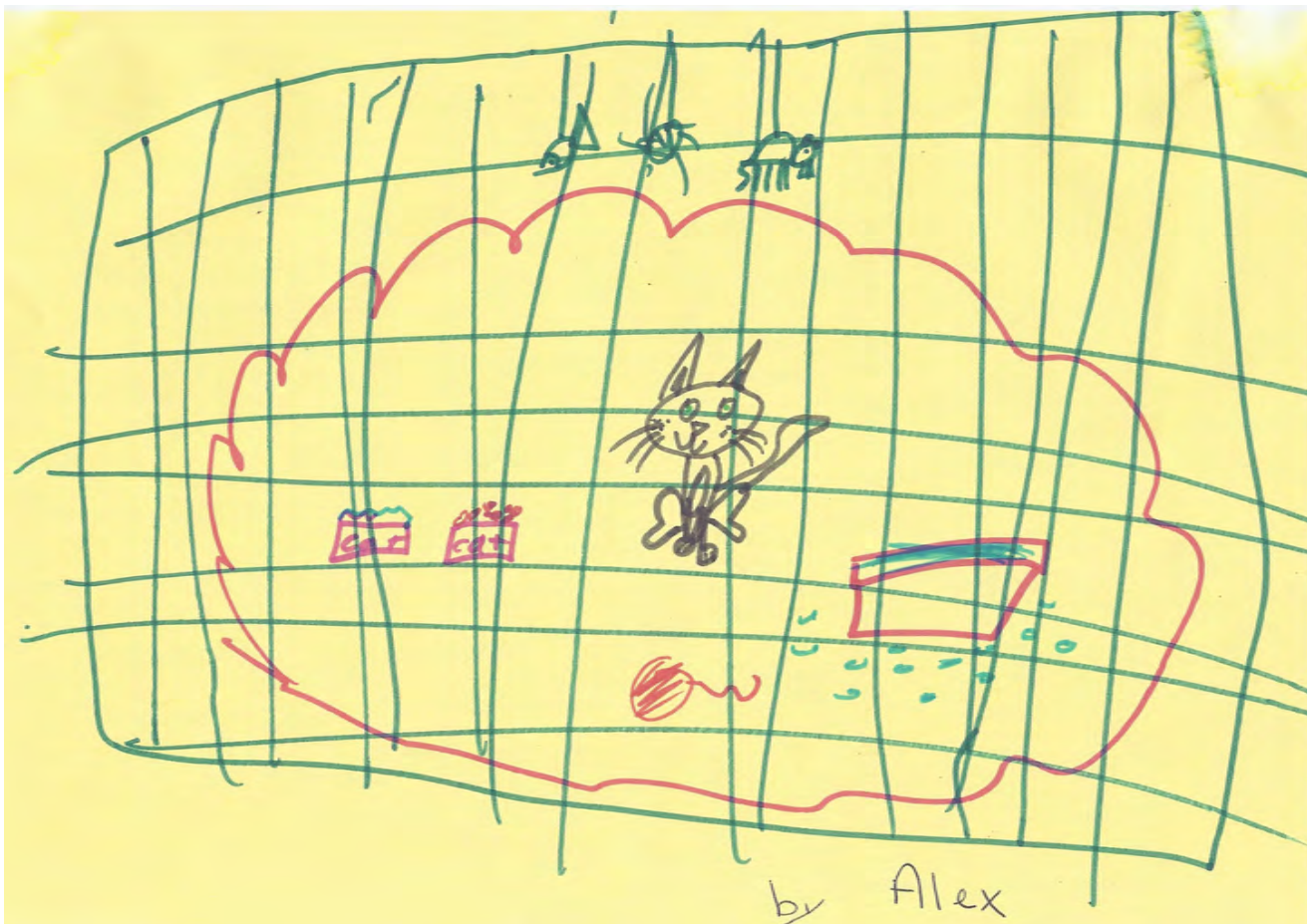
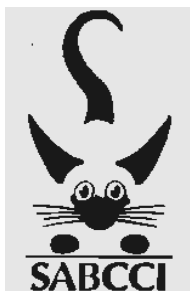


The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2014

www.sabcci.com



The Scratching Post

Contents - Spring 2014

	Page
Editorial	3
SABCCI 60th Anniversary Show	4/5
Cats In The News	6
Quiz & More	7
The Pedigree	8
Cats & Dogs: The Differences	9
Catwalk	10/11
Kleptomaniac Cats	12
Guidelines For Cats	13
Cats In Hats	13
Cat Health At A Glance	14
Kit's Korner	15
Final Meow	16

SABCCI Committee

Ronnie Brooks, Carmel Byrne, Dionne Dixon, Elizabeth Flood,
Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir, Aedamair Kiely, Karen Sluiters, Lorna Taylor



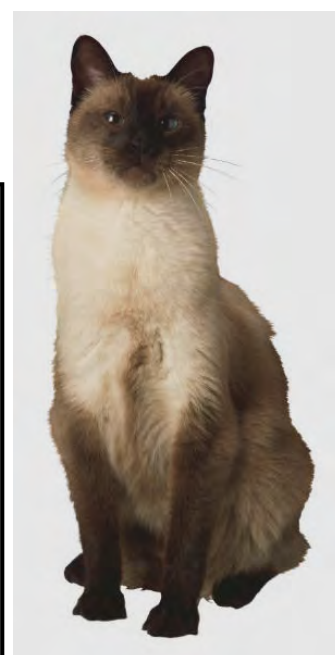
Cover

Drawing by Alex Rochford at SABCCI's 60th Cat Show. Alex won 1st prize in the Art Competition at the 'Kid's Corner'. Below a poem and drawing from the 'Kid's Corner'. See Show page 5 for more on the 'Kid's Corner'



Where Is Puss Puss? by Bethany Trankner

Puss puss where are you? I checked in the hall.
Puss puss where are you? I checked in the mail.
Puss puss where are you? I checked in the shops.
Puss puss where are you? I checked in my bedroom.
Oh Puss puss, where are you, with your white little paws
And with a little cute meow. I miss you so
Desperately, oh puss puss, I wish you would come to me.
Then I looked right out that window, to have a surprise.
That you were right on the window sill
Waving at me, saying come with me.



Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2014 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 mocha 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 24th GCCFI Supreme Show



On Sunday the 4th of May the show will be held in the Ballinteer Community School, Ballinteer Dublin 16

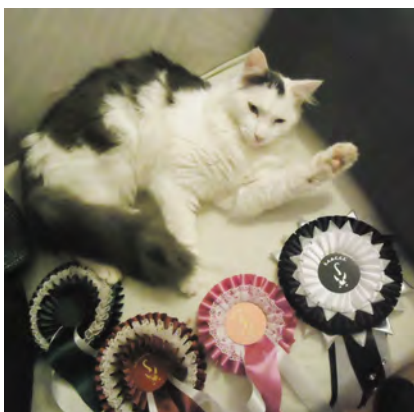
Doors open to the public at 12:30 with Best In Show judging from 4:00pm

For further details see www.gccfi.com

SABCCI News

Congratulations to -

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



Rescued Nimbus Is Prize Winning Norwegian Forest Cat

My cat Nimbus came to us from Cats Aid in June 2013. I thought he was very fluffy but rather skinny and small, and I was at first more attracted to his brother Nebulus. But we decided to give Nimbus a chance and take him home, although he was very sick when we got him. We got him treated by the vet and beefed him up with lots of chicken and cats milk. He is nearly a year now and I don't regret getting him for one minute. He is a very affectionate cat and often hops on my lap when I come home and loves it when I rub him under the chin. I love him loads.

The diamond SABCCI cat show 2013 was very lively and interesting to attend. I walked around to see the many different breeds and chatted to some owners. Nimbus was entered in the non-pedigree section and had a cage besides a lovely tabby cat named Dude who also won a prize. I loved a beautiful little cat that had a coat like a leopard, a brown spotted Bengal kitten called Lady Bug. The hairless Sphynx cats were a little creepy I thought, but still nice to see them and touch them...

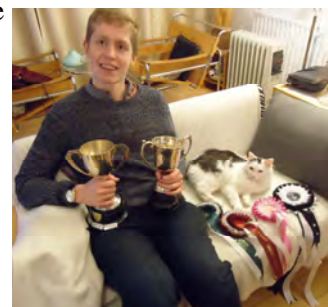
I could not believe it that Nimbus ended up with four rosettes and two trophies at the end of the show. I was so thrilled. One of the breeders told me Nimbus is a Norwegian Forest Cat and is going to be huge and fully grown by the age of four. I might enter him again as a pedigree next time!

Tijmen O'Connor

Excerpts from the jury reports:

1st. O'Connor's NIMBUS. Semi- LH grey and white. Wonderful expressive face. Very long ear furnishings and whiskers. Pink nose. Very clean white on fur with lovely markings and excellent grooming. Great personality and really enjoying himself.

NIMBUS semi longhair grey and white male aged 6 months. He stands regal super clean white well prepared soft fine coat lovely golden eyes.



24kitten - New Digital TV Channel VIMN



This spring, Viacom International Media Networks (VIMN) is launching the first and only cat channel in the world! 24Kitten – will be the first digital TV channel dedicated 100% to the cutest creatures on earth.



SABCCI 60th Championship Cat Show 20th of October 2013 - Maldron Hotel, Tallaght



This was a big celebration for us as it is the Club and Show's 60th Anniversary; I wonder if the founders ever thought to see this day arrive! We tried to make it extra special and put on lots of events to celebrate, starting with holding the Show in the Maldron Hotel. This seemed to be popular with exhibitors as they could stay at the hotel and very convenient for the judges – they were right on the spot.

We put on some special events to celebrate our anniversary; On exhibition – past BIS winners and 'Golden Oldies' titled cats over 7 years. Beautiful and elegant cut glass trophies for BIS and Overall BIS. Special anniversary classes including star signs – who'd have thought so many cats were Taurus! Best decorated pen which had some stunning entries, (the well deserved winner was Zivele Useckaite) The Kids Corner including a teddy bear competition which was so popular the teddies overflowed the table, decorated cat masks and a drawing competition. Every committee member awarded a rosette to his or her favourite cat of the day and what a difficult choice that was. We also had a craft fair with a great selection of stalls (I have to say my favourite was the hand made chocs).

The pot draw was a great success as the top prize was a wonderful climber courtesy of Maxi Zoo – who also supplied the orange cat man wandering around the shops on our behalf. The Anniversary draw with generous voucher from the Maldron Hotel.

