

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2011

www.sabcci.com



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Secretary – Gloria Hehir

Ronnie Brooks, Elizabeth Flood, Alice Forshaw, Hugh Gibney,
Aedamair Kiely, Sue Middleton, Membership Secretary - Betty Dobbs



Derivations of Phrases - 'Raining Cats & Dogs'

According to Norse mythology the cat was closely associated with weather; in fact witches were believed to disguise themselves as cats when they rode on storm clouds. Dogs too had connections with clouds through their status as attendants of Odin, the god of storms. Together they represented torrential rain and fierce wind that characterized the weather when it 'rained cats and dogs'. Lock, Stock and Barrel familiar sayings and their meanings.

Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn 2011 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 a Cava and ENJOY! Karen and Gloria ^..^

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



SABCCI Championship Cat Show

23rd of October

Knocklyon Community Centre, Idrone Road (behind Superquinn)
Knocklyon Dublin 16



Open to the Public 12:30 - 5:00
Best in Show Judging 4:15 onwards

See You There!

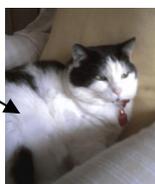
The Scratching Post Going On 10 Years Old

The Scratching Post will be celebrating 10 years in 2012! The first issue was published in the autumn of 2002 under the name 'SABCCI Newsletter'. A competition was run to name the newsletter. The winner was –Melanie Cameron giving us the current name 'The Scratching Post'.

We would like the 10th to be special. If you have any suggestions, articles you liked over the years or articles to send us, let us know.



SABCCI Committee Member's Cats in Photo Competition



Sophie and Coco (enlarged pictures on left) were entered into a pet competition in the Irish Daily Star by their proud owner Elizabeth Flood.

This was text-in competition where there were over 3,000 pets entered - cats, dogs, horses, birds, frogs, mice and the list goes on and on.

Sophie nor Coco won but it was good to see them entered.

What are Cat Cafes?

A Cat Café is a coffee shop where we can mingle freely in a relaxed, homely atmosphere with cats who are living in the same space. In some cases the eating and drinking area is transparently partitioned. The first properly regulated cat café opened in Taiwan in 1998, and they are now popular in Japan. The welfare of the cats is a top priority, and they are gradually introduced from a young age, while monitoring temperamental suitability.

Proper medical care, with periodic checkups is provided, and for recuperative treatment, they will be taken home by the owner or a staff member. When withdrawn for aging or other reasons, a suitable new home will be found, often with a staff member, or a cat may sometimes be passed on to a trusted regular customer by request. When staff pick up a stray, they may take on its care, based on a contract of responsibility. Some cafes offer ancillary services, such as managing cat adoption (some run by animal hospitals) or animal-assisted therapy and pet counseling.



Reina in "Nyanny" Cat Café, Kobe, Japan,

A Cat Café provides an ambience where the cats are superstars. They are referred to as the "cat staff", who, with the "human staff" make up the café's full staff. There are nicknames and catchphrases associated with each cat. Illustrated information on the daily lives of cats, or news of birthday parties, special events, etc., can be found on home pages, blogs and video sites.

Although some have only crossbreds or only purebreds, most have a mixture of types. Most are affiliated to animal welfare NPOs, etc., and carry out adoption and animal welfare work.

A fairly standard customer charge is 1000 yen (about 9 Euro) for 1 hour. The drink charge is usually separate. About half provide soft drinks only, but some also supply cake or cookies, light meals, or alcohol.

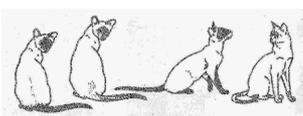
Some permit customers to bring their own food and drink (NO cat feeding). The scale ranges from small (5 or 6 cats) to large (20-30). Opening hours of 10 AM to 11 PM are usual.



Cats have nocturnal leanings, and tend to be livelier at later hours. First-time customers must receive an explanation of the system from the staff, and obey the various regulations which are mostly aimed at protecting the welfare of the cats, e.g., holding in the arms may be forbidden, or allowed only with cats who don't mind it, in which case you should call a staff member first.

