

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2012

www.sabcci.com



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Contents - Spring 2012

	Page
Editorial	3
The Pedigree - The Exotic Shorthair	4
A Quiz & Fun	5
The 58th SABCCI Show	6 - 7
Cats In The News	8
Cat Relatives From a Cats Point of View	9
The Catwalk	10 - 11
Burbonne & Diabetes	12
Diabetes In Cats	13
The Cat With Two Heads	14
Kits Korner	15
The Final Miaow	16

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Watch Out For the Cat Burglar!

A cat burglar has been reported bothering householders in some areas of south county Cork. He has even been spotted by daytime, apparently "casing the joint" as he checks out a target house. Residents have been warned not to leave windows open. Gardai have issued the following description:

"Head rather round, ears on top, pale eye colour, muscular body, neat paws, tail has visible kink."

Cork Examiner



Of

all domestic animals, the cat is the most expressive. His face is capable of showing a wide range of expressions. His tail is a mirror of his mind. His gracefulness is surpassed only by his agility. And, along with all these, he has a sense of humour.'

Walter Chandoha

Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2012 issue of The Scratching Post.
Breffni House Pets in Dundum once again has given us sponsorship so many thanks to them.

So if you're ready, sit back, have a glass of chilled Prosecco 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



The 22nd GCCFI Supreme Show



On Sunday the 22nd of April will be held in the Ballinteer Community School
Ballinteer Dublin 16

Doors open to the public at 12:30 with Best In Show judging from 4:00pm

For further details see www.gccfi.com



SABCCI News

Congratulations to -

SABCCI

Edward Timoshenko this year's winner of cat food provided by Husse. His name was drawn from all SABCCI members at the SABCCI AGM in February. The draw is made each year at the AGM. All paid up members go into the draw.

and

John Archer, who has been awarded the SABCCI 'Points Trophy' for being the exhibitor with the most points accumulated at the SABCCI show in October.



Alannah & Bainne at the
SABCCI show in October
Photo by Eoin McGarvey

Bainne

Mummy went to England to get me a new kitten for my Birthday. I was very excited to have my own kitten to look after. She was very small and cute and I called her Bainne, which is Irish for milk. I sometimes call her Bon-Bon too. She is a Burmilla. She likes cuddling up with me, she kisses me on the nose and likes having her tummy tickled. I like playing games with her and she can play fetch with her toy ball. I was happy that she won 5 Rosettes at the cat show as I had helped Mummy get Bainne looking pretty for the show. She looked funny when she had a bath though. We are friends forever and I love her very much.



Alannah, aged 6.

Derivations of Phases - 'A Cat Has Nine Lives'

Cats are often said to have nine lives. This probably goes back to ancient Egypt, where nine was a mystical number. The god Atum-ka had nine lives and took the form of a feline whenever he visited the underworld, so the nine lives became associated with cats themselves.

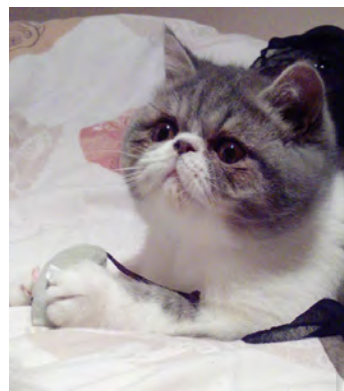
Also, in medieval Europe, cat's were sometimes tossed from tall towers, and many landed on their feet and scurried away unharmed.

It is easy to see why people believed in the nine lives theory. Cats are quick, nimble and cunning, and can often escape almost fatal situations.

The Pedigree - Exotic Shorthair

The Exotic Shorthair is a breed of cat developed to be a shorthaired version of the Persian. They appeal to people who like the personality of a Persian but do not want the hassle of grooming a long-haired cat. The easier to manage coat has made some label the Exotic 'the lazy person's Persian'. The Exotic is similar to the Persian in many ways, including temperament and conformation, with exception of the short dense coat.

In the United States around 1960, breeders crossed the American Shorthair with the Persian in order to improve the American's coat colour and make it heavier. Thus were born the shorthaired Persians, dubbed Exotic Shorthairs and recognized by the CFA in 1966. Since 1987, the only allowable outcross breed is the Persian.



Because of the regular use of Persians as outcrosses, some Exotics may carry a copy of the recessive longhair gene. When two such cats mate, there is a one in four chance of each offspring being longhaired. Ironically, longhaired Exotics are not considered Persians by the CFA, although the International Cat Association accepts them as Persians. Other associations register them as a separate Exotic Longhair breed.

Appearance -The Exotic has a compact, rounded, powerfully-built body with a short, thick neck. It's large round eyes, short snub nose, sweet facial expression and small ears gives it a highly neotenic appearance that some people may consider cute. This 'teddy-bear' cat is generally described as a well-balanced cat, being heavily boned with soft round lines. Their rich, short and thick coat, stands away from the body which accentuates their 'roundness'.



