

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2025

www.sabcci.com



The Scratching Post Spring 2025

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SABCCI Committee

Lorna Blackmore, Ronnie Brooks, Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir,
Aedamair Kiely, Hannah Phelan, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Aimee Weldon



Where Did It Come From? - On The Wrong Side Of Every Door

This phrase basically speaks to the 'grass is always greener' concept. Anyone who lives with a cat knows that kitties always want to be on the side of the door where they aren't currently standing.

The origin of this phrase may be T.S. Eliot's 1939 poem, 'Rum Tum Tugger' from Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats. Rum Tum Tugger is never satisfied and is 'always on the wrong side of every door.'
www.Catster.com



Urgent Appeal from UCD Veterinary Hospital



Due to an unprecedented increase in numbers of sick cats, the UCD Veterinary Hospital are seeking healthy cats to donate blood to be transfused to sick patients in their ICU.

Contact: vetblooddonorclinic@ucd.ie or 01 7166137

Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2025 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Day At The Beach* and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

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



The Dublin Championship Cat Show

13th April 2025

Ballinteer Community School
Broadford Road
Ballinteer



SABCCI and the GCCFI will hold a '2 in 1' Championship show,
2 shows running in the same hall at the same time.

Doors are open to the public from 12:00 until 5:00. Best In Show judging starting after 3:45

See you there!

Exciting New Title Classes For Household Pets In GCCFI Shows

From April 2025 GCCFI are introducing titled classes for these cats. You don't have to go in for the title if you don't want and can enter the classes as usual BUT if you want your cat to be awarded titles he/she must be registered.

This will cost €10 and can be done by going on to the GCCFI website www.gccfi.com, going to the Registrations page and then clicking on Enrol. After that just follow the instructions.

The Household Pet Section has been divided into two groups – Non-Pedigree Pets for those cats of traditional 'moggie' appearance and Pedigree Pets for cats looking like pedigrees and/or with known, unknown, full, half or part pedigree background.

The Non-Pedigree Pets and Pedigree Pets Sections are then divided into Long or Semi-Longhaired and Short-Haired Classes which are then further split for colour and pattern. This group is comprised of cats of pedigree appearance and/or with known or unknown pedigree, full, half or part pedigree background.

Breeds not recognized by GCCFI are NOT eligible to be shown in Household Pet classes.

The requirements for showing both groups of Household Pets are that all are judged by the same criteria for the quality of their Presentation, Condition, Temperament and Personality. In the Pedigree Pet section, no prefixes, titles, breed names or GEMS codes can be used. Cats are entered either with their pet name or, if registered, the rest of the registered name, without the prefix, may be used. All Household Pets aged 6 months and over must be neutered.

There is a standard list classes for the certificate classes and Show Managers must use these, with the correct class descriptions, to ensure consistency for all shows.

The title class results are recorded and administered by the GCCF office in the same way as Pedigree classes and titles are awarded automatically once the required number of certificates have been awarded.

The GCCF titles in the Household Pet Section are:

Master Cat (3 certificates under 3 different judges).

Grand Master Cat (For Master Cats. 3 certificates under 3 different judges).

Hibernian Grand Master Cat (for Grand Master cats. 4 certificates under 4 different judges)

Invictus Hibernian Grand Master Cat (for Hibernian Grand Master cats)

The title Invictus Hibernian Grand Master Cat shall be attained at three levels, Bronze, Silver & Gold. Four certificates must be won under 4 different judges in each section. Judges can be used again when you move to a higher section i.e a judge awarding a Bronze certificate can be entered under in Silver & Gold.

Rules For Cats

Lick-It Diet

Let them open another can of food. Lick-it dry. Smear it around the dish then turn your nose up at it. An hour later you can sit by the dish and look at it with disdain, meaning; you don't expect me to eat this dry crap, do you?

The Smell Of Hell

Wander gingerly over to the food they just put out. Stretch your neck out and smell it. Then look up at them

Cats.alpha.pl

* Day At The Beach - Coconut, Amaretto, orange & pineapple juice.



Move Aside Moggies, The 'Salty Liquorice' Is Here! How To Tell If Your Pet Has It

Cats with an unusual black and white coat nicknamed 'salty liquorice' have been revealed to possess a genetic mutation previously unknown to science. Discovered in Finland, the cat's fur has a distinctive salt and pepper appearance. The cause of the unusual look is that the cats' fur in the dappled areas is only coloured at the base, near the skin. Their hairs get progressively whiter along the hair nearer to its tips.

Heidi Anderson, of Mars Petcare Science & Diagnostics in Helsinki and colleagues nicknamed the new coat 'salmiak' after a salty liquorice snack in Finland where the cats were discovered. The unusual fur patterns were first noticed in three cats in a feral population in central Finland in 2007. The moggies were described as having a black and white 'tuxedo' colouration - but with 'an additional gradation of colour' on hairs on its coloured areas.

Researchers at the University of Helsinki sought cats with a similar pattern with the help of a national newspaper. Four cats fitting the criteria then had their DNA sampled. The researchers contacted Dr Anderson, a specialist in cat DNA testing, to see if there was anything unusual in the cats' genetics. Dr Anderson's DNA testing found the cats had a 'big chunk of DNA missing' and this is what is leading to the unusual colour effect. Dr Anderson said: 'These coats have aroused a lot of admiration for years. It's really exciting that we now have some genetic explanation for it.'

Publishing the research in the journal *Animal Genetics*, Dr Anderson and colleagues wrote: 'This salmiak patterning of white hairs is most noticeable in solid black cats, but it can occur with different colour backgrounds, including, for example, brown tabby, tortoiseshell and dilution (blue) and in both male and female cats.' The researchers added that it had been thought salmiak-coloured cats were infertile solely because of the rarity of the fur type in the cat population.

www.dailymail.co.uk, C. Fernandez, Photo: edition.cnn.com

Famous Cat Lovers - Calvin Coolidge

(1872-1933), 30th President of the United States, had at least four cats in the White House - Tiger, Blackie, Timmy, and Smokey. Tiger was an orange tomcat Coolidge had moved into the White House from his farm in Vermont. He would come when the President called him by the nickname 'Tige' and was often seen draped around his neck when Coolidge walked around the White House.

