

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2018

www.sabcci.com



Show
Competition Inside

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SABCCI Committee

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



*"I'd like to know what
my cat is thinking."*

CutePicturesOfCats.com

Positions Wanted - As Cats Might Write

- * Black and white cat seeks neck to warm. Suitable replacement for hot water bottle, does not cool down during night.
- * Gourmet seeks position as chief food taster. Excellent taste in venison, salmon and other fine meats. Connoisseur of cream. Will indicate quality of all foods tasted with loud purring.
- * Mother's help seeks post, will undertake dish-licking and general purring. Willing to supervise well behaved children. No tail-pullers need apply.
- * Retired supervisor, skilled in entertaining children seeks position as nanny/childminder. Has experience of working in large unruly household. Very tolerant, has trained large family now living overseas.



Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2018 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Long Island 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 or gloria@sabcci.com



A Date For Your Diary

The GCCFI Supreme Cat Show

Sunday the 22nd of April

Ballinteer Community School, Broadford Road, Ballinteer, Dublin 16

Open to the Public 12:30 to 5:00

Best In Show 4:00 onwards

See you there!



Fred's Catnip Farm Spring Competition

Win a Catnip Home Fragrance Reed Diffuser!

Cat lovers know well the effect catnip has on cats and we at Fred's Catnip Farm are doing our best to ensure our cat customers get the best quality Irish grown catnip possible.

However, did you know that catnip is not just for feline fun and frolics?

Long before catnip was used in cat toys; it was grown and used as a useful tool in any herbalist's repertoire of remedies. Our research into catnip has revealed that for hundreds of years catnip has been traditionally used for stress relief and to aid sleep in humans. In addition, it has been used to deter flies, mosquitos, and other insects in a similar way to citronella.

Inspired by this we have developed our own catnip essential oil based home fragrance reed diffusers. Our fragrance mixes, which combine catnip with lavender and patchouli, are designed to create a relaxing and calm home ambiance. We also have created a catnip and citronella diffuser for mosquito free summer evenings.

Strictly for humans! We are sure you will love these home fragrances!

They are available now on www.fredscatnipfarm.com and come with directions for correct and safe use. We are currently working on developing our catnip home fragrance candle range, which will be available soon.

To celebrate the launch of our new reed diffuser range we are running a competition. All you need to do to have a chance to win a catnip based reed diffuser is answer the question below and email the answer to Fredscatnipfarm@gmail.com by April 22nd 2018. The winner will be drawn at the GCCFI 28th Supreme Show on Sunday April 22nd 2018.

Question;

Catnip is traditionally used by people for;

- a) Stress and insomnia relief
- b) Bunions
- c) Ear Ache



Cat Fossils Found In China Reveal Oldest Known Domesticated Cat



The discovery of 5,300-year-old cat fossils by archaeologists in China provide the oldest known physical and genetic evidence of domesticated cats.

A report on the fossil research, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, finds that the bones support the theory that feline domestication began with the start of agriculture, when farmers needed the cats for pest control to protect their grain. Chemical signatures of the eight bones (belonging to two different cats) indicate that the cats had eaten rodents that had eaten millet.

That the fossils were found in China, however, is a surprise. Prior to this, the oldest evidence of cats living with humans came from 4,000-year-old tomb paintings in Egypt. In fact, every domesticated cat in the world today is descended from a single subspecies of Middle Eastern wildcat. How the cats ended up in China, whether they were imported there or are some subspecies that has become extinct, remains a mystery.

Tracie Egan Morrissey, jezebel.com, 2013



The Pedigree - The Australian Mist

The breed was developed by Truda Straede beginning in 1975. The name was changed from Spotted Mist to Australian Mist in 1998, when cats with marbled coats, rather than spots, were accepted as part of the breed.

Dr. Truda Straede from Australia, using 50 percent Burmese and 25 percent Abyssinian and 25 percent Domestic cat, developed the Australian Mist. From the Burmese we get the dilution for the colours, four of the colours and some of the pattern plus they're laid back nature. From the Abyssinian came the ticking, which developed the pattern, two more colours and a touch of lively intelligence. Domestic cats contributed to the best spots

but mostly to the vigour of the breed.

There is nothing extreme about the Australian Mist; they are of moderate size, medium boned, rounded of head with large eyes and ears. The coat is short but resilient; the tail is plumply furred.

Australian Mists come in 6 colours:- brown, blue, chocolate, lilac, cinnamon and peach. They come in two patterns: delicate spots or intricate marbled swirls against a misty background, with legs and tail ringed and barred, and the face lined. The eyes are large and expressive in a range of greens.

The most outstanding aspect of the Australian Mist is its temperament. The kittens are lively but not boisterous. They are an extremely affectionate breed and very people orientated. They prefer to spend their time with their owners and are always involved in family activities. The even temperament makes them excellent pets for all ages, even very young children. Many of the Mists cats like to play fetch.

The breed is accepted for championship status by the World Cat Federation. In October 2011 the Australian Mist gained preliminary recognition with the UK's GCCF (Governing Council of the Cat Fancy). The breed was accepted at championship status in TICA (The International Cat Association) on 1 May 2014. We wish to thank Dr. Straede for permission to use material and photos from her website - www.katsmistscattery.com



Working Cats

Post Office Cats - In 1868 Three cats were formally employed as mousers at the Money Order Office in London. They were 'paid' a wage of one shilling a week - which went towards their upkeep - and were given a six-month probationary period. They obviously did their job efficiently as in 1873 they were awarded an increase of 6d a week. The official use of cats soon spread to other post offices.



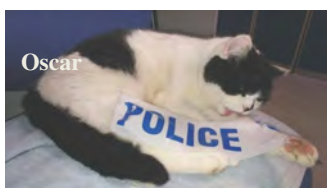
According to the Postal Museum, the most popular cat of all was Tibs. Born in November 1950, at his biggest he weighed 10.4 kg. and lived in the Post Office headquarters' refreshment club in the basement of the building in central London. During his 14 years' service he kept the building rodent-free.

The last Post Office HQ cat, Blackie, died in June 1984, and since then there have been no further felines employed.

An honourable mention must go to the Belgian authorities, who in 1870s recruited 37 cats to deliver mail in water-proof bags attached to their collars. It was an idea posited by the Belgian Society for the Elevation of the Domestic Cat, which felt cats' natural sense of direction was not being fully exploited.

