

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Autumn 2026

www.sabcci.com



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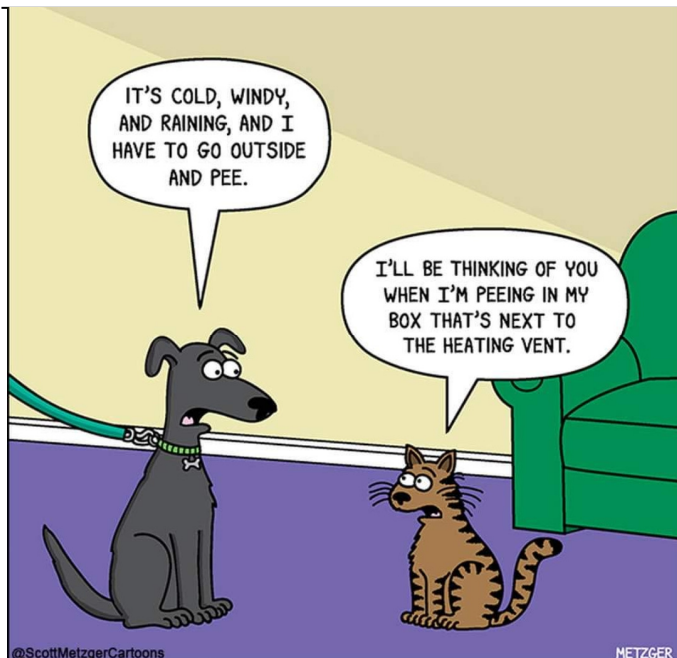
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SABCCI Committee

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



Kevin - Made Senior Manager In An Accounting Firm

A small accounting firm in Denver has an unusual team member, a cat named Kevin. He showed up two years ago and decided to stay.

Since then, he's attended every meeting, sitting in the same chair like he's part of the team.

Recently, the owner made it official by giving Kevin an employee badge, a job title, and even his own desk nameplate. After 2 years of showing up to every meeting, this office cat just earned a promotion to Senior Manager.

Clients adore him... even if he hasn't done a single task yet.

Cats Cuteness, Facebook



Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2026 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with Wild Citrus Negroni* and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

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



The GCCFI Supreme Cat Show

11 October 2026

Ballinteer Community School, Broadford Road,
Ballinteer Dublin 16

Open to the Public 12:00 to 5:00

Best In Show 4:00 onwards

See you there!



Notice: The Future Of 'The Scratching Post' Newsletters - Microsoft Publisher

Microsoft Publisher will no longer be supported after October 2026 and will no longer be able for users to open or edit Publisher files in Publisher.

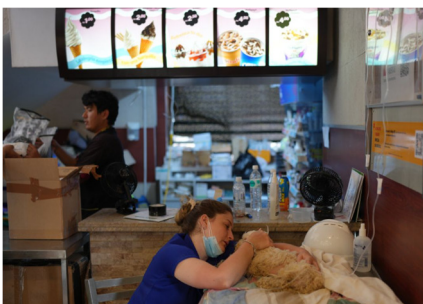
The Scratching Post has been produced in Publisher, twice a year, since 2003. All current Publisher files available to be used for the newsletter must be converted onto another program. The current files are being converted, a suitable program needs to be found and trained in. There may not be a Spring 2027 issue.

A Cat Survived The Venezuela Earthquake & Now Meows Among The Rubble Searching For Its Family, Who Are Still Missing

Among the ruins of what used to be a building in Venezuela, a cat walks slowly and meows. It is searching for the only thing it knows: the hallways, the furniture, the voices of its family. No one has answered yet.

The earthquakes of June 24, measuring 7.2 and 7.5, were the strongest the country has experienced in more than 125 years. In areas such as La Guaira and Caracas, firefighters and rescue workers from several countries have pulled dozens of dogs and cats out alive from the concrete, many still not knowing who they belong to.

