Multipli-cat-ion

What would your life be like if you were a cat instead of a kid? In some ways, it would be just the same. You’d still need a good home with people who love and take care of you. But in other ways, things would change a lot. Want to know more? Do the math!

1. Your heart would beat as many as ___ (70x2) times a minute—twice as fast as it does now. According to Richard Torregrossa, author of Fun Facts About Cats, you’d be “love on ___ (12÷3) legs.”

2. About ___ (4x4) hours of your day would be spent sleeping. (And you’d appreciate a warm, cozy bed, like the rest of your family.) Of course, you’d be wide awake most of the night.

3. Your night vision would be ___ (36÷6) times sharper than it is now.

4. Your doctor bills would be about ___ (10x8) bucks a year.

5. You wouldn’t have to turn your head to hear someone calling you. You’d just move your ears in the direction of the voice. Sneaking up on you would be tricky, because you could hear footsteps from more than ___ (40x5) feet away.

6. You’d spend at least ___ (21÷7) hours a day keeping yourself neat and clean. Forget the soap and washcloth; all you’d need is your tongue and some spit.

7. If you were kept safe indoors, you could live to be ___ (5x3) years old or more. You wouldn’t celebrate birthdays with a cake, but that’s okay. You’d like your cat treats better anyway.

8. The people you lived with would probably risk their lives to save you. In a recent survey, ___ (51+32) out of 100 pet owners said they would.

9. You would have the same number of teeth as grownup people do: ___ (8x4).

10. There’s a good chance you’d have a human name, like Samantha or Jake. More than ___ (10x5) percent of all cats do.

Let’s say you woke up this morning to the usual sights and sounds in your home. Except overnight you turned into a cat! On the back, write a short story about a day in your life.