

# The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2021

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





# The Scratching Post



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## SABCCI Committee

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



*In retrospect, I could have done more with my lives*

## Oh Lovely, Lovely, Lovely

The witch flew out on Hallowe'en,  
Her hair was blue, her nose was green,  
Her teeth the longest ever seen,  
Oh, she was lovely, lovely, lovely!  
Her cat was black and fit and fat,  
He lashed his tail and humped his back,  
He scritchd and scratched and hissed and spat,  
Oh, he was lovely, lovely, lovely!  
They rode a cleaner, not a broom.  
'Go left!' screeched Puss and spoke their doom.  
She turned right-they hit the moon.  
Oh, it was lovely, lovely, lovely.

Anonymous



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

Garrison Keillor

## Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2021 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with an Apple 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)

### Notices Due To The Pandemic

**SABCCI 2020 AGM** - Due to these exceptional times we have been living in, the AGM 2019 & 2020 were cancelled and extended out until such time it is feasible to have one. The current committee will stay on with the nomination and voting in of the new committee to be voted in when an AGM can be held.

**GCCFI Shows Update** - GCCFI are pleased to announce that shows will recommence in 2022, subject to Covid restrictions at the time. The first show will be the Midland Cat Club on 20<sup>th</sup> February. This will be followed by The Supreme on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Watch [www.gccfi.com](http://www.gccfi.com) for further information.



### Kitten Rescued After Day-long Operation In Cork City

A kitten that was trapped under a bridge in Cork city has been rescued following a multi-agency operation that lasted more than a day.

The alarm was raised shortly after 5:20pm on Tuesday when Crosshaven Coast Guard and Cork City Fire Brigade were called to the scene of the incident at Albert Bridge. A three month old kitten, named Lucky, escaped from its carrier basket as its owner Lidia Riera was bringing it to the vet for vaccinations. It then ran under the bridge where it became trapped.

The Coast Guard said boat and land crews responded. 'The incident was ongoing well into the afternoon with Cork City Missing Persons Search and Recovery remaining on scene until the kitten was recovered,' said a spokesman. 'It was a great outcome and thanks to everyone for their help. Remember if you see anyone in trouble on our coasts or inland waterways dial 999/112 and ask for the coastguard. Well done to Cork City Missing Persons Search and Recovery for providing the rescue boat and the resources.'

[www.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com), August 2021, Photo Michael MacSweeney/Provision

### Famous Feline of 'A Street Cat Named Bob' Dies At 14-ish



London (AP) - Bob, a cat whose relationship with the recovering heroin addict who adopted him inspired the book and film 'A Street Cat Named Bob', has died. He was at least 14.

Publisher Hodder & Stoughton said Tuesday that Bob had died a day earlier. It said in a statement that he 'was an extraordinary cat who will be greatly missed.'

Bob's life took him from the streets of London to red carpet premieres as a film star. Musician James Bowen found the ginger cat abandoned and injured in 2007 and adopted him. The cat was soon accompanying Bowen as he busked and sold 'The Big Issue', a

magazine that generates income for the homeless, around the British capital. The pair attracted attention, a local newspaper reporter told their story, and Bowen secured a book deal. 'A Street Cat Named Bob' was published in 2012 and became a British best-seller.

It was followed by 'The World According to Bob', 'A Gift from Bob' and 'The Little Book of Bob'. Together, the four books sold more than 8 million copies in 40 languages, the publisher said. 'A Street Cat Named Bob' was turned into a movie of the same name, starring Luke Treadaway as Bowen and Bob as himself. A sequel, 'A Gift From Bob,' was due for release late in 2020.

Bowen said in a statement that 'Bob saved my life. It's as simple as that. He gave me so much more than companionship. With him at my side, I found a direction and purpose that I'd been missing. The success we achieved together through our books and films was miraculous. He's met thousands of people, touched millions of lives. There's never been a cat like him. And never will again. I feel like the light has gone out in my life. I will never forget him.'

[www.apnews.com](http://www.apnews.com), June 2020

*Editor's note* - An article about Bob appeared in the Autumn 2013 issue of 'The Scratching Post'.

### Where Did It Come From? - Like A Cat On Hot Bricks

A similar English phrase is 'Nimble as a cat on a hot bake-stone' or 'like a cat on a hot tin roof', which means in a hurry to get away (a bake-stone was a large stone on which bread was baked). [Xmission.com](http://Xmission.com)



## Gorgeous' Rare Black Jaguar Born at English Big Cat Sanctuary: 'She Has Bags of Attitude'



The Big Cat Sanctuary has added a stunning new member to its feline family!

The Big Cat Sanctuary in Kent, England, recently announced that a baby jaguar was born at the facility on April 6 and now wants help naming the new cub. On Monday, the organization announced the birth of a rare black female jaguar. The cub was born on April 6 to parents Keira and Neron in Smarden, Kent.

Keira, the baby cub's mother, was born at the Paradise Wildlife Park in 2017 before relocating to the Big Cat Sanctuary two years later. The sanctuary paired Keira with male jaguar Neron for breeding, and this new arrival is their first cub together. 'This gorgeous little girl was born at 11:10 am and has gone from strength to strength

since,' Briony Smith, a curator at The Big Cat Sanctuary, said in a release. 'I cannot believe how quickly she is developing compared to other big cat cubs, and this seems to be normal for jaguars. She was born with her eyes open and walking strongly by 2 weeks old.'

According to IUCN Red List, jaguars are classified as 'near threatened' in the wild due to the constant threat of negative human impact. The European Endangered Species Breeding Programme, which led to the birth of the Big Cat Sanctuary's new cub, is important to conservationists because the effort helps maintain genetic diversity in the overall jaguar population. The sanctuary's new-born jaguar cub takes Neron's black colouration gene, a characteristic, which scientists refer to as 'melanistic' that only appears in 10% of the wild jaguar population. The sanctuary says the baby big cat is healthy and full of energy.

'Now she is tearing around the dens and certainly making sure that Keira has her hands full,' Smith added. 'She has bags of attitude, especially when her mother decides it's bath time, and is outgoing and very curious. It is an absolute pleasure to watch her grow and develop, and I can't wait for the public to be able to see her when she is allowed out to explore her enclosure.'

As of now, the baby jaguar doesn't have a name. The Big Cat Sanctuary posted to social media on Tuesday asking followers to help choose a name for the cub. The top three name options are currently Killari, Inka, and Inti. To vote on a name, a donation of £5 must be made to the sanctuary, with proceeds going towards jaguar conservation in Costa Rica. Those who vote for the winning name will be entered into a raffle to win a VIP tour of the English sanctuary, a chance to put the nameplate on the cub's enclosure, and a Jaguar I-pace car rental for a weekend. Voting will end on August 1.

'Baby' has yet to make her public debut. The cub is staying in her behind-the-scenes enclosure to bond with mom. The sanctuary hopes the cub will be ready to explore her outdoor habitat when the sanctuary opens to the general public in August 2021.