Reina Ito

For a fuller version of this article, see www.sabcci.com



The 50 Most Popular Cat Names - according to one source



- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Tiger | 11. Bella | 21. Precious | 31. Callie | 41. Lily |
| 2. Kitty | 12. Gizmo | 22. Chloe | 32. Sophie | 42. Sam |
| 3. Smokey | 13. Sassy | 23. Jack | 33. Kiki | 43. Sasha |
| 4. Tigger | 14. Midnight | 24. Daisy | 34. Cleo | 44. Felix |
| 5. Shadow | 15. Patches | 25. Missy | 35. Garfield | 45. Oscar |
| 6. Baby | 16. Buddy | 26. Pepper | 36. Cali | 46. Gracie |
| 7. Max | 17. Simba | 27. Fluffy | 37. Pumpkin | 47. Harley |
| 8. Angel | 18. Lucy | 28. Charlie | 38. Toby | 48. Baily |
| 9. Princess | 19. Lucky | 29. Molly | 39. Oliver | 49. Milo |
| 10. Oreo | 20. Boots | 30. Sammy | 40. Misty | 50. Bandit |

The Pedigree - The Somali

The Somali cat was introduced into the UK by a consortium of Abyssinian breeders Sally Watson & Barbara Ridout in 1980. A few more were imported by Drs Peter & Margaret and the Somali Cat Club was founded in 1981.

The Somali, a Semi Longhair cat, is, as they say, the cat with the smiling face. They have a ticked coat pattern which should be three bands of ticking and come in various colours, Usual, Sorrel, Blue, Chocolate, Lilac, Fawn, Red, Cream & Tortie, they also have the same colours in silver as well.

The coat is easy to maintain with weekly grooming which the Somali cat loves and will stand and purr during the grooming session. When in full coat they look stunning with their full ruff.



The Somali is a medium sized cat of foreign type. It has a muscular body with a full brush tail and slender legs ending in neat oval paws. The head is a moderate wedge with large expressive eyes. They have well defined facial markings with dark eye rims surrounded by lighter spectacles around the eyes.

The Somali Cat Club holds their own show and it is lovely to see all these Somali cats in the same place. Also there is a Somali Breed Advisory Committee with their own website.

They are very attractive cats with a very loving nature. Being very affectionate they do love human company.

George Gow. 🐾

Halloween & The Legend of The Black Cat

Like tea and biscuits or fish and chips, Black cats and Halloween have gone together for centuries. Some say black cats are bad luck, others say they're good luck and sources to explain the reasons for this seem scarce but there are a few anecdotes and superstitions, that seem to be connected.

Cats have been kept on ships as pest control since the dawn of ocean faring. It was believed that if they crossed a sailor's path at the pier, it meant a bad voyage and if they went overboard during a voyage, it meant storms and bad luck.

King Charles I had a black cat and was apparently arrested on the day it died. Whether said cat had recently crossed the king's path, is unknown, but it is said that the cat had recently walked under a ladder.



Urban legend would have you believe that all cats but, especially black ones are in danger of being the victims of satanic or ritualistic practices at Halloween, although searching the internet seems to only reveal anecdotal evidence. There certainly doesn't seem to be any connection between the festival and the black cat in any of the documentation detailing the beliefs or practices of any of the world's major spiritual movements (including the so called 'darker' ones)

The first association between black cats and the darker side of life seems to be from a church edict dating back to the middle ages, which suggests that black cats are the 'friends of the devil'. The idea has persisted right through the Middle Ages, past the witch trials and on to the present day.

Article edited from the original. This article was first published in The Purr Company's regular Mews-letter, visit us for more cat stories and articles, a gallery of our visitors cats, cat videos and our online shop. copyright The Purr Company



The 21st Supreme Cat Show Crown Plaza Hotel Blanchardstown The 8th of May 2011



The 21st Supreme Show was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Blanchardstown on the 8th May 2011. Our 'usual' date is the 3rd Sunday in April but this year this happened to be Easter Sunday; the previous Sunday was Palm Sunday which was also felt to be inappropriate; the following Sunday was the May Bank Holiday and many council members felt we would not get a good attendance on a Bank holiday. So the choice of dates had to be Sunday the 10th April or the 8th May; I was unable to book a penning firm for April as they were all fully booked with a multitude of Shows in the UK so the 8th May it was. As it happened this was most fortuitous; I had been waiting for a knee replacement operation and was given a date in March – the change of date meant I was (fairly) mobile by Show Day although still on crutches.