The head is round and massive. Very broad skull. Rounded forehead. Round, full cheeks. Short, broad, round muzzle. Short, broad nose with pronounced stop. Strong chin. Broad, powerful jaws. The neck is short and thick.

The Exotics ears are small, rounded at the tip, not too open at the base. Widely spaced and well-furnished with hair on the inside.

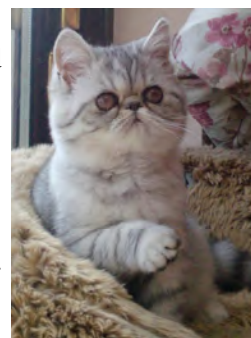
Large, round and well-spaced eyes have a pure, deep colour corresponding to that of the coat (gold to copper in most varieties; green in the Chinchilla and golden; blue in the white and the colourpoint).

The Exotic's body is medium in size, cobby, low to the ground. Broad chest. Massive shoulders. Large-boned, powerful muscles. The weight is from 3.5 to 6 Kilograms. The tail is short, thick, carried low and rounded at the tip.

The coat is shorthaired but slightly longer than that of other shorthaired breeds. Dense, fluffy hair comes in all solid and tortie colours as well as bi-colours. There are also tabby, colour pointed, shaded, smoked and tipped varieties.

Unlike the high-maintenance Persian, the Exotic is able to keep it's own fur tidy with human assistance, though weekly brushing and combing is recommended. During shedding they should be brushed and combined daily. The coat does not usually become matted or tangled like that of a Persian. Because of their fairly productive tear ducts, their eyes should be cleaned daily. This breed does not reach maturity until around two years of age and enters puberty fairly late.

The Exotic has a flat-face as the Persian. As a result of this, it may also suffer from breathing problems, difficulty in eating and sometimes their eyes produce tearing due to kinked tear ducts. The inherited kidney disorder, PKD (polycystic kidney disease) causes kidney failure. Reputable cat breeders do regular screening so this disease can be identified and carriers eliminated from breeding programs.



These cats are sweet-natured, easy going cats. They are undemanding and have soft, quiet voices which they used sparingly. Whilst placid and tranquil, they are described as being livelier than the Persian cat. The Exotic cat is quite playful at times and can be most curious too. The Exotic cat enjoys the company of other cats and dogs, but prefers the company of their humans. They do prefer a tranquil environment, but do not enjoy solitude - they need to know that their loving human is close by. These cats will shower you with affection and love. They tend to show more loyalty and affection than most breeds and make excellent lap cats. They enjoy nothing more than a warm lap and gentle petting. Their calm and steady nature makes them ideal apartment cats for city dwellers. The adults are as playful as the kittens and male cats are often more affectionate than the female.

Liz McCarthy



The Quiz

True or False

1. Some cats have no fur.
2. All cats are affected by catnip.
3. Cats always purr when they are happy.
4. Cats should be given one saucer of milk a day.
5. It is healthy for a cat to have one litter before she is spayed.

Multiple Choice

6. How many eye lids does a cat have?
 - A. 2
 - B. 3
 - C. 0
 - D. 1
7. How many hours does a normal cat sleep?
 - A. 5
 - B. 16
 - C. 18
 - D. 23
8. Barbs on a cat's tongue are for?
 - A. Grooming themselves
 - B. Licking their owner
 - C. Scrapping meat off the bone
 - D. Serves no purpose



answers on page 15

A Recipe For Your Cat

Chicken Crunchies

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups whole-wheat flour
- 1-1/2 cups rye flour
- 1-1/2 cups brown rice flour
- 1 cup wheat germ
- 1 teaspoon dried kelp or alfalfa
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth or beef broth
- 1 pound ground chicken
- 1 to 2 tablespoons brewer's yeast

Preheat oven to 350 F/180 C

In a large bowl, combine the first six dry ingredients. Slowly add oil, broth and chicken, and mix well. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough to a thickness of 1/8 inch then place it on a greased cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown. Cool then break into bite-size pieces. Place pieces in a bag with the brewer's yeast and shake to coat them. Store the leftovers in an air-tight container in the refrigerator.

Makes 2 to 3 dozen pieces.

Healthy Recipes for Pets.com



A Guideline For Cats

Scratching Posts

It is advised that cats use any scratching post the humans may provide. They are very protective of what they think is their property and will object strongly if they catch you sharpening your claws on it. Being sneaky and doing it when they aren't around won't help, as they are very observant. If you are an outdoor cat, trees are good. Sharpening your claws on a human is not recommended.

(James S. Huggins' Refrigerator Door)



You will always be lucky if you know how to make friends with strange cats.

Colonial American proverb

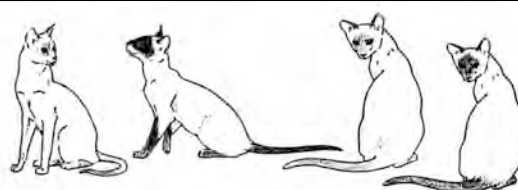
LAW OF SELECTIVE LISTENING

ALTHOUGH A CAT HEARS A CAN OF TUNA BEING OPENED A MILE AWAY, SHE CAN'T HEAR A REQUEST THREE FEET AWAY.