Until the winning name was announced, the Big Cat Sanctuary were referring to the cub as 'Baby.'

www.people.com, Vanessa Etienne, May 2021, Photo Alma Leaper

## Purrfect: Cat Summits To New Hampshire's Tallest Mountains



North Conway, N.H, USA. (AP) A cat has made it to the summit of New Hampshire's 48 tallest mountains, spending parts of the journey peering out from the comfort of her owner's backpack.

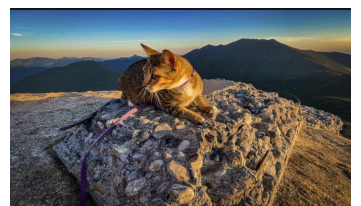
Floki has grown from kitten to cat in the nine months since she and owner Mel Elam, of North Conway, started their journey to the top of the state's 1.21 kilometres.

Last on their list was Mount Washington, the highest summit in the Northeast at 1.91 kilometres, which they reached last Saturday. 'We did it!' Elam posted on social media. She chronicled her 'Adventures with Floki,' accompanied by photos and video.

Elam adopted Floki from a shelter last year after losing another beloved hiking companion, her dog. A harness is attached to Floki when she's in the backpack, and she's on a leash when walks along a trail. In colder weather, she wore a vest.

'There's a lot of people that are like, 'Oh, my gosh. Please tell me that is not it. What are you going to do next? Please keep posting. We love following your adventures.' And I'm like, 'Oh no, we're still going to be out there,' Elam told WMUR-TV.

Elam said she and Floki are considering the '52 With a View,' mountains in New Hampshire with elevations under 4,000 feet and great views. www.apnews.com, July 2021, photos M.Elam via AP.



## Where Did It Come From? - Pussyfooting Around

The phrase started out as a comment that cats are stealthy and somewhat sneaky when hunting. The term is American in origin and dates back to at least 1893.

xmission.com



## The Breed - The Dragon Li

The Dragon Li also known as the Chinese Li Hau is one of the oldest of known domestic cats. They are descended from the Chinese Mountain Cat. It is thought the breed is dated to the Xiang Dynasty, if not older. Only recently standardized the breed is a natural one and not developed through cross breeding with other breeds. Their original name was Li Hau Mao which translated is Fox flower cat.



The body of the Dragon Li is of medium size and cobby weighing 9 to 12 pounds. The head is large and rounded diamond shaped which gives appearances of a foxy face, hence the nickname Fox flower cat. The forehead has the 'M' pattern. The face has 4 black spots near the lips which makes it look like the cat is smiling. The medium sized ears are rounded with black pointed tips that can be tufted. The almond shaped eyes can be green, brown and gold with green the preferred colour. The Dragon Li has muscular legs with rounded paws. Their tail is slightly shorter than the body and is tapered.

The coat of the Dragon Li is short and thick. The pattern is a golden brown mackerel tabby with ticked hairs which are black at the root, light in the middle and brown at the tip. There is more yellow brown on the belly with two vertical and four horizontal leopard spots.

This breed is extremely intelligent and exceptionally active which means they are in strong need of stimulation. Interactive games and other fun games are perfect for them. They love climbing making a tree tower ideal for them. Dragon Li are loyal to their family and are good with children and cat-friendly dogs. As they are not the cuddly lap cat type they need lots of room to roam if kept indoors. However they are amazing hunters so a safe and enclosed outdoor cat enclosures is perfect for their outdoor playing.

Dragon Li Pedigrees are currently still rare. In 2004 the breed was first shown in Beijing, China at a CAA (Cat Aficionado Association). The judges for the class were from the ACFA (American Cat Fancy Association). In 2005 a Dragon Li was given it's first Champion award at another CAA show. By 2017 there were 4 Dragon Li cats in the US. The CFA (Cat Fancier's Association), in 2010, accepted the breed in the Miscellaneous Class. Photo: [catswallpapers.com/Wickapedia](https://catswallpapers.com/Wickapedia)



## Oregon Woman Calls Out Her Pet For Stealing From Neighbour's with 'My Cat Is a Thief' Yard Sign

'When she brings them, she comes to the back door and yowls, like 'Woooooar!' until I come and tell her she's done a good job,' Esme's owner Kate Felmet said of her cat's kleptomaniac behavior.

This cat burglar has been caught red-handed!

Oregon woman Kate Felmet decided to take action after her outdoor cat Esme kept bringing home masks, gloves, and other household items, which the feline stole from their neighbors.

Playfully addressing the kitty crimes, Felmet put up a sign in her yard reading 'My cat is a thief,' which featured a drawing of Esme with a pilfered glove in her mouth. Next to the sign sits a clothesline filled with the various items Esme has come home with, which passers-by are encouraged to take back should they recognize something of their own that's gone missing. 'As soon as I put the sign up, she went for a week of not bringing me anything,' Felmet told KOIN. 'I had the impression she was a little mad about it.' Although most people stop by to take pictures, Felmet said she did once see a 'school bus drive by and take a few pairs of gloves.'

Felmet previously explained that she first noticed that Esme had sticky paws last spring.

However, despite what others may think about her sign, Felmet said she's not trying to shame her cat, who seems incredibly proud of her handiwork. <https://people.com>, Maria Pasquini, June 2021

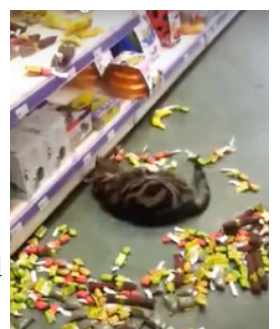
## Sneaky Cat Breaks Into Pet Store And Goes On A Catnip Bender



It appears that one particular cat knew exactly where to go to have a good time when he sneaked into a pet store and made a beeline right to the aisle with the catnip.

Youtuber SensualCat posted, 'This cute cat entered the pet store by accident and had the time of his life rolling around in all the catnip toys! Pure kitty bliss, high on catnip.'

A second video taken in the shop, shows the cat lying on the floor still surrounded by the catnip toys looking, well, a little bit stoned from all the fun he was having. But SensualCat reassures everyone that cat is doing just fine. 'Oh, and his owner came to pick him up, so all's well that ends well!'





Louis Wain with one of his pet cats, circa 1900

## Edwardian Artist, Louis Wain

Benedict Cumberbatch's upcoming role in 'The Electrical Life of Louis Wain' sees him playing the Edwardian artist Louis Wain, whose anthropomorphic style kickstarted a cat-loving craze amongst the upper echelons.



While Wain's tale (or tail...) is somewhat sad due to his struggles with schizophrenia in later life, his legacy is one to be celebrated in many ways. His art, as seen in newspapers, children's books and greeting cards, is credited with beginning a trend for imbuing animals with human characteristics. Meanwhile his love of cats coincided with a trend amongst Edwardian high society for importing exotic breeds to Britain.

