

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2020

www.sabcci.com





The Scratching Post

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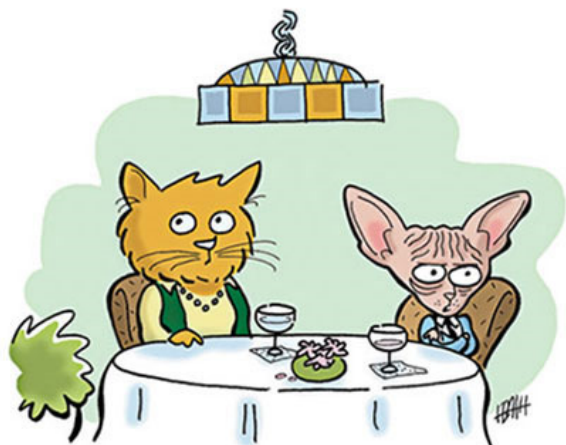
SABCCI Committee

Ronnie Brooks, Dionne Dixon, Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir, Aedamair Kiely,
Norman O'Galligan, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Lorna Taylor, Aimee Weldon



Coronavirus - SABCCI AGM Cancellation Announcement

Due to these exceptional times we are in, this year's AGM has been cancelled and extended out by another year or until such time it is feasible to have one. As this was to be an election year the current committee will stay on with the nomination and voting in of the new committee to be held at the next AGM.



'I'm not bald, I'm hairless. There is a difference'

Does Your Cat Own You?

- * When people call to talk to you on the phone, do you insist that they say a few words to your cat as well?
- * When someone new comes to your house, do you introduce your cat, by name, to them?
- * Did you buy a video tape of fish swimming in an aquarium to entertain your cat?
- * Do you admit to non-cat owners how many cats you really have?
- * Does your cat sleep on your head? Do you like it?
- * Does your desire to collect cats intensify during times of stress?



Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2020 issue of The Scratching Post. In these times of change we have decided to have all fun articles, interesting and cute cat stories.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Honeydew Lime Cooler and enjoy the newsletter!

Stay Safe Karen and Gloria ^..^

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

Cancellation



Unfortunately the GCCFI Supreme Cat Show scheduled for Sunday the 3rd of May 2020, in Ballinteer Community School was cancelled due to the Coronavirus.



Keep up-to-date on www.gccfi.com for any further details on shows.

The GCCFI At The Dublin Cat Fair 2019



The third annual Dublin Cat Fair was held last November. As usual, it is a full day of lectures by cat experts on various subjects with craft and informational stalls.

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. This year we had a slide show running all day with pictures from club and Supreme shows along with some show rosettes to attract attention to the stall. The stall was manned by Aimee Weldon, Lorna Taylor and Gloria Hehir.

An interesting day and well worth being there.

Cat Shows & A Strange Coincidence

The show season in Ireland started in earnest in September. First it was off to Cork with the Backchat youngsters, Nifty Nutmeg and Scarlet Dragon. One of my non feline interests is family history and ancestry. I had discovered one set of my great grand parents, Thomas Blackmore and Annie Bleakley, were married in Cork's famous Shandon church. This was the subject of conversation over dinner with friends the night before the show as Shandon's high tower is the symbol of the Cork Cat Club. I am particularly interested in this ancestry as I remember one Christmas as a small child my great grandfather leading me by the hand to a child's chair made for me by my grandfather. Today this chair is occupied by my teddies. The show was held in Blarney where kissing the Blarney is said to bestow the gift of the gab; neither cat is in need of this. They both acquitted themselves well in their first grown up show and were awarded Champion and Premier certificates respectively.

Two weeks later it was a journey to the opposite end of the country, Larne in Co Antrim to the Erin, a GCCF show, with 'Mum' Backchat Sun Chariot who needed one more certificate to become an International Grand Champion. International titles are attained by winning certificates in both GCCFI & GCCF. The sun shone on us in every way and returning from a beautiful coastal walk above Larne harbour I was delighted to find the necessary Grand had been won.

Now to the coincidence, in my ancestry quest I had discovered another set of great grand parents, Isaac Sherlock and Mary Coates, were married in Larne. So in two weeks I travelled over 600 miles and visited areas where my ancestors had started their married lives. Another coincidence is that both great grandfathers, on opposite sides of the family, were English, one from Exeter and the other West Sussex.

My next show was in Dublin in October and my remaining great grand parents were all married in Dublin, although not near the show venue as far as I am aware. The luck of the Irish was with us, and as it was a back to back show, both youngsters were made up, a particular triumph for Scarlet Dragon, alias Chancer, who had managed to get a black stripe of ash down his beautiful red coat 36 hours before the show. Nutmeg was also Best in Show Burmese Adult. Altogether an interesting and rewarding couple of months.



Sun Chari-

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.

Star (Tara Gr Pr Aldebiz Maneki Hoshi) 2010 - 2020



When tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right inside your heart.

Karen Sluiters

No Heaven will not ever Heaven be - Unless my cats are there to welcome me.

Anonymous



Stray Kitten Latches Onto Man's Shoulder and Won't Let Go After She Snuck Into His Shop

A little stray kitten snuck into a pizza shop and insisted on being adopted. A few weeks ago, Dave (Grumpy Chef Dave) from Australia had an unexpected visitor when a little stray kitten slid under the back gate of his yard and crept into his shop. The kitten was determined to stay and wouldn't take no for an answer. 'I wasn't planning on having a cat adopt me, and she was not prepared to go away,' Dave said. 'She looked lost, frightened and nervous due to all the strange noises and smells.'



A few minutes after the little feline strolled in, she walked up to Dave and demanded attention and some much-needed TLC. 'I popped her up on my shoulder, and she felt at home right away. She started rubbing against my ears and the back of my neck and purring,' said Dave. The calico immediately switched on her purr motor and seemed so thankful to be safe. She latched onto her human friend and wouldn't let go. Thinking the kitten might belong to someone, Dave politely asked her to come out of the shop with him, but the little one refused.

He went around the neighborhood, knocking on doors to see if anyone was missing a kitten, but no one came forward to claim her. It quickly dawned on him that the kitten didn't have a home to go to. Dave reached out to the internet and hoped to find her a good home, but the smart little calico had a plan of her own. She plopped down on his lap and went right to sleep. 'She has decided she is staying, and who could argue with that little face, Now she is employed full time in our newly created finger chewing and cuteness team.' Dave said.



