

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2015

www.sabcci.com



The Scratching Post

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SABCCI Committee

Ronnie Brooks, Dionne Dixon, Elizabeth Flood, Hugh Gibney,
Gloria Hehir, Sonia Johnston, Aedamair Kiely, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Lorna Taylor
Membership Secretary - Betty Dobbs



What Is A True Cat?

A true cat prefers your flower bed to her litter box.

A true cat can find and discard the smallest pill in the largest heap of food.

That is why administering a pill to a true cat is a two-person job.
Sometimes a three-person job.

A true cat has hiding places you'll never find.

A true cat abhors doors.

When caught misbehaving a true cat pretends he was doing something else.

A true cat is sociable. He loves parties, especially the hors d'oeuvres.

Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2015 issue of The Scratching Post

So if you're ready, sit back with a Margarett and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

Do you have any photos or articles for the newsletter? Please send them to karen@sabcci.com or gloria@sabcci.com



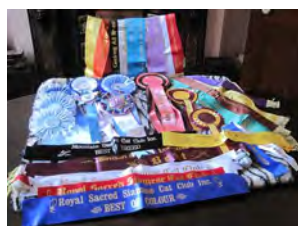
Don't Forget !

SABCCI 62nd Cat Show

Knocklyon Community Centre, Knocklyon Dublin 16 (behind Super Valu)

Open to the Public 12:00 - 5:00
Best in Show Judging 4:00 onwards

See You There!



This year there will be special rosettes attached to the club's relevant trophies. The rosettes are from the Royal Thai Cat Club in Victoria Australia. The club is a Siamese & Oriental club and affiliated with the Governing Council of Cat Fancy of Australia (GCCFV). The club's show in August was on an international theme. They wrote to SABCCI a year ago asking if we would like to exchange rosettes with them. The SABCCI agreed to exchange rosettes.

On the right are the international rosettes at the Royal Thai Show, left the rosettes sent to us for our show and below each of the photos are pictures of the judging at the Australian show.

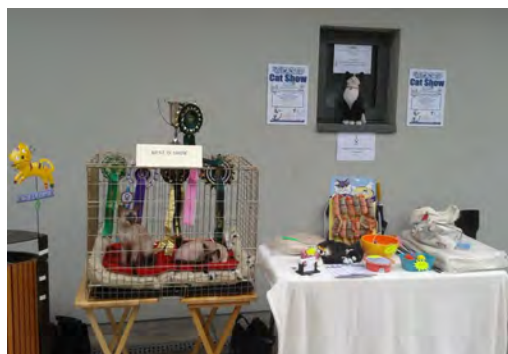


SABCCI at The Ballyroan Fayre

SABCCI took a stall at the Ballyroan Fayre last June. Ballyroan is close to the show hall so although it was many months before our October show, we handed out flyers and business cards with show information. Also as part of SABCCI's 'fund raiser' there were cat toys on sale.

A pen with rosettes and two life like Siamese Statues inside really drew children and adults alike over to the stall giving us a chance to chat with them.

Betty Dobbs, Gloria Hehir, Karen Sluiters and Jim Stephens manned the stall.



Mrs Betty Dobbs being presented with a bouquet by Georgina Goodison, then Chairman GCCFI, on the occasion of Betty's retirement from the position of GCCFI Registrar which she has held since 1998. Betty also received the gift of a garden seat from the GCCFI in recognition of her work on its behalf. Mrs Betty Dobbs is now the President of the GCCFI.



Correction Spring Newsletter - Smokey & Dusty

Felicitas Ward photocopy of Smokey and one of Smokey's kittens Dusty. Dusty lived for 17 years until Dusty was knocked down in 1994 (not 1974 as stated).

Cats are kindly masters, just so long as you remember your place. Paul Gray

The Pedigree - The Ocicat

The Ocicat was an unexpected result of breeding by Virginia Daly in 1964 which attempted to produce a Abypoint Siamese from a Siamese and Abyssinian.. The first Ocicat was Tonga. Mrs. Daly's daughter named the breed Ocicat because of it's resemblance to the ocelot. Later American Shorthairs Silver Tabbies were added to the mix which gives the breed their silver colour and distinctive markings.

There are twelve colours of Ocicats and also come in four spot patterns. Ocicats have almond shaped eyes with a wedged shape head. They have large strong bodies and muscular legs with oval paws. Their coat is short, tight with a satin sheen.

Ocicats are sociable and love people. Their temperament is similar to a dog . They are known to fetch, walk on a leash, come when called, speak, sit and other related dog tricks. Some even take to water. They are very intelligent and learn tricks easily. Puzzle toys are ideal for keeping them entertained. Due to their Siamese ancestor the Ocicat has a tendency to be vocal but not as loud or as demanding.

