

Janet Oates

2020

Can't Live with Cats

For basset horn and narrator

Duration 3 minutes

*Written for and performed/recorded by Sarah Watts and
Jon Iles, for the 'Feed the Hound' project and album*

The text is a conflation and paraphrase of descriptions of dogs awaiting adoption at Battersea dogs and cats (sic) home.



Narrator's script

At the end of each boxed section, leave *approximately* the number of seconds indicated on the right.

Bobby is a large male Saluki cross, aged 2 and a half years. He prefers to live away from the inner city. He can't live with children or other dogs; he can't live with cats.	5
Bobby had a poor start in life; he came to us underweight, scared of loud noises, and showing hostile and possessive behaviours that new owners will need to have experience in dealing with; these behaviours will need management and training and he will need to live in an adult-only home.	6
Bobby has struggled with being left alone, even for very short periods of time, crying and barking constantly; he is likely to need a lot of time and dedication in this area. If his new owners are prepared to give him time and attention, then he will soon settle in.	8
Underneath his anxieties, Bobby has a playful and zoomy nature and loves to bounce around with his doggy pals in the shelter. He will need space; preferably a large private garden, his new owners' full attention, and a patient, consistent routine. He responds well to edible treats!	5
He came to us underweight, scared of loud noises, and showing hostile and possessive behaviours.	2
Bobby has struggled with being left alone, even for very short periods of time, crying and barking constantly.	2
Underneath his anxieties, Bobby has a playful and zoomy nature and loves to bounce around with his doggy pals. His behaviours will need management and training.	3
He can't live with cats.	5
He responds well to edible treats! He has a playful and zoomy nature and loves to bounce around; with management and training, he will soon settle in.	3
He will need space;	3
He can't live with cats.	4
He loves to bounce around	4
He responds well to edible treats!	6
He responds well.	

Performance notes

- The narrator's script may be pre-recorded or performed live.
- The basset horn takes cues from the narration; after the initial precision entry (marked with a double-dashed vertical line) these are approximate (single dashed vertical line), with a leeway of up to a bar in either direction.
- The clarinet part is marked at about crotchet = 120, but may need to be altered for performance with the narrator. The playing should be very free, with phrases played as gestures more than as counted notes. Feel free to change the tempo, and to manipulate the rests, to fit in with the narration as you see fit.
- 'wait' indicates that the narrator is unaccompanied once your phrase has finished, until the next approximate entry.
- If both narration and playing are live, then great freedom may be taken with the tempi, rests, and the pauses in narration, responding to each other.
- Bars 14-18 and 48-9: the hum should be approximately the pitch of the played note, moving around slightly to create distortion.

Can't live with cats

(transposed score)

Janet Oates

Basset Horn in F

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 120$

f

Bobby is a large male Saluki cross, aged two and a half years. He prefers to live away from the inner city. He can't live with children or other dogs; he can't live with cats.

7

B. Hn.

9

B. Hn.

Bobby had a poor start in life: he came to us underweight, scared of loud noises, and showing hostile and possessive behaviours that new owners will need to have experience in dealing with;

13

B. Hn.

HUM,
pitches approx

wait (if necessary!)

HUM,
pitches approx

17

B. Hn.

p

wait (if necessary)

these behaviours will need management and training and he will need to live in an adult-only home.

begin after 'adult only home'.

22

B. Hn.

f *mp* *f* *mp* *pp*

24

B. Hn.

f *hold until about 'left alone'* *wait*

Bobby has struggled with being left alone, even for very short periods of time, crying and barking constantly; he is likely to need a lot of time and dedication in this area.

