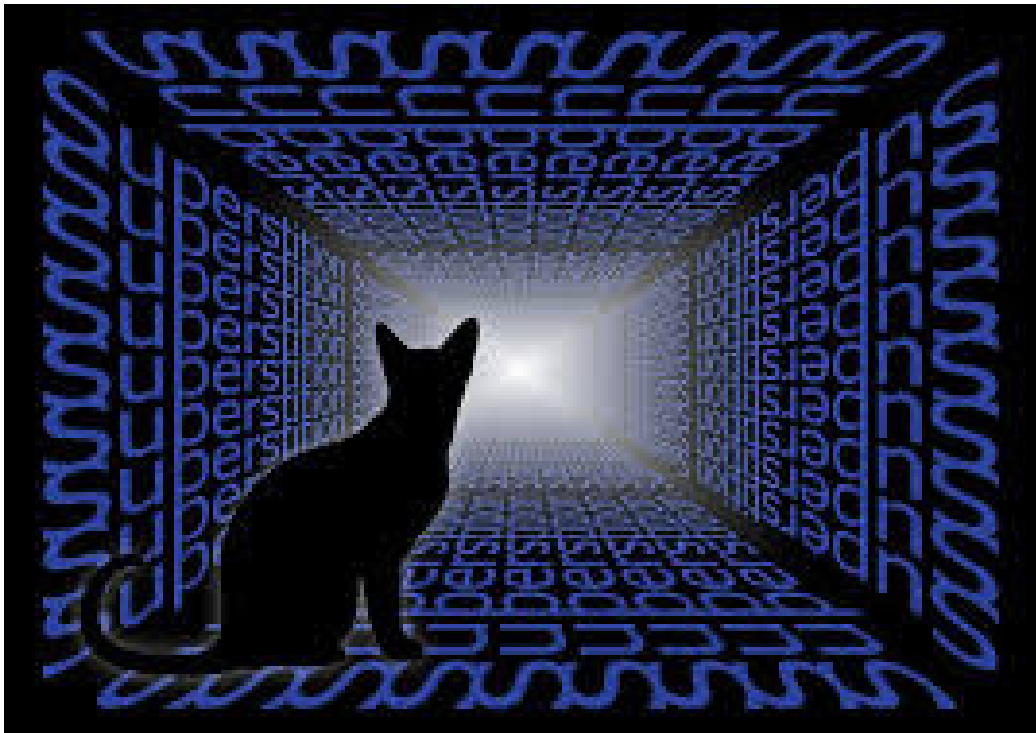


# The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2019

[www.sabcci.com](http://www.sabcci.com) 



# The Scratching Post

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Cover picture 'Cat Misfortune Superstition' pixiebay.com

## SABCCI Committee

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

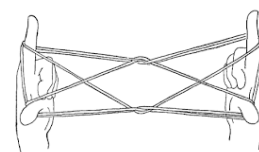


*'Look, I've got nine lives and can sneak up on the best of 'em - It's following orders that I have a problem with.'*

## Where Did It Come From? - Cat's Cradle

In early Europe, people believed a cat could increase the chances of fertility in a young married couple. A month after the wedding, a fertility rite was performed, where a cat was secured in a cradle, and the cradle was then carried into the newlyweds' house and was then rocked back and forth. This ensured an early pregnancy.

Cat's Cradle the string game played by children - The game created what looks like a cradle, and over time it was called a 'cat's cradle'.  
xmission.com



**C**ats aren't clean, they're just covered in cat spit.

Unknown



**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.

## Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2019 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with an Apple Margarita and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

Do you have any photos or articles for the newsletter? Please send them to [karen@sabcci.com](mailto:karen@sabcci.com) or [gloria@sabcci.com](mailto:gloria@sabcci.com)



### The Dublin Championship Cat Show

Knocklyon Community Centre

Idrone Road Knocklyon Dublin 16 (behind SuperValu)

20th 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!

### Polydactyl Cats

While most cats have five toes on their front paws and four toes on their back paws, polydactyl cats can have six (or more!) on each paw. Although polydactyly, a genetic abnormality that results in extra digits, is more common in certain geographic regions of the world, it can affect any breed of cat, male or female, big or small. Read on to learn more about the genetic factors that contribute to polydactyly,

Although polydactyly, a genetic abnormality that results in extra digits, is more common in certain geographic regions of the world, it can affect any breed of cat, male or female, big or small. More about the genetic factors that contribute to polydactyly.

Some have mitten paws - 'Mitten paws' occur when a polydactyl cat's extra toes form on the middle of the paw, giving it a thumb-like - or mitten-like - appearance. Although these extra digits resemble thumbs, they aren't opposable.

Being a polydactyl cat can benefit some cats - Polydactyl cats' toes aren't just cute - they actually provide some benefits to kitties, too. Because polydactyl cats have wider, larger paws, they're better able to balance on various surfaces, climb, and hunt and capture their prey.

If you have a polydactyl cat, be sure to buy her a scratching post or board. Those extra toes can seriously do a number on your furniture.

Like many kinds of cats (black cats and calico cats included) that were believed to bring good luck to sailors, polydactyl cats are no exception. Back in the day, polydactyl cats were a common sight on long journeys by ship. With the help of their large, wide paws, polydactyl cats made excellent mousers and could keep the ship's supplies vermin-free. Plus, their paws helped them balance on rocky seas.

Polydactyl cats are most commonly found in Western England, Wales, Canada, and the Eastern United States, and their prevalence in those regions is often credited to their days on trans-continental ships. It's believed that polydactyl cats in England were transported across the Atlantic Ocean, where they bred with non-polydactyl cats and proliferated the genetic trait. Sailors considered them gypsy cats.

