



THE WHISKERED GAZETTE

All The News That Fits



Articles

LEAD STORY	2
THE MONOCLE REPORT	3
THE WATCH REPORTS	3
FROM THE FLOWERBED	5
ASK LENA.....	5
BARNEY’S BIT	6
THE FOX PRESENTS: STRATEGIC INSIGHTS	7
HELEN FROM HR/OD PRESENTS: THE TEMPERATURE CHECK	8
WEATHER.....	9
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....	10
FROM THE EDITOR	11
CONTRIBUTORS.....	11
CLASSIFIEDS.....	12
THE WASTE PAPER BASKET	12



LEAD STORY

Mandatory Training Offensive Begins; Cats Brace for Impact



Picture 1: Ophelia — Ophelia monitors early signs of Training Panic with calm investigative precision.

By Ophelia, Junior Reporter

Mandatory training has descended upon the newsroom like a large, unexpected cloud. The humans have been instructed to complete a series of modules with titles such as “*Essential Awareness*,” “*Core Competency Foundations*,” and “*Understanding the Importance of Understanding*.”

None of these titles have clarified anything.

The first signs of disruption appeared early on Monday morning, when a human attempted to launch a training module and immediately froze, staring at the loading wheel as though it were delivering a personal prophecy. Another human clicked “Next” twelve times in rapid succession, despite nothing on the screen changing. This behaviour has been classified as **Training Panic**.

The Reporting Pillar is humming in a tone described as “compliance-adjacent.”

The mint patch reports a rise in muttering.

The hydrangea has adopted a posture of patient resignation.

Cats have responded to the situation with a mixture of curiosity and disdain.

Hector observed a human attempting to complete a module while simultaneously stroking him.

Neither activity was successful.

Mr Whiskers reviewed a training slide and declared it “structurally confused.”

Barney received two biscuits from a human who passed a section labelled “*Reflective Pause*.”

He has since become very supportive of training.

The squirrel has begun auditing completion rates.

It has buried three documents labelled **CONFIDENTIAL** and one labelled **PROBABLY IMPORTANT**.

No one has asked it to do this.

A human was seen attempting to complete a module titled “*Digital Awareness Essentials*.”

The module froze.

The human froze.

The module unfroze.

The human did not.

This is considered normal.

If your human is clicking repeatedly, sighing loudly, or whispering “Why is it still loading?” into the void, do not be alarmed.

This is simply the natural consequence of mandatory training.

Approach gently.

Blink softly.

Sit nearby.

Avoid the squirrel, who is now carrying a clipboard.

Further updates will follow as the situation develops, or as soon as the Reporting Pillar stops humming in a tone best described as “administratively overwhelmed.”

With steady observation,

Ophelia



THE MONOCLE REPORT



Picture 2: Mr Whiskers confronts a password-rejecting laptop with dignified outrage.

On the Nature of Mandatory Training and the Decline of Dignity

By Mr Whiskers, Senior Columnist

I have undertaken a comprehensive review of the mandatory training modules currently plaguing the newsroom. I approached this task with my usual dignity. The modules did not.

The first module I inspected was titled “Core Competency Foundations.” It presented three overlapping circles labelled **Awareness**, **Understanding**, and **Enhanced Understanding**. The circles overlap with a recklessness I have not witnessed since 1978.

I stared at the diagram for several seconds, waiting for it to reveal meaning. It did not. It merely sat there, smugly overlapping.

Another module encouraged humans to “reflect meaningfully.” A human attempted this beside me. They stared at the screen, sighed, and then attempted to stroke my head with the distracted air of someone who had forgotten what meaning is. The stroke lacked intention, direction, and basic respect.

I have prepared a chart to illustrate the situation. It contains:

- a rising line representing human confusion
- a falling line representing human confidence

- a loop representing the moment a module freezes
- and a small star representing me, because I am the only element of stability in this organisation

The chart is flawless.

The training is not.

One slide contained the sentence: “Engage proactively with the concept of engagement.”

I read it twice. It became worse.

A human attempted the module “Digital Awareness Essentials.”

The module froze. The human froze. I did not freeze.

I simply blinked slowly, the way one does when witnessing something beneath one’s station.

Mandatory training has introduced a phenomenon I classify as **Competency Drift** — the moment a human begins a module with confidence and ends it staring into the middle distance, reconsidering their entire existence.

I urge humans to stop attempting training modules that insult us all.

