

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2025

www.sabcci.com



The Scratching Post

Autumn 2025

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SABCCI Committee

Lorna Blackmore, Ronnie Brooks, Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir,
Aedamair Kiely, Hannah Phelan, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Aimee Weldon

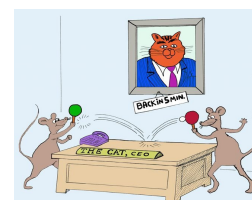


Where Did It Come From?

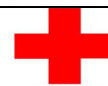
While the Cat's Away, the Mice Will Play

In other words, when the boss is gone, it's party time! Historically, cats, who still retain their strong hunting instinct to this day, keep mice out of home and hearth. Dictionary.com reports that this phrase originated around 1600, although cats were used as mousers a few hundred years earlier.

www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com



Appeal from UCD Veterinary Hospital



Due to an unprecedented increase in numbers of sick cats, the UCD Veterinary Hospital are seeking healthy cats to donate blood to be transfused to sick patients in their ICU.

Contact: vetblooddonorclinic@ucd.ie or 01 7166137

Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2025 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Bailey's Espresso and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

Do you have any photos or articles for the newsletter? Please send them to karen@sabcci.com or gloria@sabcci.com



The GCCFI Supreme Cat Show

Change of date: Sunday the 7th of December

Ballinteer Community School, Broadford Road,

Ballinteer Dublin 16

Open to the Public 12:00 to 5:00

Best In Show 4:00 onwards

See you there!

Sponsored by



Prehistoric Saber-Tooth Cub Is First To Be Found Mummified In Ice - And It Still Has Hair

Despite hundreds of scientific illustrations, no one knew for sure what a saber-tooth cat actually looked like, until now.

As is sometimes the case, Siberian prospectors looking for mammoth tusks, likely illicitly, have uncovered another incredible Pleistocene mammal frozen in permafrost - in this instance, a 'saber-tooth kitten.'

Belonging to the species *Homotherium latidens*, palaeontologists at the Russian Academy of Sciences published a paper describing it, in which they introduce the world to the first real image of a saber-tooth cat, and they've picked out a variety of interesting details.

For decades, images produced according to fossilized bones have assumed that the long saber-like teeth grew down out of the animal's mouth, but this *Homotherium*'s lips are twice as deep as other species of saber-tooth cats like *Smilodon*. This suggests the teeth may have been completely concealed. Other details, like muscular proportions and small foot pads, as well as the 'completely unexpected' color of the beast's fur, have presented the full picture of an animal that evolved in an environment and for hunting methods that have no modern parallel, scientists say. 'The cub had the enlarged neck muscles thought to occur in adults, and also had long, muscular forelimbs seen in adult *Homotherium*,' says Margaret Lewis, a paleontologist at Stockton University in New Jersey who was speaking with Nat Geo. The cub's jaw was already capable of wide gapes needed to fit those gnashers around their prey - 15% larger than a lion cub of the same age. The limbs too, were larger. In general, *Homotherium* was short-bodied with long limbs and the mummified cub's were around 23% longer than a lion cub. 'The uniform dark brown color of the mummy fur turned out to be completely unexpected,' Alexey Lopatin, the lead author on the paper from the Russian Academy told Nat Geo.

During the last Ice Age, huge herbivores trampled and grazed on plants, particularly shrubs and trees, meaning that much like today's savannahs, it would make the most sense for a predator that hunted juvenile and elderly members of these species - including mammoths - to blend into the grasses. 'It's fascinating that there doesn't seem to be any spotting or striping on the cubs,' Reynolds says, as such patterns are common among modern cats, including those who prowl among grasses.

A mystery surrounds the lack of a carpal pad - the one that sits higher up the foot of modern Pantherids, but for now, the study authors were not able to identify a reason for this.

Homotherium ranged widely all throughout the Northern Hemisphere, and previous remains have been found in North America. Many of the enigmas presented by the cub may be solved if an adult were found, which seems a greater possibility than anyone might have imagined before.

www.goodnewsnetwork.org, A. Cordbley, November 2024, Photo: Alexey V. Lopatin

Some Top Diplo-Cats

There's one bloke at Downing Street who will never have to worry about his popularity. Even PM Keir Starmer seems jealous of Larry the Cat - now take a look at some other political moggies



Stroke of genius : In 1999 the Monster Raving Loony Party elected a pub cat called Catmando as their joint party leader, alongside its owner Howling Laud Hope. Catmando served until 2002 until his death in a traffic accident. The party subsequently called for cat-crossings on all main roads.

Making hiss-tory: In 1997 the residents of Talkeetna, Alaska weren't impressed by the list of mayoral candidates, so elected an orange tabby kitten called Stubbs. He served in the role for the next 20 years.

Who are mew? New Zealand's ex-PM Jacinda Ardern had a ginger and white cat with extra claws named Paddles. The clever puss famously interrupted her call with US President Donald Trump, meowing loudly.

www.dailystar.co.uk

Van Cats Lounge In ‘Cat Villa’ To Beat Summer Heat In Türkiye

At Van Yüzüncü Yıl University’s Van Cat Research and Application Center in eastern Türkiye, the city’s prized Van cats are receiving meticulous care and feeding. Known for their emotional nature, friendliness, silky white fur, lion-like gait, bushy tails, heterochromatic eyes and fondness for water, Van cats are among the city’s most treasured symbols. The center works to preserve the breed and increase its numbers.

Housed in the ‘Cat Villa’ on the university grounds, the carefully protected cats draw thousands of local and foreign tourists each year. Staff regularly clean their food bowls and beds, trim their nails and take measures to shield them from the summer heat. In hot weather, the cats cool off in air-conditioned rooms and occasionally swim in specially designed pools.



Center Director Abdullah Kaya told Anadolu Agency (AA) that August 8 is celebrated worldwide as International Cat Day, aimed at raising awareness of the challenges cats face. ‘There are more than 500 million cats in the world and the difficult conditions they endure rarely come up,’ Kaya said. ‘Shelter conditions should be arranged with the animals’ needs in mind. I hope August 8 becomes a day when issues about cats are discussed and awareness increases.’ Kaya said Van cats are well cared for at the center.