Wain was also the chairman of the National Cat Club, a group of enthusiastic feline fans who organised competitive cat shows around the UK. Its president was the Duchess of Bedford, herself a proud owner of Siamese cats, who often organised galas and events to raise money for the cause. In fact, one event in 1901, the annual New Year's supper for the cat's meat men of London (don't worry they supplied cats with meat, not the other way round), was so largely oversubscribed that hundreds of these feline feeders were turned away at the door.

The National Cat Club's competitions saw a swathe of peeresses as patrons to the cause. Lady Gertude Decies's tabby Xenophon won best short-haired English cat in 1901, as did Lady Alexander of Ballochmyle's Billie Blue Eyes in 1905. Meanwhile Lady Marcus Beresford was so enthralled with the feline kind that she opened catteries in Bishopsgate filled with exotic and rare breeds, which at one point were the largest in England. The Countess of Aberdeen also had a keen interest in breeding, specialising in Blue Persians and Silver Tabbies, and Viscountess Maitland eventually became the Vice President of the glitzy social set-filled Cat Club. Excerpt from [www.tatler.com](http://www.tatler.com), C. Tregaskes, Sept 2021, Photo of Wain- Ernest H. Mills/Getty Images. Photo Benedict Cumberbatch - Facebook

*Editors Note:* Benedict Cumberbatch won't have a problem acting with cats. He is listed on the internet as a cat lover and pictured with his Persian cat.



## Meet The New Parisian Aristocat: Little Socrate Takes Up Residence In Hotel Le Bristol

From Karl Lagerfeld's Choupette to Lilibet at The Lanesborough hotel, society has long been infatuated with cats. Now, the illustrious Le Bristol in Paris has welcomed in a new feline, as its previous resident, Fa-raon, hands on the role to his son, Socrate.

A mass of snowy white fur and bright, beady eyes, the four-month-old kitten was born over the summer, on 15 June. His handsome Birman father has been Le Bristol's resident cat for the past 11 years, meaning he's more than earned his retirement, now leaving the post in the capable paws of his successor.

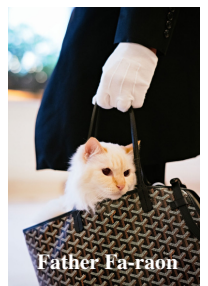
Among the many reasons Le Bristol is beloved by its loyal patrons is its pet-friendly policy: not only are guests able to stay at the opulent Oetker Collection hotel themselves, but they can rest assured that their four-legged friends will be cared for in equal luxury – meaning no family member need miss out on the delights of a Parisian escape.

Previous resident cat Fa-raon (named in reference to the Ancient Egyptian pharaohs – as only befits his regal status) has welcomed fellow pets to Le Bristol for over a decade. Setting a charming example, Fa-raon has been quite the hit with hotel guests, and is known to be particularly good with children.

Fa-raon is now leaving the hotel for a peaceful life at the home of one of Le Bristol's receptionists, Jean-Philippe – meaning he'll remain a beloved part of the hotel family. Here's hoping he's passed on much of his wisdom to little Socrate. Born as one of two kittens in his litter, Le Bristol describes the youngster as 'very happy, a good listener and curious about the world around him, if not a little shy.'

Excited as Le Bristol's guests may be to meet Socrate, they'll no doubt treat him with an extra dose of gentleness and consideration as he settles in – and he'll be presiding over his new domain with confidence and aplomb in no time.

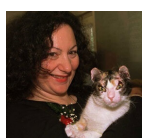
[www.tatler.com](http://www.tatler.com), Hope Coke, October 2021 Photo - Franck Juery



## Famous Cats



**Tama** - One of Japan's most beloved cats has got to be Tama The Railway Cat. Tama saved a train station from being closed down and was adopted by the informal station manager. The cat became the talk of the town and before long, she was attracting tourists from across Japan and was even appointed official station manager. With her new role as station manager, Tama wore a cute hat as part of her uniform and was paid in cat food for her efforts



**Scarlett** - In 1996, Scarlett saved her five kittens from a Brooklyn fire. It's a story you have probably all heard as this mother cat's heroic and selfless act was not gone unnoticed, her incredible story became very well-known and has been retold time and time again. All but one of Scarlett's kittens survived after her heroic rescue and Scarlett herself suffered burns and sadly experienced ongoing health problems after the rescue mission.



## The 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?
- 10- In ancient Egypt, what part of their bodies did people shave as a sign of mourning when their cats died?



www.freepubquiz.co.uk

Answers on page 16

### A Cat Game - Catch Mouse

The humans would have you believe that those lumps under the covers are their feet and hands. They are lying. They are actually Bed Mice, rumoured to be the most delicious of all the mice in the world, though no cat has ever been able to catch one. Rumour also has it that only the most ferocious attack can stun them long enough for you to dive under the covers to get them. Maybe you can be the first to taste the Bed Mouse!



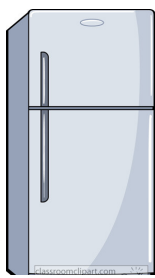
[www.stumbleupon.com/su/2wnzJA](http://www.stumbleupon.com/su/2wnzJA) [www.jamesshuggins.com/h/hum1/guidelines\\_for\\_cats.htm###](http://www.jamesshuggins.com/h/hum1/guidelines_for_cats.htm###)

### Rules For Cats

#### Where's My Milk?

Sit in front of the fridge with your back to them. Be patient because sometimes they won't get up until a commercial. Look over your shoulder at them with a pitiful look. They feel so guilty for making you wait, they'll give you the heavy cream.

Cats.alpha.pl



### Effective Habits of Cats - Purring

While this may sound like teaching your grandmother to catch mice, it is a fact that contented throaty purring is irresistible to most humans. Make it evident that your human is the source of your contentment and the reason for your ecstatic purring. Purring while snuggling is one of the most powerful combinations known to cats. However, if you also knead while purring, keep those claws sheathed - a few painful punctures can undo several hours' worth of purring in all but the best-trained human. By Messybeast

### How To Annoy You Cat - Behave As Your Cat Does



- Wake her up at 5am, demanding food.
- Meow at her for 10 minutes straight, asking her to play.
- Disturb her during a meal and steal half of the food.
- Interrupt the relaxation time by bringing her your toys.
- Barge in when the pet is in the bathroom, and start pooping next to her.
- Sit next to her bed and meow bloody murder, demanding attention.
- Wait for the pet to fall asleep and start jumping on her back.

<https://medium.com>, J. Henderson

#### And For The Cat -

### How to Annoy Your Human - The Bed Hog



You have to be a particularly spoiled cat who is encouraged to sleep with your humans to try this trick. Arrange yourself between your humans for starters, lying lengthwise and parallel to them. Once they drift off to sleep, gradually move around until you are stretched across the bed between them.