On the night of March 20, 1924, Tiger slipped out an open door and into the wilds of Washington, D.C. The next morning Coolidge called for Tiger but he didn't appear. Alarmed, the President dispatched the staff to search the executive mansion and grounds, but to no avail. Next he enlisted the city police, who were put on alert to look for the orange-and-black cat. Again, no Tiger.

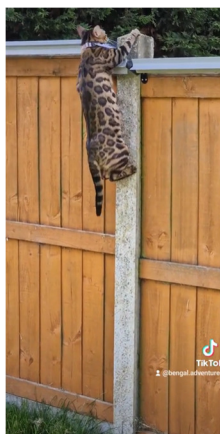
Desperate, Coolidge turned to a medium with a wider reach. He sent Secret Service agent James Haley to WCAP radio where, on the night of March 24, he broadcast an appeal to listeners, asking them to call the White House phone if they had any information about the president's missing cat. Hundreds of people called the White House, either with tips or with offers to give Coolidge a whole new cat.

In the end, the radio appeal did the trick. One of the listeners was Captain Edward Bryant, who the next morning found a sleeping cat in the Navy Building just half a mile from the White House. Bryant tried the president's usual greeting, 'Here, Tige!' and the cat ran over to him. A short cab ride later, Tiger was back in President Coolidge's ever-loving arms. To keep him that way, Coolidge got Tiger a new collar that declared, 'My Name is Tiger. I live at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.'



Officer Benjamin Fink with Tiger at the White House

www.mentalfloss.com

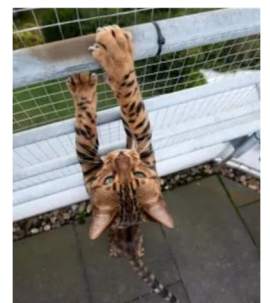


Owner Installs 'Unescapable Fence Rollers,' Cats Have Other Plans

An owner thought installing cat-proof fences would keep their pets safely in the yard, but the determined felines had other plans.

A May 2 Reddit post shared on the subreddit channel r/cats by user eveilebl showed Bengal cats in the backyard surrounded by fencing. The fences look tall enough, but considering cats can jump between 5 to almost 7 feet, the owners needed extra reinforcement to keep them from escaping.

They thought they installed 'unescapable fence rollers.' This cat-proof system sits on top of the fence and when a cat grabs on, it will spin, forcing them to jump back down to the ground. It seemed like the fence rollers were working as the cats failed attempt after attempt. However, the cats were focused on mastering the challenge and after studying the new system, they found the loophole they needed.



One of the Bengal cats realized that if she paused their climb before the roller, they could reach over it and grab onto the steady fence post. Thankfully, the owner captured the moment and was able to run after her before she climbed over.

www.newsweek.com, L. O'Connell, May 2024

A cat's 'I love you' is often hidden in a soft purr or a gentle headbutt.



Cat With Dwarfism Who Is 'Forever a Kitten' Leaves Internet Obsessed

A Redditor has captivated the internet by sharing the story of their pet cat who, due to pituitary dwarfism, remains forever in a kitten-like state. The Reddit post, shared earlier in May under the username Cultural-Cricket-464 and titled 'My cat who's forever a kitten. She has pituitary dwarfism,' quickly garnered over 28,000 upvotes and 450 comments on the r/aww subreddit.

The poster, who adopted the cat from a shelter when they were just five months old, provided insights into her pet's personality, making it clear why they have become an internet sensation. 'She is an absolute sweetheart and follows me everywhere!' the cat's owner told Newsweek. 'She only weighs 2.4 pounds but has the biggest personality. She starts fights with my other cats and will win half the time. She was born on March 17 last year and I adopted her from a shelter when she was 5 months old at 2 pounds.'

Pituitary dwarfism in cats is a rare condition caused by an underproduction of growth hormone, resulting in significantly stunted growth. This condition means that affected cats remain much smaller than their peers and often retain a kitten-like appearance and behaviour throughout their lives. While their diminutive size can be endearing, the condition also comes with various health challenges and requires special care.

Despite her small stature, this little cat has a big spirit. Her owner describes her as having a fearless attitude, often engaging in playful tussles with the other cats in the household and winning about half the time. 'She can't jump very high due to her condition, so we either pick her up or put something that she can use for help,' the owner added.

Veterinary experts note that while cats with this condition can lead happy lives, they do require additional care and attention to ensure they are comfortable and safe. Their limited mobility means owners need to make accommodations, such as providing ramps or steps, to help them navigate their environment.

Users on the platform were left in tears by the cat's condition, and some shared their own dwarf cats' stories too.

SPL15, commented: 'Adorable! Here's my 4 year old 'kitten'. If yours is anything like mine, she's definitely not 'tiny' in personality.' Raphired said: 'I had a perpetual kitten void with this. I'm certain she's ruling whatever afterlife she went to with an iron claw.' 86pants added: 'Guys. I literally just adopted one yesterday that's the cutest 1-year old little ex-farm cat 4lb nugget Never had a mini version before!!'

www.newsweek.com, M. Azzurra Volpe, May 2024, Photo: cultural-cricket-464



Pilot of Rescue Flight For Pets Impacted By Hurricanes Adopts Kitten

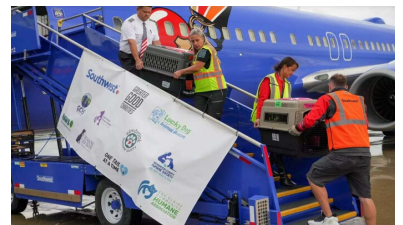
On October 12th, a Southwest Airlines pilot fell in love with a little kitten named Avery while transporting him and 150 other shelter animals out of the path of hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Partnering with a charity and an animal rescue, the plan was to take the dogs and cats to Milwaukee from Florence, South Carolina, where they could continue their goal of finding homes for them. However, Avery couldn't wait 'till landing, and managed to latch onto Captain Prebis before he made it to Milwaukee. It was love at 30,000 feet. I don't think Captain Matt was expecting to adopt a hurricane evacuee from Tennessee when he agreed to fly this amazingly special flight, but

some things are meant to be, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue CEO Mirah A. Horowitz said in a statement to People. 'Avery the kitten is definitely a Lucky Cat and was right at home with his new dad in the cockpit once we landed and parked.'