Over the next few days, the little calico (named Ratbag the Vandal) quickly blossomed. She had her first vet visit and was vaccinated and microchipped. 'The vet confirmed that she is not a feral kitten so she was abandoned,' Dave added. No more wandering the streets, the kitten now has a shoulder to perch on whenever she pleases, and a forever human to cling to every night at bedtime.

As the boss of the house, she has her very own castle made of a mountain of pillows. 'I have a kitten obstacle course in a storeroom that she enjoys. She loves playing with dog toys, and sleeps either next to me as a furry hot water bottle or on a pillow beside or behind my head.' Dave never expected to be chosen by a little kitten who strayed her way into his shop. 'She's the staunchest, toughest kitten on the block!'

www.lovemeow.com, Amy Bojo, February 2020, Photos - Chief Dave

Cat's hearing apparatus is built to allow the human voice to easily go in one ear and out the other'

Stephen Baker

Where Did It Come From? - 'Tabby'

The silks created by weavers in Baghdad, Iraq, were inspired by the varied colours and markings of cat coats These fabrics were called 'tabby' by European traders.. Xmission.com



The Pedigree - The American Wirehair

The American Wirehair are similar to the American Shorthairs except for the wiry coat, including ears and whiskers.

The American Wirehair is a mutation of the American Shorthair. This mutation first appeared among a litter of five born to a pair of barn cats in Vernon in New York State (38km east of Syracuse). One male in the litter had red and white wiry fur.

A local breeder of Rex breeds, Mrs Joan O'Shea, was contacted to have a look at the kitten. She decided to replicate the coat mutation and bought the kitten. Kittens resulting from a mating were taken by other breeders and a planned breeding program was started.

Wirehairs are of a moderate build with a sturdy build. Their round heads have high cheek bones, strong jaws and a pronounced muzzle. The colour of their eyes can be blue, green, gold or odd-eyed. Their legs are strong and thick.

The American Wirehair's coat has a crimped texture which is springy, thick and dense, much like the wire coats of some breeds of dogs, such as terriers. The coat comes in a wide spectrum of colours - white, blue, cream, red, lilac, fawn, chestnut, chinchilla, seal, silver, golden, brown, cameo, blue cream and tortoiseshell. The patterns are tortoiseshell, solid, bicour, tricolour/calico, tabby and smoke.

The Wirehair has an even balanced temperament, is easy going and placid. They love to play when they want and will go off and find a toy or make one out of whatever it can find, or bring the toy to their owner for owner to play with them. They will attach to every member of the family. As Wirehairs plays well on their own, they can make a good companion for a single person. They are a breed which is easy to care for.



Stray Kitten Came Back To Man Who Was Kind To Him, And Decided To Stay

Michael Day, an artist from Chicago, was outside his home working on his spray paint art. When he turned around, he was surprised to see a little ball of fur sitting on his garden blocks, curiously watching him. Michael had rescued stray cats from the neighbourhood, but this was the first time he was approached by an alley cat. 'I figured he wanted some food and water so I gave him both. We had a cat so we had extra food,' Michael told Love Meow.

He went on with his painting while the kitten sat on the blocks as his purr-fect audience. When Michael looked for him again, the kitten was already gone. He couldn't stop thinking about the little feline so left some food and water outside that night.



The next evening, while he continued his painting, he heard a little meow - it was his old pal, the ginger kitten, who came back to see him. The little alley cat had been roaming around the neighbourhood by himself, perhaps, searching for the right home to settle. When he walked up to his human friend, wanting cuddles, Michael knew it was meant to be. 'He came right up to me, let me pick him up and hold him. He even sat on my shoulder, that was when I knew he chose me.' Michael and his family adopted the little one and lovingly named him Oliver Gibbs Malley (aka O'Malley). That night, the ginger boy cuddled with his forever human on his shoulder at his new home.

The kitten was estimated to be around three months old by the vet. Despite being very little, he was packed with energy and curious about everything around him. Whenever O'Malley got a chance, he would perch on Michael's shoulder, supervising him while surveying the room. O'Malley was friendly with everyone he met. He quickly took to the family Golden Retriever, Destiny, and insisted on playing with her all the time. 'He's so curious and investigative. If you leave something open, he'll try to get into it,' Michael added.

The former alley cat is all grown up now, turning three this summer. 'He's been the most rambunctious thing, running through the house, jumping on everything.' The ginger cat claims whatever he can lay his paws on, in the house. Whenever Michael's father sits on his recliner, O'Malley doesn't hesitate to hop on his lap for a cuddle. He enjoys sharing lap time with his canine sister. 'He's a good boy, and I wouldn't ask for a different pet,' Michael said.

Amy Bojo, March 2020, www.lovemeow.com

Two Ways 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).
- ◆ Practice searching every closet and open cabinet door before you shut it.



Kittens Roam Freely In This Bookstore In Canada & Customers Can Adopt Them



Otis & Clementine's Books and Coffee is a bookstore just outside Halifax in Nova Scotia, Canada, that took an innovative approach to conscience people to rescue kittens. When you come in to browse for a good read or have a cup of coffee, you'll spot something unusual. Unusually adorable, that is.

Kittens! And lots of them! Playing around and napping among the books. And probably reading Dr. Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat* when no one's looking. The best part is, you can adopt any of the cats in the bookstore and give them the forever home they deserve. Cats, coffee, and books. Can it get any better than that.

The bookstore owner Ellen Helmke told Narcity that there are several kittens and 'usually a mama cat as well' in the shop at any time. But the bookstore kittens aren't just passers-by taken in from the cold. They're provided by the South Paw Conservation Nova Scotia rescue group.

If you happen to be in Upper Tantallon and visit Otis & Clementine's and see a feline friend whom you absolutely adore, then you'd better act fast. 'All the kittens are in and out fairly quickly, as they are adopted,' Helmke explained.

However, adopting these cattos isn't as easy as picking them up and going out the door. South Paw Conservation manages everything and it costs 255 Canadian dollars (147 euro) to adopt a kitten. The adoption fee covers everything, including any medical expenses. What's more, future pet owners also need to provide references before bringing their gamboling tabby home.

Helmke started the kitten adoption program last year when she realized that there's plenty of space in her shop for cute cattos. So far, over 30 cats from the bookstore were adopted. And we're sure that this number will rise. 'People come here specifically to see cats. And then some people just wander in to look at books and discover there are kittens. Either way, the response has been really great - I mean, who doesn't love kittens, right?' Helmke said and added: 'We have a hundred percent adoption rate, which is fantastic. I'm so happy to make my customers happy when they come in and they're just thrilled to see a kitten they weren't expecting. It's amazing and makes me happy to come to work.'



