

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2017

www.sabcci.com





The Scratching Post

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**"Not to point fingers, Samson, but profits
are down, and we smell a rat."**

Things You Can Learn From Your Cat

- ⇒ Make the world your playground.
- ⇒ Whenever you miss the sandbox, cover it up. Dragging a sock over it helps.
- ⇒ Variety is the spice of life. One day, ignore people; the next day, annoy them.
- ⇒ Climb your way to the top, that's why the curtains are there.
- ⇒ When you have something important to say, try to say it in the dead of night when you're 'sure' everyone's sleeping. There's no better way to get the attention you deserve.



Cats.alpha.pl

Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2017 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with an Espresso Martini 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



The Dublin Championship Cat Show

Knocklyon Community Centre
Idrone Road Knocklyon Dublin 16
15th October



Once again The GCCFI will be joining SABCCI for a '2 in 1' Championship show,
2 shows running in the same hall at the same time.

Doors are open to the public from 12:00 until 5:00. Best In Show judging starting a little after 4:00.

See you there!

Correction -

Spring 2017 Scratching Post - The Public's Favourite Non-Ped should have read - 'Ms C. Hayde's 'Spot'

Hemingway House's Kitties are Safe After Hurricane Irma Spares Key West

Reported on the 10th of September by TZM.com; The cats who call the Hemingway House in Key West home are all safe and accounted for after the bulk of Hurricane Irma spared the island city.

Staff members that work at the Hemingway House tell us all 55 cats, and the people who stayed behind to care for them, are a-okay at the property which itself is still standing and suffered no major structural damage.

We're told all 10 Hemingway occupants, including manager Jacque Sands, lucked out big time since Irma left significantly less destruction than in the other Keys. Sources tell us while there are a few trees down on the estate, everything else at the house appears to be fine.



The Hemingway House also avoided major flooding. A source at the National Weather Service tells us Key West only saw a water surge of about 3 feet as opposed to the 15-20 feet anticipated throughout the Keys as Irma approached. We're told Key West was in the eye wall, the strongest part of the hurricane, for 2 hours. Water has begun to recede as Irma moves north. As a result, those at the house are not currently inundated by water unlike Miami but are staying inside until winds die down. As for those 6-toed cats ... talk about nine lives.

Photo-Getty

Ancient Pawprint Found

A 2,000 year old cat pawprint was found in a pile of Roman roof tiles in Gloucester. Despite being dug up in 1969, the print went undiscovered until the summer in 2015.

It is thought the cat went across the clay tiles while they were drying in the sun.

The pawprints can be seen at the City Museum and Art Gallery in Gloucester.



Your Cat, 2015



Cat has absolute emotional honesty: human beings, for one reason or another, may hide their feelings. But a cat does not.

Ernest Hemmingway

The Pedigree - The Sokoke

The Sokoke is a rare breed from the Arabuko Sokoke Forest in Eastern Kenya.

In 1977 a litter was found by Jeni Slater near the edge of the forest. Slater took 2 kittens, a male and a female home with her. The ease of taming them suggests they were formerly domestic cats that had gone back to the wild instead of true wild cats.

A Danish cat lover, Gloria Moldrup visited Slater and acquired a pair of kittens. They were on exhibition at the JYYRAK Show at Odense where they quickly became popular with the local cat fanciers. More were exported from Kenya and in 2001 Jeannie Knocker began looking into the breed working with knowledge she had gained in Kenya, US and European breeders help strengthen the line.

The Sokoke is a medium size cat. The body is graceful and slim but muscular. The hind legs are higher than the front giving the cat a 'tiptoe gait'. The tail is pointed and tapered and the paws are oval in shape. The Sokoke's small head is wedge shaped with almond-shaped eyes that are amber to light green in colour. The straight nose sits above a firm chin. The medium erect ears are rounded at the top and are set high back on the head.

Their coats are thin and short with no undercoat. The pattern of the coat, dubbed 'African Tabby', is a blotched brown tabby that, in a way, resembles tree bark. The colours range from warm light to deep chestnut brown.

This is another breed that are said to be dog-like in personality. They will greet you at the door, fetch and retrieve. The Sokoke is intelligent, agile, and lively. They bond with their family and don't like them to be too far away. So they do not want to be left alone for too long. They get along with children and other pets. Being a very talkative breed, they will carry on conversations for hours.

Preliminary Recognition was granted by GCCF in 2015.

Photo, goodreads.com



Cats & Dogs In The News

Cats Part Of The Westminster Dog Show At Madison Square Gardens

The 141th Westminster Dog Kennel Club Show is including three new dog breeds this year and adding a few feline friends into the mix. But if you imagined various cat breeds parading across the stage at the actual dog show, you were wrong.

The cats won't compete in the actual show, but will be part of a 'Meet the Breeds' the Westminster Kennel Club announced at a press conference. 'Meet the Breeds isn't just dogs lined up and you play with them, there are booths that depict the country and origin of the animal and people decorate the booths,' Brandi Hunter VP of public relations for the AKC said in a phone interview. 'So cats are joining that and many will be dressed up and have their booths'

The cats will also take part in an agility competition.

The Westminster Dog Show took place at Madison Square Gardens in New York City on February 13 and 14, and was expected to feature nearly 3,000 dogs.

usatoday.com February 2017

Photo by Matthews Beбето (AP) - Cat breeder Anthony Hutcherson with his Bengal Cat who will feature at the show.



