

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2018

www.sabcci.com



Contents - Autumn 2018

	Page
Editorial, The Cat & The Rat	3
Rainbow Bridge	4
The Father Of The Cat Fancy	4
Cats In The News	5
The Pedigree - The Khao Manee	6
My Dakota, The Cat That Preferred To Live Elsewhere	6
The Quiz & Fun Stuff	7
The 2018 Supreme Show	8
Growing Herbs For Cats	9
The Cat Walk	10/11
Black Cats - Myths	12
Dream Job Listed On Facebook	13
Health	14
Kits Korner	15
The Final Miaow & More	16

www.sabcci.com 

SABCCI Committee

Ronnie Brooks, Dionne Dixon, Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir, Aedamair Kiely,
Norman O'Galligan, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Lorna Taylor, Aimee Weldon
Membership Secretary - Betty Dobbs



"So they bring a tree in the house and put all these shiny, dangling things on it, then freak out if I go near it ... This is why I drink."

Where Did It Come From? - 'Having Kittens'



In medieval times it was believed that if a pregnant woman was in pain, she had been cursed by a witch and had kittens inside clawing at her belly. Since a woman believing she was going to give birth to a litter of kittens would become hysterical, the phrase has, over time come to mean being in an angry panic.

xmission.com

Things You Can Learn From Your Cat

- Make your mark in the world, or at least spray in each corner.
- Always find a good patch of sun to nap in.
- Always give generously; a bird or rodent left on the bed tells them, 'I care'.



Cats.alpha.pl

Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2018 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Watermelon Bubbles 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 (behind SuperValu)
21st of October



Once again, SABCCI and the GCCFI will hold 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!



Fred's Catnip Farm Spring Competition Winner

Congratulations to Soracha Galbraith!

The draw was made by SABCCI Chair, Karen Sluiter, at the Supreme Show in April.

We would like to thank Fred's Catnip Farm for running the competition.



The Cat & The Rat In Christchurch Cathedral Dublin



The day after the Supreme show last April, I took our American CFA judge, Sharon Roy, on a walking tour of Dublin. Starting at St Patrick's Cathedral we walked our way eventually to O'Connell street stopping at many places of interest among them Christchurch Cathedral, City Hall, Dublin Castle and Trinity College.

In Christchurch Cathedral we went down into the crypt. There we found mummified remains of 'The Cat & The Rat'. These two have been named Tom and Jerry.

The sign read - 'Possibly our most famous residents, our cat and rat were trapped in an organ pipe in the 1860s and became mummified. They were made famous by James Joyce, when he writes in Finnegans Wake describing someone being '... as stuck as that cat and mouse in that tube of the Christchurch organ ...'

When we came up from the crypt we saw the actual organ they were trapped in. The organ was small and we knew the rat would get in but wondered how that cat had.

Gloria Hehir

Curious Cat Related Fact

A cat named Mousam received a notice to report for jury duty. When Mousam's owner notified the board of elections that their potential juror was a cat, Mousam was disqualified. Not because he was a cat, but because he couldn't speak English.



Animal Behaviourist Jim Stephens will be back in our next issue with another article. If you would like to suggest a problem or topic for the next newsletter please contact either of the editors.

Do you have a question for Jim? Come and talk to Jim at the show on the 21st of October. He can be contacted at the SABCCI Club Stall. (Jim Stephens, Companion Animal Behaviour Counsellor, www.petsbehave.com)

The Rainbow Bridge



Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them. When our time comes they will be waiting for us and then we will cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

Emily 1999-2018

When tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right inside your heart.

The Mackey Family



Editors note: Emily appeared many times on our 'Catwalk' pages. We would like to thank Sean and his family for sharing Emily with us.

No Heaven will not ever Heaven be - Unless my cats are there to welcome me

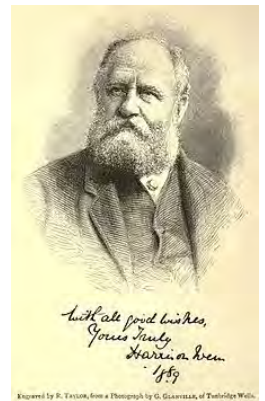


The Father Of The Cat Fancy

Harrison William Weir (1824 – 1906) known as 'The Father of the Cat Fancy', was an English gentleman and artist.

He organised the first cat show in England, at The Crystal Palace, London, in July 1871. He and his brother, John Jenner Weir, both served as judges in the show. In 1887 Harrison Weir founded the National Cat Club and was its first President and Show Manager until his resignation in 1890.

Weir was a natural history artist and provided some of the illustrations for the Rev John George Wood's 'Illustrated Natural History', served as chief illustrator 'Wild Sports and Natural History of the Highlands,' and designed all of the illustrations for George Fyler Townsend's 'Three Hundred Æsop's Fables'. He also provided illustrations for many of the books of the natural history author Sarah Bowdich Lee.



In 1889, Weir wrote 'Our Cats and All About Them' describing and illustrating the pedigree varieties of the time. This was the first pedigree cat book.

