

# The Scratching Post



**SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2009**

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



# The Scratching Post

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### SABCCI Committee

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Secretary – Gloria Hehir  
Treasurer – Alison Kinsella

Ronnie Brooks, Elizabeth Flood, Alice Forshaw, Hugh Gibney,  
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### A little bit of mouse information!

A female mouse can be bred at age fifty days,,have babies at 3 weeks, come back in heat at 12 hours and be nursing a litter while carrying one...they average 10-12 per litter...something like 15 litters a year, with their young reproducing at age fifty days. If you have mice at the moment in your house, you will have in your house from two mice in a year, 180 little mice! I love my cats....they don't allow that to happen..... one hopes.....



**t's better to feed one cat than many mice'**

Old Norwegian Proverb

## Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn  
2009 issue of The Scratching Post.  
Breffni House Pets in Dundrum once again has given us sponsorship so many thanks to them.

So if you're ready, sit back, have an sherry and ENJOY! Karen and Gloria ^..^

Do you have any photos or articles for the newsletter?  
Please send them to [karensluiters@eircom.net](mailto:karensluiters@eircom.net) or [gloriateti@eircom.net](mailto:gloriateti@eircom.net)



### SABCCI Show Reminder

Please Note - The 56th SABCCI Championship Show will be held earlier than usual

on Sunday the 20th of September in

Knocklyon Community Centre, Knocklyon.

Doors open to the public at 12:00 with Best In Show judging from 4:00pm

See you there!

### The Cat & The Husband

A man absolutely hated his wife's cat and decided to get rid of him one day by driving him 20 blocks from his home and leaving him at the park. As he arrived home, the cat was walking up the driveway.

The next day he decided to drive the cat 40 blocks away. He put the beast out and headed for home. Driving back up his driveway, there was the cat!

He kept taking the cat further and further, but the cat would always beat him home. At last he decided to drive a few miles away, turn right, past the bridge, then right again and another right until he reached what he thought was a safe distance from his home and left the cat there.

Hours later the man calls home to his wife: 'Jen, is the cat there?'

'Yes,' the wife answers, 'why do you ask?'

'I'm lost,' says the man, 'and I need the cat to give me directions home.'



### Inner Strength

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills,  
If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your trouble,  
If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,  
If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,  
If you can overlook when people take things out on you when, through no fault of yours,  
something goes wrong,  
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,  
If you can face the world without lies and deceit,  
If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
If you can relax without liquor,  
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,



Then.....you are probably a cat.

## A Food For Cats (& Dogs)

One of the determining factors of good health is good food. Good food is necessary for the body to maintain itself, keep it going and protect itself against harmful effects from outside. When the body gets weighed down with accumulated waste products from bad food, it cannot function properly, and those piled up waste products will eventually cause disease.

So which food is good for cats and which is bad?



Good food for the cat should copy as far as possible the food that the cat would eat in the wild. This is the food that the cat's body is programmed for and is best combined with other substances known to be beneficial. So good food contains fresh meat with bones (either ground down or left whole) and vegetables which are similar to the bowel contents of game.

Bite sized chunks, dried food or tinned food are not the right food! Even if it's expensive and a well known brand. These foods contain proteins from chicken heads, legs and other waste matter of dubious quality that are then ground down and heated through. The heating process changes the amino acid pattern and this makes the protein harder to digest.

Even if the manufacturer puts high quality protein in the food, it will be destroyed by the heating process. In addition carbohydrates are often added, which generally are grains. Grains produce proteins which are difficult to absorb.

There are very few fats in dried food because these require antioxidants to stay well.

However, because the necessary micronutrients are missing from the food, only a minimum of vitamins and minerals are capable of being absorbed - so an oversupply is often added to the food to compensate. This however causes a heavy burden on the body.

Another problem with these foods is that they are totally sterile in order to preserve them as long as possible

The greatest disadvantage of these foods is that the bowel contents of our cats and dogs cannot build up the natural intestinal flora which is a necessary requirement for optimum resistance to disease.