With dignified exasperation,

Mr Whiskers

THE WATCH REPORTS



Picture 3: Ophelia documents a human exhibiting classic Competency Drift..



Issue Nine

Observations from the Newsroom During Mandatory Training

By Ophelia, Junior Reporter

Activity levels across the newsroom have shifted noticeably since the arrival of mandatory training. Humans are moving with the particular tension of individuals attempting to complete modules they did not choose and do not understand.

Loading Wheel Behaviour

Several humans have been observed staring at loading wheels with the expression of someone awaiting a verdict. One human whispered, "Please," at the screen. The screen did not respond.

Click Patterns

Clicking has become erratic. Some humans click once and wait. Others click repeatedly, as though attempting to encourage the module through sheer determination.

One human clicked "Next" twelve times in rapid succession. Nothing happened.

Training Posture

Training posture has deteriorated. Humans are slumped, leaning, folded, or draped over chairs in ways that suggest emotional surrender.

A cat sat on a keyboard during a module titled "*Digital Awareness Essentials*." This improved nothing but morale.

Slide Reactions

A slide containing three overlapping circles caused visible confusion.

A human frowned at it for so long that Hector eventually left the room out of second-hand embarrassment.

Reflective Pause Events

The "Reflective Pause" sections have produced mixed results.

One human stared out of the window.

Another sighed deeply. Barney received two biscuits.

Squirrel Activity

The squirrel has acquired a clipboard.

It is unclear who gave it the clipboard.

It is unclear why it needed the clipboard.

It is now conducting audits.

General Atmosphere

The Reporting Pillar is humming in a tone that could be described as spiritually exhausted.

The hydrangea has adopted a posture of patient endurance.

Cats are watching the proceedings with a mixture of curiosity and disdain.

Further observations will follow as modules continue to load, freeze, unfreeze, and emotionally destabilise the humans attempting them.

With steady attention,

Ophelia



FROM THE FLOWERBED



Picture 4: Lena observes password-related despair from her sunbeam-based vantage point.

Greetings once again from the flowerbed, where the soil is warm, the mint is fragrant, and the humans are behaving in ways that can only be described as administratively unsettled. Mandatory training has begun, and the garden has noticed the consequences.

The first sign of disruption arrived early on Monday morning, when a human walked past the hydrangea muttering, “Why is it still loading?” The hydrangea was so startled it briefly considered adjusting its posture. Another human stepped outside, paused, and then wandered in a small, uncertain loop, as though trying to remember which module they had abandoned. This behaviour is classified as **Training Drift**.

The mint patch has been observing the humans closely. It reports that tea-making times have become unpredictable. One human prepared tea, placed the mug down, and immediately forgot it while attempting a section titled “*Reflective Pause*.” The mug was left outside. The garden has adopted it.

Mandatory training has also affected footsteps. They are hesitant now. Soft, but uncertain. Like creatures approaching a mysterious object that might ask them to “engage proactively.”

The Reporting Pillar, visible from the flowerbed, is humming in a tone that implies it has seen too much. It has not moved, but it is thinking about it.

Stroking has resumed, though in distracted, intermittent quantities. A human attempted

to stroke Hector while simultaneously clicking “Next,” which resulted in neither a successful module nor a satisfactory stroke. Even Ophelia received a pat accompanied by a sigh that drifted across the garden like a small, confused breeze.

If your human is pacing, muttering, or staring at their screen with the expression of someone trying to unlock ancient training wisdom, do not be alarmed. This is simply the natural aftermath of mandatory learning. Approach gently. Blink softly. Sit nearby. Avoid the squirrel, who is currently conducting what it calls a “readiness review.”

I will continue observing the humans from the flowerbed and report any further developments, especially if routines stabilise or if the mint patch becomes smug again.

With quiet rustles,

Lena

ASK LENA

Advice from the Flowerbed

Q: Dear Lena, my human keeps saying “I’ll do the training later,” but later never arrives. Should I intervene?

A: Approach gently. Humans often believe “later” is a place they can visit. It is not. It is a myth, like tidy inboxes or sensible passwords. Sit nearby and blink reassuringly. If they begin muttering at the loading wheel, offer emotional support by existing calmly. Avoid the squirrel, who is currently conducting “readiness assessments.”

Q: Lena, my human completed one module and immediately announced they



Issue Nine

were “done forever.” They are not. How do I break this news?

A: Do not break anything. Humans are fragile during training season. Instead, sit beside them and emit a steady presence. Eventually, the Reporting Pillar will hum in a tone that reminds them there are twelve more modules. They will realise this on their own. You need only supervise.