The condition was common in Maine Coons - Because Maine Coon cats originated in Maine's harsh, snowy conditions, they've evolved to have large, insulated paws that serve as tiny, built-in snow boots. And, lucky for Maine Coons, polydactyly was very common in the breed - at one time, in fact, about 40% of Maine Coons had extra digits. Why's it lucky? Polydactyly gave Maine Coons larger, wider paws with more insulation to traverse the snowy conditions. Today, polydactyly has been bred out of many Maine Coon cats, but the breed polydactyl Maine Coon is actually still recognized by some cat fanciers.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, a polydactyl ginger tabby named Jake, from Ontario Canada, holds the world record for the most toes since 2002. Clocking in at a whopping 28 toes, Jake had seven toes on each paw - and each toe had its own nail and pad. Fred, from the UK, was born with 28 fingers and toes, 10 more than the usual 18, giving him what seems to be a paw toward tying the current world record.

[www.thesprucepets.com/polydactyl-cats](http://www.thesprucepets.com/polydactyl-cats) Christine Donnelly



## The Pedigree - The California Spangled

This breed, resembling a mini Leopard, had an interesting start. Paul Casey, a Californian playwright and author, was in Africa working with Louis Leakey. While there they heard of a poaching death of one of the last local leopards, this inspired them to create a breed of domestic cat to look like a leopard to give an awareness in the perseveration of the leopard. The thinking behind this was if someone owned this breed they would be more inclined to conserve the wild felines.



In 1970's Casey and Leakey went to work on an scientific plan which would go to eleven generations. They started with a female Applehead Siamese and a long haired spotted silver Angora. This produced a silver male with block shaped marks. American Shorthair, British Shorthair, spotted brown tabby Manx and Abyssinian were added making a core bloodline. The final addition was adding street cats from Egypt and Malaysia. By 1985 the achieved look was complete. The breed was introduced to the public in 1986 on the cover of Neiman Marcus Christmas catalogue.

The California Spangled has a long strong body with a short and spotted coat. The legs strong but slender with medium paws and a tail which is heavy based but tappers to a blunt tip. The head is has pronounced wide shaped cheekbones and a broad rounded muzzle with large whisker pads. The medium sized ears with rounded tips are set high on he head. The eyes are open and almond shaped, medium in size and placed well apart. The Spangled's eyes are a deep copper or pale amber.

The spots can be round, triangular, oval or square with the round most desired. The spots are found on the sides and back of the body which can sometimes be in rosette patterns. There are a variety of coat colours - charcoal, black, brown, bronze, gold, blue, red, silver.

They are intelligent, affectionate, social, gentle, acrobatic, full of energy and curious cats. Spangleds seek their owners attention and affection. For this it is recommended not to leave them for too long a period alone. They love to be perched watching all with an occasional pounce. They also enjoy playing with their owners.

The California Spangled is making its way towards attaining Championship status. In Europe there are two International Grand Champions and in 1994, in Paris, a Grand Champion won Best In Show.

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## Larry In The News - No. 10 Downing Street's Larry Has Done It Again!

Readers may remember Larry in the Spring Scratching Post. He was seen in the background of a news commentator reporting outside No.10 being let out of the rain and into No.10 by a police officer. In June, this year, he was at it again.



During the Trump visit last June Larry was in the news again - 'Larry, the cat that lives at Number 10, caused a stir today when he took a lie down underneath the US President's car – meaning it couldn't leave Downing Street. Donald Trump was visiting Theresa May when the cat took his position under the 'Beast'. The US president's £1.2million armoured high-tech vehicle is kitted out with bullet-proof windows, puncture resistant tyres and a satellite phone. But little old Larry was able to render it useless when he strolled over for a sit down and some shelter from the press cameras.' metro.co.uk, 4th of June 2019

And he also photo bombed the Mays and Trumps on the steps of No.10.



More on Larry and past 'mousers' in No. 10 below:

## July 2019 - The New PM's First Job: Impress The Cat

PM's come and go, but the Downing Street cat, Larry, remains in situ. As the new PM walks into Number 10 he will be greeted with applause by Downing Street staff - but there is one employee who is notoriously hard to impress.

Larry the cat currently holds the official role of chief mouser to the Cabinet Office, a position that's said to date back hundreds of years.

So how have previous PMs warmed to their four-legged civil servant over the years? A cross-species special relationship or a classic case of feline indifference?

Theresa May, in a 2016 interview with the Sunday Times, said she was 'very happy to see Larry', but hinted she was more of a dog person after growing up with them at home. She did note there were parts of Number 10 where Larry 'rules the roost'

*Larry contd next page*



with certain seats he expects to sit on. However, her own office chair was not one of them. Their relationship is unlikely to have improved after Larry was tactically extracted by police before Mrs May's resignation speech amid fears he would upstage the departing PM. With many outgoing prime ministers in their final days often rewarding or knighting members of their loyal staff, perhaps a chance to repair the relationship still remains.

But the chief mouser is likely to be more interested in the ongoing turf war between him and his Foreign Office rival, Palmerston. Multiple fights have broken out in front of cameras on Downing Street, with security guards having to step in to rescue Palmerston in October 2016

In David Cameron's final Prime Minister's Questions before resigning, he quashed rumours he and the Downing Street cat did not get on by brandishing a picture of Larry curled up on his lap. 'Sadly, I cannot take Larry with me - he belongs to the house and the staff love him very much, as do I.'



In significant moment in Anglo-American relations, Larry even allowed Barack Obama to stroke him during the presidential visit in 2011 with Mr Cameron later revealing Larry was 'all right' with him.

Mr Cameron was actually responsible for bringing Larry to Downing Street in 2011. The then four-year-old arrived from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home - his mouse-catching skills honed from his time as a stray

Before Larry took up occupation, black tabby Sybil, named after the Fawlty Towers character, briefly stalked the streets of Downing Street. But her home was not No 10, but No 11 with Chancellor Alistair Darling. The lack of a feline presence in Gordon Brown's HQ raised questions, and Mr Brown's official spokesperson was forced to deny the PM and his wife had a problem with Sybil.

