

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2013

www.sabcci.com

Contents	Page
Editorial	3
A Breed Apart - The Sand Cat	4
The Cats of Chateau/Kitten Found In London Tube	4
Bob The Busking Cat	5/6
Cats In The News	6
Pet Birman of The Year - Pushkin	7/8
Quiz & Fun Stuff	9
Catwalk	10/11
The Supreme 2013	12
The Cat's Sense of Taste	13
SABCCI Newsletter 1977	14
Kit's Corner	15
The Final Meow	16

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



Five Ways to Prepare for a New Cat

1. Cover all your best clothes with cat hair. Dark clothes must use white hair, and light clothes with dark hair. Also, float some hair in your first cup of coffee in the morning.
2. Put everything cat-toy sized into a water bowl to marinate.
3. Practice searching every closet and open cabinet door before you shut it.
4. Take a staple remover and punch two holes in every scrap of paper around the house.
5. Take a warm cuddly blanket out of the dryer and immediately wrap it around yourself. This is the feeling you will get when your new cat falls asleep on your lap.



Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2013 issue of The Scratching Post. Many thanks to Breffni House Pets in Dundum who continues to be our sponsor.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Mocha Frappatino and enjoy this Autumn issue!

Happy Halloween!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

Happy Halloween!



The SABCCI 60th Championship Cat Show - 20th of October Maldron Hotel, Tallaght Dublin 24

‘Diamonds Are Furever’

Along with the Pedigree & House Hold Pets in competition there will be on exhibition past SABCCI Best in Show winners & retired titled winners over 7 years of age.

Lots of cat related & craft stalls, fun children's activities, competitions & prizes. A teddy bear competition will be held and anyone can enter for 50c per teddy. You can enter from 9:30 to 11:30 on show day.

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

See You There!

SABCCI in Ballyroan

SABCCI had a stall at the Autumn Fair in Ballyroan, held on Sunday the 15th of September. to promote the upcoming 60th Anniversary Show.

Thanks to Tony and Alice Forshaw and Betty Dobbs who manned the stall in the rain and the wind.

Pictured Betty and Alice on the stall.



Cat x-ing - Maine, USA

Personality Types in Cats

The Worry-Wort - Has a great deal of concern about the house, other cats, cat shows, etc. Toys may be scary or threatening. Strange people might like to eat cat-soup. If a mother, is usually a great mom until the kittens start getting out of the box, then she almost has a nervous breakdown. Tries to put the kittens back in the box. Tries to keep them herded together. Seems to be worrying that they are going to join street gangs and become drug addicts if she can't keep them under control all the time. Is a lousy subject for photographers, thinks the camera might be a weapon of mass destruction. Tends to hunch back when judges try to stretch.

A Breed Apart - The Sand Cat

Sand Cats may look soft and sweet, but they're rugged survivors. They live in some of the toughest places on earth: sandy and stony deserts of the Eastern Hemisphere, from North Africa all the way east to Asia.



Sand Cats have evolved to cope with soaring temperatures. Fur between their toes and at the bottom of their feet allows these hunters to move across blistering sand in pursuit of prey. Long hair in the cats' ears keeps sand out of those important organs. The cats' digging skills help them hide underground during the day.

Sand Cats have adapted to eat just about any of their neighbours. Small rodents are the cats' primary prey, but these heat-loving hunters also dine on reptiles (even venomous snakes) and birds. The cats sometimes bury their prey and return to it later for seconds.

By definition, deserts are dry places, getting less than ten inches of rain a year. That makes finding water a challenge. Fortunately, Sand Cats can go months without even a sip of water. Instead, they get moisture from their prey. When they do find water, though, the cats drink eagerly.

Smithsonian Zoogoer - May/June 2013 photos Smithsonian Zoogoer & Zoochat.com



A Comparative Study of The Cats of Chateau Shenzhen

In Chinese Culture fish are good fung shui. Many homes and offices have fish tanks with average or prized fish as good luck charms. I had two fish, separate bowls, they are/were Thai fighting fish, and they do/did, I now have 50% of my fung shui quota. The cleaning lady changed their water. The first fish to be changed got the hot water still in the tap pipes from washing the floor.....

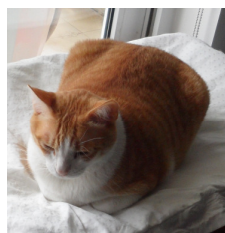
Rest of the household are ok, allowing for Myla the hair brained, tucker mouth daredevil. The baby of the pride, the youngest, the smallest, the greatest gurrier. I have to read her the riot act very often, serve her with an ASBO soon, she chases the others around with bully malice aforethought.

But, then, I will be quietly at my desk, deep in design, and there comes a scamper of tiny paws, a mewling meow, a lap jump and she snuggles against my chest for a reassuring stroking needing soothing...cat nightmare?

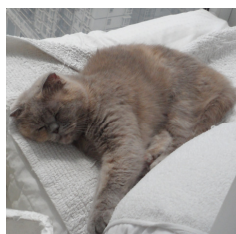
If Cats are anything like humans all four have their trauma background as rescue cats.

Liam Bannon, Shen Zhen China

Meet Liam's Myla and the other 3 cats



Left - Rory - Straight guy, tucked in, shipshape



Right - Smokey - Belle horizontale



Left - Molly - Pride

Right - Myla - Grouch slouch, trucker mouth



Kitten Found on London Tube Train



A kitten has been found in a box on a London Underground train. The tiny ball of dark fur - thought to be four weeks old - was handed to staff who passed her on to the animal charity Blue Cross.