Bored Panda reached out to South Paw Conservation Nova Scotia to hear about their friendship with the bookstore, as well as to learn more about what they do. This month, alone the rescue group rescued 3 kittens, 4 cats, 6 puppies and 2 dogs. 'Otis & Clementine's Books and Coffee is one of the many loving foster homes that provides an enriching environment for our kittens and cats. It's amazing to have this unique platform to help home our kittens.' Representative of South Paw said. 'South Paw Conservation rescued 30 puppies in 2019 from the Bahamas and Antiqua and well over 50 kittens and cats locally. Really hoping the platform of attendance we receive from Otis & Clementine's will help us to find loving homes, provide proper medical care, food and litter through donations and spay/neuter even more kittens within the province in 2020.'



According to the rescue group's rep all of their cats and kittens are 'vet checked, vaccinated, feline leukaemia tested, treated with revolution, and dewormed within the first few days of arrival or when healthy/old enough. We have a spay and neuter program set up with local vets to keep the cost down for the potential family. Homing kittens or cats is not first come first serve. We try to home our babies with the best possible fit. Some require a more great space free from other animals, but still maybe enjoy the snuggles at night and some are more playful than others.' They continued; 'Some of our kittens require to be bottle fed or even just be in a space where they can be monitored 24 hours a day. We have an amazing foster network that helps us to meet all their needs. All of this is made possible through donations and adoption fees.'

The people working with South Paw Conservation help animals and people out side of Nova Scotia as well.

www.boredpanda.com, Jonas Grinevičius & Mantas Kačerauskas, photos - Aivfielf (grey & white cat), others Otis & Clementine's Books & Coffee



Sign at Vet clinic in New Hampshire, USA.

Where Did It Come From? - 'Curiosity Killed The Cat'



The saying originated was 'care kills a cat', and began in the 16th century. 'Care' was a warning that worry is bad for your health and can lead to an early grave; the phrase was a recognition that cats seem to be very cautious and careful. Over time, the word, care, evolved into 'curiosity.' xmission.com

A

cat does not break things; she helps gravity do the job.

xmission.com

The Quiz



1. What is a female cat called?
2. What happened to a French cat named Felicette in 1963? (need help? See page 12)
3. True or False. Cats can be left-pawed or right-pawed?
4. Who wrote Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats?
5. Name the pet cat of Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter books?
6. Who invented cat's eyes?
7. The GCCFI is the pedigree cats registry in Southern Ireland; what does GCCFI stand for?
8. Smudge, Socks and Cookie - what's the connection?
9. Who almost always appears with a white Turkish Angora cat in the James Bond films?
10. In ancient Egypt, what part of their bodies did people shave as a sign of mourning when their cats died?

www.freepubquiz.co.uk

Answers on page 17

How To Annoy Your Human



The 3 a.m. Wake Up Call - In the wee hours of the morning go to the furthest place from your human's sleeping place and wail loudly and pitifully. When he or she finally gets up to investigate the problem, assume a sleeping position and keep your eyes tightly closed. Wait 15 minutes after your human returns to bed, then repeat. Caution: Do not repeat more than three times. You want your slave--err, human, well rested in the morning so she can wait on you all day. pawnation.com

Things I, The Cat, Must Try To Remember

Screaming at the tin of cat food will not make it open.

If I bite the cactus, it will bite back.

I will not stand on the bathroom counter, stare down the hall, and growl at nothing right after my human has finished watching 'X Files.'

I cannot leap through closed windows to catch birds outside.

Cat's Favourite Toys

An average household is full of other toys, which seem to be much more suitable for the purposes of cat entertainment.

- ◇ Typewriter - you may write a letter
- ◇ Umbrella - you may open it
- ◇ All the house doors - you may open them.



French novelist Colette was a firm cat lover. When she was in the US she saw a cat sitting in the street. She went over to talk to it and the two of them mewed at each other for a friendly minute. Colette turned to her companion and exclaimed, 'Enfin! Quelque un parle francais' (At last! Someone who speaks French!) Anonymous

Positions Wanted - As Cats Might Write

Sweet-natured, well-behaved cat, handicapped by enormous size, needs large country estate. Would make ideal companion/chaperone for single person with strong lap, good income and excellent taste in food.



Smart Cats

The main road going into and out of Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria, although not as busy as it was before the new motorway, can still be dangerous to cross. Some years ago they constructed pedestrian bridges over the road. Sitting on our balcony of our apartment at night. We would often see a cat walk across the bridge (on the right) and later the same evening the cat would cross back.



Did You Know?

Disney loves Mickey and Minnie Mouse, but what about the uninvited rodents that are drawn to the vast acreage of Disneyland? Disneyland houses over 200 cats; they came in as strays and stayed as friends. Cats help keep the unwanted mouse population down when all the guests leave for the night. Disney even keeps them current on shots and spays/neuters them.

Wesley, ilovepets.com

When a man loves cats, I am his friend and comrade without further introduction.

Mark Twain



2019 (SABCCI 66th) Dublin Championship Cat Show (SABCCI Championship & GCCFI Regional)

Knocklyon Community Centre, Knocklyon, Dublin

20th October 2019



The joint SABCCI/GCCFI was held on Sunday October 20th at Knocklyon Community Centre. Our judges were, Val Anderson-Drew, Daphne Butters, Peter Collin, Alison Lyall, Barbara Prowse, Joan Smith and Jon Trotter. We had a good entry of 91 cats and it was very rewarding listening to the judges' comments on the overall standard of our cats; they were particularly enthusiastic at the quality of the Maine Coons and the British -- well done to the breeders and owners!

Everything went very smoothly this year, apart from when I put my phone through the washing machine 3 days before the show; I had to use an old one that had problems with the volume control so that was -- interesting. There was a rather embarrassing hiccup when ALL the ladies toilets were out of action for part of the afternoon! So, ladies in need had to brave the gents for a while till the hall caretaker came to our rescue!

Best in Show ran very smoothly with Gloria as usual at the helm - apart from some excitement when a certain Maine Coon lady decided to go exploring and jumped down from the judges table; then changed her mind and jumped up -- into her BIS pen! (I wonder which cat training class she goes to?)

