



READING COMPREHENSION

Read the book “It’s Raining Cats and Dogs!” written by Jeanne Prevost and illustrated by Amelia Hansen. Then answer the questions.

1. a. When people use the “figure of speech”, “It’s raining cats and dogs!” it does not mean that dogs and cats are falling from the sky, what does it mean?
It is raining really hard.

- b. Can you imagine how this expression may have come into use?

There are a variety of answers here:

1) When houses had thatched roofs and it rained, many cats and dogs would run out into the streets to find better cover;

2) there was a mythological origin— “The most favored one in the references I have found is mythological. It seems that cats were at one time thought to have influence over storms, especially by sailors, and that dogs were symbols of storms, often accompanying images and descriptions of the Norse* storm god Odin. So when some particularly violent tempest appeared, people suggested it was caused by cats (bringing the rain) and dogs (the wind).”

*Norse—Norway, Sweden, Denmark

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worldwidewords.org Raining Cats and Dogs

2. At the beginning of the book, what is the weather like? What operation did Molly just have? Why is Molly not in pain?
It is raining. Molly had just been spayed. The doctors gave Molly medication to manage the pain. She needs to rest a while after her operation, just like people.
3. What did Jim say that prompted his mom to say, “Let’s imagine what would happen if Molly had not had this operation...” (spay operation performed only by a licensed veterinarian)
“But it would be fun to have kittens!” Jim protested. See page 2.
4. How many litters can a female cat have in one year, if the cat is not spayed?
Cats may have up to five litters in a year. See page 7.
5. In his imagination, what did Jim do to try to find homes for the cats?
Very creatively he sets up an “Adopt a Cat” stand, much like a lemonade stand.
6. a. What were some of the reasons given for not being able to give a cat a home?
“We already have three.” “Our dog would chase the cat.” “My mom doesn’t want hair on the furniture.” “We can’t afford to take care of a cat.” “My brother is allergic to cats.” “My mother won’t let me have any pets.”



- b. Could you have given one of the cats a home? Why or why not?
Personal response.
7. How many cats were adopted?
Only two. (The custodian and a boy to give his grandmother a gift. Grannie wanted a cat.)
8. Draw how Jim imagines his house would look like if none of the cats had been spayed or neutered?
Personal response, drawing.
9. Does spaying/neutering hurt the cat? From the story, how do you know that?
No. Because Molly pawed playfully at her pink toy mouse, purred, and rubbed against mom's sock. Jim exclaims joyfully, "Mom, she's acting like herself again!"
10. How does spaying and neutering help cats and our community?
Among many benefits: Saves lives; cats generally live longer when spayed; cats are healthier; exhibit a more stable temperament; cannot have babies; fewer cats in shelters; saves taxpayers money
11. Explain how the title of the book, "It's raining cats and cats," is an appropriate title for this book.
If Molly had not been spayed, she would have the potential to reproduce, bringing more and more and more cats into the world. We saw in the book how difficult it is to find homes for all the cats. This is a situation that mirrors the reality of what we find in our community—too many unwanted and homeless cats. However, it is a problem that can be resolved if people will spay and neuter their pets.