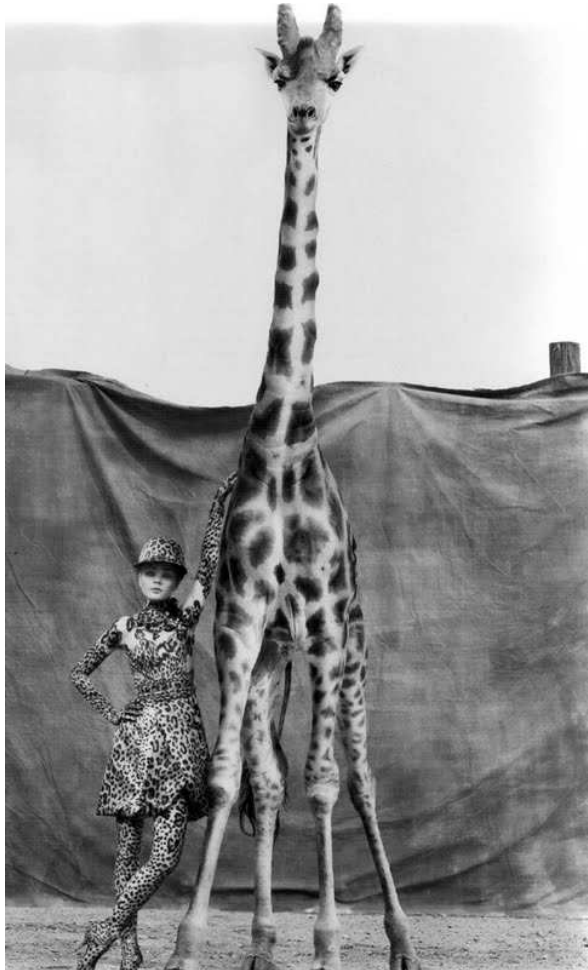


# Fluffy



When Betty took Fluffy, her cat, to the veterinarian for her biennial rabies shot, she sensed that something was just not right. The doctor acted strange, secretive, and shooed the nurse from the room when she tried to assist. Afterward, he waived the \$55 fee, and instead asked Betty to watch Fluffy for any unusual “side effects.” Well, that sounded ominous, but fortunately Fluffy acted perfectly normal ... for exactly one week. Then she began to get bigger. And taller – *much* taller. And this wasn’t a gradual process: Betty actually watched as Fluffy expanded inch by inch before her eyes. Within only an hour she had lost her lap cat status, and soon thereafter her horns (*horns?*) were scraping the ceiling. Her appetite increased, too, and now she craved foot-long cheese dogs, acacia leaves, and the bark of the baobab tree. Betty was reaching up to offer Fluffy a handful of kibble when her formerly gentle pet nipped her with her brand-new razor sharp fangs. And that’s when things *really* began to get strange. Betty’s skin took on a mottled texture, and she, too, began to get taller. Not yet like Fluffy, but a lot less short than she’d been only hours before. What on earth had been in that veterinarian’s needle?!