved this cat's life a couple of times. Once when we adopted it, once when it swallowed a sewing needle. It was always a little weird....scared of the out of doors, scared of nonfamily, scared of lots of things. It would adopt other out of the way areas as pooping areas - closets, behind the couch. We had it seven years and lived with it's oddness. In the last year, it had taken to also peeing everywhere. Our house began to reek.

I broached the subject of putting her down to the family..

2 for...(my wife and I, who have ended up doing 95% of the clean ups)

1 strongly against.

2 abstaining.

I took her to our vet, who put her down for \$35. I buried her in the backyard, a few feet from the other cat, who died in his sleep about a year ago.

The earlier thread was started out of frustration. I kind of regret the anguish I caused to some. Although I am sure putting the cat down was the right decision, I still have some angst. I have a daughter that isn't speaking to me today.