

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2017

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The Scratching Post

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SABCCI Committee

Ronnie Brooks, Dionne Dixon, Sonia Early, Hugh Gibney,
Gloria Hehir, Aedamair Kiely, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Lorna Taylor
Membership Secretary - Betty Dobbs



Cat Kisses

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

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

Author Unknown

Signs Your Cat Is Trying To Kill You.....

Has taken a sudden interest in the wood chipper.

You find a piece of paper labelled 'MY WIL' which says: 'LEEV AWL 2 KAT.'

Cyanide paw prints all over the house.



Signs Your Cat Has Learned Your Internet Password.....

Your web browser has a new home page at <http://www.feline.com/>.

Your mouse has teeth marks in it, and a strange aroma of tuna.

You keep finding new software around your house like 'CatinTax' & 'WarCat II.'



Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2017 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Mimosa 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

Sunday the 30th of April

Ballinteer Community School, Broadford Road, Ballinteer, Dublin 16

Open to the Public 12:30 to 5:00

Best In Show 4:15 onwards

See you there!



The SABCCI Club Stall

A fund raiser for the Club, SABCCI's stall has club information and also full many items for sale - from fridge magnets, key rings, pens, angels, scarfs, book markers to jewellery - mostly cat related. The stall was at the Dublin Championship Cat Show last October at the Pet Expo in the RDS (pictured on the right). The stall was also at the Midlands Cat Club show in Limerick last February. Some items below -



Fridge magnets



Key rings



Bracelets



Angels



Be sure to visit the stall at the GCCFI Supreme Cat Show on the 30th of April.

The Origin of The Word Moggy

The definition of a Moggy is a cat or kitten that does not belong to any recognized breed.

The origin of the word moggy is not a corruption of the word 'mongrel', as many believe. It was first recorded in 1911, and was probably derived from maggie, margie or mog, all short forms of the female name Margaret. It is thought this was first used to describe an ungainly lumbering old cow, and it may even have been a minor rural English name for any cow, since 'moggy' was used in several 1800's English dialects as an 'affectionate name' for a cow. As rural people flocked to the cities during the latter part of the Industrial Revolution, it seems likely that the cow moggy became maggie, applied as a term of abuse for a dishevelled old woman or older prostitute.

The origin is obviously confused, but as the early 20th century streets of London became filled with very many unhealthy looking stray cats, it would have been natural to apply the term moggy to describe these unfortunate animals.

In parts of Lancashire, the word 'moggy' means mouse not cat. A cat was known as 'the moggy catcher'. It has been suggested that this could be the etymology of the word moggy meaning 'cat' - over time the 'catcher' part was dropped from 'the moggie catcher' and so moggy now means both 'mouse' and 'cat'.

In New Zealand the term 'moggy' is popularly assumed to be a reference to the letter M formed on the forehead of tabby cats by their striped markings. However it was most likely introduced by English immigrants. moogies.co.uk



Rare Scottish Wildcat Kittens Born

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) is pleased to welcome not one but two litters of Scottish wildcat kittens at RZSS Highland Wildlife Park. These kittens will go on to play a vital role in the conservation of the species.

Also known as the 'Highland Tiger', this incredibly rare native species is facing the very real threat of extinction due to hybridisation with domestic and feral cats, habitat loss and accidental persecution. However, as a result of coordinated conservation efforts and a conservation breeding programme for eventual release, the species has a fighting chance of survival.

The kittens have spent the first couple of months safely tucked in their dens, but have been venturing out more over the last few days. The playful behaviour that park visitors will see between mother and offspring is not just important for their relationship but vital for the kittens to learn key behaviours.

David Barclay, RZSS Cat Conservation Project Officer said: 'The birth of these rare kittens is not just another boost for the captive breeding programme but for the conservation of this magnificent native species as a whole. Through our work with Scottish Wildcat Action, we are doing everything we can to save the Scottish wildcat from extinction and the safety net of the captive breeding programme is becoming more and more vital as wild populations continue to decline. We have recently developed an off-show breeding facility for the wildcats, one of the largest of its kind in the world for small cats. Through the conservation breeding and pre-release training programme we will eventually use captive born wildcats to carry out reintroductions across Scotland.'



RZSS Highland Wildlife Park has a strong track record in breeding the Scottish wildcat, helping to maintain a healthy captive population and establishing a conservation breeding for release programme, which will be critical in securing the future of Scotland's last remaining native cat species.

Although some similarities with domestic tabby cats exist, the two species are not to be confused. The Scottish wildcat is a unique and isolated sub population of the wildcat that is found in continental Europe, which has been separated from them since the end of the last ice age over 9,000 years ago. Domestic cats originate from Near Eastern (African) wildcats and have been through a process of domestication. Wildcats prefer to live alone but will come together for a short period for breeding, normally giving birth to two or three kittens, which the mother will protect fiercely.

With their big, bushy, black-ringed tail and tenacious behaviour it is no surprise that the Scottish wildcat was used historically in many Highland clan crests. The Scottish wildcat is one of the rarest cat species in the world and is critically endangered in the wilds of Scotland. Thanks to Scottish Wildcat Action, the only national action plan for the species, the future looks brighter for this iconic species. The combination of in-situ conservation with landowner and local community engagement, plus a dedicated conservation breeding for release programme, is providing real hope for the future of the species.

highlandwildlifepark.org.uk/news , July 2016. Photo by Alex Riddell

Literary Cats

Literary cats are legends. They feature in Aesop's fables, in fairytales, nursery rhymes and modern children's stories, and cat tales have been popular in most cultures since ancient times, through the Middle Ages, to the present day.



