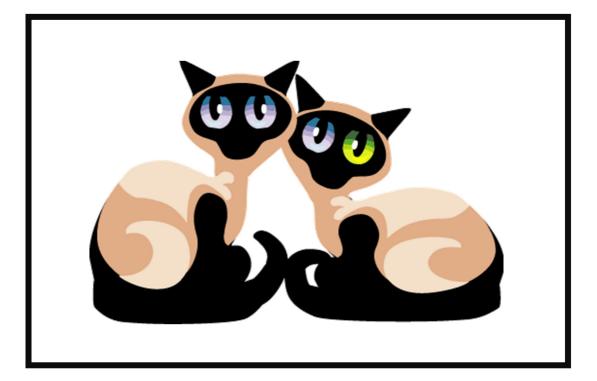
The Scratching Post





SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2022

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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





I'm trying to organize a stampede, but everybody's got their own agenda.

Being A Highly Effective Cat - Meowing

Another often overlooked tactic is meowing. It's not just for youngsters! Properly employed, it can be a powerful weapon in your arsenal. The key is proper intonation. Loud, raucous or demanding meows will get you nowhere except in an emergency. Soft, medium pitched and polite, combined with the wide eyes and cocked head of 'Looking Cute' is far more effective. Many cats develop a complete vocabulary of meows which range from plaintive through to cheerful greeting. Then of course there is the famous 'silent meow'. Pitched too high for human hearing, it gives the impression that you simply can't find words to express you



the impression that you simply can't find words to express your emotion or need. Humans find that practically irresistible. By Messybeast

Where Did It Come From? - Cat's Got Your Tongue

Perhaps the most popular cat saying, this should not be taken literally! It refers to someone who isn't talking, particularly if they don't respond to a question. This idiom possibly dates to ancient Egypt, where punishment for a crime meant your tongue would be cut out and fed to a cat, and the Middle Ages, when a witch's cat would steal or paralyze your tongue so that you couldn't speak. Hillspet.com



Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2022 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with an Anejo Highball 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 or gloria@sabcci.com



The Dublin Championship Cat Show

30th October

Ballinteer Community School

Broadford Road, Ballinteer, Dublin 16



We're Back!

SABCCI and the GCCFI will hold a '2 in 1' Championship show,

2 shows running in the same hall at the same time.

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

See you there!

NB. Any Government Covid Policy prevailing on Show Day will apply

How We Can Protect Black Cats On Halloween

As Halloween approaches, many of us are gearing up for thrills and dying to share our most bone-chilling scary stories. But there's one tall tale that should be six feet under: the false notion that black cats are in unique danger during the 30 days leading up to and on that notorious night.

You may have heard tell that around Halloween, black cats are targeted by people with the worst intentions. You may have also witnessed warnings against adopting out black cats throughout October because of the worry that these cats will be abused. It's enough to send a shiver down anyone's spine, but here's the thing:

It's not true. Here is what you should know:

Black cats are not in more danger on Halloween - There is no factual evidence that black cats are in greater peril at any point in October. At least, not any more than cats of all fur colours are at any time of the year.

More adoptions of black cats is a good thing - As a society, we are rightfully shaking free from the icy grip of the 'black cats are bad luck' myth. After all, black fur is a dominant gene, so black is a very common coat colour in cats. But many black cats in shelters are still overlooked because of their coats, so it's important that we don't further bury their chances at adoption. If a rescue or other organization is keen to run a Halloween special on black cat adoption, that could mean finding the right homes for even more beautiful black cats who need them. We just need to ensure every adoptable cat is spayed or neutered, incorporate best practices to sufficiently screen potential adopters, and provide those adopters with the right information to care for their new family member.

The real horrors cats face are year-round - Alley Cat Allies defends cats from unspeakable cruelty around the world. All cats, including black cats, are still at risk from the real-life horror of archaic, lethal policies that are being implemented by governments and public institutions worldwide.

You can help protect cats on Halloween - Urban legends aside, there are many actions you can take to help your feline family members have a safe and happy Halloween.

Our top three tips are:

1. Be mindful of your decorations - Fake spider webbing isn't only harmful to the environment, it can pose various health hazards if ingested by cats or other animals. Jack-o-lanterns with real, lit candles can quickly become dangerous if knocked over, and decorations like corn or pumpkins can cause stomach trouble if cats nibble on them. Place your décor strategically or opt for other tricks.

2. Keep cats in a quiet area of your house - Cats can be easily spooked by errant trick or treaters at your door or loud party guests, so identify a room they will be most comfortable in and provide a litter box and any food, water, and toys they need.

3. Make sure your cats are microchipped - Should your cat or kitten dart out the door while you're handing out candy, her microchip can ensure she is reunited safely with you. www.alleycat.org. October 2021





The Pedigree - Russian Blue

One is not really sure, where the Russian Blue originated from. Some say it came from Archangel in Russia, hence the name. It is believed that sailors docking at Archangel on the White Sea collected grey cats for sale in Britain. Cats similar to today's breed were often seen at British shows in the late 1800s.

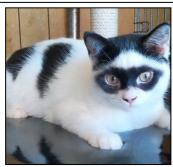
They had yellowish eyes, were heavier and bigger than the modern Russian Blue, and were known not only as Russian Blues but also as Archangel cats and Maltese cats.

At the turn of the century all blue short-haired cats were judged together.

The Russian Blues of those days had deep orange eyes and were distinguished by having longer heads, larger ears and longer bodies than the 'British' Blues. In most cases they were beaten by the cobbier cats, many of whom had been bred from crosses between Russians and Persians and the breed almost disappeared. In 1912 the Russian Blues were granted their own classes and the breed reappeared but this time with green eyes.

Russians should be medium to large-sized shorthair cats that exude elegance. They are most graceful and have been likened to ballerinas, as they appear to be walking on 'points' when they move. Their fur is unusual as it is short, thick and lustrouslike a seal's pelt. It is a typical double coat; this probably derived from the cat's need for warmth in the cold Russian winters. It's head is a short wedge with upright ears, prominent whisker pads and a strong chin. It's eyes almond-shaped and vivid green. Quiet, shy and gentle is probably the best way to sum up the breed.

Russians don't like noisy households as they are somewhat thoughtful and pensive. They tend to become very attached to their owners and are quite content to be confined indoors as long as they have the company of their preferred human.