The new venue was a huge success; a lovely Hall, exhibitors with cats could stay at the hotel, plenty of free parking, easy to find and opposite the largest shopping centre in Ireland! It was however very expensive but – well it was the 21st!

Our judges were GCCF judges Mrs Fryer, Ms Devereux, Mrs Kaye and Mrs Green, and Mrs Johnson from FIFE. Sally Hume stepped out of retirement to judge the non peds and do the British BOV; Mrs Jennie Watson from N Ireland was also due to judge but very sadly lost her mother shortly before the Show; Mrs Johnson also had a traumatic time as her father was admitted to hospital suffering from a heart attack 3 days before the Show, but Sarah – being a Show Manager herself – was prepared to come over Sunday morning and return Sunday evening. We are so very grateful to you Sarah for putting yourself out for us in this worrying time.

We had a good entry of 105 cats, a nice selection of stalls, a handsome raffle, the ever popular Childrens Art competition and a Speakers Corner, where Jim Stephenson, the animal behaviourist, was in excellent form and gave a most interesting talk..

As 'extras' for the 21st, we had commemorative ribbons on every pen; we had a special gift for 10 lucky exhibitors – if there was a yellow sticker on the back of the pen number they won a special prize. Not forgetting the very handsome ballpoint pens generously donated for every exhibitor by Georgina Goodison.

We were very disappointed not to be able to advertise locally but got a good response from the internet adverts (visitors were asked as they came in where they had heard about us and a surprising number heard about us via facebook!)

At the end of the day an unexpected glitch arose when judge Joyce Green, Carmel Byrne and one of our stewards Sasha Maxwell, who had left their luggage in the hotel porters room found the lock to the room had jammed and they were unable to retrieve their luggage. A locksmith had to be called out to force the room open – this took several hours and although the hotel offered hospitality it meant they were stuck in the hotel and missed connections, particularly poor Carmel and Sasha who had to travel on to Limerick. (Joyce was spending a few days with me, so although annoying it wasn't so desperate as Carmel)

Any Show stands or falls with the background helpers and there are so many to thank. Firstly Lorna for organising the raffle (with help from husband Ken), the workers and coming over to my house to help with paperwork and rooting around in my attic getting stuff out when my crutches got in the way; Carmel for organising the table, a mammoth task at this Show, and her wonderful hardworking band – Sue, Caroline, Elizabeth and Alison – thank you all. Tony and Alice Forshaw for all their help setting up and Tony's lovely signs; the ring signs, BIS signs and regrettably the road signs that went missing; Georgina for sorting out the finances as show day treasurer; Karen for organising the Speakers Corner; Margaret who stewarded then went on to comper the Best in Show; Betty for organising Vetting In and being available for advice when needed; Gloria who made the Best in Show look so easy (it isn't!). Mostly a big thank you to all the exhibitors for bringing your beautiful cats and making it such a special day.





Supreme 2011 The Best In Show Winners



Best Non-Pedigree - Clodagh Hayde's OLLIE (SH Ginger male)

Best Adult - John Archer's SUP INT GR CH SHADANZA TANZANITE (Singapura F)

Best Kitten - Heather Craig & Alan Bell's SHEERBLISS CONFETTI (Exotic F)

Best Neuter - Em Callan & Jackie Russell's INT GR PR ISHCUS RED DEVIL (Maine Coon)

The Supreme 2011 Best In Show
INT GR PR ISHCUS RED DEVIL

Supreme 2011 Best Non-Pedigree
Clodagh Hayde's OLLIE (SH Ginger male)

Supreme 2012 will be held on the 22nd of April in Ballinteer Community School, Ballinteer Dublin 16.
See www.gccfi.com for details

Eye Problems In Cats

Eye problems are one of the most common reasons dogs and cats visit the vet. The seriousness of an eye infection in a companion animal can vary. The infection might be harmless and self-limiting, meaning your pet's body heals itself. Or it could be traumatic and cause permanent damage up to and including blindness or the loss of an eye.