During the trial, the cats were rounded up from their villages near Liege, taken a few miles away and burdened with a note in a bag - with the idea the cat would return home complete with message. Although all the cats, and notes, eventually turned up, the felines disposition unsurprisingly proved unsuited to providing a swift or reliable postal service and the idea was dropped.

Police Cats - Dogs have long been part of the police force, but cats rarely got a look in, unless they were being arrested for burglary. But in the summer of 2016, Durham Constabulary recruited Mittens.



The appointment stemmed from a letter written by a 5 year old Eliza Adamson Hopper, who suggested the force add a puss to its plods. 'A police cat would be good as they have good ears and can listen out for danger. Cats are good at finding their way home and could show policemen the way,' she said. Mittens is not the only police cat. Oscar lives at Holmfirth Police Station in Huddersfield, where his job involves being 'a therapeutic source of support for my officers', and Smokey is a volunteer welfare officer at Skegness Police Station. As a spokesman from the station said, 'being a police officer can be very fast-paced and stressful job so when we need to take a break or grab some air now, many of us pop outside a spend a few minutes with Smokey'.

Film Cats - Two Persians played the role of Crookshanks in the Harry Potter film Franchise. Crackerjack was a male and Pumpkin a female - while Mrs Norris was played by three Maine Coons named Maximus, Alanis and Cornilus - each was trained to perform a specific act, such as jumping on to actors' shoulders or lying still.

www.bbc.com, January 2018



Cat Aggression: Part 2

In the previous article in the last newsletter we looked at play aggression and petting induced aggression in cats, particularly kittens and young cats. It is interesting to note that maturation in cats can take between 2 and 4 years and at the end of this period it is not unusual for cats that have previously lived together harmoniously to develop aggression towards each other. Owners suddenly see that the cats (normally male and female) develop aggression and the aggressor tends to be the female. This is all to do with the fact that females tend to be the leaders in cat society (males tend to be absentee fathers) and there is often a status related change within the hierarchy: cats that are the aggressors often stare at the other cat, block access to preferred sites or resources, may raise their hackles (piloerection) spit and hiss, and pursue the retreating feline. The first symptom an owner may notice is the social withdrawal of one cat then may go on to stop using the litter tray or may start to mark by spraying or middening. Time and patience are required by the owner, beginning with the separation of the cats and a very slow gradual reintroduction. Often psychopharmacological intervention is required along with behavioural modification



Fear Aggression

As the name suggests this aggression results from fear. Cats with fear aggression choose avoidance first but failing this they will become overtly aggressive with piloerection, hissing and spitting, arching their backs, especially if flight is blocked. Often this form of aggression is overlooked by owners who do not notice that the cat is 'missing' or avoiding other cats, people or dog. Such avoidance often occurs when a new cat is introduced into the home. So what can be done? The home environment should be designed to avoid startling the fearful cat and to allow it to hide: hiding places, bells or chimes can announce the arrival of a person or animal. Medication to calm the fearful cat is important as a fearful cat will not be able to learn a new response or cope with behaviour modification.

It is important to realise that a fearful or aroused cat can take between 24 and 48 hours to return to a normal emotional state, hence the need to isolate the cat from the fearful object.

Pain Related Aggression

As the name suggests there can be aggression associated with pain. Often this aggression is over and above what would be necessary to cause cessation of the painful stimulus (veterinary exam, grooming etc). Because all aggression has a learned component the association of pain to a procedure or environment (eg vet surgery, cage etc) may cause the cat to exhibit aggression long before it is touched (think of how you react to someone approaching but not touching your sore shoulder...). Common signs of pain in cats include guarding or protecting body parts, withdrawal from physical and social interactions, growling, hissing, and anorexia. Affected cats will groom themselves less frequently, and become more reactive (tensing, vocalising more, increased heart and respiratory rates, increased dilation of pupils) when approached. You may notice that the cat isn't moving as often or is having difficulty getting in and out of the litter tray, which could be a sign of arthritis, in which case an inadvertent brush by a child or family pet could lead to an aggressive episode.

Territorial Aggression

Cats tend to mark their territory to prevent or at least inhibit incursions by other cats to resources. This marking is chiefly done by scent either from the facial glands, middening (leaving droppings on the surface) and urination. Cats will also patrol their territory marking resources by spraying as a form of ownership. True territorial aggression is defined consistently demonstrated in the vicinity of an area defined by the cat or when the area is approached by a cat which shows no overt aggression towards the 'owner' cat.

Territorial aggression is not as common as in dogs nor as common as owners think. Often social antagonisms are misinterpreted as territorial aggression. However, any change in marking behaviour should be an indicator that the possibility for aggression is high. However, the true hallmark of territorial aggression is that the cat is no longer aggressive when removed from the territory....if the cat is still trying to chase the other cat after they are in a different environment then the aggression is social rather than territorial. Again treatment comprises environmental changes and behaviour modification supplemented by psychopharmacological intervention.

If you would like to suggest a problem or topic for the next newsletter please contact either the editors.

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

Is your cat about to leave you?

What to look out for:

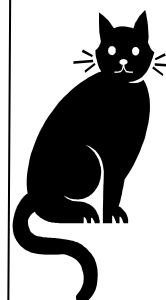


Cat Personalities - Wild Man/ Wild Woman



Moves fast, thinks fast, causes a LOT of trouble. Plays hard, bites hard, purrs loud. If you are playing with your cats with a stick toy, or a fishing pole type toy, this cat flies through the air, grabs the toy, wrenches it out of your hand and runs off with it, growling. Loves to ambush the other cats.

Chatters at birds, catches flies and eats them. Tears up and down the stairs. Rolls over on stairs and bites them and kicks them. Loves belly rubs, but beware! will bite and kick your arm in the process.