As Ocicats are very much an 'in your face' breed and want to be in the middle of what is going on they do not like being left alone. Another animal may be a good substitute if you are out of house for most of the day.



Apps For You & Your Cat(s)

There are a lot of apps out there for your cat to enjoy. Below are just a few of them.



Human to Cat Translator - Translates your voice into meows. There are over 175 quality samples from more than 25 cats. This app performs audio analysis on your voice and sends out meows according to your input. Supports all human languages (except Swahili).

Cat Playground (android) - The cat can chase a mouse, fish, or a laser pointer, and earn points for every time he catches it.

Paint for Cats - (iPad) Has a mouse dancing around and off the screen. Every time your cat's paw lands on the screen trying to catch the mouse, a splash of paint gets added on the screen. When the cat is finished painting, frame it.

Catch the Mouse - A simple little cat entertainment game with real mouse sounds. See how many times your cat can catch the mouse. A counter will keep track of your cat's scores.

Game for Cats - (iPad) The basic version includes a glowing laser dot that dances around the screen, tempting the cat to swat it with her paws. The game also keeps track of scores, so you can see how your cat stacks up against others in battle.

Pocket Pond 2 (iPad) - A game for humans but it's also one that many cats like since it has fish in it. Tapping the screen ripples the water and makes many of the fish flit away and move around. You can stock your pond with tons of different kinds of bright coloured fish that are sure to keep your cat entertained.

Magic Piano - An app that was made for humans but its popularity with cats is overwhelming. With lots of songs and levels where shiny droplets fall on the screen for your cat to catch, what's not to like? You can also enter into regular piano modes where your cat can swipe his paws across the screen in order to play the piano.

Crazy Cat - (android) Specifically written for your cat and for you. Crazy Cat has cute animated critters that you can control and your cat chases around on your tablet screen. Scoring with Crazy Cat - the faster the critter is moving when your cat hits it, the higher your pet will score.

Information from sites - Google play, iMore, iTunes,

A computer and a cat are somewhat alike: they both purr, and like to be stroked, and spend a lot of the day motionless. They also have secrets they don't necessarily share. John Updike

The Quiz -



1. A cat has how many whiskers, on average?

- A) 8
- B) 12
- C) 16
- D) 24

2. People have about 650 skeletal muscles.

How many do cats have?

- A) 500
- B) 650
- C) 800

3. Which brain is the cat's brain most similar to?

- A) Dog's
- B) Human's

4. A term for a group of cats is:

- A) Gaggle
- B) Covey
- C) Clutch
- D) Clowder

5. All of the following are the names of cat breeds, except:

- A) Balinese
- B) Beauceron
- C) Birman
- D) Burmilla

6. The thick hair around the face of some cats (such as Persians) is called:

- A) Mane
- B) Ruff
- C) Pelt
- D) Shock

Petsadvisor.com

Answers on page 15



Nekojita (Cat's Tongue) - This is a Japanese word which translates to 'Cat's Tongue' is used to describe someone who can't handle hot food or drinks. Some believe that this word came into existence due to cats themselves disliking hot things. Anyone you see blowing incessantly on their drink or food or waits an inordinate amount of time before drinking and eating likely has nekojita.

Rocketnews24.com

Famous Cat Owners

Renior and Monet - The French artists loved cats and put them in several paintings.



Alexander Dumas - The author of the Three Musketeers, owner a cat called Mysoul. This cat was known for his extra-sensory perception of time. Mysoul would predict the time his master would finish work, even when his master was working late.

Dr Samuel Johnson - The compiler of the first dictionary had a pet cat named Hodge whom he fed oysters and other luxurious treats.

US President Rutherford B Hayes - The first Siamese brought to the US was a gift to President Hayes.



A Cat's Guide to Humans

Punishing Your Human - Sometimes, despite your best training efforts, your human will stubbornly resist bending to your whim. In these extreme cases, you may have to punish your human. Obvious punishments, such as scratching furniture or eating household plants, are likely to backfire - the unsophisticated humans are likely to misinterpret the activities and then try to discipline you.

Here are some effective alternatives:

- Use the litter box during an important formal dinner.
- Stare impassively at your human while it is attempting a romantic interlude.
- Stand over an important piece of electronic equipment and feign a hairball attack.
- After your human has watched a partially disturbing horror film, stand by the hall closet and then slowly back away, hissing and yowling.
- While your human is sleeping, lie on its face.



www.xmission.com

Merlin Set New World Record for the Loudest Purr



The Spring 2011 Scratching Post had an article on Smokey, from Northampton, who held the Guinness Word Record for the loudest purr. Now Merlin has beaten Smokey's record.

What is as loud as a dishwasher and noisy as an air conditioning unit? - Merlin the cat.

