

# The Scratching Post



**SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2020**

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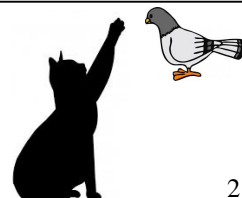
*A German Shepherd just answered your personal ad. Your name Spot must've given him the wrong impression.*

## You Know You Are A Cat Person When.....

- \* You sing your cat a lullaby every night before going to sleep.
- \* Your friends refer to you as the 'cat whisperer' because even shy cats are drawn to you.
- \* You open the shower door and turn on the water for a few seconds because your cat loves to drink from the puddles on the shower floor.
- \* Stepping on something small and furry in the middle of the night no longer scares you.
- \* You refer to the bathroom as the litterbox.

## Where Did It Come From? - 'Put The Cat Among The Pigeons'

When Britain governed India, a popular pastime was to put a wild cat in a pen with pigeons - bets were then taken to see how many birds the cat would bring down with one paw. Xmission.com



## Welcome

Welcome to our Autumn 2020 issue of The Scratching Post.

Sit back with a Dirty Martini and enjoy the newsletter!

*Stay Safe* 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)

### Egypt - The Land We once Ruled (as told by Fluffy & Bonkers)

Felines have influenced countless religious and societies throughout the ages. The pages of history are rife with displays of gratitude from these who benefited from their generous wisdom. Nowhere is this more evident than in Egypt, a kingdom that produced its greatest triumphs when ruled by cats.

Egyptian civilization was plagued with hordes of grain-stealing rats, and early attempts to control them were largely unsuccessful. To make matters worse, cobras were swarming the kingdom. Egyptians eventually realized that no amount of social pressure would stop them from biting people. The Egyptians finally turned to cats for help.

Being well acquainted with both adversaries, cats quickly began to kill the rats and send the cobras packing. As word spread of their success and obvious intelligence, cats were invited to join the human population in ever-growing numbers.

Reverence soon followed acceptance and cats began to be worshiped, raising to the highest levels of Egyptian religion. Artisans who fashioned sculptures and amulets of Bast, a goddess who was originally thought to have looked like a crabby, scraggy-breasted lion that walked on two legs, changed their rendering. After being suitably impressed by their actions and deeds of cats, they began depicting Bast as a dignified tabby, reflecting grace and poise.

As a result of their ascension, cats lived in lavish palaces, and the killing of any feline became a capital offence. Archaeologists have uncovered many pieces of Egyptian artwork that chronicle the everyday life of a ruling cat.

Ruling cats kept humans called pharaohs as advisers. Together cats and pharaohs ushered in cultural achievements of lasting significance.

#### The Pyramids -

Meo-ow-tep was the first of many great cat rulers to build a pyramid. The plan was to build the greatest perch the world had ever seen. Meo-ow-tep saw such a perch during a vision. It was in the form of a pyramid and the biggest cat in the world rested on top.

A pyramid was an ideal shape to represent the perfect perch. At the top there was room for only one cat to sit. There could be no better vantage point to survey all that had been conquered than from the apex of a great pyramid.

Unfortunately Meo-ow-tep's vision was never realized. Human error, insubordination and general laziness all conspired to undermine the project. The pyramids of subsequent cat rulers tragically found the same fate, with the pharaohs unable to execute the elegant plans of their cat rulers. However, even the unfinished pyramids stand as testament to the abilities of those like Meo-ow-tep, who conceived of them.

#### The Sphinx -

It is unknown precisely which cat ruler built a massive Sphinx guarding the pyramids of Giza. Most archaeologists attribute it to Scramses, who had a pharaoh named Khafre. The Sphinx is a giant cat-body carving, over 200 feet long and 65 feet high, with paws measuring 50 feet in length. Like many cat rulers who undertook such massive projects, Scramses did not live to see its completion, and it is widely thought that Khafre must have finished supervising the construction, heretically substituting his own face for that of Scramses on the head of the Sphinx.

#### Mummification -

The practice of wrapping a body in strips of linen was first introduced to the Egyptians by cats. Legend has it that when a cat was observed transforming itself into a mummy, humans sought to honour it by adopting the practice for their own burial rituals.

Many cat rulers had themselves permanently mummified for their eternal nap, occasionally allowing a decent pharaoh to be buried alongside them.

The ancient Egyptian empire eventually crumbled. Most historians attribute its downfall to the last cat ruler, Cleocata, who grew bored and ran off, taking all the cats in Egypt with her. Snakes slithered back in with the blowing sands of time, patiently waiting for George Lucas and Steven Spielberg to create 'Raiders of the Lost Ark.'

From 'The Devious Book For Cats' by Fluffy & Bonkers.



## The Pedigree - The Lykoi



Keeping with the Halloween season, the Lykoi is often called the ‘Werewolf Cat’. The breed’s name comes from the Greek word, lykos meaning wolf.

The breed originated in the US when two domestic shorthairs which bore a hairless gene, not the same but similar to the Sphynx and Devon were bred. The genetic mutation caused the cat’s appearance with werewolf like patches on the face.

The body is of medium build with a lithe muscular body of solid weight. The legs are slightly slender. The Lykoi are partially hairless on the legs and paws but the ears and nose are always hairless. The kittens appear normal at birth but lose their coat a few weeks after birth. By 3 to 4 months the kittens take on the Lykoi appearance.

The Lykoi’s head is wedge-shaped with large and tapered ears. The eyes are large walnut shaped often bright yellow in colour.

The coat has thin patches on the body which appears coarse but is actually soft and silky to the touch. The Lykoi moults seasonally which can make them bald. The regrowth of the patches

can often come back a slight different colour from the original. Despite the lack of hair and no undercoat they are not hypoallergenic.

The most common colour for the Lykoi is black roan (an intermix of black hair with some white hairs) however they can be other colours like any cat.