Many writers have immortalized their own pets in essay and memoir, and poets, in particular, have celebrated the cat in all its guises. Felines have taken part in fiction as in life, whether playing a small supporting role in a scene, or contributing a vital element to the plot. Some lucky cats get the leading role and become major protagonists that are central to the narrative.

The cat rose to literary fame in Renaissance Europe. The Spanish poet and dramatist Lope de Vega wrote a feline epic 'The Battle of the Cats', in which a cat bride is abducted on her wedding day. In the medieval romance of Reynard the Fox, printed by Caxton and famously retold by Goethe, Tybert the Cat is instrumental in bring Reynard to justice.

Many authors have presented us with detective cats. American writers offer Koko in Lilian Braun Jackson's 'The Cat Who' book series, and Bushy and Pancho who assist Lydia Adamson's mysteries, while Turkish-born German author Akif Pirinci in his 'Felidae' books presents us with Francis an articulate cat whose Maine Coon sidekick, Bluebeard, refers to humans as 'can-openers'.

Cats not only appear in stories, they also publish them - although a human ghost writer must share the credit. In 'I Am A Cat', Japanese novelist Soseki Natsume's cat, No-name, not only tells his own story but pokes fun at the pretentiousness of life around him. In English teacher's household, Paul Gallico 'translated and edited' 'The Silent Meow', 'A manual for kittens, strays and homeless cats' which is full of advice on the best way to exploit humans.

From '99 Lives', Howard Loxton

The Quiz

1. What happened to a French cat named Felicette in 1963?
2. Name the pet cat of Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter books.
3. Smudge, Socks and Cookie - what's the connection?
4. Who almost always appears with a white Turkish Angora cat in the James Bond films?
5. What name is given to domestic cats that were born in or have reverted to a wild state?
6. What deformity do blue eyed, white cats often suffer from?
7. What's the total number of claws that most house cats have?
8. In ancient Egypt, what part of their bodies did people shave as a sign of mourning when their cats died?
9. Calico cats, which refers to a color pattern on the fur and not a breed, are mostly what?
10. What is the name of the Flintstones' pet saber-toothed cat?

freepubquiz.co.uk

Answers on page 16



Cat Words

- ◆ **Catalonia** - Holiday destination for single cats
- ◆ **Catalan** - Cat called Alan
- ◆ **Catacomb** - Grooming implement for felines



Things You Can Learn From Your Cat

If you can't get your way, lay across the keyboard till you do.

When in trouble, just purr and look cute.

Life is hard, and then you nap.

When in doubt, cop an attitude

Waking Up Your Human

Here are some subtle ways to wake up your human and get fed. (In escalating order)

Face touching - ever so gently - no claws - place a paw on her cheek. Now smooch, then release. Smooch, then release. We recommend 10 reps of 3.

Lick a plastic bag - Lick, Lick, Lick, Lick, Lick, Lick, Lick, Lick. Wasn't that annoying to read?

Imagine what it sounds like if you have just rolled in a few hours ago from a night out. Plastic bags strewn around the bedroom floor aren't just fun, they can be staunch allies in your quest to get grub. If, on the other hand your person is careful to hide her purchases and dispose of the bag evidence, a lampshade or dry cleaning bag are acceptable substitutes.

Whack something repeatedly - Using your paw, rapidly whack at something in the room. It's important that something you choose to whack, in turn smacks into something else and makes a noise - a really irritating noise that you can commit to maintaining for at least 10 minutes. The blinds or a hinged press door are popular options. If nothing in the room happens to fit the bill, scratching the wallpaper works just as well.

Hair chewing & licking - Start by nibbling the ends, build up to a gnaw and finish with a series of aggressive tugs. Should your human have short hair unsuitable for chewing, treat her to a full head grooming instead. These techniques are designed to really get her attention, but they may well get you kicked off the bed. If she doesn't get up and follow, jump back up there and move to the next, and final step.

Hand licking/biting - Your sandpapery tongue will awaken her briefly, and she'll probably be touched by your little display of affection. That's the time to drive home the immediacy of your desperate situation with a starting nip. Be careful not to bite too hard and draw blood. You need the hand operational for food-dispensing duties. If for some reason one bite isn't enough, be prepared for an encore or two.

From -The Devious Book for Cats by Fluffy & Bonkers

The Second Law of Cat Energy Conservation: Cats also know that energy can only be stored by a lot of napping.



The Pedigree - Chartreux

The Chartreux is a French breed with the earliest reference to the breed in a book written in the early 18th century. One of the myths, over the centuries to the origin of the Chartreux, has associated them to the monastery of Grande Chartreuse located in the Chartreuse Mountains in France.

The number of Chartreux diminished over the decades and with second World War severely impacted the breeds chances of survival. After the war the breed was brought back by cross breeding to British Blue Shorthairs.

Some famous owners of the Chartreux Charles de Gaulle and French writer Colette.

The Chartreux is large and muscular with short but slender legs. Their coat is short to medium length with a double woolly coat. This double coat has a water-repellent outer coat with the undercoat thick and soft. The colour of the coat ranges from light blue grey to dark blue grey. The Chartreux requires grooming weekly and more often in the Spring when he is shedding his winter coat.

The broad rounded head tapers near the mouth. This gives them a smiling expression. Their eyes are rounded and slightly slanting with the colour ranging from copper to gold. The ears are of medium size and placed high on the head. The tail medium length. On average they can weigh from 12 to 16 pounds

Chartreux cats tend to be quiet, rarely making noises such as meowing or crying, and some are mute. They are quite playful, observant and intelligent. They are capable of figuring out how to get into presses and out windows. Channel his mind and keep him interested by teaching him tricks and providing puzzles. Some can be taught to fetch small objects in the same manner as a dog. Chartreux are affectionate and will follow his people from room to room. They are also good with children and other animals.

