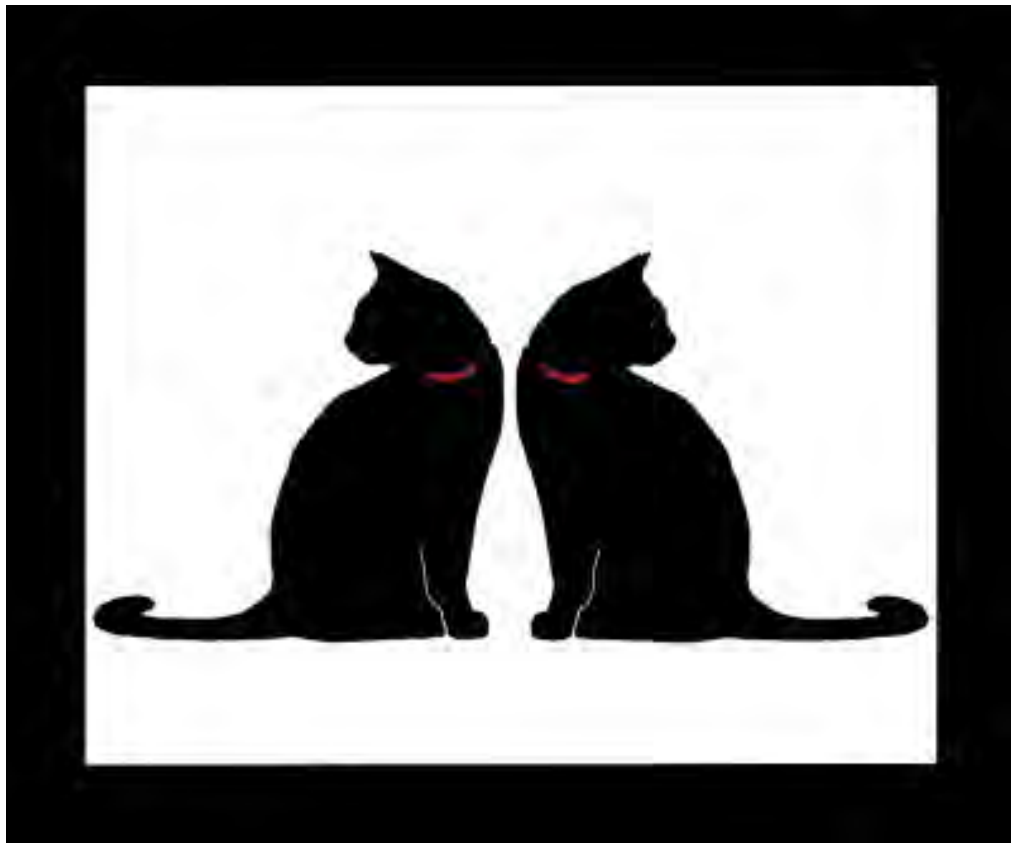


# The Scratching Post



**SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2015**

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



# The Scratching Post

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## SABCCI Committee

Ronnie Brooks, Dionne Dixon, Elizabeth Flood, Hugh Gibney,  
Gloria Hehir, Karen Sluiters, Aedamair Kiely, Lorna Taylor, Imelda Trankner.  
Membership Secretary - Betty Dobbs



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## Derivation Of A Phrase- Cat's Got Your Tongue

Some have suggested that ancient kings would punish those who displeased them by cutting out their tongues and feeding them to their pet cats. Others that it goes back to the Middle Ages from the time of witch-hunting. Witches could steal a person's speech by removing the tongue and feeding it to their 'familiar', or pet. Which also relates to the myth that cats steal babies' breath.

However surviving records of the phrase only start to appear in the late 1800's. In Volume 53 of the US publication Ballou's Monthly Magazine, published in 1881 mentions the phrase as something many children say. The earliest entry for the phrase is in the Oxford English Dictionary of 1911. Sources - [Historyrevealed.com/Petcentric.com](http://Historyrevealed.com/Petcentric.com)



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

Garrison Keillor

## Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2015 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a glass of Tamarindo with ice and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

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



### Don't Forget !

#### The GCCFI Supreme Silver Jubilee Show

10th of May

Ballinteer Community School, Ballinteer, Dublin 16

Open to the Public 12:30 - 5:00

Best in Show Judging 4:00 onwards

See You There!



### SABCCI News - Congratulations to - Mirela Kusmierz

Mirela Kusmierz has been awarded the SABCCI 'Points Trophy' for being the exhibitor with the most points accumulated at the SABCCI show in October. The award was announced at the SABCCI AGM in February.

### Close Bond - Smokey & Dusty

Felicitas Ward sent us this photocopy of a photo of Smokey and one of Smokey's kittens Dusty. Smokey was wild when Felicitas first homed her. Dusty lived for 17 years until Dusty was knocked down in 1974. This photo was taken in the early 1970's so apologizes for the quality.



### Genetic Survey of Irish Cats

There is a national survey to study the genetic background of Ireland's cat population. The public can participate in this survey by logging into the Irish Times science page - [www.irishtimes.com/news/science](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/science). There is a simple questionnaire of 8 questions.



### The Minister's Cat, a Victorian Parlour Game

The game involves describing the eponymous cat using adjectives beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

#### How the game is played -

All players sit in a circle, and the first player describes the minister's cat with an adjective beginning with the letter 'A' (for example, "The minister's cat is an *adorable cat*") Each player then does the same, using different adjectives starting with the same letter. Once everyone has done so, the first player describes the cat with an adjective beginning with the letter 'B'. This continues for each letter of the alphabet.