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. The Saturday set up is the testing time for volunteers so my most grateful thanks to Liam Hughes who put up all the outside notices -- a horrible job which Liam quietly does every year, no fuss puts them up then takes them down the next day, Thank you Liam; Amy Weldon who did all the running around jobs including the Best in Show drapes which is a job everyone hates.

I am awaiting a knee replacement so can't get up and down the stairs so my eternal thanks to Ger Bowles who came up from Cork on Saturday to help with the set up and spent Sunday running up and down the stairs on my behalf -- she must have been exhausted at the end of the day. Big thanks to 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, and the Pot Draw, did BIS announcements - and exhibited 2 cats! Carmel and Caroline who ran the 2 results tables without a hitch, with their teams of hard workers; Lavinia who also came up from Cork for the day to do Show Day treasurer; Dorothy who did that lovely lunch then ran the coffee shop with Jim and Klaus (thanks guys!) Karen for sorting out all the publicity and the press; Aedamair for helping with the vetting in, Hugh our Cup secretary who worked hard on the results table. 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

Overall Best In Show

Dealey's ALIMURS BOOMER (British Lilac) M

Reserve Best in Show

Lenihan's CH COOMAKISTA MACDONAGH (Asian Tabby) M

Best In Show Household Pet

Non Pedigree McCarthy's GORM (Blue SH) M kitten

Pedigree Pet O'Callaghan's MAXIMUS (LH Ginger & White) MN



Best of Variety

Persian

Adult Craig's GRASHOPPERS KISS MEQUICK (Persian) F

Kitten Molloy's MOLLYCIDDLE ARTHUR JUNIOR (Persian MN)er's

Overall - Craig's GRASHOPPERS KISS MEQUICK (Persian) F

SLH

Adult Saville-Archer's CH ISHCUS ROCKON RUBY (Maine Coon) F

Kitten McElvey's FILENSIO SWEET SIENNE (Ragamuffin) F

Neuter Wagner's SILVERFERN FRENCH KISS (Maine Coon) MN

Overall - Saville-Archer's CH ISHCUS ROCKON RUBY (Maine Coon) F

British

Adult Dealey's ALIMURS BOOMER (Lilac) M

Kitten Dealey's ELLCLARACATS ARABELLA (Lilac) F

Neuter Wren's CH & GR PR HOONIKATZ RUBY'S PRINCE (Black Silver Tabby)

Overall - Dealey's ALIMURS BOOMER (Lilac) M

Foreign

Adult Lenihan's CH COOMAKISTA MACDONAGH (Asian Tabby)

Kitten Lenihan's COOMAKISTA THE SOUND OF MUSIC ((Asian Tabby)

Neuter Harte's INT GR PR BARGELLO MASARATI OF STANREX (Devon Rex)

Overall - Lenihan's CH COOMAKISTA MACDONAGH (Asian Tabby)

Burmese

Adult Taylor's BACKCHAT NIFTY NUTMEG (Brown Tortie) F

Kitten Lenihan's GIRONA MONTIE (Red) M

Neuter McCrea & Szigeti's SLIABH BUNI NINYA (Brown) FN

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

Shelter Is Forced To Lock Quilty The Cat In 'Solitary Confinement'



He is a prolific offender and master escape artist who likes nothing more than to free his fellow detainees for riotous nocturnal adventures. So his custodians were left with very little choice when, despite adding extra security measures to his room, he once again escaped.

Quilty, the cat, has now been placed in 'solitary confinement' - and a video posted by the Friends for Life Animal Shelter in Houston shows he is not best pleased.' 'Quilty's review with the parole board was denied, so he released himself of his own recognizance,' the shelter posted on its Facebook page. 'He felt that confinement had nothing more to offer him. He has been returned to solitary.' Quilty will not be contained. And he has no shame. 'His roommates missed him while he was banished to the lobby. They enjoyed their night time escapades around the shelter. 'The cat released himself from the integration kennel in the room.'

But the animal shelter played off his rambunctious behavior on his bio page written as Quilty: 'I do know that I like to open closed doors. When I see one it challenges me, and I work hard to get it open and I'm usually successful.' The shelter clearing is embracing Quilty's need to open doors, even starting an Instagram account for the six-year-old domestic short hair--@freequilty, which refers to him as a 'door ninja,' and merchandising the cat brand.

His activity, though, is not new to the fearless feline. 'He used to let his dog sibling in the house at his old home,' the shelter added on the Facebook page. They say on his bio for families seeking to adopt Quilty that he is 'a smart, energetic, laid back fella, but I can be a bit shy.' He has a good rapport with pet dogs, but they caution, 'I'm not sure about young children. I've never played with them before, so I don't know if I like them.'

But there many who like the cat's exploits, including those comments on the animal shelter's Facebook post. 'Actually, he kinda sounds like my cat!', 'This whole post is amazing. To be entirely dramatic, I would die for Quilty', 'I love him so much.', 'Someone please let that boy out he must be free.'

'We have a ton of applications on him, but think we might've found his potential forever home!' In a reply to a comment Wednesday, the animal shelter said Quilty is close to the ultimate release.

www.dailymail.co.uk Jerry Barmash, November 2019, photo Life Animal Shelter in Houston, Texas

The Catwalk

Leon (aka) Bully) & Amber -

Listen to me, this is a tulip.
Got it?

J. Hammond, Dublin



Jody -

Well....let me tell you...

C. Weldon, Co Wicklow

Feral Cats of Gran Canaria



Olivier

Please Sir.....
more?

Gran Canaria

Chatty Cathy -

Her month may be
closed now, but
Cathy was always
waiting there ready
for a chat as you
passed by.

Gran Canaria



The Catwalk

Oscar -

Yes please a little lower, yeah that's the spot. Now a little higher

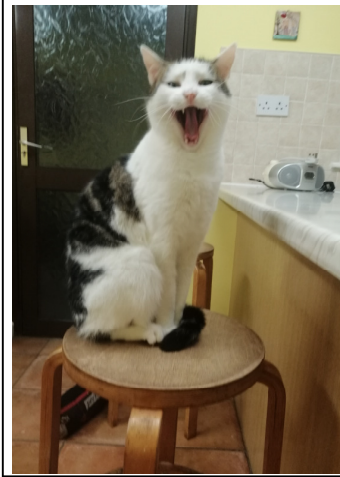
S. Mackey, Dublin



Simon -

What has that Jody been telling you? Don't believe anything he says.

A. Weldon. Co Wicklow



Gus -

What do you mean I'm not the baby any more?