In fact dry food to a cat or dog can be compared with us eating a deepfreeze pizza every day with some added vitamin pills. You get every thing into you but it still doesn't give you the optimum nutrients to stay healthy.

If one changes the food for the cat and dog to more holistic food, it has been observed that 70% of the animals with skin, stomach and intestinal complaints improve.

Source Material: Holistic Vets in Holland. De Oase

Another article to follow in the next newsletter - Holistic Food for The Cat



**I**

believe cats to be spirits come to earth. A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through.

Jules Verne

## Pedigree - The Ragdoll

### A Woman's' Obsession That Became a World Dream

The Ragdoll is only lately after appearing in Ireland. Very few had the “privilege” to be able to share their lives with such beautiful & charismatic creatures before now, and to do so they had to travel to the U.K. to get a kitten, or even wait months of quarantine when having a Ragdoll imported from anywhere else in the world. Even now with less than a handful of registered breeders in the Republic of Ireland, every new litter born is considered a “God send”.

These outstanding creatures own their name to their typical floppiness which becomes very evident when picked up. With their laid-back attitude and extreme gentle temperament, the Ragdoll is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular cat in the U.S. followed by countries like Australia, mainland Europe, U.K. just to mention a few.



The Ragdoll breed came about as a result of a woman's intuition & observation of feline behavior. Ann Baker (this was the woman's name), was in the start of the 1960s a Californian “Persian” breeder. Ms. Baker thought nothing of using as a stud a male of black Persian appearance who was the son of an unregistered white semi-longhair cat resembling an Angora. This “Angora” cat called Josephine was a cat with an unpredictable temperament and all of her litters took her behavior.

One day poor Josephine was hit by a car and left on the side of the road injured for a couple of days. When finally taken to a veterinary hospital, cured and brought back (minus 1 eye), Josephine's temperament had completely changed and most strangely all the litter that Josephine produced from that moment on had the same laid back & gentle attitude. This behavioral change was what caught Ms. Baker's attention and she also noted that all the kittens, like her mother would flop when picked up.

Ms. Baker tried to explain this phenomenon firstly by stating that Josephine's attitude had changed “by an act of God” by mutating her genetic constitution, and later by proclaiming that the veterinary surgery where Josephine was cured had performed a “gene alteration” on the cat. At the highest of her strange “perception”, Ann Baker also stated that Ragdolls do not feel pain. This was, years later, proven completely wrong by research done on a multitude of Ragdoll cats & kittens, so putting to sleep this ridiculous claim.

Whatever was the reason for this drastic change in Josephine, made Ms. Baker start breeding cats with particular traits using Josephine as queen, they started to also resemble very closely Birman cats. But some of the differences from the Birman were deep enough to consider these new generations a “breed” in their own right. Ann Baker trademarked the name “Ragdoll”, and franchised the rights of breeding these magnificent cats. All of this came to a sudden stop when a law suit emerged with some of the “franchised” breeders sitting on opposite benches from Ms. Baker whom had decided to also ask for a percentage of the price of each Ragdoll kitten sold.

Living with a Ragdoll is one of the most fulfilling and interesting experience ever. Even though all Ragdolls share their common laid back & gentle attitude, each and every one of them are very much different individuals - much more than in any other breed. This makes them, in most Ragdoll breeders and owners eyes, nearly human. In the same litter you can have the “silent-strong type”, “the wind-up jack-in-the box type”, “the chirping one”, “the shadow” (very popular and wide spread between Ragdoll kittens/cats. They will follow you absolutely everywhere, even in places where you would really appreciate a bit of privacy), “the train” (whom will nearly deafen you by continuously showing his/hers affection purring like mad while sitting on your laps) or the “far-away adoring type” (whom will sit next to you - not on your laps - but close enough for you to hear his/her gentle purring while looking straight at you).