The over 150 cats and dogs had been in the care of animal shelters in eastern Tennessee and Florida prior to the two hurricanes. To secure their safety and ensure the impacted organizations could serve the needs of their communities, the shelter pets were transferred to Lucky Dog Animal Rescue's Rescue Campus in Florence.

Once in Florence, the animals then boarded the emergency flight, done pro bono by Southwest, in partnership with Greater Good Charities to Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport in Wisconsin. Earlier in the week, Greater Good Charities delivered humanitarian aid, including shampoo, hygiene products, and emergency packs filled with mylar blankets, socks, laundry sheets, and more for displaced and impacted families in Asheville, NC, and surrounding communities. These emergency packs were included in 6,000 pounds of aid items flown via Southwest Cargo free of charge.



According to news releases from both the nonprofit and Southwest Airlines, the animals were transported to various shelters around the state and are ready to be adopted.

www.goodnewsnetwork.org, 2024

Always
kiss your
CAT GOODNIGHT



How To Annoy Your Cat

Grab their paw, shake it, and say, 'How do you do!' over and over.

100 Fun Ways to Annoy Your Cat by Jim Erskine

He who feeds a hungry animal feeds his own soul

Charles Chapman





The Supreme Show 2024



The 2024 Supreme Show was held on the 14th of October in Ballinteer Community School.

We would like to thank our sponsors - Royal Canin, June's Bedding and Ballinteer Community School also our exhibitors with their beautiful cats.

Carmel & Gloria

Best of Variety

Section 1

Adult – Mrs C & Miss S Caughey's Hinchkitz Cinnamon Nspyce (Persian F)

Section 2

Adult – Dr C M Wagner's Friendlyghost Falkor (Maine Coon M)

Kitten – E McManus' Forestside Lenny (Siberian M)

Neuter – Mrs S McNeely's Katez Ruben Carlendoola (Maine Coon MN)

Section 3

Adult – Mrs G Kehoe's GrCh Oscar Samante-Bohemia (British M)

Kitten – Mrs I K Kisieliene's Amberkiss Wilma (British F)

Adult – Mrs C A Wren's Ch & Pr DelphiniumSummer-Morning (British FN)

Section 4

Adult – Mrs L Sipailiene's Skindex Kona (Sphynx F)

Kitten – Mrs C Fleming's Stamfordia Ats Us Nai (Bengal F)

Neuter – Ms S Harte's Deshabilles Kitty Galore (Sphynx FN)

Section 5

Adult – Mr L Steele's In Ch Rainsong Platinum Jubille (Burmese M)

Kitten – Mr S Redmond's Joyeux Jewel (Asian F)

Adult – Ms K Sluiters' GrPr Sliabh Ginhiroyuki (Burmese MN)

Section 6

Adult – Ms I Smidta's Shagio-Chen Kesar Mango (Oriental M)

Kitten – Mrs R Laszlo's Aisanheads Barran (Oriental MN)

Supreme Adult

Dr C M Wagner's Friendlyghost Falkor (Maine Coon M)

Supreme Kitten

E McManus' Forestside Lenny (Siberian M)

Supreme Neuter

Mrs C A Wren's Ch & Pr DelphiniumSummer-Morning (British FN)

Overall Supreme Exhibit

E McManus' Forestside Lenny (Siberian M)

Overall Reserve Supreme Exhibit

Dr C M Wagner's Friendlyghost Falkor (Maine Coon M)

Supreme Non-Pedigree

Miss A Weldon's Yankel (MN)

Supreme Pedigree Pet

Ms C Purcell's Utopia (MN)



The Quiz

1. What cat does not have a tail?
2. What animal was the body of the Egyptian Sphinx based on?
3. What animal was the symbol of liberty in ancient Rome?
4. Jaguars live on what continent?
5. July and August are 2 months in which star sign?
6. House cats have how many claws in total?
7. What is the largest member of the cat family?



www.quizglobal.com

Answers on page 16

Most Hilarious Cat Names 2024

Pablo Purrasso
The Great Catsby
Isaac Mewton
Edgar Allen Paw
Leonardo Dicaprio
Ziggy Snowdust
Tika Meowsala
Neville Furbottom
Bobcat the Builder
Purrito
Sir Catrick Stewart
Hairy Pawter
Reece Whiskerspoon

www.scotsman.com, G. Falk

How Many Cats Does it Take to Change a Light Bulb?

Singapore - Hmm...I so pretty I will light up the room with my little face.

Russian - I'm from Aristocracy & WE don't Do that!

Colourpoint - What shade of light bulb?

Scottish Fold - I didn't 'ear that. What did U say?

Chartreux - Vous le vous couche avec moi?



www.petplace.co

Cat Idioms -



Who Would Raise A Cat's Tail, If Not The Cat Himself?

The Finnish expression *kuka kissan hännän nostaa ellei kissaitse* invites you to brag about your own accomplishments. Sure, you could 'toot your own horn' or 'sing your own praises,' but this phrase lets you re-frame your boastfulness as self-sufficiency.

www.mentalfloss.com

Did Jenny Foresee The Titanic Disaster?



Jenny the Titanic Cat was the ship's cat of the RMS Titanic and was originally adopted from her sister ship, the RMS Olympic. Jenny was employed as a rat catcher and gave birth to a litter of kittens shortly before the Titanic's maiden voyage in April 1912. She lived mainly in the galley, where the kitchen crewed her leftover food.

Jenny's story is shrouded in legend. It is reported that she and her kittens lived near a kitchen worker named Jim, who lovingly cared for them. Unfortunately there is no confirmed record of Jenny and her kittens surviving the disaster. Some rumours suggest that Jenny disembarked her kittens in Southampton shortly before departure, thus foreseeing the disaster, but that story remains unconfirmed.

In addition to Jenny, there were several dogs on board the Titanic, of which only 3 survived. These dogs were smuggled into rescue boats by their owners, mainly because of their small size.

Source: FB



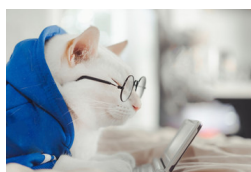
Archaeologists Find First Ever Evidence Of cat Kneading

About 2,000 years ago a cat lay down on raw clay pots in Jerusalem, and stretched out its paws and claws on a riot of contentment. Those are its claws marks you see.

www.harretz.com, credit: The Mount Zion Archaeological Expedition/Shimon Gibson



Cat Translation App - MeowTalk



A cat translation app can interpret the meows of your cat into phrases from human language, learning from your pet over time. Called MeowTalk, the app can translate any meow into one of 11 'intents', or emotions.