T. MacDonagh, USA



Freddie -

If I wait long enough those birdies will come to me.

S. Mackey, Dublin



Cat Clings To Her Only Kitten After Rescued From Life On The Street

A tabby cat mom clung to her only kitten after they were rescued from life on the street. An elusive cat had been seen wandering in a Los Angeles neighbourhood for some time. With much effort, Chris, a local animal rescuer, finally got her to safety but she was not alone. The tabby cat was saved along with her two kittens.

Wrenn Rescues (in Southern California) was contacted as the cat mom and her kittens needed a foster home. Jen Marder, a volunteer, took the little family of three into her care. 'When I first got them, mama (Rosa) was very fearful. She had never been inside and she was in a new situation with her new-born babies,' Jen said.

One of the kittens was much smaller, and despite their very best efforts to save her, she passed away two weeks later. Mama Rosa would cuddle with her remaining kitten, King, day and night as if to give him all the love he needed to thrive. 'After that, King really started to thrive, and Mama Rosa started to get more friendly,' Jen added.

When Rosa realized that her kitten was in good hands, she began to come out of her shell and interact with her foster family. She never left King's side, watching over him every step of the way. The dedicated cat mom would stay in her nest all day nursing and caring for her little singleton. When she forgot to eat, Jen would bring food and water to her bed to make sure she was well taken care of.



As King grew bigger, he became very playful and rambunctious with his new-found energy. Mama Rosa puts up with his rough play, and never misses an opportunity to give him a bath. She keeps him clean and groomed at all times. The mischievous kitten tries to escape from Mama's mandatory baths, but only finds himself being showered with more love.

'They truly belong together. It is so funny to watch King climb Rosa's face and she just sits there and lets him play! Rosa has always been very close to King. They are an inseparable pair. Wherever Mama is, so is the kitten, and vice versa. It is one of the sweetest bonds between mama and baby that I have ever seen,' Jen shared. Knowing how much they depend on each other, the rescue hopes to find them a home together. 'She is still not a lap cat, but she is not scared. She will come and sniff my finger and rub her face against it. Sometimes, she will let me scratch her head and chin and purr really loudly, I am really hoping to get them adopted together.' Jen said.

Mama Rosa is blossoming with her precious kitten by her side. She continues to hover over him as he ventures into his teenage phase. When King runs around the room or plays with his foster mom, Rosa is always nearby, watching over him.

www.lovemeow.com, Amy Bojo, March 2020. Photos - Jen Marder @jenfosterskittens



Félicette - The First Cat In Space

The black and white cat's unlikely ascent to stardom began in the early '60s, when France's Centre d'Enseignement et de Recherches de Médecine Aéronautique (CERMA) chose more than a dozen cats to complete a rigorous space training program. The cats were selected based on their temperament; all of the cats were female, for their calmer demeanour. The French had previously launched three rats into space and apparently decided to upgrade to larger mammals to study their bodily response to weightlessness.

Félicette had the designation of C 341 before the flight, and after the flight the media gave her the name Félix, after Félix the Cat. The CERMA change to the feminine Félicette and adopted it as her official name.

The astrocats-in-training were subjected to compression chambers, small containers, and a centrifuge, all in an effort to find the feline that was the best fit for space. Félicette ultimately proved herself, and in October 1963, she was strapped into a container inside a Véronique rocket and launched from a base in the Sahara desert. She flew about 100 miles above Earth and spent several minutes in zero gravity, all while scientists monitored her progress via the electrodes implanted in her brain. Then, almost as soon as she arrived, the capsule detached from the rocket and she parachuted safely to the ground, where she was retrieved by scientists. The trip lasted 15 minutes total.

Félicette's journey to outer space was preceded by Laika, the Russian street dog who became the first animal to orbit the Earth aboard Sputnik 2 in 1957. However, unlike Laika, who died in space, Félicette returned to Earth to live out the rest of her days. Those days, sadly, were numbered. Scientists euthanized her a few months later to study the impact of space travel on her brain.

Fifty-six years after Félicette became the first feline to launch into space, plans were made to build the cosmic cat's first proper memorial. In 2017, a Kickstarter campaigned to build a statue of Félicette commemorating her historic mission. The bronze statue of Félicette will perch on top of the earth and gaze at the stars.

mentalfloss.com/Spaceflight.com 2019, photos Wikipedia



Reasons Why Cats Are Better Than Dogs - Part 2

1 - They're not as smelly as dogs - If you want to conjure some instant revulsion, just think of the words 'wet' and 'dog'. That's right: you know exactly what odious order I'm talking about, and you know just as well that few things offend the olfactory nerves as much. Cat's don't ever reek like that.

2 - They sleep a lot - Fact: animals are at their cutest when sound asleep. Cats sleep anywhere from 12 to 16 hours per day, which means you have more than half of your waking hours to snap some serious aww - inducing Instagrams. You could learn a lesson from your feline friend: we could all stand to sleep a few more hours each day.

3 - They're murder machines - Before you judge a cat's sleeping habits, know that these long hours are born less out of laziness and more out of evolutionary coding. Cats are natural predators; unlike other mammals, who may have foraged for food, felines had to hunt, which meant spending large chunks of the day asleep conserving energy to chase down the next meal. This is also why much of 12 to 16 period is spent in a light doze. Before domesticity took over, felines had to sleep lightly, in case prey - or dangerous predator - entered their turf. According to the University of Georgia study, domesticated house cats are responsible for the deaths of 2.9 billion rodents and birds. Thus is all to say: your cat is a biological terminator, and we'd be swimming in rats if not for their valiant efforts.



4 - Dogs are worse for the environment - You may assume all this wanton death leaves a negative impact on the environment, but ecosystems are well-adjusted by now. In fact, it's not cats but dogs that are bad for the planet. According to research conducted by New Zealand researchers, dogs have about 1.3 times the environmental impact of an SUV. Whenever dogs need to relieve themselves, you have to take them outside. You can train them to need to do this only at certain hours of the day, but still; it's a pain. Cats will just tend to a litter box on their own volition. A cat and its owner stay out of each other's business - and that's truly one of the sweetest reasons why cats are better than dogs.

5 - In fact some cats use the toilet - yes, they can be trained. Training should start early.

6 - Cats keep themselves clean - Cats don't require regular grooming sessions like dogs do. The tongue of a cat is barbed in a way that removes dirt and grime from fur with startling efficiency. Cats literally lick themselves clean.

