

# The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2019

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



# The Scratching Post



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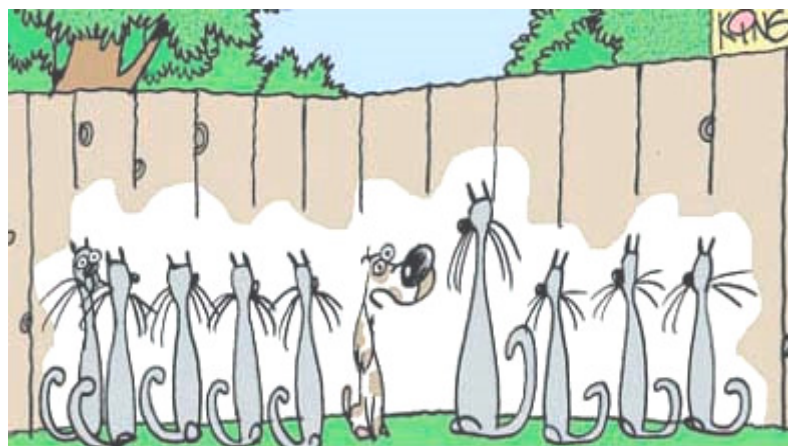
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## SABCCI Committee

Ronnie Brooks, Dionne Dixon, Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir, Aedamair Kiely,  
Norman O’Galligan, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Lorna Taylor, Aimee Weldon  
Membership Secretary - Betty Dobbs



‘Mom, am I Adopted?’

## Black Cat

A cat as black  
As blackest coal  
Is out upon His midnight stroll,  
His steps are soft,  
His walk is slow,  
His eyes are gold,  
They flash and glow,  
And so I run  
And so I duck,  
I do not need His black-cat luck.



Author Unknown

## Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2019 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Blueberry Ginger and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

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

### A Date For Your Diary

## The GCCFI Supreme Cat Show

Sunday the 7th of April

Ballinteer Community School, Broadford Road, Ballinteer, Dublin 16

Open to the Public 12:00 to 5:00

Best In Show 4:00 onwards



## The GCCFI At The Dublin Cat Fair 2018



The Dublin Cat Fair, now in its second year, is a full day of lectures by cat experts on various subjects. This year's subjects covered from grooming, cat nutrition, cat transport, TNR and Caring for a cat with Chronic Kidney Disease plus more. There were also stalls marketing cat products and services.

The GCCFI had a stall at the Fair to promote the GCCFI, affiliated clubs and cat shows in Ireland. Forms, information sheets, posters depicting cat shows and club flyers were on the stall for the public. Various queries at the stall ranged from 'who is the GCCFI?', cat shows and registration of imported cats. The stall was manned by Lorna Taylor and Gloria Hehir.

An interesting day and well worth being there for public awareness.

## Preparing For Brexit - Pet Travel

If you are planning travel to and from the UK go into the Government website link  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie/brexit/preparingforbrexit/pettravel/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/brexit/preparingforbrexit/pettravel/)

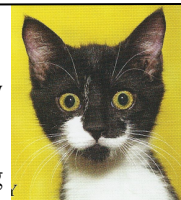
There is information on 3 travel scenarios:

- ⇒ Scenario 1: travelling to Great Britain (GB) on holidays with your pet and returning to Ireland
- ⇒ Scenario 2: travelling from GB to Ireland with your pet
- ⇒ Scenario 3: moving to GB with your pet and not returning to Ireland



## How To Prepare For A New Cat

- ◆ Leave your underwear on the living room floor, because that's where the cat will drag it anyway (especially when you have company)
- ◆ Jump out of your chair shortly before the end of your favourite TV program and run to the TV shouting 'No! No! Don't chew on the electric cord!' Miss the end of the program.
- ◆ Buy a mixed bag of cat toys and stuff them under the refrigerator. Practice getting up at 2.00am and fishing them out



## The Rainbow Bridge



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

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### Teddy (Cassiobury Sadlers Wells) 2000 - 2018

Teddy left home to go to be a stud in Wales. He sired many prize winning kittens and came back to Ireland aged 12 to rehome. He still managed to sire some beautiful babies.

He was the sweetheart and best boy you could want to meet. He was my friend and I loved him like mad.

Thank you for being you, Teddy.

Veronica Brooks



### Tiggy 2007 - 2018



Tiggy was the sweetest cat we've ever had. His partner Rocky misses him, I try to give her lots of TLC and have her on my bed at night.

Tiggy was about 11 years old. He was from Thailand, as is his partner, Rocky. The two were inseparable. We brought them to Ireland in 2012.

He won lots of cat shows in the Non-Pedigree section including the Supreme.

Tiggy is very sadly and greatly missed.

Norman & Anita O'Galligan

### Chikara (Tara Gr Pr & Tara CC Aldebiz Ginchikara) 2005 - 2019

Chikara was my second dumb blonde.  
Totally adorable and terribly missed.

Karen Sluiters



### Burbonne (Tara Gr Pr Aldebiz Y Too Kay) 1999 - 2019



A legend in your own quiet way  
Our lovely girl has gone to stay  
At Rainbow Bridge, until the day  
When we unite to love and play  
Forever

Martin & Gloria Hehir



## The Pedigree - The Tonkinese

The Tonkinese is produced from cross breeding between the Siamese and Burmese. They share characteristics of both breeds. The breed has been recognized in various periods and locales. They are believed to have been one of the breeds in the 'Cat Book Poems of Siam' written between the 14th and 16th centuries.

This breed is a medium sized cat which is neither cobby nor svelte but amazingly heavy for their size. The body is solid and muscular, legs slim with oval paws. The hind legs are slightly shorter than the front. The tails are slender.

They have a wedged shaped head with medium size ears that are broad at base with an oval tip. The eyes are shaped like a peach pit with colours ranging from green to light blue. Their coat is short, close lying, silky and soft.