Veterinary nurses cleaned up the young cat, who was found on Monday at about 21:00 BST covered in a sticky substance. They named her Victoria after the central London station where she was found.

She was found on the District Line train by a passenger who then handed her over to station staff. A spokesman for the charity, based near to Victoria station, said: 'It is a mystery as to why she was left on her own, without her mum or possible littermates. Little Victoria is certainly one of the most unusual items of lost property handed in to London Underground.'

London Underground said: 'We see a lot of lost property at Victoria station, but it isn't usually so wriggly! This poor little kitten needed urgent care so we were glad the Blue Cross were nearby to step in and help little Victoria. We are all really pleased that she is in such good health.'

Because the kitten is so young and should be feeding from her mother, the nurses have been hand feeding her and providing round-the-clock care. Victoria is doing well, the charity said, and will be transferred to its rehoming centre in Lewknor, Oxfordshire, next week.

Source: BBC News July 2013

Bob The Busking Cat

The Book 'A Stray Cat Named Bob' has sold more than 250,000 copies

A bright afternoon in London's Covent Garden and the cobbled streets are choc-a-bloc. Office workers rush to and from lunch, tourists mill around, and shoppers pop in and out of the smart boutiques. In the middle of them all sits a cat wearing a jaunty Union Jack neckerchief. Surrounded by a crowd of 30 open-mouthed spectators, Bob, a tubby ginger tom, smiles beatifically.

Next to him, his owner James Bowen stands with his battered acoustic guitar, belting out a series of Oasis songs. Every now and then, he stops playing and bends down to Bob. 'Come on, Bob, high-five!' he says. Bob twitches his whiskers, raises a paw, and taps James's outstretched hand. The crowd coos. A smart-looking lady in a pink dress and jacket pops a £20 note in the cap at Bob's feet.



It's not every day that you see a cat sitting calmly in Central London, apparently unfazed by the blaring sirens, passing cars and general hubbub — but Bob is no ordinary cat. Bob, you see, is a star. He has his own Twitter account (with 12,000 followers), his own Facebook page, even his own fan group, the Street Cats, who send him photos, scrapbooks and presents. Oh yes, he also has his own bestseller and is in 'talks' with a Hollywood agent about taking his story to the big screen. Well, it's Bob's owner, James, who is leading the discussions, but he's in no doubt that he owes it all to his cat. James's book, *A Street Cat Named Bob*, a feel-good story that chronicles how the 33-year-old busker and one-time homeless heroin-addict turned his life around with the help of his cat, has sold more than 250,000 copies and been translated into 18 different languages. So far, the book has made James around £30,000 - a figure that is likely to rocket now there's a film on the horizon.

It all began five-and-a-half years ago, on a grey Thursday evening in March, when James found Bob, starving and wounded, on the stairwell of his block of council flats in Tottenham, North London. 'He was hiding in my building - he had been attacked by another cat, or maybe a fox. He had a great big wound on his side, the poor thing.'

Struggling to wean himself off drugs, James was initially reluctant to take in the poor creature. 'I assumed he belonged to someone. I asked around, but there was no one.' After three days, James cleaned his wounds and took him to the RSPCA for a course of antibiotics, which cost £28. At the time, James was busking and earning just £25 a day. 'It was pretty much the last money I had, but I didn't feel it was too much to help something in need. I've always loved cats,' says James.

Dependent on methadone and living in a small one-bedroom flat, James's life had veered badly off course just a few years earlier. Still, he was daunted by the daily routine a pet requires. 'I didn't plan to keep him - I thought he was a street cat. So after three weeks, I tried to set him free.'

Bob had other ideas, though. James recalls: 'I'd take him outside, but he just wouldn't run off. I would leave for a day's busking and he'd follow me up the road. Then, one day, he followed me all the way on to the number 73 bus. He climbed on right after me!'



So James began taking Bob busking with him. 'I got him a lead, but he likes to climb up on my shoulders. He just picked it up naturally. He's a genius, really. Before I'd even tuned up my guitar on that first day, the coins started dropping on the floor,' says James. He took home almost three times his usual amount.

Soon passers-by were bringing Bob titbits of food, toys, even clothes. 'Someone gave him a purple scarf. Then everyone wanted to give him one. He must have more than 20 specially knitted scarves, a couple of jumpers, ten blankets - mouse shaped-ones, cat-shaped ones. It's amazing.' For the pair's first Christmas together, one lady brought Bob a miniature stocking stuffed with goodies, and James bought a cheap plastic tree to put it under. 'On Christmas morning, Bob was sitting underneath it,' says James. 'He knew it was his!'

All the while, Bob's fame was growing, with videos taken by fans appearing on YouTube.

Continued next page

(Bob contd) - Even so, when James was approached by the literary agent Mary Pachnos, previously acted as the UK agent for Marley & Me, he was surprised. 'She said she had been walking past us for weeks, and wanted to know if I was interested in telling my story. Soon, we had publishers on board and six months later we had a book. It came out on my birthday. The best present of my life!' The hardback edition spent six months in the top-ten bestseller lists, with the paperback now at number one on the non-fiction chart. Spin-offs including a sequel and a children's version are planned.



Today, James says he's drug-free and insists he won't return to his former life. In a Sunday newspaper this week, he was clear: 'I'll never go back to drugs. I've learnt too much and grown up.' For this, he thanks Bob: 'It's all down to him. For the first time, I felt like I had family. It gave me the determination to make my life more comfortable, to make his life better, too.'