But the reason we were all there – the cats! Some real beauties there, including a magnificent 24 non peds. The winners were –

PERSIAN - Mrs Wall's Exotic Male, INT GRCH SHEERBLISS ENRICO
SEMI LONG HAIR - Mr Noonan's Ragdoll MN, GR PR POPPYLOVE GASPY MENELIK
BRITISH - Mrs Wren's Black Silver Tabby Kitten, LIMATZ SUPER-MAN
FOREIGN - Ms Lastauskiene's Devon Rex Female, JASMINE PALMARIS*PL
BURMESE - Ms Sluiter's Lilac FN, GR PR & TARA GR CH ALDEBIZ GINCHIKARA
SIAMESE - Miss Baker's Lilac Point MN, JOMESE JUPITER



OVERALL BEST IN SHOW

Mrs E Lastauskiene's JASMINE PALMARIS*PL – Devon Rex Adult

RESERVE BEST IN SHOW

Mr C Noonan's GRPR POPPYLOVE GASPY MENELIK - Ragdoll Neuter

BEST IN SHOW NON PEDIGREE

Mr & Mrs O'Galligan's Ginger & White – TIGGY

The SABCCI 60th Championship Cat Show 2013

Show Report continued - Every show stands or falls by the efforts of so many people; the wonderful SABCCI committee, each with their own job; Alison who keeps the money in order, Gloria who sorted out the stalls then went on to organise Best in Show; Karen in charge of publicity, Dionne our 'new girl' and what an addition she is! Our 'Facebook' expert then organising the popular Anniversary draw, Elizabeth for that most boring of jobs – the litter bags in every pen; Aedamair busy helping at vetting in, Hugh for presenting the cups, gleaming in all their glory; Alice, hard at work on the information table, filling in anywhere help was needed, then working out the Publics Favourite cats – not an easy job! The non-committee members without whose support we could never manage; Betty who organised vetting in then answered all the awkward questions on the information table – after very generously sponsoring the Kids Corner; Imelda Andrews, who organised and ran the Kids Corner, which proved to be hugely popular; Carmel who ran the results table with her wonderful band of helpers – and sponsored those beautiful BIS rosettes; and our President Rhona Sullivan who presented the BIS winners with their cups and rosettes. Margaret Baker who stewarded then went on to introduce the Best In Show. Our vets John Bainbridge and Mark Heffernan who turn up year after year giving of their precious time with never a complaint But mostly chairman Tony who did the 'grunt' work – everything from designing the cover of the catalogue, sorting out everything with the hotel, organising the road signs and local publicity, drumming up sponsorship and trouble shooting during the day. Finally a huge THANK YOU to you the exhibitors and your amazing and beautiful cats for making it all worthwhile.

Ronnie Brooks, Show Manager

The Kid's Corner At The Show

The children at the S.A.B.C.C.I. 60th Anniversary Show Day played a blinder in the Kids Corner. The moment I started to set up, the children were already swarming around and talking me into starting early. Needless to say they won, we started early all our busy activities for the day.

There was wonderful colouring and decoration of cat masks, drawing of original pictures and writing of some of the best short stories and poems I have ever read. There were even a brave few who took on the challenge of the quiz sheet and headed out and about around the pens, filling out all the breeds of cats they found and then doing a crossword puzzle and a word search, upon the theme of cats. There were jellies and treats given out to all the busy little participants in the corner, just of course to keep them going!



When it came to judging time, I did not envy the job of those brave souls who took the task on, so high was the standard. The judges had to wait a while before being able to do their job, as the children were not willing to finish. In the end I had to take away all the materials from the table....*children not finishing!*.....then the chairs.....*children now standing at the table working!*....then move them back a few feet!.....*success!*..... At last the judging could commence!!!

All the time the children were working away, teddies continued to flow in (from *little* and *big* children alike!) to enter the teddy bear competition. In this too the competition was fierce! The poor judges had some task ahead.

When the winners were announced, beautiful rosettes and prizes were given out. There were also more jellies for those who were not so fortunate in the rosette stakes. A great day was had by all and below is some of the wonderful entries in the Kids Corner competitions.

Imelda Trankner

(2 stories from the Kid's Corner below)

'Little Max & The Bullying Dog' By Bethany Trankner

Once upon a time there was a dog and the dog was bullying the cats and the dog always bullied the little cat called Little Max and Little Max was always coming back with bruises and cuts. So one day Little Max's Mother came and said to the dog to stop hurting her son Little Max, but the dog did not listen to Little Max's Mother so the dog still kept bullying Little Max. So that night Little Max came up with a plan so the next day Little Max went to the dog's Mum after school and said Jack your son is bullying me and I had my Mum talk to him but he didn't listen and when the dog Jack came back to his house Little Max and his Mum were there and Jack the dog got in very big trouble. So Jack the dog never bullied again.

Milley by Julia Mckeown (drawing by Julia)

Once upon a time there lived a cat called Milly. She was always getting into trouble, because she was a clumsy cat. She never wanted to be washed, because she was allergic to bubbles! The owner Catty loved Milly, but she was always getting into trouble, so Catty didn't know what to do with Milly.

The next day Catty decided to give Milly away, but still loved Milly...but she just had to give her away. So off she went to her best friend. Catty was giving Milly to her best friend Molly, because Molly always wanted a cat.

At the end of the day, Milly looked at Molly and purred. Milly said in her head: 'It's good to be with Molly!' The end



Cats In The News



Meet Pickles

When Pickles the puss grew to the size of a dog, he found himself in a bit of a pickle. At 21 pounds and more than three-feet long, he couldn't find an owner with a heart - or home - big enough to take him in - so he was forced to roam the streets in search of scraps to suppress his almighty appetite.

But the monster moggy - nicknamed *Catasaurus Rex* - has finally found a place to live after a young Boston couple saw an advert online and took pity on him. Andrew Milicia and girlfriend Emily Zarvos say it was love at first sight when they met Pickles at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals last

month. And now he couldn't be happier as he spends most of his days squeezing sleepily onto their three-man sofa or guzzling platefulls of cat food to his heart's content.

Andrew, a graphic designer, said: 'When we first saw Pickles he looked like such a beast - but he looked really cool. He's actually bigger than some dogs. It didn't take him long to make himself at home and now he takes up most of the couch when he's laid out.'