Cat On Top Of A Police Car With A Canine Cop Inside

Cats are above the law, or at least that's how they act. In this case a feline took that feeling quite literally, climbing atop a police SUV carrying a K9, and in effect towering above the canine cop.

The Philadelphia Police Department shared a photo of the bold kitty on its Facebook page, where more than 174,000 followers could marvel at the animal's audaciousness.

Cop: 'Between the barking and the huge red letters, there is no way that *anyone* approaches my car.'

Cat: 'Hold my beer...' the police department quipped along with the photo.

people.com, Kelly Bender May 2017 Picture - Philadelphia Police Department on Facebook

Where Did the Saying Come From - Cat & Mouse



Cat and mouse, often expressed as cat-and-mouse game, is an English-language idiom dating to 1675 that means "a contrived action involving constant pursuit, near captures, and repeated escapes." Wikipedia



Kitten Soft? - Feline Aggression In Young Cats



Cats prefer not to fight and instead use a variety of audible and visual displays to avoid aggressive physical displays. The social lives of cats are generally in cooperative female groups but there are important behaviours such as hunting, eating and resting which are solitary. Therefore unlike dogs which are more social and have conciliatory displays cats are limited in displaying deference and have poor post conflict resolution behaviours so that avoidance and spatial distribution (keeping distance and becoming more solitary) become the means of maintaining a tolerant group. Unfortunately there are times when communication within groups breaks down which can result in aggressive displays and serious injuries. Aggressive cats therefore pose a significant danger to other pets and family within a home whether emotional trauma or physical injuries especially to the young and elderly or those with compromised immune systems.

Always at the forefront of any behaviour counsellor is safety, for the cat(s) and owners. However, it has to be realised that aggression is a *Symptom* of something awry *not* the cause. Without understanding the why it is impossible to be clear about what to do and to determine the correct diagnosis and treatment. So why are some cats aggressive and what are the types of aggression, as defined by their triggers?

Below is a list of the forms of aggressions seen in cats but in this article I want to concentrate on the aggression often associated with kittens and young cats:

Types of aggression - Play aggression, Fear related, Petting induced aggression, Redirected Pain induced, Territorial, Social stress, Hormonally mediated aggression and Pathophysiological.

Play Aggression - As the name suggests this form of aggression is related to play and predation and is most common in kittens and young cats. Play is purposeful in that it helps the cat to hone its hunting skills and therefore be able to feed itself. However, this aggressive behaviour, if it has not outlet can lead the owner to become the prey. In fact play/ predatory aggression is often reported as the number one reason for owners reporting “aggression” at behaviour practices. It is often preceded by stalking and is *always silent* because it is a normal instinct to hunt without vocalising which would ‘warn’ the intended victim. Although ‘play’ sounds benign the attacks are intended to “kill” and can therefore be severe, particularly if claws and teeth are not inhibited. Inhibition of biting and claws occurs during early kittenhood when the kitten gets feedback from litter mates that the ‘attack’ was too hard and the ‘victim’ cat either retaliated or stopped playing. Kittens that have no playmates or were not socialised with other cats can then grow up without inhibiting their attacks. This can then be inadvertently contributed to by owners who play with their kittens and actively encourage them to play with hands (especially if gloved) or feet. It is always better to substitute a toy for the owners’ limbs and extremities.

More often this form of aggression is seen in single cat homes for the reasons outlined above. The solution is to give the cat the opportunities to ‘hunt’ through the use of toys etc. It can be more difficult if the play aggression is directed towards a quieter pet in the household, in which case the ‘victim’ needs escape routes and refuges away from the aggressor cat whilst the play aggression is taken out on the toys. This play aggression can be particularly common in multi cat households where there is a wide age gap between the elder and younger cat.

Obviously prevention of such aggression is best and this can be achieved through early socialisation a, provision of appropriate prey objects and social play. Hand raised kittens are particularly prone to this behaviour and it may be worth considering adopting a well socialised younger kitten as a preventative measure.

Petting Induced Aggression - Some cats will tolerate plenty of petting whilst other cats will respond with biting when they have had enough. This is reported as the second most frequent form of aggression. The cats appear to enjoy the social attention and may even initiate the interaction bumping its head on the owner (bunting) jumping onto the lap etc, wanting to be close etc. However, this does not necessarily mean the cat either wants physical contact/ petting or prolonged petting which is often misconstrued by the owner/ victim. Think of the varieties of way we greet each other (nod, verbal hello, handshake, hug, kiss) and the social boundaries we accept for any given person. Cats also have social boundaries and often the owner stretches the limits of the boundary until the threshold of acceptance is passed. An observant owner will notice when the limit is about to be reached (twitching tail, tenseness, fidgeting, leaning away flattened ears) just before the bite occurs.

Obviously young children are often at risk as they may be unaware of the danger signs and persist in petting the kitten or cat beyond what it can endure.

If petting is important to the owner then what can be done? A gradual desensitisation must occur which is carried out by petting the kitten/ cat and stopping *well before* the threshold is reached. A high value food reward can then be given. Gradually the time is extended. The cat must be afforded the opportunity to move away from being petted. If the cat solicits the interaction petting must never be for longer than that achieved in the de-sensitisation sessions, so that the threshold level is not attained.