What's The Difference Between a Cat & a Comma?

A cat has its claws at the end of its paws and the comma has its pause at the end of its clause.





The Siamese and All Breeds Cat Club 58th Show Knocklyon Community Centre - 23rd October 2011



The 58th SABCCI Show was held on 23rd October at our usual Knocklyon venue. With a magnificent entry of 136 cats. Our judges were Mrs Cole, Mrs Chapman-Beer, Heavens, Mrs Luxford-Watts and Mr Scruton. The Best In Show and Reserve Best In Show both belonged to the same exhibitor this year so John Archer went home a very happy man. His stunning Singapura SUP & INT GR CH SHADANZA TANZANITE won Best In Show again whilst his delightful own bred Burmese CH SOMATIR NORMA JEAN won Reserve Best in Show. Non-Ped Best in Show was won by Mrs Frizelle's handsome ginger & white boy GIZMO. The Publics Choice this year went to Pedigree – Maura Lenihan's delightful brown Burmese kitten COOMKISTA DONAGHY while the non-pedigree was Mrs Brennan's LUCY.

The Show ran very smoothly but major problems arose with our Show being only 4 weeks after the Cork Show. We were blighted with atrocious weather was which meant the gate was very poor and also meant some delays in flights for some of our judges, but everyone got home safely eventually.

As usual the Show stands or falls on the help given so generously by the committee and other stalwarts – huge thanks go to Betty for organising the vetting in (it makes such a difference having a cheerful face to greet you at that time of the morning) and our wonderful vets, Alison our treasurer who kept all the money in order, Gloria who organised the Best in Show, Carmel and her hard working table workers, Alice and Betty (again!) for running the very busy information table and organising the 'Publics Choice' results, Karen who did all the publicity, all the committee who did all the little jobs but mostly to Tony for all his support both physically and morally – everything from listening to my moans to sweeping out the hall at the end of the day, Tony you're a star!

Ronnie Brooks, Show Manager 

Best of Variety Results

Persian

Adult - Ms Craig & Mr Bell IMP GR CH & INT CH SHEERBLISS DREAMCATCHER (Exotic M)

Kitten - Ms T Sezina CATSCASTLE TIKI-RIKI-TAVY (Tabby & White Persian M)

Neuter - Mrs E Morris PURRFICGEMS GABBANA (Pr) (Exotic MN)

Semi Long Hair

Adult - Ms Kusmierz COLOMBO FORDONIA*PL (Siberian M)

Kitten - Ms Neretti & Mr Gibbons POPPYLOVE GENTLE TITAN (Bi Colour Ragdoll M)

Neuter - Ms Callan & Ms Russell SUP TARA PR & INT GR PR ISHCUS RED DEVIL (Maine Coon MN)

British

Adult - Mrs K Izydoreczyk KRUZINKAL TORCHWOOD (Colourpointed British M)

Kitten - S Johnston HOONIKATZ BREEZER (Black Silver Tabby British)

Neuter - Mr A Malyarenko CASSIOBURY BLUE OLIVER (British Blue MN)

Foreign

Adult - Mr J Archer SUP IMP INT GR CH SHADANZA TANZANITE (Singapura F)

Kitten - Ms C Weldon DADDY GRUMBLEBUN (Sphynx MN)

Neuter - Mrs Frizelle ACCLAIM DIVA FEVER (Egyptian Mau FN)

Burmese

Adult - Mr J Archer CH SOMATIR NORMA JEAN (Cream Burmese F)

Kitten - Ms M Lenihan COOMAKISTA DONAGHY (Brown Burmese M)

Neuter - Colin Grassick GR PR FAUNESE TRINA CHEILE (Ch) (Brown Tortie Burmese FN)

Siamese

Neuter - Ms T Monahan PR COOMAKISTA SIODAH (Tortie Point Siamese FN)

Non-Pedigree

Adult - Mrs J Frizelle GIZMO (SH Ginger & White MN)

Kitten - Ms Rutledge RAMBLER (SH Black & White M)

SABCCI Best in Show 2011

Best in Show Persian Ms Craig & Mr Bell IMP GR CH & INT CH SHEERBLISS DREAMCATCHER (Exotic M)
Best in Show S.L.H. Ms Callan & Ms Russell SUP TARA PR & INT GR PR ISHCUS RED DEVIL (Maine Coon MN)
Best in Show British Mrs K Izydorczyk KRUZINKAL TORCHWOOD (Colourpointed British M)
Best in Show Foreign Mr J Archer SUP IMP INT GR CH SHADANZA TANZANITE (Singapura F)
Best in Show Burmese Mr J Archer CH SOMATIR NORMA JEAN (Cream Burmese F)
Best in Show Siamese Ms T Monahan PR COOMAKISTA SIODAH (Tortie Point Siamese FN)



Overall Best In Show

Mr J Archer SUP IMP INT GR CH SHADANZA TANZANITE

Reserve Overall Best In Show

Mr J Archer CH SOMATIR NORMA JEAN

Best in Show Non Ped

Mrs J Frizelle GIZMO (SH Ginger & White MN)

Public's Favourite Pedigree

Coomakista Donaghy - A Male Brown Burmese Kitten owned by Ms. Maura Lenihan (Pen 110)

Public's Favourite Non-Pedigree

Lucy - A 6 Month Old Female Tortie and White LH Kitten owned by Mrs. M. Brennan (Pen 135)

The Staircase Built For A Cat

One day Adrienne Ellery looked out the window at her tabby Tom. The poor little thing found it impossible to get over the garden fence. At 11 years, he'd developed arthritis and was a world away from the excitable little kitten he use to be. Back then he was jumping the eight foot fence heading off to explore.