Some owners have already been found. Others, according to preliminary reports, did not manage to escape in time. That is why rescue workers are asking for public help to identify these animals, while initiatives such as Patitas a Salvo try to reunite what the quake separated in seconds. www.upsocl.com, R. Martinez, July 2026



Venezuelan Earthquake Survivors Search For Missing Pets In An Unexpected Place: McDonald's

Caraballeda, Venezuela - Hope came in the strangest of places: A Venezuela McDonald's. The restaurant, next to the ruins of collapsed state housing complexes, has become a de facto hospital for earthquake victims, as well as a center for locating and treating missing pets in the seaside city of Caraballeda, which was devastated by the natural disaster. Neighbours call it 'Hospital McDonald's'.

The makeshift hospital was born one day after the back-to-back earthquakes killed at least 2,295 people and wounded 11,000, according to Venezuelan officials. Many more families were left scrambling to find their missing loved ones, including cats and dogs lost in the rubble.

Angel Matude and 70 other veterinarians, students, doctors and civilian volunteers travelled from western city of Barquisimeto. The team was looking for a place to sleep, store equipment and shelter from heavy tropical rain when they found one of the only operational facilities within the chaos. The Golden Arches. They set up shop in the restaurant, which still had air-conditioning, and began distributing medical supplies and treating human patients while also becoming a place for treating injured pets and seeking dogs and cats that were still missing. 'For us, a pet is one more human life' said Matube, who coordinates rescue efforts in the McDonald's where the volunteers also coordinates rescue efforts in the McDonald's where the volunteers also sleep. 'There are animals that are more human than humans themselves.'

Matube was among dozens of bustling volunteers on Thursday treating dogs and cats alongside search teams ordering hamburgers and French fries. His group, which has rescued 140 animals and treating 60 more, plans to continue reuniting owners with missing pets until their assistance is no longer required. www.abc7ny.com, M Delacroix & M Janetsky, July 2026. Photo: AP/M Delacroix

* Wild Citrus Negroni Ingredients: Vermouth, Gin & Campari



The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them. When our time comes they will be waiting for us and then we will cross the Rainbow Bridge together.



Canice - (Onaturel Wanderingstar) 2018 - 2025



Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.

Aimee Weldon

Poem by Mary Elizabeth Frye

Yoshi (Tara Hibernian Grand Premier Backchat Kapellmeister) 2013-2026

A Bridge Called Love

It takes us back to brighter years,
to happier sunlit days
and to precious moments
that will be with us always.

There is a bridge of memories
from Earth to Heaven above...
It keeps our dear ones near us
It's the bridge that we call love.

Karen Sluiters



Hallie Blue (Atlastcats) 2012 - 2026



She Sights A Bird - She Chuckles 507, Emily Dickenson

She sights a bird - she chuckles -
She flattens - then she crawls -
She runs without the look of feet -
Her eyes increase to Balls -
Her Jaws stir - twitching - hungry -
Her Teeth can hardly stand -
She leaps, but Robin leaped the first -
Ah, Pussy, of the Sand,

The Hopes so juicy ripening -
You almost bather your tongue -
When Bliss disclosed a hundred Toes -
And Fled with every one -
Jonathan Rosse

Rocky 2008- 2026



Rocky was from Thailand. She was 18 years of age when she passed. Rocky had unusual colour of brown and white. She will be greatly missed and was loved by everyone including the vets.

Anita O'Galligan

Editor's note:

Rocky was Best In Show Non-Pedigree Supreme 2014

No Heaven will not ever Heaven be -
Unless my cats are there to welcome me





2026 Dublin Championship Cat Show

(SABCCI/GCCFI)

Ballinteer Community School, Ballinteer, Dublin 16

3 May 2026



The 2026 SABCCI/GCCFI Show was held on May Bank Holiday weekend a week earlier than last year. There were 93 cats in the Pedigree and Household Pet sections along with 6 cats who were in exhibition. There was an increase in the Public numbers coming to see the cats in show. We would like to thanks everyone who helped before, during and after the show and a thank you to our Northern exhibitors who help make the show. But a special thank you to our beautiful cats in the show.