Tonkinese come in 3 patterns - solid (like Burmese), pointed (like Siamese) and mink which is a combination of the first two. Their colours are seal, chocolate, lilac, red, cream, tortoiseshell, cinnamon and fawn.

Like their parent breeds the Tonkinese is intelligent, active, inquisitive, quiet vocal and people orientated. They can be taught tricks and need toys and games to amuse them. Their voice is closer to the tone of a Burmese which is softer and sweeter than the Siamese. Tonkinese get on with other cats, cat friendly dogs and children.



## The Cat Brain

Most people believe the brain is the centre of intelligence. In terms of size, the brain of the cat accounts for approximately 0.9 percent of its body mass, compared to about 2 percent in an average human and about 1.2 percent in an average dog. Though the brain of a cat is comparatively smaller than that of other species, relative brain size isn't always the best indicator of intelligent.

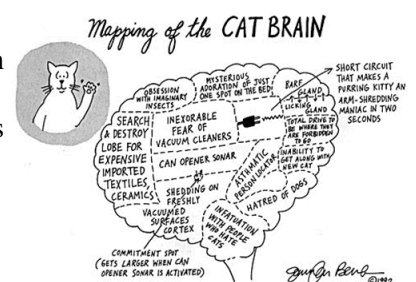


### The Cat Brain: A Look Inside

Both human and feline brains are gyrencephalic, i.e. they have a surface folding. The brains of cats have a surface folding and structure that is very similar to that of the human brain, about 90 percent similar to be more exact. It appears that surface folding and brain structure matter more than brain size. Morphologically, both cat brains and human brains have cerebral cortices with similar lobes.

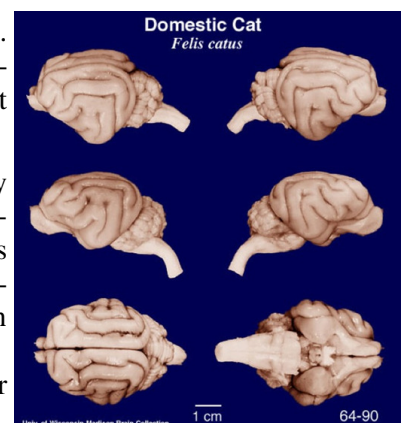
The cerebral cortex is the area of the brain responsible for thinking and rational decision-making. Cats' cerebral cortices are much more complex than those of dogs, with almost 300 million nerve cells compared to about 160 million in the dog. The number of cortical neurons contained in the brain of the cat is reported to be 763 million. Area 17 is the primary visual cortex was found to contain about 51,400 neurons per mm<sup>3</sup>.

Analyses of cat brains have shown they are divided into many areas with specialized tasks that are extremely interconnected and share sensory information in a kind of hub-and-spoke network, with a large number of specialized hubs and many alternative paths between them. This exchange of sensory information allows the brain to construct a complex perception of the real world and to react to and manipulate its environment.



Further, a cat's brain is separated into different areas that each perform specialized tasks. These areas are all interconnected and can easily and rapidly share information. This exchange of information gives your cat a valuable perception of his surrounding environment and allows him to react to and even manipulate his environment.

Taken as a whole, cats have excellent memories.<sup>[60]</sup> In experimental conditions, the memory of a cat was demonstrated as having an information-retention or recall, of a duration totalling as much as 10 years.<sup>[61]</sup> However, relationships with humans, individual differences in intelligence, and age may all affect memory. Cats easily adapt to their current environment because they can adapt their memories of past environments throughout their lives. In controlled experiments, cats showed that they had fully developed concepts of object permanence, meaning that sensorimotor intelligence is completely developed in cats. For human infants, tests involving multiple invisible displacements of an object are used to assess the beginning of mental representation in the sixth and last stage of (contd)



sensorimotor intelligence. The cats' searches on these tasks were consistent with representation of an undetected object and fully developed sensorimotor intelligence. The working memory for object permanence of the domesticated cat is surmised from experiment as being of 16 hours, whereas dogs' lasted a few minutes.

## Age

Cats are living much longer these days, thanks to improvements in nutrition, disease prevention and veterinary care. With this advanced age, however, comes similar problems encountered in human medicine, including certain cancers, osteoarthritis, organ decline and neuropathologic degeneration. All mammals experience a version of degeneration of the nervous system, with Alzheimer's disease being the most commonly encountered in humans. Our companion animals also experience cognitive changes as they age. These cognitive changes seen in dogs and cats are similar in both manifestation and pathophysiology to humans with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, and the condition is termed cognitive dysfunction syndrome (CDS). The symptoms associated with CDS, especially early in onset, can be very subtle. Often owners fail to even mention them to their veterinarian, deeming them a normal part of the ageing process. In a study on cats 11 years of age and older, 35% had at least one clinical sign consistent with cognitive decline with no detectable health concerns.

The symptoms associated with CDS can be remembered using the acronym "DISHA"; Disorientation, social Interaction changes, Sleep/wake cycle disturbance, House soiling, and changes in Activity and increased Anxiety. Other symptoms may include decrease in hygiene and grooming, changes in appetite, decreased response to external stimuli and decline in memory or learning capabilities.

## Symptoms Disorientation

Disorientation can manifest in numerous ways. One of the most common signs reported is the dog standing at the wrong side of the door when asking to go out. Owners may witness their pets walking towards solid objects such as furniture or tables, and appearing not to know how to maneuver around the object. Some cats will walk into a corner and then are unable to turn around. Owners often describe this as 'head-pressing' since the pet cannot seemingly turn and will press their head against the wall or in the corner since they cannot figure out what else to do.