The Ragdoll possess a striking beauty in all their colours and patterns. The original Ragdoll colours are:  
Seal, Blue, Chocolate & Lilac

and only lately introduced are the new colours:  
Red (also called flame) and Cream

The Ragdoll patterns are:

Colourpoint, Bi-Colour, Tabby (also known as Lynx), & Mitted.

All of the above colours and patten also come in the Tortie variation.

page

*Continued on next*





The complexity of the colours/patterns balance required & compared to the Ragdoll standard of points is way too detailed to explained in this instance (usually better understood & more easy to follow if showed with an explanatory drawing). This complexity is also reflected in two of the Ragdoll original colours - Chocolate & Lilac - which are extremely difficult to achieve and tend to disappear within a few generations if not re-entered with new bloodstock carrying the same gene/colour.

Due to this difficulty in obtaining & maintaining these extremely attractive colours, unfortunately during the years some “frustrated breeders”, tried to introduce chocolate & lilac in their breeding catteries by illegally out-crossing Ragdoll with other breeds (mainly Siamese). To this end, now in most worldwide feline federations - Ragdoll breeders who want to register their kittens/cats as chocolate or lilac have to produce an animal testing DNA lab report stating the result of same and also showing the kittens/cats bloodline by certified pedigrees.

Another fabulous trait of the beautiful Ragdoll is their rabbit-like coat. This extreme soft and light shedding coat is much easier to look after than those of most semi-long hair & long hair cats. A 2-3 times a week grooming regime is enough to keep a Ragdoll coat in good condition while giving them something that they adore - being pampered. After all that, let’s not forget the Ragdoll formidable size, which makes them the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest domesticated cat in the world.

Ragdoll are very slow maturing cats, and they won’t reach their final colouring and size until around the age of 4.

Ragdoll unfortunately are not without their problems, and like Maine Coons they can be affected by the genetic disorder HCM (Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy), with devastating consequences. In most overseas countries, all breeding queens/studs have been genetically tested for years to detect the known faulty gene that causes this, but in the UK and Ireland tests are starting to be done on breeding cats only lately. A lot more needs to be done , both by breeders and scientist working together, to make sure to eradicate as soon as possible this terrible hazard from the Ragdoll bloodline.

Whatever reason pushed Ms. Baker to follow her curiosity/instinct, and for as much as we might dislike the way she conducted her Ragdoll breeding programme, we cannot deny that the Ragdoll is the cat that any of us would love to have - a “gentle giant” with a soft coat which loves nothing better than to become the “Doll of the house”.

Natascia Neretti 🐾

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## Cat Legends - Black Cats

In the Middle Ages, cats were not very popular because of their association with witchcraft and black magic. Superstitions about cats, some still current today, date back to this period. Fisherman’s wives believed keeping a black cat in your home meant your husband would always return from sea. In the 19th century, King Henry 1 of Saxony decreed that the fine for killing a cat should be 60 bushels of corn. There are still people today who believe that the cat is a reincarnation of the devil and regards it as bad luck.

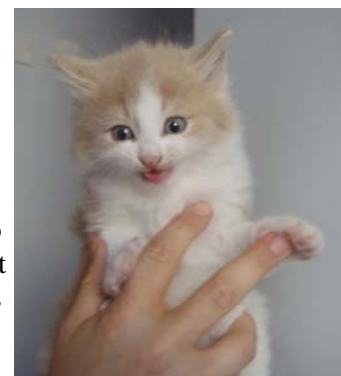


**L**ike a graceful vase, a cat, even when motionless, seems to flow’

George Will

## Fostering Kittens for the DSPCA – My Experience

There is nothing more rewarding than watching a kitten grow before your eyes and develop his or her own set of skills, quirks and personality. I have been fostering young kittens for the Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (DSPCA) now for over two years. Currently, the DSPCA have over 100 kittens in foster care and the homeless young kittens keep arriving!



The DSPCA is a registered charity, to prevent cruelty to animals. It is primarily set up to care for sick and injured animals. Through fundraising the DSPCA has created excellent re-homing and veterinary facilities – however, given the amount of stray cats and kittens in the Dublin area, the shelter simply cannot cope (resource wise) with so many hundreds of young abandoned kittens.