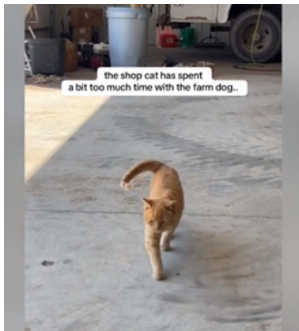
‘Life is really tough in this heat,’ he said. ‘We have pools where the animals can cool off whenever they want. They lack nothing in terms of comfort. Hopefully, all cats around the world will enjoy the same level of comfort as Van cats.’ He contrasted their conditions with those of street cats, which often face hunger, thirst and abuse. ‘Street cats are different,’ he said. ‘Their care, conditions and living situations are really much harder. That’s why we hope August 8 will be a day when cat issues come to the forefront and are discussed.’

Gülşen Anadol, a tourist from Istanbul, said she visited the center with her family during a trip through southeastern Türkiye. ‘This place is very beautiful. My children were very happy feeding the cats,’ she said. ‘Van cats are very gentle. They are really beautiful and tame. They are very friendly.’ www.dailysabah.com, Daily Sabah with AA, August 2025. Photos: AA

Moment Owner Realizes Cat Has Been Spending ‘A Bit Too Much Time With Dog’

A Nebraska farmer has told Newsweek of an unlikely friendship after sharing footage online of the moment she realized the farm cat was spending ‘a bit too much time’ with the Labrador retriever.

The term ‘copycat’ couldn’t have less to do with our feline friends. Its origins date back to 19th-century Maine as a term given to someone initiating or copying the work or actions of others. However, felines are more than capable of being copycats themselves.



In 2021, a study published in the journal *Animal Cognition* detailed an experiment in which a feline was trained to reproduce a small set of human-demonstrated actions on the command ‘do it.’ The cat involved in the experiment learned these actions by watching their human companion do them and replicating that. Over 16 trials, the feline was able to copy her owner successfully over 80 percent of the time. Their ability to do so spoke to not only their intelligence as a species but also the bond they enjoyed with their human companion.

A similar story appears to be playing out at Griebel Farms, a fifth-generation family farm located in Nebraska, where Charlie the orange cat has become a social-media sensation. But Charlie’s online fame isn’t down to any of his feline behaviour. That is because, as a video posted to the farm’s TikTok [@griebel.farms](https://www.tiktok.com/@griebel.farms) shows, lately he hasn’t been acting much like a cat.

Andi Griebel, who is part of the family that runs the farm, told Newsweek that Charlie is a relative newcomer to life there. ‘Charlie the orange cat joined the farm this winter, so he’s a new member to the crew,’ she said. ‘He’s very outgoing.’ That outgoing nature has seen him strike up a sweet bond with one of the farm dogs, Basil. ‘Basil, our English Lab, is very friendly with all of the farm cats,’ Griebel said. ‘It’s just a matter of which cats will be friendly back to her.’

It was only recently, however, that Griebel realized just how much of an impression Basil had made on Charlie. One day on the farm, she spotted Charlie doing something entirely unexpected: wagging his tail like a dog. ‘We noticed Charlie wagging his tail probably once it got nice out, and he was able to run around more with Basil,’ Griebel said. Eager to share the moment, she filmed Charlie’s unusual tail wagging and uploaded the clip to the Griebel Farms TikTok account. ‘The shop cat has spent a little bit too much time with the dog.’ www.newsweek.com, & photo: J. Beresford, April 2025

Basic Rules For Cats Who Have The Run of The House

The vet is where your human takes you when you are sick. The place smells funny; there are cats, dogs and awful things like needles and pills. Don’t let humans cat-handle you. The following is a tip for dealing with vets.

When you see the carrier come out, run and hide. Once the human grabs you, struggle gamely. Splay your legs out so it is difficult to cram you into the carrier. If the human is trying to put you in with another pet, allow the other pet to bolt out the door. In the car, meow plaintively all the way to the vet’s. Reach through the bars of the carrier and claw the human as s/he drives. At the vet’s, once again splay your legs and brace yourself against the carrier’s walls so they can’t dump you out easily.

www.pawsperouspets.com





Author Of Iconic ‘Rainbow Bridge’ Poem Finally Revealed

The ‘Rainbow Bridge’ poem is iconic. Every pet lover that has loved and lost a dear pet family member has likely seen this poem - at the vet’s office, from a friend, in a card or email perhaps? What you may not have noticed is that the author of the poem was always considered ‘anonymous,’ that is, until now thanks to a man named Paul Koudounaris.

Paul, an art historian and author from Tucson, Arizona, spent a decade researching and verifying the poem’s authorship before discovering its true author, Edna Clyne-Rekhy. Edna Clyne-Rekhy, now 82 years old, is a Scottish artist and animal lover. She has finally been credited with authoring the beloved poem ‘Rainbow Bridge’ thanks to the detective work of Paul Koudounaris. The poem has been the source of comfort for millions of pet parents around the world.

She wrote the poem back in 1959, as a way to grieve her dog, a Labrador Retriever named Major. When she was 19, Major died in her arms and Edna was devastated by the loss. She expressed her intense grief to her mother who then prompted Edna to write her feelings down, hoping it might help with the sense of loss. She kept the poem largely to herself and shared it with a few friends. Those friends were so touched by the poem that Edna hand-typed out several copies for them but didn’t name herself as the author - never imagining that there was a need. Until now, Edna had no knowledge that since 1959, her poem has travelled around the world offering comfort and hope to pet owners everywhere. Her poem even captured the attention of Abigail Van Buren of the uber-popular ‘Dear Abby’ column in the U.S. where ‘Rainbow Bridge’ was posted in a ‘Dear Abby’ column in 1994.

When Paul finally discovered that Edna was the author and contacted her, she was in disbelief: ‘I’m absolutely stunned,’ she says. ‘I’m still in a state of shock.’ You see, astonishingly, Edna had no idea that her poem, written more than 60 years ago had travelled the globe and comforted millions of pet owners. How is that possible, you might wonder? Edna had moved away from Scotland to an olive farm in India and had no idea.

