



Cat猫儿不在， 老鼠成精



01 VOA小词汇大掌故

多看多记多用，小词汇背后的大知识触手可及。

VOA Words

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Cats are the most popular pets among Americans. So it is not surprising that there are many expressions about cats. Some cats like to catch small birds, like canaries. If someone looks very proud or satisfied with himself, we say he **looks like the cat that ate the canary**.

Sometimes, a cat likes to play with a small animal it catches.

So if you **play cat and mouse with someone**, you change between different kinds of behavior when dealing with another person. For example, a child might offer something sweet to her little brother and then take it away when he reaches for it.

A cat will often catch a small animal and present it to its owner. The saying that **looks like something the cat dragged in** describes something in bad condition.

Two old and funny expressions describe something that is the best or finest. Americans might say that something is the **cat's meow** and **the cat's pajamas**.

Children might call a child who is easily frightened a **fraidy cat** or a **scaredy cat**. A **copycat** is someone who acts just like someone else or copies another person's work. A **fat cat** is a person with a lot of money.

You may have known that cats spent most of their time sleeping. Sometimes people sleep for a short time during the day. This is called a **cat nap**.

If you tell about something that was supposed to be a secret, we say you **let the cat out of the bag**. If you are not able to speak or answer a question someone might ask **if the cat has got your tongue**.

Have you ever watched children in a classroom when their teacher leaves for a few minutes? **When the cat's away, the mice will play** means people sometimes misbehave when there is no supervision.

You may have heard this expression: **curiosity killed the cat**. This means being too concerned about things that are not your business might cause problems.

If your home is very small, you might say **there is not enough room to swing a cat**. But you probably should not try this at home!

If you ever had cats as pets, you know it is difficult to train them or to get them to do something. Cats are not like sheep or cows that can be moved in a group. So we say a difficult or impossible job is like herding cats.



02 精彩译文

您可以参考的中文翻译。

Translation

在美国，猫是最受欢迎的宠物。因此，有许多关于猫的短语就不足为奇了。有些猫喜欢捉小鸟，如金丝雀。如果有人看上去很骄傲，或者对自己很满意，我们可以说他**looks like the cat that ate the canary**（非常得意洋洋，像抓住金丝雀的猫一样）。

有时，猫喜欢玩弄自己捉到的小动物。

所以，如果你**play cat and mouse with someone**（对某人欲擒故纵），也就是说你和某人打交道时行为多变。例如，一个孩子可能先给弟弟一些糖果，但是当弟弟刚要伸手够到的时候她又把糖果拿走了。

猫通常在抓到小动物后会把它呈献给主人。谚语**that looks like something the cat dragged in**表示的是“事情很糟糕”。

有两个古老又有趣的短语表示一些很好的东西。美国人可能会说某件东西是**cat's meow**（不同凡响，妙极了），或**the cat's pajamas**（非常时尚）。

孩子们可能会把一个很容易受惊吓的孩子叫**fraidy cat**或**scaredy cat**（胆小鬼）。**copycat**指的是“盲目模仿他人或抄袭他人工作的人”，**fat cat**指“很富有的人”。

你可能知道，猫大部分时间都在睡觉。有

时，人们白天会睡一小会儿，这就叫**cat nap**（打个盹儿）。

如果你说出了本应被保守的秘密，我们就说你**let the cat out of the bag**（泄漏秘密）。如果你不能说出或者给出一个问题的答案，人们会问你**if the cat has got your tongue?**（哑巴了？为什么不吭声？）

你是否观察过老师离开教室片刻时孩子们的情况？**When the cat's away, the mice will play**（猫儿不在，老鼠成精）意思是“在没有他人监督的情况下，人们常常会举止失礼或行为不端”。

你可能听说过这个短语：**curiosity killed the cat**（好奇害死猫）。它的意思是，过于关注和自己无关的事会惹来麻烦。

如果你家很小，你可以说，**there is not enough room to swing a cat**（连猫摇摆的空间都不够，窄的难以转身）。这么小的空间，你当然是不会尝试在家里这么做的！

