

## **Look Before You Leap**

The people who take care of me give me everything I need, except for one thing – I'm not allowed to go out during the day. The only time I am free, is at night. I like to jump from garden to garden, and leap from wall to wall. I think what I do is called parkour, and I'm good at it.

Take last night for example...

The moment they came home, I dashed outside, and bounded over a few garden walls, before jumping onto the pavement where my street turned a corner. I startled a big strong dog, and it started to bark and growl at me, so quickly I decided to cross the road. I was crossing the road cautiously, when suddenly, glaring car headlights turned round the sharp corner at the end of my street! The car was coming straight for me! Without thinking, I darted to the left, and accidentally hit the aggressive dog! It snapped at my face, the owner trying to hold it back.

There was no garden to hide in, it was just a narrow alley, with high walls! I was trapped, I couldn't go backwards I would just hit the wall, and I certainly couldn't go forwards- the dog would surely hurt me! There was only one way out of this, I leaped over the dog and rocketed out of the alley! The dog was still barking at me when I looked back over my shoulder, and the owner was losing control. The dog raced towards me, as the owner let go of the lead and fell backwards! I ran faster than ever, I turned a corner, then round another, then another! I looked over my shoulder again, the dog was catching up with me! I noticed a fire escape outside a block of flats, so I bounded up the stairs, two at a time, before stopping to see the dog barking at the bottom of the flight of stairs.

Phew! That was lucky! I sat down at the top of the stairs to catch my breath. After a few minutes the dog gave up and padded back to his owner. Slowly, I made my way up the fire escape, until I reached the top of the block of flats. I looked over the city, but didn't recognise it, I looked around a little more before realising that I was completely lost! It was starting to get cold outside. I will retrace my steps, I thought. In one swift movement, I jumped from the fire escape, relieved as I landed safely on my feet. There are garden walls, familiar walls, I balance along them, trying to find home.

"Smokey!" it was my owner! I followed his voice home, and rushed into the house. He gently scratched me behind the ear, before running his fingers through my soft black fur, as I tucked into my favourite cat food.