Adrienne wanted to do something to help Tom be able to go off on his exploring activities as he once did. Her partner, Gareth came up with the idea - to build him a staircase, a spiral one as the garden was too small for a regular one. It would have to be able to fit in 12 steps.

Would Tom be able to use a spiral staircase? Tom watched with fascination as Gareth put together the staircase. As he looked at the completed construction, he seemed a bit confused. Some food was put on each step to try and tempt Tom to climb. That was all it took as Tom hopped up the steps and climbed over the fence.

Tom now can go off on those adventures he once enjoyed.

Source: Chat Magazine



This Life by Rick Brooks

Cats In The News

Mototkat

Tomcat Floyd is gazing sadly up from his cosy warm place to the rescuers around him. The little fella was freed from the motor block, in which he was stuck, by a mechanic and a helper of the Animal Ambulance of The Hague.

The owner of the car noticed his car driving badly, not able to go faster. At the garage the mechanic discovered the cat under the bonnet. Since the cat was really stuck he called in the help of the Animal Ambulance. Together they were able to free Floyd and were consequently able to contact the owner of Floyd because he was chipped.



As soon as Floyd was at home he never stopped head-butting everybody.

Photo by Dierenambulance, The Hague.

The Cat Came Back - 5 Years Later



A pet cat, Willow, that went missing in Colorado five years ago was found wandering in Manhattan was sent on a plane to be re-united with his former owners.

Workers at a pet shelter traced Willow back to a family in Colorado thanks to the microchip embedded in the cat's neck.

A concerned citizen found Willow prowling the streets on the East Side of Manhattan and took her to the shelter. A spokesperson for the shelter said Willow was in very good condition, a little chunky. Willow did not travel half way across the country on her own considering her condition.

Willow disappeared from her home five years ago during a home renovation project.

Evening Herald, September 2011

The Cat Who Got Stuck Up A Cactus



This terrified bobcat was spotted teetering on top of a 50ft cactus after running for its life from a hungry lion. He stayed there for 6 hours, just to make sure the lion had gone, and incredibly escaped without a scratch. The mountain lion that was stalking him however just circled the base, stared upwards and growled for a few minutes before giving up and walking off.

The drama unfolded on the Giant Saguaro Cactus in Arizona's Sonoran Desert. The saguaro cactus is an enormous plant with two inch spikes and is thought to be up to 300-years-old. It is extremely rare. Just one in 1,000 seeds germinate and it then takes up to ten years to grow one inch. Its first arm develops between the ages of 75 and 100 years old or about the time they reach 15ft.

Photographer Curt Fonger, 69, captured what happened on film. Fonger said 'I was astonished that the bobcat was on such a high prickly perch. In fact, the beautiful creature seemed quite content and was lying on top of the cactus. It only stood up when I got it's attention.'

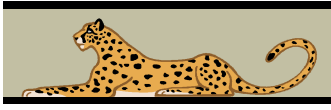
'When he came down he looked around and then trotted back towards the Superstition Mountains. I personally examined the base of the giant cactus after the bobcat had left. There was no hair or blood - only claw marks. Its a successful story of a bobcat avoided being eaten by a mountain lion with a happy ending of it's successful exit back into the desert.'

By Leon Watson, August 2011

Cat Relatives From a Cats Point of View

You might be surprised to learn that the domestic cat (you) is not the only kind of cat in existence. Here is a clear and unbiased look at what we've heard about the other cats of the world.

Leopards



Perhaps you've heard the expression 'A leopard can't change its spots.' It's a stupid saying, because why would any cat want to change anything about itself? It does, however, give you the most pertinent information about leopards: they have spots, and are stubborn. Once they've made up their minds, they never change them. If a leopard wants to go out to grab a gazelle while he is visiting you, don't try telling him that there are no gazelles in your part of the world. It would be a waste of breath. Let him go. Maybe he'll catch a deer or a cow and think it's a gazelle, and then you'll both be happy. This brings us to our next point, which is that leopards are good hunters. They live in Africa.

Cheetahs



Cheetahs apparently also have spots, but for some reason we've never heard anyone make up clever adages about them. What we do know, thanks to passing by the TV during a programme, is that cheetahs are very fast. Like, if Superman's cat and a cheetah were to have a race, the cheetah would win. This speed helps them win Olympic gold medals in track events, and makes them handy for parcel delivery. They are also annoying show-offs who want to race all the time. If you humour them by participating, they will win and want to race again. And again. They just get super-excited about racing. The best thing you can do is send them off to see how long it takes them to run around the block a hundred times.