Incoming prime minister, Tony Blair, had to share his home with the veteran Humphrey, who had already been patrolling the corridors for eight years when the Blairs moved in. But rumours circled the Westminster village when Humphrey suddenly left. Downing Street was forced to deny he had been put down, insisting he had instead been re-housed for health reasons. This led to Conservative MP Alan Clark using a parliamentary question to ask Mr Blair to outline what 'steps were taken by Cabinet Office staff to establish the state of health of Humphrey the cat, prior to his departure from Downing Street'. In his response, the prime minister explained that he was sent away due to worries about the 'general deterioration in his condition'. Reports from the countryside suggested he had 'responded very well and put on weight'

Previous Cats over the years - In a career spanning 13 years, Wilberforce served under four prime ministers from Edward Heath through to Margaret Thatcher. According to information revealed by the Home Office in 2005, the earliest record of a chief mouser is from 1929 when a penny a day from the petty cash was requested to feed a cat called Peter. Peter was succeeded by two more Peters and a Peta, who caused a rift in No 10 because of her lack of toilet training.

bbc.com, Laurence Sleator & Daniel Kraemer, July 2019, photo Wikipedia

### Cat Protection Lists 2019 Most Popular Names For Cats

From a survey of 34,000 cat owners the top 10 names female and male were;

More unique names further down the list were - Archibald von Snugglemuffin, Broccoli, Couscous The Puss Puss, Lord Puddington and Miss Fizzy Whiskers.

They found a common name for grey cats was Misty, Tabbies Molly and white cats Casper.

Many of the names related to plants, royal family and history.

For some really funny names see page 7.



Top 10 Female	Top 10 Male
1. Poppy	1. Oscar
2. Molly	2. Charlie
3. Luna	3. Alfie
4. Bella	4. Jasper
5. Daisy	5. Milo
6. Millie	6. Leo
7. Rosie	7. George
8. Tilly	8. Merlin
9. Willow	9. Harry
10. Lily	10. Monty

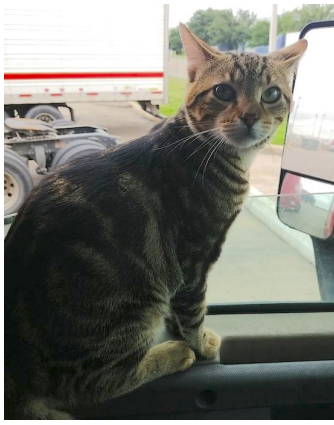


### How To Annoy Your Human - Turn On The Love

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

### The Law of Cat Magnetism:

**A**ll blue blazers and black sweaters attract cat hair in direct proportion to the darkness of the fabric.



## Trucker And His Co-pilot Cat Are Reunited

A frantic truck driver named Nick has been reunited with his beloved cat companion after a fellow traveller saw his plea for help on Reddit.

Nick had been on his way past Elgin, Illinois when he noticed that one of his truck mirrors was in need of repair. Since repair shop mechanics said that they were unable to fix the mirror until the following morning, he prepared to spend his evening watching movies with his cat Waylon.

In addition to the fearless feline being an ideal travel buddy, Waylon has also helped Nick cope with the emotional difficulties of being a veteran. 'I'm not gonna' go into detail, but long story short, I don't do well in crowds, or when I'm totally alone. Waylon kept me grounded. He kept me sane, and most of all, he kept me safe,' said Nick.

So when Nick suddenly noticed that Waylon was missing from his truck, he began to panic. 'I stood and hollered for him, but he didn't respond. Waylon always responds. He's a very vocal cat. I started tearing up the sleeper, hoping he was just really sleepy or something, but I found no luck there. That's when I realized that he had gotten out.'

Distraught over his missing friend, Nick stayed up the entire night calling Waylon's name and rattling his can of cat treats as bait – but to no avail. Finally after almost 12 hours of searching, Nick knew that he had to be on his way – but before he hit the road, he posted a picture of Waylon to the 'Trucker Cats' Reddit page. 'I know that the odds are slim, but if you picked him up or see him please let me know. I didn't know what else to do,' read Nick's online plea. 'I have to get back on the road now, so it's out of my hands. I won't give up hope. I know that he'll remember me as long as he lives. I love you buddy. I hope I see you soon.' Nick's inbox was immediately flooded with dozens of messages of hope and encouragement, but he could not help but feel heartbroken over Waylon's disappearance.

As fate would have it, however, the 23-year-old trucker had just picked up a new shipment of cargo in Wisconsin before heading off to Utah when his cell phone rang – and the phone call was from a traveling couple who claimed that they had found Waylon in a bramble bush on the side of the highway. 'I was sceptical, but the more they described him, the more I started believing them,' says Nick. 'Finally when I saw the picture, that was all I needed. It was him. My boy. My Waylon.' The couple say that they only managed to spot the young feline because their flashlight had reflected off of its eyes in the night time darkness.

Despite being on the Iowa border, Nick immediately changed course so he could meet up with the couple and be reunited with his beloved companion. 'I needed him back. That cat represents my whole life, I don't have any kids, or a wife, or even a girlfriend. That cat is my only companion.'

Needless to say, the reunion was an emotional one. Though it took Waylon 24 hours to recover from his expedition into the wild, he and his human are apparently back to their happy traveling selves. 'Now, I'm off to keep exploring this wide country, and Waylon will be there with me every step of the way.' [www.goodnewsnetwork.org](http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org), McKinley Corbley May 2019, photo imgur



## Missing Cat Reunited With Owner After 10 Years

After Mark Salisbury's pet disappeared 10 years ago, he never could quite bring himself to believe the missing cat had gone for good. His faith, it turns out, has been rewarded. A decade on, Harry has just turned up happy and healthy.

