



# Critters

## Our Pets

They fill our lives with unconditional love and wonder and whimsy and devotion. All they ask in return is... Nothing.



## Gracie: part cat, part dog, part human

By KYRA ALEXANDER  
Staff writer

Have you ever had one of those pets that remind you of a human? I have one of those!

My cat, Gracie, thinks she is a human part of the time, a dog part of the time, and what she actually is - a cat - part of the time.

One afternoon as I was getting my braces tightened at the orthodontist in Gastonia, a man rushed in with five cats, four black males and one gray female, he had found under a bridge left to die.

With much pleading to my mother and father, we ended up getting the little female feline and runt of the litter. Because she is a gray cat, we named her Gray-C (Gracie).

As Gracie grew up, she seemed to be more and more like a human than a cat. She loved to get in the shower with someone and take a bath. She was very clean and liked to be that way. She loved to eat when we ate and sleep when we slept. She would sleep in the bed with me and snore all night long.

Then we started to notice she liked things like bacon, cheese, and milk. She also started to chase pieces of ice across the floor and when she would catch them she would roll herself all over it to get wet.



photo by KYRA ALEXANDER  
Gracie loves to sleep when her people sleep. She likes her stuffed animals too.

Her obsession with water so much reminded me of a dog. She loved it when she could get in the sink when someone had it running and would bathe right there.

Let's just say that we had to clean the sink out a lot.

She had such an obsession with water that if a toilet seat was up in the house she would have to flush the toilet to see where the water was going.

Gracie is now six years old and is like the little sister I never had. She still loves water, a lot, and still jumps in the shower occasionally. She

sleeps with me almost every night on top of me and snores, loudly. She chases her tail and her feet - go figure.

She even has a tendency to smack our older cat, Gypsy (who is 16 years old), in the face with her paw. She thinks Gypsy was put on this earth to play with her. Gypsy thinks Gracie was put on this earth to annoy her.

One thing that she has decided to add to her weirdness is eating out of her paws. During a meal she will whine until you give her a treat because she believes she deserves to eat when

we eat. She usually just lets the treat hit the floor but now she will catch it with her paws and eat it off of them. She doesn't let it hit the floor. We were very surprised when she started doing this. I guess she sees us eat with our hands so she believes she should too!

A couple days ago I wanted to see if I put a treat on her nose if she could catch it like a dog with her mouth. Surprisingly to me she did it. This cat keeps getting cooler.

I am so blessed to have Gracie in my life and she brings a smile to my face every day.

## PET OF THE MONTH



Foxy is a young, female, labrador-pit bull terrier mix. She is at the Cleveland County Humane Society just waiting for a family to call her own.

Visit their website today to find out how you can adopt, or help Foxy, and other animals like her at [www.clevelandcountyhumanesociety.petfinder.org](http://www.clevelandcountyhumanesociety.petfinder.org).

## Would you like to see your pet as our Pet of the Month?

Just send us a picture of you and your pet. Tell us why your pet is special or how you & your pet found each other, etc.

Each month we will choose one pet and its person to be featured on our Critters page.

All entries will be included in a drawing at the end of the year for a prize for your pet.

It's easy: Stop by our office, mail it to 700 E. Gold St., Kings Mountain NC 28086 or Email your photo and information to us at [pets.kmherald@gmail.com](mailto:pets.kmherald@gmail.com). Please include your name and phone number so we may contact you.

## Yep...It's Raw for Rover

### Food tips for your pooch

Many commercial foods lack sufficient nutritious ingredients as well as freshness. As a result your dog continually craves more food and is prone to health and fitness issues. Upgrading to a super premium food and supplementing it with whole foods such as fresh

veggies and fruits may be the key to great health for your four-legged companion. Check out a few of the following:

- Dos:**
- Apples (they contain potassium, which boost the immune system)

- Carrots (rich in vitamins and a much better treat than biscuits)
- Broccoli (again, rich in vitamins)
- Cucumbers (good for teeth and bones due to the potassium content)
- Celery (can help with arthritis)
- Bananas (in small quantities, a coveted treat)

- Don'ts:**
- Chocolate (even small amounts can cause constriction of the arteries and increase heart rate)
  - Raisins (grapes and raisins can cause

kidney failure... just a few raisins can kill a dog)

- Nuts (nuts contain fats, which can lead to vomiting and diarrhea)
- Raw onions (can cause liver damage)

For more information on the Dos and Don'ts for treating your dog, check out [www.rottwweiler.net](http://www.rottwweiler.net).

By RICK HORD  
Herald Sales Manager

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