Again early handling and socialisation by the breeder will help prevent the problem especially if positive rewards are given at the end of each petting and handling session.

We will re-visit cat aggression in the next newsletter when we will look at cats and the other forms of aggression.

The Torre Argentina Cat Sanctuary In Rome

Cats have always found shelter among the ruins of Rome. In addition to the remains of four different temples, Torre Argentina also contains part of the famous portico of Pompey. It was on those steps that Julius Caesar was killed in 44 BC.

Torre Argentina is the home of 250 cats sheltered among the oldest temples in Rome (400-300BC). Every day of the volunteers feed, clean and work with them. Since 1929 they have aided 3,000 cats.

In 1929 the area of Torre Argentina was excavated as part of Mussolini's rebuilding efforts. The excavation revealed multilevel temples that lie sunken 20 feet below the road. Once the site was excavated, the feral cats moved in and cat ladies, known as the gattare, began feeding and caring for the cats.

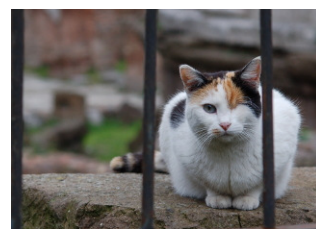
All this continued until in 1993 when it was realized that this was too much for the only 3 people left who were helping with the cats. The cat number was 90 at that stage. It was then the Torre Argentina Cat Sanctuary was born.



Conditions were bad for the cats and the helpers. Funds had to be raised that were so desperately needed. To the extent, as this was a tourist area, tourists were approached asking for donations. Not only did the donations come in but they also attracted volunteers from many different nationalities. Fundraising dinners, raffles, and market sales were started. Nelson, a one-eyed Torre Argentina cat was a main character of a book by volunteer Deborah D'Alessandro. Her award winning book was published in 1999 and became a bestseller. This help bring the Sanctuary to the attention of the public.

Visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome. Look around, visit the cats and their CatShop. You can also adopt a cat at a distance or even volunteer!

Website - www.romancats.com/torreargentina/en/introduction.php (photos from the site)

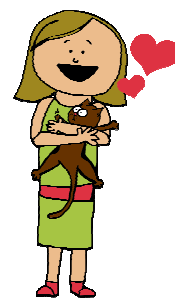


Cat Lady Stereotyping

Experts can't seem to quite pinpoint when exactly crazy, old, and cat lady were strung together to create one specific stereotype, but why it happened isn't too difficult to figure out.

On the whole, women live longer than men. That means there are going to be many more elderly women at any given time than elderly men. Elderly women who are widowed, and whose children have moved out, may find themselves with time on their hands - and a hungry stray cat to feed (and since unaltered cats will quickly breed, one stray soon becomes a whole yard full).

Cats, being small and self-sufficient, don't need much in the way of care, which would be perfect for an older woman. Not to mention that some of these women may have, indeed, been off their rockers. Says psychologist and animal welfare advocate Pia Salk: 'Dementia is a function of getting older; an older woman caring for one or more cats may in fact appear crazy.'



One study shows that cat 'hoarders' are overwhelmingly female, but that again may be the function of the relative ease of keeping a cat versus a dog. Hoarders, who have a psychological condition that makes them over collect animals to the point where they can no longer care for them, often start out as 'rescuers,' people who merely want to help strays. Women are probably more drawn to stray cats and kittens than stray dogs, simply because they are smaller and easier to round up. But the link between women and cats doesn't stop there. Women, just like cats, are often branded as sneaky, slinky, mysterious, hard to read and impossible-to-please. Women are often shunted into either the Madonna or whore category, just as cats have been either revered as deities (ancient Egypt) or vilified as demons (Salem witch trials, 1692).

Etymologically, there are some interesting feminine (and often negative) connotations to words like kitten (a sexy girl), cougar (an older woman who likes young men), catty (being spiteful and malicious - and generally used to describe women) and, of course, pussy, a word that is interchangeable for a cat or a part of a woman's anatomy. Catwoman is a famous DC Comics villainess.

What's behind all of this?

Historically, there is a strong connection between women and cats. While cats, which were domesticated 10,000 years ago, are excellent natural hunters, they are also savvy enough to hang around where they will get fed. A mutually beneficial relationship developed.

'Cats were ratters or mousers inside of the home, and women traditionally worked inside of the home,' says animal expert Andrea Arden, who appears on Animal Planet's Cats 101. Dogs, on the other hand, were given specific tasks like hunting, guarding or pulling wagons, which required them to be outside with men. 'Cats are smart,' says pet care expert Charlotte Reed. 'They know where the food is, and it's women who are usually feeding and caring for everyone.' Dogs, on the other hand, became 'man's best friend.'

Continued next page

Cat Lady (contd.) Then there's the personality of a cat. Because cats, unlike dogs, are not pack animals, they can come across as independent and aloof. Dogs, which are bred to be in a constantly juvenile state, tend to act like slobbering children enthralled to the leader of the pack.

Some experts believe that these different personality traits are what generally draw women to cats and men to dogs. 'Canines offer a more consistent reflection of one's status as alpha,' says Salk. 'They deliver doting behavior without their male human having to ask for it and are seen as less of a threat [than cats].'

