

Cats are not too independent to be trained, says Catherine Cramer, a professional animal trainer who has been training cats for 25 years.



How To Train A Cat

Cats are the most under-appreciated animals on earth, says Catherine Cramer, West Sand Lake, New York, who has been training every kind of cat - from house cats to lions - for 25 years.

A professional animal trainer, Cramer is also publisher of American Animal Trainer Magazine. She produces videos, conducts animal training seminars, and now she's written a book.

Cramer says the old adage that cats are "too independent" to train is so ingrained in the minds of people that they just don't try to train them, or, if they do, they're set up for failure. Most people expect their cats to do just two things:

1. Use a litter box, and
2. Come when they're called - sometimes.

"Cats can be trained to do anything a dog can do," Cramer says. "However, cats have their own motivations, so the methods that work with dogs generally don't work for cats. The reward, or reinforcement, can be anything the cat enjoys and doesn't necessarily have to be food." She says use

of a "bridge" - a noise or action that tells the cat the reward is coming soon - is imperative to getting cats to perform.

Cramer's book contains everything she's learned about training cats and detailed instructions to help you communicate with and train your own feline. Using these methods, she teaches cats to sit, lie down, stand up, walk on a leash, jump over obstacles, go through a tunnel, pop over a 6-ft. high scaling wall, and much more. "The training possibilities available for cats are limited only by the owner's imagination," she says.

"If you are inclined to spend time working with your cat, it can learn even complex routines. It's fun to train a cat," she says. Cramer's book, "Here Kitty, Kitty!", sells for \$29.95 plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling.

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Beneath this "half-scale" Oliver tractor is the frame of a Yanmar 1510 tractor, which was rebuilt to Oliver "specs".

Eye-Catching Half-Scale Oliver

Abe Gingerich created this eye-catching "half-scale" Oliver tractor by simply stripping all the sheet metal off a Yanmar 1510 tractor and then rebuilding it to Oliver "specs".

"I added a roll bar and canopy, lightened the wheelbase, added new tires and rims, and made a new hood and grille. I also made a swinging drawbar in the Oliver style, and a

3-pt. hitch," says Gingerich, of Plain City, Ohio.

"This is not only a useful show tractor. We also use it as a mower tractor, and for other chores," he notes.

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Experimental 1929 Deere GP has modified rack-and-pinion power-adjustable rear axle and over-the-top shaft steering. It was identified by a distinctive dent.

One-of-A-Kind Deere Sold For \$170,000

In 1929, a Deere GP tractor was pulled off the assembly line and given a rack-and-pinion power-adjustable rear axle by research engineers. At the time, it was a new idea, but one that evidently had merit, since it showed up on Deere production models about 25 years later.

Photos of the modified GP have appeared in several books and publications, but most collectors figured the tractor itself was long gone. Photos always showed a dent in the radiator screen on the front of the tractor.

Fast forward now to 2001. A Nebraska auctioneer looking over an aging collection of cars and industrial machinery he was preparing to sell at an estate auction near Davenport, Iowa, found a GP tractor in a grove of trees, somewhat protected by some ancient galvanized sheet metal roofing.

After noticing something different about the tractor, the auctioneer called a friend who collects Deere tractors to take a look. The friend determined the old tractor was the experimental GP. The tractor matched the 1931 photos, right down to the dent.

Besides the modified rear axle, the tractor's steering had been changed to an over-the-top shaft, believed to be the first attempt at this by Deere.

No one knows how the owner, a Mr. Lieck of Davenport, Iowa, acquired the tractor, what he paid for it, or whether it was ever used. At the estate auction, however, it sold for \$170,000 to Bruce and Walter Keller, of

Brilliant, Wisconsin. Most people think that's a record price for an antique tractor.

The Kellers have an extensive collection of John Deere tractors, including a couple other rare experimental models. Their collection also includes several first production machines, including the first B, the first 3010 and the first 4010.

"It fits well with our collection," says Bruce Keller. But after years sitting out on the hillside in the trees, their latest acquisition needs some work.

"The steering doesn't work, but that's fixable."

Surprisingly, the pistons weren't stuck. "The engine was tight, but it's loose now," Keller says. "We haven't had it started yet. We removed the magneto and carburetor and are getting those redone. Once those are ready, we're pretty sure it'll run."

Keller says that except for the steering and paint, the tractor is in good condition, considering how it was stored. While it will be cleaned up and repainted, it won't require extensive restoration. And that dent in the radiator screen will stay. "We'll restore it as original as can be, according to the photos," he says.

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