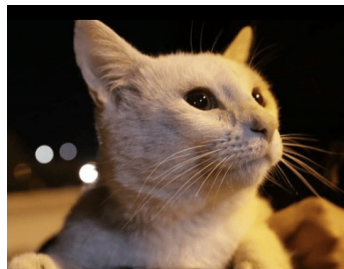
Lykois are intelligent, affectionate and friendly. They love humans, cats and dogs. The Lykoi is very dog like. They prefer to play all day than to be a lap cat or curled up. They watch over the family guarding them.

The breed is prone to skin problems and needs to be protected from the sun or cold so it should be an indoor cat. Due to the coat of the Lykoi they need to be occasionally bathed to remove excess oil from the skin and ears.

Established as a breed in 2011. The breed is recognized by TICA the CFA and Preliminary recognition in February 2020 by

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## Clever Stray Cat Takes Woman Into Store & Points At Pet Food



We know cats love getting what they want and they usually do it with minimum effort. One cat, however, had to do a bit of work to get some love and attention.

The stray cat roaming the streets of Mexico had to use his intelligence in order to be fed. He started following customers in hopes that they would be able to buy him some cat food, but when one woman decided to play ball, the cat’s life changed.

Primary school teacher Tania Lizbeth Santos Coy Tova, 33, spotted the cat staring at her from across the street. Soon the stray started following her. The clever cat then led Tania into a nearby shop, dragging her to the pet food area and pointing at the meal he wanted. Tania, impressed by the antics, decided to investigate and find the cat’s home. When she realised he was living in an abandoned home, Tania decided to adopt him. ‘When we went to the store I always saw him out there, sometimes he would sneak along with people to enter,’ Tania explained ‘I thought he belonged to the managers, but one day when I and my companion entered, he chased us. He got in between our steps as if we were ignoring him, then I paid attention to him and it was when he first guided me to the pet food rack. Then I understood that he wanted to eat.’

The managers of the store explained to Tania that the stray always did the same thing with customers. He understood specific hours and waited until a kind passer-by would take pity on him and purchase some food.

Tania said: ‘Every time he came to the store, we greeted each other and did the same, he guided me to the shelf and chose the food he wanted.’ After developing a fondness for the cat, Tania went on to follow the cat to see where he lived. She added: ‘One day I noticed that he had many injuries and I decided to follow him to find out if he had a home. But my companion and I discovered that he did not have a home. He went into an abandoned house. It was then that we decided to adopt him and he currently lives with us. I called him ‘Rabbit’ because of his resemblance to a rabbit.’

Good going, Rabbit! F. Bakar, May 2020 [www.metro.co.uk](http://www.metro.co.uk) Picture: Tania Lizbeth Santos Coy Tova



**A** man has to work so hard so that something of his personality stays alive. A tomcat has it so easy, he has only to spray and his presence is there for years on rainy days Albert Einstein

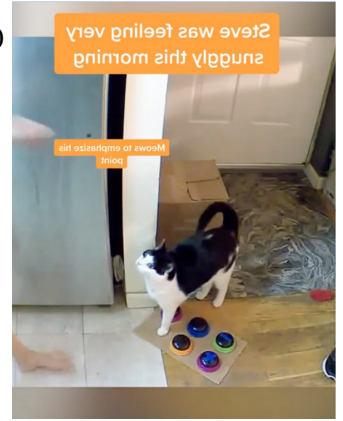


### Steve The Cat Uses Talking Buttons To Ask For Food, Snuggles, 'Kittynip,' Outdoor Time & More

Kristiina Wilson, an animal behaviourist in New York City, has worked with cats for more than 20 years. But one of her 9 pet felines, Steve, was a special guy from the get-go.

The new-born kitten of a feral mama cat Wilson was socializing at the time, Steve 'came out exactly how he is now,' she recalls to People. 'He was clearly a very special dude, very different and very awake, and he ended up staying here and ruling the house.'

These days, Steve, now 11, has a new trick up his sleeve. He's learned how to communicate with Wilson and her wife using a soundboard made up of programmed oversized buttons that feature recordings of Wilson speaking words like 'outside' and 'eat.' Similar to Stella the dog, of the now famous Hunger for Words Instagram account. Steve was trained to ask for things by stepping on the colourful buttons. The humble Steve B. now has thousands of fans on Instagram and TikTok - which is where Wilson first noticed animals using the talking buttons.



'During COVID, my master's thesis work got shut down, and I was just sitting around bored,' Wilson says. (She's currently finishing her master's program in animal behaviour and conservation at Hunter College.) 'I downloaded TikTok and I saw some animals using the buttons, and was like, 'Oh, I bet Steve could do this. Let's mess with it,' she explains.

Though she says it generally takes animals about a month to learn the buttons, Steve mastered them in only 4 days. 'Steve is not a cat. He's like a person dressed in a cat's body. He's been screaming at me since he was born and being very clear about his needs and wants.'

Though none of the couple's other cats have followed Steve's lead in mastering buttons, Wilson says the other cats 'clearly understand what the buttons are; when Steve pushes one, they all come to get the thing that he's pushed. I started off with the 'outside' button because going outside is his highest motivator,' Wilson says. 'He just loves to be outside. He sits out there and stares at birds and screams at people.'

Steve also regularly uses his 'snuggle' button to ask for pets; he is 'the most affectionate cat I've ever met in my life,' Wilson notes. She also recently introduced new buttons for 'kittynip' and 'lady' - Wilson's name for herself - which allows Steve to address his human directly when he wants something. [www.people.com](http://www.people.com), Laura Barcella, August 2020 Photo: The Daily Steve B/Instagram



Monique alone at her birthday party in Battersea

### Lonely Monique Finds Lovely Home In Lockdown

The two-year-old moggy found fame online when Battersea Dogs & Cats Home threw a party to celebrate her birthday... but no one came along.

Monique had spent 130 days at the shelter with no one showing any interest in adopting her, so staff thought a birthday party might be the perfect way to grab her some attention. But when no one showed up, poor Monique must have felt even more rejected.