26

B. Hn.

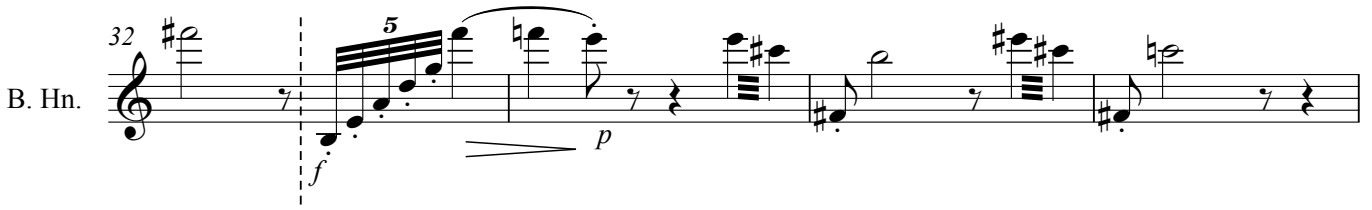
mp *p* *mp* *3*

If his new owners are prepared to give him time and attention, then he will soon settle in.

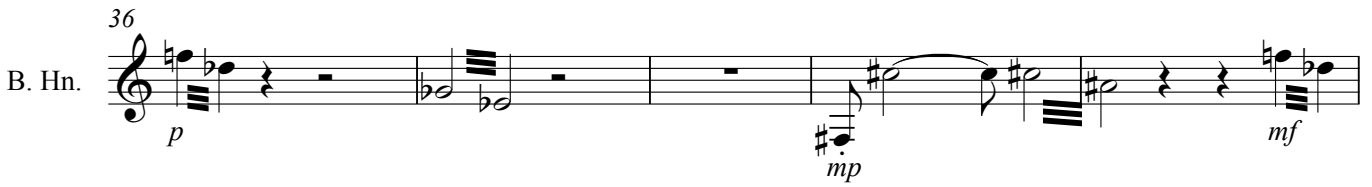
30

B. Hn.

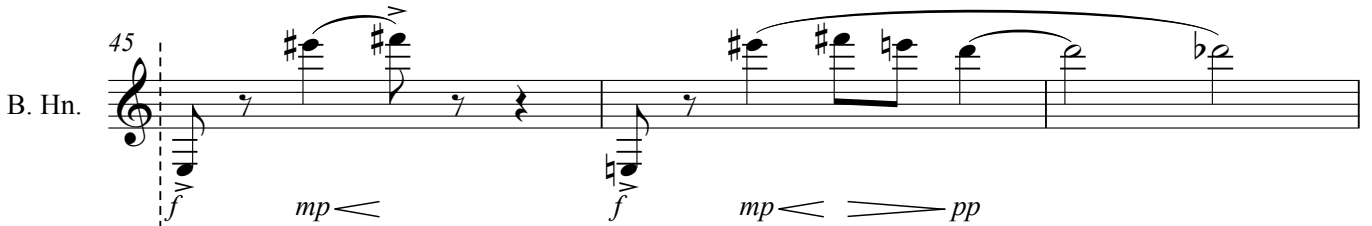
mf *3* *5*

B. Hn. 

Underneath his anxieties, Bobby has a playful and zoomy nature, and loves to bounce around with his doggy pals in the shelter. He will need space, preferably a large garden; his new owners' full attention, and a patient, consistent routine. He responds well to edible treats!

B. Hn. 

B. Hn. 

B. Hn. 

He came to us underweight, scared of loud noises, and showing hostile and possessive behaviours.

B. Hn. 

Bobby has struggled with being left alone, even for very short periods of time, crying and barking constantly.

51 *f* *wait*

Underneath his anxieties, Bobby has a playful and zoomy nature, and loves to bounce around with his doggy pals. His behaviours will need management and training.

*this is during the 2 seconds of silence after 'management and training';
play at a tempo so that you can stop on or before the 'can't' of
'he can't live with cats'*

*leave a beat after 'cats'
before beginning the next bar.*

57 *3*

He can't live with cats.

61 *mp* *mf*

64 *3* *3* *3*

He responds well to edible treats! He has a playful and zoomy nature, and loves to bounce around; with management and training he will soon settle in.

66
B. Hn. *mf* *slowing the tremolo...*
He will need space;

70
B. Hn. *p* *lazily*
he can't live with cats; he loves to bounce around;

76
B. Hn. *tr* *pp* *'ooooh' air sound*
he responds well to edible treats! He responds well.