Weir was a keen animal fancier and his illustrations of domestic cats, dogs and poultry are probably best known. He was an experienced breeder of cats, carrier pigeons, and poultry and for thirty years often acted as a judge at the principal pigeon and poultry shows.

Until the formation of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy in 1910, the National Cat Club was also the governing body of the cat fancy. Wikipedia, photo Engraved by P. Taylor, from a Photograph by G. Glanville, of Tunbridge Wells

Where Did It Come From? - 'Raining Cats & Dogs'

The dog, an attendant of the storm king Odin, was a symbol of wind. Cats came to symbolize down-pouring rain, and dogs to symbolize strong gusts of wind. A very heavy storm, therefore, indicated that both cats and dogs were involved.

Another explanation is that the phrase came about early 17th century London, when cats hunted mice on the rooftops - during a rainstorm, the cats were washed off the roofs and fell on passers-by. xmission.com



I have studied many philosophers and many cats. The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior.

Hippolyte Taine



It was handkerchiefs at the ready as beautiful rescue moggie, Genie, who has helped her 12-year old owner Evie battle an aggressive form of bone cancer, was named as the overall winner of the Cats Protection's National Cat Awards.

At the ninth annual ceremony, which 'Yours' was delighted to attend, the black-and-white puss was selected from dozens of amazing whiskered finalists for the incredible support and inspiration she's given to Evie Henderson, who was diagnosed with bone cancer in March 2016.

Evie, who lives with her parents Tina and Chris in Lincoln, has endured six gruelling rounds of chemotherapy, several painful operations and lengthy hospital stays far from home

But throughout it all, little Genie has been there as a constant friend and companion. In fact, Evie took great comfort from watching videos of Genie from her hospital bed and telling doctors she needed to get better so she could go home and see Genie.

Evie said: 'Even in the darkest moments, Genie comes in and I know I can talk to her about anything. She makes me so happy and brings me great comfort.' Talking of Genie's win Evie said 'I'm utterly stunned. Genie deserves this so much.'

Genie was one of many incredible cats who were celebrated at The National Cat Awards, held in the year of the 90th birthday of Cats Protection. Taking place at The Savoy Hotel in London, it was attended by a host of famous faces including Anita Dobson, Peter Egan and Only Fools and Horses actor John Challis.

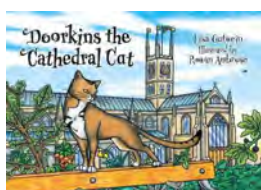
Among the other purr-fectly heroic pusses was Pixie who alerted her sleeping owners that their toddler was choking in her cot, Mittens, who helps a young girl with autism cope with a serious medical condition, Spike who helps his owner cope with a debilitating disease and Tilly, who's a great comfort to her owner who suffers with a condition that causes excruciating pain.

www.yours.co.uk, photo - Fabio de Paolo - PA wire

Doorkins Magnificat

In 2008 a stray cat started visiting the Southwark Cathedral between Christmas and New Year waiting at the South West Doors each morning for food. After being fed each morning for a few days, this cat decided (as cats do) that the Cathedral is where she wished to live and has been with us ever since.

Given the name Doorkins Magnificat by the Vergers who serve her on a daily basis, she is now very much part of the Cathedral fabric and is popular with the congregation, visitors and staff. A number of visitors come to the Cathedral just to see her and she has even had the honour to entertain HM Queen Elizabeth II.



In August 2017 she published her first book which gives a complete tour of the Cathedral and a typical week in the life of our self-proclaimed Magnificat.

Doorkins can be quite elusive but it is not uncommon to see her walk in front of the altar during a service, asleep on the Dean's stall in the Choir during the day or cat-napping in the Churchyard if the sun is out. In the winter months, she likes to stretch out on one of the radiators or snuggle into the hay at the Nativity Crib during Advent and Christmas.

<https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org>

CC The First Cloned Cat

CC, the first-ever cloned cat and perhaps the most well-known feline in the world, recently turned 15 years old and she appears to have most of her nine lives ahead of her, according to her owner and the man who helped clone her at Texas A&M University in 2002.

Duane Kraemer, senior professor in the Reproduction Sciences Lab at Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says CC – short for Copy Cat – made the record books in several categories. She became the first cloned cat following 87 attempts 15 years ago, and she also became the first cloned cat to become a mother. She has three offspring that were born 11 years ago, all of them still alive and doing well.

'One of the big concerns that critics of cloning had was that cloned animals would suffer health problems and not live as long as non-cloned animals,' Kraemer explains. 'CC proved that theory was wrong. She is in good health and her kittens all turned out to be healthy, normal cats.'