Lions



Lions will be the first to tell you that they are the Kings of the Jungle. Don't tell them otherwise or you'll have a roaring fit on your hands. Definitely don't point out that they don't live in the jungle. They hate that. The main thing about lions is that they are really full of themselves. Get a little meat in them and they go on and on about how important they are and how much work it is to keep order in their Kingdom, and how they are so important. They don't ask how your day was at all. Man lions have a ring of long hair around their necks called a mane. They hang out in groups called prides. They live in Africa, as well.

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

Headgear to Transform Your Cat

Hats off to designer Amelie Segarceanu, but you can't help thinking her human customers get more pleasure from her creations than their pets.

Not surprisingly, she recommends bribing your cat with treats before fixing one of her miniature bowlers, berets or stovepipes on its head. Once that is done the transformation can be magical 'Quite possibly the most awesome thing I have ever purchased.' wrote one delighted customer on her website.

Ms Segarceanu, of Atlanta Georgia, explains their unique appeal: 'The hats are great as photo props, for Halloween, or for any other fun moments of interaction with your pet. They are lightweight and comfortable and, with a little extra TLC, some treats and a little patience, they will get adjusted and comfortable wearing them.'

Metroherald, September 2011



left - the beret,

left below - a mini
Cowboy hat and
below - the striped
stovepipe.

Notice -

Due to an unforeseen printing schedule for this newsletter, our usual animal behavioural article by well-known animal behaviourist Jim Stephens does not appear. However, Jim will be giving a talk at the Supreme Show on the 22nd of April in the Ballinteer Community School. This talk will be on 'Training Your Cat' and will start at 2:00 at the 'Speakers Corner' in the show hall. Jim will also take any questions from owners about their cat's behaviour.

The Catwalk



Bosco -

Specially designed bath for me. Where's my champagne?

V. Brooks, Carlow



Misty -

If I stay still like this that bird may come closer.

D. Clancy, Dublin



Sheba -

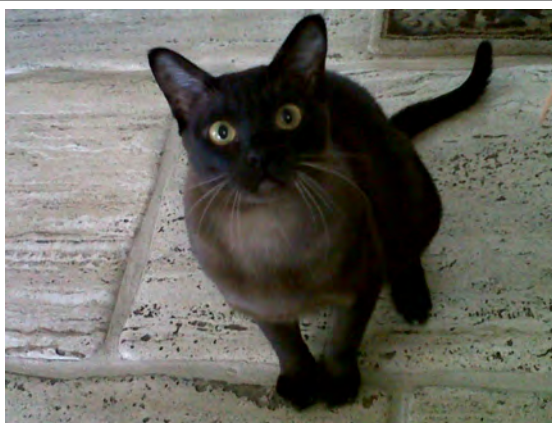
I really do have beautiful blue eyes. (See me in colour in this newsletter on the SABCCI website.)

G.Hehir, Dublin

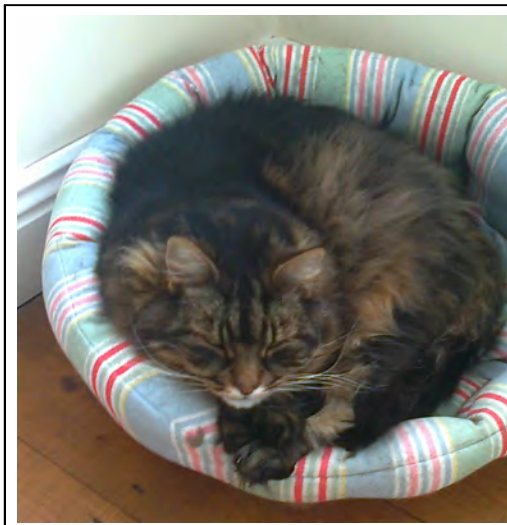
Rajah -

Stand still, stand still. I want to jump into your arms.

O. Macklin, Monaghan



The Catwalk



Emily -

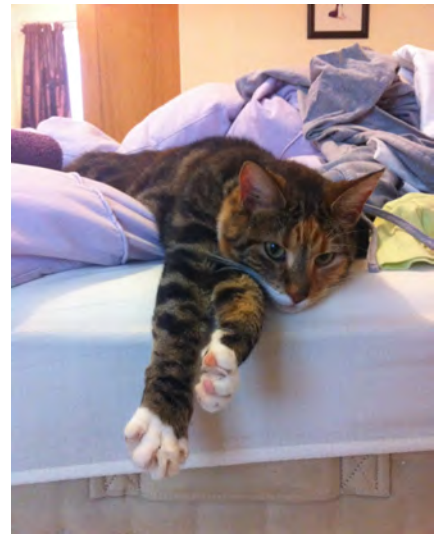
If you think
I am getting
out of here.
Like ya.