The couple was picked from around 50 people who had applied to adopt Pickles after pictures were posted of him online. The giant feline became an internet hit dubbed '*Catasaurus Rex*' when he was advertised on the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals website.

Andrew said: 'We had no intension of adopting him when we went to see him but we just fell in love. They said he had been adopted and taken to Canada but brought back because he really doesn't get along with other cats. He doesn't realise his size so he'll knock things over all the time - he's so clumsy. But it's like so hard to be mad at him - he think he's just like a little kitten still.' Emily said: 'I struggle to pick him up sometimes cause he weighs so much He loves hiding in the closet so when we go to work we put a stone statue in front of it to keep him out. But when we come back the statue has been moved and he's in the closet.'

But despite the challenges of living with a monster moggy, the couple have no plans to take him back. Emily said: 'I'm so happy we have him, he's the best pet you could hope for.'

Matt Blake DailyMail.co.uk February 2014

And Percy

Percy the cat has become the most famous pet in Scarborough, after it was revealed that he often leaves his home on Green Howard's Drive and travels to the Sea Life Centre by rail. The six-year-old animal spends the day watching the fish and penguins before hopping back on to the miniature North Bay Railway train when it is time to go home.

Today, Percy's owners, Anne and Yale Michael, were surprised to see an article about their pet's travels in their local paper - the Scarborough Evening News. But Mrs Michael, 51, said Percy would take his new status as a tourist attraction in his stride. "He enjoys all the attention," Mrs Michael said. "He's lovely; a really big, friendly cat. He's very, very independent, comes and goes as he wants in the summer. But in the winter he spends most of his time on my bed asleep, preparing for the next season."

Mrs Michael said Percy had been making the 0.75 mile train journey for around five years and was so well known at the railway he has his own piece of carpet at the station to sleep on. "He seems to know when to get on and off the train," she said. "Then he goes to the Sea Life Centre, where he seems to go to look at the penguins. He just watches them and the fish."

Tamsin Mutton-McKnight, general manager at the Scarborough Sea Life Centre, said Percy likes to sit on a wall near the entrance and sneak in with the crowds but had never been any trouble. She said: "The penguins don't like him very much but he'll just plonk himself down, watching the fish in the tanks. He's more well-behaved than some visitors sometimes. He never tries to get into any of our tanks, even though some have open tops, and we never have any problems with him. "It's just a shame he scares the penguins."

Phil Hart, a guard on the North Bay Railway, which has been operating from Peasholm Park to Scalby Mills since 1931, said: "Percy comes down every day. He just hops on and hops off the train and knows exactly what time the trains are. The train passengers love him and make a fuss of him, he's a lovely cat."



the yorkshire post .co.uk 2014, Photo blogspot.ie

Two Quizzes

A Quiz For the Brain - True or False

1. A cat will tremble or shiver when it is in extreme pain.
2. A cat's jaws can move sideways.
3. A cat has sweat glands.
4. Cats bury their feces to cover their trails from predators.
5. Cats cannot donate blood to other cats.

Answers on page 15



A Quiz For Fun

Human - Your cat displays signs it wants to mate with other cats in the neighbourhood. Should you?

- A) Let it out immediately
- B) Try to switch it's interests to other things
- C) Put on heavy protective clothing if you are not planning to let it out
- D) If the other cat's owner is attractive, maybe you could double

Cat -

Birds, small rodents, and large bugs should be:

- A) Ignored (especially if your human wants them removed)
- B) Played with until they stop playing
- C) Presented to your human as a proud trophy
- D) Hidden under your human's pillow for safe keeping

Your human's value is limited to:

- A) Provided food
- B) Providing water
- C) Letting you want
- D) Providing opposite-gender feline companionship
- E) All of the above; if properly trained

You know the answers



Cat Definitions

Caterpillar – A soft scratching post for a cat

Catatonic – A feline medicinal drink

Dog – a cat's device for running practice

Door – something a cat always wants to on the other side of

Human – an automatic door opener for cats

Yawn – a cat's honest opinion openly expressed

Cat Is Busted For Marijuana Smuggling

A cat has been busted for smuggling pot into a prison near the village of Pruncul Moldova.

Guards became suspicious about the feline, which routinely entered and left the prison through a hole in a fence, when they noticed its odd collar.

On closer inspection, the guards found two packets of marijuana had been attached to the cat.

The Herald. October 2013



Law of Cat Disinterest: A cat's interest level will vary in inverse proportion to the amount of effort a human expends in trying to interest her.

The Pedigree - American Curl

Peter Pan of the Cat World



American Curl History

The American Curl was developed in California in the early 1980s, and was the result of a naturally occurring mutation in Domestic Shorthairs and Longhairs. Two fanciers obtained kittens with curled ears from a stray litter and began to research Scottish Folds. They discovered the curled ears on these kittens were different from those of the Fold, and began working toward having them recognized as a new breed.

In 1986, The International Cat Association (TICA) accepted the American Curl into the registry with Champion status. Five years later, the Cat Fanciers Association (CFA)

also recognized the breed. The American Cat Fanciers Association (AFCA) also registers American Curls.

Things You Should Know

The look of the American Curl can vary significantly from one cat to another because of continued outcrossing to non-pedigreed cats. All American Curls should have the signature curled ear.

American Curls need regular ear checks to make sure their ears are healthy. Owners can check the ears for accumulated ear wax or other problems during weekly grooming sessions.

The Look of an American Curl

American Curls have distinct, curled back ears that give them their signature look. Kittens of this breed are born with straight ears that begin to curl back within one to seven days after birth. As they get older, the curl can change, and is not permanent until the kittens reach about 5 months of age.