The 13-year-old rescue animal from Devon, England, is now the world record holder for the loudest purr by a domestic cat, according to Guinness World Records. Guinness tweeted about Merlin's new title with the caption "Miaow-wow!"

Merlin's purr registered at 67.8 decibels, narrowly beating a previous record set by Smokey the cat in 2011. Merlin's owner Tracy Westwood says her world champion is very vocal. 'Occasionally when he's really loud I have to repeat myself,' Westwood told Guinness. 'When you're watching films you have to turn the telly up or put him out of the room. If he's eating he'll purr loudly. I can hear him when I'm drying my hair.'

ustoday.com 2015 picture by twitter

Pops Gets Re-homed After Her 'Terrifying' Eyes Went Global

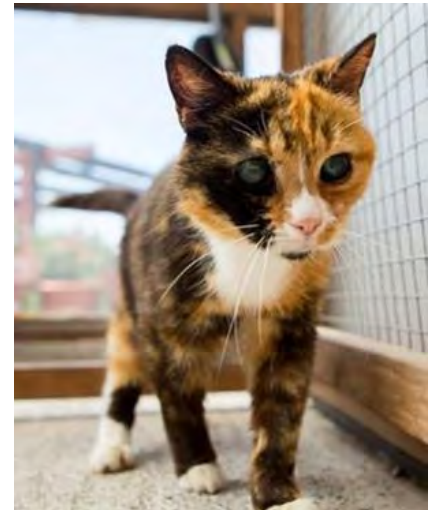
A cat that was overlooked by potential suitors because of her 'terrifying' eyes has finally found a happy home to go to. Pops was found wandering the streets at the age of 19 and taken to an animal shelter. But her elderly age, ghost-like eyes and matted fur meant she was not the most popular cat for adoption. So the Cats Protection League made a national appeal for someone to rehome Pops - and ended up receiving international attention.

Cat lovers from as far as Egypt and the USA got in touch to offer a retirement home for the previously unwanted animal, who was staying with the Cats Protection League in Radstock, near Bath. The charity today revealed Pops has been rehomed. Belinda Dark, a volunteer at the charity, said: 'Our homing officer Mollie has been inundated with phone calls about Pops. We had nearly 200 offers to our website to home Pops not to mention the offers via Facebook. We have had offers from the length and breadth of the country. As well as France, Germany, USA and Egypt.

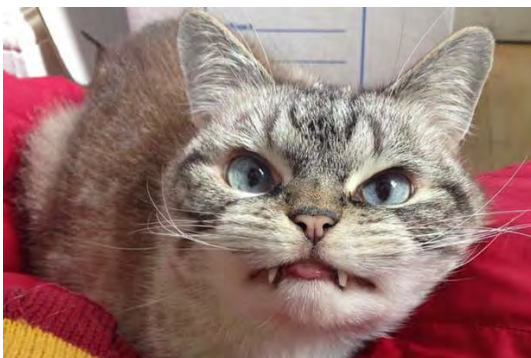
However, as exciting as it would be for Pops to be a globe trotter it was important we rehomed her in her native Bath. She is an elderly cat and, therefore, it was important she didn't have to travel a long distance. Pops was certainly the oldest cat we are aware of in our care. We've had a 14 year old before but never one as old as her. It's great to see her finally find a home.'

Pops' new owner, who does not want to be named, said: 'I couldn't believe no one had snapped her up already. I felt really sorry for her when I read her story, at 19-years-old she should be able to live out her final years in the comfort of her own home. It is funny to think of so many people wanting to take her in, especially from so far and wide. We are happy we were the lucky ones who got to take her in. I wasn't put off by her eyes and health problems. We think she is adorable. She is warm and cuddly and settling in well.'

August 2015, A. Hearn, mirror.co.uk



Loki - The Vampire Cat Is An Online Superstar



With her two little teeth peeking out, Loki is a cat who looks like a vampire. The protruding teeth that this little tabby owns have made her a megastar online, with more than 21,000 Instagram followers. Besides looking like the feline version of Nosferatu, though, Loki is a sweet and angelic character who has captured the hearts of her fans.

Owner Kaet says of her dental distortion: 'I'm not sure [how it happened], when I adopted her from the shelter they didn't give me many details about her looks.'

Loki is the god of mischief in Norse mythology. Kaet's aware that the teeth have helped to give Loki a legion of fans, though, so she's always keeping them updated on Instagram and Facebook. She even jokes online about her beloved cat looking 'evil', and jokes that she's a 'little vampire'.

August 2015, K. McCrum, mirror.co.uk



The 25th Supreme Show 2015



The Silver Anniversary Supreme Show was held on 10th May 2015 at Ballinteer Community School, Ballinteer. An auspicious day for me as it was also my son's 50th birthday (I know- how can I possibly have a son that age!!)