If it weren’t for the tireless effort of Paul Koudounaris, we might never know who the author was. So why has this poem become iconic among pet parents everywhere? Paul Koudounaris speculates that it has something to do with religion and that some religions did not or do not believe animals have souls and therefore, could not go to heaven. ‘Rainbow Bridge’ provided the assurance that pet owners needed to feel that their deep connection with their pets would live on, somehow, somewhere some way. And it still does so to this day.

An article was featured in National Geographic on February 22, 2023 if you’d like to read more about it. Also check out the original story and work of art historian Paul Koudounaris on his Instagram account (@hexenkult). Thank you to Paul Koudounaris for finding the author... and a big thank you to Edna Clyne-Rekhy for giving the world such a beautiful gift. www.thecatniptimes.com

The Rainbow Bridge Poem by Edna Clyne-Rekhy

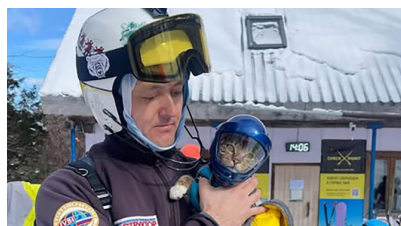
Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, your pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water, and sunshine, and friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who have been ill and old are restored to health and strength, those who were hurt are made better and strong again, like we remember them before they go to heaven. They are happy and content except for one small thing - they each miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are shining, his body shakes. Suddenly he begins to run from the herd, rushing over the grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cuddle in a happy hug never to be apart again. You and your pet are in tears. Your hands again cuddle his head and you look again into his trusting eyes, so long gone from life, but never absent from your heart, and then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together.



*Let’s raise a glass to
all the cats
waiting for us at
Rainbow Bridge.*

Cat Goes on Parachute-Skiing Adventures – Sporting Its Very Own Tiny Helmet

A daredevil cat soared through the skies on a parachute-skiing adventure, sporting his very own tiny helmet. The bengal-mix named Thoth was securely strapped to owner Ivan Kuznetsov as they soared down the slopes of Gribanovka Ski Resort in Russia, last month.



After testing out downhill skiing together in December, the duo decided to take things up a notch leading to their high-flying stunt. To keep Thoth secure, Ivan attached his harness to the speed glider’s own safety gear and the tiny adventurer also wore a warm down jacket to ward off the cold mountain air. Ivan, an alpine ski instructor and skydiver from Arsenyev, Russia, said Thoth trusts him completely and feels safe. ‘During the flight, he looked around with curiosity and was totally calm,’ said the 37-year-old cat lover. ‘The only thing that scared him was the noise of the cable car, so we started landing farther away from it.’

Ivan first discovered Thoth’s love for adventure when the kitten crawled out of his backpack during a bike ride and perched on his shoulder for the entire trip. Now the seven month-old kitty, accompanies Ivan on all his adventures. ‘As soon as I put on his jacket and harness, he runs to the door purring. He enjoys walking in the park, cycling, skiing, snowboarding and even swimming. We started by getting him used to wearing a helmet. Then my friends made cheap replicas of the Cloud 9 skydive helmet, which happened to fit Thoth perfectly. I’m glad we both had this unique experience. It was meant to be.’

Ivan and Thoth are now preparing for their next challenges: rafting and tandem rock climbing. Next will come a parachute jump, with a specially designed fabric container for the fearless feline.

www.goodnewsnetwork.org, March 2025

That Time Of The Year Is Coming.....



Salmon and Tuna Christmas Treats

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup canned salmon, undrained
- 1/2 cup canned tuna, drained
- 1 cup oat flour
- 1 egg

Instructions:

1. Preheat your oven to 175°C.
2. In a blender or food processor, combine the salmon, tuna, oat flour, and egg until a dough forms.
3. Roll out the dough and use Christmas-themed cookie cutters to create shapes.
4. Bake on a lined baking sheet for about 10 minutes.

Let the treats cool completely before serving them to your cat.

This recipe provides a festive and enjoyable way to treat your cat during the holiday season. Just remember to feed them these treats in moderation and keep an eye on their reaction to ensure they don't have any adverse effects. Enjoy baking and happy holidays!

www.iheartcats.com



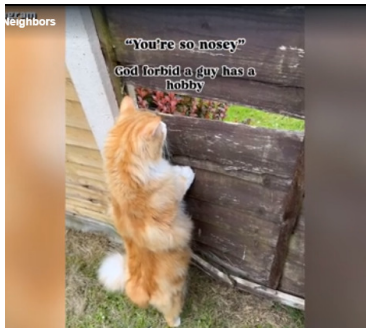
A Stray Kitten Walked Up To The British Museum - Stayed For 20 Years

In 1908, a small stray kitten appeared at the gates of the British Museum in London. Day after day, he returned, sitting patiently as if waiting to be hired. One guard, Henry, finally took him in, naming him Mike - and giving him an unofficial job.

Mike became a fixture of the museum. He had a gift: he could drive away any dog without laying a paw on them. A piercing stare, a low, strange sound - and even the largest dogs would retreat.

Newspapers dubbed him 'the cat who would not allow any dog into the British Museum.' But Mike's most important duty was hunting rats that threatened the priceless artifacts inside. One staff member called him 'a cat of the rank of an ancient warrior.'

For two decades, Mike patrolled the museum until his death in 1929. He was buried on the grounds, honoured with an obituary in the museum's own magazine. A small memorial still marks his resting place - a reminder that loyalty, skill, and quiet diligence can make even a stray kitten part of history. www.facebook.com



Hysterics Over What Owner Always Finds Orange Cat Doing To The Neighbours

A montage video of a cat performing his 'nosy; neighbourly duties' left Instagram users cracking up.

As naturally curious animals, cats enjoy knowing everything that is happening within their surroundings. This curiosity stems from felines' long history of being hunters, an article from PangoVet stated. To be successful in the wild, cats needed to be constantly on the lookout for predators and prey, relying on their senses to pick up clues about their environment, which has carried over to the life of a house cat now.

Owners might see them inspecting the grocery bags as soon as you walk inside, or perhaps your cats constantly look out the window into the neighbourhoods. But one orange cat took it a step further by actively looking into the neighbour's yard daily. The owner shared in an April 27 Instagram video under the account @maple.and.pumpkin a montage of all the times Pumpkin dedicates his time to his favorite hobby: sneaking a peek at the neighbour's yard.