A Cat Owner Left In Stiches After People Pointed Out A Striking Resemblance To Zorro

A cat who bears a striking resemblance to the masked vigilante Zorro has gone viral online and has left his owner in stitches with his unique look. Indraini Wahyudin Noor, 50, has several pet cats in his home but it's the youngest of his litter that has captured the hearts of people around the world because of his uncanny resemblance to the fictional character, who was created back in 1919 by writer Johnston McCulley. Zorro is known for wearing a black mask across his eyes, and Indraini's nine-month-old mixed Persian kitten named Boy was born with a black patch on his face that perfectly lines up with where a Zorro-esque mask would sit.

The pet owner, from Banjarmasin, Indonesia, said: 'The cat's name is Boy, but many people call him Zorro. I have many cats but this is the only one who has a mask on his face. He's my favourite cat! He is a very spoiled cat, he always wants to be petted, cuddled and held. He likes to play a lot but he hates being bathed each week.'

Boy went viral soon after Indraini first shared pictures of the adorable kitten on social media, and the cat now has tens of thousands of views to his name. And when social media users pointed out the clear similarities between Boy and Zorro - who has been played on the big screen by the likes of Antonio Banderas and Sir Anthony Hopkins - the cat's owner began playing along with the running joke, as he now regularly plays the Zorro theme tune for Boy.

Indraini added: 'I also think he looks just like Zorro, and I think he likes regularly listening to the Zorro music. People who see him for the first time usually say that he's unique, cute and how he looks just like Zorro. They even call him the cat thief! Reactions from my subscribers are mostly cute, they want to hug him and some even want to have him!' www.mirror.co.uk, Z. Eldund &A. Collins,. June 2022 Photo: Indraini Wahyudin Noor/ Caters News

Famous Cat Lovers - Cardinal Richelieu

Armand Jean du Plessis de Richelieu (1585-1642) - cardinal, statesman, power behind the throne, and scene-stealing villain of 'The Three Musketeers' was such a devotee of the cat that he contributed significantly to their adoption as companion animals in fashionable French society. Richelieu had a cattery built at his residence the Palais-Cardinal (later the Palais-Royal) to house his many cats, mostly Persians and Angoras, and was said to always have a cat on his lap as he worked. He was also a world class adept at naming his cats.



Anon

Among the 14 cats Richelieu had at the time of his death in 1642 were:

- Ludovic le Cruel, named for his savage dedication to killing rats
- Ludoviska, who according to some sources was Ludovic's girlfriend and was Polish

- Perruque (French for wig), so named because as a kitten she'd fallen out of the wig of poet Honorat de Bueil at Richelieu's feet

- Rubis sur l'Ongle, the French idiom for 'cash on the nail'
- Gazette, because she was 'indiscreet'
- The cardinal's favorite Soumise (submissive)

- Pyrame and Thisbe, named after the lovers in Ovid's 'Metamorphoses' because they slept together holding paws. www.mentalfloss.com, Picture: vk.com

There are many intelligent species in the universe. They are all owned by cats.





Post-pandemic Cats & Separation Problems

Studies undertaken during covid restrictions and lockdowns generally focused on the difficulties faced by cats and their owners. Many research projects concluded that for care givers the major difficulties were the worry of obtaining veterinary care and supplies for their cats. Behaviour changes in cats were generally positive for example owners perceiving cats to be more playful and calmer, with a third of owners in one study recording more attention seeking behaviours. The positive behaviours of cats could have been influenced by the greater presence of the owners in the house. Research shows that domesticated cats establish close relationships with their owners and expect commitment and attention from them.

It is also possible that due to the longer time the owners spent at home during the lockdown, there was a higher probability for them to observe their cats for any changes in their behaviours.

So what of over-attachment and separation related behaviours? Much has been written of separation related problems in dogs but the popular thought is that cats are more solitary and do not require human interaction to any great extent and therefore have few, if no, separation problems. However, research shows that owned cats, particularly indoor cats, form strong attachments to their owners, particularly exotic breeds such as Siamese and Burmese.

The extra time spent together during Covid restrictions may have resulted in more cats suffering from separation anxiety, once restrictions were over and people started to return to work. Separation anxiety can vary greatly in its severity and intensity and can be a real problem for some cats and their owners. Recent research by PetPlan in the UK found that 49% of cat owners were most concerned about separation anxiety.

Separation anxiety occurs when an animal becomes overly attached and dependent on its owner, so that it becomes anxious when they are apart. Over-attachment could be the result of a kitten being hand-reared and so developing a particularly strong bond with its owner. Over-attachment could also occur when a cat becomes used to getting lots of attention whenever it wants it and having an owner who is around all the time. When the owner is suddenly not there anymore, an emotionally dependent cat may not be able to cope and is likely to display anxious behaviour. One study revealed that cats interact more intensely at reunion with the owner by purring more after a longer duration of separation which may reflect the greater need to re-establish the relationship between cat and owner after a longer separation.

Signs of Anxiety

Common body language signs of stress in cats include: refusing treats, takes treats roughly when normally gentle, dilated pupils/wide eyes, furrowed brows, head lowered, ears held to the side or back, whiskers held flat to the cheek or far forward, move away/desire to escape from stressors, faster breathing without exercise, tail held close to body, attention-seeking (rubbing, climbing, scratching), crouching, leaning away, swishing tail.

Other behaviours which can indicate separation related problems can include the following :

- Vocalization (crying, moaning, meowing) right after the owner has left.
- Anorexia the affected cat is often too anxious to eat when left alone.
- Inappropriate elimination often in the form of urine marking, though faecal marking may also occur.
- Stress can also be a factor in the development of recurrent cystitis, so it is important to see your vet if you notice your cat urinating little and often, and/or urinating outside of the litter-tra
- Vomiting only in the owner's absence.
- Excessive self-grooming. This starts as a displacement behaviour but can progress to compulsive self-grooming, if unchecked.

Obviously other stressors in the environment or illnesses can also result in an anxious cat so it is important that such indicators are actually related to the owners absence and this will require careful monitoring by owners, keeping diaries, recording video during absences, recognising any changes.

What Can You Do to Relieve Separation Anxiety in Cats? Treatment for all anxiety disorders can be divided into three categories:

- Management of the environment to decrease anxiety from occurring.
- Pharmaceuticals
- Behaviour modification

Management of the Environment -

Provide Enrichment Activities - There are endless options for enrichment activities to keep your cat busy while you are gone. There are TV shows designed specifically for cats and even cameras that allow you to toss treats to your cat and talk to them when you are not home. You can also try puzzle feeders, which are toys that your cat has to play with to release the food inside. Giving one to your cat before you start getting ready to leave can keep them busy so they aren't worried about what you are doing. Working (hunting) for their food is wonderful enrichment for cats. You can make parcels of food in the inner cardboard tubes of paper rolls and drag them around or hide them for your cat to find.