Our judges were (GCCF) Mrs Joyce Green, Mrs Sally Tokens, (FIFe) Mrs Janet Green and Mrs Stephe Bruin (from Holland) and Mrs Sally Hume, who had the difficult job of judging the wonderful non ped section. They were kept very busy and I hope exhibitors enjoyed being able to watch their cats being judged.

As it was such a special show we decided to try something new. The hall was divided into the exhibitors' area and the judging area, with the cats being taken to the judging rings by the stewards – this meant the exhibitors could stay by their pens the whole time, and It also meant the pens could be decorated so we had a Best Decorated Pen competition to liven things up. There were many fantastic pens, and obviously a huge amount of thought and work went into the decorations - going to prove what an artistic group the cat fancy is! They were judged in 2 rounds. The first round by 3 judges who each selected a winner; these were – Mirela Kusmierz pen 19; Cathy Nichols pen 47 and Teresa Monahan. pen 69. These 3 winners were then judged for the best overall winner by Mrs Betty Dobbs and the overall winner was Cathy Nichols. Well done to everyone on the beautiful pens and especially to Cathy.

The BEST IN SHOW winners were –

Best Adult - Oliver Noonan's FINCHS MILTREE LOFT (British Lilac)

Best Kitten – Denise Kerneghan's KERNAKITZ SUGAR N SPICE (Exotic)

Best Neuter – Maeve Patton's PR LABRYS SOUFFLE GIRL (British White)



OVERALL BEST IN SHOW Oliver Noonan's FINCHS MILTREE LOFT

BEST IN SHOW NON-PEDIGREE Kevin Creaven's HARVEY (LH Black & White)



The smooth running of any show relies on the help and support of many people, and this year demanded that bit extra from everyone. The committee of Chairman Georgina who is so supportive to me personally, plus sorting out the pot draw and the catering while looking after her FIVE cats entered in the show; Gloria who is my right hand person and does all the Dublin end of the organising, plus running the Best in Show; Betty who double checks all the entries, sponsors the Kids Corner, hosts our meetings, ran vetting in, worked on the table then had the difficult job of selecting the best decorated pen; Lorna who organised the workers rotas and ran the information table; Karen who did all the publicity (and it must have worked as we had a great turnout of visitors).

Our wonderful vets John Bainbridge Mark Heffernan and Aoife Caulfield – it makes such a difference to be greeted by friendly faces at what, as an exhibitor, I always found was the most stressful part of a show! Dave Keating the school's manager, who was there from beginning to end, and nothing was too much trouble. Then all unsung heroes who turn up show after show for the fun of it – Carmel who runs the table with her wonderful band of workers; Caroline who did all the paperwork for the Best of Variety, getting all the right cats in the right rings; Margaret our Best in Show commentator, Alice on the information table and who organised the Best in Show certificates - all designed and completed in the last few minutes of Best in Show by husband Tony (who also designed the catalogue cover - as beautiful as ever thank you Tony), Liam and Grace Hughes who are always there for setting up and taking down the show, Adrienne who ran our very popular Kids Corner. A very special mention to our fantastic amazing stewards; I wouldn't normally name them but they did such a wonderful job and worked like Trojans – Rowena Murphy, Em Callan, Karen Tanner-Mason, Edel Crean, Zsolt Foldes, Max Tanner and first timers Sonia Johnston, Liz Molloy and Shauna Kerins (talk about being thrown in the deep end!). In the non ped section Oliver Noonan who's cat also went on to win Best in Show.

Thank you to everyone – but particularly you the exhibitors for supporting us and bringing so many of your wonderful cats – Thank You

Ronnie Brooks, Show Manager

Why Do Cats Like Boxes ?

The internet is full of cats squeezing into ridiculously small containers and whatever the species or size, from moggies to lions, give a box to a cat and it will try to disappear inside. Why should our feline friends prefer to be cooped up in such small places? There are several proposed reasons and the 'truth' may lie in a combination of them. Given that cats spend up to 20 hours per day sleeping, the box provides a safe, cozy place to sleep.



Cats are cryptic animals in that they like to hide and a box gives them a place of safety and security. Inside a box, a cat cannot be sneaked upon from the side or back, anything that wants to approach must do so by entering their field of vision. Thus hiding in a box gives a cat the opportunity to watch the world without being seen. If something interesting comes by the cat can quickly dash out and grab and then quickly run back to its hideout.

A Dutch study recently showed that providing boxes for cats in a shelter helped to significantly reduce stress levels in those cats with boxes compared to the control group without boxes. A simple and cheap means of providing environmental enrichment for your cat, which will also help reduce stress.