In an alternate variation, the first player describes the minister's cat with an adjective beginning with the letter 'A', the second with the letter 'B' and so forth, going around the circle.



In both variations, a player is "out" of the game if they are unable to think of an adjective, or if they repeat one previously used. Players may clap in unison or speak in a rhythmic manner during the game, setting the pace for each player to speak his line; if a player falls too far behind the pace while thinking of an adjective, he may also be declared "out."

Here is a link on how it was played in the 1970 Scrooge Movie. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-Nh7tXEX00>

## Amber



My 3 year old Burmese cat Amber, went missing on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. I had let Amber out in the garden at 11.30am. It was a lovely sunny bright morning and she had been in all week. I was happy she was safe as she never ventured out to the front of the house. I was surprised though that after some time, there was no sign of her. I was not too concerned initially, however, when the hours passed and there was still no sign, I began to get a bad feeling. She would normally check back regularly to see if she was missing out on anything at home.

I decided to walk around the neighbouring roads just in case. When there was no sign I extended my search and drove around the neighbouring roads. I had an appointment later that evening so I left the house with a heavy heart. When I got home later that night, I was devastated to find there was still no sign of her and at that stage I accepted that there was something very very wrong. The following day I informed my immediate neighbours and asked them to keep an eye out for her. I rang the local vets to inform them and I emailed Cats Aid and the DSPCA.

I printed some “missing” posters and asked the local shops to display them. I then delivered the missing posters to all the houses on the block and the houses at the back of this block of houses. There was no response to my posters. My search continued on Tuesday, I berated myself for not having her chipped and cried bitter tears. There were so many ifs and what's. I walked the roads again. Still no response to my posters, I saw my Amber on the Missing page of Cats Aid. I cried lots more tears. I continued the search the following day and once again I walked the neighbouring roads. Amber's pal Truffle my other 16 year old cat missed her too and wouldn't let me out of his sight.

Wednesday came and I began to try and accept that Amber was gone. My friend's husband then contacted me to say that he had been talking to a vet and was telling her the story. She advised him that it was best to personally call to the doors that while people will look at a flyer, they may not give it too much thought. He offered to call around to the houses with me. I felt so despondent at this stage that it took me a while to agree to his kind offer.

We knocked into the houses and everyone said no they had seen the flyer but hadn't seen the cat. Eventually, we called to the last house in the road. The woman who answered said no, she hadn't seen the flyer. She looked at the flyer and said no she hadn't seen the cat either. She was about to close the door when she mentioned an ESB Sub Station which was located right next door to her. She said that some years back a cat got in there and couldn't get out. She suggested it might be worth trying.

The substation was protected by 3 sets of gates. We got as close to the substation as was possible. I thought I heard a noise and I started calling Amber. With that there were loud cat cries back, it was my Amber – I couldn't believe it. I could not see her nor get near to where she was but it was definitely Amber crying and it was a strong cry. I was so relieved. We immediately rang the ESB and they agreed to send somebody out to open the gates. It took approximately an hour for the ESB to get there and Amber was rescued, cold and hungry but otherwise healthy.

I think what happened was that Amber walked along the high garden walls till she got to the substation. She then jumped from the high garden wall to the higher substation wall and then for whatever reason she jumped down into it. It was such a high jump down and just sheer wall and it was impossible for her to get out. It was effectively a pit. I was so so lucky to get her, if that woman hadn't put us on the right track, Amber was a goner.



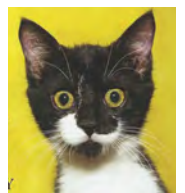
I am writing this account partly to share a happy story but also to thank all those who helped in Amber's safe return to me. I also think it serves as a salutary warning to other pet owners whose animals could find themselves in such a precarious position. I have told this story to so many people to alert them of the dangers and would like to make as many people as possible aware of the hidden dangers in our communities.

Joyce Hammond

**T**

**he problem with cats is that they get the exact same look on their face whether they see a moth or an axe-murder.**

Paula Poundstone



## The pedigree -

### Ten Fascinating Facts About Maine Coons

Maine Coon cats are one of the most popular cat breeds in the US, which is fitting since they're also one of the oldest natural breeds in America. Maine Coons are said to be native to the state of Maine (where they're also the official state cat), but how they originated remains a mystery.



Silver Tabby Maine Coon - Wikipedia

**1. Biggest Domestic Cat** - Maine Coons are the largest domestic cat breed. They're big boned and muscular, with males weighing up to 18 pounds. Maine Coons can be up to 40 inches in length and come in 75 different color combinations. They're also called the American Longhair.

**2. The Only Show Cat Breed Originating in the US** - The Maine Coon is thought to be the result of breeding between domestic shorthair cats and longhair cats that hitched a ride to America on European settlers' ships. Only the strongest and fittest could survive the harsh New England winters, and to this day Maine Coons are known as hearty working cats with excellent hunting skills.

**3. They're Ready for Winter** - As Maine Coons adapted to life on the east coast, they have long, shaggy multi-layered fur and large paws that help them walk on the snow. They also have furry ears (some with tufts) and bushy tails, which they can actually wrap around their body for extra warmth.

**4. "Dogs of the Cat World"** - Maine Coons tend to be highly social and like human interaction. They're known for being friendly, loyal, and playful, and they typically get along well with children and other pets. They can even play fetch and be walked on a leash!

**5. They Chirp and Trill** - Maine Coons don't typically "meow;" they chirp and trill (a mixture of a meow and a purr). Cats may chirp when they spot prey and a trill is often an expression of happiness.