如果你曾经养过猫，你就会知道要驯养它们或让它们做事是多么困难了。猫不像羊或牛一样过群体生活。所以，我们通常会把一件困难或不可能完成的工作称作**like herding cats**。

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03 重点再现

这些经典表达应该掌握！

Never Lost Again

1. **look like the cat that ate the canary** 非常得意洋洋，像抓住金丝雀的猫一样，看起来一副心满意足的样子。如：I think he is too proud. He always looks like the cat that ate the canary.（我总觉得他太骄傲了，总是一副得意洋洋的样子。）
2. **play cat and mouse with someone** 对某人欲擒故纵，戏弄某人；蒙骗某人，如：I think most people don't like those who like play cat and mouse with them.（我想大多数人都不会喜欢那些戏弄他们的人。）
3. **that looks like something the cat dragged in** 看起来像什么脏得一塌糊涂，如：I just cannot understand why her dress always looks like something the cat dragged in.（我只是不明白为什么她的衣服总是看起来那么糟糕。）
4. **cat's meow** 不同凡响，妙极了；**the cat's pajamas** [俚语]卓越的(或出色的、极好的)人(或事，物)，如：If this stuff is really the cat's pajamas, then why aren't we seeing it applied to every optical disc system.（如果这个东西真的很棒的话，那为什么我们看不到它被应用到所有的光纤磁盘系统。）
5. **a fraidy /caredy cat** 胆小鬼；**a copycat** 盲目的模仿者；**fat cat** 很有钱的人；美国政治运动的出资人；捐献大宗政治款项的富人；**cat nap** 指打盹儿



6. let the cat out of the bag 泄漏秘密，真相大白。常用于The cat is out of the bag. [口]秘密泄露；真相大白。
7. Has the cat got your tongue? [口]猫把你的舌头叼去了吗？为什么不吭声？如：Why don't you defense for yourself? Has the cat got your tongue?（你为什么不为自己辩护？猫把你的舌头叼去了啊？）
8. When the cat's away, the mice will play. [谚]猫儿不在，老鼠成精（大王外出，小鬼跳梁；山中无老虎，猴子称大王）如：Joe seems to be on his high horse these days . This is "When the cat's away , the mice will play."（乔这几天很不可一世。正应了那句“猫不在家，耗子成精”。）
9. curiosity killed the cat 好奇害死猫，指好奇惹祸。如：Don't follow him to seek the truth, curiosity killed the cat.（别跟着他寻找真相了，好奇害死猫。）
10. there is not enough room to swing a cat 连摇摆猫的空间都不够，表房间窄的难以转身如：I don't want to invite him to my house, because there is not enough room to swing a cat.（我不想让他到家里来，因为我的房间很小。）

04 延伸学习

再多读一点别人不了解的美国文化！

Learning More

与猫相关的英语谚语和短语：

1. A cat has nine lives.
猫有九条命。（英国迷信，指猫的生命力强。）
2. agree like cats and dogs
[口]像猫和狗一样合不来，完全合不来
3. enough to make a cat [horse] laugh
极其可笑；让人笑掉大牙
4. enough to make a cat speak
[口]令人惊讶；事情太出奇
5. It rains cats and dogs.
下倾盆大雨，大雨滂沱
6. like a cat on hot bricks
局促不安，如热锅上的蚂蚁
7. The scalded cat fears cold water.
[谚]被烫过的猫，连冷水也怕（一朝被蛇咬，三年怕井绳。）
8. That's like putting the cat near the goldfish bowl.
引狼入室；等于把猫放在金鱼缸旁。
9. The cat did it.
[口]是猫打破的；不是我搞的。（推托责任的话。）
10. The cat jumps.
[口]形势清楚了。
11. The cat shuts its eyes when stealing cream.
[谚]掩耳盗铃；猫偷吃奶油的时候，总是闭着眼睛。
12. The cat would eat fish and would not wet her feet.
猫儿想吃鱼，又怕湿了脚（想吃鱼又怕腥；想得到某种东西又怕麻烦或担风险）。





Horse与黑马候选人

01 VOA小词汇大掌故

多看多记多用，小词汇背后的大知识触手可及。

VOA Words

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In the past, many people depended on horses for transportation, farming and other kinds of work. A lot of people still like to ride horses. And, horse racing is also popular. So it is not surprising that Americans still use expressions about the animals.