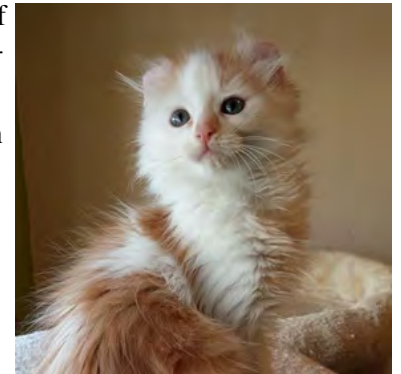
The body of the American Curl can vary in size and shape since outcrossing to Domestic Shorthairs and Longhairs still occurs in order to increase the gene pool. The breed is seen in almost every colour and pattern.

What They Are Like to Live With

American Curls thrive on attention, but are not excessively vocal cats.

Ideal Human Companions

- First-time cat owners
- Families with children
- Singles with other pets



Erika Lastauskiene

13 Points to Help Your Cat live 99 Lives

1. Spay or neuter your cat.
2. Groom your cat regularly.
3. Keep your cat stimulated with activities and toys.
4. Watch out for poisonous plants.
5. Change your cat's diet as it ages.
6. Use pet friendly cleaning products.
7. Stop free feeding your cat - help prevent obesity.
8. Keep track of your cats dental health.
9. Provide your cat with fresh water every day.
10. Feed your cat high-quality food.
11. Do not declaw your cat.
12. Keep your cat indoors.
13. Visit the Vet regularly.



Kelli Bender, Pawnation.com



Cat & Mouse

Cats and Dogs : The Differences

It is surprising how many people think that the cat is just a small version of the dog. When I was at the University of Southampton doing my masters degree In Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling , the cat specialist, Sarah Heath, always began her lectures with the phrase “a cat is not a small dog”. The obvious similarities are that both species are domesticated (the cat less so than the dog) and live quite comfortably in our homes.

The differences between the two species come from the different backgrounds, which ultimately produces different behavioural responses to the challenges of their different environments. Dogs are social pack animals, which were domesticated at least 30,000 years ago, if not before. As hunter gatherers turned to farming and settled into permanent communities they turned to dogs for protection and guarding, refuse cleaning and companionship. The latter is exemplified by human internments , together with dogs, dating back to over 20,000 years in what is now the Middle East. Dogs are non-obligate carnivores, which means they are basically scavengers which prefer meat , but will happily eat anything put before them. Dogs store body fats which can be used in times of hunger to maintain life. Dogs can use this body fat in a highly efficient manner to produce energy, until the next successful hunt.



Cats originated in desert scrubland conditions, where resources were scarce and widely distributed. The domestication of the cat only occurred some 5 to 10,000 years ago. In fact, some behaviourists would argue that the cat is only semi-domesticated. Cats are solitary hunters, coming together to live communally only if resources are plentiful. Being obligate carnivores cats must eat meat. Cats must feed more often as they cannot efficiently utilise body fat for energy . Instead, without food, their bodies break down non-fatty tissues for energy. This can lead to a life-threatening liver condition called hepatic lipidosis.

Although dogs will thrive on cat food the reverse is demonstrably not true. Protein requirements differ between cats and dogs .Animals can make some of these amino acids themselves; these are called the non-essential amino acids. In comparison, essential amino acids must be supplied by the diet. Cats have 12 essential amino acids while dogs only have 11. Taurine is an amino acid that is essential for cats but non-essential for dogs. Cats that don't get enough taurine in their diets can eventually become blind, deaf and develop heart failure. Taurine deficiency is now almost exclusively diagnosed in cats that eat something other than a well-balanced cat food. Vitamin A is another nutrient that exemplifies the unique dietary needs of cats. Vitamin A plays a very important role in maintaining the health of the eyes, skin and other tissues within the body. Dogs can convert beta carotene into vitamin A within their bodies. Cats cannot. Therefore, cats require a preformed source of vitamin A in their diets. Liver contains large amounts of vitamin A, or it can be added to a cat's food in the form of a supplement.

Cats also require five times more thiamine in their diets than do dogs. Animals suffering from a thiamine deficiency typically develop a poor quality coat, loss of appetite, a hunched posture, neurologic problems including seizures and can eventually die. Thiamine deficiencies can arise when cats eat a lot of uncooked, freshwater fish because it contains an enzyme that breaks down thiamine or when they are not fed a well-balanced, nutritionally complete cat food.

As solitary hunters cats must endeavour to keep themselves safe and fit to hunt. Therefore cats rarely fight except in extreme circumstances, such as access to a mate. Therefore, inter cat disputes are resolved not by fighting, but by staring, with the loser blinking first and then being chased away by the victor. Dogs on the other hand, being pack animals, have evolved a myriad of appeasing, offensive and defensive signals with which to harmonise social interactions.

Again being obligate carnivores, the cat must keep its weaponry sharp and lethal. Cats maintain their claws by sheathing them when not in use, in contrast to dogs' nails which are blunt from being in constant contact with the ground. Catching prey by the two species also requires different methods. Dogs will outrun their prey. However, cats are not long distance runners and can only sprint. Therefore their prey are caught through stealth. Also dogs are earthbound whereas cats can climb which is doubly effective in that it increases the opportunity to catch prey (birds, squirrels etc) and also serves as a means of escape from other predators. Cats will also tend to hunt during dusk and night-time when many small animals appear seeking the protective cover of darkness. Dogs on the other hand, will hunt during daylight hours.

