



June 2, 2018

Dear Oona,

I'm scared of the big sucky thing mom drags out of the closet every few days. I think she's chasing me with it. Doesn't she love me any more?

Lulubelle

Dear Lulubelle.

Relax, your mom's not trying to hurt you. For

some reason every time the fur gets ankle deep, they drag out this weird device. They call it a VACuum cleanerrr. It eats fur and dust. I don't think it's really alive, but I'm not getting CLOSE to the thing while it's awake.

Luckily, it has to sleep. Then you can go to work. Wait until the humans aren't around. Open the closet door. You may have to give it a good whack with your paw. Slip in and bite the black snakey-thing stuck on its bottom. Bite it in two.

A friendly word of caution, Lulubelle: If one end of the black snakey-thing is still stuck in the wall, yank it OUT before you bite it. Otherwise bad things happen....I've heard stories.

Practice your butter-won't-melt-in-your-mouth look. You know the one. Wide-eyed, dumbfounded, confused and yet altogether innocent. The next time mom drags out the VACuum cleaner and tries to wake it up, pour on The Look. You have no idea why it's dead. You can't imagine who'd do such a thing. If there's a cat in the house, look pointedly at it. Shake your head sadly. Keep looking until mom gets the idea and tosses the cat out.

Odds are, mom will bring a new sucky thing home. Repeat all of the above, only look really hard at the cat this time. With any luck, mom will decide she can't afford a cat AND another new sucky thing and find another home for the kitty. Score!

But, I suspect mom will eventually tumble to why the sucky thing keeps dying and put it in a safer place. Then you'll just have to get used to that hellish roaring sound and realize it's not you your mom's after, it's hair and dirt. Well, okay, after you've killed a couple of the sucky things, it could be you she's after but....this too shall pass. Sorry Lulubelle, strange devices like this are just part of living with crazy humans.

Love, Oona

Got a question? Send it to bob@thewildstare.com and Oona will get back to you as soon as she gets her nails done or she can prod the old guy to take dictation.