

## Five Wasted Minutes

*Based on actual interview questions with some embellishment to the replies*

On the fourth ring I picked up the landline - yes, I still have one, thank you very much - and it is an unfamiliar voice asking if I have five minutes to answer a few questions in regard to my pending application for cat adoption.

TLC Humane Society: Do you own your home, Mrs. T?

Me: And what does that have to do with adopting a kitten?

TLC: Well, we want to make sure that our animals are being placed in proper environments where there are numerous opportunities for enrichment and personal expression. Our pets do better in homes where there is room for stimulation, and their folks are excellent conversationalists. Fluency in other languages and appreciation of diversity sends the proper message to animals that getting along with others in a climate of mutual love is of utmost importance.

Me: So, would you consider my humble home with two bedrooms and one bathroom adequate, or rather, should I wait to adopt a kitty when I have purchased a McMansion in the proper zip code and feathered my IRA? Do you care that I missed two payments on my MasterCard in 1996, or shouldn't I mention it? Matter-of-fact, for the records, my second cousin once removed went to jail on a juvenile burglary but I understand from his mother that the record was expunged. He lives in Cleveland presently and is in the gaming industry whatever that means.

TLC: Oh, no. No such thing. We want our animals well-taken care of and in places where there is enough expendable income to maintain their health and well-being.

Me: Are you secondhandedly asking for my annual income and investment portfolio?

TLC: No. No. But, if you wouldn't mind giving us a rough estimate of the number of exits in your home for the records, and your highest level of education.

Me: Since you are prying into my personal life, I'm on board with climate change, and I will be attending the regional conference in June for three days - I'm driving to save a carbon footprint. Oh, kitty already has a reservation at the Pooch Resort if I am approved by TLC. Other than that weekend, I will not mess with the daily routine of my pet.

TLC: Seriously, no, Mrs. T.

Do you want to know my political affiliation... and whether or not I am a member of the NRA? Would that help if I was to declare myself a Progressive Socialist? Do cats do better with conservative-leaning owners that adhere to strict rules? I would think that it is the other way around since cats have such an independent streak.

TLC: Oh, heavens no. Please, Madame. You are way off track here. We are a not-for-profit organization. Incidentally, if you wish to incorporate TLC into your will for giving, it would be gratefully appreciated. You can go directly to our website to fill out an application. Another volunteer will call you for the particulars.

Me: Enough of this nonsense. I wish to withdraw my application. I would not be a good match for a kitten from TLC I can see from your inquiry. Perhaps, I will repaint my bathroom instead. Do you suppose a consultant from the paint company will call to see if I am making the right color choice based on my age bracket and the determined number of years that I will remain alive according to insurance statistics?

TLC: Sorry to hear that we cannot be of no further service. If you ever change your mind, we will be glad to talk about pet adoption. Good luck with the painting project. Light green is a safe bet.

Me: You ruined my cap nap. Goodbye.