The cat was taken into an Ipswich branch of animal charity Blue Cross after an elderly man who had been looking after him passed away, the BBC reported. When staff scanned the ginger and white's microchip, they traced him back to Mr Salisbury – now living 180 miles away in Gloucestershire.

'So happy,' is how the owner described feeling at being reunited with his pet. 'And surprised'. Mr Salisbury, now in his early 40s, was living in Ipswich when he bought Harry and his brother from a local farm. 'He didn't turn up one day when I was calling the pair of them in,' he recalled. 'His brother, who was always a hooligan, his behaviour changed markedly – he was very shy, wasn't keen on going out and became very clingy.'

After searching for the lost kitten for a year, Mr Salisbury almost gave up hope when he moved out of the area but could never bring himself to cancel the microchip. 'Every time I moved home I would email the firm and update them,' he said. 'But after 10 years, you think that's it and you make peace with that.'

Harry is now living with Mr Salisbury's mother Carolyn Clark, as he thinks reintroducing the cat to his brother after 10 years would be unfair. 'Harry the cat adores living with us now,' said Ms Clark. 'Eventually we will let him go out and - hopefully - come back to us.'

It is not the first time microchipping has led to cats being traced after considerable time away. In 2016, Londoners Marna Gilligan and Sean Purdy received an email telling them their moggie, called Moon Unit, had turned up eight years after disappearing - in Paris. Staff Reporter, [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk) June 2018, photo Alamy

## The Quiz

1. The Cougar or Puma are also know by what other name?
  - a) Ocelot
  - b) Snow Leopard
  - c) Mountain Lion
  - d) Jaguarondi
2. What anatomical feature is missing from a Manx cat?
  - a) Ears
  - b) Tail
  - c) Whiskers
  - d) a & b
3. Which of these is not a word for 'cat' in a non-English language?
  - a) Katze
  - b) Chat
  - c) Gato
  - d) Chien
4. According to a Carl Sanburg poem 'comes in on little cat feet'?
  - a) The sea
  - b) The tall ship
  - c) The fog
  - d) The train
5. What was the name of Sabrina's cat in the TV series 'Sabrina, The Teenage Witch'?
  - a) Ezra
  - b) Salem
  - c) Malkin
  - d) Bast



Answers on page 16

### Funny Cat Names

Chairman Meow – make your cat the cutest of all dictators  
Shakespurr – to purr or not to purr?  
Brad Kitt – on the handsome side  
Genghis Cat – for the territorial cat  
Oprah Whisker – for a cat who deserves its own talk show  
Hairy Potter – so hairy, it's magical  
Catpernicus – for the exploring cat [www.pethelpful.com](http://www.pethelpful.com)



### Cats and Chess

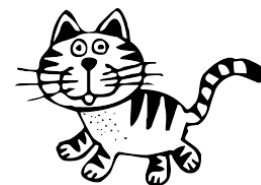


Martha is walking in St James park when she sees her friend Roger playing chess with his cat. Martha says to Roger, 'I can't believe what I'm seeing, a cat that plays chess, what a clever animal.' Quick as a flash Roger replies, 'No Martha, this cat's not clever at all - I'm beating it 6 games to 2.' [www.funnyjokes.com](http://www.funnyjokes.com)

### Little Known Feline Ailments - Smurgling

**Symptoms:** Varied: sucking at clothing, owners earlobes/nose/fingers/skin, drooling, glazed, expression. Often accompanied by kneading and high volume purring.

**Treatment:** Ultimately incurable. It is possible to remove smurglable items from around the cat. The ailment may be transmitted to humans in the form of large laundry bills, misshapen clothing and chapped skin.



### Cat Toys That Cats Find In The House

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

**Soap** – You may push it down the floor to the living room.

**Toilet** – You may pull the lever and listen to the bubbling noise.

**Toilet Tissue** – you may check how much is left.

**Broom** - you may always eat the brush.



*'Being in captivity must stink. Can I get you a magazine or something? After all, we are related'*





# The 2019 Supreme Show



7th of April 2019

## Best In Show Results

### Persian

Adult – Ms H Craig's INT GR CH GRASHOPPERS LOVE AND KISSES (IMP G C) F

Kitten – Ms H Craig's ORL-MIK FLAME (Exotic) F

Neuter – Mrs A Guilfoyle's INT PR SHEERBLISS BRAVEHEART (Exotic FN)

### Semi Long Hair

Adult - Patry's NEVA ANGELS NINE LIVES

Kitten - N/A

Neuter - O'Calligan's ISHCUS GRANVILLE (Maine Coon MN)

### British

Adult – T Glavecka's YUNO OF DAISY'S HOME (British Lilac M)

Kitten - Hill's BRITISHBEARCATS MATERIAL GIRL

Neuter - Duffy's PR ASTRALCHARM BLACK PANTHER

### Foreign

Adult – Lenihan's COOMAKISTA MACDONAGH

Kitten - C Ervine's ACCLAIM GAZING INTO THE FUTURE (Egyptian Mau F)

Neuter – Weldon's HIB GR PR NOBILERO MORRIGAWN RUA

### Burmese

Adult - Lenihan's COOMAKISTA SOULFLY

Kitten - Taylor's BACKCHAT SCARLET DRGON

Neuter - Sluiters' TARA GR PR ALDEBIZ MANEKI HOSHI

### Siamese

Adult – Zhurava's SIAWAYE UNION-JACK (Seal Point M)

### Supreme Adult

T Glavecka's YUNO OF DAISY'S HOME (British Lilac M)

### Supreme Kitten

C Ervine's ACCLAIM GAZING INTO THE FUTURE (Egyptian Mau F)

### Supreme Neuter

O'Calligan's ISHCUS GRANVILLE (Maine Coon MN)

### Overall Supreme Exhibit

T Glavecka's YUNO OF DAISY'S HOME (British Lilac M)

### Supreme Non-Pedigree

R Howard's PEARL (Silver Tabby SH) FN

### Supreme Pedigree Pet

A Groves Geary's ONSLOW (Ginger SHmMN)





## Cats Just Want To Have Fun

A daily dose of aerobic exercise is as important for cats as it is for their owners. A couple of 10 to 15 minutes of play sessions a day or more is all it takes. These play sessions are great times for bonding.