Treatment: Treatment of CDS in both dogs and cats is difficult at best. Just like with human cognitive decline, the process cannot be reversed or cured. However, the goal is to improve the welfare of the pet by intervention focused on relieving the anxiety, slowing the disease process if possible, and supporting cognitive function. If other underlying medical or behavioural problems are also present, those must be treated concurrently with treatment for CDS. The combination of fish oil, B vitamins, antioxidants, and arginine has significant cognitive performance benefits and may slow age-related decline in cognitive function in normal middle-aged and older cats.

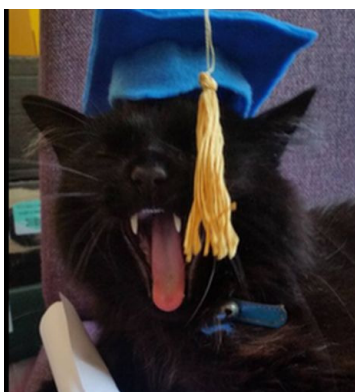
Jim Stephens MS.CABC, Companion Animal Behaviour Counsellor, [www.petsbehave.com](http://www.petsbehave.com)

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## Dennis - The University of Buckingham's Campus Cat



Dennis the cat is so popular among students and staff at the University of Buckingham, he now has an active social media following.

The six-year-old moggie sits in on lectures and is often found in the university's library and halls, a spokesperson said.

He has even won the heart of the vice chancellor, Sir Anthony Seldon.

Owners Sophie and Neil Barlow - who live next to the university - are compiling anecdotes of Dennis's exploits for a book.

The faithful feline was rescued as a stray in London at the age of three months but over the years has adjusted well to university life - flitting between departments for extra food and tickles 'Six months after we moved to Buckingham he started disappearing for a day here and a day there,' Mrs Barlow said. 'We soon learnt that we didn't need to worry.'

A Facebook page set up in his honour has attracted about 400 followers. The page includes images of Dennis perched on chairs and tables in staff offices, snooping around the halls of residence and languishing in the car park.

Fans also clubbed together to pay his vets' bills when he recently fell ill, the page revealed. Sir Anthony said Dennis was 'a force of positivity' with students and a-cat-demics alike, boosting mental health. Research has shown that petting cats and dogs can help relieve stress,' he said. 'There are no shortage of students and staff willing to brighten up their day by tickling his tummy or giving him a friendly stroke. I am thinking of making him Professor of Feline Studies.'

Psychology student Sophie Hughes said: 'He's absolutely lovely. Everyone knows of Dennis, everybody loves him - and he's a very spoiled cat.'

[www.bbc.com/news](http://www.bbc.com/news), photo University of Buckingham

# The Quiz

1. Which of these cats has a "ticked coat"?

- A.. Manx
- B. Abyssinian
- C. La Perm
- D. Persian

2. What is the name of the cat that was left £9m by his reclusive British owner in 1988?

- A, Paws
- B. Blackie
- C. Tubbs
- D. Marmalade

3. By what other name are Pumas known?

- A. Mountain Lion
- B. Cougar
- C. Florida Panther
- D. All of these

4. What is the Latin name of the domestic cat?

- A. Feline catus
- B. Felis catus
- C. Felix catus
- D. Canis felinus

5. What colour is a Maltese cat?

- A. Black
- B. Grey
- C. Gold
- D. Tabby

6. How fast can a domestic cat run? Up to

- A. 10mph
- B. 20mph
- C. 30mph
- D. 40mph

Answers on page 16

triviachamp.com & Battersea



## Things you Can Learn From Your Cat

- When you are hungry, meow loudly so they feed you just to shut you up.
- Nap often.
- Curiosity never killed anything except maybe a few hours.

## Where Did It Come From - A Clowder Of Cats

There is a 15th century reference to clouder and later clowder in a book of St Alban. It meant a variety of things but mainly a crowd, or cluster, clotting, coagulating. It appears to be a word which predates the Mayflower pilgrims who sailed from Plymouth by a couple of hundred years.

www.xmission.com

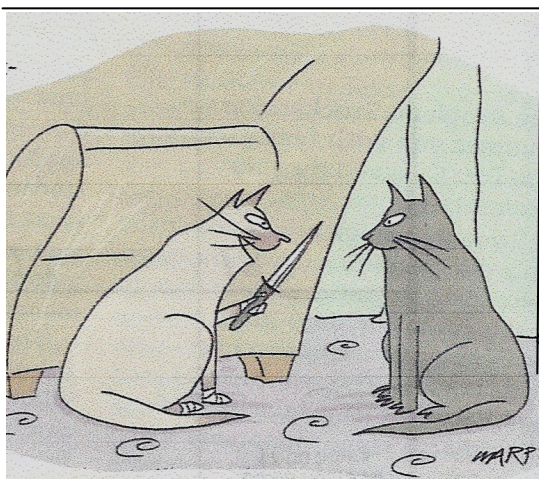


## Positions Wanted

Reformed juvenile delinquent seeks position with understanding family. No longer bites unless meals are late. Suitable replacement for guard dog.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tortoiseshell sisters seek large cat basket, sleeps 2 in well appointed location with en-suite, gas fire. Fully-qualified lap-warmer/purrer, willing to occupy laps on job-share basis. No mousing.



'They got my claws but they missed this!'