Cats don't have as many eye problems as dogs because many cats live their lives indoors, dramatically reducing the risk of an eye injury or infection. Outdoor cats, however, have about the same level of risk as their canine counterparts.



Viral eye infections in cats are typically caused by the feline herpes virus. Once a cat is infected with herpes virus the infection will be lifelong, with flare-ups often brought on by stress. If your cat is exposed to a herpes virus, chances are she'll never completely clear the virus from her body. Because herpes is a stress-induced condition, cats with a well-functioning immune system can effectively suppress the virus. But if your cat's immune system is weakened for any reason, or if your pet endures a stressful situation, a viral outbreak can result.

Keep in mind that your idea of stress and what feels stressful to your cat are very different things. For example, suppose you have a guest with a small child visiting your home for several days or weeks. If your cat isn't used to a baby's cry, just this new, distressing sound in the night over a few nights can be read by your cat's body as stress. And that's all the stress it might take to cause a herpes-positive cat to express the virus, causing redness, irritation and inflammation in the eyes. It could also lead to a secondary bacterial infection.

Cats can also develop primary bacterial eye infections caused, for example, by chlamydia, as well as fungal infections like streptococcus. With an eye infection that isn't resolving on its own, it's important to identify the cause of so you know how best to treat it. Infections caused by a virus, a bacteria or a fungus are all handled differently.

Symptoms of an eye infection in your cat can be a tricky to detect, because cats are very good at hiding their discomfort, no matter the cause. You may notice your pet slowly blinking her eyes, or holding them closed to lubricate the corneas. You might notice some redness, which can be a sign of a condition known as conjunctivitis. Sometimes an eye infection will cause a smelly discharge; crusting around the eyes is also common. You might also notice your cat pawing at her eyes.

The best way to keep your cat safe from viral, bacterial and fungal infections is to keep her indoors. There is some exposure indoors, but it's minimal. You can reduce your pet's risk of acquiring an eye infection by at least 80 percent by simply keeping her inside.

If you notice a change in your pet's eyes that doesn't resolve fairly quickly on its own, make an appointment with your vet to determine the cause of the problem and the right course of treatment. Dr Becker Mercola.com

A Classic that many have sent in and requested -

How to Give Cat a Pill.....

1. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right fore finger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse in from the garden.
6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail. Get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans and drink one beer to take taste away. Apply band-aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard, and close door onto neck, to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pour shot, drink. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw tee-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
12. Call fire department to retrieve the damn cat from the top of the tree across the road. Apologize to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.
13. Using heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed, tie the little *&#%^'s front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of filet steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour two pints of water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Consume remainder of scotch. Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room. Sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.
15. Arrange for SPCA to collect mutant cat from hell and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

How To Give A Dog A Pill....

1. Wrap it in cheese.

2. Toss it in the air.



I

nto every life a little cat hair must fall

Unknown

Cats In The News - Can Lucy, 39, Really Be The Oldest Cat In The World?

A family has discovered their cat is the oldest in the world after reaching its 39th birthday. Pet Lucy was born way back in 1972 when Ted Heath was Prime Minister and petrol was 33p a gallon. Cat experts say she has clocked up the equivalent of 172 human years - and cats live to be about 15 on average which means Lucy has more than doubled her life expectancy. Lucy is still fit as a fiddle - and catches mice in the garden. Owner Bill Thomas, 63, inherited Lucy when his wife's Godmother Maria Lewis died in 1999.

Deaf but happy: Lucy, a 39-year-old cat from Llanelli, South Wales is believed to be the oldest cat in the world after a visiting aunt remembered her as a kitten in 1972. But it was only when an elderly aunt came to visit that he realised Lucy was a record breaker. He said: 'My aunt saw the cat and could not believe her eyes. 'She could remember Lucy scampering around Maria's fish and chip shop when she was a kitten back in 1972. We knew she was old - but not that old.'