7 - Once upon a time they were gods - As early as 3,000 BC, felines were worshipped as deities. The Egyptian goddess Bastet - she of war or protection or the moon, depending on the dynasty - is among the first. Her sister in folklore, Sekhmet, the warrior goddess of healing or hunt - again depending on the dynasty - was thought to have blown Egypt into existence with her breath. Oh, and there's also a little thing called the Sphinx.



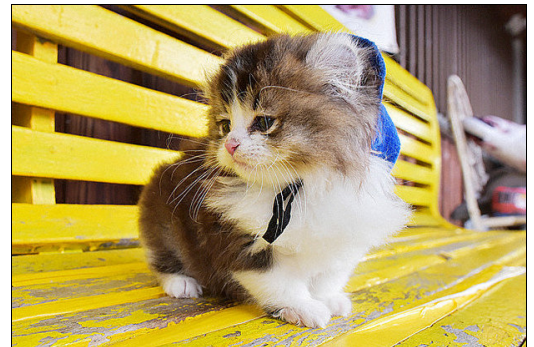
But feline worship isn't relegated to Ancient Egyptian culture. There's also Dawon, the Hindu cared tigress: Ket, the Balinese 'king of spirit,' and the entire pantheon of jaguar gods of the pre-Colombian Mayan era. In other words; your cat may have descended from a deity. Weather you believe in that sort of thing or not, though, it can't hurt to treat the little fella as such.

excerpts from www.bestlifeonline.com Ari Notis, 2018

Kitten To Serve As Apprentice 'Cat Stationmaster' In Japan

Aizuwakamatsu, Fukushima - A cuddly kitten born in December will begin serving as an apprentice to a 'cat stationmaster' at a railway in this northeastern Japan city this spring.

The kitten, an American Curl born on December 24 2019, will take up its new position at Aizu Railway Co's Ashinomaki Onsen Station as early as April, after being vaccinated. It is believed the kitten is female, though this has not been confirmed.



At the station, the kitten's siblings Love and Peach, both males aged 5 and 3, respectively, are serving as the 'second honorary stationmaster' and 'director' of the station. The kitten's duties will include welcoming passengers as a future candidate for the next stationmaster.

The local volunteer group 'Ashinomaki Onsen Eki wo Mamoru Kai' ('Association to protect Ashinomaki Onsen Station'), is collecting ideas for the kitten's name in hiragana characters until March 22, via a special ballot box at the station and by mail. A naming ceremony is likely to be held around April.

<https://mainichi.jp/english>, Japanese original by Seiichi Yuasa, Aizuwakamatsu Local Bureau, February 2020, photo the Ashinomaki Onsen Eki wo



Cats, as a class, have never completely got over the snootiness caused by the fact that in Ancient Egypt they were worshiped as gods. This makes them prone to set themselves up as critics and censors of the frail and erring human beings whose lot they share. P.G. Wodehouse

Catnip & Cats

Offer a pinch of catnip or a catnip-filled toy to your pet feline, and her response might be dramatic ... and silly. She may roll on her back, dart wildly around, drool, lick the catnip and rub it on her face and body, or flop over and lie there purring. Her actions seem goofy and comical, and somewhat resemble the uncoordinated and gleeful behaviour of someone who's had a little too much to drink or is pleasantly under the influence of recreational drugs. But is that what's happening here? Does catnip make cats high?



Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) belongs to the mint family Lamiaceae, which includes aromatic herbs such as rosemary, sage, oregano and basil. The compound that plays the biggest role in the so-called catnip effect in domestic cats is produced in specialized glands in catnip's leaves and flowers and is called nepetalactone, said Jim Simon, a professor of plant biology and co-director of the Center for Sensory Sciences and Innovation at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. 'When you buy catmint (another cat-attracting plant in the Lamiaceae family) or catnip from a nursery, they're usually hybrids sold for ornamental purpose; they usually don't attract cats because they have very little nepetalactone,' Simon said.

'There are other compounds in catnip that are similar to nepetalactone in their molecular structure, and some can even stimulate a response on their own, but nepetalactone is the strongest of the group', Simon said. 'Cats are attracted to the odour of nepetalactone, which binds to receptors in their noses and often produces behavior that appears euphoric. Other compounds in catnip affect neurotransmitters, 'resulting in inhibition of central nervous system activity,' said Dr. Bruce Kornreich, an associate director for education and outreach with the Feline Health Center at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, New York.

Superficially, a cat's response to catnip looks similar to a narcotic drug response in people. 'They become playful and get agitated, they get excited, and then they go to sleep. But there's no information to show that catnip is operating the same way that medical cannabis, marijuana or cocaine does,' Simon said.

In humans, consumption of alcohol, marijuana, heroin or cocaine stimulates brain cells to release mood-altering dopamine. But while cats may appear to be enjoying themselves when they're rolling around in catnip, scientists can't say for sure what's happening in the cat's brain and how it's being affected by the plant', Kornreich said. However, some studies have shown that when cats are given compounds like naloxone that block opioid receptors in the central nervous system, catnip's effects are minimized or even eliminated, suggesting that opioid receptors might be involved. 'A person who takes an opioid and has a euphoric effect from it; that can be blocked by naloxone. If a cat has behaviors that can be blocked by naloxone, might one of those behaviours - in the cat's perception - be euphoria? It's possible, but we don't know for sure,' said Kornreich.

Not all cats respond strongly to catnip. But far more cats may be susceptible to the plant than once thought. 'It used to be believed that about two-thirds of adult cats adults respond - cheek-rubbing, rolling on the ground, vocalizing,' Kornreich said. But a study published in 2017 in the journal Behavioural Processes suggests that some cats may exhibit a less active response to the plant. 'They assume what's called a kind of sphinx position, and they vocalize less,' Kornreich said. 'The results of this study suggest that a much higher percentage of cats - if not all cats - are somehow affected by catnip.'

'Even domestic cats' wild cousins aren't immune to catnip's effects. Hunters have used catnip to trap cougars and mountain lions, hanging dried plants to lure the big cats with their tempting aroma. Studies have also shown that lions, leopards and jaguars respond to the compounds found in catnip, though tigers appear to be unaffected,' Kornreich said.