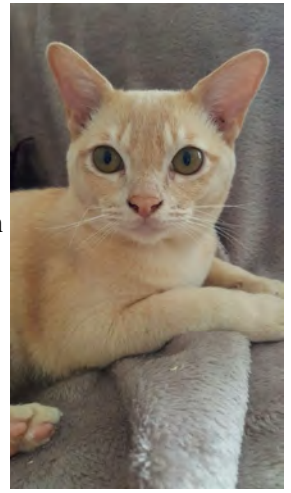


Buttons

Buttons, a cream Burmese, went to his first home at the usual age, but unfortunately proved too lively for his new owner. She had recently lost an older Burmese and the transition to an extremely lively and personable kitten proved too much. I collected him and he settled in again well and was accepted once more by our other cats. His owner had mentioned that he drank excessively and as I was taking two of our cats for their annual vaccinations I took him along to the vet as well. He had blood tests which proved he had a kidney problem. In order to establish the nature of the problem he went on to have a kidney scan. The result was drastic – Buttons had kidney cysts for which there is no cure. Both the stud owner and I had his Mum and Dad genetically tested but they were found not to be carriers of the problem. It seems, in Button's case, it was just pure bad luck.

We had hoped to find him another new home but now selling him was out of the question. He needed someone who would take him and love and care for him knowing that his life expectancy might be short. He also seemed to like the company of other cats so a home with at least another cat was preferable. He also needed an owner who could cope with his huge personality. Fortunately through our vet a wonderful couple were found who only take on cats with problem of one kind or another. They came and met Buttons and took him home. Initially there were some problems until Buttons found his place in the hierarchy of his new feline family. He has now been in his new home for nearly two months and is happily settled, well and much loved. His new owners recently wrote 'Buttons is doing great. He got over his initial disposition to the other cats. His personality is truly charming and he shows it every moment. A really amazing cat.'

Lorna Taylor



Japanese Company Adopt Rescue Cats For Workplace

Nine company felines are all rescues that have found a forever home among the employees, computers and copiers of the Ferray Corporation.

The company decided to adopt the felines to increase workplace productivity and happiness. Due to the limited space in Tokyo, many apartments in the city prohibit pets, leaving residents to find their kitty kicks elsewhere, like in cat cafés.

Employees at Ferray Corporation are loving their new furry co-workers, and, according to RocketNews24, the boss is loving them too. Since the nine felines were hired, there has been a noticeable increase in inter-office communication, with employees talking more as they gush over the cats together. Employees have reported feeling less stressed in the office thanks to the calming presence of the cats, who are always up for a cuddle.



Of course, there are a few minor issues.....

Like all cats, these hired meowers love chewing on cords, walking on keyboards and tearing up paper. But the Ferray Corporation is happy to accept these small nuisances if it means 24/7 cat access.

The company's pet-friendly policies extend beyond its new hires. Employees are encouraged to bring in their own pets if they have them, and the Ferray Corporation offers a bonus of \$42 a month to any worker who adopts a cat while at the company. Cat people, it doesn't get much better than this.

K. Bender, people.com, 2017, photos aflo/rex/Shutterstock



Cat Poetry -

What Is A Cat

Gentle eyes that see so much,
paws that have the quiet touch.
Purrs to signal 'all is well'
and show more love than words can tell.
Graceful movements touched with pride,
a calming presence by our side.
A friendship that will last and grow
- small wonder why we love them so.

Author Unknown



The Quiz

1. Socks was the name of the cat of which American President?
2. What is the most 'common' collective noun for a group of cats?
3. Name the cat owned by Rigsby in 'Rising Damp'?
4. Complete the following saying: 'to grin like a ...'?
5. What is the largest type of cat?
6. What is the name of Postman Pat's cat?
7. Which police officer do you associate with Top Cat?
8. What sort of cat did Elton John sing about in 1972?
9. What electrical device was operated by a 'Cat's whisker'?
10. Which chart-topping 70s group took their name from 1 of TS Elliot's Cats?



Answers on page 14

Mrs Golightly's Recipe for Disaster



Mrs Golightly wrote that she got this recipe from her mon who referred to it simply as 'Kitten Surprise'



Ingredients:

- 2 or more kittens, age 8-12 weeks.
- 1 litter tray per 2 kittens (containing cat litter, any variety)
- 1 food bowl per kitten (non-tip variety, filled premium quality kitten food)
- 1 water bowl per kitten (non-tip variety, filled)
- Selection of kitten toys.
- 1 stiff drink or tranquilizer pill.

Preparation:

Step 1

Place kittens in living room with kitten-care articles. Place breakable ornaments in safe place out of reach of kittens. When kittens show signs of settling, leave room.

Step 2

Leave kittens to stew in own creative juices for period in excess of 10 minutes or until either excessively noisy or suspiciously quiet. Check on progress.

Step 3

Disaster is complete if you can see the following:

- Living room strewn with litter and/or food.
- Soggy footprints over polished surfaces, non-tip bowl upside down.

Remove kittens from curtain rail, flock wallpaper, top shelf of bookcase, inside back of sofa, tangled in wiring behind stereo, behind/under large pieces of furniture which can only be removed by Hulk Hogan after a course of steroids. Give kittens stern lecture. Kittens should adopt solemn expressions, but do not be deceived – they are already planning their next assault on north face of the drapes.

Step 4

Imbibe stiff drink or take the tranquilizer pill. Do not attempt both. The kittens may grow out of this stage in 2 or 3 years time (except for Siamese variety).

From The Royal Thai Cat Club Newsletter, Australia

You Know You Are A cat Person When....

- * You have - Left your seat for a minute, and the cat curls up in your chair the moment you get up or he sits and meows at you to vacate the chair you are sitting in.
- * You have more pictures of your cats than of your significant other.
- * You have your cats' names printed on your return address labels.
- * Your cell phone ringtone is a recording of your cat meowing.
- * Your cat is the first living thing that you see in the morning and the last thing at night.
- * You don't need an alarm clock ... your cat never forgets to wake you up!





The Dublin Championship Cat Show

Knocklyon Community Centre, Knocklyon, Dublin

15th October 2017



The joint SABCCI/GCCFI was held on Sunday October 15th at Knocklyon Community Centre; it was only our 2nd attempt at a double show and we had a reasonable entry of 82 cats with a good cross section of breeds. Our judges were, Helen Marriott-Power, Maria Chapman-Beer, Sarah Johnson, Phil Cornish - all show managers in their own right so we were well supplied with experience; (plus Phil's wife Gill is an experienced table worker) Rosemary Fisher, Sally Rainbow-Ockwell, and Keith Scruton. Keith tells me this is his finale as he's dropping out of judging now; glad we could get him before he retired!