Then, Monique's story went viral, with the photos of her sad little face at her lonely birthday party being shared hundreds of thousands of times across the internet. Battersea was inundated with messages from Monique's fans, who offered donations to the shelter in the cat's honour, sent gifts, and even volunteered to have Monique flown halfway round the world so she could have a home. Now, months on, we finally have an update.

Monique has found a loving home with a man named Adnan, and is loving life. She'll never have to spend another birthday feeling alone and rejected. Adnan found out about Monique when he was watching the news one evening and quickly applied to adopt the cat.

On 16 March, Adnan took Monique to his home near Lewisham, South London. As a shy cat, Monique took her time to find her feet in her new surroundings and had just begun settling into her new life when the nation went into lockdown. But thankfully, even in the midst of the pandemic, Adnan and Monique have found comfort in each other. It turns out they're the perfect match.

'It's been just Monique and me alone since March, Adnan says. 'She's very talkative and greets me every morning and can be very bossy when she wants treats. She follows me around the house, pawing at me for scratches and giving me head butts for cuddles. She was initially keen to jump in my lap (which was interesting when I was working), but has now decided that her many napping spots are much more comfortable and will instead summon me for scratches.'

Even months after Monique's birthday party in February 2020, Battersea still receives enquiries about the cat, and they're so pleased to be able to share that she's found her happy ending. Lindsey Quinlan, Battersea's head of catteries and feline welfare, said: 'Over the years we've seen our cats appear in the media or gain fans online, but we'd never before seen anything quite like Monique's overnight fame.'



## Fosters Got To Visit The Zoo

Last month, the Animal Defense League of Texas decided to take a few of its residents to the San Antonio Zoo. During this one-of-a-kind opportunity that only happened thanks to the quarantine, kittens and dogs had the chance to meet up and interact with a variety of other animals such as lions, leopards, monkeys, giraffes, and other interesting creatures they definitely don't see every day!



Clearly, they enjoyed themselves. The videos provided by the shelter showed pets wagging their tails at their new, unfamiliar friends.

'All the animals were able to have such a unique experience with this event and it was enthralling to see them interact with each other. Carla, the 7-month old white lab-mix was the most intrigued by all the zoo animals. Her favourite being the Giraffes, who seemed equally as curious to see such a strange animal in front of them.

Our kittens were in awe of the Hippos and fish, while Ella, the 6-year old black lab-mix thoroughly enjoyed watching the gibbons swing from rope to rope,' Development and Marketing Manager for the Animal Defense League of Texas (ADL), Michelle Thorson, told Bored Panda

[www.boredpanda.com](http://www.boredpanda.com), Photos: Andzelika, community member

## Does Your Cat Influence Your Mood And Your Health During Pandemic, And Are You Causing Your Cat Distress ?



A recent study looked at the effects of the initial confinement period on Spanish pet owners, their pet cats and dogs, and on the relationship between them. Researchers were interested in understanding how the human-animal relationship might help pet owners to cope with the effects of the confinement, given that approximately a quarter of Spanish households have at least one dog and 11% have at least one cat. Given Spain's total of over 18.5 million households that gives an owned cat population of almost 2 million.

Separation from friends and relatives, the loss of freedom, fear of the disease and boredom can all have negative effects on quality of life and health. Commonly reported effects include stress, anxiety, low mood, depression, irritability, insomnia, and difficulties with the resumption of normal life after the end of the period of confinement.

Research on human-animal relationships suggests that companion animals can be a source of social support for people and can help them to cope with difficult situations. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis offered researchers an opportunity to explore the role of companion animals as sources of social support at a time when the vast majority of the population was being exposed to the same social and environmental challenges.

However, companion animals can also experience the negative consequences of a period of home confinement; the quality of life of dogs and cats is highly influenced by the characteristics of their physical and social environment, and the behaviour and lifestyle of their owners, all of which would be substantially changed during an official lockdown.

Respondents were also asked directly about the effect the confinement had had on their pet's quality of life, their relationship with their pet, and how much their pet had helped them during the period of the confinement. They were also asked about whether they had been angry with their pet more often recently, since the confinement. Questions were also asked to see if there had been any changes in the behaviour of the animals, either for better or worse.

It might be expected that the confinement period could lead to the development, or worsening, of problem behaviour in cats and dogs, eg. cat owners were asked about urine marking,. Apart from these specific behavioural problems, respondents were also asked to indicate which of a set of general changes in behaviour their cat had exhibited, including being more nervous, more stressed, more relaxed, more excitable, more calm, more attention-seeking, more demanding, more frustrated and more irritable since the confinement. It was expected that these general changes would be more likely to be affected by the confinement than the prevalence of the specific problem behaviours.

### Changes in behaviour and relationships

- Cat's overall quality of life, 57.3% of respondents considered it better, whereas 8.4% thought it was worse.
- For 52.1% of participants the relationship with their cat did not change, for 46.3% it improved and for 1.6% it became worse during the confinement.
- Respondents were asked to report on the same general behaviour changes for cats and dogs. In cats, 46.3% respondents reported no general changes in the cat's behaviour during confinement.
- The most common general aspect of behaviour that was reported to be higher during confinement was attention-seeking (36.4%), followed by being more relaxed (21.7%), being calmer (9.7%), being more demanding (7.4%) and being more nervous (7%).

An increase in being more excitable, nervous, irritable, demanding or attention-seeking could easily lead to other problems if the lockdown continued or these changes were mishandled by owners. Animals that were showing more of these signs could be considered to be coping worse, and at greater risk of worsening behaviour or the development of new problems.

*Continued next page*

## Articles From The Lockdown *contd*

### *Does Your Cat Influence Your Mood...contd*

Owners were concerned about potential problems that could arise from the confinement, such as difficulty accessing veterinary care, obtaining food for the animal, the animal gaining weight, and having difficulty adapting to normal life after the confinement. Owners with an increased level of anxiety were found to have cats which had an increase in negative behavioural changes.