Stray kittens come in at all ages. The DSPCA's policy is not to rehome kittens until they are 10 weeks old. Therefore, on arrival fostering is required because it is not suitable for the kittens to stay up at the DSPCA as space is limited and the risk is too great that young kittens would pick up infections from other animals given their weak little immune systems. At such a tender age they also deserve to be in a loving foster home getting used to humans rather than in a cage, albeit a spacious one, for a couple of weeks.

I got involved with the DSPCA at weekends by volunteering at the shelter. A police raid had been recently carried out on a puppy farm in Wicklow and Livy arrived up to the shelter needing care amongst many other puppies, dogs and cats. At about three weeks old he was a dirty, skinny and timid ball of black fluff. I took him home to foster, and almost immediately he became a different kitten - at ease he began eating, being playful and affectionate. It's amazing what the comfort of a loving environment can do to a traumatized kitten. Livy was so small he couldn't be left to roam the house so resided in a small side room isolated from our older cats. The DSPCA supplied all food, litter, bowls and litter trays for his stay with us and any veterinary care needed during that time was free of charge from the DSPCA. Though we ended up keeping Livy, you are under no obligation to re-home or keep foster kittens yourself, the DSPCA will do all that work when the kittens are 10 weeks old.



We caught the fostering bug and have kept it up. Currently we have a momma cat with four babies from when they were 2 days old. It has been amazing watching them open their eyes, learn to walk and eat solid food. It's been a particularly 'hands off' fostering experience as the momma cat has done all the work. In my experience it makes no difference whether you foster one or a large litter of kittens. The reward is still the same – seeing kittens who arrived in a miserable state, becoming tame, loving and healthy. It isn't always easy and a barrel of laughs though... I had a litter of three 4 week old kittens, two of whom very suddenly fell ill with Panleukopenia, an often deadly virus to kittens which they had picked up before they came to me. Despite help from the DSPCA vet, the two didn't

make it. However, in the couple of days before they died I take solace that my fostering had given them a good warm loving home which they would otherwise never have experienced in their short life.

The opportunity to foster is rewarding on so many levels and no more so than when the grown up healthy 10 week old kittens are brought back up to the center and adopted out to a good home. I would highly recommend helping out the DSPCA by fostering a kitten. Even with 3 of our own permanent cats it is possible. Fostering can be done in an apartment or house – if you have the time and love for cats to give then I would highly recommend it! Currently, the DSPCA have over 100 kittens in foster care and the homeless young kittens keep arriving so help is always urgently needed.

If you have any questions or need advice about fostering I am happy to answer questions: [laurasteerman@live.ie](mailto:laurasteerman@live.ie); or you can contact the *Fostering and Volunteer Co-ordinator at the DSPCA* – Jane Sammon at [jane.sammon@yahoo.ie](mailto:jane.sammon@yahoo.ie) for information on fostering and volunteering at the shelter. For more information on the DSPCA please see [www.dspca.ie](http://www.dspca.ie)

Laura Steerman

## A Quiz For.....

### The Humans

Your cat waits and meows at the front door when you arrive. Is it saying;

- A) Welcome home
- B) The phone rang twice while you were out
- C) Feed me, NOW

Your cat meows at the door when you go out. Is it saying;

- A) Please don't leave me alone
- B) Good-bye
- C) But what if I get hungry while you are out?

Your cat digs its claws in your leg. Is this;

- A) An unsuppressed primal instinct
- B) A sign of affection
- C) A demand to be feed now

Your cat scratches at the door after being fed. Is it saying;

- A) Lemme out—I need to use the garden
- B) Wanna go out and play
- C) Wonder what they've got to eat next door.



### The Cats

Your human walks into the kitchen. Does this mean;

- A) It's hungry
- B) It's lost
- C) Your hungry



Your human puts down a bowl of food for you. Is this;

- A) Dinner
- B) Something to keep you going until dinner is ready
- C) Incredible junk to be scorned in favour of what the humans have.