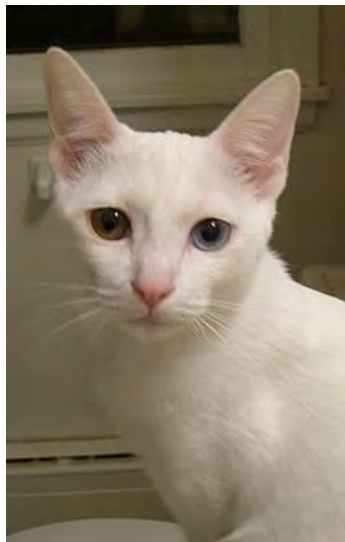


Kitten CC with her Mother Alli

CC has lived with Kraemer and his wife Shirley, who adopted CC, for the past 15 years, along with Smokey, CC's mate. 'She's been a great cat and a great mother. CC has been a real joy for us the past 15 years,' adds Kraemer, an admitted cat lover. As for CC, Kraemer says she is content with her life in a two-story custom-built house made especially for her and her offspring, and she has mastered the art of cat naps.

www.today.tamu.edu, March 2017

The Pedigree - The Khao Manee



The Khao Manee is one of the naturally occurring ancient breeds originating from Thailand. They are mentioned in the Tamra Maew, cat poems, written in the 14th century. Known as the 'White Gem' they were said to be kept initially by the Siam royals. They are thought to bring good luck to anyone who owns them.

The Khao Manee is of medium size, muscular and athletic body. The white coat is short, smooth and close-lying. The eyes are blue, gold or odd eye.

These cats are affectionate and intelligent. They enjoy the company of people and are devoted to their owners. They are outgoing, playful and communicative.

The breed was taken to the US in 1999 and was brought to the UK ten years later by breeder Chrissie Russell. In 2010 They were granted breed name by the GCCF.

The painting above is a Khao Manee mural painting in Wat Thong Noppakhum. Created in the reign of King Rama 1-3 (1782-1851AD)

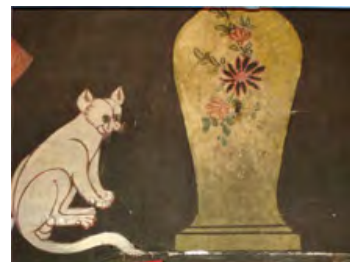


Photo - Wikipedia

My Dakota



Dakota was a Lilac Point Applehead Siamese. She was the only kitten born to our 'store cat' at a pet boutique in Toronto where I was working. I met her hours after she was born and her Mom Iris decided she'd prefer me to look after her when I was in the store. Iris would drop Dakota on my desk and go about her day, come back when it was feeding time then off again. Dakota and I were thrilled with this arrangement. Iris didn't do this with the other 2 employees in the store, only myself.

When Dakota was one year old the store closed. She came home with me and we spent the next 19 years being best buds. If people can have feline soulmates, Dakota was mine. I'm type 1 diabetic and a few years after Dakota came home to live I realized that she would occasionally wake me in the middle of the night. After a time I realized that she was waking me up when my blood sugar was low. I took note of when she did this and turns out she was correct about 90% of the time!

Dakota passed away in my arms in April 2010 after suffering a stroke. I still miss her every day. The house was too quiet after she'd gone so Gabby came bounding into my life 3 weeks later to help fill the emptiness in the house and my heart.

Dakota was in a small Canadian magazine a few years ago (started modelling at the age of 16 years). She was also the star of a magazine ad, seen on the right, for the dog training school I worked for in Toronto. My boss was the owner of the store Dakota was born in. Teri Byrne (abridged version)

Editors note: See Teri's cat Gabby in 'The Cat Walk' along with Gabby's housemate Amber.



The Cat That Preferred To Live Somewhere Else

In the early 1990's we lived not far from the old Cat's and Dog's home as it was known then located near the canal in the Docklands. They had a lovely cattery and we put our cat in there for a fortnight while we went on our holidays. We almost left in tears feeling sorry for the poor cat thinking she'd have a miserable time pining for us while we were off enjoying ourselves. When we returned we went to pick her up. To our disappointment she wasn't too bothered to see us. We could see she had definitely made herself at home swinging from tyres and ropes and playing with her new furry buddies.

After a few days she disappeared and we found her back at the cattery. This happened three times and eventually a lovely old gentleman who lived there said to leave her, that it was no problem, she could live with him. She wasn't alone it seems. He had lots of cats. We were disappointed at first because she meant a lot to us but it clearly wasn't reciprocated, the cattery was obviously far more fun! Thankfully we were still able to see her because our daughter was a junior volunteer with the DSPCA and would go around every Saturday to help out. We never knew what happened in the end because they moved to Rathfarnham, we wonder if she moved too.....

Rebecca McKerrow

A Note: A while ago we were at the vets with our cat and we owners were talking to each other. The above story was told by one of the owners. I had told a girl I used to work with, Erica who now lives in France, that we had been at the vets. The following day she texted me to tell me it was her mother we were talking to and she was the daughter who volunteered at the old DSPCA. Her mother had told Erica about our cat's problems and Erica put 2 and 2 together. Small world isn't it? Gloria

See Erica's cats Pippin & Xena in the 'Cat Walk' pages. Both are regulars to the page.

'I have been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It's not. Mine had me trained in 2 days.'