Long ago, people who were rich or important rode horses that were very tall. Today, if a girl acts like she is better than everyone else, you might say she should **get off her high horse**.



Yesterday my children wanted me to take them to the playground. But I had to finish my work, so I told them to **"hold your horses"**. Wait until I finish what I am doing. My two boys like to compete against each other and play in a violent way. I always tell them to **stop horsing around** or someone could get hurt.

We live in a small town. It does not have any exciting activities to offer visitors. My children call it at a **one-horse town**.

Last night, I got a telephone call while I was watching my favorite television show. I decided not to answer it because **wild horses could not drag me away** from the television. There was nothing that could stop me from doing what I wanted to do.

Sometimes you get information **straight from the horse's mouth**. It comes directly from the person who knows most about the subject and is the best source. Let us say your teacher tells you there is going to be a test tomorrow. You could say you got the information straight from the horse's mouth. However, you would not want to call your teacher a horse!

You may have heard this expression: **You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink**. That means you can give someone advice but you cannot force him to do something he does not want to do.

Sometimes a person fights a battle that has been decided or keeps arguing a question that has been settled. We say this is like **beating a dead horse**.

In politics, a **dark-horse candidate** is someone who is not well known to the public. Sometimes, a dark horse unexpectedly wins an election.

Another piece of advice is, **do not change horses in midstream**. You would not want to get off one horse and on to another in the middle of a river. Or make major changes in an activity that has already begun. In the past, this expression was used as an argument to re-elect a president, especially during a time when the country was at war.



02 精彩译文

您可以参考的中文翻译。

Translation

过去，很多人依靠马来运输、务农或做其他类型的工作。直到现在，很多人仍然喜欢骑马，而赛马运动也很流行。因此，对于美国人来说，仍然使用关于马的表达，并不令人感到惊奇。

很久以前，家庭富裕或者地位显赫的人都骑那种体型高大、膘肥身健的马。今天，倘若一个女孩在言谈举止上总是表现得好像自己比其他人优秀，你可以说她**get off her high horse**（别摆架子）。

昨天，孩子们要我带他们去操场，但是我还有工作要完成。所以我就对他们说**hold your horses**（等一等），等我把手头的工作完成；我的两个儿子喜欢以激烈的方式彼此竞争。我一直跟他们说**stop horsing around**（别胡闹），否则有人会受伤的。

我们住在一个小镇上，这里没有任何可供游客参加的娱乐活动。我的孩子们称它为“**one-horse town**（孤马城）”，意思即“乡村小镇”。

昨晚，我在看自己喜爱的电视节目的时候，电话响了。我决定不接它，因为**wild horses could not drag me away**（野马也不能将我拖走）——没有任何东西能够阻止我做自己想做的事。

有时，你可以“得到第一手资料”。这些资料直接来自最了解情况的人，是最好的信息来源。比如，老师告诉你明天将有一个考试，你可以说自己**straight from the horse's mouth**（得到了第一手消息）。当然，你不会想去称呼你的老师为马。

你可能听过这样一种表达：**You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink.**（你可以把马牵到水边，但不能强让它喝水。）意思是说“你能够给他人建议，但你不能强迫他做自己不想做的事”。

有时，一个人会发起成败已经注定的战争，或者对一个已经解决的问题喋喋不休。对此，我们说他**beat a dead horse**（抽打死马）——毫无意义。

在政治上，**dark-horse candidate**（黑马候选人）指的是不为公众熟知的候选人，而且经常在选举中会意外获胜。

另一条建议是**do not change horses in midstream**（过河中途莫换马）。在河水中流，你是不会想从一匹马下来然后换乘另一匹马的，或者，你是不会对一项已经开始的活动做出巨大变动的。在过去，尤其是当国家处于交战状态时，这一表达常用来指改选总统。