These include happy, defensive, angry, attack, mother call, mating call, in pain, resting, hunting, warning, and give me attention.

www.standard.co.uk

The Catwalk

Ruby Button -

I am thinking she will forget she already gave me treats?

L. & G. Hughes, Dublin



Arya -

Does this make me look to fat?

Buckley Family, Cork



Gus -

I may be a polydactyl Cat but I still can't get this box open.

T. MacDonagh, USA



Yuri -

What did you say?
Take that back

K. Sluiter, Dublin

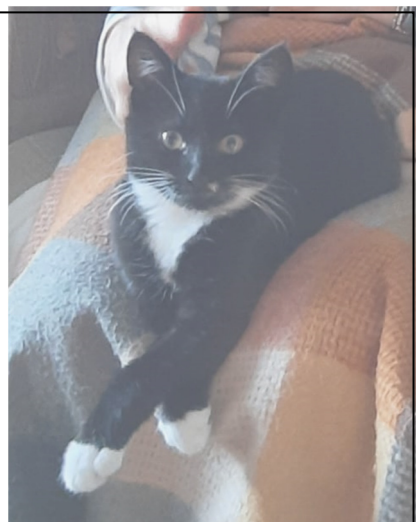


The Catwalk

Bella -

Practicing my ballet while sitting on a lap - and why not?

D. Jack, Dublin



Rosita -

Everyone thinks I am pretty with my ringed- tail.

R. Roca, Spain



Canice -

I am posing for my portrait to be painted.

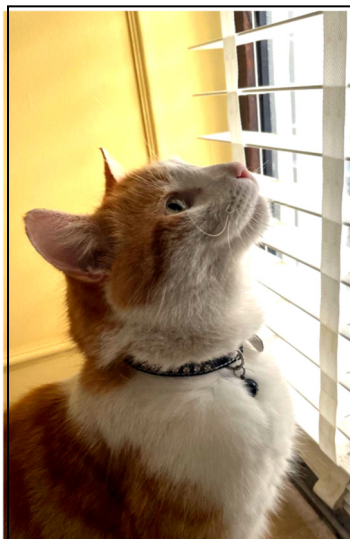
A. Weldon, Wicklow



Jasper -

Please, let me outside!

Buckley Family, Cork



Downing Street's Larry & His New Friend



Downing Street Draws Up Plans For Announcing Death Of 'Chief Mouser' Larry The Cat

Downing Street officials are preparing a 'media plan' to announce the eventual passing of Larry the cat. Larry has become a widely loved fixture of Downing Street and is often seen outside the door to Number 10 during major political events and news broadcasts.

The 17-year-old 'chief mouser' is thought to be in his final years, having already outlived the average lifespan for a tabby cat. Government sources told The Times that a press release and graphics are drafted 'ready for the sad day he goes'.

Pictures, selected to be published upon news of his death, are reportedly stored in folders

on the No 10 IT system as part of a plan to inform the public. While one source said that, at present, Larry is 'doing OK', another said: 'We felt it had to be handled so sensitively.'

The cat, who was adopted from Battersea Cats Home, was first brought into Downing Street by David Cameron as a pet for his children and has since outlasted five prime ministers. The Cabinet Office website includes a biography of the beloved cat, which reads: 'Larry has been in residence since 15 February 2011, he is the first cat at Number 10 to be bestowed with the official title Chief Mouser. Larry was recruited from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home on recommendation for his mousing skills. He joined the Number 10 household and has made a significant impact.' It adds: 'He has captured the hearts of the Great British public and the press teams often camped outside the front door. In turn the nation sends him gifts and treats daily. Larry spends his days greeting guests to the house, inspecting security defences and testing antique furniture for napping quality. His day-to-day responsibilities also include contemplating a solution to the mouse occupancy of the house. Larry says this is still 'in the tactical planning stage'.

www.independent.co.uk, M. Cooke, August 2024. Photo: AP

Starmer Gets New Kitten To join Larry The Cat In Downing Street

Downing Street's Larry the cat now faces competition for his job as No 10's chief mouser following the news that Sir Keir Starmer is bringing a new kitten home. Sir Keir Starmer has let his children get the kitten after 'a long summer of negotiations', meaning Larry will welcome a long-awaited recruit. The prime minister said he had come around to getting the new family pet after his children had pleaded with him to get a dog, he revealed in a BBC 5 Live interview with Matt Chorley.

The Siberian kitten will join Larry who has become something of a celebrity figure over the last decade, often appearing in the street amid important political moments. The cat will be the third in Downing Street after Sir Keir and his family moved into No 10 when he became prime minister with their family rescue cat, named JoJo.

Sir Keir revealed the problems of living with pets in the high-security environs of No 10. 'The problem we've got, which is the same for JoJo the cat, is that the only door out of our new flat is bomb-proof,' he said. 'Therefore, getting a cat flap in is proving a little bit difficult. But our daughters persuaded us that the problem isn't any bigger for two cats than one. And therefore, we're now getting this kitten.' The PM made the revelation as he was asked for an update on claims he made during the election campaign that his children were lobbying him to get a German shepherd dog. He replied: 'Well, those negotiations have been going on. There's been a long summer of negotiations, back and forth, different options. But now we've gone for – and this is an agreed after long negotiations, I said we'd get in the room and sort it out – we are now getting a kitten instead of a dog.' He later added: 'This is a Siberian kitten, which is being picked up today by my daughter and so that's where it ended up.'

Social media users responded in great spirit to the news but expressed concern over whether Larry had been consulted on taking another feline under his wing. One person wrote: 'Hopefully @Number10cat will keep his role as chief mouse of the treasury... I don't believe he's given consent for a reshuffle...' An account dedicated to Larry reacted to the news and affirmed: 'The kitten will REPORT to Larry the Cat.'