Bill Dana, Comedian



The Quiz



1. What breed of cat is shown in the Disney Movie 'Lady and the Tramp'?
 - a. American short Hair
 - b. Siamese
 - c. Tabby
 - d. Persian
2. Which of these breeds is native to Kenya?
 - a. Snowshoe
 - b. Nebelung
 - c. Tiffany
 - d. Sokoke
3. On average, cats spend how much time every day sleeping?
 - a. 16 Hours
 - b. 12 Hours
 - c. 8 Hours
 - d. 4 Hours
4. Which breed of cat is the largest?
 - a. Maine Coon
 - b. Ragdoll
 - c. Siberian
 - d. Savannah
5. How many teeth does an adult cat have?
 - a. 36
 - b. 30
 - c. 42
 - d. 22

triviachamp.com

Answers on page 16

Positions Wanted - As Cats Might Write

- ◇ Small conscientious cat willing to work hard in return for good home; will tackle and destroy any creature up to a fair-sized moth; will scare away craneflies; not afraid of spiders.
- ◇ Daredevil, enjoys living dangerously, seeks untamed wilderness to explore/subdue between breakfast and evening dinner. Will keep territory free of children, dogs, rabbits and other cats. Will contribute towards own meals.
- ◇ Retired rodent-control operative seeks position controlling slow or disabled rats, maintaining physical presence or willing to supervise younger cats.



"Remember I said I was going to get even with you for picking on me, and you replied-- You and what army...?"

First Law of Cat Energy Conservation:

Cats know that energy can neither be created nor destroyed and will, therefore, use as little energy as possible.



How to Prepare For a New Cat

- Knock all small items off your kitchen counter.
- Put everything cat-toy sized into a water bowl to marinate.
- Tip over a basket of clean laundry, and scatter clothing all over the floor.
- Put chocolate pudding on the carpet in the corner of the living room in the morning and don't try to clean it up until you return from work that evening.
- Cover all your best suits with cat hair. Dark suits must use white hair, and light suits must use dark hair. Also, float some hair in your first cup of coffee in the morning.
- Take a staple remover and punch two holes in every scrap of paper around the house.





The 2018 Supreme Show



22nd of April 2018

Best in Show Results

PERSIAN

Adult – Ms H Craig’s CH CARISMA SO CHIC (GR CH &INT CH) ((Persian F)

Kitten – Ms L Garcia’s AMORMIST ANGELICA RAY (Persian CP F)

Neuter – Mrs C Rainey’s PURRFICGEMS ESME (Exotic FN)

SEMI LONGHAIRD

Adult - Mrs Connick’s PAWPURRFECTION LUCKY CHARM (Ragdoll M)

Kitten - M Browne’s ISHCUS MELVIN (Maine Coon MN)

Neuter - Wagner’s PR ISHCUS CASPER THE FRIENDLY GHOST (Maine Coon MN)

BRITISH

Adult – Mrs Johnston’s INT CH QUENTAN CHERRY LAND (UK GR CH) (British Lilac)

Kitten - T Glavecka’s YO NO OF DAISY’S HOME (British Lilac M)

Neuter - Mr Slater’s GR PR HOONIKAZTZ SILVER BELLE (Black Silver Spotted FN)

FOREIGN

Adult – J Zmetnaja’s ALICE DUDOLAND*PL (Devon Rex F)

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

BURMESE

Adult - Mr & Mrs Taylor’s CH BACKCHAT ALICE SPRINGS (Blue Tortie F)

Neuter - Ms Sluiter’s PR ALDEBIZ MANEKI HOSHI (Choc Tortie FN)

SIAMESE

Adult – Mrs Aird-O’Hanlon’s SIAWAYE QUEENOF SPADES (Choc Point F)

NON PEDIGREE

Mr & Mrs O’Galligan’s KALIE (Tabby & White SH)

PEDIGREE PET

Ms Lenihan’s SILVER FERN (Tortie Ticked Tabby)

SUPREME ADULT

J Zmetnaja’s ALICE DUDOLAND*PL (Devon Rex F)

SUPREME KITTEN

T Glavecka’s YO NO OF DAISY’S HOME (British Lilac M)

SUPREME NEUTER

Wagner’s PR ISHCUS CASPER THE FRIENDLY GHOST (Maine Coon MN)

OVERALL SUPREME EXHIBIT

J Zmetnaja’s ALICE DUDOLAND*PL (Devon Rex F)

OVERALL SUPREME HOUSEHOLD PET

Ms Lenihan’s SILVER FERN (Tortie Ticked Tabby)



Growing Herbs For Cats

Catnip (*Nepeta Cataria*)



A must for every cat lover's garden. Catnip is the feline equivalent of Prozac! This hardy perennial comes from Europe. It can grow up to a meter high, if the cats don't get to it first. Most cats adore catnip, they love rolling and playing in it as well as chewing the aromatic grey green, furry leaves. On various occasions you can find your catnip flattened and chewed off until only traces remain of what was once a flourishing plant. One way of preventing this is to make a metal dome out of bird wire and place it over the plant. The cats can harvest the Catnip as it grows through the wire but the dome protects it from more energetic attention.