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03 重点再现

这些经典表达应该掌握！

Never Lost Again

1. **get off one's high horse** 让某人放下架子，别那么傲慢，摆臭架子。**high horse**指傲慢无礼，目中无人的态度 如：The minute Max starts arguing, he gets on his high horse.（只要一开始争论，Max就会摆出一副高高在上的模样。）由此引申出的短语还有 **ride one's high horse**，根据**high horse**的意思就很容易理解该短语的意思，就是“骑着高头大马，耀武扬威，横得不行的样子”。如：If you keep riding your high horse, you will lose your best friends.（如果你老是一副盛气凌人的样子，就会失去你最好的朋友的。）
2. **hold one's horses** 耐心，沉住气，耐心等待 如：Hold your horses! This is just the kind of work that needs patience most.（沉住气，这件事需要的就是耐心。）
3. **horse around** 嬉闹 如：Stop horsing around and get to work for Pete's sake!（别玩了，拜托干活去吧。）另外，**horse around** 还有 **play around** 的意思，所以如果有人问你：Do you want to horse around? 可别以为是邀请你去骑马，那可要闹笑话的哦。
4. **wild horses could not drag somebody away from something(doing something)** 野马都拉不回来，表示一个人一旦下定决心做某事，任何人都不能阻止。如：You'd better give



- it up, once he decides to do something, wild horses can not drag him away from that. (我看你还是算了吧, 他一旦决定做什么, 九头牛都拉不回来!)
5. **get information straight from the horse's mouth** 获得直接资料, 即得到第一手资料 如: You can count on him. He always has ways to get information straight from the horse's mouth. (你可以相信他, 他总是有办法搞到第一手资料。)
 6. **You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink.** 这就是我们中国人常说的“老牛不喝水强摁头; 强扭的瓜不甜”, 表示你不能强迫别人做他不愿意做的事情。如: I'd rather to give up. After all, you can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink. Let her decide what she wants to do. (我觉得还是就这样吧, 毕竟, 强扭的瓜不甜, 让她自己来决定自己想干什么吧。)
 7. **beat/flog a dead horse** 重提早已解决了的问题; 炒冷饭; 白费口舌; 浪费精力。这个短语也十分的形象, 打一头死了的马当然是徒劳无功喽, 再怎么着它也不会爬起来撒开蹄子飞奔了。如: If you want to complain about the unfair result, fine. Just remember you are beating a dead horse. (如果你喜欢抱怨不公平的结果, 随便你。不过, 你要记住, 你这样做是徒劳无益的。) 这个习语在口语中可以这样用:
A: I'd like to talk with you again about what happened.
(我想再跟你谈谈所发生的事情。)
B: Oh, Come on. Let's not beat a dead horse.
(算了, 别再白费口舌了。) 其他的关于马的习语还有很多, 如 **dark horse** 一般引申为出乎意料的人或事, **hold one's horse** 表示控制某人的行为, 一般用在劝人三思而行, 不要冲动的场合。talk horse为“吹牛”。(horse译为“牛”)
 8. **dark horse** 黑马, 指出人意料获胜的赛马或参赛者; 美国的“黑马”候选人常因各方妥协而意外获得提名或当选。如: Whatever the outcome of the election, he is still a dark horse. (无论选举结果如何, 他仍然是一匹黑马。)
 9. **do not change horses in midstream** 中途莫换马, 指在事情进展的中间不要做大的改变。如: We have been carrying on this plan for six months, I don't think it's a good idea to change horses in midstream. (我们的计划已经进行半年了, 我不认为中途做出这么大的变动是好事。)



Dog 宠物狗 PK 流浪狗

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01 VOA小词汇大掌故

多看多记多用，小词汇背后的大知识触手可及。

VOA Words

Americans use many expressions with the word dog. People in the United States love their dogs and treat them well. They take their dogs for walks, let them play outside and give them good food and medical care. However, dogs without owners to care for them lead a different kind of life. The expression, to **lead a dog's life**, describes a person who has an unhappy existence.