Town councilor Bill, of Llanelli, South Wales, took Lucy to the vet who was amazed by the cat's long life. Bill said: 'The vet said she was very old but it was not possible to give us an exact age. 'Lucy has gone deaf but apart from that she is in good shape and extremely independent. 'She is great with the grandchildren and still likes to patrol the garden every day looking for mice.'

Until now the world's oldest recorded cat was a pet called Creme Puff from Texas, USA, which lived for 38 years and three days.

Bill said: 'We have researched Lucy's past and found she was born in Thomas Street, Llanelli in 1972. He said: 'We have spoken to other people who can verify seeing her in the fish and chip shop in the early seventies. 'She appears to be the genuine article.'

A spokesman for Guinness World Records said there was no entry for the world's oldest cat. Daily Mail January 2011

'Klepto Cat' To Lead Charity Parade

A Californian cat nicknamed the 'klepto cat' because of its knack for stealing clothes and household items will lead a pet parade in May.

Dusty, who was filmed last month stealing clothes in San Mateo, is the guest of honour at Redwood City's annual pet parade, a fundraising event for the Peninsula Humane Society.

Organisers told Foster City Patch that they were "so excited" to secure Dusty's services, dubbing the cat "a celebrity". Dusty's owners Jim Coleman and Jean Chu have also agreed to an auction of unclaimed items taken by their cat, with all proceeds going to the society. Dusty has taken shoes to stuff bears to towels to bathing suits. At least 600 items haven't been hauled over the past 3 years.

Coleman said: "It makes it more special, because that's where we originally got Dusty from." Since footage of Dusty was first broadcast, Chu and Coleman have appeared on television and radio shows around the world, including The Late Show with David Letterman.

2011 Kate Goodacre News Subeditor



The Cat That Gives You A Thumbs Up

Meet Jimmy, the cat that just happens to be able to give you the thumbs up. He's actually not all that special he is just a polydactyl (a cat with extra toes) that happened to give the thumbs up on YouTube. 'He's probably the laziest cat in the world but he's also super clever and has thumbs. And he's a great party trick' says his owner.

Source: metroherald,



The Catwalk

Mel -

Some weeks ago Mel lost his front right leg but things looked up for him when he found a new owner last week.

Mel is short for Mellow because that's exactly his personality.

R Butler, Dublin



Burbonne -

What do you mean, I'm spoiled?

G Hehir, Dublin



Louisa -



'Anyone who claims that a cat cannot give a dirty look either has never kept a cat or is singularly unobservant'
Maurice Burton

S. Mackey, Dublin

The Catwalk



Cassie -

No, I didn't take
the comic section.

A. Flanagan, Dublin



Star -



What do you want?

I nearly caught that fly.

K Sluifers, Dublin



Surya & Puck -

I really love you,
really, really.
You're my best
Friend.

S. Teti, USA



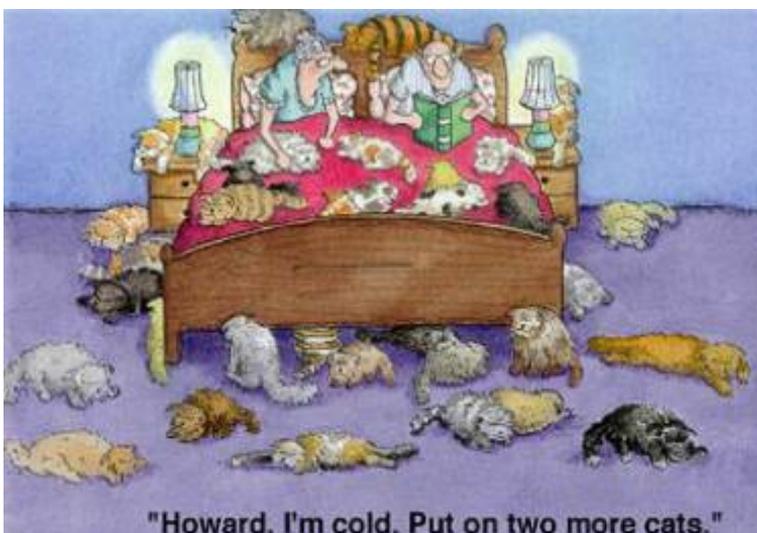
The Quiz - How To Give A Cat A Pill (Part 1)