Ignore Attention-Seeking Behaviours - Try to ignore attention-seeking behaviours whenever possible. Instead, provide attention when your cat is calm and shows signs of independence. For example, you can praise or toss a small treat to your cat when they are resting in another room or when they stop meowing for attention. Remain calm when you leave your house and return home. Wait until your cat is calm and quiet to give them attention after you get home. Giving your cat activities to keep them busy and engaged as you get ready to leave and while you are gone can be very helpful. Some cats also experience a calming effect from pheromone products, such as plug-in diffusers or collars.

Post-Pandemic Cats...(contd)

Create and Maintain a Consistent Routine - Consistent routines are very beneficial for pets with anxiety disorders. Keeping to the same schedule as much as you can is good for them, as they will know what to expect and need not become anxious.

Pharmaceuticals and Nutraceuticals - If management changes alone are not enough, your veterinarian may recommend a supplement or medication to reduce your cat's anxiety. Supplements can yield a 25% improvement in signs, while medications should yield at least a 50% improvement. Some cats benefit most from a short-acting medication that is only given before departures. Others do better on a longer-acting medication that stays in their body all the time. The goal of medications and supplements is to make adjustments to the cat's brain chemistry. Medications can help cats cope with stressful situations more easily and can help them make progress with behaviour modification therapies .The desired effect is the happiest and least-stressed version of your beloved pet. The intention is not for your cat's personality to change or for them to be a zombie.

If there are side effects, a medication can be stopped and you can try something else. Some cats remain on medications for a short period of time, and others can remain on them safely for years.

Behaviour Modification - Behaviour modification serves the same purpose as cognitive therapy in human psychology. The aim is for the cat to learn coping skills and to change their emotional response to stressful things.

Relaxation Exercises - One basic technique you can use is a relaxation exercise. This is where you consistently reward your cat when they show signs of being in a relaxed state, such as lying down, sighing, having a loose and still tail, and closing their eyes.

The exercise is paired with an item like a mat, so that over time, your cat learns to become relaxed when they see that item. Once relaxation is learned, you can perform parts of your departure routine while your cat is in the relaxed state. Start with simply moving around the room and then progress to approaching the door. As long as your cat remains calm, you can eventually leave the house for longer periods of time.

Counterconditioning - If your cat shows signs of stress when they see certain cues, like putting on shoes or picking up keys, classical counterconditioning can be used. This changes the emotional response from a negative to a positive one. For example, you can pick up your keys, toss a treat to your cat, and then put your keys down. This only works if your cat's stress level stays low. If your cat doesn't look expectantly for a treat after doing this at random times consistently for one week, then a medication may need to be started or adjusted. Jim Stephens MS.CABC, Companion Animal Behaviour

How Stepan, Ukraine's Most Famous Cat, Escaped The War To Safety

In March fans of Stepan, a 13-year-old black-and-brown-striped rescue cat based in Kharkiv, Ukraine, have been in anguish. They've refreshed the cat's Instagram and TikTok feeds and begged for updates in the comments since the accounts went quiet on March 3, as Russia continued its invasion of Ukraine. On Wednesday, nearly two weeks later, Stepan's more than 1 million followers breathed a collective sigh of relief. He was safe and in France.



Stepan is the latest example of how influencers in conflict regions, even nonhuman ones, are able to tap into their audiences to escape danger, and how a community that creators usually may rely on to source brand deals or sell merchandise can transform into a lifeline overnight. 'When

you've got that many followers you can use them as a network to provide aid, find shelter or even help find escape routes in a war zone,' Mohamad Taufiq Morshidi, a former fundraiser for Muslim Aid Malaysia who has worked extensively with refugees, said. 'Having an online network will help you survive difficult times.'

Stepan is one of the most famous pets in the world. He has amassed a huge following on Instagram and TikTok for his Grumpy Cat-esque nonchalant expressions, and he's often posed next to a large glass of wine or a cocktail. Stepan's solo, at-home parties have entertained millions, including many celebrity followers. Stars like Britney Spears, Diane Kruger and Hailey Bieber have shared Stepan's photos and videos.

But then Kharkiv, a city in northeastern Ukraine, came under attack, and Russia bombed the city's Freedom Square and opera house. Stepan's owner, known to followers as Anna, lost electricity, and they took shelter in a basement. Stepan's account went dark and followers feared the worst. Many left desperate, frantic comments and even launched a hunt for the cat in his native city to no avail.

By the time Stepan was tucked away on a train to the border of Poland with Anna and her two sons earlier this week, he had an online army ready to assist. Anna and her sons stood in line for nine hours before crossing into Poland on foot. www.washingtonpost.com, Taylor Lorenz, March 2022, Photo: loveyoustepan

Popular House Rules For Cat Owners

- Toilet paper will be rolled under. Not over.

- All water glasses must be covered or empty.
- Don't ever shut the door, the open door policy is compulsory.
- No whistling or singing (at your cat's discretion).

- If the bottom of the bowl at any space is visible, bowl is empty.

The Law of Cat Obstruction

A cat must lie on the floor in such a position as to obstruct the maximum amount of human foot traffic.



The Quiz -

1. Which country has more cats per person than any other country in the world?

- 2. What is the extreme fear of cats called?
- 3. What is an ailurophile?
- 4. Is a cat's brain more similar to a human brain or a dog brain?
- 5. Cats sweat from what part of their body?
- 6. How many whiskers does the average cat have on each side of its face?
- 7. How did ancient Egyptians mourn when a family cat died?



gingercathouse.co.uk Answers on page 16

You Know You're A Cat Person When You -



Think no outfit is complete without clumps of cat hair.

Check your cats' blogs before your own email.

All you watch is wildlife on TV because the cats love watching wildlife programs.

Call to check in at home and you ask about the cat first.

Your cat puts his paws on your cheeks and strokes your face to comfort you when you cry.

Have more cat hair in your vacuum bags than dirt.

Basic Rules For A Cat Who Has A House To Run

Chairs & Rugs: If you have to throw up, get into a chair quickly. If you can't manage to get to a delicate oriental rug in time, shag is good.

Doors: Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get a door opened, stand on your hind legs and hammer away with your front paws. Once the door is opened, it is not necessary to use it. In fact just walk away, your work is done here! And, if you have ordered an outdoor door to be opened, stand half-way in and out and think about it. This tip is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow and mosquito season; especially if your person is not dressed for this weather.