The 17-year-old cat is thought to be in his final years, having already outlived the average lifespan for a tabby and Downing Street officials have reportedly prepared a 'media plan' to announce his eventual death. Sarah Elliott, central veterinary officer for Cats Protection, said the charity was 'pleased to hear there will be another feline voice in Downing Street. 'As the junior member of the growing cat coalition at Downing Street, the prime minister and his family will need to take plenty of time to slowly introduce the new addition introduce the new addition to JoJo and Larry,' she said. 'The kitten will be joining a busy household, so they will also need to make sure they have lots of positive experiences around new people. Kittens are full of fun and mischief, all of which can be quite exhausting, so they need plenty of time to rest.' Ms Elliott said Siberian kittens need to get used to grooming from an early age to ensure their long coats remain tangle-free and stressed the importance that JoJo gets microchipped. She added: 'Young kittens can be exhausting for older statesmen like Larry, so he'll also need a safe, quiet area to retreat to when the energy of a younger member of the team gets a bit too much.'

www.independent.co.uk Athena Stavrou, September 2024



Live Like A Cat!

Live life on your own terms, even if it means defiantly knocking things off the table.

www.sandjest.com

Rescue Cat Guards Bus Stop Until His Little Owner Safely Departs

When Jessica Leatherman was shopping for dog food and saw a sad adult male cat sitting in a pet shop cage, she couldn't help but inquire about him.

'He just was not moving. He was very depressed,' Leatherman shared in a TikTok about the cat's adoption, according to Yahoo. She discovered that the cat had been sitting there for over eight months and decided to adopt him. She named him Craig, and Craig quickly became a beloved member of the family. He's so dedicated that he has taken on the role of the family's official bus stop bodyguard. Every day, Craig ensures that Leatherman's 7-year-old daughter gets on the bus safely.

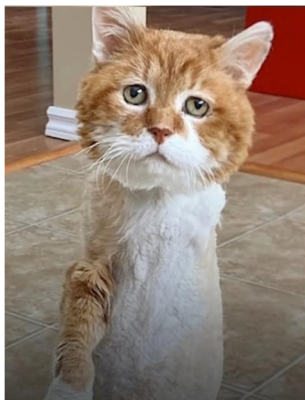
Craig adores the little girl, and he started observing her morning routine, deciding he wanted to be a part of it. He began waiting by the door when she left for the school bus.



Leatherman eventually let Craig accompany her daughter outside one morning. 'The bus stops right in front of our house, and I figured I'd let him come outside [so he could] hang out with me,' Leatherman said. 'But instead of me, he chose to hang out with her, and he followed her down the sidewalk and down the driveway and just sat there the entire time she was waiting for the bus.' Craig didn't just wait until she got on the bus; he stayed until the bus pulled away, ensuring she boarded safely. 'When it happened, I was like, 'Is he really doing this?' And as soon as she got on, I expected him to wander back to me, but he sat there and made sure she got on the bus and then watched it drive away,' Leatherman said. 'He will not leave the corner of the bus stop until it is out of sight.'

Initially, Leatherman thought this behaviour would be a one-time event, but Craig now does it every day, taking his job very seriously. 'He's been doing it every day,' Leatherman said. 'He's given himself the job. I don't know why but it's super sweet. Now all the neighbourhood kids know him, and the whole bus is like, 'Craig!' whenever they pull up,' Leatherman said. 'So he's just kind of become this sweet little neighbourhood mascot in a way.' Craig also makes sure to be there when the little girl gets off the bus. 'They are two peas in a pod,' Leatherman said. 'She'll be sitting next to him, and he'll just rub all over her and purr. It's the cutest thing.'

Leatherman believes Craig has a very specific motive. 'He'll follow her around the house if he's awake and just lie down near her, almost as if he's protecting her,' she said. www.iheart.com, C. Jelle, July 2024



Three-legged Homeless Cat Seeks Help in Man's Kitchen, But Man Tragically Dies

Bubby, a three-legged stray cat, survived nine cold winters outside before finding a loving home and a bond with a kind man. His journey from a cautious stray to a cherished pet shows the power of compassion and the special connection between humans and animals.

Nine years ago, Bubby wandered into a man's kitchen, looking for affection and a place to belong. Although he was wary of people, Bubby formed an unexpected friendship with the man. Over time, he became a regular visitor, claiming his own chair and dishes. The man, Boyd, understood Bubby's need for freedom and allowed him to go back outside, even though he wanted to adopt him. Sadly, Boyd died in 2017, leaving Bubby without his friend.

After Boyd's death, Bubby stopped visiting regularly and only came inside the house once, never returning again. Boyd's family continued to leave food out for him, but it often went untouched, making them worry about his well-being. For two years after Boyd's passing, Bubby wasn't seen, raising fears for his safety.

In 2019, a local resident named Ray Pinson saw Bubby near Boyd's house. Concerned about the aging and weak cat, Ray decided to rescue him. Despite many tries, catching Bubby was tough. Ray worried a lot during snowstorms, fearing for Bubby's safety. Ray's determination paid off when he got a call saying Bubby was in the kitchen of Boyd's house, now owned by someone afraid of cats. Bubby was in bad shape – dehydrated, injured, and very tired. He was taken to the vet, where his outlook seemed bleak until he started purring on the examination table, showing signs of recovery.

Bubby's journey to getting better started at a shelter, where he met his new caretaker. The caretaker, not knowing Bubby's past, felt an immediate bond and wanted to give him a loving home. Even though Bubby looked frail and sad, there was a mutual understanding that his tough days were over. As Bubby settled into his new home, he became a happy and affectionate cat. Interestingly, he never wanted to go outside again, showing he recognized he was now in a safe and loving place. His purrs, morning and night, remind everyone of his newfound happiness and security.

The story took an even more touching turn when Boyd's daughter, Rhonda, contacted Bubby's new caretaker. She shared the story of Bubby's early years and his special bond with her father. This confirmed that Bubby had been loved before and was now experiencing love and care again.

Bubby's tale is more than just a survival story; it's about resilience, the lasting power of love, and the special bond between humans and animals. His journey from a cautious stray to a cherished pet, now enjoying his own fireplace, is a powerful reminder of how kindness and understanding can change a life, no matter how small.

www.iheartcats.com, C Jelle, 2024, Image Source Credit via YouTube



Definition - Cat [kat] n.

The furry little sociopath who rules your household and manages to look innocent while doing so.