**6. They Like Water** - Most Maine Coons enjoy the water. They have water-resistant fur and can be quite efficient swimmers.

**7. Coon's Cats** - Another theory for how Maine Coons got their name is that they are descendants of seafaring cats belonging to British Captain Charles Coon, who sailed off of New England in the 1800s. The cats were said to be called "Coon's cats."

**8. Related to Norwegian Forest Cats?** - Yet another theory about Maine Coons' origins states that they came to America with the Vikings, which is why they resemble Norwegian Forest Cats.

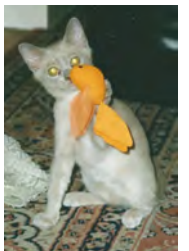
**9. They're Not Related to Raccoons** - As mentioned, there's a myth that Maine Coons are related to raccoons, but this is not true.

**10. Winner of the First American Cat Show** - The first American cat show was held in New York City in 1895. The winner was a brown tabby Maine Coon cat named Cosey, who belonged to Mrs. E. N. Barker. Dr Becker merc...com dec 2014

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## Outsmarting Your Toys

**Danglers** - Sometimes these bouncy sticks have a bunch of feathers at the end, sometimes there's just a piece of cardboard, but either way the goal is the same; flip through the air, trying to rip the thing off the stick and get on with your day. Taking out one of these infuriating busybodies is normally very exhausting. They act as if they want to talk to you by getting really close, but then dart away, but then come back, but then zip away, but then hit you on the head. After a seemingly endless swatting session, you can usually get a dangler to sit still, but by then you're too worn out to pick up the quilt-destruction project where you left off before the dangler arrived. Fortunately, there is no way to get the same result in half the time using far less effort.



When the dangler taps you on the face for the first time, just walk away. The method seems a little strange, but within seconds the dangler will stop moving - usually around the same time that your human leaves the room. They, just get back in and destroy whatever it is that's on the end of that stick! If you leave the room and come back a few minutes later to find your person is still playing with the dangler by herself, there might be something wrong with her. Keep an eye on the situation.

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



## The Quiz - True or False

1. A cat, standing in a still position, can jump up to six times its own length.
2. "Tabby" is the name of a cat breed.
3. Just like female cats, male cats have five or six pairs of teats.
4. Like dogs, cats sniff one another's butts.
5. The term for a group of kittens is a Kindle.
6. A cat can only e right pawed.
7. A cat's brain is more similar to a human's brain than that of a dog.
8. A cat's sense of taste is not as keen than a dog's sense of taste.
9. Catnip can affect lions and tigers as well as house cats.
10. Ear furnishings are the hairs that grow inside a cat's ears.



Answers on page 15



## Little Known Feline Ailments

Having conquered cat flu, triumphed over tapeworm and braved behavioural quirks, it is time to focus attention on some oft-observed, but little-documented, afflictions of cats.

### Snudging -

**Symptoms:** The affected cat repeatedly head-butts any available part of a readily available human and turns its head slightly so that the lips and cheek are rubbed against legs, arms, clothing etc. This condition gets its name from a contraction of the phrase "soggy nudging." Snudging may well be a form of excessive scent-marking. A bad attack can result in soggy clothing.

**Treatment:** Give the sufferer lavish affection. Most attacks subside between 10 minutes to 1 hour after onset of symptoms. You may need to dry off snudged clothing or skin. Attacks recur frequently, usually when the most readily available human is engrossed in a TV program, book or telephone call.



### Politically Correct Cat Definitions

- \* The cat is not a chatterbox; she is advising me on what to do next.
- \* The cat is not a pest; she is attention deprived.
- \* The cat is not a lap fungus; she is bed selective.



### Tuna Patties

from Healthy Recipes for Pets

- 1 can tuna
- 1/2 cup boiled rice
- 1/4 cup pureed liver
- 2-3 sprigs parsley chopped

Drain the tuna and mix everything together. Make 6-7 balls and then pat them into patties. Store in the fridge and serve to your cat. This is one cat treat recipe that your feline friend won't be finicky about.

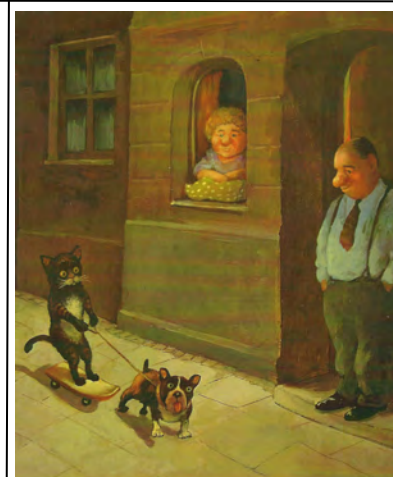


<http://www.care2.com/greenliving/gourmet-kitty-homemade-cat-food.html#ixzz3YKqutQ1A>

### Why Does My Cat Put His Toys In The Water Bowl?

- They may be witches and he is testing them.
- They must be baptized lest their sins corrupt the kibble.
- They taste better wet.
- They said something about his mama and ain't nobody says nothing about his mama.
- They must die and drowning is easier than snapping their necks to make the jingling stop.
- That isn't a cat, but a raccoon.
- That cat was raised by raccoons.
- That cat is a cat but his godfather is a raccoon and he misses him since the war.
- The water dish knows what it did.