Some people say we live in a **dog-eat-dog world**. That means many people are competing for the same things, like good jobs. They say that to be successful, a person has to **work like a dog**. This means they have to work very, very hard. Such hard work can make people **dog-tired**. And, the situation would be even worse if they became sick as a dog.

Still, people say **every dog has its day**. This means that every person enjoys a successful period during his or her life. To be successful, people often have to learn new skills. Yet, some people say that you can never teach an old dog new tricks. They believe that older people do not like to learn new things and will not change the way they do things.

Some people are compared to dogs in bad ways. People who are unkind or uncaring can be described as meaner than a **junkyard dog**. Junkyard dogs live in places where people throw away things they do not want. Mean dogs are often used to guard this property. They bark or attack people who try to enter the property. However, sometimes a person who appears to be mean and threatening is really not so bad. We say **his bark is worse than his bite**.

A junkyard is not a fun place for a dog. Many dogs in the United States sleep in safe little houses near their owners' home. These doghouses provide shelter. Yet they can be cold and lonely in the winter.



Husbands and wives use this doghouse term when they are angry at each other. For example, a woman might get angry at her husband for coming home late or forgetting their wedding anniversary. She might tell him that he is in the doghouse. She may not treat him nicely until he apologizes. However, the husband may decide that it is best to leave things alone and not create more problems. He might decide to **let sleeping dogs lie**.

Dog expressions also are used to describe the weather. **The dog days of summer** are the hottest days of the year. A rainstorm may cool the weather. But we do not want it to rain too hard. We do not want it to **rain cats and dogs**.

02 精彩译文

您可以参考的中文翻译。

Translation

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美语中很多的习语中都带有“狗”。美国人很喜爱狗，并且善待狗。他们出去遛狗，让狗在户外玩耍，喂他们好吃的并且提供医疗保健，但是，没有主人来照顾的狗过着完全不同的生活。习语**lead a dog's life**（过着狗一样的生活），就表示一个人生活的境况很窘迫。

有人说我们处在一个“狗吃狗”的世界中，这意味着很多人在为同样的目标**dog-eat-dog world**（激烈地竞争着），比如说好工作。他们说一个人想成功的话就需要**work like a dog**（像狗一样奋斗），意思是说他们要工作地非常努力。这种艰苦的工作经常让人**dog-tired**（筋疲力尽），而且要是他们病得很严重的话，事情就更糟了。

尽管如此，人们还是会说：**Every dog has its day**.（人人皆有得意时。）这个习语的意思是每个人都会在他生命中的某段时期享受阶段性的成功。为了取得成功，人们经常会学习新技术，但是，人们常说你不能使守旧的人接受新事物。他们认为年长的人不愿意学习新东西，也不愿意改变生活方式。

有的人会被比作狗的负面意思。刻薄而冷漠的人有时会被描述成比**(junk dog)**更卑劣。

垃圾狗住在人们扔废弃垃圾的地方，恶狗一般都被用来看家护院。如果有人试图盗窃它看守的财产，狗就会大叫或者攻击入侵者。但是，有的人只是似乎看起来似乎很坏，充满危险性，但他实际上并不那么差，我们称这种人**His bark is worse than his bite**.（刀子嘴，豆腐心。）

对于狗来说，垃圾站并不是一个好住处。在美国许多狗都住在主人房子边上的安全小狗窝里。狗窝给了它们一个庇护之所，但是冬天它们仍然会感到寒冷又寂寞。

很多夫妻在生彼此的气时都会使用狗窝这个词，例如，一位女士可能会因为丈夫回家太晚或者忘记了结婚纪念日而十分生气。她会告诉丈夫你去狗窝呆着吧。直到丈夫道歉她才会对他好。但是，丈夫可能会觉得最好不要管这些事，不要无事生非，他可能决定**Let sleeping dogs lie**（息事宁人）。