Guests: Quickly determine which guests hate cats the most. Sit on that human's lap. If you can arrange to have Fish on your breath, so much the better. For sitting on laps or rubbing against trousers, select a fabric colour which contrasts well with your fur colour. For example, white-furred cats should go to black wool clothing. For walking among dishes on the dinner table, be prepared to look surprised and hurt when scolded. The idea is to convey, 'but you allow me on the table when company isn't here.' Always accompany a guest to the bathroom. It's not necessary to do anything. Just sit there and stare. Author unknown but presumed to have whiskers.



Cat Accidentally Becomes A God, Goes Viral

Clyde, a fluffy white kitty, went viral on Twitter when his owner, Amanda Hyslop, posted a photo she'd taken of him. By chance, she'd managed to catch his reflection perfectly in the window while photographing clouds, making it appear that the cloud-like cat had ascended to his rightful throne in the sky. 'Took a pic of the cat lookin' out the window and accidentally turned him into some sort of god,' she tweeted. People loved Clyde's regal pose. He hasn't let the 1.5 million likes go to his head,

though, as Hyslop showed in a second picture of him lounging on his back in the sun. www.rd.com, Photo: via cloudcat28/twitter.com

ideal. www.hillspet.com

adage, quem não tem cão caça com gato, is that we

make do with the resources we have, even if they're not

Where Did It Come From? (International Expressions)

One Who Has No Dog Hunts With A Cat

While cats are fearsome hunters, they don't have a

directions, so it stands to

reason you might prefer a

great reputation for following

different hunting companion. The idea behind this Portuguese



The Supreme Show 2022



The Supreme was miraculously held on the 1st of May in Ballinteer Community School. The first show since covid. We had a late start mainly due to covid. To get shows back up and running Carmel Byrne and I agreed to be Joint Show Managers with Ronnie giving us a kick-start getting judges and working on the schedule etc. She continued to help us in the back-ground. With the pandemic Carmel worked out of Clare and I out of Dublin,

On top of not having had a show since 2019 we had our first online entry for exhibitors. Exhibitors could either use the online system or if some preferred they could continue to enter the 'old way' on paper.

We received 72 entries, not bad for first time in 3 years, with a good few new exhibitors and surprisingly, a number of exhibitors who haven't shown with us in years.

Things were starting to take shape but a few days before the show we had a judge who had to cancel due to personal reasons. This brought us down to three judges which was thankfully manageable due to the low numbers entered. Ronnie worked on redistributing the cats between the three judges. Then came the next blow, Carmel tested positive for covid and had to stay put in Clare. On show day came another blow when the judges got a text from the airport to say they had to arrive two and half hours before their flight which meant BIS would have to start no later than 3:00. They panicked and started sooner than 3:00. So not only did the public arrived after the show closed as we were taking down the show but also the show had a loss potential of an hour and half gate in-take. The public who did arrive too late were okay and understood once we explained the judges situation.

I don't know where Carmel and I would have been without the help and support from Ronnie, Lorna and Caroline. I would like to thank all our exhibitors (and their cats of course), those who worked behind the scenes, helped in setting up the show, our vet Mark Heffernan when free helped selling whites, to those who stepped up to help at short notice on the day and the support from our friends in the North. Gloria Hehir, Joint Show Manager

Supreme Show 2022 Results

Best of Variety

Section 1

Adult – Garcia's Hinchkitz Darlyn Miranda (Persian) F Kitten – Garcia's Sylvabow Burlington Bertie (Persian) M

Section 2

Adult – Steiner-Browne's Ishcus Thyme Taoiseach (Maine Coon) M Kitten – Psiuk's Brizo Aiko Lynx (Maine Coon) M Neuter - Wagner's Pr Silverfern French Kiss (Maine Coon) MN

Section 3

Adult - Dealey's Int GrCh Alimurs Boomer (British Shorthair) M Kitten – Makula's Iresymbr Evelyn (British Shorthair) F Neuter – Duffy's Int Pr Astracharm Definitely Maybe MN

Section 4

Adult - Woods & O'Conchobhair's Cherek Nutjest Any Jinjanut (Devon Rex) M Kitten – Howard's Coco Wave Cult*LT (Cornish Rex) M Neuter – French's Ismisha Yes Virginia (Singapura) FN

Section 5

Adult - Steele's Luxdon Bubbaloo (Burmese) M Kitten – Redmond's Joyeux First Edition (Burmese) F Neuter – Sluiters' Sliabh Ginhiroyuki (Burmese) M

Best In Show

Supreme Adult Dealey's Int GrCh Alimurs Boomer (British Shorthair) M

Supreme Kitten Makula's Iresymbr Evelyn (British Shorthair) F

Supreme Neuter Wagner's Pr Silverfern French Kiss (Maine Coon) MN

Overall Supreme Exhibit Dealey's Int GrCh Alimurs Boomer (British Shorthair) M

> Supreme Non-Pedigree O'Galligan's Rocky FN

Supreme Pedigree Pet Weldon's Canice MN

We have heard a lot about No. 10 Downing Street's Larry, Now to Willow In The White House White House Cat Joins Bidens' Pet Family

The newest member of the Biden team has arrived at the White House: a longpromised pet cat for the first family. The two-year-old, green-eyed, gray and white farm cat caught Jill Biden's eye when she jumped on stage and interrupted a speech the first lady was giving during the 2020 presidential campaign.

She has decided to name the cat Willow, after her home town of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. 'Willow is settling into the White House with her favorite toys, treats and plenty of room to smell and explore,' said Michael LaRosa, the first lady's

spokesperson. After Joe Biden was elected in November 2020, Jill Biden had said the first family would bring a pet cat to the White House.

Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, has been inundated with questions about the cat's arrival ever since. 'I'm also wondering about the cat, because the cat is going to dominate the internet,' she said in January last year. Finally, last month, the White House confirmed the cat would come this year, in January.

Jill Biden became acquainted with Willow after she interrupted a 2020 campaign stop in Pennsylvania, LaRosa said. 'Seeing their immediate bond, the owner of the farm knew that Willow belonged with Dr Biden,' he said. But the road to the White House has been long for Willow. Jill Biden told the New York Times last year that she was being cared for by a foster parent who had grown attached to her. 'The cat is still being fostered with somebody who loves the cat. I don't even know whether I can get the cat back at this point.'

The White House hasn't had a feline resident since India, President George W Bush's black cat. Before that, black-and-white Socks, who seemed to enjoy the limelight, lived with the Clintons when they were in the White House. Abraham Lincoln had two cats called Tabby and Dixie, and the president reportedly once said that Dixie was more intelligent than his cabinet.