The big drama of course was our unwanted visitor – storm Ophelia! Threats started coming through mid afternoon so we went all out to get Best in Show done a little early so everyone could get on their way. The BOV winners were brought up promptly; our judges Sarah Johnson, Phil Cornish and Sally Rainbow-Ockwell were all ready and waiting while judges Keith Scruton and Maria Chapman-Beer 'changed hats' and did BIS stewarding for us. Needless to say all the judges voted for different cats so we had to call in referee Rosemary Fisher to make the final decision. She picked out Martin O'Sullivan's gorgeous brown Burmese boy ALBA REGIA POLOSKA. Now I may be prejudiced (Brown Burmese were my first breed) but I think a good brown still takes a lot of beating, so personally I was thrilled. Congratulations Martin!

There are so many people who give their time and energy to making a show run that it is always difficult to know where to start. But this time I think I must start with my husband Wally; he is not a cat person - thinks we are all raving mad - but I was suffering from a painful bout of sciatica so couldn't get about (especially up stairs) so he came along to help and also did show day treasurer. Having already had to put up with my bad temper, field all the phone calls (which invariably come when I'm either up the garden doing the cats or about to have my tea) tripping over all the bits and pieces show managers have to store at home. Thank you, dear one.

I have to thank Lorna who rounded up volunteers; there are so many little jobs we rely on volunteers for, and she spends weeks beforehand lining people up. Then as GCCFI chairman ran the information table, did BIS announcements (sorry about the poor sound system). Oh – and exhibited 2 cats! Carmel and Caroline who ran the 2 results tables without a hitch, with their teams of hard workers; my pal Mary who ran the Pot Draw and made those beautiful BIS tiles; Dorothy who did that lovely lunch then ran the coffee shop with Jim and Klaus (thanks guys!) Hugh our Cup Secretary who has to see all the cups are gleaming before presenting them; Teresa (who takes care of our Facebook presence) ended up spending all Saturday afternoon with her sister trying to sort out our new BIS drapes (and what a nightmare that was!) decorated the cups table, then on Sunday helped out on the information and generally seemed to be everywhere at once helping out. But mostly of course my 'other half' Gloria, who is the hall management side of the show, organising the hall, sorts out stalls, doing all the running around locally, running Best in Show then as key holder has to stay to the bitter end, to sweep out the hall! Couldn't do it without you my friend.

Lastly of course, a huge THANK YOU to all our exhibitors and the beautiful cats which makes it all worthwhile.

Ronnie Brooks , Show Manager

BOV / Best In Show Results

PERSIAN BOV

Adult - Craig & Bells GRASHOPPERS LOVE N KISSES (Exotic)

Kitten – Molloy's MOLLYCIDDLE FIRENZE (Exotic)

Neuter – Groves-Geary's GR PR AMBROGLIO DEL FALCO D'ORO* (Exotic)

Persian BIS - Craig & Bells GRASHOPPERS LOVE N KISSES (Exotic)

S L H BOV

Adult – Archer's GR CH ISHCUS HARRISON (Maine Coon)

Kitten – McClelland's NOYNAROCK FIONN MACCUILL (NFC)

Neuter - Murphy's KAMASAKI SASHA SWEETDREAMS (Birman)

SLH BIS - Murphy's KAMASAKI SASHA SWEETDREAMS (Birman)

BRITISH

Adult – Johnston's WINNIFREDA CHERRY LAND (Lilac)

Neuter – Kane's GR PR & INT PR MISSKIN GOODY GUMDROPS (Fawn CP)

British BIS - Johnston's WINNIFREDA CHERRY LAND (Lilac)

FOREIGN

Adult – Lenihan's CH COOMAKISTA ASCINNFULAS EVE (Asian Tabby)

Neuter – Bowles' GR PR ZARACATZ ZIGGY POP (Tiffanie)

Foreign BIS - Bowles' GR PR ZARACATZ ZIGGY POP (Tiffanie)

BURMESE

Adult – O’Sullivan’s ALBA REGIA POLOSKA (Brown)

Kitten – Mason’s COOMKISTA OISINOTIR NANOG (Chocolate)

Neuter – Sluiters’ GR PR BACKCHAT KAPELLMEISTER (Cream)

Burmese BIS - O’Sullivan’s ALBA REGIA POLOSKA (Brown)

HOUSEHOLD PET

Non Ped - O’Galligan’s TIGGY (Ginger & White SH)

Pedigree Pet – Keller’s SAPPHIRE (Blue SH)

Household Pet BIS - O’Galligan’s TIGGY (Ginger & White SH)

BEST IN SHOW PEDIGREE

O’Sullivan’s ALBA REGIA POLOSKA (Brown Burmese)



Reserve Pedigree BIS

Murphy’s KAMASAKI SASHA SWEETDREAMS (Birman)

BEST IN SHOW HOUSEHOLD PET

O’Galligan’s TIGGY (Ginger & White SH)



Where Did It Come From - ‘It’s The Cat’s Pyjamas, Whiskers, etc.....’

The idea of pyjamas for women to wear in bed in the late 19th and early 20th century was, a shockingly new idea, and thought to be sexy, daring, and avant-garde. By the 1920s the word had found its way into the expression ‘the cat’s pyjamas,’ which was reportedly first used in girls and women’s schools and colleges, and was at first considered outrageous. The expression evidently caught on and became the with-it term for something extraordinary, excellent, splendid and delightful. This phrase and its many relatives were considered ‘satisfyingly’ modern, clever, and slangy by flappers and sheiks of the 1920s and the emerging ‘cool cats’ and wannabes of the jazz age. By 1928 many of the ‘cat’ expressions were being abbreviated as just ‘it’s the cat’s #’.



The cat has held a respected place in many cultures. The goddess Bast was portrayed as having the head of a cat. The cat was a symbol of liberty in ancient Rome and the goddess of Liberty was represented with a cat at her feet. And a few millennia later in the age of jazz a ‘cool cat’ or ‘cat’ became a self-assured and knowing one, and was considered by many, a good thing to be.