Carmel & Gloria, Show Managers

Best of Variety Winners

Section 1

Adult - Mrs C & Miss S Caughey's, Int Ch Hinchkitz Middlemist (Persian)

Section 2

Adult - Dr M S B Steiner-Browne's, Tara HibGrCh Friendlyghosts Big Bear (Maine Coon)

Kitten - Miss A F McClurg's, Titaniumcat Cali (Maine Coon)

Neuter - Dr C Wagner's, Sup Tara IS,HibGrPr&Int GrPr Ishcus Quevaga (Maine Coon)

Section 3

Adult - Miss A Hill's, Astralcharm Benny Boom, (British Shorthair)

Neuter - Mrs C Wren's Ch & Sup Tara HibGrPr Delphinium Summer-Morning (British Shorthair)

Section 4

Adult - Mr R O'Conchobhair & Ms C Wood's, Daddy Boffo Fandango, (Devon Rex)

Kitten - Mrs C Fleming's, Lynavids Caramel Kisses, (Bengal)

Neuter - Ms Y Leivshina's, Iris Vom Gaborland (Devon Rex)

Section 5

Adult - Mr S Redmond's, Int Ch Joyeux Jewel (Asian)

Neuter - Mr S Redmond's, Joyeux Dancing Flame (Burmese)

Section 6

Neuter - Ms I Smidta's, Int GrCh Shagio-Chen Kesar Mango (Oriental)

Best In Show

Section 1 - Mrs C & Miss S Caughey's, Int Ch Hinchkitz Middlemist (Persian)

Section 2 - Dr M S B Steiner-Browne's, Tara HibGrCh Friendlyghosts Big Bear (Maine Coon)

Section 3 - Mrs C Wren's Ch & Sup Tara HibGrPr Delphinium Summer-Morning (British Shorthair)

Section 4 - Mrs C Fleming's, Lynavids Caramel Kisses, (Bengal)

Section 5 - Mr S Redmond's, Int Ch Joyeux Jewel (Asian)

Section 6 - Ms I Smidta's, Int GrCh Shagio-Chen Kesar Mango (Oriental)

Overall Best In Show

Mrs C Fleming's, Lynavids Caramel Kisses, (Bengal)

Overall Best In Show Reserve

Mr S Redmond's, Int Ch Joyeux Jewel (Asian)

Overall Best In Show Non-Pedigree

Miss A van Wyk, Whiskey

Overall Best In Show Pedigree Pet

Ms A French's Starbug



Couple Try To Enjoy ‘Quiet, Child-Free’ Moment - Cat Has Other Plans

A couple were trying to enjoy a quiet, child-free morning - but their cat had very different plans, leaving internet viewers in stitches.

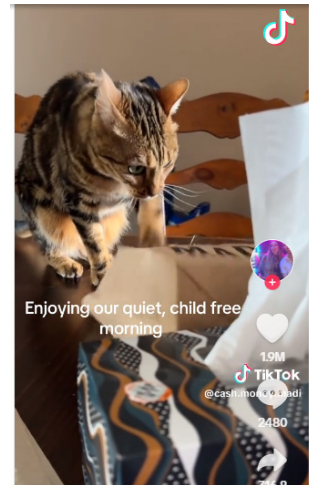
Madison (@cash.money.madi), 24, shared hilarious footage of the couple's persistent feline relentlessly patting a paper bag to grab their attention. The video has since racked up over 1.7 million likes and more than 5.9 million views on TikTok. ‘Enjoying our quiet, child free morning,’ reads the text overlaying the video. ‘All she knows is dig,’ Madison captioned the clip.