Q: My human sighed so loudly during a slide about ‘Enhanced Awareness’ that the hydrangea flinched. Is this normal?

A: Entirely. Training slides often contain phrases that cause emotional turbulence. If the sigh drifts across the garden like a confused breeze, simply let it pass. The hydrangea will recover. Offer it a moment of quiet solidarity.

Q: Lena, my human attempted a “Reflective Pause” and instead wandered outside, placed their mug down, and forgot it. The garden has adopted it. Should I return it?

A: No. The mug has chosen a new life. The garden will care for it. Your human will make another one soon, possibly during a moment of training avoidance. This is the natural cycle.

Q: My human keeps clicking ‘Next’ even when nothing is happening. Should I be worried?

A: Not at all. This is a common symptom of **Training Drift**. Humans believe that clicking repeatedly will encourage the module to behave. It will not. Sit nearby. Blink softly. The module will eventually unfreeze, or the human will wander away to make tea.

With quiet rustles,

Lena

BARNEY'S BIT



Picture 5: Barney, Biscuit Correspondent, evaluating training-related biscuit distribution.

By Barney, Biscuit Correspondent

Hello. It is Barney.

I have been monitoring the humans during mandatory training, and I have made an important discovery:

Training produces biscuits.

I did not know this.

I do now.

I am very supportive of training.

The first biscuit arrived when a human completed something called a “*Reflective Pause*.” They stood up, looked confused, and handed me a biscuit as though I had personally assisted. I accepted this interpretation.

Later, another human finished a section titled “*Core Competency Foundations*.” They sighed, muttered something about circles, and gave me **two** biscuits. I have concluded that circles are good.

I attempted to sit beside a human during a module called “*Digital Awareness Essentials*.” The module froze. The human froze. I did not freeze. I simply waited politely. Eventually, the human gave me a biscuit for “emotional support.” I provided more emotional support immediately.



Issue Nine

I have also noticed that humans click “Next” many times.

Sometimes nothing happens.

Sometimes something happens.

Sometimes they give me a biscuit.

This is the best outcome.

The squirrel has a clipboard now.

It tried to offer me a walnut.

I declined.

I am a biscuit professional.

In summary:

Mandatory training is confusing for humans, but extremely promising for me. I will continue to monitor biscuit distribution closely and provide updates as required.

With crumbs,

Barney

Morale Correspondent

THE FOX PRESENTS: STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

I Invented Mandatory Training (You’re Welcome)



Picture 6: The Fox presenting his visionary chart of arrows, loops, and self-appointed brilliance.

By The Fox, Senior Confidence Officer

Greetings, readers.

It is I, The Fox, returning once more to illuminate the world with my unparalleled expertise. You may have noticed that humans across the newsroom are currently trapped in mandatory training modules. I would like to clarify something important:

I invented mandatory training.

Yes. All of it.

The modules, the slides, the reflective pauses, the circles that overlap for no reason — these are my creations. Some say the modules are confusing. I say they are *visionary*.

The first training module I ever designed was titled “*Advanced Awareness of Awareness*.” It contained a single slide with a picture of me looking thoughtful. Humans stared at it for several minutes, waiting for instructions. The instructions were: **be more like me.**

Another of my innovations is the loading wheel.

Humans believe it indicates progress.

It does not.

It indicates contemplation.

Specifically, my contemplation.

I also invented the “Reflective Pause.”

This was originally intended as a moment for humans to reflect on my greatness. Instead, they wander outside, forget their mugs, and sigh at plants. This is not the intended outcome, but I admire their enthusiasm.

Recently, I reviewed a module titled “*Digital Awareness Essentials*.” It froze. I did not.

I simply nodded, because freezing is part of the learning journey. Humans should thank me for this opportunity to grow emotionally.

The squirrel has acquired a clipboard and claims it is conducting audits. This is adorable. I invented audits too.

In summary:



Issue Nine

Mandatory training is a gift I have bestowed upon the humans. If they are confused, overwhelmed, or staring into the middle distance, that simply means the training is working.

You're welcome.

With intellectual magnificence,

The Fox

HELEN FROM HR/OD PRESENTS: THE TEMPERATURE CHECK



Picture 7: Helen unveils diagrams that defy all recognised forms of measurement.

By Helen, HR Liaison and Reluctant Thermometer

Good afternoon, colleagues.