Humans are fairly resilient during sleep, and will heed your pushing with your feet, until they are each clinging to their own slim sides of the bed, and you own the rest. Bliss!

Pawnation.com



*I speak fluent Russian, French and Spanish. Plus, I teach at Harvard. So, how can you claim that dog is smarter than me?*

***The way to get on with a cat is to treat it as an equal - or even better, as the superior it knows itself to be.***

Elizabeth Peters

## Family's Shock As The Cat They Thought They Had Cremated Suddenly Comes Home

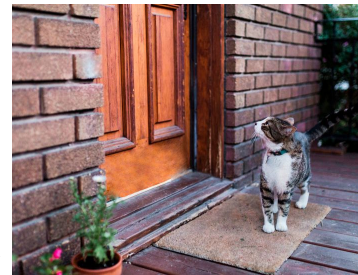
A family who believed their cat had died and been cremated received a 'huge shock' when their late pet suddenly came home.

Rachel Fitzsimons's 16-year-old tabby cat Frankie had gone missing from their home in Warrington, Cheshire, on May 19th of this year. The cat was missing for days and the family sent out search parties in a desperate bid to find him.

Ms Fitzsimons then spotted the dead body of her cat on the M6 motorway and alerted the authorities. She said: 'The markings matched Frankie and we live close to the motorway, so we were sure it was him.' She rang the Highways Agency, and after the weekend workers went out to check the dead animal. They retrieved the dead animal and said it was a fluffy tabby cat with white markings, which matched Frankie's description. The Highway Agency took the cat to the compound but staff were unable scan his chip.

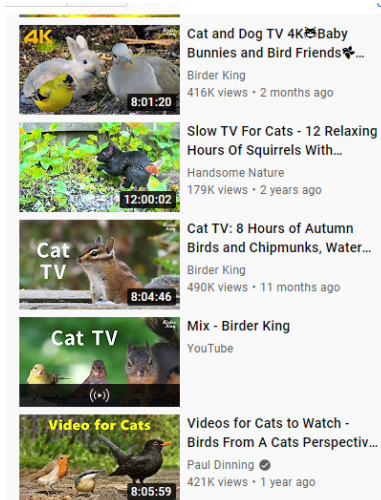
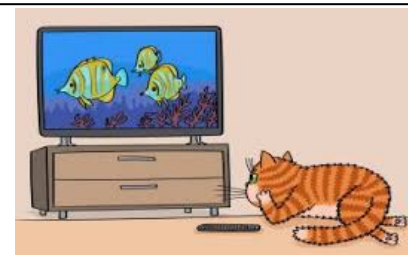
After collecting the cat, the heartbroken family had the feline cremated. Days later the family were shocked to see Frankie reappear at their home. Son Remy, who had the ashes of the cat he thought was Frankie in a box in his bedroom, told the BBC: 'It's a miracle. We thought he had died.'

www.mirror.co.uk, Alan Bennett, June 2021, Photo-Getty Images/iStockphoto



## Cats, Once YouTube Stars, Are Now An Emerging Audience

Beyond all the content for humans, there's a growing world on YouTube specifically for our feline friends. Loved by certain cat owners and occasionally championed by veterinarians and animal scientists, these videos tap into cats' instincts to stalk, chase, and hunt. Cat-targeted footage of small animals is particularly popular on the platform, posted by channels like Little Kitty & Family, Handsome Nature, and Videos for Your Cat. One of the most prolific creators, Paul Dinning, has posted hundreds of videos for cats, including an eight-hour 'Bird Bonanza' that's amassed almost 7 million views. According to YouTube's Trends and Insights team, Dinning created eight of the 10 most-viewed videos for cats in 2019.



Animated videos formatted like games are also popular. One channel, Cat Games, has videos that entice cats to paw at everything from goldfish and lady bugs to leprechaun mice and gingerbread men. There's also a Quidditch game and others based on Pac-Man, Minecraft, Star Wars, and Game of Thrones.

Cat Games creator Max Gomboev, a motion designer from Russia, first started making these videos as a tribute to his late cat. After seeing how much other cat owners liked them and the experience they provided over cat-targeted mobile apps, like Cat Fishing 2, which offer much less variety, he started making videos more regularly. 'It's easier than installing an app, and you can show my videos on a TV,' Gomboev says. 'Usually, I create a new video every 10 days. Cats like to watch something new.'

Of course, cats are famously finicky; surely not all of them enjoy YouTube. But some research, to say nothing of the trove of comments about cats' positive reactions, makes clear that many do. A 2008 study of shelter cats concluded these videos hold enrichment potential for indoor cats, and cat professionals and organizations recommend them.

Videos are also recommended by the Best Friends Animal Society and the Indoor Pet Initiative out of Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, which works to enhance the welfare and environments of indoor pets. Meghan Herron, a veterinarian and professor working on the initiative, believes YouTube taps into feline hardwiring. 'Cats aren't domesticated quite as much as our K9 friends,' she says. 'That predatory instinct is still very much in tact, so it's just this innate part of their brain that responds to fast movement. It triggers the predatory sequence of stopping, stalking, staring, pouncing, and grabbing.' According to YouTube, videos targeted at dogs garnered only 6 million views last year.

For pet owners with especially energetic cats, YouTube can even be a saviour. Brittany Gall's 2-year-old ginger cat Jasper has an insatiable appetite for playtime, and she needed a hands-off way to keep him entertained while she's at work or out for a while. 'I was thinking that I wish I could just put on a movie for him like a kid, and then I realized that probably exists on the internet somewhere,' she says.

Now she puts cat-targeted YouTube videos on for Jasper a few times weekly. He loves them so much that he'll sit in front of the TV or in between Gall and her laptop to signal that he wants to watch. It's just one of the cute and funny behaviours that make these videos as fun for humans. Cat owners love watching their cats watch YouTube. As Gomboev puts it, 'It's like watching Twitch gamers, but funnier.'

www.wired.com/story/cats-watch-youtube/ picture: some videos found on YouTube

## Law of Cat Composition:

*A cat is composed of Matter + Anti-Matter + It Doesn't Matter.*





## Falling Cats

### Chicago Cat Fleeing Fire Survives 5-Storey Jump, Walks Off

Associated Press - A Chicago cat may now have eight lives after jumping out of a fifth-floor window Thursday afternoon to escape an apartment fire. Chicago Fire Department personnel were taking a video of the exterior of the building as firefighters were extinguishing the blaze when a black cat appeared through billowing smoke at a broken window. The fire-fleeing feline briefly tested the side of the building with its front paws, and then jumped.

Onlookers gasped as the cat fell. But it missed a wall as it hurtled downward and instead landed on all four paws atop grass, where it bounced once and immediately ran away. 'It went under my car and hid until she felt better after a couple of minutes and came out and tried to scale the wall to get back in,' said fire department spokesman Larry Langford.