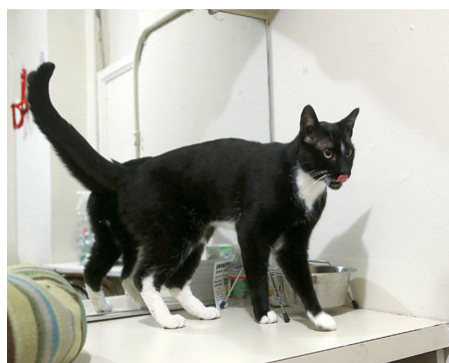
He has certainly done that. James's first royalty cheque for £30,000 will be spent settling debts, arranging health insurance for Bob and paying for a flight to see his mum in Australia over Christmas. Bob will stay at home in London and be cared for by a friend.

As for long-term plans, James hopes to get a mortgage, buy his own home and live a normal life, perhaps working for charity. So what of Hollywood? 'People say I could be played by Johnny Depp - but he's too old, isn't he?' says James with a grin. And Bob? 'Oh, I don't know. He's the most famous cat there is!'

For now, though, James and Bob are back to busking, though only twice a week. 'I still love busking, and so does Bob. We'll always do it. I could never say I was his owner. We're partners.'

Alice Azania Jarvis - Mailonline.com November 2012

Cats In The News - Backup Cat Out of 'Breakfast'



Even as 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' prepared to open on Broadway Wednesday night, one cat was out of the bag - or at least, out of a job. The main cat understudy, Montie, a black-and-white male, has been fired for being, well, difficult. He didn't follow stage directions.

'Cats do have nine lives,' Rick Miramontez, the publicist, said in a statement. 'While there are others who are joining the production as understudies and covers, Montie will remain at the theater indefinitely.'

Montie is staying because his owner is Babette Corelli, who has been training cats for the show and helped with casting. Such are pet politics. Meanwhile the star cat, Vito Vincent, is now negotiating - through his owner - for a nightly car and driver, The New York Post reported.

Montie will be replaced by Moo. The cat dressing room has bouquets of flowers and wrapped packages with dozens of cans of cat food as opening-night gifts. Vito - a plump, ginger-colored male whose card lists him as 'Talent' - as well as Montie are expected to paw the red carpet at tonight's opening. 'The company looks forward to celebrating with them to-night,' Mr. Miramontez said.

New York Times.com - Robin Pogrebin photo by Chang Lee/New York Times

And

Stubbs Mayor Cat of Talkeetna, Alaska Slowly Recovering From Canine Attack

In the Autumn 2012 issue we had a short article on Stubbs the cat becoming mayor of a tiny village in Alaska. News of a serious dog attack on Stubbs was posted on his facebook page. See part of an article from examiner.com below:

Stubbs the Mayor Cat is not sure if his attack was a covert, hostile plan by a canine's political agenda, but it is hoped the 16-year-old yellow tabby beloved by the 800 residents of Talkeetna and perhaps all through the U.S. might be on his way to recovery. Late Wednesday evening, the Facebook page Stubbs the Mayor Cat announced:



'Thank you everyone for your well wishes during my recovery. While at this point in time it is impossible to know whether my attack was politically motivated, I do hope that the government will seriously consider providing me with some Secret Service protection in the future to assist in preserving my remaining 8 lives. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue leading the great town of Talkeetna onwards to brighter tomorrows.'

(photo facebook)

The Birman Cat Club's Pet Birman Of The Year 2012

Pushkin

Pushkin, a true ambassador for all that is best in cats, is a modest cat and so will not speak up for himself leaving it instead for me, his mum, to sing his praises.

Pushkin, a blue point, was born in December 1999 just days after I lost a much loved Tortie, Floss, at the age of 14. Never having had the pleasure of being owned by a pedigree cat but having seen pictures of, and read about, this wonderful creature, the "Birman Cat", I decided to look for one as soon as possible. Pushkin was six weeks old when his breeder Margaret Kelly phoned to say that she might have a kitten for us but wanted to meet us and see if we were the correct people for her dear kitten. As my elderly parents lived with me my father came with me to see the kittens. It was love at first sight. Of the three kittens, two boys and a girl, one little boy became very attached to dad, climbing up the sleeve of his jacket, so it was agreed that he would come to us when he was three months old. We got to know him as we visited him weekly until he was ready to come home with us.



Pushkin proved to be a very self-possessed little kitten from the moment he entered his new home. He was calm and explored in a very relaxed manner. The calm dignity he displayed the first day he arrived has stayed with him to this day. Living as we do, near a busy main road lined with tall trees; most attractive to any cat, we planned from the start to keep Pushkin as an indoor-only cat. This proved to be far easier than I could have hoped for. Pushkin was a home-loving cat from the start. He was the centre of attention and having my retired parents in the house he has rarely been left alone for any length of time and so became very much a "people cat". I had no experience of showing a cat so I was nervous of taking him to a show and only too late realised his temperament is so relaxed that it would not have bothered him in the least. He has always been a calm gentle cat happy to greet those who wished to meet him while not bothering with people who had no interest in him. Over the years his charming personality has won over many non-cat lovers and they have become "cat converts".

All Birman cats are wonderful so what makes me feel that Pushkin has that extra "something"? He has never given a moment's bother, with perfect manners and behaviour. His visits for vet check-ups have been so easy, he loves to get in his basket and travel in the car, showing no stress when approached by admirers, and there have been many, looking in his basket. He has been gentle too, and happy about being stroked by children who have often called him a "teddy bear" cat. A very good description for him.

