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## The Cat's Tale

by Greg & Charleen Phelps

*“Have you seen the cat? Where is the cat? That’s my cat!”*

“Joey” is a new addition to the long term care facility where our family member who lives with Dementia resides. He is a black and white cat who has settled in and created many more than nine lives.

So what’s Joey got to do with Care? He has created a wonderful world of story and exploration. Residents are inspired by past and present to tell the tale of the cat.

Joey is actually a barn cat from the local area. Or is he?

*“I brought that cat here from my house.”*

*“I rescued that cat from down Island.”*

*“That’s my cat from the beach.”*

*“Help me find my cat because we are on our way to Montreal.”*

Joey reminds us to stay in the moment and go with the flow. His story changes and evolves and carries the truth of the moment.

Sometimes there is frustration with who Joey decides to be with at any given time. Of course when he parks himself in the middle of the floor, it’s a good idea to quietly get there before a busy Amber or Ruby with monocular vision takes a tumble trying to pat him.

Joey is a dynamic assessment tool. He doesn’t care when his story changes from day to day. Wherever you are in time is just fine with him and moments of joy can be found in embracing the tale. But, perhaps not his tail.