

Cameron gets on ‘purr-fectly’ well with his cat

LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron’s office denied yesterday that his family has no love for Larry, the Downing Street cat. Following claims in a new book that Cameron acquiring the cat was little more than a public relations stunt, a ‘savelarry’ hashtag began trending on Twitter. But a spokesman for the Prime Minister dismissed suggestions that Larry was an unloved pet: “Totally untrue. He is liked by everyone in the building and we get on purr-fectly well.”



Larry was acquired after a rat was spotted in two television news bulletins scurrying outside the black door of the Prime Minister’s residence in central London. However, his efficiency has been regularly called into question and it took him a few months to make his first confirmed kill. Reports have made him out as a cat more interested in snoozing than putting the frighteners on inner-city rodents.

The Downing Street website says Larry has “captured the hearts of the Great British public. The nation sends him gifts and treats daily. Larry spends his days greeting guests to the house, inspecting security defences and testing antique furniture for napping quality. His day-to-day responsibilities also include contemplating a solution to the mouse occupancy of the house. Larry says this is still ‘in tactical planning stage’.”

There have been resident cats on the prowl in Downing Street since the 1920s. They have even been given the title of chief mouser to the Cabinet Office and put on the payroll.

Times of Oman, 2013

Tekst 3

- 1p 3 Why was a cat brought to live at Downing Street, according to the text?
- A to boost the popularity of David Cameron
 - B to get rid of vermin on the premises
 - C to honour a tradition that started last century
 - D to promote a publication about David Cameron
 - E to support a campaign for animal shelters
- 1p 4 How can the tone of this article be characterised?
- A as amazed
 - B as concerned
 - C as light-hearted
 - D as serious

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.