Reading page 8 may help you with this quiz



1. What might be a common reaction of a cat's experienced human when the vet tells them they need to give the cat a course of pills?
 - a. A panic attack
 - b. Asking what kind of pills they were.
 - c. Calm acceptance.
 - d. A feeling of relief that no needles are involved.
2. On arrival home from the vet with the cat, what would the cat's human be well advised to do before anything else?
 - a. Let the cat out into the garden to calm down after the visit to the vet.
 - b. Secure the house to prevent the cat from getting out.
 - c. Wash their hands in mentholated spirits (or anything which smells medicinal).
 - d. Turn off all the lights and draw the curtains.
3. An inexperienced cat's human who attempts to give the cat its pill without proper preparation will *not* experience which of these results?
 - a. Deep scratches and severe bleeding (of the human, not the cat).
 - b. A traumatised cat actively considering termination of the human's contract.
 - c. Shredded curtains, soft furnishings, carpets and/or bedding.
 - d. Calm, incident-free consumption of the pill, followed by a request for a treat
4. Before preparing their feline for their pill, how should the cat's human prepare himself or herself to serve?
 - a. Put on thick, strong clothing and leather gloves
 - b. Have a rough-and-tumble with the dog, so that you smell familiar
 - c. Change clothes to something thin, lightweight and comfortable.
 - d. Rub your hands and face with fresh catnip leaves.

Answers on Page 15



Better Than Grass Salad



- 1 small carrot peeled and grated
- 1/4 cup peeled and grated zucchini
- 1/2 cup chopped alfalfa sprouts
- 1 tsp. finely chopped parsley
- 1/8 cup chicken stock
- 1/4 tsp dried or fresh catnip

Cat Food Recipe Directions:

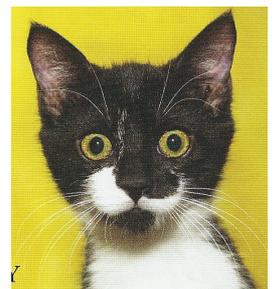
Combine veggies in a medium bowl. Add chicken stock and toss. Sprinkle with catnip and serve at room temperature. Store left overs in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.

I-love-Cats.com

How To Annoy Your Human -

Stare At Nothing - Find a focal point on the wall (preferably with nothing at all around it) and stare fixedly. When your human inquires as to what you are looking at, ignore him entirely. When he finally gets up and goes over to investigate, look away and fix your gaze at another blank spot on an opposite wall. This one is bound to cause a great deal of animated discussion on the Cat Forum. Bipedes will never *get it*, which makes it more fun for us cats.

pawnation.com



always gives me a shiver when I see a cat seeing what I can't see.

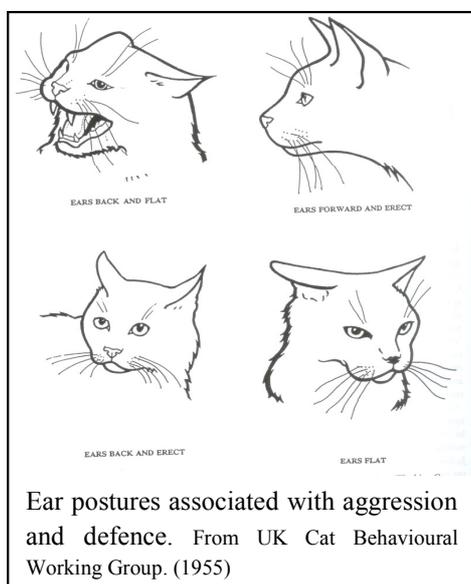
Eleanor Farjeon

Visual Signalling Repertoire In Cats

The signalling behaviours of cats have been determined by their original environment and these behaviours have in general terms been unmodified by domestication, unlike the signalling behaviours of the other popular domesticated species, the dog.