The search for prey has resulted in other differences in behaviour, including faecal deposits. Given the large range of territory in which a cat is required to hunt, there are necessary times when another cat needs to pass through the other cat's territory. This is thought to be the reason for cats burying their faeces, so the fact of the trespass remains undiscovered. However, the “owner” cat can mark its boundaries by middening ie not burying its faeces leaving them on the surface where an interloping cat can detect through scent degradation how long ago the deposit was made and thereby judge whether it is safe to trespass.

However, the biggest difference between cats and dogs may well be the **owners**, but that's a story for another day!

Jim Stephens MSc. CABC , Companion Animal Behaviour Counsellor , www.petsbehave.com.

Any questions for Jim? Come and talk to him at The Supreme Show on the 4th of May in Ballinteer Community School.

The Catwalk



MiMi -

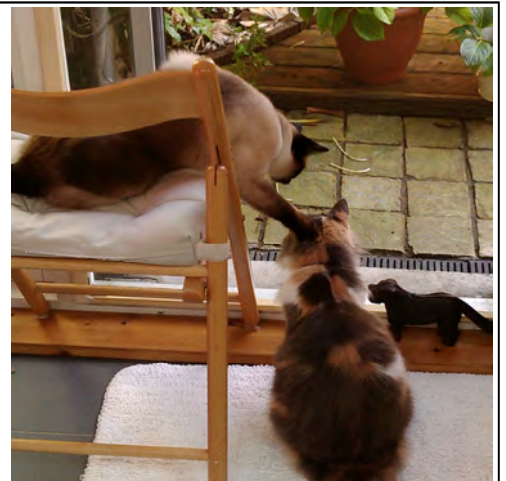
Peek-a-boo!

L. Mahon, Holland

Gabby & Amber -

Hey, I'm talking to you. Focus!

T. Byrne , Dublin



Rory -

I'm knackered!

L. Bannon, China

Mimi, Star & Chikara -

Is it something I said?

K. Sluiter, Dublin



The Catwalk

Smudge -

Smells good.....just like me.

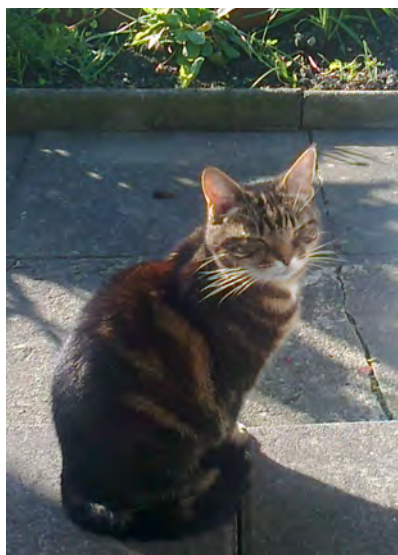
V. Reynolds, Dublin



Louisa -

If you think I am coming in, think again.

S. Mackey, Dublin



Amico -

Beats oil pulling.

S. Teti, USA



Honey -

I like a cosy bed.

V. Brooks, Carlow



Kleptomaniac Cats in Christmas Stocking Stash Hunt

They may look innocent enough but these two felines are responsible for a mini crime spree in the east of England. Christmas is a gift for Theo, a three-year-old Siamese cross belonging to Rachael Drouet and Paul Edwards from Ipswich. He is a seasoned cat burglar, regularly bringing home "treasures" from neighbours' houses.

But this year, Theo has really got into the spirit of Christmas. He has forsaken his usual diet of clothing, phone chargers and other cats' toys for a selection of Christmas decorations which his owners believe he is pilfering from their neighbours' trees.



Theo bring home another cat's toy while Denis plays innocent

Meanwhile, in Luton, Denis, a three-year-old moggy whose cat burgling antics have been well-documented on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, is expected to get into the Christmas spirit once the big day is over, according to his owner Lesley Newman. She said her cat prefers to steal underwear, but usually brings home gifts of Christmas wrapping paper - minus the contents - after the big day.

Denis's penchant for purloining pants is matched by his love of shoes, paintbrushes and Barbie dolls. Mrs Newman believes Denis climbs up neighbours' rotary washing lines and pulls items of clothing off before carrying them home through his cat flap.

After trying, and failing, to find the owners of most items, Mrs Newman now keeps a large box of Denis's finds in her loft. Returning their cats' stolen goods to the rightful owner is a challenge for both sets of owners. Pleas on Facebook go largely unanswered and confronting possible "victims" is not always easy. "It's a bit embarrassing to have to knock on neighbours' doors - especially the ones I don't know so well - and ask them if this chewed up thing covered in saliva and cat hair was once hanging on their Christmas tree," Miss Drouet says.



Theo's latest finds include woollen Santa and snowman decorations - clearly from the same set - and an angel which he brought into the kitchen and quickly separated it from its feather "wings". Miss Drouet says while she appreciates Theo's gifts, she would "prefer an iPad". She believes his cat burgling is the nearest her pet can get to catching live animals. "The thing is, Theo's absolutely rubbish at catching normal 'cat prey'," she says. "He's really a bit of a stupid cat, and definitely not firing on all cylinders to be honest. He's got a real thing about rubber and latex gloves. He seems to have some strange fetishes." She adds: "Usually he takes a break over the winter, preferring to spend up

to 22 hours on the sofa, so we thought we were home free. Then in the space of a few days these Christmas decorations appeared."

Denis also shows no sign of giving up his life of crime, which he has been perfecting since he was a kitten. "He never brings home prey, just the other things he takes a fancy to and I really don't think he's ever going to stop," Mrs Newman says. She says she makes up for Denis's criminal ways by donating money from advertisements on his YouTube channel to a cat rescue charity in Bedfordshire. "He's raised about £5,000 for them so far," she says proudly. Mrs Newman says she is waiting for Denis to bring home some jewellery. "I'll be happy as Larry if he does that," she says. "But he's definitely gearing up for Christmas and has brought quite a few things home this week. "Bless his cotton socks. He's so proud of his 'finds'."