**A** kitten is in the animal world what a rosebud is in a garden.

British poet Robert Southey



# 2018 (SABCCI 65th) Dublin Championship Cat Show (SABCCI Championship & GCCFI Regional)

Knocklyon Community Centre, Knocklyon, Dublin

21th October 2018

## Best of Variety

### Persian

Adult Craig's GR CH GRASHOPPERS LOVE AND KISSES (Persian) F  
Kitten Kelleher's SHEERBLISS MY LAGAN LOVE (Exotic) FN  
Neuter Guilfoyle's INT PR SHEERBLISS PRECIOUS MEMORY (Exotic) FN

**Overall** - Guilfoyle's INT PR SHEERBLISS PRECIOUS MEMORY (Exotic) FN

### SLH

Adult Wagner's ISHCUS FRANKLIN D (Maine Coon) M  
Kitten Tanner-Mason's KAMASAKI CHAI LATTE (Birman) F  
Neuter Murphy's PR KAMASAKI SASHA SWEETDREAMS (Birman) FN

**Overall** - Murphy's PR KAMASAKI SASHA SWEETDREAMS (Birman) FN

### British

Adult Dealey's ALIMURS BOOMER (Lilac) M  
Kitten McCoy's IREJULSH EMELIA (Lilac) F  
Neuter Duffy's ASTRALCHARM BLACK PANTHER (Black) MN

**Overall** - McCoy's IREJULSH EMELIA (Lilac) F

### Foreign

Adult Zmetnaja's QUMI FUNNY ELF (Devon Rex) M  
Neuter Harte's PR BARGELLO MASARATI OF STANREX (Devon Rex)

**Overall** - Harte's PR BARGELLO MASARATI OF STANREX (Devon Rex)

### Burmese

Adult O'Sullivan's SLIABH KENDELL (Brown) F  
Kitten McCrea & Szigeti's SLIABH BUNI NINYA (Brown) F  
Neuter Sluiter's GR PR ALDEBIZ MANEKI HOSHI (Choc Tortie) FN

**Overall** - McCrea & Szigeti's SLIABH BUNI NINYA (Brown) F

## Overall Best In Show

McCrea & Szigeti's SLIABH BUNI NINYA (Brown Burmese kitten)

## Reserve Best in Show

McCoy's IREJULSH EMELIA (British Lilac kitten)

## Best In Show Household Pet

Non Pedigree Howard's PEARL (SH Silver Tabby) F Kitten  
Pedigree Pet O'Callaghan's MAXIMUS (LH Ginger & White) MN





## UK - New All-Party Parliamentary Group Puts Cat Welfare On The Political Agenda

Cats are the topic of the day in Westminster following the launch of the first All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) dedicated to improving feline welfare.

The first meeting of the new group took place at Westminster on Tuesday 6 March 2018. The group is made up of MPs and Peers with the support of two of the UK's leading animal welfare charities - Cats Protection and Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.

The APPG on Cats (APGOCATS) will discuss feline welfare and how to tackle key cat issues both in parliament and in society more widely. The group will be looking to propose solutions to a range of problems facing cats, such as toxins contained in antifreeze and laws on air guns, as well as highlighting the benefits of owning a cat to combat loneliness.

Maria Caulfield MP was elected Chair at the meeting, said: 'As a cat owner myself, I'm very pleased to have been elected Chair of a group which recognises the important role cats play in many people's lives, and which will work to better protect the needs of both cats and their owners. Cats are wonderful animals and provide much love, support and companionship to a wide range of people, from young families to elderly people living on their own.'

Cats Protection's Head of Advocacy & Government Relations Jacqui Cuff said: 'Cats are one of the nation's most popular pets, and their welfare is of huge importance to millions of owners. Yet despite their popularity, cats all too often suffer from a lack of specific legislation to protect them. Where legislation does exist, there are often enforcement and prosecution issues, which need to be addressed. Cats Protection's ten-point Manifesto for Cats, launched ahead of the 2015 election, has received great cross-party support from politicians, yet there is still much to be done to ensure cats are protected. It's entirely right cats are now going to have their own group in parliament to put a spotlight on feline welfare issues. We're excited to work with this group as it strives to improve the lives of cats in the UK, something which will also be greatly welcomed by millions of animal lovers.'

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home's Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Michael Webb, said: 'As one of the UK's leading animal welfare charities, we're ready to start work with politicians and other charities to raise the profile of issues affecting cats, who are loved in their millions across the country. We know from our work with MPs, including the Battersea's annual Purr Minister competition, that there is a real passion for cats in Parliament. We therefore fully support the creation of APGOCATS which will be dedicated to tackling matters affecting feline welfare.'

[www.cats.org.uk/news](http://www.cats.org.uk/news)



### Plants With Feline Names

**Scardey - Cat** - *Plectranthus caninus*, sometimes sold as *Coleus canina*, has a smell that cats, as well as dogs, hate. Although, like catnip, it doesn't necessarily work on all cats.

**Lion's Tooth** (from the French 'Dent de lion') known as Dandelion. The Cat's Ear plant, also known as the 'False Dandelion', has soft haired leaves hence giving it its name.

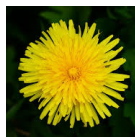
**Cat's Whisker** - owes its name to the four striking very long stamens, which stick out, looking like a cat's whiskers sticking out from the flowers lip.

**Lion's Tail** - This erect shrub with dazzling orange flowers resembles a Lion's tail.

**Tiger Claw** - It is known as cat's claw or *uña de gato* in Spanish because of its claw-shaped thorns



Scardey - Cat



Lion's Tooth  
(Dandelion)



Cat's Ear  
(False Dandelion)



Cat's Whisker



Lion's Tail



Tiger Claw



Cat.alphs.pl

### Rules For Cat Lovers

The cat is not allowed in the house.

OK, the cat is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.

OK, the cat is allowed in all rooms, but must stay off the furniture.

The cat can get on the old furniture only.

Fine, the cat is allowed on all the furniture, but it is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.

The cat can sleep on the bed, but not under the covers or on the pillow.

OK, The cat can sleep under the covers and on the pillow by invitation only.

Well, ok, the cat can sleep under the covers every night and on the pillow too.

Humans must ask permission to sleep under the cover with the cat; only the cat can sleep on the pillow.