Mindy Weisberger - Senior Writer November,2019. www.livescience.com

See page 17 for Fluffy & Bonkers views on catnip

A Kitten With A Tiny Mark On Its Nose Has Gone Viral On Social Media



At first glance, the black and white cat, who was spotted by Twitter user Tokaitrik, appears to be like every other kitten. But on closer inspection, the feline appears to have mark on its face that resembles another black cat. From far away, the standout blotch looks a little like a moustache, which morphs into the outline of cat the closer you get to the animal.

The social media user said he noticed the kitten's interesting facial markings when he compared it to the other felines in its company.

In fact, the very distinct pattern looks as if it shows the body of a sleeping cat, pointed ears and cat head included. Commenting on the picture, one user compared the cute kitten to Hitler, who had a moustached on his face. While a second said: 'The greatest thing I've ever seen!' Translated from Chinese, a third said: 'So cute! They look like strays. I hope they are taken care of and get spayed/neutered. It would be great if they could find homes'

A Box Of Kittens Adopted Me While In Insolation, And Taught Me A Valuable Lesson



I have been a lifelong feeder of stray animals (my nickname at college was Mother Aphid), and I have always worked on the basis that if a stray is prepared to approach me, it must be hungry. This works at home, too, so if a street cat is content to run the gauntlet of my dog and numerous other cats to get to some food in the garden, then it must be hungry enough to warrant feeding.

Given my propensity to offer up food, new cats appear in my garden periodically, so I was not too surprised to see a scrawny stray last week saunter into the garden at dinner time and sit in hope of some scraps. I fed her. Next meal time, she was there again. And again for the following breakfast.

That evening, as I sat watching Netflix, she strolled through my living room without a care in the world. My cats and I exchanged glances. None of them admitted to knowing her. 'Not with me,' they shrugged. Thin and sort of ugly looking, this little stray was clearly a mother, and heavy with milk; she walked bow legged, like a cowboy. Obviously, she had a litter of kittens stashed somewhere, so none of us begrudged her the time out⁷⁷

The next day it was raining, and there she was again. As I went indoors to start work, she followed me in, and spent the rest of the day moving from chair to chair, snoozing contentedly. 'Ah, her kittens are older and driving her crazy,' I thought. 'She is here to get away from them.' How could I object to a tired mother catching up on lost sleep? I left her to it. It carried on raining.

Later that same evening, I was watching Netflix (again: it's a bit of a theme at the moment), and it was gone 11pm, and suddenly the stray was in the living room again. Something was squeaking loudly, and with a sense of horror I figured it must be a mouse. As I got up and moved towards her, I realised it was not a rodent but instead a tiny kitten. Barely 3 weeks old, this was not a sturdy little cat, but a delicate, fragile new-born the size of a sausage, and mewling in tiny high-pitched squeaks. As I got closer, she panicked and disappeared back out of the dog flap into the pouring rain.

My cats watched silently as I set about making a warm 'den' in the spare room for her and her tiny cargo. I fashioned it out of a towel and a cat box, at the bottom of a cupboard, knowing she would be looking for shelter and privacy. The dog was looking nervous. He isn't a big fan of cats, regarding them as evil tempered, scratchy things. He already shares his house with too many of them (all rescues) and was looking none too pleased at the prospect of more arrivals. We waited.

Slowly she came back in with her precious bundle. I coaxed mother and baby into the den. The kitten was cold and wet, so I gently dried it off with a tea towel while it wriggled in protest. As mother and baby settle down, I felt content. It was 2am. We all went to bed.

The next morning the rain had gone, and the sun was shining. I tiptoed into the spare room to check on the mother and child. As I peered into the box, I was surprised to see an additional three kittens all heaped in a corner. Judging me to be an adequate safe house, the little stray went and retrieved the rest of her litter in the middle of the night, through the pouring rain. Feeling a little honoured, I organised breakfast.

Now, three days later, and the new little family are still here. Sadly one of the four died, but the remaining three are healthy and robust. Sharing my house with the mother, I am coming to realise that, while she is looking after them well, we have very different parenting styles. She likes to leave the kittens for hours, flopped on chairs sleeping, while I hover nervously, checking on them (and her food bowl) every hour. She randomly deposits one of her brood in the middle of a room, until I find it, looking small and bewildered, and take it back to the den.

Last night, just before dinner, she was adamant that the best place for one kitten was the kitchen doorway, through which every one of my animals passes to get food. Realising this was not her best move, I put it back in the den. She brought it out again. As the hoards began gathering in anticipation of food, I moved the kitten again. She put it back. Eventually, she realised she would have to fight every animal in the house to stop the migration past her baby. I moved it. She let me.

Today, the young family are still in the spare room. I have perfected my den-building technique, so that while they are out of the cupboard (I think she found it too hot) they are nested in the cat box, under a sheet 'tent', with a cardboard box extension. The only entrance is via under the bed, and she seems content that, finally, her family is safe.

As anyone living with multiple animals can attest, at times it feels like living in a centre of great political intrigue. Fights and squabbles are commonplace, as the cats in my house jostle for power in a hierarchy I will never understand. The valuable real estate of the garden table is fought over repeatedly. Already masters of social distancing, cats sit exactly two feet apart – no more, no less – as a fragile truce settles at meal times, and any incursion is considered an act of war.