In 2015 breed was accepted by the GCCF. They can now be registered and put on exhibition at cat shows. Photo – wikipedia



Firefighters Give Pets Miniature Oxygen Masks

Pets as small as hamsters, snakes and rabbits are being given a lifeline by British firefighters as new miniature oxygen masks are installed at fire stations across the UK.

The life-saving devices come in three sizes, the largest for dogs, a medium version for cats and little dogs and the smallest for pets like rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters. The masks, which are ordered in from America at a cost of £90 a set, have even been used in the US on tortoises and snakes.

So far 16 fire stations have received the sets, which are entirely funded by charitable donations to the organization Smokey Paws. Without them, firefighters are forced to try to revive pets using human oxygen masks, which are less effective because they allow the air to escape.

Smokey Paws is the brainchild of Lynn Carberry and her husband Brian Lockyer, who live in Weston-Super-Mare. The couple moved from America two years ago, mentioned that fire stations in their home country are equipped with the pet-sized oxygen masks. But when they contacted their local station they discovered emergency services in the UK do not have the same equipment. Ms Carberry said: 'A lot of times people assume that they already have them and when they find out they don't they say 'wow'. We think of it like a smoke detector - you don't know you need it until you need it'



Fireman AJ Johnson saving Prissy by the oxygen mask in Lexington Kentucky

The couple, who both work full time as directors of a telecoms company, are now dedicating all their spare time to attempt to keep up with demand, working until midnight most nights to process requests. 'The support has been overwhelming to be honest with you,' Ms Carberry said. 'We have over 75 fire stations are nominated through our website already.'

The charity is now asking people to donate the funds they need to equip fire rescue services with the masks to help save pets' lives. 'Most of the time a pet will hide if there's a fire and they can't get out of the house because the adults leave in panic. If all your belongings are gone, all you have left is your family and for a lot people their pet is their child' Ms Carberry said.

'One of the hardest parts of being a firefighter is when you pull something out and you know you can save it but you just don't have the equipment' Jon Brown, station manager at Avon Fire and Rescue, the first station to receive the masks, said 'We can be asked to search a smoke-filled house for an animal and when we find it, it may be unconscious and not breathing. In some cases pets can be affected by smoke much quicker than humans. This new equipment means we have special masks to use on dogs and cats which may need oxygen. A few minutes can be the difference between life and death so the sooner we can give oxygen the better and this equipment allows us to do this.' www.telegraph.co.uk, S Jamieson, October 2015. Photo

Cats In The News

A homeless cat belonging to the Late Bishop Edward Daly has found a new parish in County Londonderry. Ginger feline Tom had been the former Bishop of Derry's cat for about 15 years before his death in 2016.

Dave Graham from Coleraine said he came across the moggy after searching a pet re-homing site for a new kitten. 'I asked who his owner was and they told me that Bishop Edward Daly's housekeeper had brought him in, I was shocked! They had an urgent request to find this guy a home, he's 16 years old and he's deaf. Maybe his congregation didn't know that his cat was homeless.'

Mr Graham, who has previously worked for the charity Cats Protection, visited the Rainbow facility after one of his own cats passed away over Christmas. 'Originally, I had been looking for a kitten so I went down there, I had a look around,' he said. 'It's a wonderful place and I went inside and saw him sitting there sound asleep, a beautiful ginger tom. I was told that his owner had sadly passed away last year and he was brought into us looking for a new home.'

Mr Graham, who already has a number of cats at home, explained that Tom had literally landed in Bishop Daly's lap many years ago. Edward Daly had gone for a scan and was expecting bad news. However, on his way home from hospital the cat appeared, and sat on his lap. The stray had been viewed as a good-luck charm ever since.

'He puts the cat into catholic so to speak,' said Mr Graham. 'I don't think he's been with other cats before but now he's starting to calm down and he's made a friend and everything. He's in a good home at the moment, he could be one of those cats that needs to live alone but no matter what he'll be in a home for the rest of his life. Hopefully Bishop Daly is looking down from up above with a big smile on his face,'

BBC.news.com, photo by Dave Graham 2017



The Cat Who Rescued a Tourist Lost in the Swiss Alps

There are those who say cats cannot be relied upon because they're only out for themselves.

But the tale of a Hungarian hiker has poured scorn on such suggestions. For it was a friendly feline in the Swiss resort of Gimmelwald that led him from the mountains to safety when he suffered a sprained ankle and lost his way.

The Reddit user, known only as sc4s2cg, happened upon the black and white cat when exploring the Bernese Oberland. He was unsure how to get back to his hostel after finding that the only trail back had been closed. '[The cat] was just wandering around, [then] found me while I was resting from a hike,' the traveller said. 'Then he was walking and kept looking at me to follow [and] led me straight to the path that would take me back down to the valley.'

The man filmed his adventures with the moggy, uploading the video onto YouTube with English subtitles showing the meeting with the cat that saved him from a cold night in the hills.

Once the pair had reached the path into the village the cat seemed to lose interest and the pair parted ways, with the man saying: 'Till we see each other again.'

The post on Reddit led to other users revealing that they too had met the Gimmelwald cat, which appears to belong to one of the owners of one of the hostels in the town.

telegraph.co.uk, H. Morris, August 2016

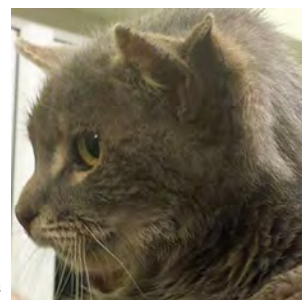
Brian, the 3-Eared Cat

A cat with three ears has been rescued by staff who reckon he is the 'most unusual' they have ever seen.