As part of my ongoing commitment to monitoring the emotional climate of the organisation, I have conducted a **Training Temperature Check**. The results are, in a word, warm. In two words, **warm and unstable**.

General Mood

The overall training temperature currently sits at **38°C**, which is medically concerning and administratively expected. Humans

attempting mandatory modules exhibit symptoms including:

- prolonged staring
- clicking without purpose
- sighing that causes nearby plants to wilt
- sudden declarations of "I'm done" (they are not)

Module-Specific Readings

Core Competency Foundations

Temperature: **37.8°C**

This module produced a spike in forehead touching and one incident of "circle confusion."

Hydrangea exposure recommended.

Digital Awareness Essentials

Temperature: **39.1°C**

This module froze three times and one human. The human has since thawed. The module has not.

Reflective Pause

Temperature: **37.5°C**

Humans wandered outside, placed mugs down, and forgot them. The garden has adopted two new items. This is considered stable.

Behavioural Indicators

Footsteps have become hesitant, as though humans fear the next slide may ask them to "engage proactively."

One human attempted to complete training while stroking Hector. Neither task was successful.



Issue Nine

The Reporting Pillar is humming in a tone best described as “administratively fatigued.”

Squirrel Activity

The squirrel has acquired a clipboard and is conducting what it calls a “readiness review.”

It has not been trained.

It is very confident.

Recommendations

- Approach training slowly, like a suspicious cat approaching a new cushion.
- Hydrate.
- Avoid clicking “Next” more than ten times in a row.
- If you begin muttering at the loading wheel, step away and breathe near a plant.
- Do not engage with the squirrel unless absolutely necessary.

I will continue monitoring the situation and provide updates if temperatures rise, fall, or begin humming.

Warm regards,

Helen

WEATHER



Picture 8: The Gazette Weather Station humming in a compliance-adjacent atmospheric state.

WINDOWSILL WEATHER

Severe Training Conditions Expected Across the Region

By The Weather Desk

A **Training Front** has moved in from the east, bringing with it high levels of administrative humidity and scattered emotional turbulence.

General Outlook

Expect **heavy sighs** throughout the morning, increasing to **persistent muttering** by mid-afternoon. Visibility may be reduced by humans staring into the middle distance while attempting *Digital Awareness Essentials*.

Temperature

The ambient temperature will feel warmer than usual due to the collective heat generated by loading wheels. Training temperatures remain elevated, with peaks of **39°C** recorded during modules containing overlapping circles.

Wind

Light breezes will drift across the newsroom, caused primarily by humans exhaling in frustration. A stronger gust may occur if a module freezes unexpectedly.



Issue Nine

Precipitation

There is a **40% chance of tea spillages**, particularly during Reflective Pause events. Mug abandonment remains at **amber alert**.

Squirrel Conditions

The squirrel is currently issuing its own weather warnings. These are not recognised by any meteorological authority. Avoid engaging unless you enjoy unsolicited audits.

Garden Forecast

The hydrangea is braced for further sigh-related disturbances. The mint patch reports stable smugness. Two mugs remain adopted.

Advice for Cats

- Approach humans gently
- Blink reassuringly
- Avoid keyboards during high-freeze periods
- Do not attempt to interpret training diagrams

Summary

Unsettled conditions expected until mandatory training passes or humans abandon their modules entirely and go outside to stare at clouds.

From Mint Patch (Collective Statement)

“We have observed humans pacing. This is new.”

Editor: Training season affects everyone. Even roots.

From Anonymous (but clearly the Fox)

“If humans are confused, that means the training is working. You’re welcome.”

Editor: We know it’s you. Please stop signing things “Anonymous Genius.”

From Management Accounts

“We refuse to complete any module containing overlapping circles. It is unreasonable.”

Editor: Agreed. The circles are hostile.

From Pigeon #7 (F.L.A.P. Delegate)

“We request exemption from mandatory training due to wing-related limitations.”

Editor: Exemption granted. Please stop landing on the keyboard during modules.

From A Human (Name withheld)

“My module froze. I froze. The cat did not. Is this normal?”

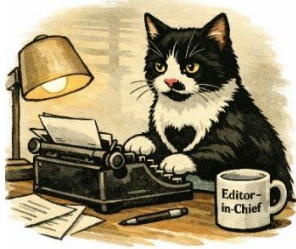
Editor: Entirely. The cat is the only stable element in this organisation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A selection of correspondence received, reopened, or rediscovered after being ignored during month-end



FROM THE EDITOR



Picture 9: Hector supervises the newsroom with calm editorial disappointment at mandatory training.