I have made many new friends through him and am now a committee member of SABCCI, our local cat club. Pushkin has made four appearances on national television to help advertise our annual cat show. As he was not competing at the show himself, and with his winning personality, it was felt that he was the perfect cat for the job. The first time, in 2007, I was very nervous, fearing the size of the studio, the lights, all the strange people and sounds might spook him. More fool me; Pushkin was so relaxed and acted like he always does with calm and dignity. The camera people fell in love with him and gave him disproportionate cover. He did not complain. After that there was no stopping him and he made repeat appearances in the three following years. He was not even bothered by having to wait around before the show, his patience just one more of his virtues. He also made appearances at two national pet expos here in Dublin acting as an ambassador of the club. The large crowds and strange songs of various animals did not in the least distress him.

Pushkin has supported me through long-term illness and gave me gentle encouragement after two knee replacements. Always by my side with an encouraging purr.

Pushkin had never had any health problems until he was ten, when in February of 2010 I noticed that he staggered, just once, on his back legs while we were playing with one of his many fishing rod toys. I phoned his vet who said to come at once; sadly after a half day of tests and scans Pushkin was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. We were heart-broken but Dr Pat Keating, Pushkin's vet, was very positive and started Pushkin on medication. He had monthly checks and I was given the vet's private mobile number with instructions to call at any time of day or night! Pushkin was back to his old self as soon as he came home and just relished the extra attention and paid us back with lots of cuddles.

Very early one Sunday morning in July 2011, having had his tablets, breakfast and a play and brushing session, Pushkin appeared to fall down the last few steps of the stairs and looked to be dead. His tongue was protruding, he was limp and did not appear to be breathing! Screaming as I ran down the stairs brought my father from the kitchen, reaching Pushkin before me. He picked him up, gently massaged his chest while breathing on his nose. Another panic call to the vet and Pushkin was in the surgery within five minutes. Unbelievably he revived a little as he was placed on the exam table. Distraught, we left him in the loving care of the vet hospital staff and came home believing that this was the end for our darling Pushkin. Two hours later a phone call from the vet told us that "Lazarus" as he was renaming Pushkin, was alert and looking around the oxygen kennel "Would we like to come visit and comfort him".

Continued next page

(Pushkin contd) That day he underwent a battery of scans, tests and was seen again by the Italian cardiology specialist at the vet hospital. Next morning after his vet had consulted specialist in the UK, Pushkin was started on a new regime, a cocktail of tablets morning and night. The amazing thing is that Pushkin has always accepted his tablets without fuss. He takes his tablets from my hand: in the morning as he is hungry they are enjoyed with a few grains of food while at night a couple of treats are enjoyed with the tablets. Without doubt his temperament and the ease with which he can be medicated have made all the difference to his quality of life. He has slowed a little and gave us another scare a few months later but prompt attention yet again saved the day. I must admit to being a panicky “cat mum” in recent years and he has had several dashes to the vet at all hours of the day...and night. I can only speak of our own vet practice, Raheny Vet Hospital, but have never ceased to be amazed at the excellence of care that Pushkin, and his human family, have received from them.

Five years ago my dear father was diagnosed with advanced cancer and believed to have about three months to live. He surprised everyone including his oncologist and had four and a half years with a good quality of life. Throughout this time Pushkin was the ultimate caring cat and I believe that the bond between the two of them did wonders for Dad; he often said how therapeutic he found the lovely loud purrs of his best friend Pushkin. In mid-July Dad became seriously ill and was admitted to hospital; the following morning Pushkin had one of his turns resulting in another dash to the vet. It seems clear that he sensed things were not at all well with his master and was distressed by it. Yet again he recovered and I bring him for checks every two weeks. It has been a time of disruption in the house with our routine thrown into turmoil but Pushkin was always there for me to comfort and distract me when I came home from visiting Dad in hospital. On one vet visit Dr Pat suggested that Pushkin was obviously missing my dad and he knew that Dad would be missing Pushkin. Dad spoke to Pushkin daily on the phone! – with Pushkin head-butting the phone in response to his master's voice.

The vet thought we should make an effort to get Pushkin to visit Dad. I never thought it could happen but with encouragement and advice from the vet it was arranged that Pushkin could visit Dad so long as he was brought in quietly and went directly to Dad's room. They clung to each other and Pushkin lay by Dad enjoying being stroked. Next day when I went in the nurses asked, “Where is the cat”? They said that after Pushkin's visit Dad's blood pressure had lowered favourably, so important for a patient with a brain tumour. From then on Pushkin became a regular visitor, always travelling through the hospital in his basket covered with a coat or shawl and he never made a sound until he was in Dad's room with the door closed. He became something of a celebrity visitor, staff from all departments came to see this lovely cat, so still and calm that some thought him a toy until they saw the twitch of his tail. On a number of occasions we had to leave the room while physiotherapy or other staff tended to Dad but on each occasion we were surprised to be asked to leave Pushkin in the room rather than take him to the car. One staff member accidentally left the door open during the half-hour session with Dad but Pushkin just sat in the window observing yet making no attempt to go on a walking tour of the hospital!