# The Catwalk



**Surya -**

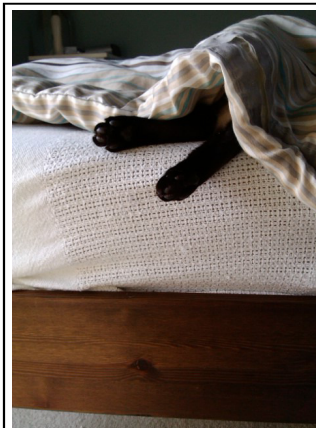
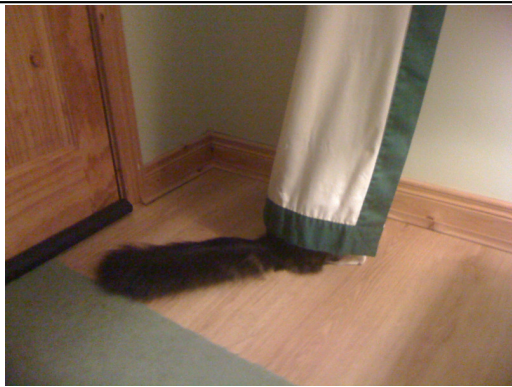
Who just passed by  
and woke me up?

S. Teti, USA

**Bosco -**

They'll never find me here!

V. Brooks, Carlow



**Gabby -**

They won't find me  
either.

T. Byrne, Dublin



**MooGoo -**

Look at me! I'm a  
snake with a tail (can  
you see my tail?)

G. Hehir, Dublin

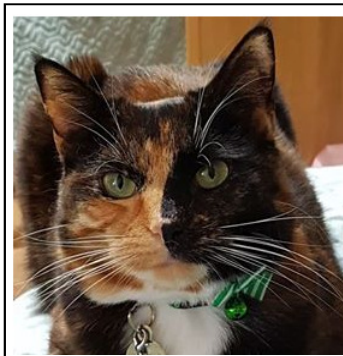
# The Catwalk



## Scotter -

Are you looking for me, me?  
Go away.

K. Sluifers, Dublin



## Ruby Button -

'Kiss me I'm Irish'  
In her St Patrick Day Collar

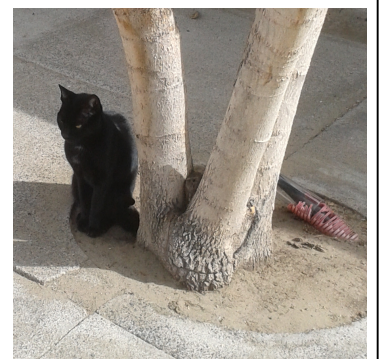
G. Hughes, Dublin



## Maria -

Real or street furniture?

J. Gracia, Spain



## Mac -

I'm on a mission!

V. Reynolds, Dublin

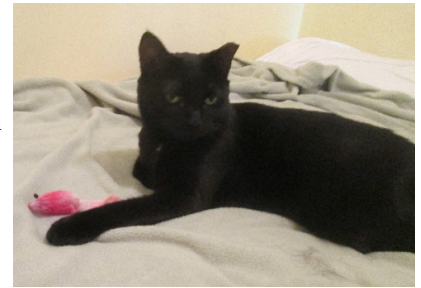




## Pip - Started Life In New York City

Pip is the best cat, and very like a dog in how she used to guard the house when she was more active, prowling when the foxes would be in the garden and growling at them through the glass!

She is from a long line of cats that came from Chinatown in New York City and ended up in a particular wholesale fruit and veg store on Delancey St, where her two cousins, 'the brothers' now live and my friend Paula checks on them weekly.



She had been living in this basement when my neighbour in the building I was living in nearby on Mulberry St spotted tuxedo kittens running up and down the basement stairs to the street. He knew I was involved with Kittykind and told me about them. I went over with a couple of the others from the group and we got the kittens out and adopted, at the owners wishes.

There were five adults there, all feral I was told, along with 'grandma and grandpa' cat who were friendly and their pets. Grandma had pride of place in the office upstairs by the heater and grandpa lived on the roof of the building. We agreed to get the five basement ferals neutered. It was the strangest thing because on trapping four, all feral, Pip was the fifth to run in actually to a large carrier as she was being chased by one of the others, and in the taxi to the vet she started to head-butt me through the bars and purr as if she was so grateful to be out of there! They had all had the same life up until then but Pip was friendly.

On bringing the other four back, the owner informed me that he didn't want them and I had to take them all back to my apartment and set them up in crates. Thankfully I found feral placement for all four in different locations. One of them was a tiny mini Pip and the most feral cat I've ever known. When she was in the crate I almost couldn't feed her for fear!

Hard to believe that was 18 years ago! The photo is of her from a couple of years ago just before we left New York. She hasn't changed at all, still the elegance and poise.

Emily Abrahamson

Emily has 10 years experience as a board member of a non-profit cat rescue and adoption group in New York City doing adoptions and intake and 20 years in rescue. Emily returned to her native Ireland some years ago (with Pip and her other rescue cats) continues to do rescue work.



## The Visitor - Arthur's Story

I saw a black cat from the corner of my eye at the end of the garden for a couple of days and called for him from the kitchen door, opening a tin of cat food to see if he would approach. Eventually he did, but he didn't want to be pet or come inside. He ate hastily, stayed in the garden for a while and then disappeared, and soon this became his ritual. He was a tall black cat, elegant, with a soulful yet guarded look about him like he had been through a lot but remembered better times. Soon with our regular morning feeding schedule he let me pet him and then would venture inside to the kitchen where he'd hastily eat and be eager to exit. This then progressed to him coming inside and walking to the living room where he'd play with the catnip banana that's a big favourite with my own cats. He'd roll around with it for around two to three minutes before leaving. I felt like he wanted to stay inside but knew it wasn't his home and it started to become clear that he didn't have one. What was his story? I called him The Visitor.