Viking Cats: The Preferred Pet Of The Northmen

To put another nail in the coffin of the story about how Vikings are ruthless barbarians, never ceasing in their slaughtering and pillaging, we now know they kept pet cats. So, what do we know about the Norsefolk's fondness for furry felines? Let's take a look.

We'll start at the beginning by looking into the mythology. There are a number of tales of cats mentioned in Scandinavian folklore. The Norse god Freya (Freyja) drove a chariot pulled by two cats. These are referred to in the Prose Edda as 'gib-cats' and are depicted as grey or blue in colour. The cats were a gift from Thor, and she used them to travel to the funeral of Baldur, her estranged son. The cat was Freya's sacred animal and she would reportedly bless those who were kind to them. Often if a wedding coincided with fine weather, the bride was said to have 'fed the cat well'.



There's also the Scandinavian folk tale of a cat that helps a poor man. First the cat wins a castle of silver and gold by tricking a troll – keeping it talking until sunrise when it turned to stone. Then, the cat asks the poor man to cut off its head. Reluctantly, after much persuasion, he does so at which point the cat is transformed into a princess who had been turned into a cat by the troll. The two then marry and live happily ever after in the castle.

Elsewhere, the ferocious wolf Fenrir is restrained by a chain called Gleipnir, made from six magical ingredients including 'the sound of a cat walking'. And finally, once of the Frost Giants tricked Thor into trying to lift up a huge cat. When Thor could only lift one paw, the cat was revealed to be the Jormungandr – the mighty serpent that encircles Midgard.

Historians are still trying to piece together exactly how cats came to conquer the globe from their early beginnings in the Middle East. So much is known about the domestication of dogs and how they came to spread throughout the world but so little is known about cats.

One thing we do know is that it's likely that the Vikings played a part in spreading our fluffy feline companions around the globe. A major study that concluded in 2016 was presented at the 7th International Symposium on Biomolecular Archaeology in Oxford, UK, by Eva-Maria Geigl, a researcher from the Institut Jacques Monod in Paris.

The study analysed the remains of over 200 cats from 30 different archaeological sites throughout Africa and Eurasia. These range from the Mesolithic period, when humans were still hunter-gatherers, through the earliest days of human settlement and agriculture, right the way up to the 18th century.

All modern domesticated cats belong to the species *Felis catus*. These in turn are descended from a single subspecies, the Near Eastern wildcat, *Felis sylvestris lybica*. This small, tawny-coloured member of the wildcat family still stalks the desert areas of the Middle East today.

The prevailing theory is that humans didn't actually domesticate cats, at least initially, like they did with dogs. Rather, cats domesticated themselves. We didn't grab them and put them in cages and breed them until they behaved. Instead, we developed a mutually beneficial relationship. As early humans spread across the globe and started planting crops, these crops would attract vermin such as mice and rats. These vermin then attracted cats, protecting precious crops from being eaten.

Effectively, cats have the dual benefits of being both cute and useful – a winning combination for humans to take notice. In turn, humans created or attracted more than enough food to keep the cats around.

So, we have cats and humans chilling out together in the Fertile Crescent of the Near and Middle East. How did they make their way all the way up to Scandinavia? Cats like to explore but they have a pretty limited range! This is where that major study really comes into its own. The DNA evidence points to two separate migrations happening from the East. The first migration from the Middle East occurred around 8,000 years ago and reached a fair way into Europe and across into Africa. We know the Ancient Egyptians loved and revered cats and we see a lot of feline iconography in Egyptian mythology. The second migration started from Egypt, aided greatly by this new-fangled technology called boats. This started around 1,700 B.C.E. but really accelerated in the 5th to the 13th centuries. This is the migration that gave the Vikings their cats.

We don't know exactly when cats reached Scandinavia. There's a small amount of evidence that they were in the area during the iron age, around 200 B.C.E. It's not really until the Viking Age began that the evidence becomes much stronger.

Unlike the areas of the Middle East, where cats came to humans via the farming communities, in Scandinavia they first started appearing in urban settlements. This suggests that the cats were either brought by visitors from overseas or brought back by Vikings returning from their travels. Remains found in a Viking trading port on the Baltic Sea in Northern Germany suggest that, by the middle ages, cats were providing their valuable rodent-control services on-board Viking ships. From the urban areas, the cats then spread to the rural communities where they could also find plenty of ways to be useful to the Norse people.

We know that the Vikings had cats in their towns, in their rural areas and most importantly on their ships. This makes a lot of sense because, much more than on land, it's important when you're sailing to keep your food supplies intact. The natural relationship between humans and cats was still very much an arrangement of mutual benefit. Cats could get food more easily by killing rats and mice. Their energy requirements aren't all that great, so they don't put a burden on the tribe even when there's not many rodents around. By sailing with cats, the Vikings could be sure that their food supply would remain intact and unsullied by disease-bearing vermin.

Viking Cats Contd

The main evidence we have for cats sailing with Vikings comes from Greenland and Canada. Cat remains in Greenland show that they would have been with the Vikings right from the start of their settlement there. Meanwhile, domestic cats in North America seem to date to around that time too. Maybe Leif Erikson was the one to introduce *Felis catus* to North America.

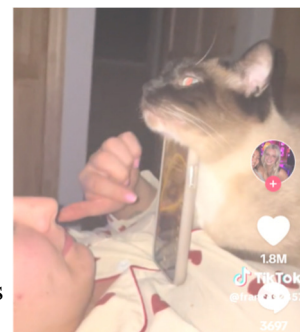
The modern descendent of those Viking cats is the adorable Norwegian Forest Cat.

www.lifeinnorway.net, A. McKay, Sept 2020 Photo from site

Cat Holds Owner's Phone So She Can Scroll: 'His Love Language'

Siamese cat has left the internet in stitches for holding his owner's phone with his chin so she can scroll on her phone while lying in bed. Siamese cats are highly intelligent and affectionate felines who are considered to be the extroverts of the cat world, according to Purina, a cat food brand.

One helpful kitty companion showed he was no exception to this rule after his owner shared how he helps her comfortably have a late night TikTok scroll without developing an arm ache. Frances, (@frances2857) from New York City, shared hilarious footage which has amassed 6.2 million views of her lying in her bed with her cat on top of her holding her phone upwards against her so she can scroll on TikTok before going to sleep.