Catnip leaves smell rather like a mixture of Pennyroyal and Mint and it is this scent that attracts the cats. There's an old saying that - *'If you set it, the cats will eat it If you sow it the cats don't know it'*

Certainly cats tend to destroy transplanted Catnip unless it's protected, but they don't seem to bother with the plants grown from seed unless the leaves have been broken or damaged. Catnip is like a tonic for cats, it has an uplifting effect and while it seems to drive some cats into a frenzy, it has no negative side effects. There are no addiction issues and nothing like cats getting 'downers'! Basically it affects the glands which control endorphins. Without regular exercise cats become lethargic and these glands slow down - Catnip simply riggers them into functioning normally again (although it has been seen that kittens bump into the furniture on Catnip).

Catnip grows best in the sun in a light rich soil. It has a small white, blue or purple flowers from late Spring through to Autumn and doesn't need a lot of water. Catnip should be pruned or harvested in the Spring before it flowers, to encourage strong new growth and prevent it becoming straggly.



Catmint (*Nepeta faassenii*)

A close cousin to Catnip and often confused with it. Catmint has more of a narcotic affect on cats. It is a lower growing, bushier plant with grey leaves and pale blue flowers on spikes. It grows easily in the sun in most soils.

Cat Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*)

This is perhaps one of the most essential herbs for cats, particularly long hairs, and those who don't have the luxury of their own garden. Cat Grass is an effective aid for digestive issues and it also helps to break up and dislodge hair balls. It adds chlorophyll to their diets which interacts with sunshine to produce more Vitamin D, which in turn stimulates a general feeling of wellbeing. In short hair cats that frequently dine on Cat Grass have a Zen like approach to life. It is also important when there are changes in the cat's environment like moving house or the arrival of a new baby.



Another plus is that Cat Grass is one of the few grasses that actually do better in cold weather, which is when it grows best. When all the lawn is frosted dead it's useful to have a pot of Cat Grass inside for the cats to nibble on during winter.

Mint (*Mentha piperita* aka Peppermint)

You usually do not see cat's grazing mint voluntarily but it can be gradually introduced into their diet by chopping it very finely. Like Catmint, Peppermint has a stimulating but relaxing effect on cats. It doesn't relax them as much as Chamomile would in humans, but it does help to lower stress levels while giving the cat an energetic feeling.



For centuries Peppermint has been cultivated for its strong smelling and tasting volatile oil, which is used to flavor a wide variety of products from toothpaste to tea. There's evidence that it was cultivated by the ancient Egyptians and it's mentioned in the Icelandic Pharmacopoeias of the 13th century.

Medically, it is the most used member of the mint family and is particularly well known as an aid to digestion (in both humans and animals). An infusion of mint or a few leaves well chopped and added to food helps to prevent wind. Another benefit is that it sweetens the cat's breath!

Peppermint is a perennial which grows to about 60cm high. It spreads vigorously by means of underground stems, so it's best to plant it in a pot. It enjoys full sun or shade and requires regular watering and a well drained soil. Peppermint is usually propagated by splitting the plants in Spring.

Tips for growing herbs – The best results are achieved when herbs are grown in a sunny position in a well drained soil. If they are grown in containers use a reputable potting soil. Ideally they should be given small amounts of water frequently and regularly. All herbs need to be harvested, even if the harvested parts won't be used. Harvesting stimulates new growth which contains the highest concentration of essential oils. During Spring, harvesting takes the place of trimming, but never prune your herbs heavily during the Summer months.

From The Royal Thai Cat Club Newsletter, Australia

Cats are the natural companions of intellectuals. They are the silent watchers of dreams, inspiration and patient research.

The Catwalk

Gabby -

My human made the cover so my hairs wouldn't clog up the Sky box and I still get the heat!

T. Byrne, Dublin



Mojo -

It's mine, all mine!

N. Barrett, Dublin



A Page of Telly Addicts

Tia -

I love my Sky Box.
Every cat should have one!

L. Leech, Dublin



Burbonne -

I liked watching
'Cats of the Coliseum'.

G. Hehir, Dublin



The Catwalk

Pippin -

Please Sir, can I
have more?

E. McKerrow, France



Scraggy -

Are you talking at me?

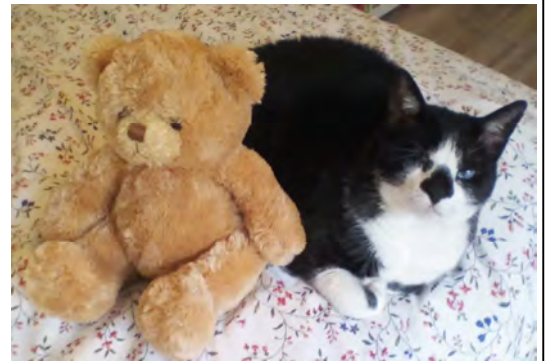
S. Galbraith, Dublin



Xena -

Like my new friend?