Helen Burchell BBC News December 2013



Proverbs On Cats

- If stretching were wealth, the cat would be rich - African
- An old cat will not learn to dance - Moroccan
- Happy is the home with at least one cat - Italian
- In a cat's eyes, all things belong to cats - English

Guidelines For Cats - Keeping the Mystery in Your Relationship With Your Person

Eat Something Unusual



When you really want your person to pay attention, scout around the house for items you would never usually eat. The less like actual food these things are, the better. Make sure the item is non-toxic, not sharp, and that you can pass it. Clumps of dust, rubber bands and sticky plasters are all good candidates for consumption. Take the item into the vicinity of your person, get her attention with some loud smacking noise, and watch her demonstrate her love and concern by trying to prise the inedible trinket out of your mouth. If it's an earring or something else of value, expect the attention paid to increase tenfold.

Attack the Wall

Your person thinks she knows your every quirk and foible, but nothing will bewilder her like seeing you go berserk on a normal, innocent wall. First, pick a blank spot on a wall, somewhere eighteen to twenty-four inches from the floor. The more vacant, the better. While staring at the spot, make that low, throaty growl that precedes an attack until it's assured you have her attention. Once satisfied, that she's stopped stirring her spaghetti sauce long enough to watch you, repeatedly throw yourself at the spot. Don't stop until you need a break, at which point you should walk in circles and emit some confused peeps beneath the spot. Then go back at it. When your person comes over to see what you are doing, put a crazed look on your face, freeze for half a second, and run away as fast as you can. If you do this enough, your person will think your house is haunted and that you are a special cat for being able to sense it.



Bark



Purring, meowing, peeping and even the occasional hiss are part of the everyday chorus that escapes your mouth in the course of a relationship. To really shake things up, work on making a noise like a dog makes. You won't get it right on the first try, so practice until you can do it well. Once you've got it taped, wait until you're alone with your person, and then, just when she's leaning down to rub your ears, let loose with a bark. She'll be telling her friends for years how you barked, and treat you like a queen in the hope you'll do it again.

Devious Book for Cats by Fluffy & Bonkers



Cats In Hats Go Viral

An artist's idea to knit hats for her beloved cats has been turning many heads as photographs of her woolly creations go viral.

Meredith Yarborough, a South Carolina mom of three and animal lover who sells her assortment of handmade cat hats on Etsy, said she decided last year to start knitting feline headgear out of love for her pet cats.

"I thought that creating themed and decorative headwear for them would be a fun and interesting way to share that appreciation with the rest of the world," Yarborough, whose pet Bullwinkle is one of the animals who models the snuggly bonnets.



From a birthday-themed hat complete with multicolored pompoms to a conical witchy number, Yarborough's creations -- which can each take up to two days to make, she says -- have been a big hit. Since starting her business in December, she's sold more than 150 of them.

"I never imagined that my work could receive such a warm and humbling welcome. This has been a blessing to my family, and an immense honor as well," Yarborough told The Huffington Post over email.

Cat hats are not a new viral phenomenon. From small kitty chapeaus to cats as hats, the Internet has amply demonstrated its love for the hat-cat combo before.

Dominique Mosbergen - The Huffington Post



A cat who has taken umbrage is a terrible sight to see.

Rosemary Nisbet

Cat Health at a Glance

Is Your Cat Stressed? It May Show Up as Feline Idiopathic Cystitis

Feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) is a collection of conditions that affects the bladder and urethra of cats. One of these conditions -- the most common -- is feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC), which is inflammation of the bladder with an unknown cause. About two-thirds of cats with FLUTD have FIC.

Recent studies of FIC point to the importance of stress reduction and environmental enrichment in treating cats with the disorder. In addition, it seems the disorder is more than simple inflammation of a single organ. FIC appears to be associated with interactions among the nervous system, adrenal glands and the bladder. Environment also clearly plays a role in the disorder.

FIC is a diagnosis of exclusion, meaning there are no anatomic abnormalities visible via x-ray or ultrasound imaging, and a urinalysis with sediment examination and culture and sensitivity, rules out a bacterial infection.

The treatment objective for cats with acute feline idiopathic cystitis is to reduce stress and provide pain relief as necessary. Reducing stress involves environmental modification and/or enrichment and has proved to be an effective tool in treating cats with FIC.

Improved litter box cleanliness and placement, better access to fresh water and food sources, increased owner interaction, access to private areas, and a moisture-dense canned or raw food diet have all proved to improve symptoms in cats with FIC, and reduce flare-ups.

Dr Becker, mercola.com, February 2014

7 Foods to Never Feed Your Cat



Some "people food" is safe for cats in small amounts, but certain items - like raw fish and eggs - are definitely hazardous. Dr. Perea lists the top seven no-no foods for kitties:

Feline Food Offender #1: Raw Fish - "Human-grade sushi is generally safe for people, but it can cause gastrointestinal upset in cats," says Dr. Perea. "There is thiaminase in raw fish that could break down an essential B vitamin called thiamine in cats. Thiamine deficiency can cause neurological problems - and even lead to convulsions."

Feline Food Offender #2: Onions and Chives - Cats are considered two times more susceptible than dogs to the toxic allium components found in onions and chives, which can damage red blood cells even if a kitty only consumes a trace amount. "It doesn't matter if the onion is cooked, raw or powdered," says Dr. Perea. "Cats do not metabolize these

compounds." For this reason, Dr. Perea cautions owners against offering human baby food to their cats to stimulate appetites, because it can contain onion powder, which could cause anemia in felines.