Ideas to make your cat's life fun:



- Fishing pole types of toys are good for you and your cat. (often known as the toy for the human)
- Install a window perch with a view of the bird feeder
- Drop a couple of ping pong balls in the bathtub. (feline racquetball)
- Slide ice cubes across the kitchen floor - (feline ice hockey)
- Stuff cotton socks of varying sizes with catnip.
- The classic paper bag provides lots of fun (or a cardboard box).
- Get some cat furniture - something great to climb, perch on and to scratch.



Below are some tips in selecting a safe toy for your cat. When selecting toys for your cat, think in terms of what would be safe for a human infant. There are no regulations on toys for pets. Here are some tips on unsafe toys.

- If it can be swallowed, it is dangerous. The backward-pointing barbs on a cat's tongue make it difficult for the feline to remove items from its mouth.
- String, yarn floss, twine rubber bands, bells, etc. can be swallowed and may cause severe injury.
- Check toys for glued-on decorations or trim that could come off and be swallowed. The eyes on some toys can be especially dangerous.
- Keep in mind that while some toys, such as milk bottle rings, may be perfectly safe for some cats, others may want to chew and could get them into trouble.
- Know your cat and if in doubt, supervise the playtime with a new toy.
- Play with feathered toys should always be supervised as an exuberant cat will chew feathers and the shafts can become lodged in the cat's throat.

Generally, use your common sense when shopping for that new toy for your cat.

catinternational

## The Floating Cat Sanctuary Of Amsterdam

A city with over one hundred kilometres of canals, it's no surprise that Amsterdam is full of houseboats. However, one such boat in the historic Herengracht district is hiding something peculiar inside. On any given day it's home to about 50 felines!

No, this isn't a hoarding nightmare gone wrong. The cat boat, or 'de poezenboot' in Dutch, is the world's only floating cat sanctuary.

A cat shelter on land is nothing to write home about, every major city has one or two. One on water, however, is a different story. For starters, cats and water don't exactly go hand-in-hand. The residents of de poezenboot seem to love it though.



Back in 1966, a woman called Henriette van Weelde started to take care of needy cats in her home on the banks of the canal. She quickly ran out of space and began to look for a dedicated location to house them.

Although nowadays houseboats are an expensive option popular with so-called 'wateryuppies', back then, they offered a modest, affordable space to live. In 1968, Henrietta purchased the first cat boat and continued to care for its residents with the help of volunteers.

Now, de poezenboot is a fully fledged charity which is supported solely by donors. It takes in stray and surrendered cats with the goal of rehoming, although 14 felines live permanently on the boat. The Cat Boat Foundation takes care of vaccination, sterilization and microchipping of cats in need as well as working with behavioural specialists where necessary to give the kitties the best chance of rehoming.

De poezenboot is open to visitors daily from 1pm until 3pm except on Wednesdays and Sundays. There is no entrance charge however donations are highly encouraged. It's located in central Amsterdam, about ten minutes walking distance from the main station. You can find directions and a map on their website [www.depoezenboot.nl](http://www.depoezenboot.nl)

One point to bear in mind if you are visiting is that this is not a cat cafe. Since some of these cats have been rescued from abusive situations, they may not want to be touched and there is a risk of being scratched. The staff do speak English and are happy to advise on which cats are friendly and appreciate a few pets from a stranger. [Amazingplanet.com](http://Amazingplanet.com), Annie Cooper



*In my experience, cats and beds seem to be a natural combination.*

Vet Louis J Camuti

# The Catwalk

## **Tumble & Nando -**

Yup! We read all  
The books.

T.Forshaw, Dublin



## **Gus -**

What do you mean  
I need a passport?

Insta #GusWarriorKitten

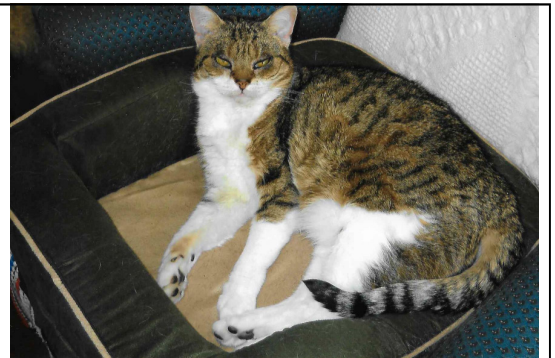
T. MacDonagh, USA



## **Mimi -**

No, You can't sit  
here. Find your  
place.

A. Murphy, Dublin



## **Ruby Button -**

Did I hear a tin  
being opened?  
Gotta go.

G. Hughes, Dublin



# The Catwalk

## Puck & Friends -

They say it's a cat show out there but it looks kinda scary.

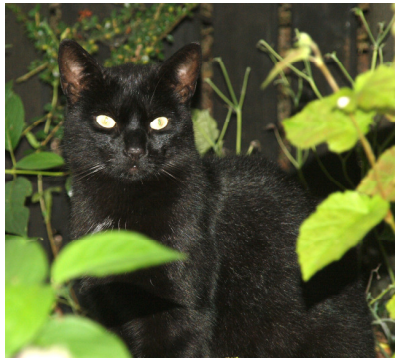
S. Teti, USA



## Midnight -

A cat is a lion in a jungle of small bushes.  
English Proverb

V Reynolds, Dublin



## Scraggy -

Now you see me,  
now you don't.

S. Galbraith, Dublin



## Sammie -

Some cats have no shame as they lay around and show their under side!