S Mackey, Dublin

Tibi -

Phew, what
a night!

R Butler, Dublin



Yoko -

I am into
yoga. You
should try
it.

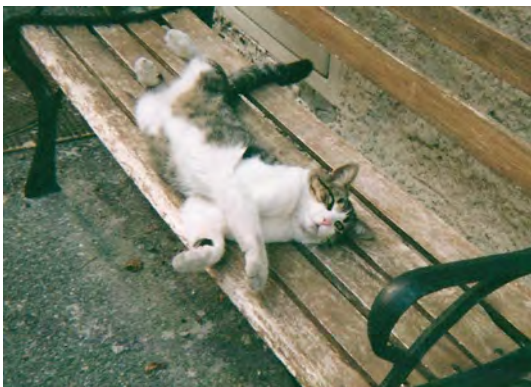
A. Smith, Dublin



Mimi -

Bon Jour. Jes-
uis en Pro-
vence c'est.
Oh la la!
Tres bien.

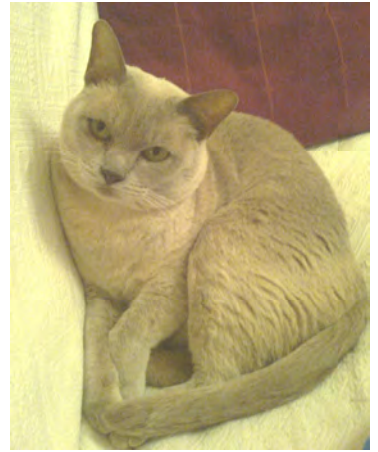
A. Murphy, Dublin



Burbonne & Diabetes

Last summer we left our 11 year old Burmese girl, Burbonne, into the cattery for her summer holidays. It was during that warm and muggy period last June/July. A few days before we left her in, we noticed that although she was a great water drinker, she was drinking more than her normal and was not as active. Anyone I mentioned this to put it down to the weather – ‘a lot of cats are like that at the moment.’

The following day we flew to Boston. A few days later we were settled in my family summer cottage on an island off the coast of Maine. Then, a text came in to say Burbonne was not looking well and she had an appointment to see our vet at 6:15pm, Irish time. Phone calls and texts started moving back and forth across the Atlantic. Further information said Burbonne was staying in the vets overnight for tests however it was thought there was nothing sinister, perhaps a kidney infection. They would let us know what the tests showed in the morning.



The next morning we heard that Burbonne had Ketoacidosis (Advanced Diabetes). We phoned the vet immediately and she explained the life-threatening condition and how it was affecting Burbonne's organs. The situation was not good - would Burbonne pull through and be stabilized?

Our immediate reaction was to pack up and go home to her however, after talking it over we realized clear heads were needed and to give it until the morning before a decision was made. We discussed with her vet and agreed there was no point in coming home while Burbonne was in hospital, as a visit from us every day might only upset her. Instead we would phone each day to be updated on her condition and if she improved and was able to come home we would fly back to be there for her. The holiday was no longer an enjoyable one and neither of us could think of anything else but Burbonne. The frustration of the five hour time difference between Ireland and the States and, the remoteness of where we were did not help.

Burbonne's signs were slowly getting better each day. The aim was to have her down to insulin injections twice a day. By the end of the week Burbonne was able to go back to the cattery for the weekend, after which her condition would be reviewed - either go back to the hospital for more attention or go home. At last we got the news she could be cared for at home. With that we changed our flight tickets, closed up the cottage and packed for our trips to Boston and onwards to Dublin.

A few days later we brought Burbonne home and that is when life, 'as we knew it', changed for all three of us. Burbonne had lost a lot of weight and was very weak. We had to get her to eat small amounts of food throughout the day and, at the same time get her converted over to diabetic food both dry and wet. Insulin injections needed to be given twice a day and keeping within the same hours each day. It was a fast learning curve in giving injections and for Burbonne receiving them, something she is unhappy about.. In time Burbonne started to eat more and put on weight. Getting Burbonne on to diabetic food only was a longer process - after all she is a cat!

After five months, Burbonne was completely on diabetic food, playing with her toys and running around. We recorded her injection times, units given, water intake, litter activity and general form. She goes for her fructosamine test every few months. The results of the tests have let us lower her insulin intake by half.

Now Burbonne is no longer on insulin and continuing to eat diabetic food. She still requires constant monitoring on her water intake and litter activity. The fructosamine blood tests will be done, however less frequent, to make sure her blood sugar level is correct.

Gloria Hehir, April 2012

I would like to thank Mary Dobbs of the Dobbs Cattery, Betty Dobbs, Tony Forshaw and most especially vet Sarah Jane Lynch of Sandymount Pet Hospital, all of whom played their part in saving Burbonne.