Given that cats come from arid regions with scarce resources unable to provide for dense populations of felines, much of the communication between cats depends upon messaging systems which can last a long time without the cat being there or that will not degrade too quickly. Hence many of the communication systems are olfactory: spraying and middening are obvious ones but so too are the secretions from glands either through scratching or rubbing or bunting (the rubbing of the top of the head against objects thereby leaving secretions from the glands on the head).

Another communication system is the auditory channel with vocalisations which can carry the message great distances. The aggressive vocalisations of howl, growl, and yowl vary in terms of pitch and duration from all other vocalisations and are thought to convey the apparent size and health of the and therefore “fierceness” of the emitting cat, so that would be challengers are forewarned and can leave the area.

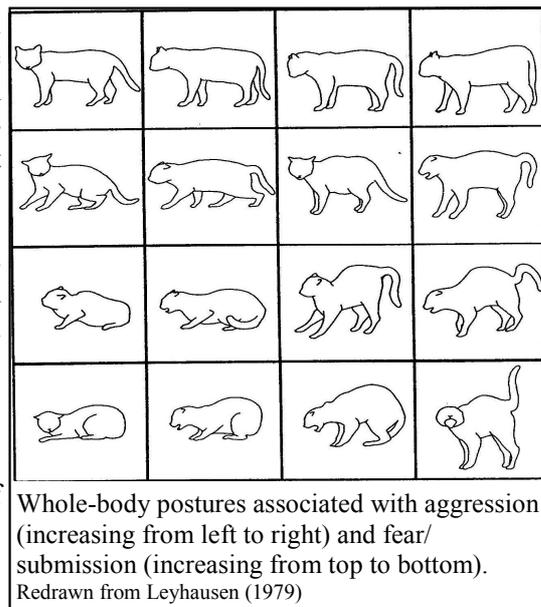


Visual communication and the use of body postures only really become effective when in close proximity to another cat and therefore these postures are generally considered to be agonistic signals. Many of the postures are attempts by the signaller to alter its apparent size and thereby influence the outcome of an encounter. An aggressive cat will raise its hair and stand fully upright, whereas a cat which wants to avoid confrontation will crouch and flatten its ears. It will also withdraw its head into its shoulders. The defensive aggressive posture (bottom right) is presented when the aggressor is about to press home an attack (be it another cat or predator eg dog). This is usually adopted by the cat on a side on to the aggressor, again to maximise the apparent size of the emitter.

In the preliminary stages of aggression two cats will avoid looking at one another directly, but will spend more time monitoring the each other. Mutual gazing is therefore seen as a threat posture with the loser often being the first to break eye contact and to be then chased away by the victor.

One notable visual signal and one which is not agonistic is the tail held vertically up. The cat's tail functions as an organ of balance but also has glands for secretion. More importantly an erect tail can be seen over distance, especially in scrubland or desert environments, and is a sign of friendship or at least the intention to interact amicably. Bouts of mutual rubbing and sniffing are invariably preceded by an erect tail up position, and cats have been shown to approach significantly quicker other cats or even silhouettes of cats when the tail is up. A tail down position can mean the opposite and cause the other cats to keep way or to respond themselves with tail tucked postures.

Obviously the body posturing method of communicating has significant value for cats in terms of immediacy and safety. Body postures can be changed very quickly allowing for misinterpretations of previous signals or challenges to be corrected or responded to, and the intentions of an approaching cat can be assessed before potentially fatal encounters occur. Remember that cats are solitary hunters and this requires cats to maintain physical security in order to hunt successfully. Any injury or wound infection has the potential to be fatal in terms of inhibiting successful hunting. Jim Stephens - MSc. CABCC(Companion Animal Behaviour Counsellor) www.petsbehave.com or info@petsbehave.com



Jim will be at the 'Speakers Corner' in the SABCCI Show the 26th of October.
He will be available for individual questions between 1:00 and 2:00
At 2:00 he will give a talk on the above article to all attending after which he will take questions

The Woman Who Has 700 Cats

Meet the woman with more than 700 cats. Lynea Lattanzio lives alone with hundreds of felines on her 12 acre spread in Parlier, California where she runs a huge cat sanctuary. Divorcee Lynea takes in rescue cats from around the world at her 'Cat House'. 'If I were a cat, this is where I'd be,' she told a US newspaper. We're a no-cage, no-kill adoption sanctuary.'