Sadly we lost Dad on September 1st; his beloved Pushkin had been with him only hours before. When I came home from the hospital I was met by Pushkin who clung to me and purred louder than I have ever heard and did not object as I sobbed into his fur. He stayed strangely calm that weekend but on the Tuesday morning, the day of the funeral removal, Pushkin collapsed in a heap on the kitchen floor as I was getting his tablets and breakfast. It was 7.30 in the morning and I called the vet again. Pushkin was rushed there very sad and miserable looking. He was once more admitted and put in an oxygen kennel. It felt like my whole world was falling apart and I thought Pushkin wanted to go with his master. Yet again, with the wonderful support of all the vet hospital staff, Pushkin was pulled back from the brink. His heart continues to weaken but he is in no pain, eating well and, while slowing down, he still plays gently and his coat looks good.

Pushkin has helped me through this stressful time and I know that Dad gained so much comfort from his visits. He is a truly healing furry presence to have around. He was described by one of the hospital staff as an ambassador for the power of pet therapy and has resulted in a change of attitude to animals in that hospital. Pushkin behaved so well that it has become part of their policy for palliative care patients, where practical, to be allowed visits from their pets. Pushkin has helped not just his own family but also other patients and families.

I'm so proud of you Pushkin, my beautiful brave blue Birman. I could sing his praises all day with stories of how he loves to be brushed and enjoys strange foods like blue cheese and cranberry juice. All this pales into insignificance in comparison to the loving warm support he has given us.

Aedamair Kiely

Cat Superstitions - Beware This Halloween



1. If a cat claws carpet, it will be very windy.
2. In Transylvania, if a cat jumps over a corpse, the corpse will become a vampire.
3. If you kick a cat, you will develop rheumatism in that leg.
4. Tortoiseshell cats can see into the future and can give the gift to one lucky child in the household.
5. A cat sneezing is a good omen for everyone who hears it.

The Quiz - True or False



1. Those dark lines connecting to a cat's eyes are called mascara lines.
2. In relation to their body size, cats do not have the largest eyes of any mammal.
3. Jaguars are the only big cats that don't roar.
4. Cats can have freckles.
5. Cats can taste sweets.
6. All cats are born with blue eyes.
7. Cat urine glows under violet light.
8. A pole cat is a cat species.
9. Cats are only right-pawed.
10. Cats do not have sweat glands.

Answers on page 14

Fishy Snacks

Ingredients:

1 15-oz can of mackerel
½ to 1 cup whole grain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder

Method: Mash the mackerel up in a bowl—juice, bones, skin, and all. Add the baking powder and as much flour as it takes to make a thick dough. Spread it out about ¼-inch thick on an oiled cookie sheet or silicone liner, using a knife or pizza cutter to score it into small squares. Bake at 350 degrees F for about 30 minutes. Once cooked, break into squares, and store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to a week, or in the freezer for up to 3 months.

Rodale.com

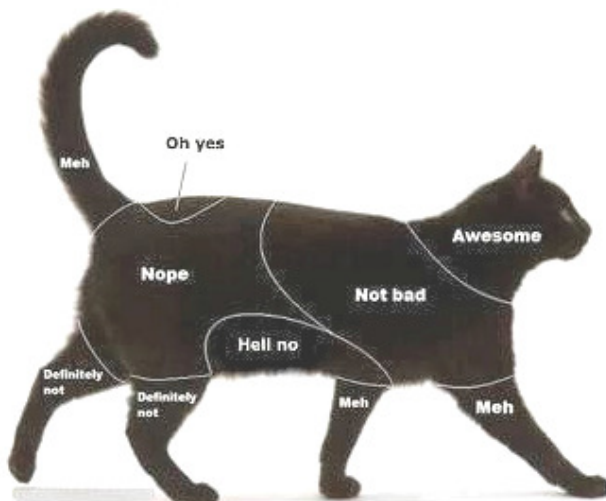


How To Annoy Your Human



Camera Play - One of our humans' favourite activities is pointing the black light-box at us to capture our most clever moments in what they call "pictures." Our favourite game is to arrange ourselves in stunningly cute poses, then move quickly or look away when the camera comes out. Is it any wonder that most cat pictures show us sleeping, or with our backs cleverly turned away from the camera? **Tips:** Extra points for closing your eyes, moving until your ears are cropped off. Red eye images are great too! Pawningation.com

Petting Chart For Your Cat



Irritable Lap Syndrome

Symptoms: The cat appears unable to settle comfortably on laps, instead treading, kneading, rearranging itself, fidgeting, vocalizing, getting up and turning around, falling off lap and getting back on again, attacking magazines, needlework, computer keyboard, telephone etc.



Treatment: Immediate treatment is essential. Drop whatever you are doing (literally if need be) and give 100% attention to the sufferer otherwise symptoms may escalate and become quite distressing to the lap-owner. Only prolonged attention will cure an attack of Irritable Lap Syndrome. Like Collapsible Legs this syndrome is incurable, although attacks may be effectively treated as and when they occur.

Law of Cat Embarrassment -

A cat's irritation rises in direct proportion to her embarrassment times the amount of human laughter.

The Catwalk



Amber & Gabby -

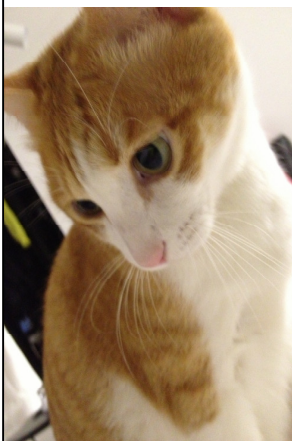
Amber is wondering what the return policy for the package is.

T. Byrne, Dublin

Star -

I have my own waterfall.
Aren't I lucky!

K Sluifers, Dublin



Rory -

'Alias, poor Yorick.....'