The grey cat, who has been called Brian, will be put up for adoption in East Harling, Norfolk, if he is not claimed.

Molly Farrar, who is the Feline Care Cat Rescue manager, said she had never seen anything like the 'peculiar' birth defect in all her years working with cats. She added: 'We've cared for plenty of cats with one eye, or three legs, cats with six toes, several cats with some or no tail left... but this is our first three-eared cat. This handsome mature gentleman was quite a surprise for us.'

K. Morrison, November 2015, thesun.co.uk, photo feline care cat rescue



It seems so many years ago that I first broached the idea of a double show that I can't believe it has at last happened.. It was exciting anyway but when Karen our chairman rang to say she'd been contacted by Pet Expo things really took off! New show and a new venue? Could I cope? Only with a huge amount of help from Chairman Karen and Hall Manager Gloria to sort out the RDS end of things. So after a lot of discussion we decided to go for it.

To be honest the Show end of things was just like any other show, a bit more paperwork but nothing I couldn't handle, but the RDS end – well what with the complications of buying tickets on line, sorting out car passes, change of hall at the last minute Gloria and Karen were really kept on their toes. The biggie for me is – as I live 80 miles away (you know the saying – 'You've heard of the back of beyond? Well I live next door') I have no idea how to find the RDS. You Dubs take it for granted but us country bumpkins find Dublin a nightmare to get around. And my Sat Nav ('Emily' – doesn't everyone name their Sat Navs?) went on strike on the way.

We all bowled up on Friday to set up; a long day but it all went pretty smoothly. Saturday was open to the public as Pet Expo was a 2 day exhibition; we had a great variety of stalls thanks again to Gloria's hard work and persuasive powers, but unfortunately a lot of the public were miffed that there were no cats there. Still, come Sunday they flooded in.

It was a huge hall but looked nicely full what with our wonderful 105 cats and the array of stalls. As the public was in from 11am I was a bit worried that the judges would be disturbed but bless them they all managed to get round and were very understanding of the public with their frequent queries.

A big thank you to all our super judges, especially the ones who brought workers with them! Bruce brought wife Gillian; they are show managers themselves, so we had an extra very experienced table worker and Dorothy brought husband Colin who can turn his hand to just about anything, a real godsend on show day.

An interesting side comment; when we did our Show Survey many exhibitors said they wished they could speak to the judges after judging. So we set up a judges area so exhibitors could 'corner' the judges – and hardly anyone did! Everything ran very smoothly thanks to Carmel Byrne and her 2 teams; the tables were headed by our own Caroline Wren (at present taking care of registrations) and Gillian Bennett.

There are so many people who put in that little bit extra for this experimental show; Carmel who ran the 2 tables and took all the extra paperwork in her stride, Lorna, our GCCFI chairman, who organised all the workers, ran the information table, had husband Ken working on the Pot Draw and brought 3 cats along as well! Teresa Monahan who did a brilliant job as our 'facebook' contact; plus designing the prize cards, decorating the Trophy and Pot Draw stalls and generally being everywhere at once. Our wonderful vets – Mark Heffernan who turns up show after show, works his socks off with not a word of complaint; John Bainbridge who came out of retirement in our hour of need, bringing his colleague the delightful Lorraine along as an extra pair of hands. Georgina who guarded the door to stop any dogs coming in – 157 at the last count!! Karen, who was the main contact with the RDS organiser, Hugh our Cup Secretary, Tony who designed the two front covers; Dorothy Jack who fed the workers and kept everyone supplied with home baked cakes – ably assisted by Klaus (Karen's husband) But mostly Gloria who is the Dublin end of the show management team - so much more than Hall Manager, did a huge amount of work on organising the stalls, vetting in, on the run all day then organising Best in Show. Thanks pal, couldn't have done it without you.

Nor forgetting the most important of all; you, the exhibitors, who brought their wonderful cats, especially all our northern friends who travel so far to support us.

Thank You All!!

Ronnie Brooks , Show Manager



BEST IN SHOW 2016

PERSIAN -

Adult: Mrs Craig & Mr Bell's GRASSHOPPERS LOVE N KISSES (Silver Tortie Tabby)

Kitten Mrs & Miss Rainey's PURRFICGEMS AMBER RAIN (Exotic)

Neuter Mrs Guilfoyle's SHEERBLISS PRECIOUS MEMORY (Exotic)

BIS PERSIAN - Mrs Craig & Mr Bell's GRASSHOPPERS LOVE N KISSES

S.L.H -

Adult: Mrs Archer's ISHCUS HARRISON (Maine Coon)

Kitten: Ms Piotrkowski's EZYRR DZIKIEYSDTA (Siberian)

Neuter: Mrs Frizelle's ISHCUS LUCCA (Maine Coon)

BIS SLH: - Ms Piotrkowski's EZYRR DZIKIEYSDTA

BRITISH -

Adult: Mrs Glaveka's YOUR MAJESTY MR UNIVERSE (Choc)

Kitten: Ms Hill's ACCLAIM ASTRAL HARLEY (Lilac Tortie)

Neuter: Ms Patton's SUP GR RP LABRYS SOUFFLE GIRL (White)

BIS BRITISH - Ms Glaveka's YOUR MAJESTY MR UNIVERSE

FOREIGN -

Adult: Ms Henson's CH SPHYNXANTIQUUS X-CLUSIVE (Sphynx)

Kitten: Mrs McDonald's RAKASTA EXPRESSO Brwon Spotted Bengal)

Neuter: Ms Henson's SPHYNXALIENS FRANK SKINATRA (Sphynx)

BIS FOREIGN - Ms Henson's CH SPHYNXANTIQUUS X-CLUSIVE

BURMESE -

Adult: Ms Lenihan's CORNEL OCEAN EYES (IC) (Red)