Willow joins Commander, a German shepherd puppy Joe Biden introduced in December as a birthday gift from the president's brother James Biden and his wife, Sara. www.theguardian.com, G. Oladipo & agency, January 2022, Photo: White house/

Mourning Cat Breaks Hearts Sitting by Sibling's Urn Daily: 'Making Me Cry'

A cat owner has gone viral online after sharing heart-wrenching footage of her pet's reaction to her other cat's death. According to the owner, known as @lunaloveslouis, Luna sits by the urn of late cat Louis and stares at his painting on a daily basis. Using the ABBA song 'Angel Eyes,' the owner jumped on a popular TikTok trend of posting clips about the people and animals you miss.

For Luna, that's Louie, her feline sibling who passed away eight months ago. As shown by a montage in the viral video, which now has 600,000 views, the pair of Ragdoll cats did everything together: lounging together, sleeping and posing for pictures. The final picture, however, shows Luna left with just a painting of Louis.

According to VCA Animal Hospitals, cats do mourn and show different behavior when they lose a companion, whether it be human or animal. 'When a cat loses a companion, she most certainly grieves and reacts to the changes in her life. Cats alter their behaviour when they mourn much like people do. They may become depressed and listless, they may have a decreased appetite and decline to play, they may sleep more than usual and move more slowly, sulking around, they may hide under the bed, choosing to be alone even more than usual for cats,' it said. Despite this, there remains an argument over whether the behavioural changes are due to missing the companion, like a human would, or because 'her schedule is off.'

Luna and Louis grew up with each other as kittens, 'they were going to be best friends for life but Louis passed away at the age of 11 months,' wrote the owner online. 'Louis had been acting lethargic for a few days and upon diagnosis, it was confirmed he had a high temperature and Globulin level indicating he was carrying some sort of virus/infection. I still think about him everyday and miss him with all my heart.'

The owner welcomed a new cat months later, in a bid to fill the loneliness left behind in Luna's life. 'While his life was cut short, his spirit continues with Louis II. I'm so heart warmed to see Luna and Louis II bonding,' explained their owner. 'There's been moments where it feels like she is searching for Louis, but we're staying strong for her.'

Luna's yearning for Louis has touched hearts online, who rushed to claim the latest video had left them crying. 'What really stood out to us when we first introduced Luna and Louis II was that Luna showed no signs of aggression towards the new kitten, it was as if she had known this kitten all her life. The two of them connected with each other almost instantly, and Luna no longer showed signs of depression. She fell right back into old routines of playing and grooming with Louis II, and found a new companion too for her favourite past time of watching the birds outside,' said Mohl. 'Both me and wife genuinely believe that Louis II carries the spirit of Louis, as the new kitten has shown almost identical behaviour and personality traits.'

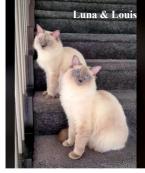
How To Annoy Your Cat

una & Louis II

When a cat is curled up and relaxed on your lap, pick him up under his arms and start his exercise and stretching
routine. One - two, one - two.101 Fun & Petty Ways To Annoy Your Cat by Jim Erskine

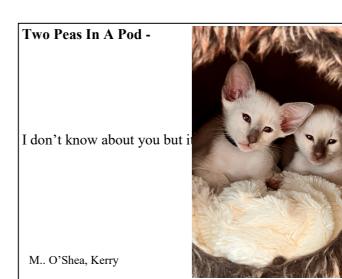


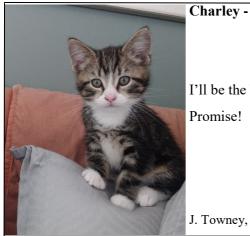




* * The Catwalk * ¥:= v,= 5.=







I'll be the best cat ever. Promise!

J. Towney, Cork

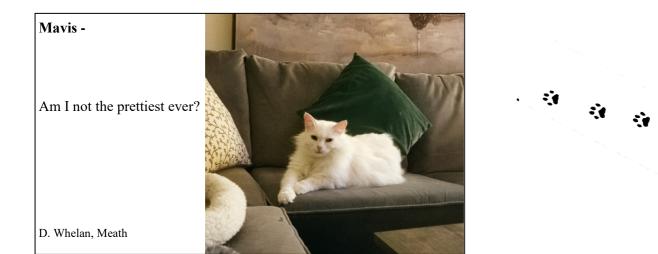




Jasper -

Where are you? Come here wherever you are!

The Buckley Family, Cork



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* * The Catwalk * 5= 53 **\$**.=



Luna -I told you. Didn't I!!

L. O'Brien, Dublin





Ruby Button -

No.. I won't put my paw down.

L & G. Hughes, Dublin



)::

F:

Arya -

5:

Hehe! I know I'm not allowed.

12 12 ÷: 17



The Buckley Family, Cork



Meet MewPaul, The Adventurous Cat Who's A Regular At The Pub

Ever met a famous cat who enjoys loud music and going to the pub? Introducing one-year-old MewPaul.

This Bengal-tabby cross was adopted by Mike Ransom, 35, in May 2021, when she was just an eight-week-old kitten. Ever since, she has become something of a local celebrity in her hometown of Hull, East Yorkshire, while her owner, Mike is now known as the 'cat man'. MewPaul has become a regular at her local pub and takes trains and buses to explore new towns – all the while perching on her owner's shoulder. Mike, who is a carer, jokes that his cat – whose name is inspired by the popular TV series Ru Paul's Drag Race – is 'more dog than a dog' and her favourite bars, where she enjoys people watching, exploring and napping, are owned by the BrewDog chain.

This all began when Mike's music obsessed cat leapt onto his shoulder at the front door to their house and 'demanded' to go out. 'I was heading out to the shops and she jumped up and meowed in my ear, like she was saying, "I have an idea",' Mike said. 'I had no idea if she would like it, but I bought a lead for her and it was like she just knew what to do. She sits on my shoulder and just watches the world around

for her and it was like she just knew what to do. She sits on my shoulder and just watches the world around her or wanders around, meeting people and exploring. She's known in most of the pubs and bars near us now and is treated like a celebrity.'

Despite being a 'dog person', in 2020 Mike decided to begin his search for a friendly feline to join him and his now ex-girlfriend in their one-bed flat in Hull. 'I was furloughed from work in 2020 because I was a carer and the person I looked after was shielding, so we were just stuck inside watching Netflix,' he said. 'I'd never wanted a cat before but one of our friends had got one during lockdown and out of the blue, I decided I wanted one.'