Frances shared in the caption: 'He's working late! My little espresso phone prince (he does this by himself every night lol).' The TikToker made reference to the hit Sabrina Carpenter song 'Espresso' which became a viral sensation on the app.

Commenters were left in awe of the cat's practical abilities and other Siamese cat owners shared similar tales.

www.newsweek.com, L. Patrick, May 2024, Photo: Frances

A Homeless Cat With Two Noses Has Been Described As A 'One-Of-A-Kind' Feline By An Adoption Charity.



The double-snouted moggy has been named Nanny McPhee after the fictional character with a distinctively shaped nose. Staff at Cats Protection's Warrington Adoption Centre said the cat's two noses are 'a real rarity'. Senior field veterinary officer at Cats Protection, Fiona Brockbank, said: 'A cat with two noses is a first for us in the Field Vet team. This is a real rarity and, thankfully, it isn't causing her any problems at all.' She added: 'Other congenital malformations within that area of a cat, such as a cleft lip and cleft palate, are not uncommon and can either be inherited or due to incident whilst developing in the uterus. Like all of our cats, Nanny McPhee will be neutered before rehoming so any concerns about inherited problems are resolved as she won't have kittens.'

While it was initially thought the four-year-old moggy had one large nose, a check-up from the vet revealed the unique facial feature. The black and white cat was taken to Warrington Adoption Centre to find a new home after previous owners could no longer care for her due to ill-health and financial circumstances.

Nanny McPhee, who is described as 'gentle' by centre staff is now looking to settle in a home with a loving family. Centre manager, Lindsay Kerr, said: 'We have all fallen in love with our one-of-a-kind Nanny McPhee. We can't stop looking at her two noses! She has proven to be a gentle lady who adores a fuss and a cuddle and we are hopeful her new-found fame will mean she will have no shortage of potential adopters She really does deserve a home where she can settle down and become the centre of a loving family.'

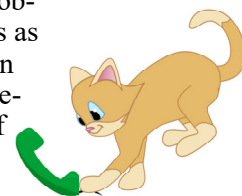
www.independent.co.uk, S Ping, October 2023 Photo: freom website



Guidelines For Cats - Cats as Humanitarians

Humans have a very tenuous hold on reality and it is up to the cats to help them maintain their grasp on said reality. For instance, humans often speak to imaginary friends while holding a small object up to their ear, with no other humans in sight, obviously losing touch with the real world! A cat must put a stop to this as quickly as possible! Climb on the human and get your face right up in theirs and meow very loudly until the human acknowledges you, therefore bringing them back to reality. If that fails, you can use the top of your head to try and knock the small object out of their hand/away from their ear, which almost always succeeds in stopping their talking to thin air.

http://www.stumbleupon.com/su/2wnzJA/www.jamesshuggins.com/h/hum1/guidelines_for_cats.htm###



Does your Cat Own You?

Do you microwave your cat's food? Prepare it from scratch?

Do you wait at the box with the scoop in your hand?

Do you select your friends based on how well your cats like them?

Do you scoop out the litter box after each use?





Scientific Benefits of Being a Cat Owner

Studies have shown that just watching cat videos on the internet can boost a person's energy and create positive emotions - so it's no surprise that actual cat ownership has a number of benefits. Here are a few.

They help you cope

Losing a loved one is incredibly painful, but one of the best ways of coping is to own a pet. Cats have been shown to help people get over their loss more quickly, and show less physical symptoms of pain, like crying. Despite the fact that they are only animals, cats serve as a social support during difficult times. People in mourning report talking to their pet to work out their feelings, since it is often easier to talk to something that won't respond and can't judge than to another human being.

THEY CAN TELL YOU (& OTHERS!) A LOT ABOUT YOUR PERSONALITY

Your choice of pet reveals something about your personality. While dog lovers tend to be the life of the party, cat owners are quieter and more introverted. However, they score very highly when it comes to how trustworthy they are and how much they trust other people. Cat owners are also less manipulative and more modest.

Several studies and polls in the UK have found that people (especially women) prefer to sleep with their cats than with their partners, and they even report sleeping better with a cat than with a human. A recent study from the Mayo Clinic Center for Sleep Medicine indicates that they might be on to something: 41 percent of the people in that study indicated that they slept better because of their pet, while only 20 percent said that it led to disturbances. - you will sleep better

They Can Quite Literately Save Your Life

Cats have a reputation of being aloof and not caring about their humans, but they have saved countless lives over the years. One cat in the United Kingdom warns her human when he's about to have an epileptic seizure, while a cat in Montana woke up its two humans when a gas pipe started leaking. Firefighters told the couple that the house could easily have exploded if not for cat's intervention.

One cat has even received the highest medal available to military animals. Simon the cat was onboard the HMS Amethyst, which was sailing up the Yangtze in 1949 when a shell hit the ship, killing several marines and severely injuring Simon. (The event marked the beginning of the 101-day siege of the ship, which would become known as the Yangtze Incident.) Simon was fixed up, and despite being injured, performed his ship duty and started catching the rats that were threatening the ship's food supply, as well as providing moral support for the surviving sailors. Simon died not long after the ship returned to the UK, but he was posthumously awarded the UK's Dickin Medal, recognized as the animal Victoria Cross, for 'behaviour [of] the highest order, although the blast was capable of making a hole over a foot in diameter in a steel plate.'

www.mentalfloss.com, K. Benjamin & A. Thompson

The Pet I'll Never Forget: Bertie

Bertie was found in 2005 under the floorboards of a building where homeless people were taking shelter. He was a tiny kitten with a cleft palate, runny nose and a chest infection. Those first friends loved him but when he needed regular medication and surgery to clear his throat they had no choice but to hand him over to a charity. Giving Bertie a second chance was such an enormous act of selflessness; I only hope they were afforded the same.

I was a university lecturer in social work then, caring for my mum, who had dementia. We were a team, Mum, Bertie and I, along with Derek and Pat, the retired couple next door. We'd spend hours chatting over the fence, then I'd get the call: 'Come round for tea - bring the cat!' I would tuck Bertie under one arm and Mum under the other and off we'd go. Birthdays, Christmas and every season in-between, that was us.