The cat was not injured, Langford said, adding he was trying to track down its owner. No injuries were reported after the fire, which was confined to one apartment. The cause of the fire hasn't been reported by officials, nor how much damage resulted. [www.ctvnews.ca](http://www.ctvnews.ca), May 2021, Photo from video by the Chicago fire dept



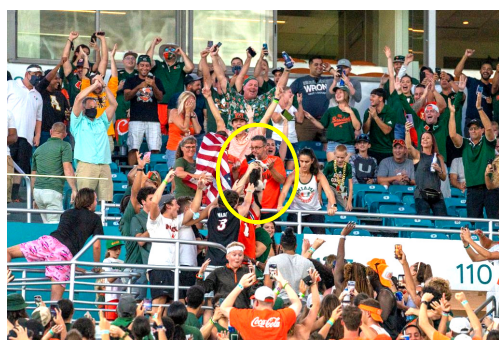
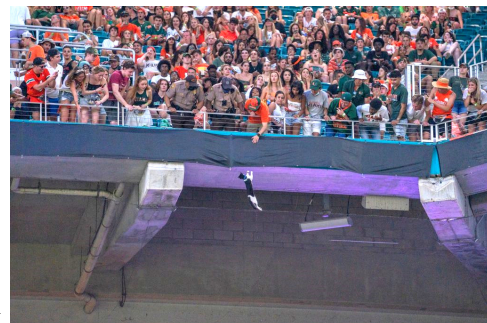
### 'This Is My First Catch' Says Craig Cromer Meet The Miami Fans Who Used American Flag To Save Falling Cat

Craig Cromer is a facilities manager at the University of Miami and has had Miami Hurricanes season tickets with his wife, Kimberly Cromer, for about seven years. At every game, they hang an American flag over the railing right in front of their seats.

Their rescue mission to catch a stray cat as it fell from the upper deck, Kimberly said, is 'probably the strangest thing that's happened.'

You would hope so.

Early in the second quarter of No. 22 Miami's home-opener against the Appalachian State Mountaineers, a murmur rose up from the student section at Hard Rock Stadium. The students, many attending their first-ever home game, noticed a cat dangling from the upper deck. The Cromers turned around and first thought it was a dog. Another fan nearby thought it was someone's kid.



Once the Cromers realized what was happening, they sprung into action. Craig ripped his flag free from his zip-ties, and he and his wife stretched it out to create a landing pad for the terrified cat. They stood there for about two or three minutes while, Craig estimated, while the cat peed on the fans below. 'It seemed like it took forever,' Craig said.

Eventually, the cat lost its grip and tumbled down toward the suite level. The Craigs' flag did just enough to break the fall and let a group of students in the section below grab it as it fell to the ground. The entire corner of the stadium in Miami Gardens, right by Miami's tunnel, erupted in cheers as one student raised the cat in the air like it was Simba from 'The Lion King.' Joe Zagacki, whose

booth was right by the action, provided play-by-play for South Florida on WQAM.

Miami (1-1) wound up winning 25-23 for its first victory of the season, although coach Manny Diaz wasn't pleased with his red-zone offense. He wondered if maybe the resilient feline could help assuage his concerns. 'I don't know anything about that or what was going on,' he said, 'but I'll tell you if the cat can help our red-zone offense, I'll see if we can get it a scholarship.'

[www.miamiherald.com](http://www.miamiherald.com). David Wilson, 13 September 2021. Photos credit: Jared Lennon

*Editor's Note:* To read what the students who caught the cat said go to - <https://www.themiamihurricane.com/2021/09/12/um-students-help-save-now-legendary-falling-cat-at-hard-rock-stadium/>

## Famous Cat Lovers

**Edgar Allen Poe** - Poe wrote multiple essays and stories about cats and had a few beloved felines of his own. One, named Catterina, would sit with him while he wrote grim stories about cat owners who were very unkind to their cats. Poe, on the other hand, was a very loving cat-dad.

**Sir Isaac Newton** - Newton was known for his work surrounding the laws of gravity, calculus... and the invention of the cat door, among a smattering of other ground breaking discoveries and ideas.

When he studied at Cambridge, some think that his cats would constantly bother him trying to get in and out, so he cut holes in the door. It is widely known that these cats helped keep him company.



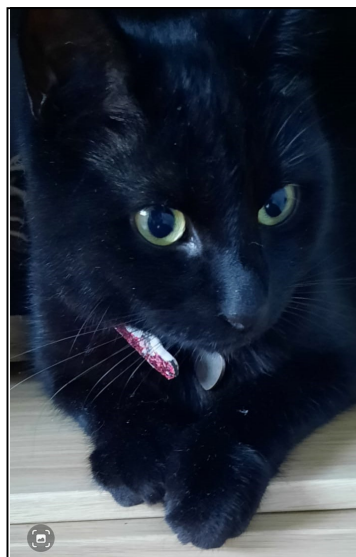
# The Catwalk



## Piano -

Always wanted to be that cat on a hot tin roof.

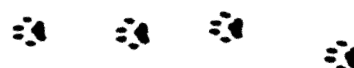
J. Ryan, Dublin



## Arya-

Ha! I got it, now try and get it.

The Buckley Family, Cork



## Titan -

From the stairs Titan can survey his domain.

S. Murphy, Dublin



## Joshi -

Better than 'Strictly Come Dancing'

K. Sluiters, Dublin





# The Catwalk



## Jasper -

What do you mean,  
I can't go out?

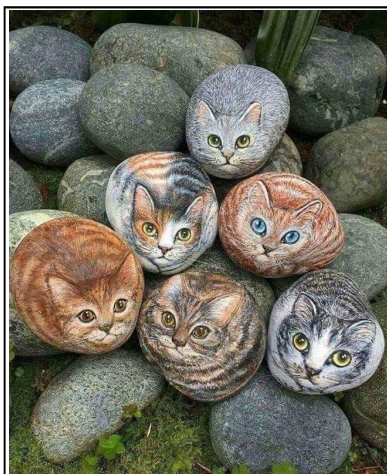
The Buckley Family, Cork



## The Rock Family -

Are they or  
are they not?

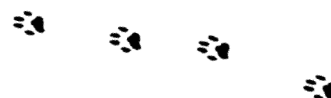
S Hopkins, Dublin



## Yuri -

Joshi is watching  
YouTube (on page 10)  
but I'm watching the  
real thing!

K. Sluiters, Dublin



## Ichabod -

Piano's brother loves  
to sleep in the sun  
while Piano oversees  
the neighbourhood on  
Page 10.