Pumpkin uses two methods to perform his neighbourhood watch. To get an aerial view, he'll hang from the top of the fence with his front paws clinging for life. Other times, he'll stay on the ground and use peepholes or slits in the fence boards to look into the neighbour's yard.

Pumpkin's sole focus is on one neighbour - a cat. The owner told Newsweek via Instagram that Pumpkin is 'obsessed' with the neighbour's cat. He'll spend all day watching her every move. But unfortunately, the fascination is not mutual. 'She hates him,' the owner said. 'But she doesn't like other cats.'

Despite not being admired by the neighbour's cat, Pumpkin doesn't stop trying to win her over. He still goes outside to keep tabs on her. The caption reads: 'Forever spying.'

As of Wednesday, the Instagram video amassed over 3 million views, and people couldn't get over Pumpkin's dedication. Many defended his stalking habits. www.newsweek.com, L O'Connell, May 2025

Live Like A Cat

Always land on your feet, metaphorically speaking, ready to walk your path with poise.

The Quiz - True or False

1. Cats have the largest eyes relative to their head size of any mammal.
2. Cats don't have whiskers on the backs of their front legs.
3. Some cats can swim.
4. Each cat's nose print is unique, much like human fingerprints.
5. Superstar runner Usain Bolt could beat a house cat in the 200 meter dash.
6. Cats can jump up to ten times their length.



www.cvillecatcare.com

Answers on page 14

How Many Cats Does it Take To Change A Light Bulb?



www.petplace.co

Himalayan - 'U want ME 2 do WHAT?'

Snowshoe - 'I'll tend to it after I eat and take my nap'

Turkish Angora - 'I'm 2 elegant 2 consider such things.'

American Shorthair - 'U hold it & I'll do it,'

Always
kiss your
CAT GOODNIGHT

Guidelines For Cats

Bathrooms

Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything . . . just sit and stare.

Bedtime

Always sleep on the human at night so s/he cannot move around.

Humans

Humans have three primary functions: to feed us, to play with and give attention to us, and to clean the litter box.

It is important to maintain one's Dignity when around humans so that they will not forget who is the master of the house.

Humans need to know basic rules. They can be taught if you start early and are consistent.

http://www.stumbleupon.com/su/2wnzJA/www.jamesshuggins.com/h/hum1/guidelines_for_cats.htm###



Squatter's Rights

Listen, kitten,
Get this clear,
This is my chair.

I sit here.
Okay, kitty,
We can share;
When I'm not home,
It's your chair.

Listen cat
How about
If I use it
When you're out?

Richard Shaw



How To Annoy Your Cat

Give your cat a water balloon to play with.

100 Fun Ways to Annoy Your Cat by Jim Erskine



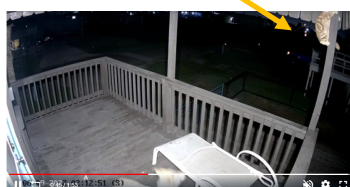
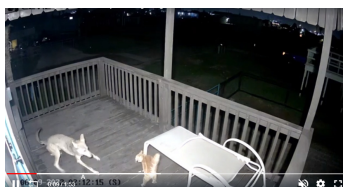
Famous Cat Lovers - Pope Paul II

Pope Paul II (1417-1471) loved jewels, luxurious ecclesiastical garments, collecting antiquities, and forcing the Jews of Rome to run naked in the streets during Carnival. He also loved animals. So tender-hearted was he toward non-bipeds that if he happened upon an animal on its way to be butchered, he would rescue it. Cats were his particular favorites. He treated them as well as he treated himself. When his cats fell ill, he summoned his personal physician, Giacomo Gottifredi, to tend to them. When whatever leechcraft and wortcunning Gottifredi possessed was not sufficient to save one of the pope's beloved cats, he was grief-stricken. His emotional reaction to the loss of his cat was roundly mocked in Rome, where epigrams were written deriding the Pope's soft-hearted mourning for an animal - and one with a reputation for consorting with the Devil at that. www.mentalfloss.com , Photo: Wikipedia.com



Cat Survives Coyote Attack With Help Of Folding Lounge Chair

A video on www.newsweek.com records an attacked by a Coyote on a cat. The cat with the help of a folding chair manages to eventually discourages the Coyote. The cat is able to climb up the frame of the porch and finally able to climb down to safety.



The Catwalk

Gus -

My favourite place. I can view all.

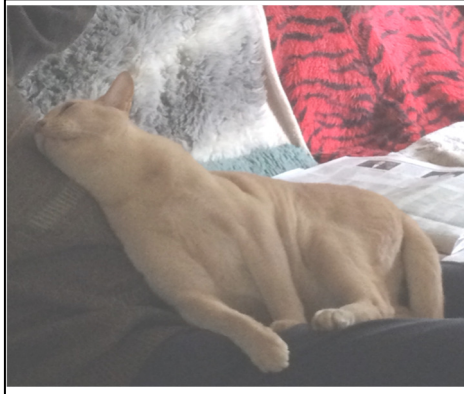
T MacDonagh, USA



Joshi -

This is the life!

K Sluiters, Dublin



Ruby Button -

I am not budging until I get my food!

L & G Hughes, Dublin



Nester -

This yoga stuff can be exhausting!

J Rodriguez, Spain



The Catwalk

Arya -

Are you talking
to me?

The Buckleys, Cork



Boo -

And I love you too!

J Rosse, USA



Onyx -

See my plate is empty,
can I have more please?

G Hughes, Dublin



Suki -

Can I help you?