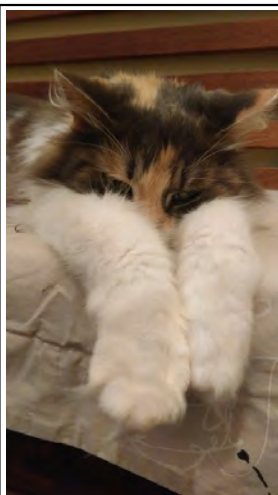
E. McKerrow, France



Amber -

Do you think I should get
my nails painted?

T. Byrne, Dublin



Black Cats - Myths

With Halloween Coming Soon - History Gave This Feline a Bad Rap

Do you cringe when you see a black cat cross your path?

Black cats have long been the subject of superstition and suspicion, dating as far back as the Medieval period and reaching a pinnacle of fear during the Salem witch trials during the late 1600s.

Why all the fuss? We decided to tackle a few of the more common misconceptions about black cats.

Black Cats Are Supernatural

During the Medieval period, black cats were thought to be part demon and therefore part of sorcery. Such was their fear that people began capturing and killing black cats, which led to an unfortunate consequence: the Black Death, a.k.a. the bubonic plague.

As the rodent population surged due to the decrease in the cat population, diseases carried by rats and mice began to spread rapidly. While there has never been any evidence to prove that black cats are demonic, historians do attribute the cause of the bubonic plague, in part, to the widespread killing of black cats.

During the 15th century, American settlers arrived in the Northeast with a deeply rooted faith in the Bible. They also believed that black cats were witches companions, and anyone seen with a black cat should be punished - severely. Ultimately, their suspicions grew to mass hysteria, which led to the Salem witch trials which lasted for more than one year and resulted in 19 people being hanged and hundreds more accused or sent to prison.

There are those today who still believe black cats are 'witchy,' but there's absolutely nothing to support such speculation. Countless families would attest that their black cats are nothing but lovable and affectionate companions who have yet to cast a spell on them.

Black Cats Bring Bad Luck

Following its association with witchcraft during the late 1600s, the black cat earned a bad rap and was generally considered to be a misfortune.

Run-ins with black cats that are considered 'bad luck' include:

- A black cat turning and walking away from you.
- Walking under a ladder that a black cat has just walked under.
- Seeing a black cat on your property.
- Crossing paths with a black cat early in the morning.

Pet owners of black cats will undoubtedly disagree with the bad luck superstition. It's interesting to note that other cultures such as Japanese, ancient Egyptian, Scottish and Northern European have considered black cats to be good luck.

Black Cats Are Aggressive

Unfortunately, the misconception that black cats are aggressive has compelled people to abandon black kitten litters or refrain from adopting them.

The lower adoption rate has led black cats to fall under the commonly-referred-to 'Black Dog Syndrome' at shelters, when black dogs and cats are passed over in favour of lighter-coloured pets that are perceived as being friendlier.

Appearance has been noted as a huge factor in pet adoption, so shelters and rescue groups are making a huge effort to promote black cats with the use of experienced pet photographers and special black cat adoption days, such as one called 'Shadow Adoption Day', when an adoption fee is waived for one cat when two cats, one being a black cat, are adopted together.

The truth is that a black cat is just as lovable as its multi-coloured counterparts and there's no evidence to support that black cats are aggressive, superstitious or bearers of bad luck.

petinsurance.com



Little Known Ailments



Non-specific Insect Infestation (also Non-specific Spider Infestation)

Symptoms: A disorder more prevalent among outdoor-going cats and cats with access to conservatories and garden rooms. Symptoms range from minor (the odd greenfly in tail, money-spider on fur) to severe (entire ecosystems of insects living on cat, spider webs spun between ears/whiskers, the cat so weighed down with spider webs that it has difficulty walking).

Treatment: Minor symptoms can be treated by simply removing the infesting agent (aphid, ladybug, spider, etc.) and combing webs out of fur. If the cat suffers recurrent or severe symptoms an exercise regime is highly recommended since highly mobile cats appear to attract fewer greenfly (research into this factor continues).

Dream Job Listed On Facebook - Unfortunately Had An August Deadline

God's Little People Cat Rescue on the Greek Island of Syros is looking to hire a live-in caretaker. The job comes with free housing and a salary, according to a post on the organization's Facebook page.

‘PAID JOB OFFER WITH CATS! (this is genuine and NOT a joke - friends, please feel free to verify!). A very special position and living circumstance on offer on a little Greek island called Syros (a small paradise no less!).’

The salary is €500 euro per month, Joan Bowell, the founder and owner of the cat sanctuary, tells CNBC make it via email. The job posting points to a link that says the average monthly salary in Greece fluctuated around €1050 euro per month between March 2017 and February 2018. The posting highlights that the job is not full time and comes with additional benefits. Housing is included in the form of a ‘semidetached modern tiny house with it's own garden (direct view to the Aegean Sea!),’ says the posting, which was previously covered by Time. The job takes about four hours a day of work and involves feeding, cleaning up after, medicating and loving the 55 cats at the sanctuary.