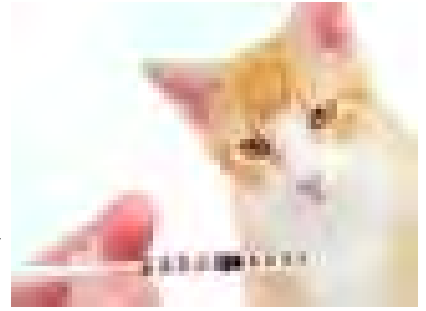
Pet Cat Alive After Shooting

A pet cat has escaped death by a whisker after being shot with an airgun for the third time. Sandy, a 12-year old ginger from North Shields in north-east England, had already used up two of his nine lives after being shot in his stomach and rump a few years ago. But he now faces having a leg amputated after being hit in the shoulder by a pellet fired from the air rifle. The RSPCA is appealing for witnesses.

Evening Herald, January 2012

Diabetes in Cats

It is potentially life-threatening in cats which results from inadequate insulin secretion from the pancreas, and requires medical attention as quickly as possible. In the case of Ketoacidosis (Advanced Diabetes), emergency treatment is necessary since these cats can die within hours of the development of this complication. Diabetes occurs most often in middle aged to older cats, 9-11 years of age, and is most common in overweight cats, in some ways mimicking type II diabetes in humans. With a little time and care, a diabetic cat can have a long and healthy life.



The most common signs of diabetes in a cat:

- Increased water consumption,
- Increased urination
- Weight loss in the face of normal or increased appetite.

In some cases, the disease can progress slowly, while in others it can come on quickly. In severe cases, a cat can develop a complication called ketoacidosis in which they will become very ill, stop eating, and have vomiting, severe dehydration and death.

Standard treatments for diabetes in cats:

- The primary treatment for diabetes is injectable insulin.
- Dietary changes switching the cat to a high protein/low carbohydrate diet.
- Weight loss through food restriction can help with those cats that are overweight.

What can I do to ease my cat's discomfort from diabetes immediately?

- Carefully follow their veterinarian's instructions in treating your cat.
- Monitoring of water intake, food intake, weight and general activity are important.
- The insulin should be given at the same times each day.
- Rechecks of blood work will be needed, and adjustments to the insulin dose may occur.

Source: pawnation.com



The Pros and Cons of Being Sullen

Sometimes cats are simply in a bad mood. We wake up and just don't want to have us a frolic, munch or even nap. Here are some factors to consider when you are think about whether or not to wallow in a bad mood.

Pros

- You get a wide berth from your person and other animals in the house
- There's finally a justification for swatting at anything or anyone that crosses your path.
- Food tastes better when eaten with attitude.
- You can work on your screenplay about a cat who is the president.
- Periods of sullen inactivity slow down the heart and help you live a little longer.
- You can mentally re-rank your favourite toys.
- Calibrate your ears by moving them towards every little sound without moving the rest of your body.
- You can spy on everyone in the house and take notes for later.
- You tail can get a good workout while you whip it around like a maniac.
- Someone might come by and cheer you up against your better judgement by petting you
- If you stare hard and sullenly enough, you can see through walls.

Cons

- None come to mind.

From 'The Devious Book for Cats' by Fluffy & Bonkers



You know you are a cat person when -

You throw a birthday party every year for your cat, with catnip cake and party bags with catnip mice for your cat's guests!

Cat With 2 Faces Lives 12 Years, Sets Record

Worcester, Mass. USA - Frank and Louie the cat was born with two faces, two mouths, two noses, three eyes - and lots of doubts about his future.

Now, 12 years after Marty Stevens rescued him from being euthanized because of his condition, the exotic blue-eyed rag doll cat is not only thriving, but has also made it into the 2012 edition of Guinness World Record as the longest-surviving member of a group known as Janus cats, named for a Roman god with two faces.

"Every day is kind of a blessing; being 12 and normal life expectancy when they have this condition is one to four days," Stevens said, stroking Frank and Louie's soft fur as he sat on her lap purring. "So, he's ahead of the game; every day I just thank God I still have him."

Frank and Louie's breeder had taken him to the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, where Stevens was working at the time, to be euthanized when he was just a day old. Stevens offered to take him home, but experts told her not to get her hopes up.

Janus cats almost never survive, and most have congenital defects, including a cleft palate that makes it difficult for them to nurse and often causes them to slowly starve or get milk in their lungs and die of pneumonia. The condition is the result of a genetic defect that triggers excessive production of a certain kind of protein.

But Frank and Louie did not suffer from most of the common Janus problems. Stevens used feeding tubes to nourish him for three months, hoping that would also save him from the danger of choking on food going down two mouths. It turned out she didn't have to worry about him choking, because Frank and Louie used just one of his mouths to eat.

"The condition itself is very rare, and I think that the fact that this cat became an adult, a healthy adult, is remarkable," said Dr. Armelle deLaforcade, an associate professor at Cummings and head of the emergency services section.

Colleagues at the veterinary hospital told Stevens that trying to raise Frank and Louie might not be good for him or her. Still, she "stood firm and stood by the cat, and I'm really glad she did because this cat really has fewer problems than many cats that have very normal anatomies," deLaforcade said. Frank and Louie's two faces have a complicated relationship. Both noses work, but one mouth does not have a lower jaw and isn't connected to his one esophagus, so he can't eat with it. Stevens discovered that only after the cat got an MRI later in life. The animal can see out of only two of his three eyes. The middle one can't even blink and makes Frank and Louie appear to be staring even when his other eyes are closed.