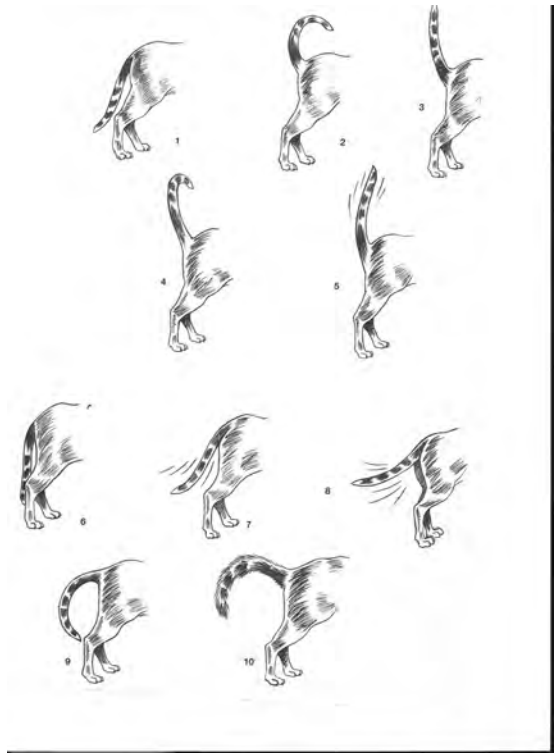
Basically, pick any answer that seems plausible to you. Some cat behaviour is beyond all human research.



## A Tail of Two Kitties

It was the Best of times ...it was the Worst of Times and thereby hangs the tail. Your cat uses its tail to communicate its emotional state to other cats and animals. As a visual signal the tail can be seen over a large distance and its position (lowered, erect, still or quivering etc) allows the observer understand whether the signalling cat is relaxed, anxious, fearful or conflicted.

1. Tail at angle of 15-20 degrees : Relaxed
2. Tail lifted and curved slightly over back: expression of confidence and general well being, tail may sway when walking.
3. Tail up : an initial friendly greeting / signal of interest.
4. Tail up but tip bent over: Greeting
5. Tail straight up but quivering : cat about to spray
6. Tail held down : imminent though not irreversible attack
7. Tail flicking to and fro: Sign of irritation
8. Tail lashing from side to side Intense anger and a warning that an attack is imminent.
9. Tail arched down : Aggressive state of mind
10. Tail fluffed up and arched (combined with an arched back) conflict between attack and defence . As the tail reaches horizontal aggression increases.



The tail held to one side is a sexual invitation showing that the cat is in heat and is ready to be mounted.

All felids signal in the same way although the Tail Up (TU no 3) is seen only in domestic cats and lions. It is thought that high population densities such as living within a pride, and domestication (living closely with humans and other cats) required a group affiliative signal. Group members lift their tails when approaching for rubbing or other scent exchanges. Two cats from the same social group /colony will approach and if one cat has tail up then this signal is generally reciprocated by the other cat and rubbing / sniffing will occur. In fact in one study, TU occurred in 80% of such interactions. Almost all bouts of cat to cat rubbing were preceded by the initiating cat approaching tail up. The study used silhouettes of cats with TU or tail down : the silhouettes with TU were more quickly approached and more likely to cause the responding cat to also exhibit TU than the silhouette with its tail down which resulted in tail swishing or tail tucked postures.

*As with all body language signals tail signals should not be taken in isolation but interpreted along with the other parts of the cats' signalling repertoire eg ear position, body stance and vocalisations*

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

Any questions for Jim? Come and talk to him at The Supreme Show on the 10th of May in Ballinteer Community School.

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## Excepts From a Cat's Guide to Human Beings

So you've decided to get a human being. In doing so, you've joined the millions of other cats who have acquired these strange and often frustrating creatures. There will be any number of times, during the course of your association with humans, when you will wonder why you have bothered to grace them with your presence.

What's so great about humans, anyway? Why not just hang around with other cats? Our greatest philosophers have struggled with this question for centuries, but the answer is actually rather simple.

They have opposable thumbs!

Which gives them the perfect tools for such tasks as opening doors, getting the lids off of cat food, changing TV stations and other activities that we, despite our other obvious advantages, find difficult to do ourselves. True, chimps, orang-utans and lemurs also have opposable thumbs, but they are nowhere as easy to train.

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



## The Rainbow Bridge - In Memoriam



Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that 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 our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them. When our time comes they will be waiting for us and then we will cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

A donation has been received to 'The Rainbow Bridge - In Memoriam ' in Memory of -



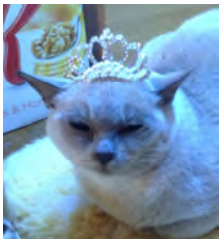
**Midge the Cat** - Katie Rossé - We rescued Midge in fall 2007 after she was abandoned outside of the Humane Society building in Nashua, New Hampshire. She was timid and had a hard time adjusting to our multi-cat household, so my grandparents took her into their home where she could live as the only cat.

Midge lived with my grandparents for six years, and stayed in my bedroom when they traveled. Aside from her litter box habits, she was a great roommate! In 2014, with her health diminishing, she moved in with me permanently. She made sure she only knocked down the plants she didn't like and left the other ones alone.

For the last year, Midge slept to the left of my head every night on her little striped towel. She would always say hello in with a high pitched meow when I came in the room. Midge loved to rub up against her brush and to be scratched behind her ears. She died after a long illness in January 2015. Midge was the gentlest, sweetest cat, and she will be missed.