The results point to a pattern of increased general behavioural changes, that probably result from household stress and a reduced quality of life, which could lead to greater conflict with the owner, a potential increase in anger and punishment from the owner, and therefore to an increased likelihood of worsening behaviour over time. The owner's psychological status and use of punishment have already been found to be associated with problem behaviour. However, overall, cats seem to be coping much better than dogs with the situation of confinement. One reason may be that most cats in the sample were already indoor cats; the confinement had little or no effect on their physical environment.

However, both cats and dogs are now sharing their homes with people for a much greater amount of time, and the range of people they interact with is much reduced. An alternative explanation is related to the salience of effects: behaviour changes in cats, particularly those related to stress, are often expressed as a reduction in the frequency and/or intensity of certain behaviours, which may be less obvious to owners.

There was a positive association between the cat not coping well and an increase in emotional closeness, the total number of problem behaviours getting worse, and owner concerns score. Previous studies suggest that many cats find certain forms of human contact stressful, which would support the finding that increased emotional closeness was associated with cats coping less well in the present study. Answers to such questions as 'How often do you kiss your pet', 'I would like to have my pet near me all the time', and 'My pet is there whenever I need to be comforted' which were high correlated with 'problem' cats. The majority of cats in this study live entirely indoors, making them unable to avoid this increased human contact.

### **Cats were more likely to be doing well if there were other cats in the household.**

Findings suggest that general changes in behaviour such as excitability and being more attention seeking or demanding, could be seen as risk factors or even early indicators of more serious future behaviour problems.



### **The quality of life of owners and how they use their pets as a source of support.**

Respondents were asked 'How much has your pet helped you during the confinement compared with before?', Three quarters of respondents indicated that they had some level of increased support from their pet.

Most respondents (61.8%) indicated that the confinement had negatively affected their Quality of Life. The degree to which the person gained support from the pet during the confinement was negatively associated with quality of life, meaning that the more severely affected the person's quality of life, the more they gained support from the pet. The implication is that distress activates different coping strategies, including increased seeking of emotional support.

Dog owners were 53.2% more likely to be in the same/better Quality of Life change group. This could be explained by the fact that in Spain, one of the only permitted reasons for someone to leave the home was to walk a dog. Anecdotally, this has led to cases of people borrowing dogs from neighbours and family members, so that they had an excuse to go outside. Dog ownership, as opposed to cat ownership, would seem to have a specific advantage in the type of confinement implemented in Spain, that could explain the association between species of pet and owner Quality of Life.

More women found support and increased quality of life in their cat than did male owners. However, there was a negative association between owners getting more support from the pet and improved owner quality of life and increased costs to the cat. There was a very strong association with poorer animal welfare and increased emotional closeness indicated by high scores on 'My pet gives me a reason to get up in the morning', 'My pet helps me get through tough times', 'My pet is there whenever I need to be comforted', 'How often do you tell your pet things you do not tell anyone else?', and 'How often do you kiss your pet'.

### **Loneliness**

It is likely that many people experience loneliness during the confinement. Loneliness is not a trivial matter; the quantity and quality of social relationships can be considered, by itself, to be a risk factor for mortality. The results suggest that during the current outbreak, the relationship people have with their dogs and cats is helping to compensate for the dramatic reduction in their social and physical interactions with people. This is supported by a study on social support, which found that pets fulfil many social support functions.

### **Conclusion**

The study found that pet owners gained substantial support from their pets, and that support was increased when the owner's quality of life was more impaired. Support was also associated with increased emotional closeness and interaction with the pet, which may not be beneficial to the cat. Associations between behavioural problems, general behavioural changes and aspects of the confinement, with some indication that the increased emotional needs of owners could negatively affect pets that had existing behavioural problems. Cats in multi cat households coped better than single cats, perhaps because they 'shared' their 'support duties' towards owners with decreased quality of life.



# Jumbo Quiz

## The Small Cat Quiz

1. What deformity do blue eyed, white cats often suffer from?
2. Socks was the name of the cat of which American President?
3. What is the most 'common' collective noun for a group of cats?
4. Calico cats, which refers to a color pattern on the fur and not a breed, are mostly what?
5. What is the name of the Flintstones' pet saber-toothed cat?
6. Name the cat owned by Rigsby in 'Rising Damp'?
7. Complete the following saying: 'to grin like a ...'?
8. What name is given to domestic cats that were born in or have reverted to a wild state?
9. What's the total number of claws that most house cats have?

Answers on page 16

[www.freepubquiz.co.uk](http://www.freepubquiz.co.uk)



## The Big Cat Quiz

1. Which cat has the loudest roar.  
A. Lion  
B. Tiger  
C. Jaguar
2. Which cat likes to swim.  
A. Ocelot  
B. Cougar  
C. Jaguar
3. Which cat can't roar.  
A. Cheetah  
B. Lion  
C. Leopard
4. Which is the biggest cat .  
A. Tiger  
B. Lion  
C. Jaguar
5. Which cat can't retract its claws.  
A. Lion  
B. Cheetah  
C. Snow Leopard
6. Which cat doesn't climb trees.  
A. Lion  
B. Cheetah  
C. Tiger
7. Which cat has the most powerful bite.  
A. Jaguar  
B. Tiger  
C. Siberian tiger
8. Which cat has the largest canine teeth .  
A. Tiger  
B. Lion  
C. Clouded leopard



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

### Does Your Cat Own You?



- \* Do you sleep in the same position all night because it annoys your cats when you move?
- \* Do you think it's cute when your cat swings on the drapes or licks the butter?
- \* Does your cat 'insist' on a fancy Sunday breakfast consisting of an omelette made from eggs, milk, and salmon, halibut, or trout?
- \* Does your cat eat out of cut crystal stemware because you both watched the same commercial on television?
- \* At the store, do you pick up the cat food and kitty litter before you pick out anything for yourself?
- \* Do you kiss your cat on the lips?