Cats, while social and playful, are more like the Simon Cowells of the animal world - getting their approval isn't so easy. So why are women more okay with these less obvious displays of affection? 'It may be that women are more intrinsically gratified by nurturing others, and therefore do not need an external reflection to reinforce caretaking behavior,' theorizes Salk. Still, plenty of men, and even some of the most macho ones in history, like Ernest Hemingway and Sir Winston Churchill, have been fanatic cat lovers. And as men work more hours and have less time to devote to training and exercising a dog, cats have become a more attractive option for the average guy.

Petfinder, the largest online pet adoption site, does not keep statistics regarding adoption demographics, but cofounder Betsy Saul says, anecdotally, that more men than ever are adopting felines. 'Cats are losing some of their negative mystique,' she says.

Adds Salk: 'A growing population of newly liberated male cat lovers would help reduce the number of adoptable homeless animals killed each year. There is no shortage of amazing cats waiting to be loved by a studly guy!'

Kiri Blakeley, Contributor forbes.com 2009

Mountain Lion Kittens Born Near LA

Two blue-eyed mountain lion kittens born to a young mother and a father that gets around were found earlier this month in the Santa Monica Mountains, marking the 13th litter discovered by researchers in the area, officials announced Tuesday.

The female and male siblings have been dubbed P-59 and P-60, and were discovered by National Park Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists. The kittens will now be part of a long-term study by the National Park Service on carnivores in and around the Santa Monica Mountains.

But while their birth marks a victory of sorts in maintaining a declining population of pumas, researchers say they are troubled by their lineage. At 2 years old, their mother, P-53, is the youngest puma to bear offspring. This is her first litter. Their father is suspected to be P-12. Researchers say DNA results are pending, but P-12 is suspected because an area resident heard mountain lions 'interact near their property in April.' GPS and photo evidence placed both P-53 and P-12 in that area at that time.

P-12 is the only lion documented that has successfully crossed into the Santa Monica Mountains from the north. Biologists are concerned because he has mated with his own offspring and their offspring, which reduces the genetic diversity of the mountain lions in the area, researchers warned. 'If P-12 is in fact these kittens' father, that also means he's their grandfather, their great-grandfather, and their great-great grandfather,' said Jeff Sikich, a biologist with Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service. 'Inbreeding to this degree really highlights the need for providing safe passage across the 101 Freeway so new mountain lions can enter the population and breed.'

Researchers have noted both triumphs and tragedies in the last 10 months in Southern California's mountain lion community.

A 7-month-old kitten, known as P-52, was struck and killed by a vehicle on the freeway on December 20 just a few miles from where its mother, P-39, died earlier that month. Another of her kittens, P-51, was killed on the same freeway in January. In April, another mountain lion kitten was discovered.

Earlier this month, a male mountain lion named P-55 was documented successfully crossing the 101 Freeway - a rare event for the region's big cats. He represented only the fourth case of a successful crossing since the NPS began its mountain lion study in 2002. 'There is always some good news and some bad news, and that's a similar pattern we've seen in this study,' said National Park Service spokesman Zach Behrens. 'This is a long-term study. We're going to see life and death through out it. The goal over time is to preserve these species for future generations'

Researchers believe the Santa Monica Mountains can hold 10 to 15 cougars at a time. Biologists have tracked more than 340 bobcats, 145 coyotes, and 60 mountain lions over the course of the study.

Wildlife advocates and activists have called for a wildlife corridor over the 101 Freeway and Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills has been identified as the ideal spot. A proposal is currently being drawn by CalTrans and fundraising efforts via SaveLACougars.org is underway with the National Wildlife Federation and Santa Monica Mountains Fund.

www.dailynews.com S.Abram





The 26th Supreme Show 2017

30th of April 2017



Best in Show Results

PERSIAN

Adult – Ms A Keller's GABRIELLE VON BARENSTEINHAUS (Shaded Silver Persian F)

Kitten – Mrs & Miss Caughey's HINCHKITZ THE ENCHANTRESS (Exotic F)

Neuter – Mrs & Miss Rainey's PURRFICGEMS AMBER RAIN (Exotic FN)

SEMI LONGHAIED

Adult – Ms Swiacka' MELANIA ISZTAR COON*PL (Maine Coon F)

Kitten - Mrs McLelland's NOYNAROCK LIESL (Norwegian Forest Cat F)

Neuter - Mrs Frizelle's GR PR ISHCUS LUCCA (Maine Coon MN)

BRITISH

Adult - Ms T Glavecka's CH YOUR MAJESTY MR UNIVERSE (Chocolate M)

Kitten - Ms M Kane's TORRIDONIAN SPECTRE (Smoke M)

Neuter – Mrs Frizelle's HIB GR PR REYESDESILVA BENNY (Lilac CP MN)

FOREIGN

Adult – Ms V Dovaineine's ARIELE ZAVI MISTIKA (Sphynx F)

Kitten - Mr S Ryan's BALLYBLUE ERNIE (Russian Blue M)

Neuter – Ms M Scarlett's PR ABIGAIL ARMANI (Russian Blue MN)

BURMESE

Adult - Ms Lenihan's CH CORNEL OCEAN EYES (INT CH) (Red M)

Neuter - Ms Sluiters' PR ALDEBIZ MANEKI HOSHI (Choc Tortie FN)