In the footage, the cat enthusiastically bats at the paper bag while its owner attempts to eat breakfast and scroll on their phone, undeterred by the chaotic soundtrack of crinkling. Cats are known for batting and tapping objects for a few reasons. According to PetMD, this kind of behaviour is often linked to their natural hunting instincts. Swatting at objects mimics how they might interact with prey in the wild - poking, prodding, and testing whether something is alive or just another toy. It can also be a way for them to entertain themselves when they are bored or curious about an unfamiliar texture or sound.

But, in many cases, cats engage in this behaviour simply because they want their human's attention. As pet-care service Rover explains, felines are clever creatures who quickly learn what actions result in a reaction. If pawing a bag or knocking something off a table gets them a response, even an annoyed one, then they are likely to keep doing it. Some cats meow; others tap objects; and a few will go all-out dramatic to make sure their presence is known.

Viewers found the whole scene wildly relatable. ‘Still sounds better than screaming children,’ wrote one commenter. Not me thinking ‘at least they don’t scream’ meanwhile my cat is screaming at me everyday,’ posted Mandy. ‘God forbid a cat has hobbies,’ added another user. ‘He’s having enrichment time just like yall,’ read one comment. ‘1) cat got some beautiful eyes. 2) wym (what (do) you mean) child-free - Honey your child is next to you!.,’ one person commented.

www.newsweek.com, L. Patrick, April 2025



Romeow, Romeow! Curious Cat Wanders On Stage, Interrupts Ballet Performance

A performance of Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet* by the Imperial Russian Ballet Company in İzmir, Turkey, took a turn when a cat wandered on stage during the final scene. The four-legged feline sat beside a dying Romeo, lay down, groomed itself and began playing with the dancer’s hair, to laughter from the audience as the tragedy turned into comedy.

The Turkish cat population has built a reputation for enjoying a spot of culture. One performance of Beethoven’s ‘Pastoral’ Symphony No.6 by the Lucerne Festival Strings at the 2024 Istanbul Music Festival was visited by a cat. A feline stage invader also caused chaos the previous year,

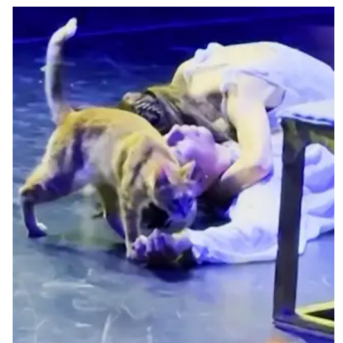
wreaking havoc as it distracted multiple sections of the orchestra before joining the conductor on his podium.

Despite the interruption, the performers remained composed and continued the performance without breaking character. Prima ballerina Larisa Korsakova, who was dancing the role of Juliet, said the incident did not distract from her portrayal. ‘A professional actor knows how to control their emotions. I didn’t leave the character of Juliet – I had to live out this life and bring my character’s story to its conclusion,’ she told Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

Footage of the moment quickly went viral, with more than 8 million combined views within 24 hours, serving as paws for thought and a reminder that on stage anything can happen.

Prokofiev composed his famous ballet in 1935, and it’s probably his most famous work thanks to the use of his ‘Dance of the Knights’ theme on *The Apprentice*. While it’s well documented that Prokofiev was fond of wolves, no record has been found of a director’s cut featuring a feline friend.

www.classicfm.com, June 2026, H. Davis, Photos: Tanya Borger



Micetto, A Pope’s Cat



The most famous of the papal cats is undoubtedly Micetto ("Kitty" in Italian), Leo XII’s cat, a feline with an extraordinary destiny. Born in the Vatican, at the beginning he was only a simple alley cat with a colourful coat. However, one day he managed to catch the eye of the head of the Catholic Church, Leo XII, 252nd pope.

A man of firmness, marked by the sufferings resulting from the French Revolution, Leo XII was an implacable and often harsh ruler who advocated a return to moral order. During these years, Micetto was one of the few to reveal a certain tenderness in the Sovereign Pontiff.