Frank and Louie does not seem to be bothered by his condition and has developed a friendly personality. The breed is known for its soft and silky fur, docile temperament and penchant for relaxing in a person's arms like a rag doll. He is "very, very laid back, not afraid of people, very friendly and he's actually more of a dog than a cat," Stevens said. "He walks on a leash, he goes right in the car; he loves car rides."

People often want to touch Frank and Louie's long, luxurious fur while Stevens is out walking him. "It's funny because people walk up to him thinking it's a nice, fluffy white cat and they're walking up with a big smile on their face to pat him, like, 'Oh, what a beautiful cat' and I see a look of horror come over their faces when they actually see his face," Stevens said, laughing.

Thirty years ago, a cat like Frank and Louie might not have been given a chance to live. said deLaforcade: "You can look at a cat like this as either a very strange and bad omen, or you can look at this cat as a miracle."



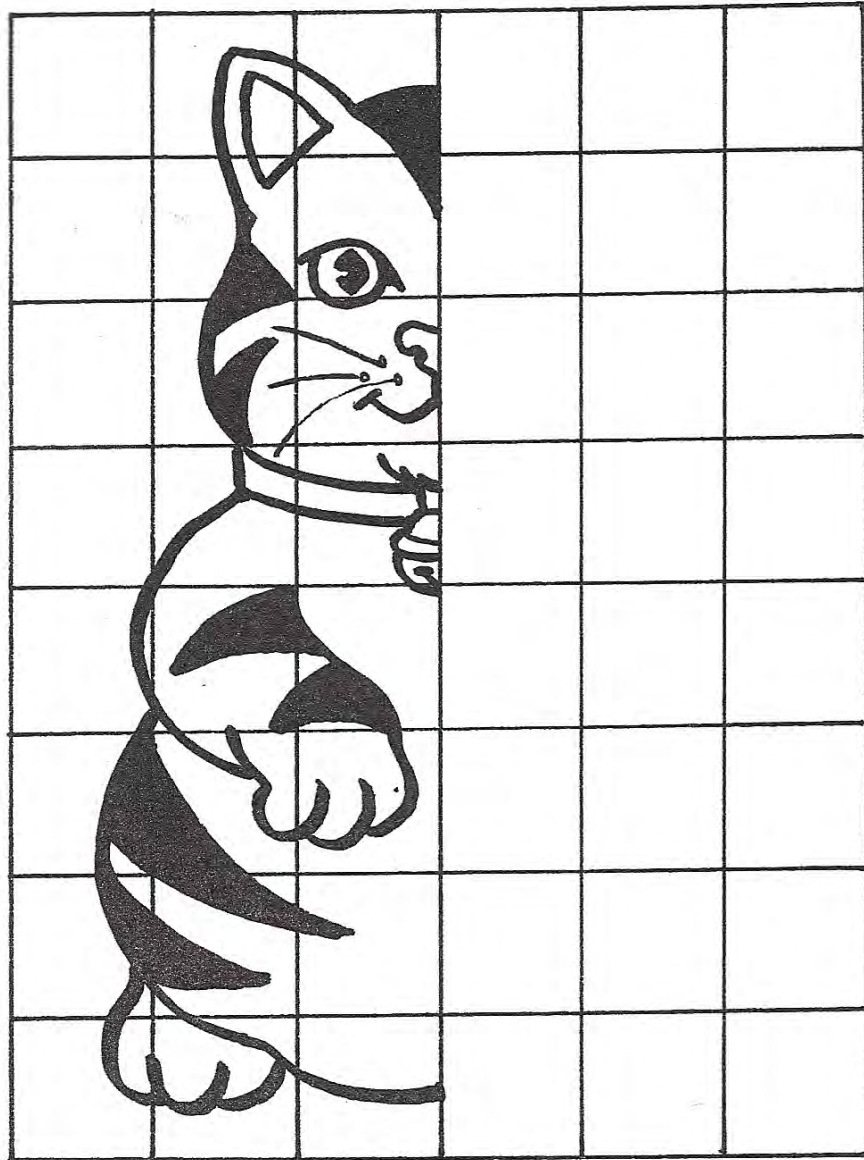
R Ngowi - Associated Press, Photo/Steven Senne—September 2011



"We brought with us in the ship a cat, a most amiable cat and greatly loved by us; but he grew to great bulk through the eating of fish."
St. Brendan



KIT'S KORNER



This striped cat is missing something!
Carefully draw in the rest of the cat. Square by square.

Quiz answers
from page 5

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | F |
| 2. | F |
| 3. | F |
| 4. | F |
| 5. | F |
| 6. | B |
| 7. | B |
| 8. | C |

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**



**Remember - The Supreme Cat Show - 22nd of April
Ballinteer Community School, Ballinteer Dublin 16**



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

See you all at the show! ^..^

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