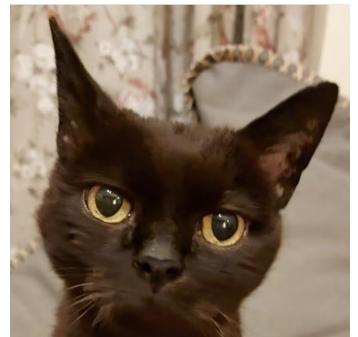
My funniest memory is getting a new cat flap and the magnetic collar to go with it. One morning I heard a loud clunk and found Bertie stuck to the oven. Thankfully, it wasn't switched on.

When Pat was diagnosed with cancer, it was Bertie who was always next door, lying on the bed as she went through chemotherapy, so much so that he too became ill from the chemicals. It was as if his humble beginnings had given him a huge empathy for everyone. When Pat died, Bertie wouldn't venture next door any more. Instead, Derek came to us to watch the match or have his tea, shouting through the letterbox: 'Where is he then?'

Mum had never had an affinity with animals the same way as I had, not liking the feel of fur. But as her illness progressed and she took to her bed in the final weeks of her life, she asked after dear Bertie, reaching out her hand for him. He didn't leave her side until she too had gone. I broke when Mum died, like a frosted branch in winter. I almost heard the snap. I left my home and became lost. Sitting in a doorway in London, 200 miles away, being asked to 'move on because decent people use this place', I thought of Bertie and the friends he had started his life with. I had lost my mum, my career, my livelihood and my hope. I hadn't even been well enough to take Bertie with me.

It wasn't until I was found, and then diagnosed as autistic in my late 50s, that my purpose became clear. Bertie needed me, and it was time to look after him as he had looked after us. He died in February. I still have some of his fur, in a locket with the word 'Safe' on it. Because that is how he always made us feel and where I hope he is now - with Mum and Pat and Derek. He somehow knew what it was like to be broken, and he spent his whole beautiful 19 years trying to fix us all, our lion-hearted little miracle.

www.gauardian.com, J. Blencowe, December 2024 Photo: Owner





KIT'S KORNER



Spot The Difference

Can You Spot the 6 Differences Between These 2 Pictures

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 ^..^

Jim Stephens, Companion Behaviour Counsellor, will be back for the next issue of The Scratching Post

Meet 2 Klepo-Cats - Taboo & Sam

Town Is Missing Its Clothing As A 4-Pawed Cat Burglar Pilfers Items

There are cat burglars, then there are cat-burglars. Taboo, a 12-year-old black and white resident of West Yorkshire in England, has stolen gloves, socks, underpants, and shoes from properties across the area. Her owner, Sandra Danskin has now been forced to share regular pictures of the loot on social media so residents can reclaim their stolen items.

But Danskin, who works night shifts, said sneaky Taboo is rarely caught and has become a master of her criminal trade. 'Whenever I come home from my shift there are all sorts of things waiting for me, either dragged in through the cat flap or left on the drive,' Danskin told the British news media service SWNS. 'This morning I had four pairs of socks and a pair of underpants. She loves bringing back items of clothing like that, but also we've had a mop head. We even had half a dozen eggs once, still in their box, but all broken. We think she must have taken them off someone's doorstep when the milkman dropped them off.'



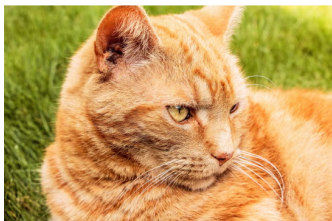
Neighbours have joked that they changed the locks of their houses, and that Danskin should figure out how to train her little thief to discern worthless goods from high-end goods like Rolexes. Sandra believes that Taboo steals clothes from people's washing lines or sneaks into their houses if their doors are left open. The little Lupin has only been caught once so far when a neighbour spotted her trying to take a T-shirt from his clothes dryer in the kitchen.

'If she brings back a sock she will always go back and get the matching one so there's a pair,' Danskin said. 'I have a box full of stuff she's brought for me and every now and then I go on Facebook and post a photo of it all so people can claim it.'

Taboo was originally a house cat and belonged to Sandra's daughter, Gemma. Eventually, Gemma could not bear the kleptomaniac cat any longer, and Taboo went to live with Sandra and her three other cats. Now the cat burglar loves to let her current owner know when she's pulled off a successful heist by emitting a signature howl. 'Whenever she gets something she sits outside and makes this high-pitched whining noise to let me know,' says Danskin. 'I've tried talking to her about it but she doesn't change her ways. Underwear, socks, shoes... she just keeps bringing them. I can't tell you how many pairs of gardening gloves she's brought me. I've never heard of a cat doing anything like this before, and she shows no signs of stopping.'

Evidently, she's never heard of Charlie, the Klepto-Cat of Bristol. Charlie became famous some years ago for stealing toys from the houses around her owner's home in very similar circumstances. Must be something with tuxedo cats.

www.goodnewsnetwork.org. A Colbley, September 2024, Photo: website



How My Ginger Tom Became A Terrible Klepto-Cat

Regarding cat thieves, some years ago I lived in a terraced street in south-east London, and had two cats. One was called Sam – a large neutered ginger male, like a small lion, who was extremely affectionate and characterful. He never caught any birds or mice. Sam preferred human food. He swiftly learned to open our fridge and remove any item he chose. We fitted child-proof locks. So he started going elsewhere – raiding houses with cat flaps.

We received regular deposits of food: beef mince, steak, chicken – both cooked and uncooked, often bagged up, from the local butcher's. Another offering was half a leg of roast lamb: the remains of a Sunday lunch (he somehow managed to get it through our cat flap). Once he brought in a bag that had contained 2lb of monkfish, obviously intended to be for a dinner party, with one piece left. He couldn't manage to eat the lot. Then a pound of Sainsbury's Lincolnshire sausages, left on the stairs. We were in a difficult situation. Should we go round the streets to find which houses he raided? We had no clues as to where the food had come from, apart from knocking on doors.

He could also turn on the bedside light to wake me up in the morning. Sam was very popular with our family and friends' children, who never got tired of hearing about his exploits. I have to add that he ate a perfectly normal cat diet as well.

www.theguardian.com, Frances McKay, West Mersea, Essex, July 2024, Photo: J. Matthews/Almay



Quiz Answers: page 7

- 1 Manx
- 2 Lion
- 3 Lion
- 4 South America
- 5 Leo
- 6 18
- 7 Tiger

We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it and stop there lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove lid again and that is well but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)