I got him into a carrier and to the vet's to be scanned to see if by any chance he had a microchip. Working in rescue in America this was ingrained as something that should be done for any cat that shows up or is found. I presumed he wouldn't have one, and even if he did that he would have been abandoned, the chip traced to a disconnected number or someone who didn't want him. To my surprise he was, in fact, chipped - the vet's said that they couldn't trace the chip but that I had to contact Fido. I emailed Fido and two minutes later they emailed back and said the chip was implanted at the DSPCA clinic. I called them and they said they'd look up the number and call me back. Another two minutes later the woman from the DSPCA whose voice had been quite subdued on our first call sounded elated when she called back, saying 'Please call Janet - here is her number. She can't wait to hear from you. Her cat, Arthur, has been missing for four years!' When I spoke to Janet I think we were both as amazed as each other that Arthur was here! She lived no more than 25 minutes away by foot and Arthur had disappeared four years ago at the same time as a neighbour's cat. They put up flyers and searched for over a year and then as time progressed feared that they would never see him again. Where had he been for all this time? I think truly lost and trying to find his way back? Someone or maybe a group of people had been feeding him before he showed up in my garden and he'd survived as best he could.

Janet had his sister cat and best friend cat, Oskar, as well as two dogs - a true animal family where Arthur was so loved. That evening they picked him up and he went into his old carrier with no problem - he knew all his waiting had been worth it and he was finally found. That night Janet sent me a photo of him cuddling up in a giant cat bed with tuxedo Oskar - and guess what? Arthur has not wanted to go out since!



We must all remember for any cat that crosses our path that we don't know beyond a shadow of a doubt has a home, needs to get the vet to see if they have a microchip (and check if we think they have a home that they still do and their family haven't moved and left them) and for sure, we must microchip all of our own cats, and even if they don't go out remember they could get out by accident and it's the best way to keep them safe. I am so happy that Arthur is safe and home where he belongs.

Emily Abrahamson

## Larry of Downing Street Is Back In The News!

**Larry vs. Freya in Downing Street Fued**  
Downing Street has denied rumours of a feud between cats belonging to the chancellor and prime minister after they were pictured fighting. George Osborne's Freya was photographed slugging David Cameron's Larry with a nasty-looking left claw. The PM's spokeswoman insisted the two felines were able to "co-exist". She added that she would not "get into commenting on the adventures of our feline friends".  
Residents of Number 10 and 11 Downing Street have historically disagreed strongly over policy. Labour's Tony Blair and Gordon Brown were reportedly often left bawling the adventures of our feline friends. But Mr Osborne and Mr Cameron are thought to be among the more friendly prime minister-chancellor teams of recent decades. Freya went missing from the Osbornes' old home in Notting Hill, west London, for two years, her owners being identified when a vet found the details on a microchip. They were reunited last year.  
Perhaps handless by her time on the road, Freya has been drafted in for pest control duties, in an arrangement described by the Daily Mail as a "job-share to avoid hurting Larry's feelings".  
Justin Parkinson Political reporter, BBC News



The Scratching Post Spring 2013 issue had an article on The Cameron's rescue cat Larry saying 'Downing Street has denied rumours of a feud between cats belonging to the chancellor and prime minister after they were pictured fighting. George Osborne's Freya was photographed slugging David Cameron's Larry with a nasty-looking left claw, ' Article on the left.

Watching the news one night last November the news reporter was giving a Brexit update in front of number 10. In the background I saw a cat standing in front of number 10 wanting to get in. The next thing a policemen walked up and opened the door for cat.

Later a friend sent me the piece below from BBC.com/news. The cat was Larry.

### 'Downing Street's Larry The Cat Gets a Helping Hand From Police

Few will be enjoying the rain in London today, let alone Downing Street's chief mouser Larry the Cat. He was stuck outside on the steps of No.10 earlier, hoping someone would let him inside to dry off his fur. Thankfully, a police officer came to his aid...



## A Cat Just Walked The Catwalk In Turkey - & It's Glorious

Footage has emerged of the sassy feline strutting her stuff on the aptly named 'catwalk' during Esmond International Fashion Show in Istanbul, Turkey.



After footage of the feline was posted onto Instagram, it quickly went viral, with over 100,000 views: It's unclear where the feline came from, or how it got access to the exclusive event, but as soon it placed its best paw forward on the catwalk it enraptured the audience, calmly cleaning herself before launching attacks on passing models. When asked by The Dodo whether the cat had a future in fashion, designer Hakki Ali said: Maybe! Why not?

It waits to be seen whether the eye-catching kitten will be gracing the cover of next month's Vogue magazine, but judging by her purr-fect performance, it seems paw-sitively likely!

HT The Dodo Posted Nov 2018 by Lowenna Waters in discover. [www.indy100.com](http://www.indy100.com)



## Rules For Cats

### In & Out

Sit looking at the doorknob. When they open the door, take your time. Take a good look around, pull your head back in. Look around the room. You don't have to decide quickly. Most of the fools will hold the door until you get the lay of the land and see which way the wind blows. For a real treat, after several minutes, back into the room, then look at them and say 'what're you holding the darn door open for?'



### Pee Time

Even if you don't have to go, time your visit for about 3 A.M. Climb on their bed and get in their face. Tickle them with your whiskers until they wake up. The man probably had to pee anyway but was too lazy to get up. Make a stop by the fridge. It's always worth a try to see if he gives you some food. If he does, you can always wake him again at 4 A.M.

### Walking

The main object here is to get underfoot. It's also fun to startle them. As often as possible, dart quickly and as close as possible in front of the human, especially: on stairs, when they have something in their arms, in the dark, and when they first get up in the morning. This will help their coordination skills. Always act afraid of dogs in front of humans. They feel so sorry they pick you up to comfort you. Put on a big show and hang on for life.