和狗相关的习语同样会被用来形容天气。夏季的**the dog days of summer**（三伏天）就是一年中最热的那些天。暴风雨可能会让天气凉爽一些，但是我们也不喜欢太大的雨。我们不想要**rain cats and dogs**（瓢泼大雨）。

03 重点再现

这些经典表达应该掌握！

Never Lost Again

1. **lead a dog's life** 过着凄惨的生活 如：He looks so bad recently. I guess he is leading a dog's life.（他最近看起来气色很差，我猜他生活很凄惨。）
2. **dog-eat-dog world** 竞争激烈的世界 如：You had better try your best at school because it is a dog-eat-dog world.（你最好在学校尽最大的努力，因为现在是一个竞争激烈的世界。）



3. work like a dog 努力工作
4. dog-tired 筋疲力尽
5. sick as a dog 病得很严重 如: Jim is in hospital. He is sick as a dog. (吉姆住院了, 他病得很严重。)
6. Every dog has its day. 人人皆有得意时。 如: Mary looks so energetic these days. It is true that every dog has its day. (玛丽这几天看起来精力充沛。看来真的是人人皆有得意时啊。)
7. You can never teach an old dog new tricks. 你不能使守旧的人接受新事物。 如:
A: Why don't you give the new DVD to grandpa?
(你为什么不要把最新的DVD交给爷爷看呢?)
B: Come on! You can never teach an old dog new tricks. He is old-fashioned.
(得了吧! 你不能让守旧的人接受新事物。他比较守旧。)
8. meaner than a junkyard dog 比垃圾场的狗更卑鄙
9. His bark is worse than his bite. 他是刀子嘴豆腐心。 如: Don't take Mike's words seriously. His bark is worse than his bite. (别把麦克的话太当回事, 他是刀子嘴豆腐心。)
10. in the doghouse 受冷遇, 失宠
11. Let sleeping dogs lie 息事宁人 如: Enough is enough! Why not just let sleeping dogs lie? (够了! 为什么不息事宁人呢?)
12. the dog days of summer 三伏天, 夏天最热的日子 如: It is late July now, the dog days of summer. (现在是七月末, 正是最热的三伏天。)
13. rain cats and dogs 下瓢泼大雨 如: Don't go out. It is raining cats and dogs. (别到外面去, 正下瓢泼大雨呢。)





Fireworks “焰火” 也会发怒？



01 VOA小词汇大掌故

多看多记多用，小词汇背后的大知识触手可及。

VOA Words

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The expression firework gets its meaning from the fireworks that people shoot into the sky when they are celebrating a great event. Rockets explode to fill the dark, night sky with bright reds and blues, with yellows and greens and whites.

The expression also means a great show of noisy anger, or something exciting. For example, a defense lawyer in a court trial may become very emotional in arguing with the government lawyer about evidence affecting the accused. The judge finally stops the loud argument and calls the two lawyers forward. He tells them, "I want no more of these fireworks in my courtroom."

Another kind of fireworks can be any event or activity that is especially exciting. One such event is falling in love. If anything can produce fireworks, it is a sweetheart's kiss or the touch of a lover's hand. Often movie or television cartoons show fireworks to represent the excitement of a kiss.

People use the expression fireworks throughout the year. But if you live in the United States and want to see real fireworks, the best time of the year is the Fourth of July, which is Independence Day in the United States. Americans traditionally celebrate their nation's freedom with giant public parties and fireworks at night.

In Washington, for example, large crowds gather near the Washington Monument to listen to music and watch a huge fireworks show. In other cities and smaller towns, local people listen to band concerts and watch fireworks explode in a dark sky.

Many other countries around the world also enjoy the tradition of exploding fireworks on special days. In Australia, the city of Sydney begins each new year with a fireworks show at midnight. China is the birthplace of fireworks. Large fireworks shows were held often during earlier times in China. Now, people use small fireworks to help celebrate weddings and birthdays.

France also has a great fireworks tradition. A large fireworks show always takes place on Bastille Day which celebrates the beginning of the French Revolution. The French city of Cannes holds an international fireworks competition each year in July and August.