What the job may lack in financial remunerations it makes up for with peace and quiet. ‘We are located in a secluded nature preserved area which is very tranquil and quiet in winter time but busy during the summer. You'll no doubt thrive best if you are the type of person who appreciates nature and likes tranquillity - and rest comfortably in your own company,’ the posting reads. ‘That said, you'll never feel lonely in the company of the cats and you'll be expected to live with a small handful of cats in your house.’

Interested, mature cat-lovers who can commit for at least six months can apply and video interviews will be held at the end of August.

The more experience the job candidate has working with cats the better, the posting says. ‘From experience the job is most suitable for someone 45+ years of age, who's responsible, reliable, honest, practically inclined - and really, with a heart of gold! Apart from feeding the cats, the cats will also need heaps of love and attention. You will at times be expected to trap or handle a feral or non-sociable cat, so knowing something about a cat's psychology too is important + cat-whispering skills should come natural to you.’

www.cnb.com. Catherine Clifford august 2018, photo God's Little People Cat Rescue

Advise To Cats On - Hunting Wild Game - Spiders & Bees

Spiders: Hunting with game is important because as cats we have a responsibility to maintain nature's balance. Spiders upset that balance by hunting the same things we do, causing prey populations to dwindle. For that reason, it's necessary to take out these rivals so our future kills don't end up in their sticky traps. Don't try to imitate their hunting style, though. Your poo doesn't make a web nearly as well as the stuff that comes out of a spider. The ground is where you make your move. Stalk corners of your home - that's where they tend to land after unhooking their invisible bungee cords. When pouncing aim for the body. Too many otherwise fine hunting cats have nabbed a spider by one of its legs, only to see the arachnid escape using its other seven.



Bees: Bee season runs from May to August. You should find some good hunting spots in and around the flower garden. It's a dangerous pursuit, to be sure, but that's part of the excitement. Going toe-to-toe with a species that has a built-in dagger offers a unique challenge for even the most skilled hunter. If you're up for getting a little dirty, construct a bee-blind by covering yourself in dirt beside some blooming sunflowers. When a bee settles down to pollinate, burst out of the ground and take the fat buzzer down. The Devious Book For Cats by Fluffy & Bonkers



I GAVE THE CAT HER MEDICINE...
COULD YOU DRIVE ME TO THE
HOSPITAL NOW?



How To Annoy Your Human

The Fake Food Bag

Practice your most pitiful meow, combined with an expression of imminent starvation. When you have both down pat, follow your human around, mewling pathetically and licking your lips whenever she looks at you. When she finally relents and dishes out a bit of your favourite food, sniff disdainfully, then ‘cover’ the food by scratching the floor around it. Extra points for dragging something over to actually cover the food. Her new silk underwear would work well.

pawnation.com



My Pet May Have Been Poisoned!

Poisons can be eaten, absorbed through the skin, and inhaled. Poisonings can mimic many things. Some poisons act immediately, some take days to appear, potentially making diagnosis difficult.

What are some common signs seen with poisoning?

- Muscle tremors or seizures
- Vomiting and or diarrhea, sometimes with blood
- Excessive salivation - drooling or foaming
- Redness of skin, ears, eyes
- Mental depression or excitement (may be easily excitable)
- Bleeding (as with rat poison ingestion)
- Ulceration or blisters of the mouth or skin
- Excessive pawing at the mouth, excessive licking
- Swelling i.e. Elevated or depressed body temperature (elevations usually due to increased muscle activity - tremors/seizures)



What should I do if I suspect a poisoning?

- Call your veterinarian or veterinary emergency clinic immediately. Have the following information ready:
- Exact name of toxin ingested, inhaled, or absorbed.
- Approximately how much of the toxin was ingested
- How long ago you suspect that your pet may have been poisoned
- Approximate weight of your pet
- What signs your pet is showing - vomiting, tremors, salivation, etc., and general observations - such as color of the gums (capillary refill time), respiratory rate, heart rate, and if possible, body temperature.

If the poison is known, take the box or package with you. Do not induce vomiting without consulting your veterinarian. Some toxins are caustic, and vomiting will only increase damage. Some toxins need to be neutralized with activated charcoal, others need to be expelled by vomiting, and still others have antidotes. Topical toxins need to be rinsed (skin, eye) with copious amounts of water.

What are some common household poisons that I should be aware of?

Here is a list of common household poisons, in no particular order:

- Antifreeze (Ethylene glycol)
- Slug/Snail bait
- Prescription medications
- Mouse and Rat poison
- Some plants (indoor and outdoor), shrubs, and trees
- Flea and Tick treatments (Using more or not following product recommendations is not the way to kill more fleas and ticks)
- Lawn fertilizers, weed killers
- Household cleaners and chemicals

Any specific pet poison-proofing tips?