J. Ryan, Dublin







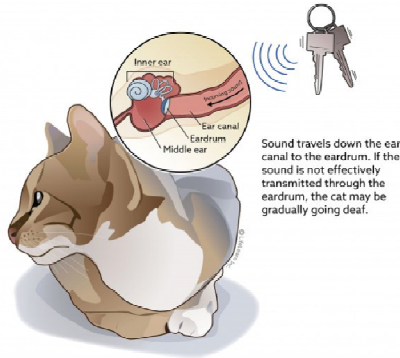
## Health

### Deafness in Cats - Part 1

Among the many attributes of a normal and properly cared-for cat is an impressively acute sense of hearing. Cats have a highly developed sense of hearing, one of the broadest among mammals, with a range from 45 to 64,000hz. For comparison, the human range is 64 to 23000hz, and in dogs 67 to 45000hz. This means cats can hear sounds at both ends of the spectrum that we can't. Hearing at high frequencies is not only a feline superpower that coincides with the frequency of mouse squeaks, it's also the first to be lost. Essentially, cats lose the hearing range we can't hear. The loss of high-frequency hearing plays a major role in a cat's predator skills to hunt and eat.

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. 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.

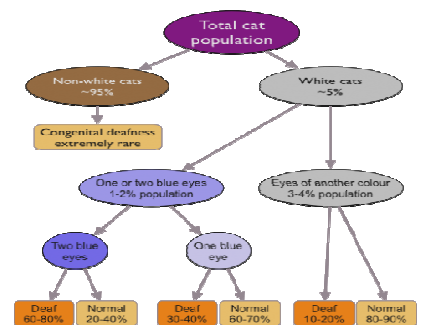
Inherited congenital (present from birth) deafness is seen almost exclusively in white coated individuals. The deafness is caused by degeneration of the auditory apparatus of the inner ear and may affect one ear (unilateral) or both ears (bilateral).

Breeding studies have defined the relationship between deafness in white cats and blue eye colour. The gene responsible is auto recessive - ie, it has more than one effect, being responsible for the white coat colour and also blue eyes and deafness. However, while the gene has complete penetrance for white coat colour (all cats that carry the gene will have a white coat), it has incomplete penetrance for blue eye colour and for deafness (but these two are strongly linked). Thus deafness is strongly linked to the white coat colour and blue eye colour, but not all white cats or white cats with blue eyes are necessarily deaf. The variable penetrance of deafness and eye colour may be caused by interplay with other genes and/or environmental factors.

The risk of deafness in relation to coat colour and eye colour is shown in the diagram. If deafness occurs, it may be either unilateral or bilateral.

Overall, deaf cats with white coat colour and one or both blue eyes, make up around about 1-1.5% of the total cat population. However, the prevalence of white cats does vary in different geographies.

If a white cat has 2 blue eyes, it is 3-5 times more likely to be deaf than a cat with 2 non-blue eyes, and a cat with 1 blue eye is about twice as likely to be deaf as a cat with 2 non-blue eyes. In addition, longhaired white cats are 3 times more likely to be bilaterally deaf.



In a feral situation deaf white cats are rarely seen as they experience strong negative natural selection pressure as:

- They are deaf
- They are photophobic (intolerant of bright light because of the blue eye pigment)
- They have reduced vision in low light conditions

However, among pet cats it is much more common to find white cats, probably simply due to selective breeding (human preference and intervention). Many cat breeds are known to have the white coat gene and can, therefore, produce deaf white individuals. Some breeds, like Persians, Angoras, and Ragdolls, are at a higher risk of congenital deafness. A number of breeds now insist on white cats being checked for deafness (e.g. using BAER testing – brainstem auditory evoked response ...this is a simple non-invasive test that can be performed at specialist centres to determine accurately whether deafness is present). These breed societies do not allow deaf white cats to be bred from.

Another primarily heritable abnormality that may cause deafness, is atresia - a defect in the development of the ear canal that may result in partial or total obstruction of the channel.

#### Acquired and age related deafness

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 aspirin; and a wide variety of household chemicals that may be either ingested or seep into the depths of the ear through a perforated eardrum.

Among all acquired feline ear conditions 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.

Cats can lose their hearing as they age, just as many humans do. Generally, this is a gradual process, so it may be difficult to notice. The eardrums become less flexible, and sounds are not transmitted as effectively. Typically, these cats will show subtle behavior changes like not coming when called or not noticing when we arrive home from work. Thus, hearing difficulties and potential deafness are often found in geriatric cats where deafness that occurs either due to ear drum thickening, which occurs normally with age, or degeneration of the nerves or other structures of the ear.

Most acquired feline ear disorders, including otitis externa, can be treated with medicine although surgery may sometimes be the only option. Unfortunately, deafness in one or both ears is most often a permanent condition.

Therefore you should 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.


Symptoms of Deafness in Cats include:

- Lack of response to everyday noises
- Very loud or louder than normal vocalizing
- Not responding when called
- Not woken by loud sounds
- Frequently startles on sight (rather than sound)
- Inflammation or redness in the ear
- Increased meowing in frequency and volume

Jim Stephens MS.CABC, Companion Animal Behaviour Counsellor, [www.petsbehave.com](http://www.petsbehave.com)


(Part 2, treatment & training in next issue, Spring 2022)

## What Flowers Are Dangerous To Cats?

 Poinsettias - You may have already heard poinsettias are toxic to animals. The reality is they aren't good for them, but the risks are a bit overstated. 'It's not life-threatening,' Dr. Lewis says. (Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG) Chief Medical Officer). That said, if a cat ingests a poinsettia, they may have some not-so-fun symptoms, such as vomiting. 'It's irritating to the mouth and stomach,' Dr. Lewis says.


Tulips - These spring-blooming perennials look gorgeous when mixed into bouquets, but you'll want to keep it out of reach of Kitty. 'If a cat eats one, they are going to be lethargic and quiet,' Dr. Lewis says. Diarrhoea is often a side effect that usually appears six to twelve hours after ingestion. The worst part of a tulip is the bulb, so if your cat is indoors, you can mitigate this risk by snipping the stem and putting it in a vase



 Daisies - This classic flower is fun to put in your hair, a crown or a bouquet. But keep it out of reach of your cat. 'It can cause incoordination sometimes,' Dr. Lewis says. Other symptoms include diarrhoea, salivation and vomiting. You'll want to get the vet on the phone for this one. Left untreated, ingesting daisies can be fatal.

Peonies - The holy grail of wedding flowers, peonies are toxic for cats. Symptoms, including vomiting, lethargy and diarrhoea, typically present within about six hours, Dr. Lewis says.



 Lilies - These flowers, which bloom in late spring, are especially popular around Easter. But they're extremely dangerous for cats. 'If a cat eats a lily, it's going to cause kidney toxicosis,' says Dr. Lewis, adding that even a small portion of any part of the plant can harm Kitty. Sometimes, florists will label flowers as lilies that aren't true lilies. 'It's got to be Hemerocallis or Lilium for it to be a true lily plant and cause the kidney problem,' Dr. Lewis says. Check the label or ask the florist to clarify what type of lily it is. If in doubt, opt for something else or plan to put it somewhere your cat can't get it. Look for vomiting, lethargy and a lack of appetite. Unfortunately, there's more bad news: It can take one to five days for these symptoms to present, and by then Dr. Lewis says it may be too late. 'If you think your cat got into a lily, consult a vet,' she advises.