**'If you think I'm going to sit in that dirty litterbox, you're crazy'**

***There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast.***



### Cargo Has Found A New Home & Family in Maine



After several weeks of fostering the cat that stowed away on a military cargo plane and landed in Bangor last month, Nanci Hamlin said she is not at all surprised the feline - now named Cargo - wound up on board a flight that ended across the country.

‘Knowing Cargo the way we do now, we can see why he was on that plane,’ Hamlin said. ‘He has no fear and loves to get on top of or inside everything.’ Hamlin and her boyfriend Justin Proulx both work at Bangor International Airport and had been following the cat’s story ever since he was discovered hiding under a cargo pallet in the belly of the Boeing C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane on July 1. The flight originated in California the previous day and made one stop-over in Colorado to load cargo before landing in Bangor.

Last month, United States Air Force Capt. Daniel Cotton, the pilot of that cargo plane who is currently on a four-month deployment overseas, said he and his crew discovered the cat on their plane after spotting a pile of poop in the plane and discovering a muffin left on the flight deck had been half eaten. This was right before the crew was taking off for Europe and, at the time, Cotton said he was glad they found the cat when they did, saving it from an even longer trip.

As it was, Cotton said the cat had to be pretty nimble and brave to make its way out of the cargo hold and all the way up to the flight deck in total darkness when the plane was on the ground in Bangor overnight. ‘I’ve been on hundreds of flights all over the world and landed in pretty much every continent and never had a hitchhiker quite like that,’ Cotton said.

Finding a stowaway cat was a first for the airport, too. The staff there turned the cat over to the Bangor Humane Society. Staff from the airport and the humane society in Bangor contacted officials at Air Force bases and animal shelters California and Colorado. They also posted to social media accounts. After three weeks with no success, the humane society placed Cargo up for adoption. That’s when Hamlin and Proulx offered to give Cargo a home. ‘He is a real spitfire and we call him a Tasmanian Devil,’ Hamlin said. ‘He usually really gets going around two in the morning.’

His favorite toy is a stuffed bison the couple had found several years ago while cleaning and servicing a parked aircraft at the Bangor airport. ‘We are thrilled for Cargo to go home, and not at all surprised to hear about his personality - he’s a character,’ said Kathryn Ravenscraft, Bangor Humane Society director of development. ‘He would have to be to have taken himself on such an epic adventure.’

Hamlin and Proulx already had four cats and an Alaskan husky named Akiko. It was a bit of a rocky start, but Cargo is now fitting in quite well with his new family. ‘Cargo took over the house the minute he arrived,’ Hamlin said, which was not met with good grace by the four cats already living there.’

To help ease the introductions, Hamlin and Proulx turned their bedroom into a safe space for Cargo where he has his food, litter box, bed and toys. They installed a screened door leading to the bedroom. This way Cargo and the other cats could see and smell each other, but not physically touch. Things went more smoothly between Cargo and Hamlin’s husky. ‘We really did not know how our husky would be with him, or he with her,’ Hamlin said. ‘We brought Cargo home and those two are inseparable and the best of friends. Cargo and Akiko spend their days chasing each other, playing with toys, bickering and cuddling up together for naps,’ Hamlin said.

These days Cargo is allowed out during the day when the humans are home to explore the rest of the house. He can interact with the other cats under supervision but he still sleeps in their bedroom. Hamlin said it’s going well - everyone is getting along and slowly getting used to the new member of the family. ‘Hamlin said Cargo loves to cuddle - especially with Proulx - and is very friendly and loving. And that his origins remain a mystery. We think he was a stray,’ Hamlin said. ‘When we first brought him home we put him on our bed and he was like, ‘what’s this?’ and he jumped right off.’

Cotton’s theory was Cargo’s home was the pallet under which he was found on board the plane. ‘He was probably sleeping curled up in the pallet and all of a sudden there was all this light and noise and he was going up, up and up. We joked it must have felt like an alien abduction.’

Hamlin has been in contact with Cotton and offered to foster the cat until the pilot returns to this country in November. ‘We told him we will keep Cargo for him if he wants to adopt him when he gets back,’ Hamlin said. ‘Right now he’s not sure if he can and we told him that if he can’t Justin and I will keep him and make Cargo part of our family.’



Cargo & Akiko

## Stowaway Cats *contd*

### Cargo Has Found A New Home. *contd*

Back in July, Cotton had said his primary hope was finding and reuniting the cat with its family, if it had one. Barring that, he said he wanted the cat to be adopted by an exceptional family in the Bangor area. Finally, if no one wanted the cat, he said he'd be happy to give it a home.

Hamlin is not one hundred percent certain Cargo has lost his love of travel, saying he spends a great deal of time gazing out the windows. 'I feel he wants to know what is out there,' she said. 'But he's an indoor cat now.'

Julia Bayly, bangordailynews.com. August 2020, Photo: Linda Coan O'Kresik/BDN

Editors Note: Stephen King's TV mini series 'Langoliers' was filmed at Bangor International Airport

### Cat Survives 2,000 Mile, 12-day Journey In Container From Israel To UK

A street cat stowed away on a cargo ship for 12 days and travelled a whopping 2,000 miles from Israel to the UK.

Izzy the year-old feline had got stuck in the container before it was loaded onto the ship in the Middle East earlier this year. The ship then made the near-two week trip to Southampton where the container's owners made the stunning discovery.

The cat was then kept in quarantine for four months, before being moved to the Cats Protection Newbury Adoption Centre, in Thatcham, Berkshire, where she was named Izzy. The charity said Izzy is now settled and is hoping for the perfect Christmas present – a new owner.

Cat Protection said it was 'quite remarkable' the cat had survived the voyage, in April. Thea Eld, from the centre, said they reckon 'shy' Izzy had been a street cat in Israel. 'We'll never know her full story, but it's most likely she snuck into the container looking for food or somewhere cosy to sleep, and ended up getting locked in,' she said. 'She's definitely an independent girl, and she'd suit a home where she can have plenty of outdoor space. It may be that she'll prefer to spend most of her time outdoors at first, but once she gets settled, she may well begin to come inside the home. Izzy's been through a lot, so we'd love to see her go to a home with a patient owner who can give her the stable home she needs after such a turbulent few months.'

www.dailystar.co.uk, Nicholas Rieber Dec 2019, Photo: Image PA



### Pharaoh Survives Two-week Voyage To Britain From Egypt



The hungry animal was found in a container after two weeks on board the MV Maersk Batam which travelled from the Port Said in Egypt to the Suffolk port.

