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A MOST REMARKABLE CAT

By Kathleen Adams

Because George Eliot is buried in London's Highgate Cemetery the Fellowship is a member of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery who care for this vast burial area. We receive a regular newsletter from the Friends which recently reported that Domino, the cemetery cat, liked to accompany visitors. On one occasion some time ago Domino accompanied a party to the huge Karl Marx memorial in the Western Cemetery. One of the party expressed a wish to see the grave of George Eliot if it was not too far away. Domino turned and led them straight to the grave which is very close to Karl Marx.

Some time later the Friends newsletter reported that Domino was not at all well and an appointment had been made for a visit to the vet. On the day Domino was nowhere to be found so someone phoned the vet with an apology and made a second appointment. On that day Domino was missing again. An embarrassing phone call was made to the vet, apologizing again for the absence of Domino. The vet assured the caller not to worry; Domino himself had kept the appointment, walking to the vet's practice over busy roads. We are assured that both stories are quite true.

Sadly, Domino died despite generous help towards her treatment. But she will not be forgotten. The cemetery's monumental mason, Neil Luxton, had donated a small memorial plaque which has been installed at the spot where Domino would wait to accompany visitors on the Western Cemetery tours. The inscription reads:

On one night, reft of her strength
She lay down and died at length.
Softly, softly must you tread
To not disturb her narrow bed.

It is ended by a trail of paw prints. The lines come from a poem by Christina Rossetti who is buried in the family grave in the same cemetery. What an apt choice.

So, remarkable and amazing Domino – R.I. P.