Kitten: Mr & Mrs Taylor's BACKCHAT ALICE SPRINGS (Blue Tortie)

Neuter: Ms Sluiters PR ALDEBIZ MANEKI HOSHI (Choc Tortie)

BIS BURMESE - Ms Sluiters PR ALDEBIZ MANEKI HOSHI

SIAMESE -

Adult: Groves Geary's SIAWYE QUEEN OF SPADES (SP)

Neuter: Mrs Earls' SILBENSA DRAGON SLAYER (LP)

BIS SIAMESE - Mrs Earles' SILBENSA DRAGON SLAYER

OVERALL BEST IN SHOW

Mrs Glaveka's YOUR MAJESTY MR UNIVERSE (British Chocolate adult)

RESERVE BEST IN SHOW

Ms Piotrkowski's EZYRR DZIKIEYSDTA (Siberian Kitten)

NON PED BEST IN SHOW

Aimee Weldon's GLENDA (Black SH)

PUBLIC'S CHOICE PEDIGREE

Mrs Archer's ISHCUS HARRISON (Maine Coon)

PUBLIC'S CHOICE NON PEDIGREE

Aimee Weldon's GLENDA (Black SH)



The Catwalk



Tumble & Nando -

Well, let me tell you.....

T. Forshaw, Dublin

Three In A Bed -

Ok I will talk to these 2 but I am telling you they started it!

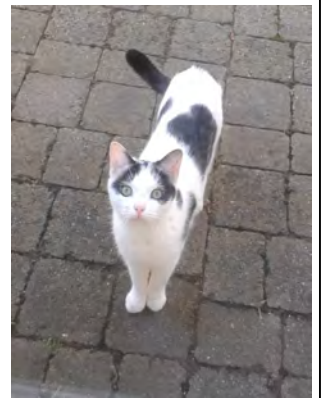
L. Taylor, Wexford



Piano -

Can I come with you?

G. Hehir, Dublin



Pippin -

Is it that time already?

E. McKerrow, France

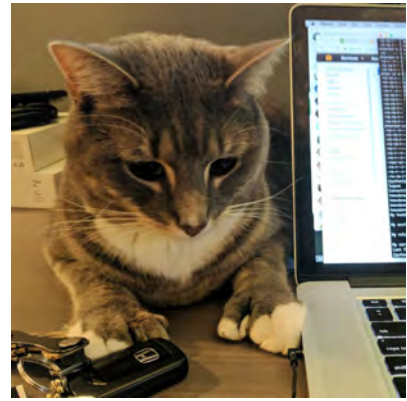


The Catwalk

Gus -

I don't know if being polydactyl is all it is made out to be.

T. MacDonagh, USA



Surya -

Enjoying the winter sun.

S. Teti, USA



Emily -

And you said I wouldn't fit?

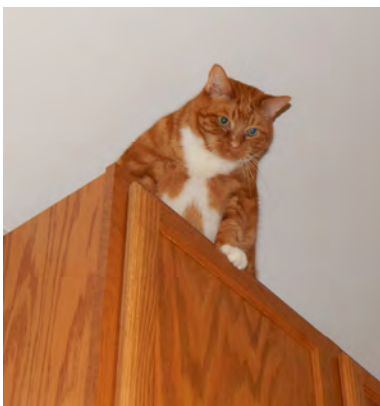
M. Mackey, Wicklow



Red -

Ha, ha, now you can't get me!

J Rosse, USA



Taming and Domestication: When Did Cats Become Cats ?

How old is your cat ? Not its actual age but rather when did the cat begin living with humans and is this the same as domesticating the cat ?

Such intriguing questions have zoologists reaching for their dictionaries in order to define their various terms. Domestication generally leads to a change in the shape of the animal, normally from large to small with concurrent change in head shape etc. The process of domestication takes time and successive generations only slowly evolve into the species or breeds that we would recognize today. However, animals live close to humans before they become domesticated and the process of 'taming' occurs. Commensal animals (those that live close to humans) can include rats, mice etc which are not tamed or domesticated and those earlier forms of dogs or cats which became our pets.



The general view of cat domestication is that it occurred some 4,000 years ago in ancient Egypt where the role of the cat was to kill the vermin that threatened grain stores, in return for which they were worshipped as Gods by the local population. Most early evidence of cat domestication comes from ancient Egypt.. Some experts believe that the Egyptians may have tamed and bred felines to produce a distinct species by the 20th or 19th century B.C.

Cats are frequently represented in Egyptian mythology in the form of the feline goddesses Bastet, Sekhmet, and other deities. Cat art and mummified remains are known from as far back as 4,000 years ago.

However, recent discoveries have pushed back this idea, perhaps not domestication but at least the period of 'taming'. Finds by archaeologists in Cyprus at a Neolithic site have been dated to 9,500 to 10,000 years ago. Cats are not native to Cyprus, an island 70 kilometers (43.5 miles) south of mainland Turkey. Given that fact, researchers believe that humans must have introduced cats to the island. Whether or not early peoples domesticated the species remains unclear. Cats may have been one of many animals intentionally transported to Cyprus as some kind of game stocking plan, along with other non-native wild animals - including pigs, goats, deer, and cattle.

The scientists' findings also reveal that the residents of the ancient village of Shillourokambos were beginning domestication experiments with many such livestock species.

So what has made the researchers believe that taming occurred? Within the grave of a Neolithic human was interred at the same time the remains of a cat in a separate little grave.

A combination of factors is seen as evidence that the cat and human were intentionally buried together including the good state of preservation of both remains, the burial of an entire cat without any signs of butchering, and the proximity of the skeletons - just 40 centimeters (16 inches) apart.