Cats.alpha.pl

**W**hen I played in the sandbox, the cat kept covering me up.

Rodney Dangerfield



**Hearing** is a hugely important sense to cats. The hunting behaviour of cats led to a better sense of sound, and cats have a better ability than dogs to hear high-pitched noises. Because hearing is so vital for cats, anything that could impair the reception of sound to your cat can have a debilitating effect. It's hard to tell when your cat's hearing is failing, so it's important to make sure that your cat's ears are in tip top shape. If you think that your cat's ears need cleaning discuss ear cleaners with your vet.

Your cat's ears should always be clean and without any thick brown or green waxy discharge. There should be no redness, itchiness or offensive smells. If your cat starts to scratch its ears frequently, shake her head more than normal, hold her head to one side, or rub one side of its face then this may indicate ear problems, and you should consider visiting your vet. There are many causes of ear problems, such as infections due to bacteria, yeast or parasites and growths or tumours. Severe middle or inner ear problems can have a more serious effect such as loss of balance.

To minimise the occurrence of ear infections try to keep your cat's ears clean and check them for any discharge or odour. Some cats may benefit from regular ear cleaning with special ear cleaners. Talk to your vet about whether your cat would benefit from these.

The ear is delicate and sensitive and as the eardrum can be perforated it is never recommended to probe with cotton buds into the ear canal. Ask your vet how to use cotton balls and to recommend a suitable ear cleaner that will not cause any skin irritation or dry out the ear too much.

### Deafness

There are a number of causes for a loss in hearing in cats, and although old age is the most common reason there are a number of other causes which cat owners should be aware of. Temporary hearing loss can be the result of mild bacterial, fungal or parasitic (ear mite) infections or a side effect of certain drugs. Permanent hearing loss can be caused injury, severe untreated middle ear infections and neurological problems. Tumours and polyps in the ear canal can both also affect hearing. All-white, blue-eyed cats are often born deaf.

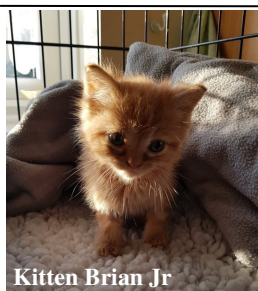
Sometimes it is difficult to tell for sure if your cat is deaf as cats are experts at using all of their senses such as touch and smell, and often they compensate for any lack of hearing. Deaf cats might not turn when you approach and probably won't react to loud noises or turn their ears towards sounds. Deaf cats are often difficult to rouse from sleep and do not respond to you unless you physically touch them.

Feline ear problems can be debilitating and confusing for your cat (especially if the issues are sudden in onset rather than gradual) so it's important to make things as easy for them as possible. Following that, the safety of your pet is paramount. In terms looking after your pet, making sure it's away from situations where a lack of hearing could result in harm is important. Roads are now much more dangerous, as is the outside world in general, where your pet could meet an unfriendly animal or predator.

Day-to-day interaction with your cat will be more limited. Replace voice commands with hand signals that are distinct and consistent, as well as easy to remember. You can even use a torch to call your cat in for meals in the dark. Just because a cat can no longer hear doesn't mean they can't feel. They might feel your approach through vibration in the floor or on the stairs. Make sure your cat is aware of your presence, or you might scare him or her with touch. Initially, when your cat turns around (either in response to your hand signal or vibration), offer a treat.

If your cat wears a collar, make sure it is a quick release collar showing your address, your vet's phone number and a note which says, 'I am deaf'. If they have not been already, ensure they are micro-chipped.

[www.purina.co.uk](http://www.purina.co.uk)



Kitten Brian Jr

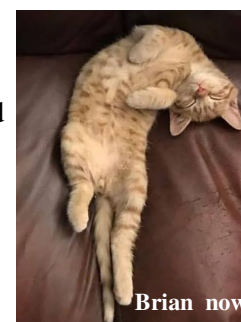
## Hero Cat Saves Kitten's Life By Donating Blood

The five-week-old cat was anaemic, weak and fighting for his life when RSPCA officers discovered him at a property in Milton Keynes. The kitten was rushed to a veterinary clinic, where vets quickly realised he needed an emergency blood transfusion to save his life.

RSPCA officer Sue Taft volunteered her own cat Brian to be the donor. Ms Taft said: 'This poor kitten was signed over after he was found collapsed and nearly dead. He was absolutely covered in fleas and severely anaemic so the vets decided his only hope was a blood transfusion so I took my own cat Brian down to help out. As soon as the blood went in, the little kitten started to pick up and after a few days he was happy and eating again like kittens do.' They named the kitten Brian junior in honour of the cat who saved his life.

Ms Taft's Brian senior, four, was an RSPCA rescue cat himself and came into the charity's care with a badly mangled leg which needed amputating before he was adopted. It's not the first time Brian senior has donated blood. He has also helped several other cats that have needed a transfusion. What a hero. Brian junior is currently in foster care as he waits to be adopted.