The cat accompanied him everywhere, curled up to him during the audiences. During one of them the French ambassador François-René de Chateaubriand had the chance to meet the papal feline. In his *Memoirs from Beyond the Grave*, the writer even tells how the ‘cat of the pope’ enjoyed ‘as such an extreme consideration near that of the pious souls.’ Leo XII decided to bequeath his pet to the Frenchman, who would take care of it until his death.

The Quiz

1. Cats sweat through their paws.
2. Cats can't taste anything sweet.
3. Cats are vegetarian mammals.
4. Cats have brilliant night vision.
5. In which movie could you see a cat called Orangey?

www.quiztriviagames.com

Answers on page 16



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

Somali: I'm busy chasing my Aby friend.

Turkish Van: Hurry up! I'm scared of the dark or Don't fix it! I'm scared of my shadow!

Munchkin: Yeah right, do I look like I can change a light bulb? When are these legs of mine going to grow?

But most people think...Cats don't change light bulbs. They have servants for that!



www.petplace.co

Habits of Highly Effective Cats - Bladder Dancing



While normal Cat Logic dictates that sitting on a sleeping human should actually get them up, it all-too-often gives them an added excuse to lie in bed a little longer - on the pretext of 'not disturbing the cat'. On the other hand, dancing, treading, kneading and generally fidgeting on your human's early morning full bladder, will invariably get him or her out of bed. All you then have to do is to ensure they stay out of bed!

by Messybeast

How Does A Town Say Thank You To A Cat?



When Mo died, the town of Newtongrange did not let him go quietly. Residents raised the money for a small bronze statue of their Co-op cat, set on the pavement outside the shop where he had spent his days.

It was made in the spirit of Greyfriars Bobby, the famous Edinburgh dog remembered in bronze just a few miles away. Around a hundred people gathered for the unveiling.

A statue is how a community says someone mattered. Mo was only ever a shop cat, and his town decided that was more than enough. Share this for the people who believe ordinary animals deserve to be remembered.
FB, Whisker Theory.



Feeding Stations

Greece Just installed automatic feeding stations in public parks to keep stray cats and dogs fed every single day.

FB Greece is Really Cool.

How To Annoy Your Cat

Turn the stereo on full blast when your cat is sleeping on it.

100 Fun Ways to Annoy Your Cat by Jim Erskine



Does Your Cat Own You?

- ◇ Do you spend more for your cat than you do for your spouse?
- ◇ Will you stand at the open door indefinitely in the freezing rain while your cat sniffs the door, deciding whether to go out or come in?
- ◇ Would you rather spend a night at home with your cat than go out on a date?



www.ilovecats

Cats like doors left open, in case they change their minds.

Rosemary Nisbet



The Catwalk

Milo -

Take the picture now.
I can't hold this pose
much longer.



Charlie -

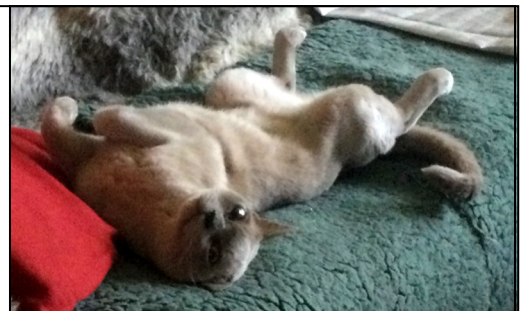
Think I'll get another
Half hour in the sun?



Yuri -

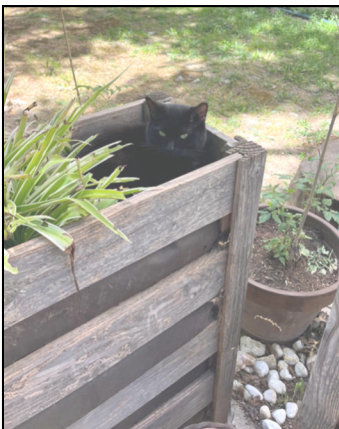
Aren't I sooo cute?