Some think that the cat part of ‘cat’s pyjamas’ derived from ‘the Cheshire,’ a British slang term meaning the correct or desired thing because such a thing makes you ‘grin like a Cheshire cat’ – the 18th century British simile. Others believe that Cheshire cheese (of the city Cheshire) was once sold molded like a cat that appeared to be grinning. Still others believe that the grinning cat derives from the work of a Cheshire area sign painter who painted inn signs for such local establishments as the Red Lion. www.wordwizard.com

I *f animals could speak, the dog would be a blundering outspoken fellow; but the cat would have the rare grace of never saying a word too much.*

Mark Twain

The Catwalk

Amber -

Just hanging
in there.

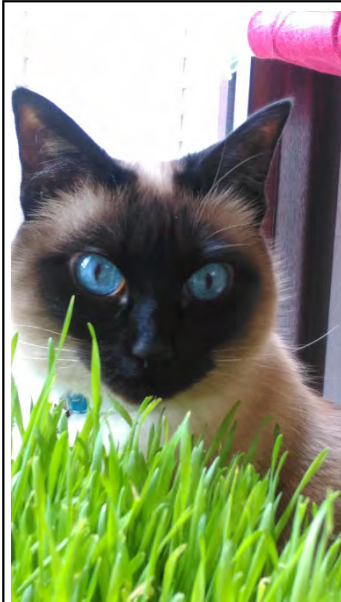
T. Byrne, Dublin



Gabby -

Is it, is it cat grass?

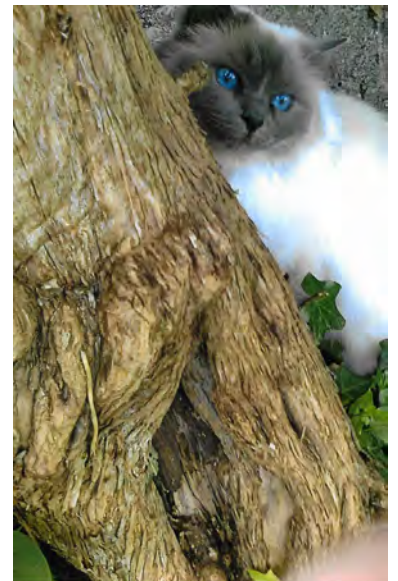
T. Byrne, Dublin



Eiley -

Eiley is under the bird
feeder keeping a close
watch on the birds -
they are faster than she is.

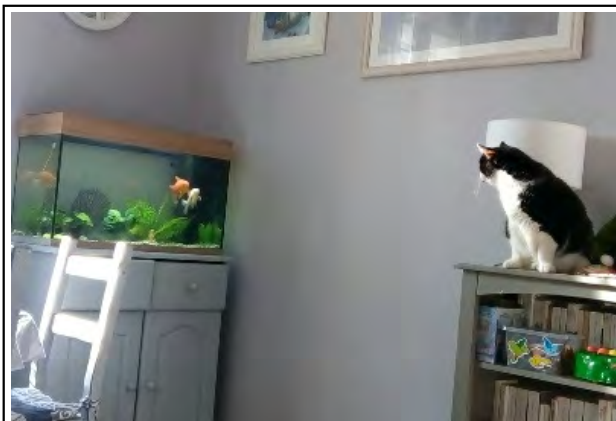
M. Crossely, Dublin



Pippin -

Pippin loves his
telly.

E. McKerrow, France



The Catwalk

Lanzarote Cat -

This is the life!
Sun, sun and more
sun.

K. Sluiter, Dublin



Honey -

Peekaboo!

V. Brooks, Carlow



Bandit -

Rocky? No, I don't
know of any
relations from
Thailand.

G. Hehir, Gran Canaria



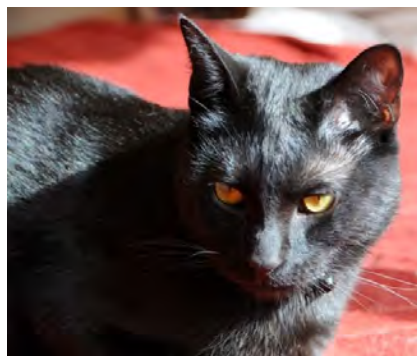
Suzy -

That is mine, all
mine.

M. Monahan, Dublin



Cat Charity Seeks New Home For ‘utter, utter b*****’ Named Mr Biggles



Australian charity, Cat People of Melbourne, has posted an unusual ad for a pet it's attempting to rehouse, describing the animal as an ‘utter b***** of a cat.’

Mr Biggles, a short-haired domestic cat, is two years' old, and has ‘slinky shiny black fur and big yellow eyes.’ However, warns the charity, Mr Biggles is an ‘utter utter utter b*****’ and is not a cat for the inexperienced or faint-hearted’

The fearsome feline, who also goes by the name Lord Bigglesworth, is a ‘despot and dictator,’ the charity says. ‘He will let you know he is not happy, which is often because things are often just not up to his high standards. If he doesn't like what you're doing he will give you a nip! Sometimes he likes to swipe at your feet too. It just depends on what he can reach at the time. Mr Biggles does not like to be thwarted. He throws a catty

tantrum if he can't go outside when he wants to be let out. Not being fed on time, or allowed to strut across the kitchen benches helping himself to whatever is there is also a tantrum inducing exercise.’

However, despite his somewhat challenging personality, the charity is confident that the right owner for Mr Biggles is out there somewhere. ‘He is a full-blooded tomcat with very firm boundaries. Mr Biggles needs an owner that won't take his nipping personally but won't let him get away with bad behaviour either. He will make the right person an exceptional feline companion for life, because when he gives his heart it will be absolutely and fully given without return.’

A. Boulton, www.telegraph.co.uk, May 2017 photo www.petrescue.com.au

Hachi, The Good Luck Cat

People from across the country are reportedly flocking to a tiny tobacconist north of Tokyo for an encounter with a cat that has ‘lucky eyebrows’.

Hachi, described in the Mainichi newspaper as an employee of the shop in Mito, Ibaraki prefecture, sports two black markings above her eyes that resemble the kanji character for the number eight, considered a harbinger of good luck in Japan. Now tourists have joined regular customers to catch a glimpse of the cat's lucky markings, the newspaper said.