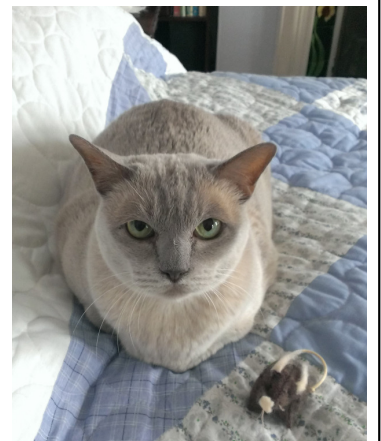
See Rory in China and his friends
on page 4

L. Bannon, China

Burbonne -

And, what are You look'in at?

T. MacDonagh, USA



The Catwalk



Nando -

Please sir more, more, more.....



T. Forshaw, Dublin



Nimbus -

Same goes for me Nando!

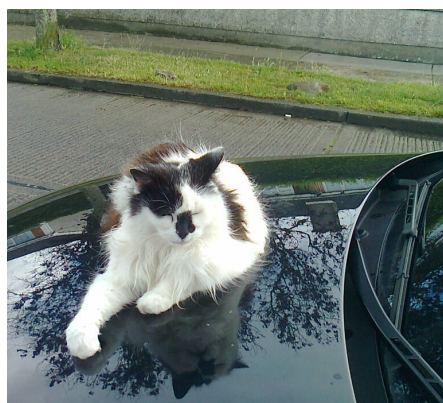
T. O'Connor, Dublin



Cat On A Hot Car Bonnet -

Some like it hot.

S. Mackey, Dublin



Bright Eyes -

Look into my eyes.....keep looking....now do as I say....

V. Reynolds, Dublin





The 23rd Supreme Show 2013



The 23rd Supreme Show was held on Sunday the 21st of April at Ballinteer Community School Dublin 16. This was our second year at the school.

There was a total entry of 94 cats, 1 up on last year. It was great to see the Non-Pedigree numbers up over other years to 11 in total. There were also 4 cats in Exhibition - 2 Nebelungs and 2 American Curlys.

Our judges had travelled over from the U.K. and Holland for the Show – Mr Steve Crow and Mrs Joyce Green, both GCCF judges, came from the UK while Mrs Stephe Bruin (FIFe) and Mrs In Hartman (Allrounder) from Holland. Our judge for the Non-Pedigree section was Animal Behaviourist Mr Jim Stephens who has been at the Speakers Corner over the last few years in The Supreme and SABCCI shows.

I would like to thank our Honorary Vets Mark Heffernan and Charles Cosgrave who we welcome on his first time vetting-in for our show. Their assistants - Aedamair and the UCD student vets Dana, Aoife, Teresa, Charlene and Laura. Thank you to our main stewards - Christine, Margaret, Sasha, Brendan and Georgina. The UCD student vets who assisted in the vetting-in also were our second stewards. They were such a great help and seemed to enjoy the day even if they were working from early morning vetting-in through to Best In Show.

The Top Table's contribution is enormous and makes for a smooth running Show. Thanks to Carmel for heading the Table, once again, and those who helped her - Ronnie, Caroline, Hugh and Norman.

Thankfully, as usual, Tony came to our aid in designing the front cover of our catalogue, getting the Judges to and from the Show and along with other work he and Alice did for the show. Their support over the period before and during the show was greatly appreciated.

The Committee - Karen for her hard work on the publicity, Alison for taking good care of our finances during the day, Betty for her assistance in compiling both the Schedule, catalogue and other paperwork and for her wealth of knowledge, Georgina for organising the stands & Pot Draws, stewarding and along with Betty whatever else that needed to be done. Their strong support and hard work got us a show.

More thanks to Tina for jumping into what ever was needed to be done on the day, Mark and Imelda on the door for the full day and David Keating, the Ballinteer school's Sports Hall Co-Ordinator, who helped out so much on setting up and on show day - he was even out directing cars for parking! and to all others who helped on the day. Gloria Hehir, Show Manager

Best In Show Winners

Adult - CH Nikelsilva Neptune (Korat) owned & bred by Miss. C. Nichols

Kitten - Fiordiliso Habibi owned by Ms. T. Monahan, bred by M.T. & Mrs. K. Cassar-Simmonds

Neuter - GR PR Poppylove Marbled Orchid owned by Mr. C. Noonan, bred by Ms. N. Neretti & Mr. J. Gibbons

Non-Pedigree – LJ (Long Hair) owned by Mrs. C. Hayde



Overall Best in Show Winner - CH Nikelsilva Neptune

For all Best of Variety winners see GCCFI.com

The Cat's Sense of Taste: it's up in the air!

You may have noticed that your cat seems to be very finicky over its food, walking away from that expensive delicacy after only one sniff. You may even have noticed that the cat prefers to drink from the puddle rather than its plastic bowl. Do cats really have such a sophisticated sense of taste that they become so discerning, turning up their noses at the delicacies we provided? In actual fact, compared to humans, the cat's sense of taste is very poor. We humans have approximately 9000 taste buds, whereas a dog has 1700 and the cat has only 473. Why should there be this discrepancy?



We humans are omnivores, and our digestive system is weak. Our sense of taste is highly developed so that we can detect when food is off, or high in sugars and carbohydrates. The process of digestion starts in the mouth with chewing, whereas in scavengers such as the dog the digestive food takes place in the stomach, hence dogs swallowing large pieces of food. The dog stomach contains five times the strength of hydrochloric acid than a human stomach. Thus, if we taste a piece of mouldy food and spit it out, our dogs are more than happy to consume it. As omnivores we and dogs are more than happy to gorge on foods high in sugar or carbohydrates, very useful when we were hunter gatherers, but which now leads to incidents of obesity in ourselves and our pets.