What to do if your cat eats a flower -

Though lilies and daisies may carry the most risk, different cats may have different reactions after eating plants. It's best to call a vet. If the vet calls you in, Dr. Lewis advises to 'bring any information you have on the flower,' including labels or tags on a bouquet that explain what plants are in it. There's not usually an antidote, but the vet can usually treat your cat. 'There's not anything we can do to reverse the effects, but we can induce them to vomit...and get three-fourths of the flower,' Dr. Lewis says. Your cat can make a full recovery. Prevention is the best mitigation, so try to keep plants out of reach of your cat.

[www.caster.com](http://www.caster.com), Beth Ann Meyers, January 2021. photos: Wikipedia

***I find dogs are so needy - if I'm going to be in a relationship with an animal, I want to be the needy one.***

Writer & actor Mark O'Halloran explaining to Ryan Tubridy, on RTE Radio1, why he adapted a cat instead of a dog as a lockdown pet. 28th September (Irish Times)



## Larry Of 10 Downing Street Updates

### UK's Chief Mouser Celebrates 10 Years On The Prowl

London (AP) Larry the cat, a four-legged inhabitant of London's 10 Downing St., is marking a decade as Britain's mouse-catcher in chief on Monday.

The tabby cat was recruited by then-Prime Minister David Cameron to deal with a pack of rats seen scuttling close to the British leader's official residence, and entered Downing Street on February 15, 2011.

The former stray, adopted from London's Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, was given the title Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office, an unofficial pest control post. He was the first cat to hold the rat-catching portfolio since the retirement of Humphrey in 1997, and has loyally served three prime ministers.

But it seems like yesterday that Larry was just another cat, as opposed to a media superstar, said Lindsey Quinlan, the head of the cattery in Battersea. 'Throughout his time at Number 10, Larry has proven himself to not only be a brilliant ambassador for Battersea but also demonstrated to millions of people around the world how incredible rescue cats are,' she said. 'His rags to riches tale is yet more proof of why all animals deserve a second chance, one minute they may be an overlooked stray on the streets, the next they could become one of the nation's beloved political figures, with fans around the world.'

Larry, who has met a number of world leaders, has been largely unfriendly to men but took a liking to former U.S. President Barack Obama. When former President Donald Trump visited in 2019, Larry took a nap under his car.

His grip on the public imagination is clear - and political leaders know better than to ignore that popularity. The tomcat was a sentimental topic of conversation in Cameron's final appearance in Parliament as prime minister when he said he wanted to quash a rumour that, perish the thought, he didn't like Larry. And just to prove it, he whipped out evidence: a picture of Larry lying on his lap. 'He belongs to the house and the staff love him very much, as do I,' he said at the time, explaining why he wasn't taking Larry with him after leaving office.

After the December 2019 election, rumours swirled that Larry might be headed for retirement with the news that the new prime minister, Boris Johnson, was a dog man. However, despite the prime minister moving Jack Russell cross Dilyn into Downing Street, Larry remained in office.

Reports of his rodent-killing abilities vary. Larry became known for his occasional scraps with neighbouring cats, especially Palmerston, chief mouser to the Foreign Office across the street and fondness for sleep. Palmerston has retired to the country, so things have been a bit quieter of late.

These days Larry, now 14, is often seen by photographers patrolling his turf. Visitors to the building can sometimes find him napping on a ledge above a radiator or sleeping on a floor, where dignitaries occasionally have to step over him. At the heart of government, he specializes in power naps.

www.apnews, J. Lawless & D. Kirka February 2021



### Number 10 Staff Have Been Told To Cut Down On Treats For Downing Street Cat Larry After He Piled On The Pounds Over Lockdown

The 14-year-old, 72 in human years, was taken to the vet for an 'MOT', and is said to be 'doing well for an old boy'. But a memo sent to No10 staff warned: 'Larry...has put on 0.5kg in lockdown so likely too many Dreamies. Please can we reduce these?'

The chief mouser is said to have been 'noisy in the car, but remained dignified once in the vets, even whilst having his temperature taken in a place he wasn't expecting.'

The memo noted that upon his return from the vets, Larry immediately went to 'flirt' with the press, who did not notice a small shaved area on his neck where blood tests had been taken. The Mirror understands vets were 'very careful' to take the sample from near his neckline 'so the press wouldn't spot it'.

Larry's heart, lungs and body are sound and there was no sign of heart, kidney or liver disease. But vets said his remaining teeth will have to come out soon.

www.mirror.co.uk, M. Smith, March 2021

## Entertaining Cat Facts

- During the month of October, many shelters will not allow adoptions of black cats. This is due to a concern that these felines will be used as sacrifices or tortured.

- Cats can survive by drinking sea water; they will still be hydrated despite the salt found in ocean water. Cats have crazy kidneys that filter out the salt from the water so they can re-hydrate themselves.

- In Holland's embassy in Moscow, Russia, the staff noticed that two Siamese cats kept meowing and clawing at the walls of the building. Their owners finally investigated, thinking they would find mice. Instead, they discovered microphones hidden by Russian spies. The cats heard the microphones when they turned on.