During lockdown the number of people adopting or buying new pets dramatically rose as more people spent time at home. After searching on Gumtree and local shelters Mike had no luck in finding the right cat and eventually he gave up on the idea. That was until fate brought him and MewPaul together. Months later in April 2021, Mike's manager at work sent him the details for a kitten she had heard needed a home. It was love at first sight for the pair. 'I knew I wanted her straight away,' Mike said. 'We had to wait a few weeks before she was old enough to leave her mum and then one day, I got the text to come and collect her from the pub around the corner from work.'

Meeting at The Grandale pub in Hull – which would soon become one of MewPaul's regular haunts – Mike arrived carrying a cage and ready to take her home. The energetic and confident little puss settled into the family fast. While ordinary cat toys bored MewPaul – always acting uninterested and confused when presented with various games – she loved watching the TV and being around Mike. 'On the second night, she curled up on my knee and from that point, I was the person she wanted to be with,' he said. 'We decided her name before we even got her. We were watching RuPaul's Drag Race one evening and I thought, "That's it, I've got the pun, and whatever cat we get, that will be the name". We didn't know if it would fit, but as it turned out, she was such a diva, it was perfect.'

Before Mike took MewPaul on her first trip in the great outdoors, in June 2021, he bought a cat lead, moggie backpack and harness so she was fully-equipped and safe to leave the comfort of the flat. After an initial five-minute trot around the flat with MewPaul on his shoulder, Mike prepared her for her first trip to some nearby playing fields in the backpack – without success. 'She was meowing and squealing in the backpack, so I thought, "This isn't working, she obviously hates it",' he said. 'But it turned out it wasn't the outside she disliked, she just didn't like not being able to see everything. I then tried to take her out on my shoulder with the lead to the park near my home and she loved it.'



Since then MewPaul has been excited to explore the world with her human accomplice and enjoys going on walks at least three days a week. 'It is easier taking her out than some of the dogs I have had,' Mike added. And Mike doesn't need to worry about her getting into any fisticuffs with other animals in the park. 'She will sit on my shoulder and just watch the pigeons fly over – she never runs off or chases them,' he said. 'She quite likes dogs, too – they don't know what to make of her, but she doesn't mind them. She is more of a dog than a dog.'

After exploring local spaces in Hull, Mike decided to head further afield – taking MewPaul on an 80 minute train ride into York in January 2022. We were then walking past a pub and I thought, "We can try the outdoor area and see how she gets on" but she was desperate to go inside and say hello to everyone. 'She wandered around, gave my pint a sniff, but she preferred her cat treats.'

After such success with the first pub in York, the duo began to tick off their local pubs in Hull together on Mike's days off and evenings. Her favourite joint is now the BrewDog that they explored on a trip to Leeds in July 2021. 'The staff did have a little chuckle that she was a cat in a BrewDog,' he said. 'She is now known as the "BrewCat" in the Hull BrewDog.' And MewPaul has also earnt her owner a nickname. 'I'm totally known as the 'cat guy' now,' Mike said. 'I have met so many people and made friends because of MewPaul. She is a total diva and a proper social butterfly.'

After being constantly asked by strangers if MewPaul had an Instagram, Mike set up an account for her in June 2021, which is now almost at 2,000 followers. She is like a local celebrity,' he said. 'She gets recognised in the street.' MewPaul is also a seasoned traveller by bus and train now, packing light with just a portable water bowl and her Dreamies cat treats. www.metro.co.uk, I. Jani-Friend, April 2022 Photo: PA Real Life



lame cat is better than a swift horse when rats infest the palace. Chinese Proverb



Special Ginger Cat Has Stolen Hearts Of Thousands At British Hospital

A special ginger cat named Henry has been stealing the hearts of thousands at a British hospital north of London after making it his second home for five years. Henry has become a friendly face to many of the patients and staff at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, England, and even has a Facebook group dedicated to his presence, with 4,900 followers. The 7-year-old feline hit the headlines following his frequent visits to the Cambridge hospital, bringing smiles and warm hugs to those who need it most.

One the many people singing Henry's praises is Samantha Smith, who recently had twins. Smith, 29, spent around eight weeks in the Sick Children's Trust in



Acorn House, a place for the families of sick children being treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Currently on maternity leave and from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, in central England, Smith said Henry gave her a 'sense of comfort' while she was staying in hospital when one of her twins became seriously ill. She explained: 'Henry is such a gorgeous boy! When ever Lucas was having a bad turn he would always put a smile on my face and give me a sense of comfort as I was up there on my own. He was sort of like my go-to man you could say. I believe he definitely knows he is needed in that hospital in a special way.'

Ellie Freitas, who works at the hospital as a health care assistant, first met Henry a year ago when she transferred to the hospital campus, as he would 'often come visit and sit outside the hospital.' Freitas, 26, described Henry as 'a little treasure.' She said: 'I would walk to and from work to see this lovely orange fluffy cat just waiting there. On some days I would feel quite awful or just really low and he would just pop out of the nowhere and after a cuddle or two, I would set off feeling a bit brighter. I know for sure that he has brought a smile to many at the hospital, including many staff, patients and visitors. She added: 'He really is quite special - he is so friendly and curious I often wonder if he really is a cat on the inside after all!' Henry has been a blessing for the old and young, patients, visitors and staff.

Lauren Davies said she doesn't believe she would have made it through her last three weeks in the hospital due to her 6 month-old daughter's illness 'if it were not for Henry.' The 18-year-old college student and stay-at-home mother said: 'Henry has made me smile and has given me positive attitude towards the day. He has allowed me to cuddle him and unload my struggles of the day to him - he is an absolute blessing and I don't think I would get through the days without seeing him. 'Seeing Henry has made days which felt would never end a lot better.'

Amanda Crissall, who has been working at the hospital for 18 years, said the cheeky cat is normally 'waiting to be fussed at around 6:15 a.m. near our staff car park.' The 50-year-old senior admissions coordinator said she 'absolutely loves' Henry and 'he is the first thing I see most mornings when I walk from the car park to my office.'

Henry's owners, who wished to remain anonymous, said he had a loving home nearby. They became aware of his 'exploring' via social media. 'I would try to bring him home, but that never lasted more than a couple of days,' the owner said. 'It's so nice that he's making so many people happy - if he helps just one person [then] that's more than many cats do.'