However, cats are carnivores. In 2005 research showed that cats lack the sweetness sensory receptor resulting from a gene mutation from an early ancestor, which means although physically present, the taste buds are inoperative. Some scientists now believe this is the root of the cat family's extremely specialised evolutionary niche as a hunter and carnivore. Their modified sense of taste would cause them to some degree to ignore plants, a large part of whose taste appeal derives from their high sugar content, in favour of a high-protein carnivorous diet, which would still stimulate their remaining taste receptors. Unfortunately some proprietary cat foods are known to contain a high percentage of carbohydrates and sugars which the cat cannot taste, but more importantly may not be able to digest due to a lack of the appropriate liver enzyme, and thereby control its metabolism. This may be one cause of the increase in diabetes now being presented to veterinary surgeons.

Cats can however detect the compound adenosine triphosphate (ATP), which supplies the energy in every living cell, thereby detecting meat. More importantly, cats have a highly developed sense of smell, some 14 times stronger than that of a human. Cats have approximately 19 Million nerve endings in their nose, all of which help the cat to safely negotiate its way through its environment, whether in search of food, a mate, or avoiding another cat or its territory. At the top of the cat's mouth is a specialised sensory organ, known as the Jacobson's organ or Vomero-Nasal Organ (VMO). It is located in the roof of the mouth with a small opening behind the front teeth. This tiny organ (approximately 1/2" long) is connected directly to the nasal cavity and is thought to "taste" the air and to offer the cat additional sensory information. When a cat sniffs an odour, it sometimes draws its lips back from its teeth into a grimace. It draws back from the source of the odour, the eyes narrow into slits and the cat pauses to contemplate. It may flick its tongue, sit back on its haunches and appear to be in a trance for several seconds. This grimace is known as the Flehmen response and it is the cat making use of its VMO.

It is easy to see the grimace as a reaction against a bad odour when it is actually just the opposite. When a cat sniffs a sharp smelling chemical, such as those in some household cleaners, heavily spiced foods or citrus scents, it turns away or draws back quickly to get away from the odour. The Flehmen response is just the opposite. The cat wants additional information from the odour.

The Jacobson organ, which is connected to areas of the brain associated with sexual, social, and feeding behaviours, is most often used by male cats to gauge the sexual status of local females – in other words, to discover whether they are fertile and ovulating by the scent of their urine. However, both female and male cats display the Flehmen response when encountering a variety of scents. It has been speculated that in addition to gauging whether females are in heat, cats may be able to gather information regarding the physiological states of many different of animals using the Flehmen response, which can assist with predatory activities.

As we are talking about ingestion and digestion, it has recently become apparent, through high-speed photography, exactly how cats drink. Unlike humans, who use their cheeks to create a vacuum and thereby suck up liquid, or dogs that lap and "spoon", cats have evolved a novel method whereby they quickly dip the underside of their tongue onto the surface of the liquid and retract it. As the tongue retracts it pulls with it a column of water, which the cat then bites and swallows. This method also has the additional benefit of keeping the cat's fur and whiskers dry!

Siamese & All Breeds Cat Club of Ireland (founded 1953)

Newsletter - February 1977

Chairman: K.T. Hall esq, Vice-Chairman: Canon W.H. Nicholson, Hon Sec: Mrs C.M. Hall, Hon Tres: Mrs Dobbs
Committee: Mrs Arthure, Mrs Cronin, Mrs Dalgetty, Mrs Doak, Mrs Hume, Mrs Marron, Mrs Tormey and Mrs Smith.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at St Bartholomew's Hall, Clyde road, Ballsbridge on Tuesday 8th March at 8pm and we are looking forward to a good attendance. If any member would like their name put forward for nomination for the Committee would they please notify the Hon Sec Mrs C.M. Hall by post. A word of warning though, Committee membership is time consuming especially prior to the Show, but we would welcome hard workers who could spare us the time.

Owing to the high cost of postage all enquiries, and requests for pedigree forms (5p each) must be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.

Will all members who would be interested in attending a one day Symposium of Veterinary Talks at a date to be arranged in May, please send their name to the Hom Sec Mrs Hall, and if there is sufficient support forthcoming this will be finalized....

REGISTRATIONS

Registrations for cat or litter: £1
Transfers: 50p
Life Prefix: £5 (Annual prefix discounted)

SHOW NEWS

Many of you would have read the reports of our October Show which appeared in 'Fur and Feather'. It would occupy too much space in this short Newsletter to repeat them here, but on the whole comments were very satisfactory. Especially interesting was the fact that those judges who were with us on return visits from England reported a definite improvement in standards. One criticism which rears its head each year did so again this year - some exhibits penned on very inadequate blankets. I am pleased to tell exhibitors that we have secured for 1977, a much better venue, still in the RDS which has central heating and will be much more comfortable. Inevitably the cost will be greater but we feel it must be met in order to improve conditions for both owners and pets.

I would like to take this opportunity to clear up a point which was queried by an exhibitor and may have puzzled others, i.e. how could Best in Show in the various groups be decided before all classes were judged? The answer to this is that only the results of Open classes are considered deciding Best in Show.