SIAMESE

Adult – Miss Goodison's KALISTE VESTA (Choc Point)

SUPREME ADULT

Ms V Dovaineine's ARIELE ZAVI MISTIKA

SUPREME NEUTER

Mrs & Miss Rainey's PURRFICGEMS AMBER RAIN

SUPREME KITTEN

Mr S Ryan's BALLYBLUE ERNIE

SUPREME HOUSEHOLD PET

Mr & Mrs N O'Galligan's TIGGY

SUPREME PEDIGREE PET

T. Glavecka's NIKA

OVERALL SUPREME EXHIBIT

Ms V Dovaineine's ARIELE ZAVI MISTIKA



The Quiz -

Quiz 1 - True or False

- 1. A cat has 230 bones.
- 2. An Abyssinian does not have a ‘ticked coat’.
- 3. Russian Blue’s are long haired.
- 4. A feral cat is a domesticated cat that has returned to the wild.
- 5. A cat has 4 rows of whiskers.
- 6. A Snowshoe is native to Kenya.



Quiz 2 -

- 1. What kind of person would own a cat called Pyewacket?
- 2. Which cat ‘vanished quite slowly, beginning with the end of the tail, and ending with the grin’?
- 3. Who composed the music for the Pink Panther films?
- 4. In Coronation Street, what was the name of Minnie Caldwell’s cat?
- 5. Who played the part of Pussy Galore in the film Goldfinger?

Answers on page 16

Under The Table Manners

It’s very hard to be polite
If you are a cat.
When other folks are up at table
eating all that they are able,
you are down upon the mat
If you are a cat.
You’re expected just to sit
If you are a cat.
Not to let them know you’re there
by scratching on the chair,
or a light, respected pat.
If you are a cat.
You are not to make a fuss
If you are a cat.
Tho’ there’s fish upon the plate
You’re expected just to wait,
If you are a cat.

Author unknown



How To Annoy Your Human

Turn On The Love - When your human has had a particularly hectic day, and is fed up with your ruthless games, take a break and turn on the love, as only cats can. Jump on her lap and give her your most sleepy-eyed lovie gaze, as if you adore her more than anyone else in the world. This may come naturally to some of you. Others may need to practice, but we guarantee that the time will come when you’ll *feel* the love for real, and the rewards will be priceless.

Pawnation.com



Guidelines For Cats
Scratching Posts
It is advised that cats use any scratching post the humans may provide. They are very protective of what they think is their property and will object strongly if they catch you sharpening your claws on it. Being sneaky and doing it when they aren’t around won’t help, as they are very observant. If you are an outdoor cat, trees are good. Sharpening your claws on a human is not recommended.
(James S. Huggins’ Refrigerator Door)

Cat Toys Cats Find In The House

An average household is full of other toys, which seem to be much more suitable for the purposes of cat entertainment.

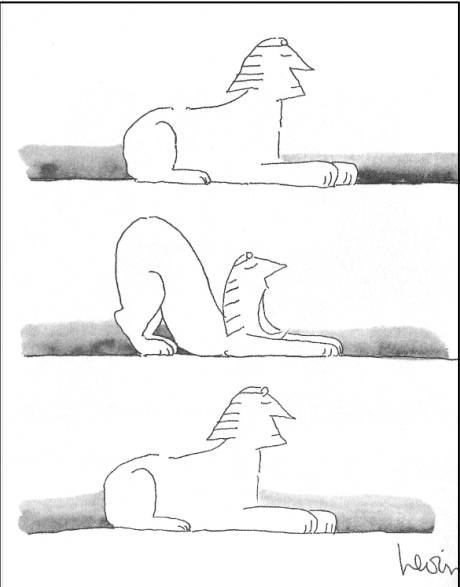
- * Light switch - you may switch the light on with a single movement of your paw.
- * Clock - you may move hands, stop the pendulum.
- * Fire alarm & burglar alarm - you may trigger it off and wait for the police and fire brigade.
- * Mixer - you may switch it on and observe it spinning.
- * Hair dryer - you may check where the heat comes from.
- * Dishwasher - you may turn ‘the full cycle’

cats.alpha.pl



From ‘A Cat’s Little Instruction Book’

Lesson No 145 - Try to avoid sitting around with your tongue sticking halfway out your mouth: it tends to make you look slightly loopy.



The Catwalk



Surya -

Taking my afternoon siesta even though there is a phone under me.

S. Teti, USA



Honey & Bosco -

Now you see us,
now you don't.

V. Brooks, Carlow



Oscar -

I am still waiting.....

S. Mackey, Dublin



Pippin -

What now?

E. McKerrow, France

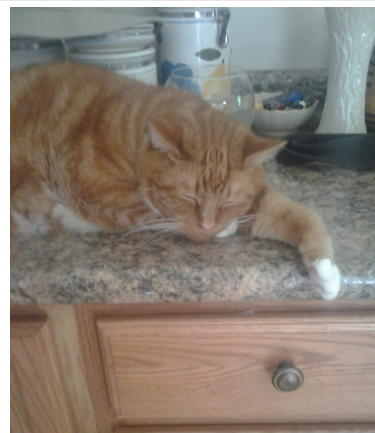


The Catwalk

Red -

I'm floored.