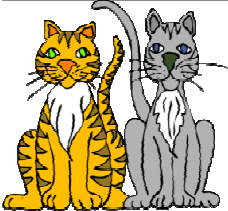


**For Midge** - The gentle rescue cat who learned to love and be loved. Jim & Ann Rossé



**Mimi - Aldebiz Tara Gr Ch & Gr Pr La Mimosa (2000 - 2015)** - Much loved shy girl. Not the brightest, a bit like a dumb blonde but most adorable. Karen Sluifers

Memorial donations are gratefully accepted and will be used to keep The Scratching Post in production. They can be sent to, SABCCI, The Scratching Post, 55 Casimir Road, Harold's Cross Dublin 6w.



### A Rescue Story

This is a true story - not about the rescue of a cat, but the other way around.

Some years ago an elderly lady was living in Kinsale with her daughter, who was a nurse at Cork University Hospital. This lady fed and looked after stray cats, at least six of which lived in her kitchen.

During a winter's night she left the kitchen to go into her back yard. She slipped or tripped, fell heavily and was unable to get up. She lay there in the grip of an elderly person's worst nightmare. Her daughter was on night duty, she was alone and desperately cold, and nobody could hear her cries for help. But her cats heard.

The nurse came off duty at 8am, and when she got home was horrified to find her mother lying in the yard. The old lady had rolled on to her back in her efforts to rise, but at least she was alive and responsive, and the reason was obvious.

She was covered in cats. Forsaking the warm kitchen, they had lain on her all night. They sat on her chest, pressed against her head, lay along her body and limbs. Doctors who treated her in hospital were convinced her beloved cats had saved the old lady's life. It proves that cats can be the perfect example of "do-as-you-would-be-done-by."

Sent to us by Margaret Baker October 2014





## The Siamese and All Breeds Cat Club 61st Show

Knocklyon Community Centre - 22nd October 2014



The 61st annual SABCCI show was held on Sunday 19th October 2014, back in our usual venue of Knocklyon. We were getting a bit anxious on the lead up to the show as the local school has been greatly extended, and now included what had been our car park! Luckily everyone seemed to crack the maze of the new car parking and got to the hall safely. The weather in the previous few days had been terrible, but luckily by the Sunday it had calmed down and was just a bit windy, which was a relief.

We had a Craft Fair again this year with a large variety of goods for sale but for some reason very few people seemed to use it or even browse around so perhaps we'll give that a miss in future.

Our judges this year were Mr John Hansson, Mrs Pat Perkins, Dr Bruce Bennett (from Scotland) and our own Caroline Wren. The entry numbers were down sadly but there was plenty of variety and at least it meant there was plenty of room in the hall!

Every year we ask the public to vote for their favourite pedigree and non pedigree cat, and it always proves hugely popular, this year was no exception. The winners of the Publics Choice were –

**Public's Choice Pedigree** - Mirela Kusmierz' GR & SUP CH BULARI BUBU-COONS (Maine Coon)

**Public's Choice Non-Pedigree** - Clodagh Hayde's YODA (Black & White SH Kitten)

**Best In Show** (B.O.V. results are available on the Club website)

**Persian** - Mrs Wall's SHEERBLISS ARABELLA (Exotic F)

**SLH** - Ms Kusmierz' GR & SUP CH BULARI BUBU-COONS (Maine Coon M)

**British** - Ms Fokina's CH BONAPART FROM VIA LATTEA (Blue M)

**Foreign** - Miss Henson's SPHYNXALIENS ROCKY ROAD (Sphynx)

**Burmese** - Mrs Sluiters' TARA GR CH & TARA GR PR ALDEBIZ GINCHIKARA(FN)



**Overall Best In Show** – Ms Kusmierz' GR & SUP CH BULARI BUBU-COONS

**Reserve Best In Show** - Mrs Wall's SHEERBLISS ARABELLA (Exotic F)

**Non-Pedigree** - Mr & Mrs O'Galligan's TIGGY (Ginger & White)

No Show can run smoothly without the help of a band of faithful volunteers, who turn up year after year for very little reward. Our wonderful vets Mark Heffernan and Aoife Caulfield who made vetting in a pleasant and relaxing experience for one and all; Betty who checks all the entry forms for errors, organises vetting in, runs the information table, counts the 'Public's Choice' votes – which is a marathon job in itself! – Carmel, running the results table with her band of hard working volunteers, Grace and Liam Hughes who came along to help set up on Saturday and worked all day Sunday; Karen who organised the publicity, including interviews with RTE 1 for the Pat Kenny show; Dorothy Jack, a new face to the cat fancy, took on the catering with a superb lunch for the workers and some delicious cakes and scones in the café – Klaus, Annie and Jim Stephens were her willing assistants. Georgina who judged the non ped Best in Show then went on to commentate the Pedigree Best in Show. Lorna and Ken Taylor ran a successful Pot Draw, Hugh Gibney at the trophy table, Imelda Trankner ran the popular children's corner, Tony for the beautifully designed catalogue cover. Mostly my heartfelt thanks to Gloria who was there from the start of Saturday setup; acted as vetting in steward first thing Saturday, worked on the accounts during the day, stewarded for Georgina for the non ped Best in Show then went on to run the Pedigree Best in Show! And still there when it came to clearing up after the Show. I could never have done it without you Gloria thank you, thank you!. To our judges and stewards, and especially to you the exhibitors and your beautiful cats THANK YOU for coming and making it a special day.

*Ronnie Brooks*, Show Manager

# The Catwalk

**Blue -**

A flower pot was her favourite place to sleep during the day

M Crossley, Dublin



**Xena -**

Fais-moi une place  
au fond d'ton  
cœur

E. McKerrow, France



**Emily -**

Filed under  
November

S. Mackey, Dublin



**Tommy -**

The only to travel.