Hachi, whose name means ‘eight’ in Japanese, was born a month after the magnitude-9 earthquake that struck north-east Japan on 11 March 2011, triggering a deadly tsunami and a triple meltdown at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The cat was taken in by Yoichi Maeda, a local editor, who asked the tobacconist's owner, Kaori Hasegawa, to look after her during the day in the hope that she would bring some luck to local businesses affected by the disaster.

‘A lot of people have told me that good things happened to them after they saw Hachi's face,’ Hasegawa told the Mainichi, although she did not elaborate.

It is not the first time Japan's obsession with cats – from Hello Kitty and Doraemon to maneki neko figurines and cat cafes – have been used to drum up business. Last summer, 3,000 mourners attended the funeral of Tama the cat, whose 2007 appointment as honorary stationmaster at a railway station in western Japan was credited with saving the line from financial ruin.

www.theguardian.com/world/2016



Trendy Tabby Gary Sports Goatee



The seven-year-old moggy has even been nicknamed Heisenpurr - a reference to the ‘Breaking Bad’ character Heisenpurr who also sports a goatee. Owner Charlene Dahilig has owned Gary since he was three-weeks-old and he wandered into her backyard in Sacramento, California.

Charlene said: ‘Everyone who sees Gary comments on his impressive beard. I noticed it from the first time I spotted him in our back garden. It stood out as I'd never seen anything like it before. He's always had his defined goatee, even when he was a tiny kitten. To me he looks like Heisenberg from Breaking Bad.’ Charlene said: ‘His wide range of expressions make for great photos. He may look sarcastic and moody, but in reality he is the sweetest, most loving cat I have ever had. He greets us at the door, cuddles constantly, and loves all people, especially kids. He does some unusual things, such as drinking from the garden hose and wearing hats for photos. He is the cat of a lifetime’

mirror.co.uk, 2015, D. Aspinall & T. Johnson. Photo caters

To understand a cat, you must realize that he has his own gifts, his own viewpoint, even his own morality.

Lillian Jackson Braun.

'Working Cats' Program Gives Hard-to-Adapt Felines Jobs

Not long ago, Inky the cat was so angry and frightened that the only way his rescuers at BARCS could handle him was by trapping the 4-year-old black cat with a net. Then Inky got a job doing pest control through the 'Working Cat' program run by the Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter Inc. and almost overnight, his outlook on life reversed 180 degrees.

'The first day that BARCS brought Inky to us, he was hissing and really unhappy,' said Tom Foster, the co-founder of Diamondback Brewing Co. and Inky's 'employer.' 'I thought, Oh, I don't know if this is going to work out. But, then he got here and it was like a switch went off. I don't think he's hissed once since that day. He's gotten extremely friendly. He'll let me pick him up, and he'll jump on my lap when he wants to be petted.'

Inky is just one of the more than 100 success stories of a BARCS program that places difficult-to-adopt cats on farms, at warehouses, in nurseries, and in other commercial settings.

Starting in 2012, BARCS began a small version of what then was called its Barn Cat program. Organizers reasoned that some cats weren't meant to be pets but would be happy living a life with minimal human contact in which they nonetheless provided a useful service - rodent control. Meanwhile, humans in need of said service would provide the animals with food, shelter and medical care.



'Some cats can't be placed in a home,' said Bailey Deacon, BARCS' director of communications. 'Some won't use a litter box. Others are feral and haven't been socialized. Some get over-stimulated and the only outlet they have for their energies is by hunting humans.' Inky, for instance, came from a house where refuse was piled floor to ceiling, Deacon said. He'd lash out with his claws and teeth at any human who came near. BARCS' staff kept Inky under observation for a long time, waiting to see if his attitude would change. When it didn't, they thought he might be a candidate for alternative placement.

As part of the program, BARCS donates the cat, spays or neuters the animal for free and surgically implants an identifying microchip. The shelter even delivers the feline to its new home.

The Barn Cat program operated on a relatively small scale for four years, Deacon said, placing about two dozen cats at area businesses. But in 2016, BARCS received a six-figure grant from the Petco Foundation that, among other things, allowed it to hire a full-time staff member to run the rebranded Working Cat program. Since Amber Ketchum took the job at BARCS last December, Deacon said, she has placed more than 90 cats at area businesses and is well on her way to exceeding her 2017 goal of more than 100 placements. 'This is truly a life-saving program,' Deacon said. 'There was no other option for these cats. They would have sat and sat and sat and never been able to find a home. And the program has freed up cage space so we can place more indoor cats with families.'

Foster and his business partner, Colin Marshall, agreed to adopt Inky last winter because they wanted to give natural rodent control a try. They didn't want to use chemical controls in a building where they were making a beverage for people to drink, but found that traditional traps baited with peanut butter or cheese were ineffective. So when BARCS got in touch to suggest that the brewery adopt a cat, Foster and Marshall were willing to give Inky a try.

Within days of his arrival, Inky had dispatched half a dozen mice and the Brewery's rodent problem was a thing of the past. Perhaps because he finally was out of his cage and in a place where he was cared for and felt secure, Inky quickly became attached to the two men. And vice-versa. 'We haven't had a single mouse problem since Inky came,' Foster said. 'His main job now is keeping us company and supervising our work.'

M.C. McCauley, baltimoresun.com, October 2017, photo Karl Ferron/Baltimore Sun



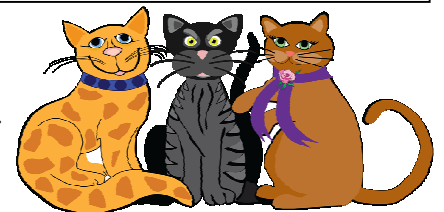
The dog may be wonderful prose, but only the cat is poetry. - French Proverb

Does Colour Influence The Personality Of A Cat?

Most owners recognize their special cats have a distinct cat personality. But are there behavior differences between a black cat and an orange kitty? Some surveys say cat color matters, though most reputable researchers say otherwise. On the other hand, cat breeds (Siamese, Russian Blue, and so forth) really do have personality types.

Perception Versus Reality - Most household cats come in a wide range of colors and patterns but share a common ancestry. In other words, a single litter can easily include a black, orange, and calico kitten. These siblings are likely to have a good deal in common, fur colour notwithstanding.