John Biscoe, of GMA Freight, said: 'We opened this container that had just arrived from Egypt to ensure that it was all in order and I was with the forklift operator and became aware there was something in there. It was a container with wire coils and I said there was a cat in there. The other chap wondered if it was a lion or something but then this little thing jumped out and started rubbing around my legs.'

Two RSPCA officers collected Pharaoh and he is now being looked after a quarantine cattery near Colchester, Essex. 'He was very scrawny and we gave him a bowl of water and one of my colleagues gave him his sandwich - he ate the meat very quickly,' said Mr Biscoe. 'He must have been someone's pet in Egypt – he was very happy to see us.'

Pharaoh will be kept at the cattery for five and a half months because of rabies quarantine regulations. A Suffolk County Council spokeswoman said it had been 'touch and go' for the cat when it was found two weeks ago. She said: 'He was not in a very good state and at first it was thought he might not survive. He has been taken to a quarantine centre at Colchester, checked for rabies and other problems, fed and been looked after and now looks much better. Pharaoh will have to stay in quarantine and then he will be re-homed here.'

www.telegraph.co.uk, November 2009, photo ARCHANT

### Things I, The Cat, Must Try To Remember

- Television & computer screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail.
- The goldfish likes living in water and must be allowed to remain in its bowl.
- I should not assume the patio door is open when I race outside to chase leaves.
- I am a carnivore. Potted plants are not meat.
- The guinea pig likes to sleep once in a while. I will not watch him constantly.



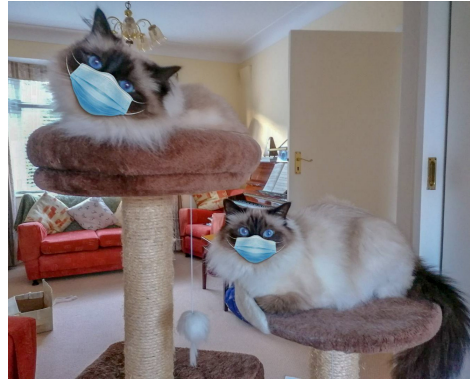


# The Catwalk

## The New Normal



Turlach & Gus

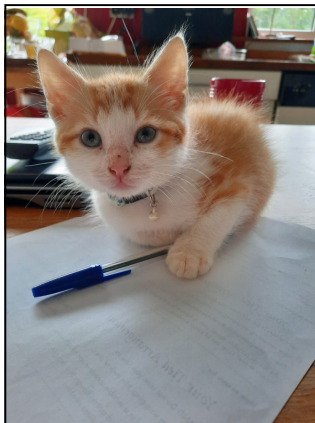


Poppy & Figaro

This is not a stick-em-up!!



Joshi & Karen



**Jasper -**

I have written you a note with the new rules you need to have to follow.

The Buckleys, Cork

**Freddie -**

This lockdown is soooooo boring!

S. Mackey, Dublin



# The Catwalk

## Amber & Gabby -

What the monsters have been up to during lockdown ....Amber 'helping' me get my loom ready to do some weaving.....and Gabby 'inspecting' my warp threading is correct.

T. Byrne, Dublin



## Pippin -

I have my place mat out now - where is my food?

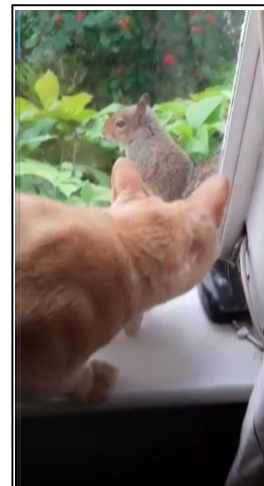
E. McKerrow, France



## Joshi & Friend -

Wanna come out to play?

K. Sluiter, Dublin



## Zeus -

I am glad she adopted me from Aughrim Cat rescue. - Don't get me wrong, there were lots of lovely cats there but there is no place like a loving home and all these toys!

E. Abrahamson, Dublin





## Elwood Hangs Around The Hospital Until They Give Him A Job



Few cats – let alone humans – have an enterprising spirit like Elwood the cat. This is a cat that sees what he wants and goes for it, and we're not just talking about Dreamies here.

Elwood decided that he wanted to work for his treats at a local hospital, so put in the hours hanging around looking cute to catch his dream employer's eye. The ginger and white fluff ball spent around a year standing around Epworth Hospital in Richmond, Melbourne, Australia, before he got his special name tag.

He's now cheering up staff and patients even more than he was before he was officially employed. Chantel Trollip, a Pathologist at Epworth Hospital, explained to Bored Panda: 'I first noticed his ID badge on him in June. I was actually having a case of the 'sads' that day, but seeing his ID badge turned my whole mood around! When I first saw him, he wasn't wearing anything, so I assumed he was a stray. Then someone put a collar and tag on him and now most recently he's got his own ID badge, which is identical to our actual staff badges down to the call codes on the back.'

Thankfully Elwood isn't actually a stray, and instead lives just across the road from the hospital. He just loves greeting people and getting a pat during the day. Epworth Hospital even released a statement about Elwood, saying: 'During the day the playful puss often struts across the road to keep guard and greet patients and staff outside the hospital. The mischievous moggy has been able to snuggle up to security, obtaining his own staff ID pass. At the end of the day, Elwood heads back across the road for a well-earned rest.' [www.metro.co.uk](http://www.metro.co.uk), Jessica Lindsay September 2020 Photo: [instagram/@loverichmond3121](https://www.instagram.com/loverichmond3121)

## Malaysia's Hachiko Is A Cat Named Nana Who Visits His Owner's Grave Daily For Two Years



Some may say that cats are the least loyal companions humans could have. Personally as a cat lover, I would argue otherwise because cats are delicate and sweet creatures who just need some space. But that's a topic for another day. Instead, we're going to take a look at Malaysia's very own Hachiko who remains loyal to his owner years after his death.