According to a 2006 study which looked at the cat's 'thermoneutral zone'. This is defined as the range of ambient temperatures where the body can maintain its core temperature solely through regulating dry heat loss, i.e., skin blood flow. A living body can only maintain its core temperature when heat production and heat loss are balanced. The thermoneutral zone for a cat is 30.5 – 36 degrees C (86-97 degrees F) whereas a human's thermoneutral zone is 25 - 30 degrees Celsius (77 - 86 degrees Fahrenheit). This TNZ is the range at which an animal is 'comfortable' and doesn't have to expend energy to either produce heat or cool down. Thus we may feel comfortable in a room where we have some heating and clothing which further reduces our TNZ (eg. 20-24 C), but the cat is feeling the cold! This explains why we may find our cats on a hot surface on a summers day basking in the sunlight and why cats prefer cardboard boxes. Corrugated cardboard is a great insulator and confined spaces force the feline to ball up which in turn helps prevent heat loss.

So there it is ... boxes are insulating, stress relieving comfort zones from which to launch sneak attacks ... unless you happen to be Schrödinger's cat!

Jim Stephens MS.CABC, Companion Animal Behaviour Counsellor



Myth - Cats Have Nine Lives

An old English proverb states 'A cat has nine lives. For three he plays, for three he strays, and for the last three he stays'.

This could be where the myth that cats have nine lives came from - though the proverb is not thought to be meant in seriousness. It's a statement about the hardy nature of cats and the fact that they give the most love when they are old - too old to chase mice and run away!

Nine is also a magic number- and this could be partly why cats are attributed with having nine lives, because they have been both worshipped and feared throughout the ages for being magical. The ancient Greeks said that the number nine referred to the trinity of all trinities- and is a mystic number which invokes tradition and religion.

So there are a few different sources which the nine lives myth could have come from - at any rate, humans throughout the ages have been astonished at the hardiness of the feline.

Mirror.co.uk/news, H. Horton , 2015

A Cat's Conscience

A dog will often steal a bone,
But conscience lets him not alone,
And by his tail his guilt is known.

But cats consider theft a game,
And, howsoever you may blame,
Refuse the slightest signs of shame.

When food mysteriously goes,
The chances are that Pussy knows,
More than she leads you to suppose.

And hence there is no need for you,
If Puss declines a meal or two,
To feel her pulse and make ado.

Anonymous



"I started out with a little scratching on the couch, then I totally lost control."

Study Shows Music Soothes Cats Under Surgery

Hearing music, especially classical music, may help cats relax during surgery, a new small study reports.

The research included 12 female pet cats who were being spayed. The felines were outfitted with headphones while under anaesthesia. They heard two minutes of silence, followed by two minutes each of a classical music piece, a pop song and a heavy metal song. Relaxation was measured by the cats' respiratory rates and pupil diameters.

The classical music put the cats in the most relaxed state, followed by the pop music, and then the heavy metal music, according to the researchers at the University of Lisbon in Portugal. The findings suggest that playing certain types of music while pets are having surgery may help them relax and reduce the amount of anaesthesia they require, thereby reducing the risk of harmful side effects.

The study was published in the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery. 'In the surgical theatres at the faculty where I teach and at the private veterinary medical center where I spend my time operating, environmental music is always present, and is an important element in promoting a sense of well-being in the team, the animals and their owners,' said study lead author Dr. Miguel Carreira in a journal news release. 'Different music genres affect individuals in different ways. During consultations I have noticed, for example, that most cats like classical music, particularly George Handel compositions, and become more calm, confident and tolerant throughout the clinical evaluation,' Carreira noted.

The researchers said they plan to continue their research in dogs as well as cats. April 2015, HealthDay News, R. Preidt, health.usnews.com



What Cats Shouldn't Eat

Because they're such picky eaters, we sometimes think cats know what's best for them when it's time to eat. But the fact they'll walk away from a piece of bad meat doesn't mean they'll bypass an open can of tuna. And, that can of tuna can be just as dangerous. In fact, you may be surprised to learn some of the common foods your cats should never eat.



Tuna - Cats can be addicted to tuna, whether it's packed for cats or for humans. Some tuna now and then probably won't hurt. But a steady diet of tuna prepared for humans can lead to malnutrition because it won't have all the nutrients a cat needs. And, too much tuna can cause mercury poisoning. Remember the saying, "Honest as a cat when the meat's out of reach." Your cat will see an open can of tuna next to the sink as a dinner invitation.

Onions, Garlic, Chives - Onion in all forms - powdered, raw, cooked, or dehydrated - can break down a cat's red blood cells, leading to anemia. That's true even for the onion powder that's found in some baby foods. An occasional small dose probably won't hurt. But eating a large quantity once or eating smaller amounts regularly can cause onion poisoning. Along with onions, garlic and chives can cause gastrointestinal upset.



Milk and Other Dairy Products - What could be wrong with offering your cat a saucer of milk or a piece of cheese? Although kittens are able to tolerate milk, most adult cats cannot. Their digestive system cannot process dairy foods, and the result can be digestive upset with diarrhea.