[www.metro.co.uk/2019](http://www.metro.co.uk/2019) Photo INS

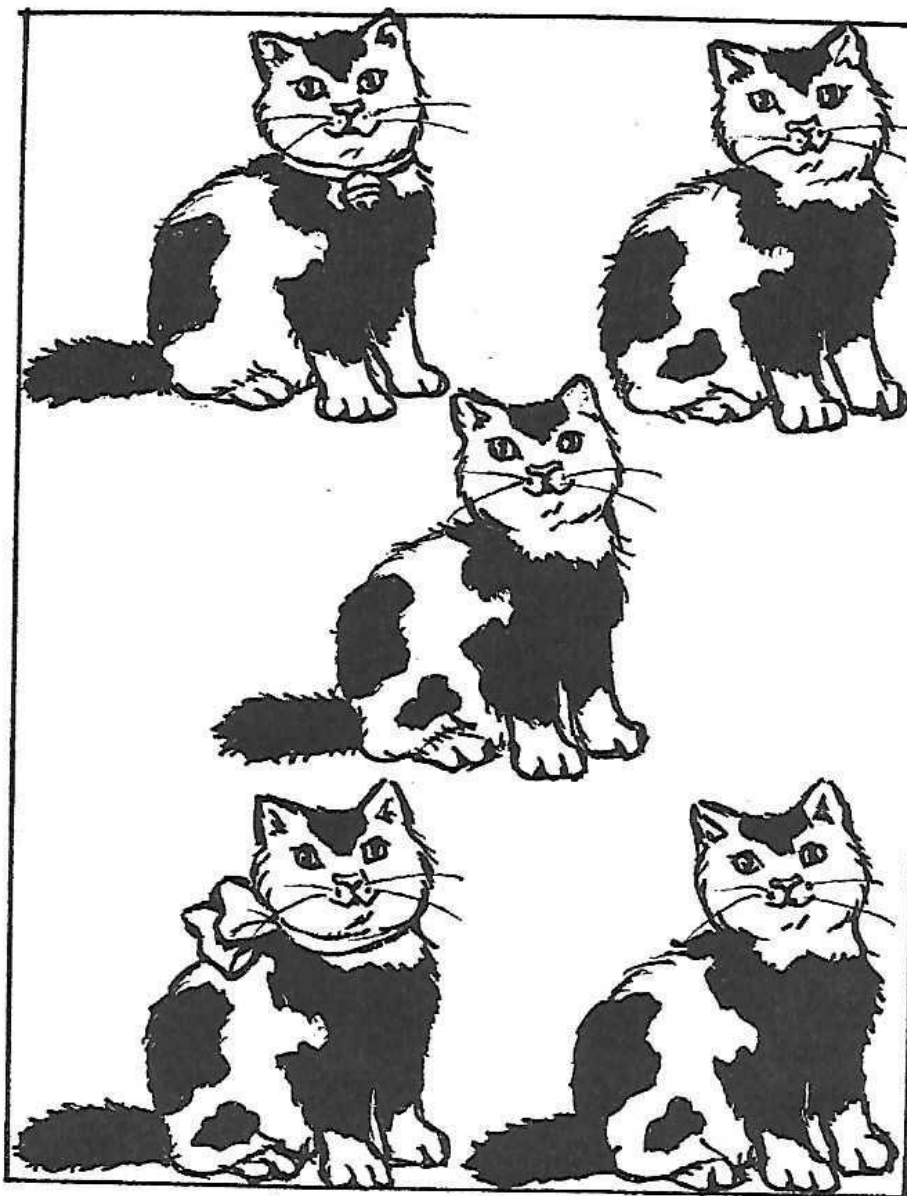


Brian now





## KIT'S KORNER



**These 5 cats look very much the same, don't they?  
But only 2 cats are exactly alike. Fine and colour**

## The Final Miaow

As you can see we have come to the last page of our newsletter and we hope you found it interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone who sent us material and photos for the *CATWALK*. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending them in.  
Karen & Gloria ^..^

### A Date For Your Diary

## The GCCFI Supreme Cat Show

Sunday the 7th of April

Ballinteer Community School, Broadford Road, Ballinteer, Dublin 16

Open to the Public 12:00 to 5:00

Best In Show 4:00 onwards



### Betty Boo The Salon Cat Has An Important Job

In her four years of working at Babar Hair in Melbourne, Australia, employee Betty Boo has never taken a day off. The hardworking salon cat has an vital task: she cuddles with clients while they get their hair cut. Betty Boo's heart-warming lap naps are not only adorable, but can also reduce anxiety in clients.

Chris Guglielmi, salon owner and Betty Boo's 'mum,' says Betty Boo's affectionate personality has helped her clients during stressful situations. 'If someone's had a bad day, is tired, or upset, she's there with them, People seem to instantly calm down petting her.' And it's backed by science - a study at the National Center for Biotechnology Information found that spending time with animals actually increases oxytocin, the hormone present during infant-parent bonding and is known to reduce stress.

Her Instagram account, complete with captions written from Betty Boo's perspective, shows her doing what cats do best: lounging around and demanding pets. 'She is definitely the favourite here with people traveling far and wide to see her,' Guglielmi says, 'She even has more Instagram followers than myself and Babar Hair!'

One of the benefits of employing Betty Boo, Guglielmi says, is that when she sits in clients' laps, the clients generally won't pick up a magazine or look at their phones. 'They actually have time out, which is rare these days,'

Named after the British icon of 90's pop, Betty Boo abandoned as a kitten. Guglielmi took her home from the vet at eight weeks old, and nursed her back to health. Now seven years old, Betty Boo reigns over Babar Hair with an furry fist, keeping clients company through washes, cuts, and blow outs. The multitasking cat has a blog, too, where she updates followers about the salon and complains about her vet-mandated diet. Most recently, she wrote about her newfound Instagram popularity: 'While my resurgent fame has dominated most of my time of late (my paws are tired from replying to all my fans on Instagram), the salon has been equally busy since it reopened after the end-of-year break.'

'And don't worry, she isn't too popular to hang out with the commoners - Guglielmi says the beloved cat still gives her clients affectionate 'Betty kisses.'

'You may be wondering if I'm now too famous to mix it with salon customers,' Betty Boo blogged, 'But I can assure you I am a woman of the people and can't wait to warm more laps this year. <https://mashable.com> Photo:-Instagram/bettyboo\_thesaloncat)

### Cat Hair

Cat hair on the bedspread,  
Cat hair on the chair.  
Cat hair in the casserole,  
Cat hair EVERYWHERE  
Cat hair on my best coat,  
Even on the mouse!  
You live and eat and breathe cat hair,  
When cats live in your house.

Author Unknown



### The Law of Cat Elongation:

A cat can make her body long enough to reach just about any counter top that has anything remotely interesting on it.



#### Kit's Korner

Second line & last line left side

Quiz Answers

1-B  
2-D  
3-B  
4-B  
5-C