Lynea said she wasn't allowed cats when she was growing up. And she didn't have any when she was still married. She began rescuing the animals after her divorce in 1981 and has saved almost 19,000 felines. But she insists she is not a crazy cat lady. 'I prefer to say I'm eccentric or masochistic,' she told the New York Post. 'It's the same thing, only nicer.'



The Cat House on the Kings is California's largest no-cage, no-kill cat sanctuary. Its mission is to place rescued cats and kittens into permanent homes and to prevent pet overpopulation through spaying and neutering.



There are at least 700 cats in her care, she says - as well as 15 dogs. She survives thanks to donations and grants. Her story featured on a National Geographic WILD episode, The Lady with 700 Cats, that aired in the U.S on Saturday night. It was narrated by Glee star Jane Lynch.

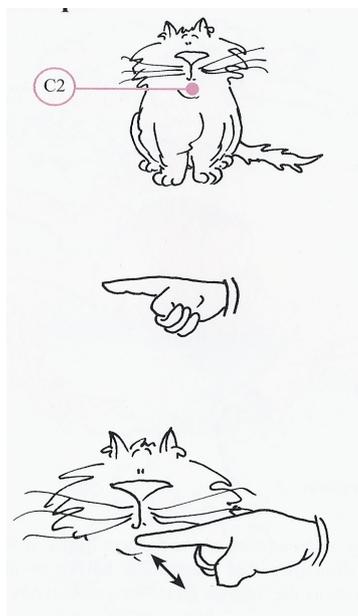
'I'm sure there are other places that do what I do. I just don't know where they are. And obviously they are few and far between,' Lynea said. She added: 'What I say is - if they don't have a home, at least they have a life.'

dailymail August 2011

Purr Points: The Ticklers - Purr Point C2

In an earlier Scratching Post we pictured the Front and Back Purr Points of your cat. This is a demonstration Point of C2

The subject should be in the erect position.



Place forefinger in the ready position.

The Practitioner approaches the Subject from the front and application should be administered in rapid fur-wise/anti-fur-wise movements.

The Response -

Rating on the purr register = 4



Ticklers is a glorious celebration of pleasure. Repeated Brings on full throated purring, tail-flicking and furry vibrating on the part of the Subject.

Know Your Cat's Purr Points by Margaret Woodhouse



KIT'S KORNER

Word Search

N	T	Y	L	I	I	B	B	A	X
N	A	M	R	I	B	T	U	E	O
A	R	I	E	N	A	Y	R	S	L
I	O	B	N	C	S	N	M	E	L
R	K	I	I	I	O	M	E	N	O
E	R	C	L	V	S	E	S	I	D
B	O	E	E	A	H	S	E	L	G
I	L	D	E	T	M	T	Y	A	A
S	N	O	W	S	H	O	E	B	E
O	E	S	E	M	A	I	S	H	A

Abyssinian
Balinese
Birman
Burmese

Devon Rex
Korat
Ocicat
Ragdoll

Siamese
Siberian
Snowshoe
Somali

Answers to The Quiz

4-a
3-d
2-b
1-a

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 material and photos for the CATWALK. While more stories, photos, etc are coming in, 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 the SABCCI Cat Show. Don't forget to come and pay his stand a visit.

Remember - The SABCCI Championship Cat Show - 23rd of October

Knocklyon Community Centre, Idrone Road, Knocklyon Dublin 16

Doors open to the public 12:30 to 5:00

See you all at the show! ^..^

For All Your Pet Needs

Breffni House Pets



See you on the 23rd of October



Good Luck to All Exhibitors on Show Day

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