On September 19, Hazlynn Nozi shared Nana's tale to a local Malaysian cat lovers group on Facebook. Six-year-old Nana had belonged to Hazlynn's father, who was a retired teacher. The two had a special bond and would rarely be seen without each other. 'Nana always followed dad to the mosque and waited for him to finish his prayers before he followed him back home,' Hazlynn said to the Malay Mail. 'There was a bond that this particular cat had with dad as compared to the other cats at home.'

Two years ago when Hazlynn's father died, Nana was deeply saddened to the point where he lost his appetite and lost some weight. Thankfully, he recovered within a few months and began to regain his appetite. 'But he would also linger around where dad spent his time - like on the swing which was dad's favourite spot or even sit on his old car,' Hazlynn said.



For the past two years, Nana had a strict daily ritual: Visiting his grave every morning. Hazlynn's father was laid to rest in a compound near the family's residence. And from the very first day, Nana has been the first to visit his grave for the past two years. 'Can you imagine, (Nana) was already sitting there waiting for us when we arrived. He reached the graveyard earlier than your children, father. Please forgive us father,' the text above reads.

Nana now spends his days sitting or sleeping by his owner's grave. He would return home every morning from his visits to be fed - with damp paws from the grave site's morning dew. If that isn't love I don't know what is. Cats truly are creatures we need to appreciate more.

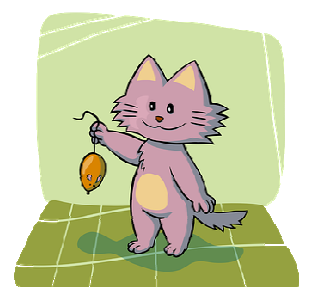
Mae Yen Yap, [sea.mashable.com](http://sea.mashable.com), September 2020 Photos: Hazlynn Nozi

Editors Note: Hachiko (1923 - 1935) was a Japanese Akita dog remembered for his remarkable loyalty to his owner, Hidesaburō Ueno, for whom he continued to wait for over nine years following Ueno's death.

## A Cats Guide To Human Beings - Rewarding Your Human: Should Your Gift Still Be Alive?

The cat world is divided over the etiquette of presenting humans with the thoughtful gift of a recently disembowelled animal. Some believe that humans prefer these gifts already dead, while others maintain that humans enjoy a slowly expiring cricket or rodent just as much as we do, given their jumpy and playful movements in picking the creatures up after they've been presented.

After much consideration of the human psyche, we recommend that cold blooded animals (large insects, frogs, lizards, garden snakes and the occasional earthworm) should be presented dead, while warm blooded animals (birds, rodents, your neighbours Pomeranian) are better still living. When you see the expression on your human's face, you'll know it's worth it. [www.xmission.com](http://www.xmission.com)



## Pirate Cat Has Spent Her Whole Life Sailing

An intrepid feline known as Miss Rigby has spent her entire life sailing the ocean with her family.

Known to be the most 'dog-like' of all cat breeds, this American Burmese has lived on a boat with her owners Shane and Maryvonne since she was a kitten.

Also known as Rigs, Riggles, or Chicken, she was offered to Maryvonne by a breeder in Connecticut.

"They are extremely loving and loyal and also trainable - well, as much as you can train a cat. But the boat is her home and she loves it," said Maryvonne.

53-year-old Shane and 52-year-old Maryvonne previously ran their own architecture business before finally deciding ten years ago to abandon the company and pursue their passion for sailing

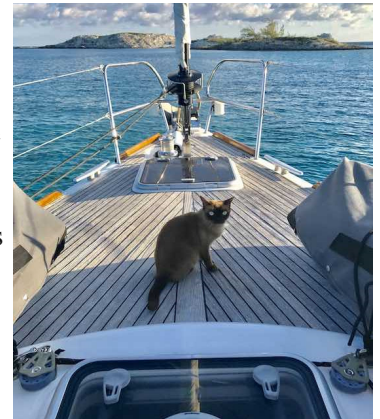
They now live on their boat and travel full time. Together, they have explored the coastal waters of the United States and the Caribbean seas. 'Rigs joined us on the boat in Long Island, New York and since then, we have sailed up and down the East Coast and across into the Bahamas numerous times,' says Maryvonne. 'We have been through the Caribbean with her down to Grenada, stopping at most islands.' She has travelled well on the 50-foot sailboat and proven herself to be a natural sailor.

'Our main concern always is her safety,' says Maryvonne. 'We are often asked about why she doesn't wear a life jacket. We tried one on her but it just made her more clumsy. She can swim well and we would pick her up quickly if she fell in. Our safety and the cat's is very important and we have a lot of strategies in place in case of emergencies,' she added. 'We also have a net hanging from the back of the boat in case she slipped off the boat whilst at anchor - but this has never happened, thankfully. She is very sure-footed and aware of the water around her.'

'Our walks/hikes are also a lot of fun and watching her do crazy runs chasing Shane makes life better. We have trained her to be like a dog and she hasn't let us down. We can be in terrible sea conditions, but she makes it bearable with her purring and cuteness. I can't imagine not having her on board,' Maryvonne concluded. 'We have so many memories, but the main one is how happy she makes us and how much we laugh at her and love her.'

Since Maryvonne created an Instagram account for Miss Rigby back in 2017, she has racked up more than 40,000 followers—and it's not hard to see why.

[www.goodnewsnetwork.org](http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org), goodnews network, February 2020 Photos:SWNS



## Why Cats Are Afraid Of Cucumbers

Viral videos have shown cats fleeing in fear or bouncing into the air at the sight of a cucumber.