Your human removes you from the top of the television. Does this mean;

- A) Your're in trouble - better not do it again
- B) Nothing—humans do this from time to time
- C) The human wants to play, so climb up again to amuse it

Staircases are for;

- A) Getting up to the human's bedroom at 4am
- B) Lying in wait in the dark at the top of..
- C) Walking down just slower than the human in front of it
- D) All of above

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### Cat Trivia -

Cats are the only 4 footed animal, with the exception of camels and giraffes, that walk by moving their front and hind legs on the one side and then the other.

With powerful leg muscles, especially in their hind legs, the domestic cat has been known to reach running speeds of up to 25 mph, A frighten cat can run up to 30 mph -while the fastest human can only run 27.89mph.

The lightness of a feline's tread can be attributed to the fact that they walk on their toes - the soles of their feet rarely touch the ground. The pillow-like balls of their paws allow them to prowl noiselessly in the wild.



## Cats In The News

### Cat Escapes Death In Washer

Zoro, from Germany, narrowly escaped death in a washing machine. The cat sneaked into his family's loaded washing machine during the night. The next morning, the homeowner's son started the wash without realizing the family pet was trapped inside. Worse, he must have been washing whites, because the water temperature was set to "hot," and was due to reach 194 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fortunately, the boy's mother heard Zoro causing a ruckus from inside the washer, yet was somehow unable to stop the machine herself. The mother called the fire department for help and officers arrived at the house within minutes to successfully rescue the cat from a washer.

Zoro was rescued before the water temperature in the machine rose beyond 86 degrees Fahrenheit, and he was reported to be unharmed by the incident, though the fire department officers brought him to a veterinarian just to be sure. Zoro is set to be released from medical observation not long after.

From Today,MSNBC.com,Via PawNation website



### A 999 Dialling Cat

A cat sparked a full-scale emergency after stepping on a phone and dialling 999.

Watson, a one-year-old Bengal, pawed the handset and then somehow hit the redial button 4 times.

Worried cops raced to the address and spotted a smashed vase when they peered through a window. Fearing a burglary they broke down the door.

Owner Lauren O'Shea, 23, an animal nursing assistant, said: "A friend saw all commotion at my flat and called me. I hurried round there and the police told me they thought there had been a burglary. I immediately said, I bet it was the cat. When we first moved in he would play a lot with the phone."

Lauren, of East Preston, West Sussex, added: "When we first moved in, the cat would play with the phone a lot - so we used to try to hide it from him."

Clumsy Watson, who Lauren took from an animal rescue centre, redeemed himself when he won second prize at a Bengal cat show at the weekend.

The Sun July 2009



### Casper's Daily Ride On The Number 3 Bus

Each morning 12 year old Casper leaves home and waits for the 10:55 service. He stands patiently in the queue before hopping on board and taking his favourite back seat spot. He then travels 11 miles around Plymouth before travelling home.

Casper has made the journey every day for the past 4 years. He is such a regular that drivers are told to look out for him and ensure he gets off at the right stop.

Owner Susan Finden, who got Casper from a rescue centre, thinks he started catching the bus after watching her use it. 'He'd disappear for hours and I never understood why until a driver told me. He sits patiently in the queue good as gold—it'll be person, person, person, cat, person.' A First Bus spokesman said: 'We wouldn't sell a cat a Rover ticket. But in cat years he is an OAP so he'd get a free bus pass anyway.'

The Sun - August 2009

**"A Cat's Little Instruction Book" No 174 - Always make sure the lid is down on the toilet before jumping on it.**

# The Catwalk

**Puskin -**



A. Kiely, Dublin

**Christmas Cats—  
Two cats waiting for  
Santa Claws**



**Zena -**



E. McKerrow, Dublin

**Caramel -**



Let me think  
about that  
and I will get  
back to you...

A. Murphy, Dublin

**The Fosters -**

Did you read  
about us in  
the article on  
Page 7?