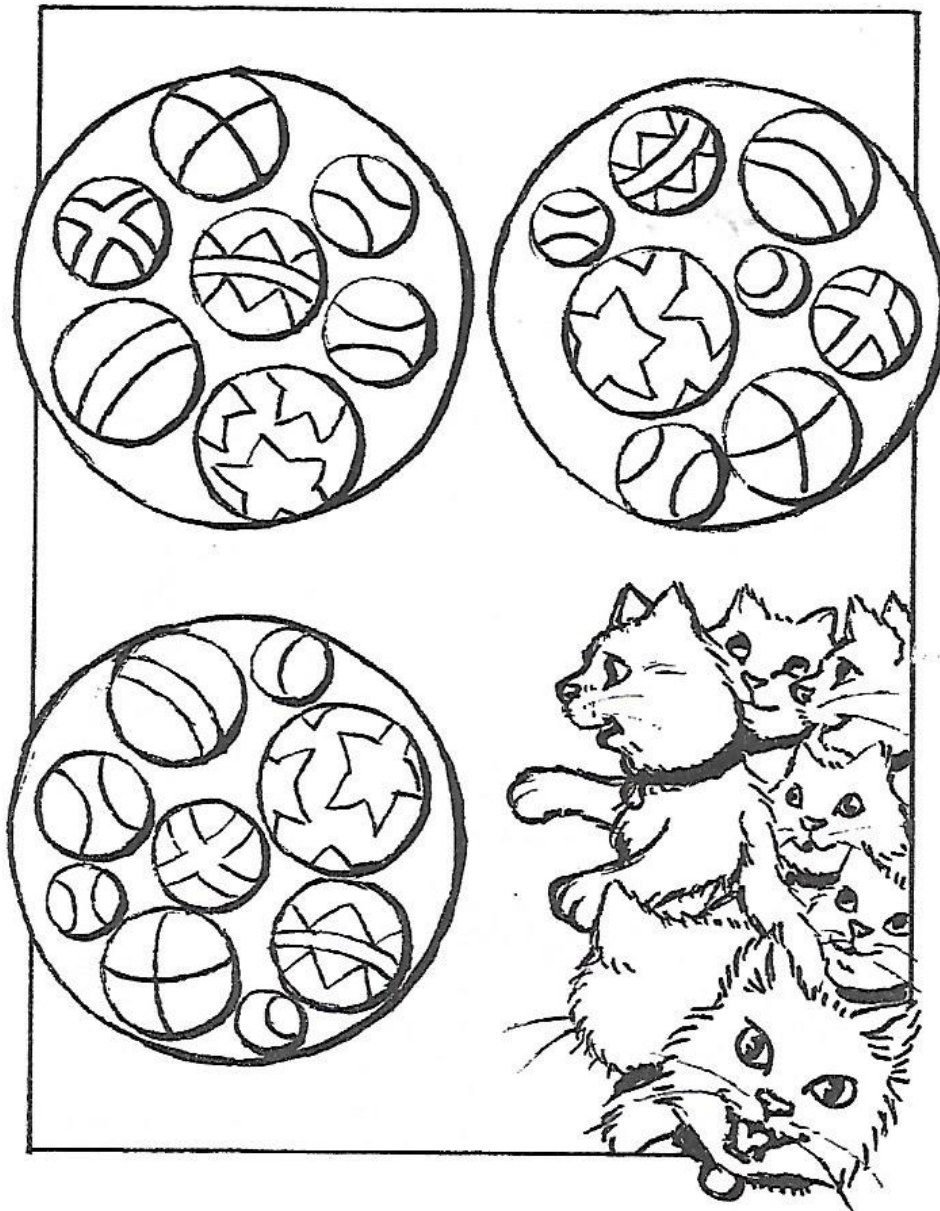
www.lovepets.com







## KIT'S KORNER



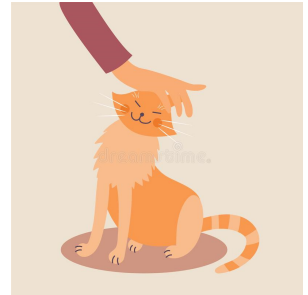
These cats can't wait to play with the balls.  
Colour in the circle that has the right number of balls.

## 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 ^..^

### Toying With Allergy Sufferers

Every once and a while, humans who don't know they are actually toys, come into your house. With a mere tickle of your fur, they change shape and colour and make ridiculous sounds. These humans are called allergy sufferers and are really fun to play with. They look normal in appearance, but during the course of a visit transforms into sniffing, wheezing, swollen, red-faced, teary-eyed, itchy, wonderful play things. Be careful, though. If you play with these big toy humans too much, your person will take them away by once again, putting you in a room, alone, and closing the door. We don't even want to mention all the terrible tales of pussies sent packing once their person has allowed snuffle-brain to settle permanently. So how can you have fun with an allergy sufferer and not get into trouble? It's a delicate balance, and you have to walk a thin line; but, luckily, you're a cat. Walking fine lines is what you do best!



Some Wheezy Wendys only drop by briefly for a dinner party, a football match, but don't let that deter you. Even in these limited time frames they can provide a great deal of fun. Due to the brevity of their stay, they'll be convinced they can handle your feline wiles. Oh, how wrong they are!

The easiest way to determine if a visitor is an allergy sufferer is with a traditional circling of the ankles. This simple, friendly gesture causes them immediate, hilarious panic that within seconds you'll know if it is time to play the mad Dr Frankenmogg to their sneezy-headed Monster.

Once you've identified an allergy sufferer, its time to play. If he is on the sofa, hop up into his lap. It's a good central hub within easy range of thousands of allergy receptors, which are this toy's buttons. Obviously the nose is a sensible region to focus on if you're looking to induce a lively sneeze, but don't neglect some other fun areas. Bumping you head into his chest, for example, can turn his skin a robust shade of rouge, and licking his arms brings hours of itching.

In order to maximise your amusement, look as cute as possible, This tactic will lure him into petting you against his better judgement. Petting is the key to unlocking your allergy powers. Soon, he'll begin to show signs of a metamorphosis: a few tears, a snuffle, a leaky nose. At this point he may try to remove you. Maintain your position. Start purring as if you're experiencing the over how adorable you look greatest petting ever. Your person and other, more feline-friendly, guests will begin to coo over how adorable you look and comment on how rare it is that you immediately cosy up to a stranger. If the runny-nosed toy were to remove you now, he'd seem cruel and incapable of love to any single members of the opposite sex in the room. All in all, he'll conclude that a pretty severe sneezing and coughing fit is a price worth paying to maintain his social standing, which in turn allows the fun to continue.

Some allergy sufferers go by other names, including 'boyfriend', 'girlfriend', 'spouse' and 'child', and they tend to stick around for a long time. A plaything that never goes away sounds great, but there's always the worry that you could get bored with it. Luckily, these toys come with accessories and ratchet up the level of difficulty. The most common add-ons are called HEPA filters, Claritin, Benadryl and Zyrtec. Sometimes they make allergy sufferers harder to transform into bloated, blotchy monsters, but that shouldn't deter you. After having so many toys fail to hold interest, finding a toy that presents a challenge is a welcome change.

In time, toys that stick around for a long haul might actually stop working. They don't race for a box of tissues the way they used to, sneeze on command or turn all splotchy after you've slept on their face all night. When that happens, don't be afraid to begin anew with the human. Though it might seem strange at first, pretty soon you will feel comfortable treating him with the same indifference (or affection – your choice) as you treat your person.

A note on hypoallergenic cats: You might one day encounter what humans call a 'hypoallergenic cat'. Now, we would never criticize another cat, but let's just say these felines don't share your enthusiasm for inciting sneeze attacks. If you find yourself hanging out with one when an allergy sufferer is nearby, don't be offended if instead of joining in with the fun with you, she chooses to bat around the same old piece of string. Hypoallergenic cats can't help it.

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

### Cat Kisses



Sandpaper kisses  
On a cheek or a chin -  
That is the way  
for a day to begin!

Sandpaper kisses  
A cuddle and a purr.  
I have an alarm clock  
That's covered in fur!

Author Unknown



### Quiz Answers: page 7

1. Dearness
2. Bill Clinton
3. Clowder
4. Female
5. Baby Puss
6. Vienna
7. Cheshire cat
8. Feral
9. 8 (5 in front,
10. Eyebrows

### Kits Korner Answer: page 15

Colour in balls in the top left circle