K. Sluifers, Dublin



Midnight -

No one will see me here.





Larry Is Back In The News!

Larry Welcomes Andy Burnham, his 7th British prime minister, to Downing Street. Larry has spent more than a decade greeting world leaders, chasing mice and becoming one of Britain's most enduring political figures.

Andy Burnham took office on Monday as prime minister of the United Kingdom, replacing the Labour Party's former leader, Keir Starmer, who resigned last month. Burnham became the U.K.'s 7th prime minister in a decade. As prime ministers have come and gone, one resident at 10 Downing Street has remained constant over the past 15 years - Larry the Cat, the unbothered Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office. Larry was adopted from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home in 2011, and he was initially intended as a pet for the children and wife of then-Prime Minister David Cameron. He became Chief Mouser after Downing Street staff observed his superior rodent-hunting skills.

The 19-year-old tabby cat has remained a constant figure behind the black door, outlasting six prime ministers, including Keir Starmer, Rishi Sunak, Liz Truss, Boris Johnson, Theresa May and, of course, Cameron. His tenure has earned him a reputation as one of the most enduring figures in British politics. Larry has over 900,000 followers on an unofficial X account run by an anonymous user. There's even a petition calling for Larry's honorary knighthood. Outside of catching rodents, Larry is often seen mingling with local children, the press and U.S. presidents.

www.yahoo news, K. Murphy, 20 July 2026, Photo: cbsnews

Tiny Cat With A Big Voice Found Her Way To A Rescue & Won't Stay Quiet Until She Finds Her Person

A tiny cat with a big meowing voice found her way to a rescue. Now she talks to everyone and won't stay quiet until she finds her person. No one knows exactly how Shrimp found her way to Hearts Alive Village, Las Vegas, Nevada. The chapter before that day is a blank page, the kind that so many cats carry with them. What came next, though, her caregivers will not soon forget.

She settled into care and immediately made her presence known, not with any trouble or fuss, but with her voice. Shrimp had things to say, and she was not about to keep them to herself. At eight months old, she greets her people with a steady stream of chatter the moment they walk through the door, as if she has been saving up everything she noticed during the day and cannot wait to share it. 'Shrimp loves people and always has a lot to say,' the rescue team shared with LoveMeow. The staff and volunteers quickly learned that a quiet room does not stay quiet long when Shrimp is in it.

Underneath all that conversation is a cat who wants one thing above everything else: to be close to her people. She is a lap cat in the truest sense of the word. 'She loves sitting on laps and snuggling,' Hearts Alive Village said. Given the chance, she climbs right up, settles in, and stays as long as she is allowed. She leans into the staff and follows them from room to room as if proximity to her people is the whole point of the day.

For the right person, that kind of devotion is everything. She has other passions, too. Treats rank very high on her list of priorities; she has never encountered one she did not immediately approve of. When she is not curled against someone's chest, Shrimp can usually be found on her cat tree, draped across her favourite perch with the relaxed authority of a cat who has claimed her territory and is very pleased with the arrangement.

Shrimp does have one clear preference for the home she is hoping to find. 'She's not a big fan of other cats and often goes after them when she's bored,' Hearts Alive Village noted to LoveMeow. She would rather be the only cat, where every bit of that enormous affection can go to one lucky person without distraction. It is a small ask for a cat with this much to give. Since arriving at Hearts Alive Village, Shrimp has thrived in every measurable way. She is spayed, fully vaccinated, and healthy, with nothing standing between her and the life she is waiting for.

