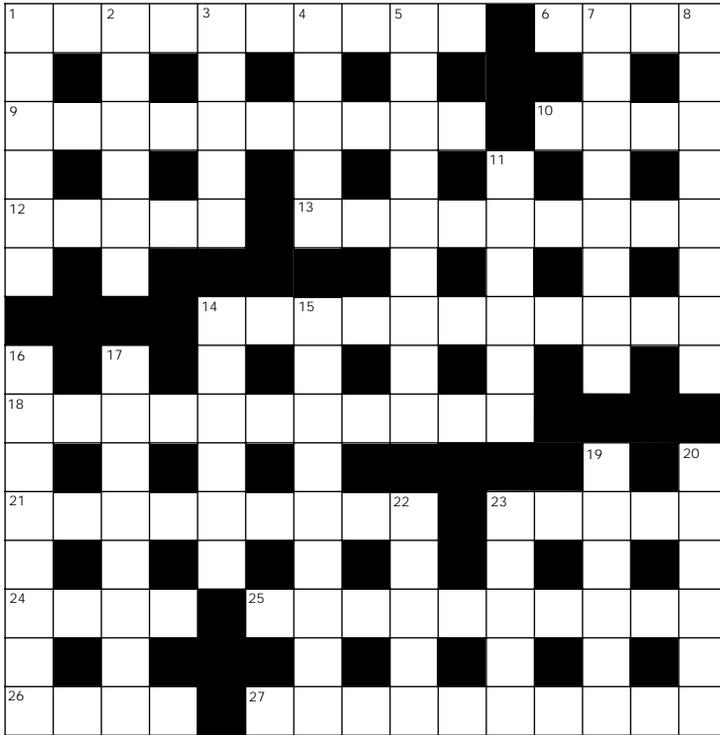


Cryptic Crossword

By Brit Ray



REIGNING CATS AND DOGS



For those of you who can't make heads or tails of cryptics, here are some sample clues. The first or last word or phrase always provides a literal definition. *Listen as padded feet hesitate* (5) is a homophone clue, with *listen* as the homophone indicator and *pause* as the answer. For the answer to be *paws*, the clue might be: *Padded feet hesitate, we hear* (4). Here is a container clue: *Inquisitive spy has no ring* (6). The answer is *Snoopy*, which means inquisitive: S (no + o)PY. Try this for a reversal clue: *Silly person throws back fish* (1,3). The answer, *a nut*, is *tuna* backwards. Most clues involve anagrams:

Ever re-stir concoction for large dogs? (10). The anagram indicator is *concoction*, and the answer is *retrievers*. Another anagram: *Plant can tip over* (6). The answer is *catnip*, the anagram indicator is *over*. One more container: *Fool caught in prevarication is a dog* (6). The answer is *L(ass)IE*. Watch for puns, hidden words, deletions, charades, and abbreviations. One of the answers has a variant spelling. Answer to last issue's puzzle appears on page 87.

ACROSS

1. Man in opera upset little dog (10)
6. Jazz players alter acts (4)
9. End of bigger bears, deer—strange, unusual animals (4,6)
10. Spot destroyed mail (4)
12. What cat does when dog is heard (5)
13. Sassy head and tail, svelter make-over for "Puddy Tat" (9)
14. Pace roan, but change to strut (6,5)
18. Give rating to Disney film for nobility
21. Enthusiast has in with backer (9)
23. Cat is X-file mutation (5)
24. Exhibiting terrier in Ireland (4)
25. Manic angel concocted evil (10)
26. Deity took back Original Sin from some animals (4)
27. A prince sat around with furry pet (7,3)

DOWN

1. Stir up trouble for perfectionist (6)
2. Roll back title after second half of *Glamor Puss* (6)
3. Note vehicle in puzzle with pictures (5)
4. Wants massages, we hear (5)
5. Ms. di Lammermoor after a prosecutor in southern Spain (9)
7. Providing a home; freedom to choose after announcement (8)
8. Soak rodent in saute mixture (8)
11. Pups have almost all Daisy's features (6)
14. Right to invention is obvious (6)
15. Accommodate cat; malice reprehensible (9)
16. Great bark stirs idle cat (8)
17. No return in liking jungle ruler (8)
19. 150 in middle of rich outpatient facility (5)
20. Pet Rex exercising for judge (6)
22. Comes down and holds sway (6)
23. Audience kinda likes Jane (5)