Why Dogs Chase Cats and Cats Chase Mice
A Yiddish Folktale

The dogs go to the king. The dogs ask him for help. The dogs want people to stop bothering them.

The king says he will help. The king writes a decree. The king writes it on paper. The king signs the decree. The king gives it to the dogs. It says that people can't bother dogs. The dogs are happy.

The dogs must keep the decree safe. The dogs must hide the decree. The dogs do not have a good hiding place. But they know who does. The cats.

The cats can get into small places. The cats can get into holes in the walls. The cats will know where to hide it. The cats agree. The cats hide the decree for the dogs.

A year passes. Dogcatchers come. They start to catch dogs.

The dogs run to the cats. The dogs say: "We need the king's decree. Where is it?"

The cats say: "We will go look for it."

The cats run. The cats look. The cats find the decree. But mice chewed it up. It is in tiny pieces.

The dogs find out. The dogs are very angry. They start to chase the cats. The cats are very angry. They begin to chase the mice. And that is how it has been ever since.

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Why Dogs Chase Cats and Cats Chase Mice
A Yiddish Folktale

Long ago, the dogs went to the king. They asked him for help. They asked him to make a new rule. They wanted people to stop bothering them.

The king agreed. He wrote a new decree. It said that people were not allowed to bother them. The king signed the decree. He gave it to the dogs. This made the dogs very happy.

But now the dogs had a problem. They needed a good place to hide it. They didn't have any good hiding places. But they knew who did: the cats.

Cats can get into small places. They can get behind walls. They can get under roofs. The dogs asked the cats to find a safe hiding spot for the decree. The cats agreed. They put it inside a wall.

A year passed. Some dogcatchers came to town. They began to round up the dogs.

"Stop," cried the dogs. "We have a decree from the king. You can't bother us."

"Prove it," said the dogcatchers.

The dogs ran to the cats. "Where is the decree?" they asked.

The cats run to look for it. They found it. But mice had chewed it to bits.

The dogs found out. The dogs got very angry at the cats. They started chasing the cats. The cats got very angry at the mice. They started chasing the mice. And that is how it has been ever since.

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Why Dogs Chase Cats and Cats Chase Mice
A Yiddish Folktale

Long ago, the dogs went to the king to ask him for help.

They asked him to make a new decree that said that people were not allowed to bother them.

The king agreed to help the dogs and wrote the new decree on a piece of paper. The king signed the decree and handed it to the dogs, making the dogs very happy.

But now the dogs had a problem: they needed a place to hide the decree for safekeeping. The dogs didn't know of any such a place, but they knew who did: the cats.

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Why Dogs Chase Cats and Cats Chase Mice

Cats can squeeze into all sorts of nooks and cranies. They can get behind walls and under roofs. The dogs asked the cats to find a safe hiding spot for the decree. The cats agreed to help them and found a safe place inside a wall.

A year passed and suddenly some dogcatchers came to town. The dogcatchers began to round up the dogs in the streets.

"Stop," cried the dogs. "We have a decree from the king that says that you can't bother us."

"Show it to us and we will leave you alone," replied the dogcatchers.

The dogs ran to the cats. "Where is the decree?" they demanded.

"We will go look for it," said the cats, who then ran off to look for the decree.

The cats finally found it, but the royal decree had been chewed to pieces by the mice. It was in tatters.

The dogs found out what happened. They were furious with the cats and began to chase them.

In turn, the cats were furious with the mice and began to chase them. The dogs chased the cats and the cats chased the mice. And that is how it has been ever since.

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