

Pica Cat

Cats sleep for at least 18 of 24 hours
It's the those 5 or 6 hours you have to worry about
When Paqui is awake he chews objects when he is bored
He is bored for at least 3 of his waking hours

Not knowing of his inclination to eat non-food items
I found some objects he had swallowed and then spit back up:
a rubber band
a 3 inch length of curled plastic
an elastic hair tie

Hard to believe he was able to ingest so many items
That same day he became sluggish and unresponsive

Of course I had to take him to the vet
Of course it was Friday
Of course they told me to take him to a vet hospital
Of course the cost soars on weekends
Of course it was during the worst storm in decades

After the doctor examined him he told me
there appeared to be an obstruction
He articulated a 6 step plan:

- xray
- hydration
- overnight stay
- a second xray
- more hydration
- surgery

The cost was \$7,000
which I said I didn't have
and agreed to the first 4 steps

I drove home praying the weather would permit me to return the next day
and that he would be OK
that I could afford his treatment
I thought about euthanasia

The next morning they believed the obstruction had passed
The weather held and I took him home
after I paid the bill

Paqui went to sleep
until he woke up
bored