Some of the potential toxins above may seem obvious, but think again. Poisons such as rat, slug, snail, mice, and ant baits are baits; they are made to be attractive and tasty, even to the curious pet. Don't count on how well you hide these baits, either. Make sure that they are safely out of pet's reach (and that the pet isn't able to chew through something to get at them).

Medications made for humans may have coatings on them that are tasty to pets, enticing ingestion. Ethylene glycol antifreeze is known to be sweet-tasting, a danger to pets and children.

Carefully read all directions for use of chemicals; those intended for pets and those intended for other purposes (garden, house) and follow directions carefully.

From The Royal Thai Cat Club Newsletter, Australia

Is Your Cat Obese?



Obesity in cats is a direct result of owner over-indulgence, biologically inappropriate diets, and lack of adequate exercise. Sadly, obesity in pets causes many of the same painful, debilitating, and life-shortening diseases overweight humans suffer from, including diabetes, arthritis, kidney disease, and diminished quality of life. It is possible to help your kitty get fit. Below are two tips for getting couch-potato cats up and moving.

- The first thing you should do for your chunkster is evaluate the food she's consuming. A balanced, portion-controlled, species-appropriate diet will not only help your kitty lose weight, it will improve her overall health and well-being for the long haul.
- Additional recommendations for getting your cat more active include investing in a cat tree or tower and a few interactive toys; engaging your cat with low-tech amusements like ping-pong balls; thinking of ways to add exercise into everyday routines like mealtime; and getting your cat involved in feline agility, even if it's right in your own home.



KIT'S KORNER



**This mother Siamese cat is looking for her kittens.
Help her find her way through the maze to reach them.**

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. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending them in.
Karen & Gloria ^..^

Plymouth Cat Undiscovered During MOT



A cat in the UK was undiscovered inside the engine of a camper van for 4 days, despite the vehicle undergoing an MOT and a full service.

Oliver was snuggled under the bonnet of the Mercedes Benz Sprinter van but was missed by mechanics who carried out an oil change.

His owner, Clare Wakefield, and her 2 children searched for their pet after he vanished from their home. In the meantime, Mrs Wakefield broke off from the hunt to get her motorhome checked over at the garage.

Staff carried out essential maintenance after failing the van for an exhaust leak before handing back the keys.

But when the vehicle was back home, the family's other cat, Benji began sniffing the bonnet and they heard a faint meow when they went to investigate. They found 2 year old Oliver beneath the engine block. It took 30 minutes to coax him out.

'He smelt a bit oily but was otherwise fine. We're relieved to have him back' said Mrs Wakefield. Her husband, Brian, added 'the guys at the garage did a thorough job. He probably wasn't in the engine when they opened it up.'

Metro.co.uk, N. LeMarie, photo SWNS.

Grumpy Cat At Madame Tussauds

Grumpy Cat's replica, which made its debut at Madame Tussauds San Francisco, curls up in a little red bed, and can lift its head and purr.

The famously sour-faced puss became the first feline immortalized by Madame Tussauds, according to a press statement. Not even getting her own animatronic double can impress Grumpy Cat. But the real cat herself, who attended the unveiling of her likeness, didn't look too dazzled, and was even unfazed by the fact it's also the first mechanical figure made by the museum, which has headquarters in London, in more than a century. 'Grumpy Cat continues to be completely unimpressed by everything, including her own animatronic double! #GrumpyWax,' Madame Tussauds San Francisco wrote on its Facebook page.



Grumpy Cat, who is owned by Tabatha Bundesen and whose real name is Tardar Sauce, found fame after photographs of her were posted on Reddit in 2012. The 3-year-old's replica will remain in San Francisco for several months before touring other Madame Tussauds locations in the U.S., according to the statement from the wax museum.

huffingtonpost.com, 2015, photo Mikka Skaffari via Getty Images

A Cat's Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.

'Cuz the cat had pounced on him
and tore him apart -
Ate his mousey intestines
and chewed up his heart.

Kitty thought he heard sleigh bells,
which made him take pause -
He stopped daintily licking
the blood from his claws.



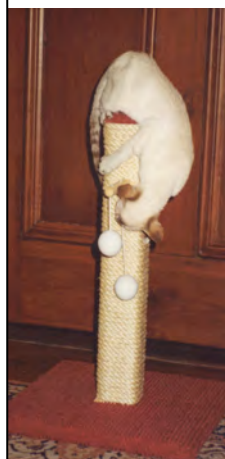
'Must be Santa,' thought kitty
(that quite clever cat)
'Cuz nobody else climbs down
the chimney like that.

Indeed it was ol' Santa,
so jolly and fat
With a huge load of presents
and all for the cat

'Wow, the best Christmas ever!'
kitty thought with a purr,
Then he coughed up a hairball
and shed some more fur.

Author Unknown

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)

Quiz Answers

1. b, 2. d, 3. a, 4. d, 5. b



Kit's Korner Solution



'A cat is a puzzle with no solution.' Anne Campbell
16