D Buckley, Cork



Best of Variety Winners

Section 1

Adult – Ms G W Waites’ Sua Maestra Louie (Persian)
Neuter – Mrs P Harte’s Daisydaisycats Day Dreamer (Persian)

Section 2

Adult – Dr C Wagner’s GrCh Friendlyghosts Big Bear (Maine Coon)
Kitten – Miss K S Swiacka’s Kits Coon Masterpeice (Maine Coon)
Neuter – Dr C Wagner’s SupHibGrPr & Itl GrPr Ishcus Quevaga (Maine Coon)

Section 3

Adult – Mr L Steele & Miss A Hill’s Gotham Pay Per View (British Shorthair)
Kitten – Miss K O’Neill’s Boheme Blazing Sun (British Shorthair)
Neuter – Mrs C Wren’s Ch & Sup GrPr Delphinium Summer-Morning (British Shorthair)

Section 4

Adult – Mrs R Gleeson’s Irenovfo Westa (Sphynx)
Kitten – Mrs C Fleming’s Hollyanas Beyond the Moon of Lynavids (Bengal)
Neuter – Ms Y Leivshina’s Iris Vom Gaborland (Devon Rex)

Section 5

Adult – Mr S Redmond’s Joyeux Jewel (Asian)
Neuter – Miss K McCarthy’s Joyeux Cronan (Burmese)

Section 6

Neuter – Mrs R Laszlo’s Asianheads Barran (Oriental)

Best In Show

Section 1 - Ms G W Waites’ Sua Maestra Louie (Persian)
Section 2 - Dr C Wagner’s SupHibGrPr & Itl GrPr Ishcus Quevaga (Maine Coon)
Section 3 - Mrs C Wren’s Ch & Sup GrPr Delphinium Summer-Morning (British Shorthair)
Section 4 - Ms Y Leivshina’s Iris Vom Gaborland (Devon Rex)
Section 5 - Miss K McCarthy’s Joyeux Cronan (Burmese)
Section 6 - Mrs R Laszlo’s Asianheads Barran (Oriental)

Overall Best In Show

Dr C Wagner’s SupHibGrPr & Itl GrPr Ishcus Quevaga (Maine Coon)

Overall Best In Show Reserve

Mrs C Wren’s Ch & Sup GrPr Delphinium Summer-Morning (British Shorthair)

Overall Best In Show Non-Pedigree

Dr G Maguire’s Angela

Overall Best In Show Pedigree Pet

Ms A French’s Starbug





Hundreds Sign Petition To Welcome Back Cat

More than 1,000 people have signed a petition demanding that a cat banned from visiting a Costa store in Cornwall is allowed back in. Dillon has become a familiar face at Pentewan Park in St Austell and he can often be found snoozing on a chair at the cafe. However, the ginger cat was banned following a customer complaint, resulting in outrage from many regulars. They are now urging the branch to allow the cat back inside.

While people regularly mistake him as being lost, he's not actually far from home and

loves to frequent the car parks looking for attention and even visits the Tesco Express store, where he sometimes gets fed. One regular, Lilith Hodgson, was so horrified by the decision that she set up a petition to demand that Costa allow Dillon back in. She said that Dillon's presence had been 'a highlight throughout [her] life' and she hoped that Costa would reconsider the decision. She wrote: 'I write this, deeply moved by the story of Dillon, the local cat that has become part of the fabric of our local community in its daily presence at Costa. Dillon's companionship has been a highlight throughout my life and undoubtedly the lives of many others. Recently, however, a fellow customer complained about Dillon's presence, resulting in Dillon being forced to stay outside. This has deeply affected our community, transforming our treasured coffee visits into melancholic reminders of Dillon's absence.' She continued: 'The petition is a call for Costa to rethink its decision, to take into account the mental health of its regulars and the happiness of Dillon who, like a loyal customer, enjoys the warmth of the indoors. We are encouraging local support in providing a voice for Dillon, and the community's desire to see him returned to his favourite lounging spot inside Costa. Please sign this petition to bring Dillon back where he belongs. We believe that an exception can be made for Dillon, and Costa can once again be a haven where residents and this remarkable cat can come together in mutual respect and admiration. Let's stand together - for Dillon, for our community, for companionship at Costa. Please sign this petition.'

Despite the petition, Costa Coffee confirmed that the feline will not be allowed back indoors. In a statement, the coffee giant said: 'Dillon the cat has been a well-loved visitor to our franchise owned and operated store in Pentewan Park. However, in line with our policy, only assistance animals and well-behaved dogs (in our dog-friendly stores) are permitted in our stores. We appreciate the community's understanding as we uphold a consistent experience for all customers.'

www.itv.com. April 2025. Photo: BPM Media

Cat Demands To Be Taken Out In Stroller As It Rains - You Know How This Ends



After hearing her 'evil cat' yell at her from the other room, a woman from Northern California went to check on her, only to find the kitty sitting by her stroller, waiting to be taken outside, despite the bad weather.

In a viral TikTok video shared in February under the username @evilcatisabelle, the poster tries to tell the feline that it is not the right time to go on their walkies because it is pouring outside, but her pet won't take no for an answer. 'I think we all knew how this was going to end,' the poster writes in the caption, as the clip goes on to show her taking the cat out in the stroller with an umbrella, despite the cold and rain.

Inside the stroller, the kitty is warm and safe, protected by a transparent plastic cover that keeps her dry while still giving her the opportunity to see the world outside and enjoy her views. Isabelle wasn't bothered by the water, because she knew her stroller would protect her, but would she have still gone out without her plastic cover, exposed to the rain just like her owner was?

Probably not. Cats are known for disliking water, among many other things; they have some good reasons, which may not make sense to us, but definitely do to them. For starters, water makes their fur feel heavy and uncomfortable, according to Pet MD. It is also hard to dry off because their fur is very absorptive, and cats usually hate being wet. It can also lower their body temperature. Felines may also be smelling something in the water with their powerful little noses, something that we aren't able to discern because we don't have as many smell receptors as they do.

Among other reasons, unpleasant past experiences may also fuel cats' dislike for water, especially if they have been forced into it before.

www.newsweek.com, Maria Azzurra Volpe, May 2025. Video: TikTok



Habits Of Highly Effective Cats

Ankle Surfing

Once your human is up and about, attach yourself to his or her ankles as they go about their tasks. Your side or tail must remain in contact with his or her ankle at all times. This has the following effects:



- Wherever they go, you go - thus ensuring nothing is hidden from you.
- You are demonstrating your devotion and attachment
- If he or she treads on you, you can exploit their guilt
- It says, loud and clear, 'I need something!' - it's then up to you to identify what exactly it is that you need.