Many people have taken to Henry's Facebook group to post adoring messages and photos of the celebrity cat. The group sets out to 'keep up the morale of all at Addenbrooke's.' Heartfelt comments praise him for bringing them love during dark times. One person wrote Henry 'made my day having coffee and cuddles' when their sister was in hospital; the family had been told she had under 24 hours to live and was too sick for a liver transplant They said: 'My sister is still alive and this was 5 years ago, she still doesn't believe I sat cuddling him crying into my coffee and praying. 'He saved me that day.' Another has said: 'Cannot say what joy he brought to my daughters, to bring smiles after tears is a wonderful gift, Henry we love you.'

A Cambridge University Hospitals spokesperson said: 'Henry the cat is very much a character and does seem to have found a place in the hearts of many of our staff and patients. However, for obvious reasons of infection control, no animals other than Pets As Therapy dogs and guide dogs are allowed in the hospital so please do not tempt him into the concourse with food or other treats, which are also bad for his health.' www.newsweek.com, S. Kitanovska/Zenger News, Photo: Matthew Newby/Zenger

Woman Transforms Cupboard Under Stairs Into Chic Cat Pad

A woman has added some very cute and cat-friendly decor to the cupboard under her stairs, so her feline friends can have a place to chill. Peggy White, 35, from Oklahoma, US, even added a cat flap, so her dogs can't get in.

The business owner has put up shelves for her cats as well as a swinging bed and a faux branch. Peggy said: 'It's a calm and relaxing place for the cats to eat their food. Initially, I transformed the cupboard for my cat called Herman who was diagnosed with kidney failure aged eight. I wanted to make somewhere special for him before he passed away. Now, it is used by Guliver, 15, and Frankie, 4, who is a rescue cat.'



The cat's room has multiple comfy beds for them and a floral accent wall. The project cost $\pounds 160$, and took Peggy two weeks. She also added stairs and a platform with a disco ball along with plenty of toys. She adds: 'A lot of people are shocked when they see what I have done with the

space. Many people have asked if they could move in as they love the decor so much. Whilst some people have accused me of locking them in the closet as they didn't realise there is a cat flap at the bottom.

Frankie, the rescued cat, has sadly been fat-shamed by trolls online after his owner shared handiwork online. Peggy said: 'Most of the feedback online has been positive but some people have commented saying Frankie is overweight. But he used to be feral, so he does eat every meal like it is his last. My cat has a good life and is happy, so the negative comments don't bother me.' metro.co.uk, A. Milan, May 2022 Photo: Mercury



Health - Cat Cataracts

Everything You Need To Know About The Feline Eye Condition

Cat cataracts make it difficult for your cat to see the world. Find out how to recognize cataracts in your cat and what actions to take first to alleviate them.

If you notice your cat moving cautiously, hesitating to go outside in his catio, or jump on his favourite chair, he may have cataracts. This is especially true if he is a senior cat over 10 years of age. You might also notice a cloudiness or haziness in your cat's eyes. Cataracts in cats rarely cause full blindness, but they can hamper how your cat sees the world.

Some cats have a genetic predisposition to cataracts. In certain cat breeds, the eye condition can show up in younger cats under 5 years of age. In contrast, most cat cataracts show up after 10 years of age.

Cat breeds which are genetically most likely to develop cataracts over their lifetime - Himalayan, Birman, Persian, Bengal, Russian Blue and British Shorthair.

There are many causes of cataracts in cats, though trauma and inflammation are the most common ones. Trauma would be after a head injury, while inflammation can be caused by a number of cat diseases, such as herpes virus. Though diabetes is commonly a cause of cataracts in dogs and people, luckily, diabetic cats are more resistant to cataracts than either of them!

Your veterinarian can diagnose a cataract with a thorough an eye exam. If there is any question whether or not your cat has cataracts, you will be referred to a veterinary ophthalmologist.

Cataract treatment will depend on a number of factors. The ideal treatment is surgery to remove the cataract itself, which requires a referral to a veterinary ophthalmologist specialist. The defective lens is removed, and an artificial lens put in to help restore vision. Care after surgery can be intense, as your cat will need to wear a cone to protect the healing eye and eye drops given every couple of hours at first.

If your cat only has a cataract in one eye, you may decide to skip treatment. Cataracts are not painful, and your cat will do just fine with one good eye. If your cat has underlying eye problems that affect his vision, removing the cataract may not help him.

A complication of untreated cataracts can be glaucoma. In those cases, the lens slips out of its normal location in your cat's eye and blocks the drainage of ocular fluid. Pressure builds and can permanently damage the cells of the retina. Glaucoma is painful and families often note a 'red eye' and notice their cat is squinting in pain.

There are no proven natural or home remedies for cat cataracts. You can, however, take some steps to help prevent the formation of cataracts in the first place. Your best bet is to feed your cat a balanced diet (so he gets plenty of antioxidants). keep him indoors to reduce chances of trauma such as being hit by a car, and to reduce his risk of catching illnesses that might cause inflammation in the eye like herpes or feline leukaemia.

www.dailypaws.com, D. M. Eldredge, DMV, October 2020



Scientists Have Found A Feline Solution To The Climate Crisis

MIT scientists have discovered a low-cost product that could have significant potential for curbing rampant global warming. A team of researchers found that when you add copper to Zeolite clay, which is used to make cat litter, and heat it up, the substance can help transform methane into carbon dioxide (CO2), The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. In a paper describing the process last year, the MIT team wrote that the idea 'illustrates the promise of using low-cost, earth-abundant materials to mitigate methane and slow the pace of climate change'.

While CO2 is the most prominent planet-warming greenhouse gas, created largely by humans burning fossil fuels, it's not the only one. Methane has around 30 times the warming effect of CO2 over 100 years. Methane is mainly produced from venting and leaks from the fossil fuel industry, landfills, and, notoriously, livestock like cattle, the EPA notes.

The MIT team were able to show that by heating the modified 'cat litter' to a few hundred degrees Celsius, it can break down methane into CO2, even when there was little methane in the air to begin with. This means the gas would not need to be concentrated to break it down with this process.

The process is would also be more feasible than other methane-reduction techniques that need higher temperatures, expensive materials and complicated setups, a press release says. The researchers aim to engineer a system that can reproduce the process on a larger scale, as well as figure out where such a contraption would be best located.

Researchers are determining if a kind of methane-reduction machine with this technology could be installed on heavyemitting sources like certain livestock farms, the Journal reports.

www.independent.co.uk, E. Freedman Climate Reporter, New York, May 2022



How To Annoy Your Cat

Sit down with your cat and read your last will and testament to them, making it clear that they will not inherit anything, so don't get any ideas.