L. Steerman, Dublin

# The Catwalk

## Hector -

You gave me a fright.

Is it Christmas Already!

K. Casey, Dublin



## Paddy -

Does my bum look big in this?

R.. Brooks, Carlow



## Sheba -

Will I make these Stairs? I am one of the cats on Page 5.

N. Nerretti,, Cork



## Tarquin's Friend -

Last newsletter we had a story about Tarquin the Birman. Here is his friend enjoying a birthday cake. Is it his?

V. Loge, Dublin





# The 19h Supreme Cat Show

Roadstone Group Sports Centre, Kingswood  
26th April, 2009



The 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Show was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April at Roadstone Group Sports centre, a new venue for us, which proved to be very popular with exhibitors with the excellent facilities available. As there was plenty of space in the Hall we were able to use the ring system of judging, which meant exhibitors could sit and watch judging take place and here the judges comments. It was very exciting for RTE televising the Show, thanks to our publicity organiser Karen Sluiters, and it was broadcast on 7<sup>th</sup> May. I'd like to express my most grateful thanks to the many people who helped to make it such a special day

Ronnie Brooks, Show Manager

*Best of Variety winners were as follows:-*

## **Persian**

Adult Ms Craig & Mr Bell's INT GR CH VITA-NOVA'S DREAMER  
Kitten Ms Butler's SHEERBLISS SNOW BUTTERFLY  
Neuter Dr Cox's PR HOITYTOITY ONECOOLCOOKIE

## **Semi LH**

Adult Ms Saville's CH ISHCUS CAMILLATHECHICKEN  
Kitten Ms Nerretti & Mr Gibbons' LADYDOLL BOADICEA  
Neuter Mr Broderick's ISHCUS MARVIN

## **British**

Adult Ms Healey's ARDEEVAAN CORMAC  
Kitten -  
Neuter Ms Callen & Ms Russell's PR GRAYGEES MR SIMPSON

## **Foreign**

Adult Ms Little's CH PREFERE SYMPHONY  
Kitten Mr Long's ISMISHA SURFER ROSA  
Neuter Ms Crean's AMORCATZ MARCEL WAVE

## **Burmese**

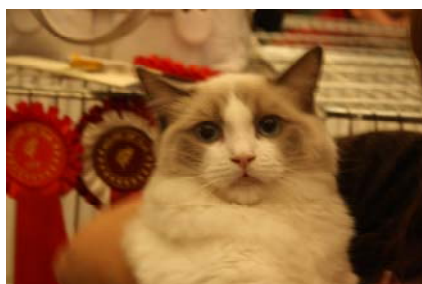
Adult Mr & Mrs Taylor's BACKCHAT MOLLY BLOOM  
Kitten Mr Keenan's KATCENNE SPERANZA WILDE  
Neuter Mr & Mrs Taylor's INT CH BACKCHAT BUCCANEER

## **Oriental**

Adult -  
Kitten Ms Lenihan's KYOMI KOHANA  
Neuter -

## **Siamese**

Adult Ms Goodison's GR & INT CH CALVOS MYSTIC BELLE  
Kitten -  
Neuter -



**Supreme Exhibit  
Ladydoll Boadicea**



**Supreme Adult**  
Ms Craig & Mr Bell's INT GR CH VITA-NOVA'S DREAMER (Exotic)



**Supreme Kitten**  
Ms Nerretti & Mr Gibbons' LADYDOLL BOADICEA (Ragdoll)

**Supreme Neuter**  
Mr Broderick's ISHCUS MARVIN (Maine Coon)

**Supreme Non-Pedigree**  
Ms A Kearnes' BUBBLES (Tabby & White)

**Supreme Exhibit**  
Ms Nerretti & Mr Gibbons' LADYDOLL BOADICEA

A note from Natascia Neretti of Poppylove

I hope you won't mind me taking this opportunity to express our (my partner Jim and the kids feel exactly the same), immense love and gratitude to our very first Ragdoll - Boadicea - (AKA Buddha), for bringing home the most prestigious prize any breeder/owner can ever dream of by winning the "G.C.C.F.I. Supreme Exhibit" in April 2009.