K. Sluiter, Holland



# The Catwalk

## Kalie -

That was me waiting until I was allowed to travel to my new home in Ireland. I arrived on the 23rd of April and love my new home.

N & A O'Galligan, Wicklow



## Three Black Cats -

Three times lucky!



G. Hehir, Gran Canaria

## Pixie -

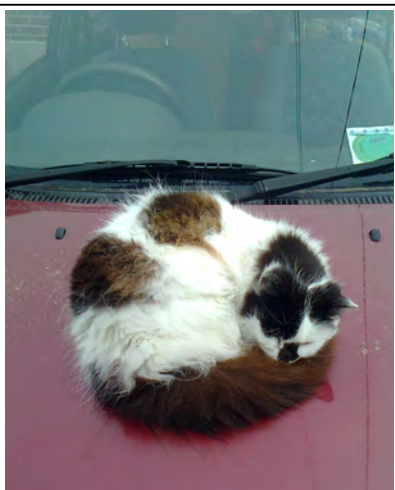
My Mummy made me dat.



A. Murphy, Dublin

## Cat On a Hot Tin Bonnet -

Oh why bother with anything else. It is nice and warm here.



S. Mackey, Dublin





### Stevie The Blind Piano Playing Cat

He's one blind cat who loves playing the piano. So when he fetched up at an animal refuge there was really only one name he could answer to... Stevie Wonder.

Six-year-old Stevie – that's the moggie, by the way – was found flea-bitten, suffering from worms and with both of his eyes missing. Left abandoned in a garden, he was taken to the shelter where staff spotted his hankering for tinkling the ivories.

He now spends his time skipping across the keys and proving that piano playing is cool for cats – whether feline or the American Motown legend in whose honour he was named. 'Stevie seems to enjoy the sound of the piano and often jumps up on my lap while I play,' said Beverley Street, deputy manager at the Wood Green shelter in Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire. 'He has ventured on to the piano a few times for a nose and a rather noisy play.'

Vets are unsure if Stevie's eyes were surgically removed or if he was born without them but the shelter's staff believe he finds it therapeutic to hear the sounds made by his movements. 'Because he has no sight Stevie's other senses are so heightened. His hearing is amazing,' said Ms Street.

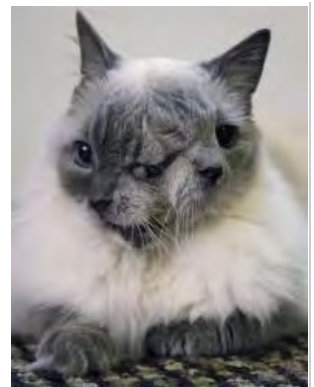
Meanwhile, staff are looking for a permanent home for Stevie – preferably one with a piano where he can continue to practice his licks.

Metro.co.uk August 2012

### Frank & Louie, 15 Year Old Janus Cat, Dies of Cancer

In the 2012 Spring issue of 'The Scratching Post' we had an article on Frank & Louie, a Janus Cat. Below is a news item on Frank & Louie's death from wcvb.com the 6th of December 2014.

Grafton, Mass. - This cat had two faces - but only nine lives. A feline named Frank and Louie after he was born with two faces, two mouths, two noses and three blue eyes has died at the age of 15. The Telegram of Worcester reports that Frank and Louie died Thursday at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in North Grafton. The cat's owner, Marty Stevens, said veterinarians believe the cause of death was cancer.



Frank and Louie made it into the 2012 edition of Guinness World Records as the longest-surviving member of a group known as Janus cats, named for a Roman god with two faces. Janus cats almost never survive, and most have congenital defects.



### Football Fan Pepper & Wannabe Player

As far as this super-cute cat is concerned, football is the purr-fect sport. And according to Pepper's owners, when the beautiful game is on TV, they can barely get a look in, as the six-month old kitten is always front and centre.

Pepper, dubbed a feline Steven Gerrard - after the Liverpool legend - by her owners, never misses a game, making it her mission to catch the ball on the TV screen.

In the clip/picture she is seen standing on two paws as she attempts to chase after the ball - and players. Perhaps she's a wannabe WAG?

She even runs behind the TV set looking for the ball if it's kicked out of play. "She's not really interested in the TV unless the football is on," said Pepper's owner Johnny Goldsmith. "She doesn't like any other sports. When the ball goes off the pitch, she runs behind the TV and tries to find it. She thinks it's fallen out of the screen."

And another bonus for Pepper's owner? "My girlfriend doesn't mind watching football now that the cat likes it - so I get to watch it all the time!"

mirror.co.uk Feb 2015

**If a cat had a halo, it would probably wear it around its tail. It makes a statement.**



What is Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)?

- IBD is not a single disease; it is a group of chronic gastrointestinal disorders.
- IBD is caused by an infiltration of inflammatory cells into the walls of a cat's gastrointestinal tract. The infiltration of cells thickens the wall of the gastrointestinal tract and disrupts the intestine's ability to function properly.
- IBD occurs most often in middle-aged and older cats.

How is IBD diagnosed?

- Symptoms of feline IBD are not specific. They may include vomiting, weight loss, diarrhea, lethargy and variable appetite.
- The symptoms of IBD can vary depending on the area of the digestive tract affected.
- A definitive diagnosis of feline IBD can only be made based on microscopical evaluation of tissue collected by means of an intestinal (or gastric) biopsy.

