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James Industries, Inc.  
Beaver Street Extension  
P.O. Box 407  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
ATTN: Slinky

Dear Slinky Masters:

A number of years ago, maybe four or five, I got a Slinky as a gift from a friend. I'm not sure if my friend realized that I lived in a ranch style apartment. When I say "ranch style" I don't mean that I had cows and horses wandering around (although I DID have ducks, they were difficult to lasso and saddle) -- I just mean that I was in a single level building without any stairs. So my slinky sat on a shelf for at least four years or more without use.

About a year ago, in April of 2003, I moved into new apartment with both front AND back stairs. Let me tell you that one of the first things I did when I moved in was to pull out my slinky and dust it off.

You cannot imagine my dismay when, after repeated attempts, my slinky would not work. I tried both sets of stairs, I tried different techniques (starting at the very edge of the step, starting in the middle of the step, starting at the back of the step, starting on the top step, starting on the second to the top step, starting on the third to the top step, starting on the fourth to the top step, starting on the fifth to the top step, starting on the sixth to the top step, starting on the seventh to the top step, starting on the eighth to the top step, starting on the ninth to the top step, starting on the tenth to the top step, starting on the eleventh to the top step, starting on the twelfth to the top step, starting on the bottom step -- I have 13 steps). None of these ideas seemed to work.

I wonder if my problems might be related to my slinky being out of practice? Do they lose their spring step ability over a period of non-use? I have heard about people who lose their muscle tone and abilities if they lay in bed for extended periods of time without moving around. I have also heard that your car battery will go dead if you leave it unused over a winter season without starting it up every now and again. Did my slinky lose its ability to work properly during those four + years without any steps to climb down?

I also wondered if my slinky might have been defective from the beginning, if it might be under warranty? Is there a form I need to fill out in order to replace it?

I see one of the suggested slinky uses shown in the pictures on the box is to wiggle it back and forth between your left and right hands. In fact the box actually says: "Hold SLINKY in both hands, as shown in Fig 2. (The picture I referenced just above!) First move one hand slightly above the other, now shift, raising the other hand to a slightly higher position. See how SLINKY moves as if he were alive." (I had always thought of slinky as an 'it' rather than a 'he').

Anyway, I failed to use my slinky like this during the four year period we were without stairs. I hope I didn't void any warranty by not doing this?!? Can you let me know? I did not see any warnings of this type printed on the box.

Lastly, my friend Enrique and I have a bet. The winner gets a hot oil backrub massage. Our bet is on how the Slinky got its name. I say it comes from the way that the slinky slinks around, like it is on high heels or like a sexy woman who sways her hips when she walks -- she slinks through the room and up the stairs... (Although it is disturbing to think of this origin when your own packaging states "See how SLINKY moves as if **he** were alive" (emphasis added). Slinky is a HE? Walking around in high heels acting like a woman? Woah...

Enrique says slinky is an anagram: Some Like Intimate Nighttime Kinky Yodeling. He always winks at me when he mentions that part and says that it doesn't **have** to be fun for a girl and a boy. He says that he likes nighttime yodeling and asks me if I want to try it. I try to ignore Enrique when he has been drinking. Can you please write back and tell me the true story of how SLINKY got HIS ::wink:: name?

Your box also states at the bottom: "A slight film of oil has been used to protect Slinky. If slightly sticky wipe off with clean cloth." What type of oil do you use? Enrique might be interested in using the actual Slinky oil for the hot oil backrub massage because I KNOW I am going to win our bet!

Sincerely,

*Rusty Lucas*

Rusty Lucas

p.s. Do you have any free promotional baseball caps with a Slinky picture or logo on them? I would **really** like one if you happen to have any. That would be so cool that I would wear it every time I go out to get the Sunday newspaper!