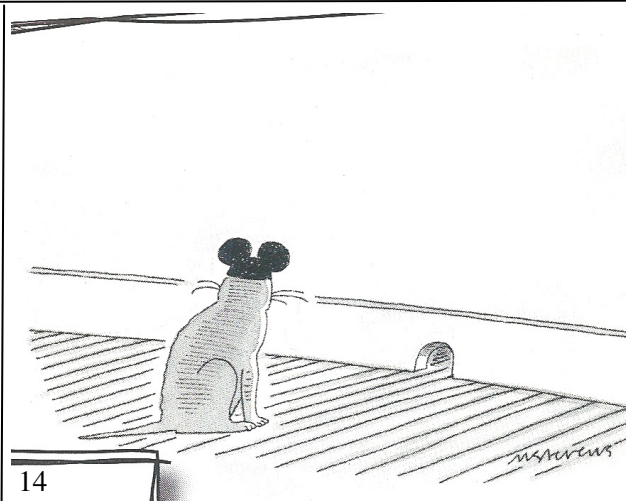
Another point which merits a few words is on the question of stewarding. Some very unpleasant remarks were made at the Show about stewarding in the LH Section. The implication being that one steward had won many first prizes as a result of being a steward. Such a thing does not happen at a Cat Show whatever may be the practice in exhibiting other types of animals.

This year's show will take place on October 8th and not 15th as previously announced. Visiting judges from England will be Mrs Giles for Burmese and Siamese, Mrs Wilson for Siamese and A.N. Other for Longhair section.

At long last we now have certificates to commemorate cats becoming Champions and Premiers. The certificates have been designed and executed by Miss Margaret Baker of Cork Cat Club and we feel they are most attractive.

What is a True Cat?

- ♦ True cats prefer to eat from the same china you use, not out of cute bowls with 'Kitty' or 'Tune Breath' written on the side.
- ♦ That's because true cats hate being condescended to.
- ♦ And true cats don't require a parsley garnish with their dinner like that cat in the ad. They'd rather eat the grass.

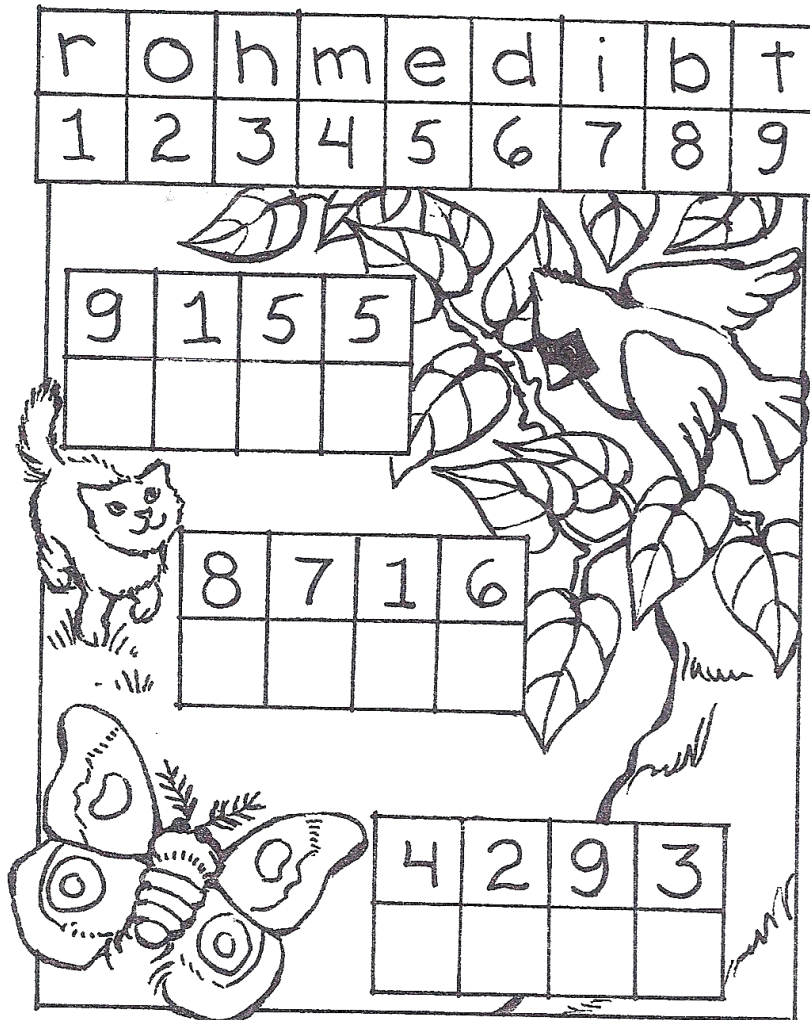


Answers for Quiz
on page 9

T - 10
F - 9
European weasel)
F - 8 (it is a nocturnal
T - 7
F - 6
F - 5
T - 4
F - 3
F - 2
T - 1



KIT'S KORNER



Shadow loves to play in the garden. Use the number code at the top to spell out some of the things that he sees there.

Mixed-up Meals - Below are 5 creatures that Sand Cats hunt and eat (article 'A Breed Apart' on page 4). Can you unscramble the letters to learn what they are?

INSKK

BGIERL

ECPA ERHA

PRIRE

LKRA

Answers:

Skink, gerbil, cape hare, viper, lark

THE FINAL MEOW

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*. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending us more. Many thanks to our sponsor Breffni House Pets

- Don't Forget -

The 60th SABCCI Championship Show on the 20th of October at the Maldron Hotel Tallaght

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

See you at the show! ^..^

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