How is IBD treated?

- The treatment of IBD usually involves a combination of change in diet and the use of various medications. There is no single best treatment for IBD in cats.
- Your veterinarian may need to try several different combinations to determine the best therapy for your cat.
- Hypoallergenic diets are usually tried first.
- Corticosteroids like prednisolone may be used to reduce inflammation of the gut.
- Antibiotics such as metronidazole are commonly used.

What does the future hold for a cat with IBD?

- IBD is a chronic disease. Few cats are actually cured.
- Symptoms of IBD may wax and wane over time.
- IBD can often be controlled such that affected cats are healthy and comfortable.
- Vigilant monitoring by the veterinarian and owner is critical.



[www.vet.cornell.edu](http://www.vet.cornell.edu)

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## It's 10:00am On A Warm Summer Day - Do You Know Where Your Cat Is?

1. Hint: He should be indoors. If your cat goes outside (hopefully either on a harness and leash, or inside a safe enclosure on your porch or in your yard), he should be back inside as soon as it starts to heat up. During warm weather, the only time kitty should be outdoors is in the early morning or after the sun goes down.

2. Cats aren't big drinkers because they are designed by nature to get most of their water from their diet. (This is one of the most important reasons to feed your feline friend a balanced, species-appropriate diet.) During the summer months, however, it's a good idea to encourage your cat to drink more pure, fresh water. Here are some suggestions for enticing kitty to drink more:

- Add ice cubes to the water bowl
- Add some of the liquid from your pet's canned or raw food, or broth, to a second bowl of water
- Place a few additional bowls of water around the house
- Position the bowls on a surface high enough that your dog can't get to them
- Consider a pet water fountain, since some cats are more interested in moving water than still water
- Make sure your water is free from fluoride and contaminants. Cats are masters at detecting impurities and if the water isn't healthy, they oftentimes won't drink what they should



3. Like dogs and many humans, felines have a knack for knowing when to say when. You won't find your kitty dashing around the house or her outdoor enclosure in the midday sun. You're much more likely to see her get active late at night when it's cooler. If it seems your kitty is sleeping away the day during the summer months, that's probably exactly what she's doing. Napping during warm weather is the perfect way for your fur-lined feline to avoid overheating.

4. Before your cat can get down to some serious napping, he needs to find just the right cool spot for a hot summer day. That's why you might find him stretched out on your tile floor, or in front of an air conditioning vent or fan, or even curled up on the cool porcelain of a tub or sink

5. Cats groom themselves during the summer months in part to cool down. As the saliva from her tongue evaporates off her fur, it brings your kitty's body temp down. Another reason your cat might increase her grooming time is to help shed her thick undercoat. She'll be left with an outer coat that will help insulate her from the heat and also protect her from sunburn. This is why I don't recommend shaving your pet - especially your cat.

6. Kittens, older cats, longhaired kitties, and those that are overweight or can't move around well may need a little help staying cool and comfortable in the heat. One way you can help your favourite feline stay cool during the warmer months of the year is to brush him every day to help him shed his undercoat and prevent matting. You can also try rubbing him down with a cool damp cloth, or spraying him with a gentle mist of water if he seems to enjoy it (but not if he doesn't).



## Cat Café Opens In Montreal

We had an article in our Autumn 2011 newsletter on a Cat Café in Japan. The Cat Café idea goes back to Taiwan 20 years ago. It became popular in Japan and South Korea. Western Cat Cafés were born only 3 years ago with the first opening in Vienna Austria in 2012. Rumour has it that a Cat Café, Crazy Cat Café, is to open in Dublin in September 2015.

The Café Chat L'Heureux is a cafe/restaurant open to everyone where one can enjoy the company of cats while savouring beverages and quality products. It is a relaxation space to enjoy a prolonged contact with cats in an optimized space for human/feline interactions. The Café Chat L'Heureux also wants to provide benefits of cat-therapy.

For the cats' wellbeing, we established rules that are clearly displayed upon arrival in the café. All layouts were made to respect stricts hygiene and safety standards. Hence, at your entry in our establishment, we will dispose soap and ask you to wash your hands. You should also vaporize your shoes before entering inside the Chat l'heureux. You will find soap dispensers at different places and towels. Everything was thought to offer you an optimal experience.

There are two main areas inside the Café Chat L'Heureux. The first is a "bistro" section where one can sit quietly at a table to enjoy pastries or gourmet sandwiches. The second area will be a playground for everyone where customers can lay down with cats, play or learn with provided documentation.



You will find at Café Chat L'Heureux something to eat at every moment of the day : hot drinks, cold drinks, pastries, cakes but also delicious sandwiches, pies and salads including vegan and gluten free meals.

In addition to offering catering services, the Café Chat L'Heureux is an education place where one can find information about felines. The Café Chat L'Heureux shop proposes selected products by Educhateur and veterinarians to spoil your kitty. Café' Staff will gladly answer your questions on those products' benefits and their importance for cats' wellbeing. In our shop, you will find our brand products as well as a little deli counter for animals.

At the Café Chat L'Heureux, we have at heart cats' wellbeing and wish to offer our customers a true and unique experience. We will then offer educative and informative events, conferences with veterinarians, workshops for kids and zootherapy for disabled people and elders.



The Café Chat L'Heureux hosts 8 cats, all coming from shelters from the Greater Montreal Area. Every single one of them was adopted for his friendly personality with other cats and humans. The Café is a modern shelter where cats have found a roof adapted and conceived for their welfare while respecting their territoriality.