Thank you so much from all of us - our beloved darling Buddha -, for making us feel always loved and cherished. We love you with all our hearts!!!

### **Governing Council of Cat Fancy Ireland Notice Registration Fees**

The following scale of fees was agreed at the Council AGM last June and will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September. There is no increase except in the charge for registrations from outside our jurisdiction.

The fees for status change have always been there but will now be enforced also the requirement to complete the appropriate forms for such transfers.

These forms may be requested from the Registrar until such times as the GCCFI web site now under construction is completed.

The term cat will also include kitten

Registration for cat born in R of Ireland with GCCFI prefix	€8
All other registrations	€15
Transfer fee	€15
3 Generation Certified Pedigree	€10
4 Generation Certified Pedigree	€15
5 Generation Certified Pedigree	€25
Transfer from Active to Inactive status *	€10
Transfer from Inactive to Active status *	€10
Amendments if owner's mistake	€5
Amendments if Registrar's mistake	No charge
Life Prefix	€100
Transfer of Prefix from other Registering body	€50

\* Official form to be completed

**T**he reason cats climb is so that they can look down on almost every other animal. It's also the reason they hate birds.'

KC Buffington



## Companionable Cats



The independence of cats is a characteristic that appeals to numerous people. It also gives emphasis to many occasions when cats offer or ask for attention and affection. The cynic may say that cats are only seeking their own advantage – warmth on a lap, human grooming or to reinforce a bond that ensures their food supply - but cats do offer much to humans. Stroking a cat is calming for the person as well as for the cat, and cats (and other pets) have proved beneficial in aiding convalescence as well as in combating forms of depression and mental illness. For all of us, young and old, cats offer something that we all need – companionship. And they seem to take pleasure in our company, too.

A cat can share those moments of loneliness, insecurity or unhappiness that we hide from others, and give us reassuring, tactile comfort in return. Cats often react to grief or pain in humans with apparent understanding. Inca, a tabby-point Siamese, would always be on hand if his keeper was feeling low and on more than one occasion tried to lick tears away. Artist Henri Matisse loved the company of cats; and when ill health forced him to stay in bed he was joined there and comforted by his favourite black cat.

Cats also offer their friendship to strangers – we all know the pleasure of an unknown cat that comes up to greet us and exchange a word or two. The Polish pianist and statesman, Ignace Paderewski recounted how, when he made his concert debut in London at the St James's Theatre, he was overcome with nerves when he walked out onto the stage. As he settled himself at the piano, the theatre's resident cat came out to join him and leapt up into his lap. The audience was amused and delighted, the pianist able to relax, and puss stayed purring on his lap as he played the opening etude. Paderewski later commented that without the cat's presence, he could never have continued.

Cats are often fussy in their choice of companionship. US author Robert Caras has described how a large black male cat, known to the household as Tom, would turn up only when his daughter Pamela was expected home from college for the weekend or the holidays. The odd thing was that Tom always appeared prior to Pamela's arrival. Her school was 200 miles away so how did he know that she was coming? Whatever explanation, he always left the house when she went back.

Cats, like humans, can be jealous and possessive, begrudging any attention their keeper gives to others – but equally some humans can resent their cats being friendly to visitors. Often cats perversely make a bee-line for a guest who professes no great interest in, or even a profound dislike of all felines. By contrast, some antisocial cats will go to the other extreme and disappear totally when there are visitors around, only to come out of their hiding places when they are assured once more of the undivided attention of their owner. Source – 99 Lives – Howard Loxton

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### ***Experts From A Cat's Guide To Human Beings - How & When To Get Your Human's Attention***

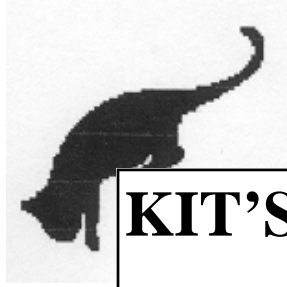
Humans often erroneously assume that there are other, more important activities than taking care of your immediate needs, such as conducting business, spending time with their families or even sleeping.