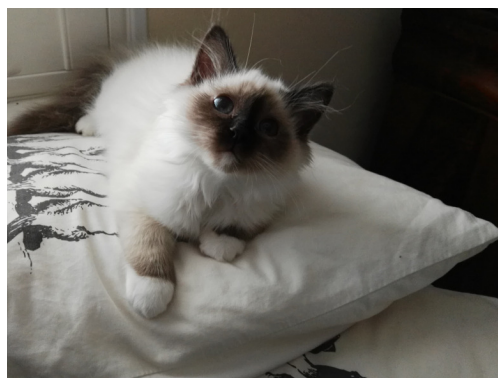
J. Rosse, USA



Blondie -

How ya?

M. O'Donaghue, Dundalk



Gabby -

Did you call me?

T. Byrne, Dublin



Ginger -

What 'til I tell you.

M. Howard, Dublin



Kitten Hitches a Ride From Massachusetts to Connecticut Under Hood Of Car

A little kitten hitchhiked to Connecticut. The trip was more than 100 miles. The stowaway has a new home. 'Stunned! I couldn't believe it. I just couldn't believe it,' said Paul Zine, the driver.

Paul Zine is still scratching his head and staring under his hood, trying to figure out how a 4-month-old stray kitten would end up a stow-away. 'You've got to figure that, 105 miles at highway speed. That little thing was in my engine compartment,' he said.

The kitten who was probably seeking the heat of the engine the night before travelled all the way from Natick to Wallingford, Connecticut. Zine had no idea the cat was there until he arrived at his relative's Toyota dealership to get an oil change.

'The service manager comes out to me and says to me, 'do you have a cat?' and I said, 'no, I don't have a cat.' He says 'does your neighbor have a cat?' then I was confused. I said, 'Nah, I don't know, I don't know, why?' he said. It turns out that when the service technician opened the hood, a cat jumped out. 'That's probably where she was.' Technician James Hastings says that front corner is exactly where he found the kitten. 'I didn't know if it was alive or not then its head moved and it looked at me,' Hastings says. He found the kitten. 'We ended up spending a good 20 minutes chasing the cat around the shop before we were able to get hold of him,' he said.

Hastings didn't want the cat to wind up in a shelter so he took him to the vet then he took him home. Zine says he named the cat Tacoma. Tacoma as in the Toyota's toughest truck.

While Zine is more of a dog person, he's so relieved this little guy had enough lives to hitch himself to Connecticut and a real home. 'It was a miracle. It really was a miracle,' Zine said.

wtmh.com, by CNN, August 2017, photo wcvb.com



He's On Paw-troll!

Brooklyn cops found an adorable orphaned kitten at their police station house, so they convinced their boss to adopt him as their collective pet, precinct mascot and morale-booster.

Martin the six-month-old tabby is feline fine about his cushy new life at Coney Island's 60th precinct, where he spends his days hunting mice, nibbling turkey sandwich scraps and lounging on desktops. 'He's definitely lifted spirits. There's not one person here, cop or civilian, that doesn't adore this cat,' said Deputy Inspector William Taylor.

In December, a woman ditched the frisky furball at the precinct on West 8th Street and Surf Avenue, melting the hearts of even the neighborhood's toughest men in blue. Officer Martin D. Costanza, for whom the cat was eventually named, and four other officers began lobbying for the cat to become a permanent pet.

Taylor, an animal lover, signed off the precinct's four-legged rookie on one condition: Somebody else cleans his litter box. The top cop has since plunked down cash for the cat's Sheba wet food and treats while other officers have pitched in to get him shots, neutered and micro-chipped, according to the Brooklyn Paper, which first reported the fuzz-on-fuzz friendship.

Each day, Martin makes an appearance at roll call to 'inspect everyone' and spread a little joy, Taylor said. 'He cheers me up. The guys come by and get a chuckle out of him, the ones who are having a hard day,' he said.

The cuddly cat also has his own special wire baskets for napping, three food stations around the precinct and plenty of toys. And he has a knack for sensing when cops need a little TLC, officers said. 'I like how friendly he is,' said Sergeant Raj Lalwani. 'He's like a dog - you call him and he'll come. I don't think he knows he's a cat.'

Martin joins the ranks of Popo the cat, Manhattan's lovable 33rd Precinct mouser, who passed away last year. 'He has the run of the precinct,' Taylor said. 'He took control of the place right away.'

nypost.com, A. Gepner & N. O'Neill 2017, photo Paul Martinka

Law of Cat Inertia:

A cat at rest will tend to remain at rest, unless acted upon by some outside force - such as the opening of cat food, or a nearby scurrying mouse.



Combining Yoga With Cats

Cats are a strangely relaxing presence during yoga class. ‘Yoga is all about being in the moment,’ and cats are in the moment ‘all the time,’ said Amy Apgar, one of two yoga instructors at Meow Parlour, a cat shelter and cafe in Lower Manhattan that, like a growing number of places across the country, offers yoga classes with cats.

The yoga sessions are partly just for fun, but they also bring in new people who may want to adopt a pet. (The cats on hand tend to be highly available.)

Other animal-inspired yoga classes include ‘doga’ with dogs, yoga with goats and yoga with rabbits. But yoga with cats has gained a small but cultish following.