Why cucumbers might frighten some cats is a hair-raising question, but it's no mystery for one expert. 'Cats are genetically hard-wired through instinct to avoid snakes,' Con Slobodchikoff, animal behaviorist and author of *Chasing Doctor Dolittle: Learning the Language of Animals*, said. 'Cucumbers look enough like a snake to have the cat's instinctive fear of snakes kick in. This instinctive fear of snakes can cause cats to panic', he added. 'If a cat sees something slithering over the ground, the cat often will jump a couple of feet up in the air, a behavior that prevents getting bitten by a snake,' Slobodchikoff said.

And it's not just cucumbers that can cause this sort of hysteria in cats. 'Anything that looks like a snake should produce the instinctive fear response,' Slobodchikoff said. 'Cucumbers are shaped more like snakes, with their curving sides, than ears of corn or eggplants, so they produce a greater response.'

But don't go trying to prank your cat with cucumber-shaped objects just yet. Scaring cats can have long-term effects on their mental health.

'Anytime you scare an animal, you risk inflicting psychological damage, so that the animal will be afraid not only of cucumbers,' Slobchikoff said, 'but also the surroundings in which the cucumber was presented to the animal.'

[www.abcnews.go.com](http://www.abcnews.go.com), Alexa Valiente 2015



**A** kitten is so flexible that she is almost double; the hind parts are equivalent to another kitten with which the forepart plays. She does not discover that her tail belongs to her until you tread on it.

Henry David Thoreau

## What Is A True Cat?

A true cat keeps a collection of vintage catnip mice hidden under The furniture and takes them out occasionally to see how they're aging

A true cat doesn't care to learn how to use your toilet  
Would you want to share his litter box?



## KIT'S KORNER

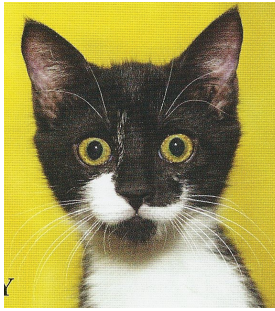


**The pictures above show Muffy coming through her cat door.  
Colour the seven things that make this picture different from  
the one opposite.**



## 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. *Stay Safe.* Karen & Gloria ^..^



### Why Do Cats Hate Water?

Our feline friends have mysterious ways that keep us guessing about plenty of things, but one of the most enduring conundrums has to do with a pretty basic element: water.

Why do cats hate water? And how come they love the water dripping from a tap, but will fight teeth and claws if they come close to a bathtub full of water? We'll probably never know for sure, but experts have a few ideas that can help baffled cat owners understand their pet's behaviour a bit better.

Cats are fine with water to drink, but if it gets near their fur water can instantly turn a happy cat into a miniature lion. Here are some of the causes that help explain why.

#### 1. Water weights a cat down

Imagine having to carry a soaking wet blanket on your shoulders until it gets dry again. A similar principle is at work when it comes to cats and water. When their entire fur gets drenched, a cat will feel weighted down and unable to move at their normal agility levels. That's quite an uncomfortable experience for a feline that likes to navigate life with a springy, effortless gait.

#### 2. The cat's evolutionary history

Another reason why cats hate water is attributed to their history. There is not much in a cat's background to recommend them for successful interactions with bodies of water, be it small or big. Cat's ancestors lived in dry arid places which means rivers or oceans weren't obstacles they had to face. There is not much in their ancestors' past to prepare the modern cat for the bathtub which helps explain why their first reaction is to scratch their way out of the arms of an owner determined to get them in it.

#### 3. Cats can smell the chemicals in the water

Smell is a cat's most reliable sense. Even though we might not detect them, the chemicals in the tap water give it a particular odour that a kitten's sensitive nose will pick up straight away. It's fine for dipping a paw in every once in a while, but having their fur submerged in a liquid that smells nothing like their coat should smell, is enough to put them off bath time.

#### 4. Negative experiences

Some cats might have actually experienced bathtubs or having their coat wet in early kitten hood. Sometimes it's those first interactions that can help elucidate the mystery of why cats hate water. If being submerged in the water was a stressful experience the first few times, it's likely they'll say "no way" at the sight of the bathtub well into their adult years.

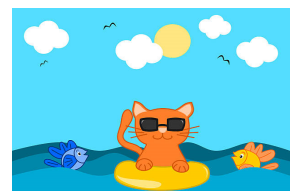
#### 5. Lack of control

There is something else that helps explains why a cat will avoid getting into the bathtub but is happy to play with any dripping tap within reach or even venture close to the full tub to dip their paw in – in those instances a cat will have more control over the situation. After all, they're still sitting safely on dry land and can easily get away. But being on a slippery wet surface with water pouring down on their coat, getting into their eyes and weighting them down in the process is enough to make their

### On The Other Side, Eleven Cat Breeds That Do Like Water

Turkish Van, Turkish Angora, Maine Coon, Bengal, Egyptian Mau, American Bobtail,  
Japanese Bobtail, Norwegian Forest Cat, Abyssinian, Manx and Savannah

List gathered from several websites

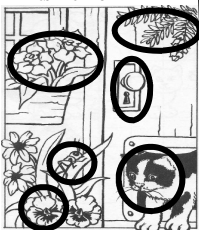


**Cat Fact** - Interesting American Bobtail cat fact: according to VetStreet.com, some psychotherapists have included American Bobtails in their treatment programs because of the cats' sensitivity to human emotions.

four in the back paws)  
9. 18 (five in the front &  
8. Feral  
7. Cheshire cat  
6. Vienna  
5. Baby Puss  
4. Female  
3. Clowder  
2. Bill Clinton  
1. Deafness

Quiz Answers: page 7

#### Kits Korner An-



### Rules For Cats

#### Hair Today, Hair Tomorrow

If you have a bite, be sure to pull a few hairs out. Try to leave them against a nice background where someone is sure to sit. This is sure to get you a nice brushing. Most cats doze off while they are brushed. It's almost better than being petted.

cats.alpha.pl