J Rosse, USA





## Getting into Halloween.....



### Some Cat Ghosts Of York

Everyone knows that York is (in)famous for its ghosts, but not so many people know about its feline spirits. Cat ghosts are not new. The Egyptians used to bury cats with their dead or take them to the cat cemetery at Bubastis, where they were mummified. They would even occasionally provide them with milk and mummified mice for the afterlife.

In the past it was believed that by bricking up a pair of (live) black cats in the walls of a house would bring good fortune and protect against fire (and perhaps vermin too).

Two cats who met this unpleasant fate now haunt **Ye Olde Starre pub** on Goodramgate. Dog owners have reported their canine companions growling and snarling at the section of the wall between the door and the bar, behind which the cats are supposed to have been walled in. One customer's dog is reported to have bolted at the wall and knocked itself out!

One visitor to the pub said: 'I was sitting right next to a permanently closed interior door which, over the course of two hours, continuously sounded like it was being scratched by an animal. He left convinced that he had been witness to the ghost cats in the wall. Thankfully the tradition of putting live cats into walls has now ceased.

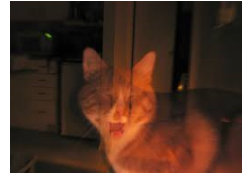
Another pub haunted by several ghosts is the **Snickleway Inn**, formerly the Anglers Arms and once a brothel. The delightfully named Mrs Tulliver and her cat called Seamus both haunt this pub along with a little girl, an Elizabethan barman and a spanner wielding spectre in the cellar. Seamus the cat is said to rub up against the unsuspecting legs of patrons while they are having a drink.

**Jasper** - In 2004 a story began to do the rounds of an unnamed woman who was being haunted by her dead cat Jasper. 'I keep hearing the cat-flap banging in the night,' she said, 'and I sometimes see a strange black shape out of the corner of my eye. But the worst thing is the cat hair. I opened a magazine the other day and a massive clump fell out.'

Perhaps the cat's spirit was still tied to this world and the woman's love for her dead puss wouldn't let him go to cat heaven. Or perhaps it was just the wind blowing the cat flap open and closed [www.yorkmix.com](http://www.yorkmix.com), James Barrie, 2016, author of 'The First of Nine: The Case of the Clementhorpe Killer', who had his own encounter while writing the book.



Two pictures of cat ghosts .  
Has anyone had a ghost cat encounter?



### Can Cats See Ghosts?

Have you ever wondered if cats see ghosts? Does it seem to you sometimes that your cat is having a strange behaviour?

Can your cat see ghosts or not? If you are not yet certain about the answer to this question, then you really need to pay closer attention to your feline. Cats have twenty-four vibrissae or whiskers. The vibrissae send information to the cats' barrel cortex, which is similar to the brain's visual cortex of the brain. This is actually the reason why felines can create a 3D map of the environment that surrounds them and, besides that, cats can also use the vibrissae to feel air movement.

Many say that cats have a sixth sense and that their perception goes far beyond ours. We know that cats, from time to time, act strangely, staring at nothing, meowing at something unfamiliar, their eyes get wide-eyed suddenly. But is it really that they are seeing something 'supernatural', or are they just curious and attentive by nature?

Amongst other things, felines are able to detect things to which we, humans, are insensitive. Therefore, if you live in a house full of people, it is quite possible that your cat is noticing things that you are not able to notice.

Cats were even worshipped as gods by the ancient Egyptians. This was because Egyptians actually believed that cats had significant spiritual importance and considered them to be sacred animals with magical powers.

The Egyptians were fascinated by the idea of life after death, and it was believed that the cat was a kind of mediator to the other world, that they, besides being able to see ghosts and spirits, could travel through the world of the dead. There was even the tradition of sacrificing a cat to be buried next to the pharaohs or noble people, to help the deceased find the entrance to the 'other world' more quickly. [www.wemystic.com](http://www.wemystic.com)



*always gives me a shiver when I see a cat seeing what I can't see.*

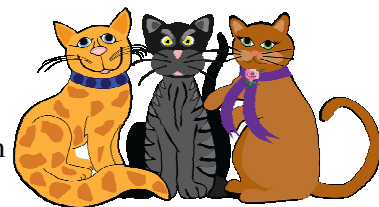
Eleanor Farjeon





## Reasons Why Cats Are Better Than Dogs - Part 1

The 'cat vs dog' debate is as old as time. Cats, anyone can tell you are better than dogs. They're softer, sweeter and smarter. They're quiter and cleaner. They're masters at both lazy lounging and merciless murdering (of rodents). Plus once upon a time, we used to revere them as gods. Here are some reasons why cats are better than dogs looking from a different slant than usual. (sorry dog owners)



1. Cats love humans more than food - Over the years, cats have earned a bad rap as cold and distant. 'They only love you because you feed them,' cat owners are often told. There's also the persistent, nefarious rumour that, were you to die, a cat wouldn't care at all - and would, in fact, eat your deceased remains to survive. But new research study in Behavioural Processes, cats prefer human interaction to all other stimuli. (food, toys, catnip were the other stimuli) Can you say the same for dogs?
  2. And that love means more than a dog's does - Dogs seem to love everyone. Cats, on the other hand, are more standoffish when meeting someone new. (centuries of domesticity still can't eliminate the innate caution of a stealthy murder machine, it seems.) When a dog showers you in affection, it may be nice, but you know everyone's getting the same treatment. When a cat warms up to you, though, it feels special and unique - like you've earned it. And, as we just learned from that study above, no, it's not just because of food.
  3. They're a permanent mousetrap - Once you get a cat, you'll never see another mouse in your home again. It's one of the most practical reasons why cats are better than dogs.
  4. Cats splash less - As a team of MIT and Princeton University researchers revealed, cats drink far more efficiently than dogs do. When a cat goes for a drink, its tongue doesn't actually pierce the water's surface; it forms a funnel that lifts water up at thrice the speed of gravity for a splash free drink. A dog, on the other hand, will just crash its tongue into the water like a cannonball. It's scientific proof cats rule - dogs drool - literally.
  5. They take up less space - On average cats weigh about 9.5 pound, and clock in at 10 inches tall. Dogs, of course, have more variables - there are hundreds of different breeds - but, medium-sized dogs will weigh in, on average, about 50 pounds and grow up to about 2 feet tall.
  6. They live longer - A domesticated cat will live anywhere from 13 to 17 years, dogs 10 to 13. Both can be even longer.
  7. Your cat won't bark at passing strangers - Dogs seem to perk up and grow aggressive, all bark and some bite whenever you even encroach on their personal space. While this behaviour may come off as protectively cute to a dog owner, those that are less enamoured with canines find it intimidating. Cat would never - could never, actually do this.
- excerpts from [www.bestlifeonline.com](http://www.bestlifeonline.com) Ari Notis, 2018

