

Cat and mouse and me

by [Steven Peterson](#) in the [April 2024](#) issue

My cat, who's kept inside all day, got bored,
somehow slipped into my attached garage,
cornered and caught a little mouse, and gored
that creature's little heart. My quick triage
assigned him good as dead. I pulled off Cat,
put Cat inside, returned to Mouse, then toed
him, twitching still, onto my Welcome Mat,
flicking him in the ditch across the road.

All day, as if in pain, my old cat yowled,
glaring at me with flat, accusing eyes.
"Our bond," he seemed to say, "is badly fouled.
Why did you rob me of my fair-won prize?"
Because our human hearts are warm? Truth told,
we're capable of things so much more cold.