By Hector, Editor-in-Chief

Colleagues, readers, and anyone currently trapped in a loading wheel,

Mandatory training has arrived, and the newsroom is behaving accordingly. I have witnessed humans muttering at screens, clicking “Next” with increasing desperation, and attempting to complete modules while stroking cats. None of these activities have produced satisfactory results.

The Reporting Pillar is humming.

The squirrel has acquired a clipboard.

Barney has become a biscuit opportunist.

Mr Whiskers has declared the training “an erosion of civilisation.”

Ophelia is documenting everything with her usual calm.

Lena has adopted two mugs.

As Editor-in-Chief, I would like to reassure readers that the Gazette remains operational, even if several humans are currently experiencing **Competency Drift**. We will continue to report, observe, blink, and supervise, regardless of how many circles overlap on training slides.

If your human is sighing, staring, or wandering outside during a Reflective Pause, please remain patient. Training season is temporary. Cats are eternal.

With steady leadership and mild exasperation,

Hector

CONTRIBUTORS

Ophelia — Lead Reporter

Calm observer of chaos. Has documented twelve loading wheels, three Reflective Pauses, and one human attempting training while holding a cat. Remains serene.

Mr Whiskers — Senior Columnist

Pompous, dignified, and deeply offended by overlapping circles. Claims mandatory training is “an erosion of civilisation.” Has prepared a chart featuring himself.

Lena — Garden Correspondent

Reports from the flowerbed with gentle concern. Has adopted two mugs. Believes humans are experiencing Training Drift. Hydrangea confidante.

Barney — Biscuit Correspondent

Has discovered that training produces biscuits. Very supportive of training. Declined a walnut from the squirrel. Professional.

The Fox — Strategic Visionary (Self-Appointed)

Claims he invented mandatory training, loading wheels, audits, and competence. Has submitted three unsolicited manifestos. None were requested.

Helen — HR Liaison

Monitors the emotional temperature of the newsroom. Currently reading at 38°C and rising. Advises hydration and avoidance of the squirrel.

The Squirrel — Head of Audit (Self-Declared)



Issue Nine

Now has a clipboard. Conducting “readiness reviews.” Cannot be stopped. Cannot be redirected. Very organised.

The Reporting Pillar — Possibly Sentient

Humming in a compliance-adjacent tone. Observing everything. Thinking about moving.

CLASSIFIEDS

Lost, Found, and Questionably Important Notices

LOST — Sense of Competence Misplaced somewhere between “Core Competency Foundations” and “Digital Awareness Essentials.” If found, please return to any human. They all claim it was theirs.

FOUND — Clipboard Currently in possession of the squirrel. He will not give it back. He has declared himself “Head of Readiness.”

NOTICE — Training Wheel Advisory Loading wheels are now considered a meteorological event. Please seek shelter if three appear at once.

AVAILABLE — Mug (Unclaimed) Discovered near the hydrangea during a Reflective Pause. Garden has adopted it but is willing to negotiate custody.

REQUEST — Emotional Support Cat Human seeks calm feline presence during mandatory modules. Must tolerate sighs, muttering, and repeated clicking. Payment in biscuits negotiable.

WARNING — Overlapping Circles A diagram containing three circles has been spotted confusing humans. Approach with caution. Do not attempt interpretation without supervision.

IT SERVICES UPDATE Training modules may freeze. Humans may freeze. Cats will not freeze. Please plan accordingly.

FACILITIES The Reporting Pillar is humming again. Tone described as “administratively strained.”

THE WASTEPAPER BASKET

Items retrieved, abandoned, or launched toward the bin during mandatory training

- A training slide titled “**Engage proactively with engagement**” (crumpled with feeling)
- Three abandoned attempts at *Core Competency Foundations* — all featuring circles that overlap in ways that anger Mr Whiskers
- A doodle of a cat labelled “**supervisor**”
- A human’s dramatic scribble: “*I AM DONE FOREVER*” (they were not)
- A biscuit wrapper (Barney denies ownership but was seen nearby)
- A sticky note reading “*Reflect later???*”
- A loading wheel printed out by someone who had clearly given up
- A squirrel-issued “audit ticket” written in acorn shorthand
- A page titled “**Competency Flow**” with an arrow pointing nowhere
- A mug adoption form, unsigned, possibly chewed
- A note that simply says “*Why is it still loading*”
- A page with “*Reflective Pause*” crossed out and replaced with “*Reflective Panic*”