Take care that you don't trip your human - it is a wise precaution to temporarily detach yourself from ankles while he or she negotiates stairs.

by Messybeast

Incredible Life Of Narrowboat Cat After Being Rescued From Roadside Bin Bag



A cat who was abandoned with his mum and littermates in a bin bag and dumped on the roadside can now be found cruising the Cheshire canals. Hugo, a black and white male cat, was rescued by the RSPCA 15 years ago when he was found tied-up in a bin bag on the roadside in Surrey.

He was taken in by the RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre in Chobham who cared for him and then rehomed him to his now owner Andy Hamblin. Since then, Hugo's life has taken a dramatic turn for the better, thanks to Andy. And he is now due to become a TV celebrity when he features on Channel 4's *Narrow Escapes* - a programme about life living on a narrowboat.

Andy said: 'When I saw Hugo's story, it was so sad that I knew I had to adopt him. I visited Millbrook and fell in love with Hugo. He was just a kitten when I adopted him and ever since that day he has been by my side. I work as an artist and I work from home so we have been together every day, he's my little buddy. He's such a soft, loving cat and he wants fuss all the time. He's very affectionate!'

Around three years ago, Andy and Hugo moved onto a narrowboat where Hugo has his own porthole cat flap and a special cat ladder to get on and off of the boat. Hugo has become a local celebrity with many passers-by stopping to take a picture of him coming out of his cat flap or sunbathing on top of the boat. Andy added: 'A boating friend of mine who was in series one of *Narrow Escapes* mentioned to the producers 'have you heard about the cat flap boat?' which then sparked their interest. They came to interview me and then said they would like to feature me in series two of the programme. I think he's going to be an absolute star - from a rescued kitten to a TV celebrity! I'd like to raise funds for the RSPCA to give something back to the charity that cared for him as a kitten. Over the last few years so many people have taken photos of the cat flap or Hugo chilling out on top of the boat and so I'm going to have a collection tin so people can donate to the RSPCA when they take a photo.'

Andy is a continuous cruiser but he mostly spends time in the Nantwich area as well as Ellesmere in Shropshire. Most of the filming for *Narrow Escapes* followed them on a 130 mile journey from the Ashby canal to Llangollen canal in Shropshire. Life on a narrowboat may sound different for a cat but Andy made sure to introduce this to Hugo slowly and steadily and now he says his pet loves the canal lifestyle. He said: 'He adapted to the boat really well. When he first came on the boat I would start by just running the engine for a bit and not moving anywhere for a few days so he could get used to the sound. After two or three days, he didn't even bat an eyelid. Ever since, he's fine whenever I move the boat, he just lays down on his bed and has a sleep. He has his own little ladder at the back just in case he comes off so he can get himself back up but he has never needed it. He also has a porthole cat flap which switches sides and I can close it when we're moving. This means he can come and go as he pleases but we've got such a close bond that he won't go far and within an hour he's back at the boat. I'm a continuous cruiser on canals so he's used to the moving and knows when it's time to set off again. I call him and he comes running back in and off we go. Then when we stop again he gets out and has a little explore - he loves it! You couldn't want a more chilled, loving cat. He's a really good companion and I'm grateful to have him.'

Narrow Escapes Producer, Sarah Adams, added: 'From the moment I met Andy and Hugo I knew that our viewers would absolutely take them to their hearts. They are completely devoted to each other and Hugo has adapted brilliantly to boat life. His back story is so sad but thanks to the amazing work of the RSPCA and Andy's love and care Hugo really is living his best life aboard a boat that has special modifications to make sure he lives in the lap of luxury! As well as the most famous cat flap on our canals, Hugo has a special hammock for essential cat napping and a step to help him jump onto the bed where he enjoys lots of cuddles with Andy.'

www.cheshire-live.co.uk, J Pennington, May 2025 Photo: from website

Cat Survives 400-Foot Fall That Killed Owners

A feline fall survivor is recovering at a Utah animal sanctuary after tourists spotted her following a nearly 400-foot fall that claimed the lives of her owners. The couple and their cat, named Mirage, went over the viewpoint in Bryce Canyon on April 29, according to press releases. Wade Mathews, spokesperson for the Garfield County Sheriff's Office told Newsweek by phone Monday that other tourists spotted the bodies of the couple, who climbed a railing before the fall. The pair was identified as Matthew Nannen, 45, and Bailee Crane, 58, in a press release.



As for the 12-year-old tabby, she is now being treated for two broken ribs while shelter employees determine if the extended family of the couple plans to take her in. 'She's very, very sweet,' Judah Battista, Best Friends chief Sanctuary officer told Newsweek over the phone Monday, adding, 'She's recovering well and enjoys the attention of the care staff.'

The viewpoint where the couple fell receives thousands of visitors a day, according to a spokesperson for Bryce Canyon National Park. A rail surrounds the viewpoint, and no other deaths have been reported, the spokesperson told Newsweek. The park features columns of rock, also known as hoodoos, and sits about 130 miles northwest of St. George, Utah, the website shows.

It appears the couple climbed over a railing before their fall, Mathews told Newsweek. 'There was snow on the ground which would have made the clay slippery. They had gone over the railing; they had climbed over the railing intentionally. Whether it was slippery or intentional we don't know.'

continued on next page

Bryce Canyon contd

Crane and Nannen were living in a U-Haul truck, and their last known residency was listed in Florida, a press release from the sheriff's office said. They had previously travelled to Arizona and were staying in Utah. The recovery of the pair was completed by the Garfield County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team, Bryce Canyon Park Rangers and the Department of Public Safety Aero Bureau, the press release said, adding that the pilot of the DPS helicopter 'was especially helpful in ensuring the safety of the rest of the responders.'

The cat was found in a soft carrier and quickly taken to the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary nearby where she received a full medical workup that included bloodwork, X-rays and an exam by a veterinarian, Battista told Newsweek. Battista said Mirage is 'getting a lot of attention but not allowed to do a lot of exercise. She's in very good spirits. She's not been very picky. She likes it quiet, and she likes attention, but I think she's found the whole experience overwhelming for obvious reasons,' he explained.

Mathews said the cause of the deaths was the fall, but the manner has not yet been determined. There was no note left. The viewpoint remains open.