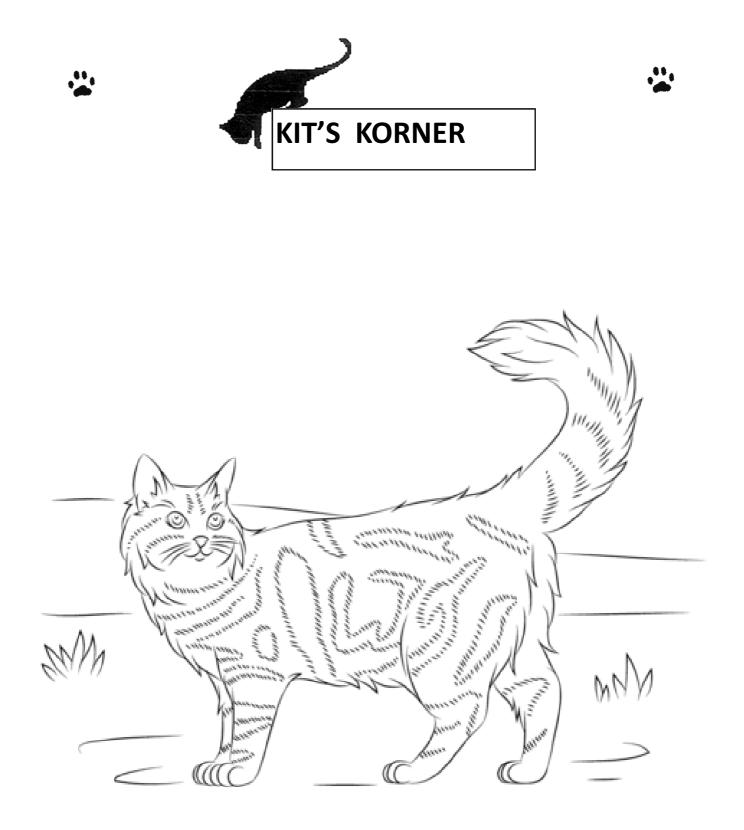
A Good Place to Think

I like my pillow, my fancy bed, My cat tree and the bathroom sink. Each has its time and fills a need, But a box is best when I want to think.





101 Fun & Petty Ways To Annoy Your Cat by Jim Erskine



A Cat to Colour In

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 ^..^

What to Get Your 'Cat Lover' Friend for Christmas? Why Not Cat-Opoly?

Here's a quick idea of how to play - Buy your favourite cats then collect Litter Boxes and trade them in for Fish Bones. Sounds easy enough unless you get fleas, start chasing mice, or have to clean the litter boxes! It's all furry fun until you fall in water... Then you're mad as a wet cat because you're out of the game for 3 turns! The board is made up of the world's most popular and exotic cats. The back of each deed contains fun cat facts.



Grab your token and advance to scat! Who knows! You may be rolling in catnip... or looking like the cat that ate the canary! Whatever happens, it's purrfectly good fun! www.purrfectcatgifts.co.uk

Cats' Crazy Reaction To Catnip 'Helps Plant Release Insect Repellent', Benefitting The Animals



Cats love catnip. They go weird for it. Even the most dignified and solemn felines go daffy in the presence of this plant – rubbing themselves in it, rolling on it, chewing it, dancing deliriously around it, and even licking it aggressively. But while it has long been understood that catnip, and the similar Asian plant silvervine, have intoxicative properties, new research has found that cats' instinctive response to the presence of catnip could be unwittingly helping the plant release chemicats which act like an insect repellent and could benefit cats.

Lead author of the research Masao Miyazaki, an animal expert at Iwate University in Japan who specialises in how chemicals drive animals instinctual behaviours, said cats' reaction to catnip and silvervine was so universal across the world that he 'had to know what was going on'. He said: 'Even in the famous musical 'Cats' there are scenes where you see a cat intoxicate another cat using catnip powder.'

Catnip and silvervine leaves both contain the compounds nepetalactol and nepetalactone, from a chemical group called the iridoids that protect the plants from pests. To see how cats' behaviour was affecting the chemicals released by the plants, Professor Miyazaki worked with chemists at Nagoya University to measure the emission levels of these iridoids before and after the plant's leaves were damaged by the intoxicated cats. 'We found that physical damage of silvervine by cats promoted the immediate emission of total iridoids, which was 10-fold higher than from intact leaves,' Professor Miyazaki said. 'Not only were more iridoids released through the cat's physical manipulation of the plants, but the scientists found the chemical composition of the iridoids changed in ways that seemed to encourage the cats' behaviour further. Nepetalactol accounts for over 90 per cent of total iridoids in intact leaves, but this drops to about 45 per cent in damaged leaves as other iridoids greatly increase, said Professor Miyazaki.' The altered iridoid mixture corresponding to damaged leaves promoted a much more prolonged response in cats.'

In previous work, Professor Miyazaki and his team showed that these compounds effectively repel a particular species of mosquito – the Aedes albopictus mosquito. Now the team has shown that when cats damage the plants by rubbing, rolling, licking, and chewing, the repellent properties are even more effective. The diversification of iridoids in damaged silver vine leaves makes it more repellent to mosquitoes at low concentration.

To test if the cats were reacting to these compounds specifically, the cats were given dishes with pure nepetalactone and nepetalactol. The team found this did seem to be the case. 'Cats show the same response to iridoid cocktails and natural plants except for chewing,' said Professor Miyazaki. 'They licked the chemicals on the plastic dish and rubbed against and rolled over on the dish. When iridoid cocktails were applied on the bottom of dishes that were then covered by a punctured plastic cover, cats still exhibited licking and chewing even though they couldn't contact the chemicals directly,' said Professor Miyazaki. 'This means that licking and chewing is an instinctive behaviour elicited by olfactory stimulation of iridoids. The team said they are now aiming to to understand which gene is responsible for cats' reaction to catnip and silvervine. www.independent.co.uk, H. Cockburn,

Quiz Answers: page 7

New Zealand
Alurophobia
A lurophobia
A Human brain
Their paws
I Their paws
I They shaved their eyebrows





Co-Author Cat

Physicist, Dr. Jack Hetherington, solely authored a research paper in 1975 and wrote it out via typewriter. Upon completion, he realized he used 'we' and 'our' throughout his paper, though it was indeed only him that wrote the paper. Rather than rewrite the paper and correct

his grammatical errors, he penned a co-author, 'F.D.C. Willard' after his cat Chester. www.ilovepets.com