Alcohol - Beer, liquor, wine, foods containing alcohol -- none of it is good for your cat. That's because alcohol has the same effect on a cat's liver and brain that it has on humans. But it takes far less to do its damage. Just two teaspoons of whisky can cause a coma in a 5-pound cat, and one more teaspoon could kill it. The higher the proof, the worse the symptoms.



Grapes and Raisins - Grapes and raisins have often been used as treats for pets. But it's not a good idea. Although it isn't clear why, grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in cats. And, a small amount can make a cat ill. Repeated vomiting and hyperactivity are early signs. Although some cats show no ill effects, it's best not to give your cat any grapes and to keep grapes and raisins off countertops and other places accessible to your cat.

Caffeine - Caffeine in large enough quantities can be fatal for a cat. And there is no antidote. Symptoms of caffeine poisoning include restlessness, rapid breathing, heart palpitations, muscle tremors, and fits. In addition to tea and coffee -- including beans and grounds -- caffeine can be found in cocoa, chocolate, colas, and stimulant drinks such as Red Bull. It's also in some cold medicines and painkillers.



Dog Food - An occasional bite of dog food won't hurt your cat. But dog food is not a substitute for cat food. They do have many of the same ingredients. But cat food is specially formulated for a cat's needs, which include more protein as well as certain vitamins and fatty acids. A steady diet of dog food can cause your cat to be severely malnourished. Medcinenet.com

The Catwalk

Burbonne -

C'est la vie!

G. Hehir, Dublin



Zeuss -

The wind is right.
I'm taking off in a minute.

J. Overton, Australia



Figaro & Poppy -

Picture Purrfect!

A. Kiely, Dublin



Emily -

Don't tell anybody
I'm hiding.

S. Mackey, Dublin



The Catwalk

Fred -

Doing the dishes is exhausting.

E Callan, West Meath



Gus -

I love Chianti, who has the cork screw?

T. MacDonagh, USA



The Trio -

Quiet before the storm.

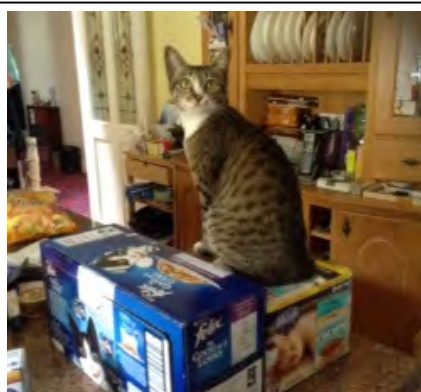
K. & L. Taylor, Wexford



Kalie -

It's all mine!

A. & N. O'Galligan, Wicklow



The Last 27 Hours of a Cat Show

This is the life of a cat show for the last 27 hours - from set up the night before to the taking down of the show at the end of show. But before show day here is a short list of what had to go on during the year prior to show -

Apply for Show license , venue found & booked, penning company booked, sponsors in any form sought , judges booked, schedule/entry forms prepared & sent to potential exhibitors, website updated with the schedule & forms, stewards booked, posters created, printed, catering arranged, PR - press release & posters sent out/distributed with follow up calls just before the show, craft & trade stalls found, Top & Information Table - Pot Draw - Kids Corner/ organized, entries checked & recorded, catalogue prepared/sent for printing, judges paperwork prepared, rosettes ordered, helpers found for set up & show day, trophy holders reminders letters and much much more.....

The Set Up- Saturday - 4:00 to 6:30pm hours - The Penning company and helpers arrive at an empty show hall to set up.



While the penning company set up the pens, Best In Show and sound system the helpers organize the Top Table, vetting-in, and stall tables. The judges room is set up and whatever else needs to be is seen to. Outdoor signs with the show date are put up around the area. The caterer and stall holders come in Saturday night or Sunday morning to set up their area.



Show Day - 7:45 to 10:00am Committee, helpers and vets arrive. Stall holders and caterers arrive for final set up. The remainder of the outdoor signs are posted in the area.

8:00 am Vetting in - Exhibitors arrive, receive their tally and proceed to vetting in. Once their cats are vetted in the exhibitors can then go into the show hall and pen their cats into the appointed pen.



9:00 - 9:30 am - Judges arrive at the show hall. Before judging starts the Judges with their Stewards review their judging classes.

10:00 am - The show hall is cleared and judging commences.



12:00 noon - The hall is open to the Exhibitors and Public. Awards are continuing to be processed at the Top Table as some classes are still being judged.



4:15pm - Best In Show judging starts



5:00pm - Show ends. Exhibitors pack up their cats and head for home. Stall holders and caterers pack up.