Meow Parlour, which charges \$6 for a half-hour admission to the cafe and \$20 to \$22 for a yoga class, regularly receives requests from tourists who want to schedule a class during their visits to New York City.

For Megan O’Boyle, a 30-year-old social worker who moved from her native Wisconsin to New York for graduate school, cat yoga is just one way to spend time with animals, something she misses from home. Living in the city with a roommate, ‘I need animal time,’ she said. ‘I go to the dog park sometimes.’ Ms. O’Boyle said she grew up with cats and occasionally practices yoga. After a recent class at Meow Parlour, she said, ‘It was easy to do, and it was fun to have the cats all around.’

Her roommate, Anna Ginzburg, who is 28 and works in finance, took the class, too. Although the dozen or so cats weren’t particularly cuddly on the night she went (with cat yoga, you take your chances), one of them, a 20-pounder named Freddie Mercury, did make his presence known by repeatedly drowning out the teacher with his meows. The instructor occasionally had to stifle a giggle. ‘It’s a big stress reliever,’ Ms. Ginzburg said. ‘I want to keep coming back.’



Yoga participants are warned against bringing their own mats, which are likely to see some claw-induced damage.

‘None of the classes are ever the same,’ said Emilie Legrand, a co-owner of Meow Parlour and an affiliated bakery, Macaron Parlour, both on the Lower East Side. ‘It depends on the group of cats and the time of day.’ Afternoon classes tend to be more laid back, she said, because the cats are sleepy and just observe, while at the evening classes, when the cats are anticipating supper, they tend to be more frolicsome.

At the Good Mews cat shelter in Marietta, Georgia, a 5,500-square-foot facility with about 100 cats at any given time, repeat visitors are common at the monthly yoga classes. ‘We have space for 15 people, and we just clear the cat trees and stuff out of the way,’ said Nancy Riley, the volunteer marketing coordinator for the shelter. ‘Instantly, the cats are there on the mats.’

At least 40 cats will wander through the yoga class, Ms. Riley said, while others will sit on perches and observe. ‘Sometimes one will choose a particular person and will stay with them throughout the whole class,’ she said. ‘And some are social butterflies who meet with all the different students.’ During the savasana, or final resting pose of a yoga class, ‘usually at least half the people will have a cat asleep on their chest, it’s just the sweetest thing,’ Ms. Riley said.

At KitTea Cat Café in San Francisco, the Cats on Mats class happens every Wednesday night and costs \$30 a person. There are typically at least a dozen cats, but room for only eight yogis. ‘Our yoga instructors always incorporate the silliness and unpredictability of the cats themselves, like, sometimes a cat will be using the litter box,’ said Courtney Hatt, 31, who ditched a job in high-tech to start up KitTea, which serves teas, Belgian waffles, wraps and other fare.

The emphasis tends to be less on the food than on fostering good times for people in need of a cat fix. Cat participation in the yoga classes varies widely. ‘We’ve actually had kitties who have stretched with people,’ said Ms. Hatt. ‘Probably unintentionally. But they do an excellent downward dog.’

Similar cat cafes have sprouted across the country in the last two years or so, typically separating the animal play space from the food area, for health reasons.

Ms. Legrand, of Meow Parlour, said that the rotating cast of cats refreshes the experience. ‘It’s fun when we have a few new cats, and you can tell it’s their first yoga class, because they are very curious,’ she said. ‘The yoga mats are like cat magnets.’

nyt.com, J. Kingson, June 2017 photo by V. Tullo for The New York Times

Happiness does not light gently on my shoulder like a butterfly. She pounces on my lap, demanding that I scratch behind her ears.

Unknown

How Much Do You Love Your Cat? - Kidney Transplants



It could be the ultimate gesture of devotion for a treasured pet. For £8,000, owners of cats with kidney disease are to be given the chance to extend their lives by giving them an organ transplant. Members of the general council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) gave the practice the official go-ahead at a meeting in London yesterday.

The decision sparked concern among groups, including the RSPCA, about the ethics of organ transplants in animals, in particular over their obvious lack of choice and consent. Animal charities were also horrified at the prospect of feral or stray cats being captured and used as donors. Other commentators said it was 'frivolous' and 'distasteful' to be discussing kidney transplants for cats when hundreds of human patients die each year while waiting for replacement organs

The RCVS insisted that guidelines would be strictly enforced and that members of surgical teams would have to have appropriate qualifications. The operation was pioneered in the U.S. and is already allowed there and in Australia. It is estimated to extend the lives of sick cats by around 18 months to two years, although some have survived more than eight years beyond an operation.

Around 50,000 cats are thought to die of kidney disease every year. The illness, also known as chronic renal failure, cannot be cured and only some cats can be treated successfully with palliative medication. So far, kidney transplants have been approved only for cats, because the operation is thought to be safe and generally effective.

Kidney transplants in dogs - or those involving other organs - are more complicated and would have to be approved separately. Like humans, cats have two kidneys but can survive perfectly well with just one.

In a feline transplant operation, a kidney has to be removed from a live donor animal and then transplanted into the 'patient' - a procedure that takes around four hours. RCVS president Stephen Ware said it was unlikely huge numbers of cat owners would want to spend £8,000 on the operation.