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## Guidelines For Cats - Hampering

If one of your humans is engaged in some close activity and the other is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called 'helping'. otherwise known as 'hampering.' Following are the rules for 'hampering':

✦ When supervising cooking, sit just behind the left heel of the cook. You cannot be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on and then picked up and comforted.

✦ For book readers, get in close under the chin, between eyes and book, unless you can lie across the book itself.



✦ For knitting projects or paperwork, lie on the work in the most appropriate manner so as to obscure as much of the work or at least the most important part. Pretend to doze, but every so often reach out and slap the pencil or knitting needles. The worker may try to distract you; ignore it. Remember, the aim is to hamper work. Embroidery and needlepoint projects make great hammocks in spite of what the humans may tell you.



✦ For people paying bills (monthly activity) or working on income taxes or Christmas cards (annual activity), keep in mind the aim-to hamper! First, sit on the paper being worked on. When dislodged, watch sadly from the side of the table. When activity proceeds nicely, roll around on the papers, scattering them to the best of your ability. After being removed for the second time, push pens, pencils, and erasers off the table, one at a time. When a human is holding the newspaper in front of him/her, be sure to jump on the back of the paper. They love to jump.

[http://www.stumbleupon.com/su/2wnzJA/www.jamesshuggins.com/h/hum1/guidelines\\_for\\_cats.htm###](http://www.stumbleupon.com/su/2wnzJA/www.jamesshuggins.com/h/hum1/guidelines_for_cats.htm###)

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## Where Did It Come From? - Catty Remarks

The phrase came about when a man named Heywood, in the middle 1500's wrote 'A woman hath nine lives like a cat.' Soon, a woman who gossiped about other women was said to be making 'catty' remarks about them.

xmission.com





## Health - Deafness In Cats

Among the many attributes of a normal and properly cared-for cat is an impressively acute sense of hearing. Owners should be aware, however, that a variety of conditions - either heritable or acquired - can compromise a cat's hearing and possibly render the animal partially or totally deaf.

A cat's ears, like those of other mammals, are made up of three structural areas: the outer ear, middle ear, and inner ear. The outer ear consists of the external earflap (pinna), and the ear canal - a narrow tubular passage through which sound vibrations enter the ear from the outside environment. The middle ear contains the eardrum, a taut membrane that vibrates correspondingly to the incoming sound waves, and the auditory ossicles, small bones that transmit the eardrum vibrations to the inner ear. And the inner ear, located deeper within the skull, contains the cochlea, a snail-shaped structure containing nerve endings that receive the vibrations and pass nervous system signals along to the brain, thereby enabling a cat's hearing.

Some cats are born deaf, and the disability cannot be corrected. Due to an anomaly in their genetic makeup, for example, white cats with blue eyes are at greatest risk for congenital deafness. James Flanders, DVM, associate professor of surgery at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine says, 'About 80 percent of white cats with two blue eyes will start to show signs of deafness when they are about four days old as the result of cochlear degeneration.' Another primarily heritable abnormality that may cause deafness, says Dr. Flanders, is atresia - a defect in the development of the ear canal that may result in partial or total obstruction of the channel.

The great majority of feline ear disorders that may cause deafness, however, are acquired. These disorders include: tumors, polyps, and cancerous growths in the ear canal; hypothyroidism; certain antibiotic and diuretic medications; and a wide variety of household chemicals that may be either ingested or seep into the depths of the ear through a perforated ear drum. Among all acquired feline ear conditions, Dr Flanders notes, the most common by far is otitis externa, an infection of the outer ear canal that, if untreated, can progress into the middle and inner ear. This disorder usually results from infestation of the ear canal with infectious agents, such as yeast, bacteria, or ear mites, and leads to inflammation. Owners should also keep in mind that a cat's eardrum thickens with age. Thus, hearing difficulties and potential deafness are often found in geriatric cats.

Most acquired feline ear disorders, including otitis externa, can be treated with medicine, says Dr. Flanders, although surgery may sometimes be the only option. Unfortunately, deafness in one or both ears is most often a permanent condition. A few simple measures, he points out, will substantially reduce the chances that a cat will experience a serious ear disorder that might lead to deafness. He advises the following: maintain a clean environment that will discourage the proliferation of ear mites and other infectious agents; and routinely examine your cat's ears for such signs of infection as swelling, discharge, and the collection of dirt and debris.

If you observe any of these signs or notice that your cat is persistently scratching at its ears, advises Dr Flanders, do not probe into the ears in search of the cause. Instead, consult your veterinarian as soon as possible. Although congenital deafness cannot be reversed, a variety of medicines and surgical measures can be effective in countering the progression of an acquired condition that, if untreated, can lead to a total loss of hearing.