Excepts from <http://www.cafechatlheureux.com/en-ca/our-café> Pictured above are 2 of the 8 cats, Milady and Chopin.

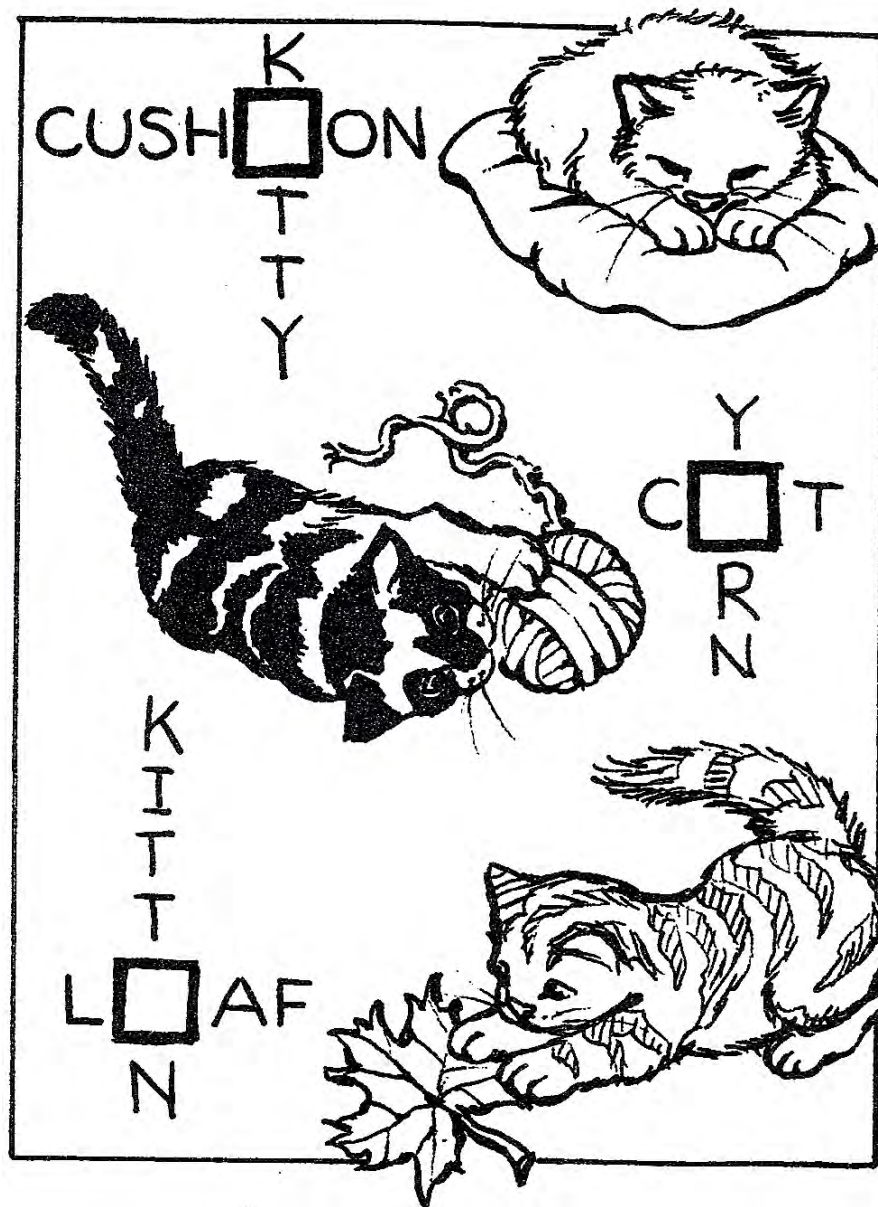


### You Know You Are A Cat Person When -

- \* Your cat has a special seat in the house where no one else is allowed to sit.
- \* Other cat people know you are purring and not humming.
- \* You delay making the bed because the cat prefers to nap on the rumpled blankets.
- \* You carry cat treats and furry mice in your handbag.
- \* You sleep in one spot at night so you don't disturb the cats that are sharing the bed.
- \* All of your login passwords relate to cats in some way.
- \* You sleep without your pillow because your cat is sleeping on it.
- \* The cats have health insurance, but you don't.



## KIT'S KORNER



Cats love to play and take naps. Find out what they sleep on and what they play with by filling in the boxes with a letter that makes sense.

## The Final Miaow

As you can see we have come to the end 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.

**Remember - The Silver Jubilee GCCFI Supreme Show on the 10th of May**

**Details below**

**See you all at the show! ^..^**



**SUNDAY 10th MAY 2015**

# Cat Show

**Rare and Exotic  
Pedigree Breeds**

*& Beautiful Household Pets*

**BALLINTEER  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**BROADFORD ROAD  
BALLINTEER  
DUBLIN 16**

**(Bus Routes 14, 75 & 116)**

**Open to Public 12.30 p.m to 5.00 p.m.**

**Adults €7.00**

**Children/Students/Seniors €5.00**

*Full Range of  
Craft Stalls*

*Coffee Shop*

**Further Information at [www.gccfi.com](http://www.gccfi.com)**

### What is a True Cat?

True cats have perfected the guilt-provoking stare.

A true cat prefers to sharpen his claws on authentic imported oriental carpets, not cheap imitation knock-offs.

A true cat is often willing to make a fool of herself, but only on her own terms.

You may think you picked a true cat, but the fact is a true cat picked you.

That's because a true cat is always the cutest, smartest kitten in the litter.

Or the cutest, smartest cat in the shelter.