But that doesn't stop people from believing that cat color influences personality. For example, one survey indicates black cats more easily tolerate crowding and indoor living than tabby-pattern kitties. Owners of calico kitties say that they're 'different' with c'attitude-plus compared to other color cats. The 'red' color was another early mutation, so this gene could be associated more closely with the personality of the earliest domesticated cats. A study of 84 British Shorthair kittens revealed that red, cream or tortoiseshell kittens (with the 'red' gene) threw fits and struggled to escape for longer periods when handled by unfamiliar people, compared to kittens of other colors.



Continued on next page

Impact of Perception on Cats' Lives - While it's unlikely that color alone has much of an impact on cat personality, peoples' beliefs have a strong impact on how they choose and care for their cats.

A study described on the UC Berkeley site discovered that: 'Overall, orange cats and bi-coloured cats were characterized as friendly, while black cats, white cats and tri-coloured cats were regarded as more antisocial. White cats were considered to be more shy, lazy and calm, while tortoiseshell cats were more likely to be depicted as both more intolerant and more trainable. Black cats were typified as having less extreme character traits, which might contribute to their mysterious reputation.' Whether these characteristics have much truth to them or not, though, according to the Smithsonian, 'A 2002 study in the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, for example, found that black cats and brown cats were the least likely to be adopted. Dark cats were also more likely to be euthanized. And despite there being little genetic evidence that the genes that guide the colouring and patterning on a cat's coat also influence its behaviour, the study found that people frequently believed that tortoiseshells had too much attitude (or 'tortitude'), which may explain why they don't get adopted quickly or get returned to the shelter.'

Impact of Cat Breeds on Personality - Unlike color, cat breeds really do make a difference in a pet's personality. For example, Ragdoll cats are almost universally placid as are Ragamuffins and Persians. The Egyptian Mau, on the other hand, is generally active and athletic. As pedigreed cats are much more expensive than 'mutts' available in shelters, it's important to research you prospective pet before making a purchase.

Picking Personality with Color - Breeding won't be an issue with spayed and neutered pet cats. But if coat color can help predict temperament and tolerance, that could be an important consideration when choosing a new cat companion. Tolerance of crowding and friendliness toward other cats is particularly important when adding to your existing cat family.

www.thespruce.com

Health - Ringworm: A Serious but Readily Treatable Affliction



Ringworm (feline dermatophytosis) is among the most frequently occurring skin disorders affecting the worldwide cat population. Despite its name, it is a fungal infection having nothing at all to do with worms. And the only thing it has to do with rings is the circular area of itchy rash that typically - but not necessarily - will appear on the skin of an infected animal. The fungi responsible for the condition are called dermatophytes, microscopic organisms that originate in soil but can flourish as parasites beyond their home environment. Once entrenched in a host's body, the fungi thrive by

digesting keratin, a protein substance that is the main structural component of hair and nails. As they consume the keratin, the microscopically small fungi reproduce rapidly, creating millions of single-cell reproductive bodies (spores) that are capable of developing into new microorganisms.

When the dermatophytes come into contact with healthy feline tissue, several different phenomena may occur: they may be brushed off by a meticulously self-grooming cat; they may lose out in competition with more robust microorganisms and eventually disappear; they may establish residence on the skin without causing any adverse reactions; or, worst case, they may settle in droves on the animal's skin and cause dermatitis - an inflammatory disease that can manifest itself in a variety of unpleasant ways.

Ringworm in an otherwise healthy cat will probably self-resolve over time. Nevertheless, Feline ringworm is not something that you want to take lightly. If it does go away without treatment, the process will typically take anywhere from nine months to a year, during which time the animal's hair will keep falling out and its bare skin will be exposed. This can increase the animal's risk of skin wounds and subsequent infection. Moreover, ringworm is a zoonotic disease - it can be passed from an infected cat to a human who comes in contact with it. Thus, the condition can pose a significant threat to people as well as to cats.

The clearest and most common clinical signs of feline ringworm include the following: circular areas of hair loss, broken and stubby hair, scaling or crusty skin, alterations in hair or skin colour, inflamed areas of skin, excessive grooming and scratching, infected claws or nail beds, and dandruff.

If ringworm is suspected, a veterinarian will first attempt to exclude the presence of other dermatologic conditions that the infection may resemble, such as flea allergy. Toward this goal, the veterinarian may examine the cat's coat with a Wood's lamp - an ultraviolet light under which a fungus-coated hair will glow with a yellowish-green colour. The hairs that fluoresce in this manner are then examined microscopically for specific spores and other fungal characteristics.