As an aside the earliest 'dog' burial with a human dates from 12,000 years ago and was discovered in Israel. In Siberia there have been found 17 dog graves which date between 8 and 9,000 years.

More recently Chinese researchers have discovered other cat burials in China which date between 5,560 - 5,280 years ago and are associated with settled village life. Ceramic storage containers designed to exclude rodents indicated a threat to stored grain in these villages and demonstrate that cats were advantageous for ancient farmers. Analysis of bones and carbon dating have allowed scientists to determine the diet of both humans and the commensal cats. As obligate carnivores bone and collagen analysis shows the cats were feeding on animals in the vicinity, however Isotopic data also showed that one cat ate less meat and consumed more millet-based foods than expected, indicating that it scavenged among or was fed by people. Perhaps the 'nearby' humans were in the process of taming this particular feline?

Jim Stephens MS.CABC, Companion Animal Behaviour Counsellor, www.petsbehave.com



"I'm telling you, Larry...he's not one of us..."

How To Prepare For A New Cat



- ◇ Chew the eraser off every pencil in the house
- ◇ Leave your underwear on the living room floor, because that is where cat will drag it anyway (especially when company comes).
- ◇ Buy a mixed bag of cat toys and stuff them under the fridge. Practice getting up at 2AM and fishing them out with a ruler or broom stick.
- ◇ Knock all small items off your kitchen counter.

We all know a cat's purr is relaxing and stress-reducing, but science has shown it can also be physically beneficial. It's not just the sound of purring that's important, but the vibration it produces.

Scientists have known for many years that vibrations at specific levels or frequencies cause healing changes in the body. These vibrations can induce bone growth and regeneration, so that bone fractures heal faster and weakened bones begin to strengthen and rebuild. Higher frequency ranges increase production of the body's natural anti-inflammatory compounds, thereby reducing joint pain and swelling. Evidence suggests that these frequency ranges can repair muscles, tendons and ligaments.

Researcher Elizabeth von Muggenthaler, a specialist in the field of bioacoustics (the study of the frequency, pitch, loudness, and duration of animal sounds as they relate to the animal's behaviour) at the Fauna Communications Research Institute in North Carolina (FCRI) has proposed that purring is nature's way of endowing felines with an evolutionary healing advantage. She recorded and measured the purrs of 44 felids (members of the cat family), including cheetahs, ocelots, pumas, domestic cats, and servals. She found that all these cats generally purr in the range of 20 to 140 Hertz (Hz). Some are as high as 150 Hz but the average housecat comes in at about 25 to 50 Hz. Research has shown that exposure to frequencies at that same 20 to 50 Hz induces increased bone density, relieves pain and heals tendons and muscles.

Purring takes energy, and cats purr not only when all is well, but also when they are giving birth, hurt or scared. Respiratory problems associated with heart disease are almost non-existent in cats. In fact, respiratory problems resolve quickly once purring is activated. Other healing mechanisms associated with purring include large skin-tissue grafts that take quickly in cats without necrotizing. Domestic cats also tend to be less prone to postoperative complications following surgery.

In effect then, by changing the frequency of their purring, cats may be fine-tuning their healing abilities, a distinct evolutionary advantage. It is this that has probably given rise to the notion of cats having nine lives, since they seem able to survive conditions that normally kill other animals, such as falls from heights.

The extrapolation of this research may prove vital for human health too, and studies that expose tissue to frequencies of 20 to 50 Hz are ongoing. In 1999, for example, Dr. Clinton Rubin discovered that this exposure creates the robust striations associated with increased bone density, suggesting applications for osteoporosis, particularly in post-menopausal women and the elderly.

But it's the cat's 'healing by association' that people find most interesting – that ability to sympathetically help cure illness in people simply by being around them. For instance, many individuals swear they can ease or completely eliminate their migraine headaches simply by lying down with a purring cat next to their head. And studies have shown that people with cats, especially senior citizens, have lower blood pressure and can live longer than people without cats.

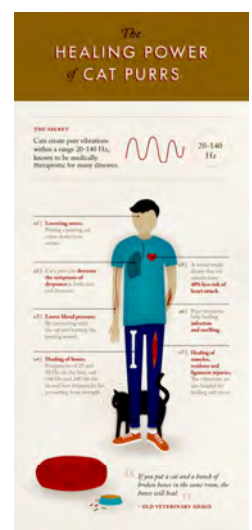
Summary, from 'The Healing Power of Cat Purrs' Image Daily Infographic:

The secret - Cats Purr vibrations within a range of 20 - 140 Hz, known to be medically therapeutic for many illnesses.

1. Lowering stress: Petting a purring cat calms down your stress levels.
2. Cat's purr can decrease the symptoms of dyspnea (difficulty in breathing) in both cats and humans.
3. Lower blood pressure: By interacting with the cat and hearing the purr sound.
4. Healing bones: frequencies of 25 and 50 HZ are the best, and 100 Hz and 200 Hz the second best frequencies for promoting bone strength.
5. A recent study shows that cat owners are 40% less risk of heart attack.
6. Purr vibrations help healing infection and swelling.
7. Healing of muscles, tendons and ligament injuries: The vibrations are also helpful for healing soft tissue.

An old Veterinary adage - 'If you put a cat and a bunch of broken bones in the same room, the bone will heal'

Do you ever get the feeling your cat knows when you're unwell, and even where it hurts? If you have a headache, he seems to know to settle down by your head. If it's a stomach ache, he'll come and sit on your abdomen. And all the time he's there, he purrs and purrs and purrs! www.animalwellnessmagazine.com



A Historical Curiosity

Although the Egyptians revered cats, there is no Egyptian word for 'purr'. There is also no ancient Latin or Roman word for 'purr' but surely cats must have had occasions to purr for humans back then.