To accommodate the needs of a deaf cat, Dr Flanders advises, the first thing you'll want to do is confine the animal strictly to the indoors, out of harm's way when it comes to outdoor sounds that it can no longer perceive and respond to - the roar of an oncoming car, for instance.

Indoors, he points out, you must always be aware of your cat's hearing loss and adjust your behavior accordingly. He suggests the following: 'Avoid startling the animal. Never approach it from behind without signalling your presence. Clap your hands sharply or stomp on the floor. The vibrations will let the cat know that you're nearby. If the cat has been trained to respond to verbal cues, you'll have to replace those cues with visual commands - hand signals, for example, or flicking a light switch on and off.' [www.vet.cornell.edu](http://www.vet.cornell.edu)

**Did You Know** - It is common for a deaf cat to meow louder than cats that can hear.

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## How To Prepare for a New Cat

- Take cold chicken soup straight from the can and splash it across the carpet and the foot of the bed and then walk in it in the dark with your socks on.

- Take a fork and shred the roll of toilet paper while it's still hanging up. Pull a few sheets off and scatter them around the bathroom.

- Jump out of your chair shortly before the end of your favourite TV program and run to the TV shouting 'No! No! Don't chew on the electric cord!' Miss the end of the program.

- Set up a mouse trap at the foot of the bed each night so that if you move a toe one inch while you are sleeping, you are sure to get snapped

- Take a warm cuddly blanket out of the dryer and immediately wrap it around yourself. This is the feeling you will get when your new cat falls asleep on your lap.





## KIT'S KORNER



Colour in this picture of a lovely Siamese sitting on her bed.

## 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 ^..^

### Library Cat Helps Relieve Stressful University Students

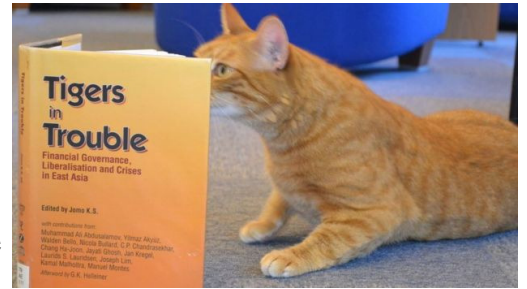
Jasper, a five-year-old Ginger tom, belongs to the deputy librarian at the Marshall Library of Economics. He became a hit with students after his new owner took him to work, and a recent 'tea with Jasper', event attended 140 moggy lovers. Similar events are planned as Jasper is now the library's 'official mascot'.

Jasper lost his left hind leg in a car accident and was abandoned by his owners. He was adopted by deputy librarian Simon Frost from a rescue centre.

While the cat is well-behaved on university premises, spending his time browsing the shelves and sleeping on copies of the Financial Times, Jasper is more adventurous on his home turf. 'He's bouncy like Tigger, because he has three legs, and he's a bit unstable when he moves slowly - so he goes everywhere at speed,' Mr Frost said Jasper also likes to climb trees. 'but he can't get down'. He added.

Librarian Clare Trowell said 'Students coming to visit and pet Jasper told us how much he'd calmed them down, and helped relieve any stress. Many of them were missing their own cats or other pets.'

Jasper now has his own hashtag - #economicscat - and frequently makes announcements about the library on social media. There is also a university 'cat club' on Facebook, where students who are missing their pets can share photos of them with other cat lovers. [www.bbc.com/news/photo](http://www.bbc.com/news/photo) Cambridge University/Marshall Library



### Kittens Born In A Bird Nest In Louth

2016 - While most people would expect to find birds in nests, Louth pet store owner Henry McGauley says he discovered four new-born kittens in a pigeon's nest on a tree in the back garden of his home.

'Henry had heard squawking in the morning, and he didn't know what it was, so he went up the ladder to investigate,' Henry's wife, Fiona McGauley, told ABC News. 'That's when he saw four baby new-born kittens.' The couple believes the kittens were born there and that they were only a few days old when they were found. 'Their eyes aren't even open,' Fiona added. 'We left them there because there's not much you can do because they have to be at least six weeks old before they can be taken from their mother.'

Momma cat wasn't at the nest when Henry initially discovered it, but the couple found her there a few hours later nursing the kittens, Fiona said. 'It turned out we knew the cat,' she said. 'We'd always used to see her by the alleyway. She was pregnant, and she disappeared a few times.' Fiona added that she and her husband also feed stray cats at the back of their house all the time. 'In a couple of weeks, the mom will probably bring the kittens to the back door for feeding,' she said. 'When they're older, we'll take them in, get them tamed and find permanent homes for them.'

The kittens were under the care of their mother outside the McGauleys' home. 'There was a heavy shower the other day, so it seems like she moved the kittens, and they're probably under the shed or somewhere inside there,' Fiona said. 'A lot of our customers are in love with the kittens and excited for when they're old enough to adopt.'

Extracted from [www.abcnews.com](http://www.abcnews.com), A. Tan, 2016. Photo by Henry & Fiona McGauley

### A Cat Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray this cushy life to keep.  
I prey for toys that look like mice, And sofa cushions, soft and nice.  
I pray for gourmet kitty snacks, And someone nice to scratch my back.  
For windowsills all warm and bright, For shadows to explore at night.  
I pray I'll always stay real cool, And keep the secret feline rule.  
To never tell a human that the world is really ruled by cats!

Author unknown

### Cats In History - A certain

Sir Henry Wyatt was sentenced by King Henry VIII and imprisoned in the Tower of London. In those days prisoners generally starved to death. Sir Henry's cat snuck into the Tower every night, bringing him a freshly caught pigeon to eat. When King Henry heard of this, he immediately set Sir Henry free.



Quiz  
Answers  
5. b  
4. c  
3. d  
2. b  
1. c



### Did You Know....

During the second World War three Burmese survived a five month sea journey from Burma to the US including bomb attacks.

**W**omen and cats will do as they please,  
and men and dogs should relax and get used  
to the idea.