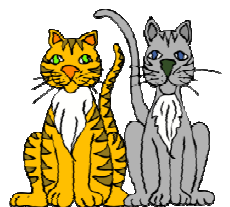
5:00 - 7:00pm - The penning company take down the pens and tables packing the truck for the return trip to the UK. Judges are taken to the airport or back to their hotel. Other committee members and helpers take down the show's tables and pack away everything for the next year. Chairs are folded and put away, hall floors are swept to leave the hall as they found it 27 hours earlier.

All who worked on the show go home and collapse!

Preparation for the next show starts.

Cat Personalities

Bitch Queen: Top cat. Very dominant. Is a very good but very protective mother. Beats up all other cats on a regular basis. Does not adapt well to changes in the feline group. When she attacks another cat she pricks up her ears and charges, usually wastes little time in posturing, appears to enjoy violence. Should star in a Quentin Tarantino movie. Makes a great only cat, where she can be queen of all she surveys.



Princess: She knows she is beautiful. Very opinionated. The world must revolve around her, and boy does she go into a snit if things don't go her way. She is sweet (so long as she is the center of attention) and graceful, but very demanding. She gets along well with all cats that are properly friendly and differential to her. Usually not a wonderful mother, is great with her kittens for the first few weeks, but loses interest quickly. Can be dreadful show cat if she decides that she doesn't like it.

Favorite Uncle: Usually a neutered male. Takes good care of partly grown kittens. Plays gently with them, sleeps in a heap with them, cleans faces and ears, comes running if one sounds distressed.

Pest: Won't leave you alone. Refuses to learn what the words 'No' or 'Get down' mean. Is usually terminally cheerful and purring, but may be a whiner. Whatever you are doing, this cat is in the middle of it. You can't tie your shoes, cook or eat dinner, talk on the phone, or even walk with this annoying creature around. Wants tons of attention.



Cat Shows – Where Does The Money Go?

There has been much discussion in the last few years about the fact that Shows and therefore the Clubs! are losing money. Previously we were heavily sponsored by Pedigree Pet Foods but since they discontinued financial sponsorship (they still sponsor goods for BIS etc) Shows find it increasingly difficult to cover costs.

For general interest therefore I have compiled the average cost of running a show with approx. 100 entries.

We as Show Managers feel we are losing considerable money at the door as so many people sneak in without paying, or pay for 1 or 2 tickets then come in with a crowd of children and other adults without paying, which is very difficult to stop.

Our main expense is the penning which comes from the UK. Currently the cost for penning is around €2,800. This can vary as it is depended on the exchange rates between euro and sterling.

There are no firms in Ireland who do cat penning (well for only 4 shows it would hardly be worth it!) It has often been asked why we don't do our own penning. Well;-

1. The initial purchase of pens, drapes, trestle tables, judges trolleys
2. Storage – takes up a large amount of room and must be stored in a dry area so pens don't rust, plus the trestle tables they stand on.
3. Pens (and drapes) have to be cleaned and sterilised between each show.
4. They are VERY heavy so – special transport to and from show and someone to erect them (hopefully for free). Again they are very heavy and we can't get volunteers to help on show day, never mind the day before!

The points above have been discussed endlessly but the amount of care needed to keep pens in good order, storage and the sheer weight of pens – never mind the trestles - makes it impractical.

Another suggestion is for the Exhibitor to supply their own pen? As our judging system relies on anonymity all the pens would have to be the same and many exhibitors only show once or twice so wouldn't want to go to the expense of buying a pen for a once off show.

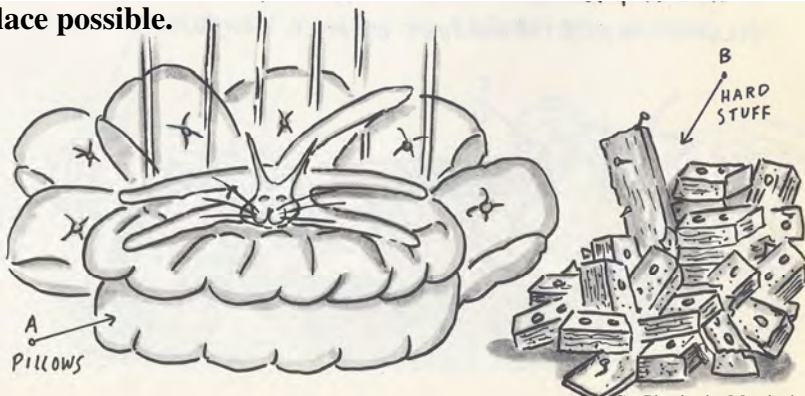
Contrary to common belief, everyone is a volunteer and neither the judges, vets or show manager receive payment apart from expenses and all workers on show set up and on show day are doing it for free. We do pay for the judges travelling, hotel and food expenses which for an average of 4 judges runs around €1,200.

