

ONE CAT-TASTROPHE

By MANDY STADTMILLER

Grumpy Bambi is the odd cat out in the Meow Mix reality show. Photo: Victoria Will



June 22, 2006 -- POOR, poor Bambi.

Of all 10 cat-estants in the Meow Mix House at 49th and Madison, it is the New York tabby that has yet to be adopted. Every other cat-testant, from Nashville's frisky Opry to Miami's streetwise Cisco to even double-pawed Romeo from Los Angeles, has feline-ally found itself a home - or has one on the way.

"Maybe it's the New York thing," says Keith Fernbach, a publicist with Grand Central Marketing, the firm that worked with Meow Mix to develop the concept for the show, airing this summer on Animal Planet. "She's not the most social one in the group."

Some say the cat-dorable cat-estant has yet to be cat-dopted simply because the 7-year-old puss is sporting a little Man-cat-tan meow-titude. And they say it in exactly those words. Every single time.

Our spies say the finicky short-hair has a proclivity for hissing, the occasional swipe and a tendency to just kind of sit on the leopard-print couch and stare.

She also bats things and enjoys string.

"My impression of Bambi is that she would do well in a household that moves at a slower pace," says animal behaviorist to the stars Gleanna Doyle, who, in addition to the Meow Mix House, has worked on "Signs," "Vanilla Sky" and meow-ny, meow-ny more. "You know where I imagine her? I see her with an older man or a woman who sits in their rocking chair and reads and stokes the fire and goes for the three-times-a-day walk and prepares dinner and talks to the cat like my grandmother, when my grandmother was still alive."

But what about the alleged cat-itude?

"I think it's the pressure of all the other cats," Doyle says. "Bambi really has a fabulous, delicious personality. She's sweet and affectionate and kind of funny and really has a sense of humor, you know?"

Cat-totally.

"She's got beautiful red tones and is very, very pretty," adds ASPCA vice president Gail Buchwald in New York, where interested adopters can call (212) 876-7700, ext. 4120, to inquire about taking Bambi home. "She starts out a bit shy, but once she warms up, she's a complete cuddlebug."