However, there is an Old English reference to purring which implies that, even centuries ago, people saw purring as a quintessential cat behaviour. *'The cat amid the ashes purr'd, For purrs to cats belong'*

Scientists Prove That Your Cat Probably Likes You A Lot

Oregon State University published a study in Behavioural Processes that proves what many devoted feline lovers have known for ages. Cats like people even more than kitty kibbles. Motherboard reports that scientists had been conducting particular cognitive tests on dogs and tortoises, because those are the two animals everyone associates with each other.



They decided to fill in the gaping research gap 'Increasingly cat cognition research is providing evidence of their complex socio-cognitive and problem solving abilities,' the authors wrote in the paper. 'Nonetheless, it is still common belief that cats are not especially sociable or trainable. This disconnect may be due, in part, to a lack of knowledge of what stimuli cats prefer, and thus may be most motivated to work for.'

For the tender-hearted, the following passage may be difficult to read: they rounded up 50 cats from people's homes and shelters and removed them from food, toys and people for several hours. Noooo! Kitty!!

Scientists then reintroduced elements to the cats' lives under the categories 'human socialization, food, scent, and toys'. It turned out about half the cats in the study prefer human interaction to food, though 37% of them did still prefer food. You know if you have one of those meowing in your kitchen right now. There was no noticeable difference between cats living in shelters and cats who had been living with a family, so it seems humans are as deeply bred in felines as in their barkier counterparts.

L Lutkin, zezebel.com

Luxurious Catteries

Although this article goes back to 2014 I am sure only the rates have changed.

Luxury accommodation for cats and dogs is the latest trend for holidaymakers who don't want to feel as though their fluffy friends are missing out while they are away. And, at up to £60 a night, it's only for owners with deep pockets. The five-star venues offer a range of facilities – from gourmet meals, and pampering services, to four-poster beds, candlelit meals, and 42-inch TVs displaying fish swimming and birds chirping.



The Ings Luxury Cat Hotel, in Yorkshire, has been overwhelmed with enquiries and is now booked up until 2015. Phil Ounsley, 45, and his wife Jo, 43, opened their unique motel for moggies after they struggled to find somewhere to put their own cat when they jetted off abroad. He said: 'We built our cat hotel as a place we would like to take our own cats. It appears lots of people feel the same way as we did. We treat all our cats as guests. It is a purpose-built, fully featured hotel, exclusively for cats. We think it is the ultimate cat holiday - a perfect home from home.'

Ings offers outdoor balconies, underfloor heating, double glazing, 42-inch TVs displaying fish swimming and birds chirping, bespoke climbing trees, duck down pillows, designer décor with mood lighting, a la carte menus, and VIP spa packages.

A night at the extravagant hotel in Thornhill costs owners up to £36. Mr Ounsley said: 'On Valentine's Day, guests were treated to a candlelit meal along with a rose, treats and a romantic movie. Owners are kept updated with pictures of the guests relaxing at the hotel.'

Upper-crust felines in East Sussex can enjoy the sumptuous Balneath Wood Boutique Cat Hotel. Owner Miale Blair, 49, said: 'Cats are nervous by nature and don't deal well with stress. They deserve a nice holiday, just as their owners. For many pet owners, the family cat is like a child, and they naturally worry about them. Owners can't enjoy their holiday if they think their cat isn't having a good time as well.' Mrs Blair, a former vet, offers nine luxury designer suites for her guests and a range of spa packages. The hotel also has webcams in every room so owners can see their cat relaxing in the opulent surroundings.



A night in the glamorous hotel in South Chailey will cost pet owners up to £26. It's not just cats who get to relax in style while their owners are out of the country - pampered pooches can enjoy their own boutique boarding experience at Hayfields Luxury Dog Hotel in Northamptonshire.