Though this is dreadfully inconvenient, you can make this work to your advantage by pestering your human at the moment it is the busiest. It is usually so flustered that it will do whatever you want it to do, just to get you out of its hair. Not coincidentally, human teenagers follow this same practice.

Here are some tried and true methods of getting your human to do what you want;

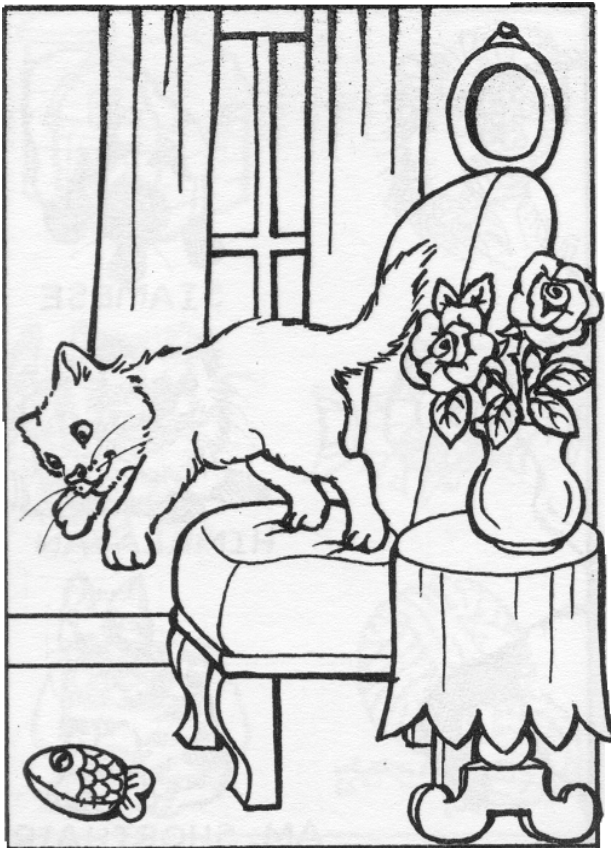
***Sitting on paper*** - An oldie but a goodie. If a human has paper in front of it, chances are good it's something they assume is more important than you. They will often offer you a snack to lure you away. Establish your supremacy over this wood pulp product at every opportunity. This practice also works well with computer keyboards, remote controls, car keys and small children.

***Waking your human at odd hours*** - A cat's golden time is between 3:30 and 4:30 in the morning. If you paw at your human's sleeping face during this time, you have a better than even chance that it will get up and, in an incoherent haze, do exactly what you want. You may actually have to scratch deep sleepers to get their attention. Remember to vary the scratch site to keep the human from getting suspicious.



# KIT'S Korner

Find what is different



There are 5 things different between the pictures.  
Can you spot them and colour them in?

What does a cat like to eat on a hot day?

(Mice cream cone)

What do you do with a Blue Burmese?

(You try and cheer it up)

What do cats like to eat for breakfast?

(Mice Krispies)

What do cats read in the morning?

(Newspapers)

## **The Final Miaow**

As you can see we have come to the end of our newsletter and we hope you found it interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone who sent us articles and photos for the CATWALK.

We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending us more.

Many thanks to our sponsor **Breffni House Pets** who will be at SABCCI Show on the 20th of September. Don't forget to come and pay his stand a visit.

**Remember - The SABCCI 56th Championship Show on the 20th of September  
at the Knocklyon Community Centre, Knocklyon**

**Doors open to the public 12:00 with Best In Show judging from 4:00**

See you all at the show! ^..^

# **For All Your Pet Needs**

## **Breffni House Pets**



See You on the 20th of September!



Good Luck to All Exhibitors on Show Day

Breffni House Pets  
Windy Arbour, Dundrum Dublin 14  
(01) 2961339