So please don't begrudge the money it costs to enter a Show and if you have a bit of spare time on show day why not volunteer?

Ronnie Brooks, SABCCI Show Manager

Larger Expenses -	
Printing and collating of	
Schedule, catalogues, judges books	€600
Hire of hall for 2 days	€600
Rosettes	€800
Hire of pens, transport, erection and dismantled	€2,800
4 x judges Travel/Hotel	€1,200

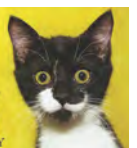
Second Law of Landing - A cat will always land in the softest place possible.



14 Cat Physics by Mendenhall

Why Cats Are Better Than Babies

- Three months later your cat can still wear the same clothes.
- You only need to change the litter box once a day.
- No one will accuse you of child abuse if you take nude pictures of your cat.
- You don't ever need to worry about how you will pay for your cat to go to college.





KIT'S KORNER



Midnight loves Halloween! Three things in the picture belong to other holidays. Find and colour all four things.

Answers from
page 5

C A B D B B

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

Pet Cat Saves Owner From A Suicidal Jump

Just as 'The Scratching Post' was being made ready for production we learned of this story which took place this month - the 7th of October. It was too good to hold it until the Spring 2016 issue.

A man threatened to jump from the third story of a building in downtown San Francisco on Wednesday, as terrified onlookers watched from below.

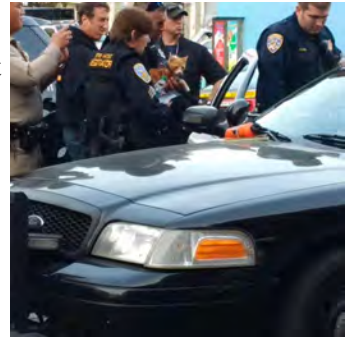


Officer Shawn Fulgado with the cat who saved its owners life

The man was suspected of stealing a car, and a chase on foot had ensued. But San Francisco police were determined to help this man, who may have made some mistakes, but in a moment of passion, not the biggest mistake of all: jumping.

But they were having trouble. Negotiations on the ledge went on for hours. The man couldn't find a good enough reason, it seemed, to retreat to safety.

But then police brought a loved one to see him: the man's pet cat. It only took 45 minutes with the cat before the man finally calmed down and came back inside. Family is there for each other - human and animal - even in the darkest times.



Sarah Schweig, thedodo.com 9th October 2015



Boss Cats

Cats are extremely territorial and do not readily tolerate intruders, although they are always delighted to see their friends. In their own household they like a clear hierarchy to be established, and even if there are no other animals around they expect to be the boss. A Siamese, Coya, was very protective toward her brother, Inca, but in return he had to do as he was told. When she learned how to open the refrigerator door, she let him raid it while she sat watching from above, supervising the whole operation. This meant that if they were discovered, it was he who got the blame while she was suddenly nowhere to be seen.

Some cats also expect to be top cats where humans are concerned. Cats like regular schedules and reliable service and can be very demanding if standards are allowed slip, with meals late or litter trays left unchanged. It is amazing how quickly a cat can train a keeper! After his sister died, Inca helped to rear a new kitten and then got bossed around by her - but he knew how to stand up for himself with people. He liked to play a game every night before the household went to bed. On evenings when there were guests, he would greet the visitors, but quietly disappear to let the humans get on with their affairs until he decided they had stayed long enough. As his bedtime approached Inca would appear and nosily indicate that he was missing his playtime and that all visitors should go home.

When some other than the owner temporarily takes over looking after a cat, puss sometimes has to lower his standards and accept a less indulgent level of care. Fa-shen, a tortoiseshell short hair belonging to a TV producer, normally has a diet of fresh fish with a side order of dry cat chow. However when the producer is away on location and someone else has to feed her, she has been known to make do with a canned cat food, as that is the only thing on offer. Of course, the moment that her keeper returns, she insists on resuming her proper menu.

Many keepers who commit the ultimate dereliction of duty in the eyes of their cat, going away and leaving someone else in charge, are met with complete indifference on their return, the offended cat simply refusing to speak to the miscreant whom went off and abandoned the creature. If you have ever left a cat behind while you went on a trip, you probably experienced how cats express their displeasure at being deserted. Some manage to maintain a sulky disdain for days before they admit that they are really very pleased to see you again.

From 99 Lives, Howard Luxton

The Final Miaow

As you can see we have come to the end of our newsletter and we hope you found it interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone who sent us material and photos for the CATWALK. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending them in.

Remember SABCCI 62nd Cat Show

Knocklyon Community Centre, Knocklyon Dublin 16 (behind Super Valu)

Open to the Public 12:00 - 5:00
Best in Show Judging 4:00 onwards

See You There!