'It's happening successfully in the United States but not at any great level,' he said. 'There's no reason to think it will happen at any great level in the UK either. 'But as a matter of principle, it's right that it should be available to pets that need it and as an option for treatment for owners. 'It is important to note that the decision to carry out the procedure will be a clinical veterinary decision in the first instance, which will depend on the condition of the patient and the suitability of the potential source animal.'

The RSPCA warned that there was a real possibility of unnecessary suffering being caused to donor animals as a result of the operation. It said it would consider prosecuting vets who carried out the procedure under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act.

Director of veterinary services Chris Laurence said: 'For obvious reasons neither the donor nor the recipient animal would be able to make a decision based on the possible long-term health implications. 'An animal receiving a donor organ would need frequent blood testing and the animal would probably be required to use drugs for the rest of its life.'

Peter Jinman, president of the British Veterinary Association, said: 'There are big questions still to be answered, not least the welfare and sourcing of donor animals - particularly since they are not in a position to give informed consent.' TV nature programme presenter Chris Packham also criticised the idea. 'What could be more decadent?' he said. 'Here is a society where humans have a long queue for kidneys, some of whom are dying in that queue. 'It seems a shame that cats are afforded this much attention.'

j.chapman@dailymail.co.uk 2017

Note - In the US, the feline transplant program at the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital requires that the donor cat be adopted by the recipient cat's family.

Situations Vacant - As A Cat Might Write

- ◆ Young cat, suffering delusions of lion hood, requires easily scared family. Not yet able to dispatch wildebeest, will practise regularly on local wildlife.
- ◆ Elderly tabby seeks employment as bed-warmer. Will keep bed warm throughout day in return for daily salary of Burns Cat Food and water. Gets along well with similarly inclined felines of all colours and willing to work as a team or will cover additional beds on shift rota basis.
- ◆ Trouble getting up in the morning? Enthusiastic feline alarm clock, pre-set to 5 am, seeks position after previous job fell through. Punctual, seven days/week.



ats are intended to teach us that not everything in nature has a function.

Anonymous



KIT'S KORNER



Word Search

Can You Find the breeds listed below?

A	E	S	E	N	I	L	A	B	A
B	D	L	I	O	D	G	A	B	O
I	B	E	G	A	Z	E	Y	N	X
L	T	I	V	U	M	S	H	N	T
A	A	O	Y	O	S	E	A	I	T
M	R	G	A	I	N	M	S	W	A
O	O	B	N	A	I	R	E	E	C
S	K	I	O	E	T	U	E	N	I
N	A	M	R	I	B	B	A	X	C
N	A	I	S	R	E	P	W	I	O

Abyssinian

Burmese

Ocicat

Balinese

Devon Rex

Persian

Bengal

Korat

Siamese

Birman

Manx

Somali

The Final Miaow

As you can see we have come to the last page 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*. Special thanks to the Royal Thai Cat Club for articles and their photos. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending them in.
Karen & Gloria ^..^

Pictures From The Royal Thai Cat Club



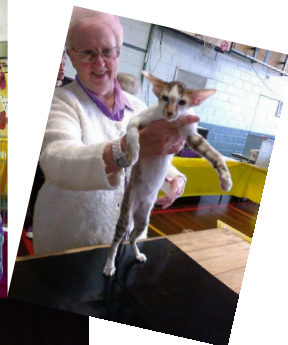
You may remember from our last newsletter, the Committees of The Royal Thai Cat Club in Australia and SABCCI voted to make both clubs honorary members of each other. Their Secretary, Janet Campari, has sent us some photos from shows, cats and of the Cat of the Year Awards. Congratulations to Janet on passing the exams as a Judge of Group 1. She now is qualified in judging Group 1 & 2.



Cat of the Year Awards Night
Zeuss' 'Cat of The Year' Photo, club table. Zeuss is owned by Janet Campari.



Below: BIS Adult at the
Birman & Ragdoll Show



A judge from China, at The Sunshine Show, Zeuss BIS Kitten at Royal Thai show, the Royal Thai show.



Curiosity of Cats

If you keep this similarity in mind, it may help explain why your cat does certain things, because they are instinctive and do not need to be learned. For instance, a cat who spends some time outdoors often seems to be struck by an urge to climb. He will bolt up the nearest tree and climb it joyfully. However, once up there, it is difficult for him to descend since his backward curving claws give no grip.

Cats are extremely curious. They will climb into almost anything to explore, which can pose certain dangers, especially if the 'something' is an open garbage can full of rain water, or a toilet with the lid up, or an empty paper bag which might be stepped on by mistake.

Cats love to sleep in warm, dark places, so keep drawers, trunks and closets closed. Check to see where your cat is before closing the door of the oven, washer or clothes dryer. Also, before leaving home, always conduct a 'cat check' to make sure that your cat has not accidentally been locked in a closet or an empty room. Think like a cat. Remember that he is always looking for a new place to explore.

If your cat is allowed outdoors, be sure to blow your horn and bang on the hood of your car before starting the engine. Cats like to crawl up under the hood to keep warm.

From Royal Thai Cat Club Newsletter

Quiz 1
Questions 1 to 5
A witch
Cheshire
Henry Mancini
Bobbie
Honor Blackman

Quiz 2
Answers 1 to 6
T F F T T F (see page 4)



More Cat Words

Catastrophe - Feline punctuation
Caterpillars - Felines used to hold up structures
Catalyst - Group of things to get done