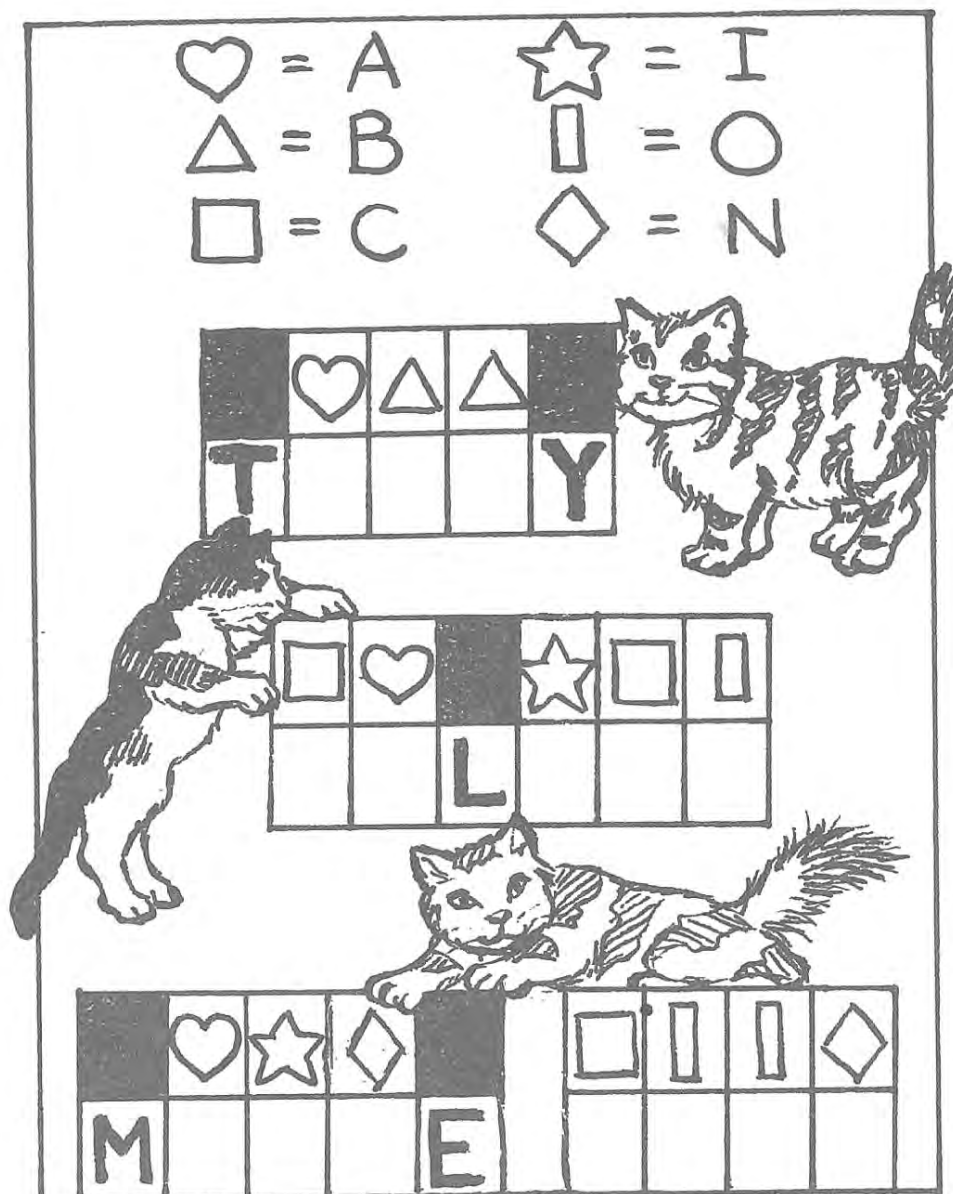
If ringworm is diagnosed, treatment will typically involve the application of topical antifungal medications to all infected areas and, in most cases, a systemic medication as well. If the lesions are present in many areas of a cat's skin, a full-body rinse or dip may be used. It will take at least six weeks or so of repeated treatments to completely cure a feline ringworm infection and maybe a whole lot longer in some cases.

From The Royal Thai Cat Club Newsletter, Australia





KIT'S KORNER



Three types of cats are given in the puzzle. Use the shape code at the top to write the letters in the puzzle and spell the type.

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 ~~CAT~~WALK. Special thanks to Janet Campari, from the Royal Thai Cat Club in Australia, for her help and sharing articles from their club's newsletters. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending them in.
Karen & Gloria ^..^

New York Cat Film Festival

Don't expect a big, scene-stealing role for Grumpy Cat, the pet whose scowling face launched a thousand internet memes. Or for Lil Bub, Maru or those many other YouTube feline celebrities.

The first NY Cat Film Festival is very much its own animal. Tracie Hotchner, the festival's founder, regards online pet videos with about as much enthusiasm as a cat might display for a week-old untended litter box. 'I find that their intention is mostly to laugh at, and make fun of, the animals,' she said in a telephone interview. Her festival, which debuted at the SVA Theater in Manhattan last December, features two programs of short films, ranging in length from two minutes to nearly an hour. They are made, she said, 'with intelligence. The intention, Ms. Hotchner added, 'is to illuminate who cats are and how they fit into our world. And that illumination is not about cuteness.'

A Vermont author and public-radio host, Ms. Hotchner started the popular NY Dog Film Festival in 2015. (It follows on Sunday.) But with all due respect to man's best friend, this year's cat festival tickets have been outselling their canine counterparts three to one, even though, as the title of the first cat program says, 'Nobody Owns a Cat.' Witness the hostile customers in Sean Skelton's 'Pure Fluff.' Made several years ago, it follows Howard Bedor, a professional cat groomer, on his Manhattan house calls. (Mr. Bedor has since died.)

This is not to say that the festival's 12 films stint on tenderness. Lava Sheets's autobiographical documentary, 'Rescue,' focuses on a sweet-natured pet consoling a disabled owner, while Ian Christopher Goodman's autobiographical documentary, 'Akamatsu the Cat,' focuses on a sweet-natured owner consoling a disabled pet.

The festival's true stars, however, don't live in anyone's home. Sheila Gail O'Rourke's 'Jetty Cats' gives a historical overview of animal rights while documenting its title subjects, feral and abandoned cats occupying a Southern California jetty. The film examines the T.N.R. (Trap, Neuter, Return) movement, which aims to catch and neuter such animals and rerelease them.

That practice has fueled debate, and another documentary, 'Guardians of Recoleta,' by Blake and Adrienne Kuhre, explores an alternative. The film looks at feral cats in Buenos Aires, particularly the doted-on 'guardians' of a major tourist attraction, the Recoleta Cemetery. Well-meaning Americans take some of the cats to Chicago, converting them to indoor pets, with decidedly mixed results. 'These cats had hundreds, if not thousands, of people interacting with them, and they're now sort of under house arrest,' Mr. Kuhre said in a phone interview. 'They're not exposed to the elements, but is their quality of life better?'



Ian Christopher Goodman's
'Akamatsu the Cat,'



Sheila Gail O'Rourke's 'Jetty Cats' - Credit S. G. O'Rourke

beautiful thing.'

Of course, films about animals are often films about people, too. One of the few fictional films, Graceann Dorse's 'Portrait of a Cat Fighter,' imagines a new career for a silver-haired, mahjongg-playing female retiree: running a cat-fighting ring. The 'fighters,' however, stare at each other with scornful boredom, then leave.

And though the stereotype of the 'crazy cat lady' still thrives, you'll also find cat men. Kim Best's "Little Works of Art," which gives the second festival program its title, profiles Harold Sims, founder of the American Museum of the House Cat in Sylva, North Carolina, who describes cats as 'little works of art with feet.'

After this weekend, the festival will tour the country, with part of the sales at each site benefiting a local animal welfare organization. (In New York, it's the NYC Feral Cat Initiative.) That gives other opportunities to anyone who can't see the films on Saturday. As Ms. Hotchner put it, 'Cat people will go anywhere to be catified.'

L. Craeberdec, nytimes.com