The extended family of Mirage's owners has been in contact with the Sanctuary, but it is unclear where she will go when she has fully recovered. Battista says right now, Mirage is on restricted activity for at least the next 6 weeks while she recovers from two broken ribs and broken teeth.

www.newsweek.com, May 2025 Photos: Kent Nisimura/Getty Images/Molly Wald Best Friends Animal Society

Cat Wanders Into Third-Grade Class - And Decides He's Never Leaving

One day, in 2018, Tombi appeared on the grounds of a public elementary school in the city of Izmir, Turkey. Unlike most stray cats, who can be quite skittish, Tombi was friendly and outgoing - walking up to kids outside seeking attention and pets. But Tombi didn't stop there. After a couple of weeks of hanging out exclusively in the school's garden, Tombi apparently decided to try his paws at a formal education. For a street-smart cat, the third grade seemed like a good place to start. 'He came into our classroom,' teacher Özlem Pınar İvaşcu told The Dodo. 'The children liked him very much.' And just like that, Tombi became part of Mrs. İvaşcu's class.



Having a cat prowling around the classroom might seem like it would be wholly a distraction for young students, potentially hindering their learning - but İvaşcu found that Tombi was having the opposite effect. Seeing the cat's playful curiosity had caused her kids to become more excited to be in class. İvaşcu's students used to run and horse around in the classroom between lessons. But with a cat around to engage them, they became better able to stay focused. Even the morning bell had a more pleasant ring to it - all thanks to Tombi. 'The children come on time to school, and they are taking care of Tombi,' İvaşcu said. 'This is good for them.'



It was also good for Tombi. Not only did the cat have a safe place to sleep and spend his days, with bowls full of food and water to call his own, he had dozens of new friends looking out for his best interests. İvaşcu took Tombi to the vet to make sure he's healthy and gotten him vaccinated.

Things in İvaşcu's class had never been better - but then a problem threatened to bring it to an end. After learning that a stray cat had free run of the class, one student's parents lodged a complaint with school officials, saying that it could pose a health risk. Administrators then told İvaşcu that that Tombi had to go. The class was devastated - and the cat was too.

'We found a home for Tombi and he stayed three days there, but he was not happy. He stopped eating,' İvaşcu said. 'So I took him in at my house, but also here he was not very happy. 'Tombi's friends at the school even wrote letters to try and cheer him up.

Seeing that the cat wasn't getting better, İvaşcu decided to write about his sad situation on social media. From there, word about Tombi spread like wildfire. 'The story got a lot of attention and support on all TV news,' İvaşcu said. 'I had a lot of support from many people, including from my manager and the director of education in İzmir. 'Even the parent who complained had a change of heart. She wanted the cat back in class, too.

And sure enough, school officials gave the OK for Tombi to return. 'The children were very happy to have Tombi back,' İvaşcu said. 'And he is happy again to be with the kids.' Tombi meant the world to the 33 students in İvaşcu's third grade class that year - but he went on to reach more than them alone. That year, inspired by the cat's positive influence on her group of little learners, İvaşcu wrote and published a book about Tombi.

Years have passed since Tombi first strutted into İvaşcu's classroom - but his story hardly ended there. Since then, İvaşcu has reportedly moved abroad, bidding farewell to the school and her former students, though she didn't leave it all behind her. Joining her on that journey was the storybook cat, Tombi, eager to write their next chapter of life.

www.thedodo.com, S Messenger, June 2023 Photos: Özlem Pınar İvaşcu

***B**ooks, cats, and fair-haired little girls make the best furnishing for a room.*

French proverb



Health - Cats With Arthritis Are Wearing Caps In Groundbreaking Research To Understand & Relieve Their Pain

Cats are wearing hats for science - as researchers use brain scans to understand pain in arthritic felines, and find a way to soothe it. It's a world first for veterinary scientists at the University of Montreal (UdeM): they found a way to scan the brains of cats while they're still awake, using electrodes concealed under specially-knitted wool caps.

Chronic pain associated with osteoarthritis affects over 25 % of the adult feline population and this incidence increases with age. Seeking to understand how cats experience the chronic pain, the researchers wanted to create a non-invasive method to study their brains.

In previous studies, the cat subjects would shake off and chew the wires of traditional electrodes. The answer was to incorporate the sensors into comfy crocheted beanies. 'We had the idea of the little knitted hat that would keep the electrodes in place,' said Aude Castel, Assistant Professor at UdeM Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

The team wanted to use sensory stimulation to try to reduce the aches, exposing the cats to soothing stimuli such as coloured lights and comforting smells, as a way to ease their suffering. 'With some treats and positive reinforcement, the cats tolerated the hat very well and allowed us to record their brain activity while awake and being exposed to different types of sensory stimuli: citrus smell, different light colours.' In all, they studied 11 adult cats with osteoarthritis, assessing their stress and pain using the electrodes that produced electroencephalograms (EEGs). 'The reasoning behind exposing them to different stimulations is that we wanted to see if, just like in people, we could modulate their brain activity and, by the same token their pain perception, with sensory stimulation.'

The study, published in the Journal of Neuroscience Methods, found that the hat method is feasible, and spectral analysis are efficient methods to characterize the response to a given sensory stimulation. 'This opens new avenues for investigating chronic pain mechanisms and developing novel therapeutic strategies,' the report concluded. 'We now plan to obtain NSERC funding (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada), in partnership with private companies, to enable us to establish a genuine EEG signature for chronic pain, and many other applications that will enable us to automate chronic pain detection in the future,' said Éric Troncy, who co-led the study. www.goodnewsnetwork.org, February 2025



Where Did It Come from?

Live A Cat And Dog Life

It originated in Thomas Carlyle's work, Frederick the Great, where he wrote, 'There will be jealousies, and a cat-and-dog life over yonder worse than ever.'



This idiom indicates being in a state of constant argument because cats and dogs are often seen hissing and growling at one another. www.caster.com

Handyman Installs New Cat Flap In Door, Then Gets Text From The Customer

A handyman, who installed a cat flap on a customer's door, later learned from a text that his successful project yielded unexpected results. Joe the handyman sat in his car and looked at his finished work. He had added a cat flap to a customer's front door, allowing access for their feline to come in and out as they please.