Dailymail.co.uk , C. Driver, 2014, photos of Ings Cattery medavia.co.uk

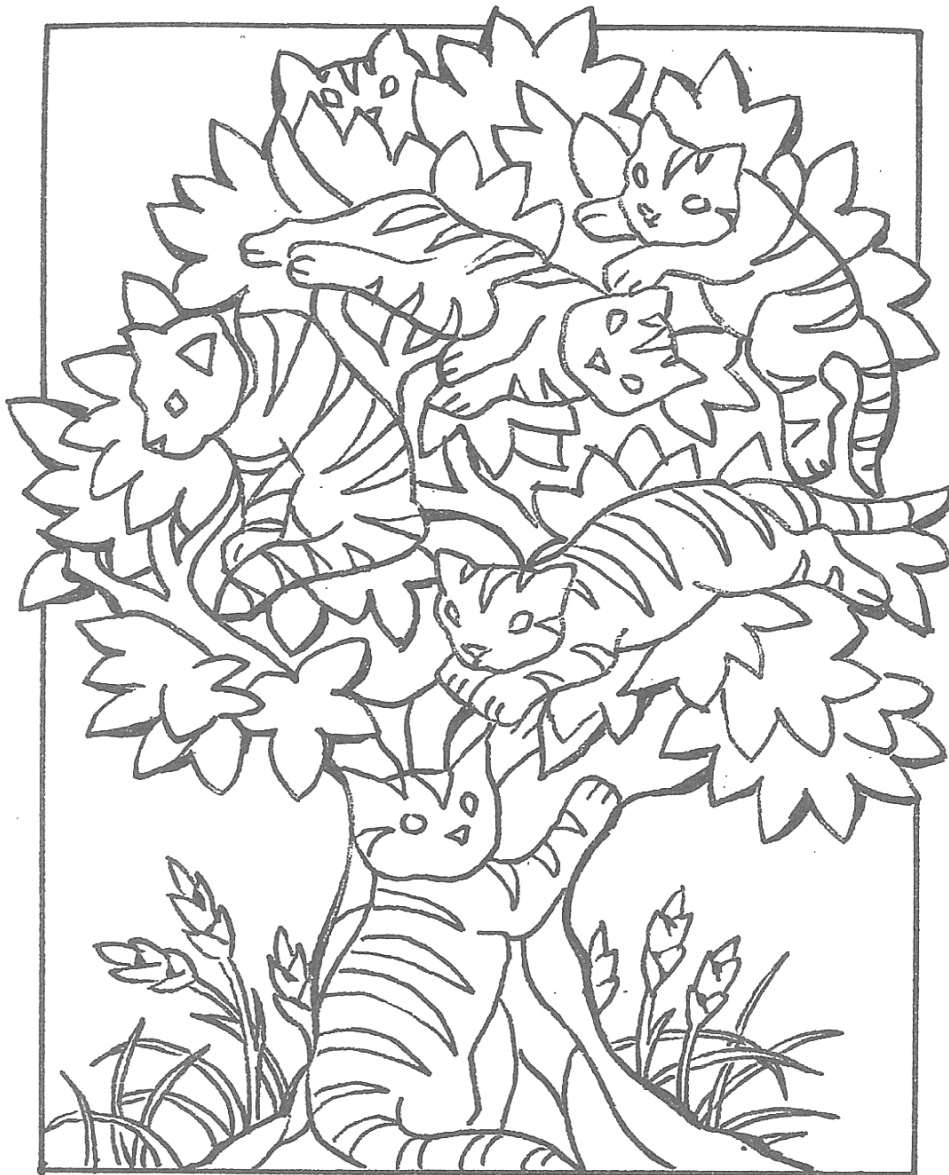
A Little Known Feline Ailment

Greenlingz - Symptoms: Random dashes through to helter-skelter running through house in pursuit of unseen prey. Greeblingz are believed to be non-visible entities and some authorities have linked them to UFO sightings or feel that they may be diminutive other-dimensional beings. Cats suffering from greeblingz typically have wild-eyed expressions. There is a minor danger of greeblingz attaching themselves to humans; if a cat tackles such greeblingz, injury to humans may result. A very few cats are naturally immune.

Treatment: None known. Anti-epileptics are ineffective as the condition appears unrelated to other forms of seizure. Avoid getting in the way of a cat engaged in greebling hunting. Attacks usually subside spontaneously, perhaps as greeblingz return to their own dimension. These irritating creatures are not visible to human eyes, but no doubt the superior sight and hearing of cats enables them to see them



KIT'S KORNER



There are 6 cats hidden in the tree! Look carefully and colour all 6 cats.

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 articles, so please keep sending them in.
Karen & Gloria ^..^

Cat Collars - Experiences Of A Street Animal Rescuer

Which are you most likely to think of in a Taxi on the way to the Airport. The Taxi Crashing? Or The Aeroplane Crashing? You probably think of the Aeroplane crashing which is statistically very miniscule. You probably don't think of the Taxi crashing which is hundreds of times more likely

Same with collars on cats and dogs and other pets. People tend to use safety/snap release collars and not use fixed belt buckle collars because they have a fear of the pet being strangled which is an easy to see fear and very visual image. However, statistically pets being caught and strangled is a very miniscule chance. You need to now consider the hundreds to thousands of times more likely possibility. Thousands of pets go missing monthly and only a small percentage makes it back to owners.

Most of these lost pets end up being seen by someone but remain unreported because:-

- Lost – being fed in a garden by people leaving food out for their own cat.
- Assumed Lost/Abandoned - kept by finders who develop an attachment and keep your pet.
- Assumed your pet is owned and just Visiting – Would call if see a number, but that's all.
- Assumed lost but the finder is unwilling or unable to bring to vet.
- Pet is found dead but people don't bring dead pets to be checked for microchips.

A lot of not lost and owned pets are often taken or reported as lost, so ID Tags are Needed!



Best Solution is Microchip but also use a Fixed Collar with a Telephone number very visible. Make life easy for all above finders so they can see a number a dial you, that's easy for them. You really need to Microchip and register, but take this simple advice from animal rescuers. You really need to have a fixed collar with a Telephone Number Tag. Snap release collars will always fall off and get even looser after a few weeks.

As experienced rescuers, that telephone number is 90% of getting your lost pet back. If that telephone number is on a snap release collar and the collar falls off, then in all reality you have little to no hope of seeing your pet ever again.

Finally - 3 Rules for quick return

- Use the Largest Tag - Use Black or Dark Blue as it's better contrast for the engraved number.
- Use Telephone Number only, no names, which makes the number the largest most visible
- Use 2 sides of Tag with Telephone Number. One Number on 2 Sides or 2 numbers on 2 sides.

Tag like this on both sides:-

Prefix Above
Rest of Number Below

<<<>>>

086
1234567

Bernard Evans, Dublin Rescuer



Don't Forget!

The GCCFI Supreme Cat Show

Sunday the 30th of April

Ballinteer Community School, Broadford Road, Ballinteer, Dublin 16

See you there!



'Those who play with cats must expect to get scratched'

Cervantes



Answers - Quiz Page 5



Answer - Kits Korner



1. It was the first cat sent into space
2. Crookshanks
3. Former Blue Peter cat
4. Ernest Snavro Blofeld
5. Feral
6. Deafness
7. 18 (five in the front and four in the back paws)
8. Eyebrows
9. Female
10. Baby Puss

I Like Black Cats

I like black cats because:
They are discreetly dressed for every occasion,
They bring good luck to their owners...
They are dramatic by day and invisible by night....

Anonymous