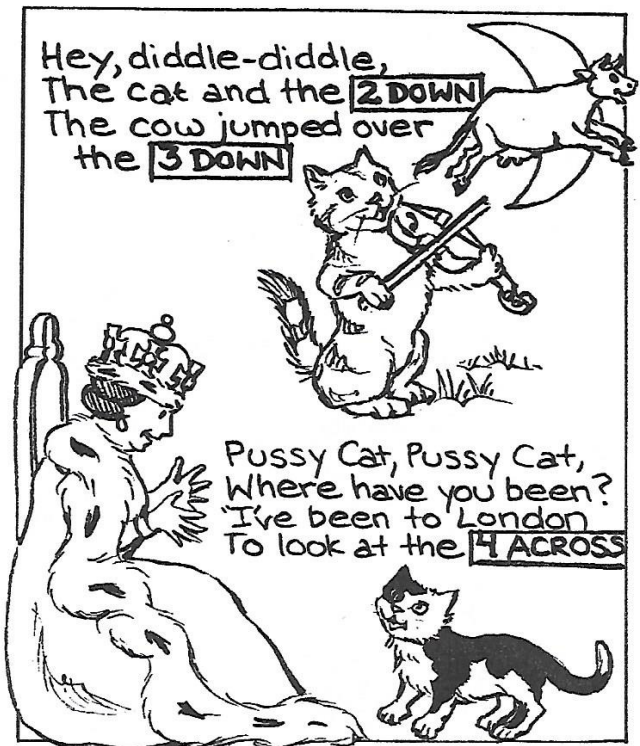
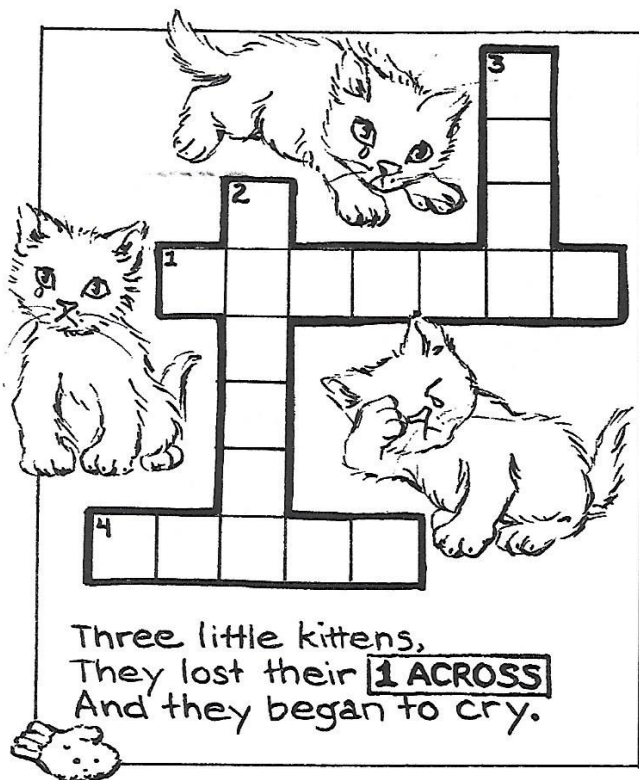
Yet, even as these stand-offs and screaming matches are going on, when the stray mother appears, everyone lets her pass in peace. It's as if, despite the politics and the power struggles, some things in this world are simply more important.

New life and new hope overrides everything, making other matters dissolve away. Perhaps there's a lesson there for all of us.

www.thenational.ae, Sarah Maisey/The National, April 2020



KIT'S KORNER



Cats are popular animals in stories and poems. Here are some Mother Goose poems that tell about cats.

Fill in the missing words in the puzzle. The numbers in the poems tell you where the words belong in the puzzle. Use the picture clues, too.

Answers on page 17

The Final Miaow

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



Catnip From Fluffy & Bonkers Point of View

The truth we are about to reveal emphasizes the danger that this botanical enemy poses to catkind. It's smell is alluring, even sweet, but be forewarned. This scourge, this catnip, can only lead you down a primrose path to destruction, and if you are not careful you may be the one lazily rolling down that path.

Catnip pushers are shrewd. They may be someone you know. You can be sitting around and minding your own business, when they bring a little bag home from their 'connection' at the pet shop. They may even grow it themselves in the garden. Never

mind that this leafy menace ruins lives all around the globe. All they know is that it makes cats behave in a 'funny' way. They don't care that all it takes is one 'hit' and a cat is hooked. No the pusher just wants to ply you with some 'good stuff' for her own twisted amusement.

Of course it tastes good when you chew it, and it feels good too, For a little while, anyway. Then you will be seized by an uncontrollable urge to roll, as if in a trance. Before you know it you'll be on the floor, rolling in the catnip, getting it caught in your beautiful fur.

Suddenly nothing seems to matter. Space and time expand. Paws suddenly become more interesting, and you really notice how furry your fur is. Music you never liked before is now 'blowing your mind'. You try and get up and find it is more difficult than you remember. You decide it would be better just to stay where you are and roll around on the ground a little longer. Then it all starts to go bad. The feeling of euphoria gives way to acute paranoia. Everyone is trying to get you, even your favourite toy. Your interest in food and petting wanes. You try and take refuge in your usual hiding place, but find there is nowhere to hide from your own mind. After a few hours of thinking the nightmare will never end, it finally fades, and you think you're back to normal. You promise yourself - never again.

Then the craving starts. You've heard the stories about cats who got hooked, but that's not you. You just want to try some of that sweet, sweet catnip one more time. You can stop any time you want. But as soon as the pusher shows up and sprinkles more catnip on your scratching post, you lose control. You promise yourself that this is the last time, and you won't become 'one of those cats'. Days roll by, even weeks. Before you know it the catnip is all gone, and your person doesn't seem to understand that she needs to go back to the pet shop and buy more Now!

Nothing matters but getting more catnip. It's all you think about. You crawl around the carpet to see if there's any you missed. You dig around in your food dish, searching for any there. You try to sneak out of the house to look for some growing in the garden. Never mind the rain is poring down and you aren't allowed outside. Before you know it, all your toys will be chewed beyond recognition because you are sure there has to be more catnip in them. You try and break into your person's cupboards to see if she's holding out on you. Endless days and sleepless nights will be spent dreaming of the next batch.

We know what you are thinking. That will never happen to me. But this scenario is based on the true stories of former catnip addicts. They got away from it with their lives. You might not be so lucky. Remember if someone approaches you with some catnip, just say meow and keep walking. If it is too late for that, you can quit the horrible habit. - but you can't do it alone. There plenty of twelve-step organizations out there that can help you kick the habit. Just take one day at a time, and eventually you will be a stronger cat.

Once you are clean, however, avoid the lure of the weed with roots in hell.

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

A Habit Of Highly Effective Cats - Tail Fluttering

In this respect, tailless or bobtailed cats will be at a disadvantage while those gifted with long fur will have an added advantage. It is well known by cats that humans are not too good at reading our more subtle tail signals. However, most of them can recognise the upright, slightly a-quiver tail of greeting. Take care that it cannot be mistaken for spraying - a trait they dislike greatly, being cursed with a poor sense of smell unable to appreciate scent messages. Practice tail fluttering when greeting your human, when being fed and when ankle surfing. If possible, practice walking, trotting and bounding (to greet your human) with tail aloft. (by Messybeast)



10 Eyebrows
9 Ernst Stavro Blofeld
8 Former Blue Peter cats
7 Governing Council of the Cat Fancy
6 Percy Shaw

2 It was the first cat sent into space

1 Queen or Molly
2 True
3 T.S. Elliot
4 Crookshanks

1 Mittens
2 Fiddle
3 Moon
4 Queen

A

cat can purr its way out of anything.

Donna McCrohan