Many owners opt to install a cat flap as it gives their pets a sense of independence. An article from a Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, a rescue organization in the U.K., said that giving cats access to the outdoors can provide them with stimulation and keep them physically fit.

Joe began filming from the car after he spotted his work in action, which he shared in an August 3 TikTok video on his account @itsjoethehandyman. A cat crept toward the door. Joe stayed to watch, curious about whether the feline would know how to use the flap or not, since many are only used to the door being opened for them. The feline carefully put its head through to inspect the indoors before stepping one paw inside.



Thrilled that the cat made it inside and successfully used the newly installed flap, Joe immediately texted the customer a video of the cat using it. However, the customer responded and said that wasn't their pet. This random feline saw the opportunity to take a break from the hot, summer sun and cooled off in the house. What Joe thought would be a great clip turned into video evidence of the potential downsides of adding a cat flap to your home - unwanted animals might sneak their way inside.

www.newsweek.com, August 2025. Screenshots: @itsjoethehandyman/

Know You're A Cat Person When....

- ⇒ The Christmas cards you send out feature your cat sitting on Santa's lap?
- ⇒ You accept dates only with those who have a cat?
- ⇒ Do you feed your cat tidbits from the table with your fork?

*Having done wrong,
the cat will always try to make it
look like the dog did it.*



Quiz Answers:
page 7

- 1 True
- 2 False (see page 4)
- 3 True
- 4 True
- 5 False
- 6 False (6 times)
- 7 Tiger



KIT'S KORNER

Spot The Difference



Can You Spot The 8 Differences
Between These Pictures?

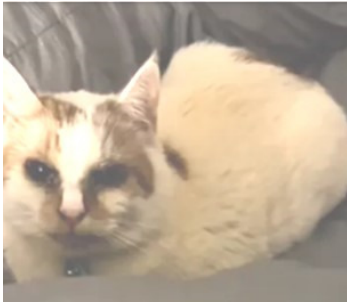
once you find them colour in the picture

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 ^..^

Jim Stephens, Companion Behaviour Counsellor, will be back for the next issue of The Scratching Post

'Unadoptable' Shelter Cat Had Given Up On Life - Then A Stranger Saw Him



When one New Jersey woman first saw a shut-down shelter cat marked as 'unadoptable,' she knew exactly what she had to do. 'The first time I saw him, all the other cats were roaming around the shelter, but Crusty was alone in a cage. Sad, defeated, and with these haunting black eyes,' Alanna, 30, told Newsweek. 'He looked like he'd completely given up. I knew I couldn't leave him there.'

Crusty the cat is now around 9 years old, and is almost unrecognizable from when he was adopted in 2023. 'Initially, the shelter marked him as 'unadoptable' due to his health and age,'

Alanna explained. 'But I showed up almost every day to advocate for him until they agreed to let me take him home.'

Crusty has chronic FHV or Feline Herpesvirus, the highly contagious condition which causes sneezing, nasal discharge, inflammation of the eyes and loss of appetite. This paired with his time in the shelter had left the cat dejected. 'He wasn't even grooming himself anymore. He'd stopped engaging with the world around him, just lying still, completely shut down. It was heartbreaking,' Alanna said. The shelter walked Alanna through how to give Crusty his medications, and she brought him home. It is here that his life really changed.

'From night one. He curled up and slept right on my chest, and that's been his spot ever since,' she said. 'He's a total Velcro cat - happiest when he's in my lap or taking long baths, which is extra special considering he wasn't even bathing when I met him.'

Today, the ginger and white cat is almost unrecognizable from the shut-down feline in the shelter. 'There's this deep bond that formed the moment he let his guard down - like he knew he was safe,' Alanna said.

www.newsweek.com, A. Gibbs, August 2025. Photo: [@crustystansters/TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@crustystansters)

Hysterics As Toddler Can't Talk Properly Yet, But She Fluently 'Speaks Cat'

A mom has discovered that, while her toddler isn't yet speaking in full sentences, she's already fluent in 'cat.'

Ina, a mom of two based in Michigan, told Newsweek she has always loved filming the everyday 'sweet and funny moments' involving her kids. Ever since she started to post these videos to TikTok under the handle [@girlmom_travelsandfun](https://www.tiktok.com/@girlmom_travelsandfun), Ina has discovered she's not alone in enjoying these moments either.



One of her most recent videos, showcasing her toddler daughter's sweet interaction with their cat Mici has proven especially popular. It captures the young girl, who Ina has chosen not to name for this story, enjoying a full-blown conversation with her cat friend. The toddler isn't speaking English though, but instead communicating with a series of 'meows.' Ina's daughter appears to be offering Mici a blanket in the video, which has amassed more than 868,000 views since being posted at the end of last month. The two then exchange words, or meows, before Mici decides to head elsewhere. A caption on screen reads: 'My child speaks cat before any other languages.'

Ina, who only shared her first name, said she primarily shared the clip because the interaction looked cute. 'My baby and our cat looked so adorable, it felt like they were having a real conversation,' she said. There is more to these interactions than just cute cat content. According to Ina, her daughter has developed a noticeable appreciation for the cat language. 'Around 10 months old, I noticed my daughter starting to meow at the cat, it started off softly but got louder as she gained confidence in her 'cat language,' Ina said. Things have developed since then to sweet interactions much like the ones seen in this video. 'Now, they have daily 'chats,' and what's even more adorable is that Mici, who's a very vocal cat, actually meows back!' Ina said.

Though developing her daughter's ability to 'speak cat' may not be high on Ina's list of priorities as a parent, having Mici around is likely to be of significant benefit.

In 2006, a study published in the journal *Anthrozoos* found that developing a close bond with a pet from a young age was associated with higher levels of empathy in young children. Mici has been a consistent presence in Ina's daughter's life. 'My daughter just turned one at the end of March,' Ina said. 'She's grown up around our cat, Mici, who is 10 years old and came with us from overseas along with three other pets.'

Ina knows there will come a day when her daughter will 'outgrow' habits like talking cat, so is focused on sharing content highlighting 'the special bond' they have and, hopefully, in the process, making a few people smile.

www.newsweek.com, May 2025, Picture: TikTok