Feline Food Offender #3: Uncooked Eggs - Cats benefit from protein, but raw eggs may expose them to salmonella and other parasites that could lead to an inflamed pancreas, known as pancreatitis. Dr. Perea adds that it's safe to serve your kitty cooked eggs - but only on occasion, and in small amounts.

Feline Food Offender #4: Bones - Bones can splinter and cause a cat to choke, as well as block the intestinal tract, possibly even perforating the intestines. "Never give a bone to a cat," says Dr. Perea. "And never give them anything that is as hard as their teeth, because it can cause dental fractures."

Feline Food Offender #5: Fat Trimmings - Feeding your feline fat trimmings could lead to gastrointestinal upset and even pancreatitis

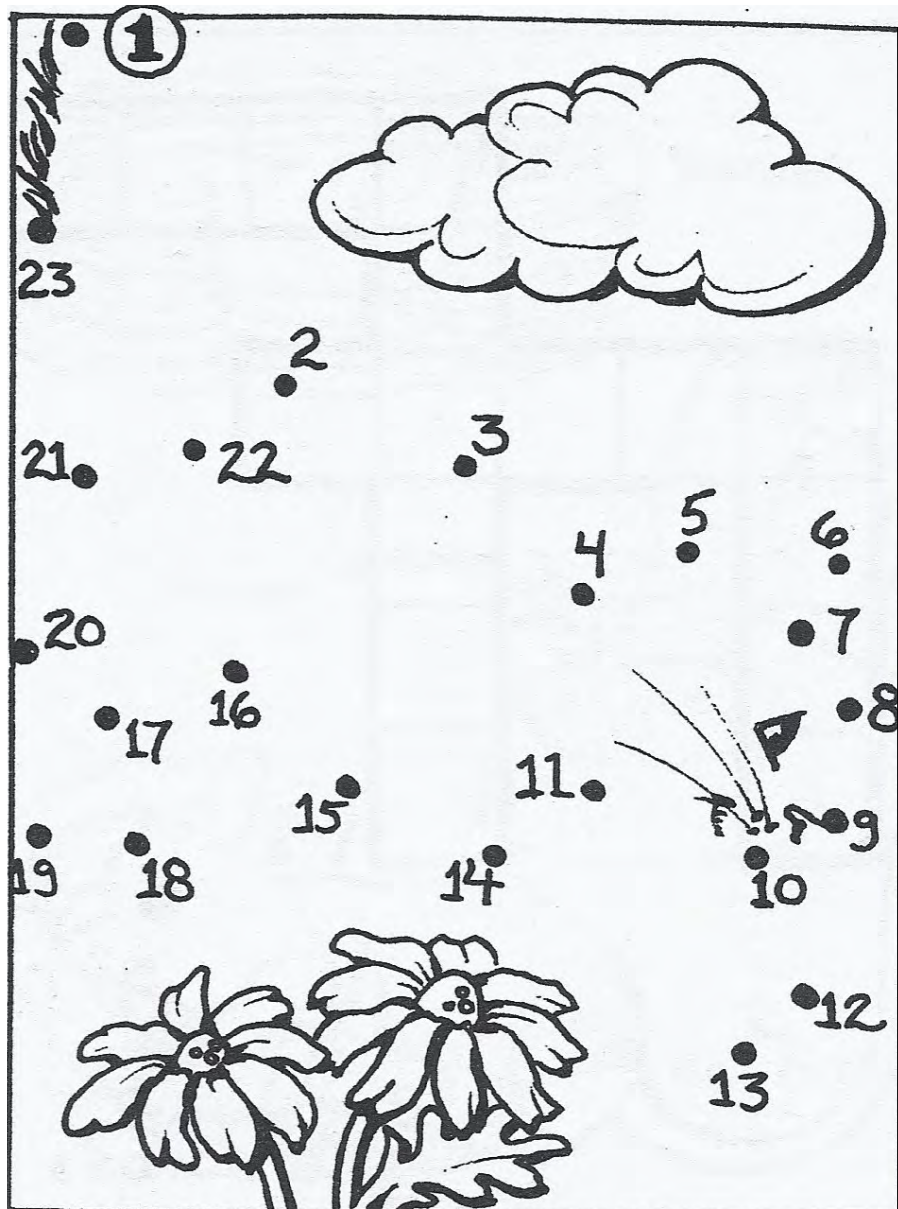
Feline Food Offender #6: Caffeinated Drinks - Some cats may be drawn to lapping up your coffee, tea or soda, but according to Dr. Perea, too much caffeine consumption can cause an increased heart rate and agitation in your kitty.

Feline Food Offender #7: Milk - In general, a cat's digestive tract becomes somewhat lactose intolerant once a cat reaches adulthood, causing diarrhoea and other stomach upsets.

Foods That Are OK to Offer Your Cat - On occasion, Dr. Perea says it is safe to give your cat a little canned tuna or a small bit of cheese. But keep in mind that felines only need about 200 to 250 calories a day, so go easy on the portions, limiting treats to about 10 percent (20 to 25 calories) of their daily intake needs. vetstreet.com, November 2013



KIT'S KORNER



Connect the dots from 1 to 23 to see one way that a cat
can have fun and get some exercise

Answers Page 7

True or False
1. T
2. F
3. F
4. T
5. F

The Final Meow

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 stories, photos, etc are coming in, we can always do with more, so please continue sending them in.

Many thanks to our sponsor **Breffni House Pets**



**Remember - The Supreme Cat Show - 4th of May
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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