The staff have poured their time and patience into her every single day, making sure she arrives at her forever home ready for everything good that is coming. And she is still waiting. Despite her charm, her chattiness, and her genuine talent for making people feel immediately adored, Shrimp's perfect match has not come along just yet. The team at Hearts Alive Village has not slowed down in the meantime. They keep sharing her story, showing off that face, and telling anyone who will listen what this tiny cat is made of.

They know exactly what they have in her. Somewhere out there is a person who comes home at the end of the day to a cat who has been waiting to tell them everything. Who wants a warm weight on their lap every evening and a friend who never tires of their company. Shrimp has been saving all of that up. She is ready to give it to the right person the moment they walk through the door.

www.lovemeow.com, M Marie & A Bojo, June 2026, ShrimpCredit: Hearts Alive Village Las Vegas



Tuxedo Cat Named Titan became heartbroken after his owner, Michael, was suddenly taken to the hospital. He didn't understand the ambulance. He didn't understand why Michael never came home. All he knew was that his favourite person was missing. When his family finally brought him to the hospital grounds, Titan immediately began searching every entrance and every place, using his keen senses to track down the person he loved most. When the hospital staff arranged for them to see each other through a window, Titan was carefully lifted up. The moment he saw Michael, his eyes brightened, his tail wagged with pure excitement, and every ounce of worry melted away. Michael, weak but smiling, placed his hand against the glass. Without hesitation, Titan gently lifted his paw to meet it. For a few precious moments, nothing else mattered. No fear, no confusion just a loyal Tuxedo cat and the human who meant the world to him, reunited through a window.

PB. Tuxedo Cats Lovers

Churchill, Chartwell & Jock The Cat

When Winston Churchill was a schoolboy, he would end letters home by sending love to all his animals, naming them one by one. The love of animals endured throughout the 90 years of his life, and was well known by his family, friends, and associates. He would even receive animals as diplomatic gifts: black swans from the government of West Australia, Kangaroos, even a lion that he sadly had to relinquish to London Zoo. His home, Chartwell in Kent, was a veritable menagerie. Throughout his 40 year residence at the pretty estate, he kept a host of animal friends, including pigs, dogs and goats. But no animal captured Churchill's heart more than his beloved cat. Jock.



Jock was a gift from Churchill's dear friend, Sir John 'Jock' Colville. Churchill had owned cats before, but the little marmalade feline with 4 white paws and a white bib demanded special affection. He became a huge source of comfort and companionship to Churchill in the later years of his life (he is even pictured sitting on Churchill's lap in his grandson's wedding photo). And was at the statesman's bedside when he died. Such was Churchill's fondness for his pet that he wrote a special bequest that a cat of the exact colour and markings should always live at Chartwell. And that is why Jock VI has just arrived at the estate.

'He is absolutely the King of the Castle,' laughs Katherine Barnett, the House and Collections Manager, who has care of little Jock. 'He has the run of 80 acres of beautiful grounds, and hundreds of volunteers adoring him and giving him treats. I think he does know what he's come into because he's gained a slightly more authoritative air!' It must be noted that the previous Jock, Jock V, is still 'alive and well', but simply moved on with Katherine's predecessor. 'She had had him since he was a tiny kitten, so we decided it would be too cruel to separate them,' explains Katherine.

Katherine joined the team at the National Trust property at the end of last year, and immediately found herself with the tricky task of finding a new Jock. 'It was difficult, because the specifications are so precise. He had to have the four white paws and a white bib, but also be fairly young so he could adapt to his new grounds. And he had to be good with people.' After searching in a number of rescue centres, Katherine finally discovered a perfect Jock at the Croydon Animal Samaritans. 'He had been found earlier this year with paint matted into his fur. It is thought that he had been hiding in a shed from the storms, and knocked something on to himself. He was quite undernourished. Considering the time of year he was found, it is likely that he was an unwanted Christmas gift.'

Happily, the kitten's fortunes were transformed, and he now holds the important role of fulfilling Churchill's posthumous wishes. And his new home would be the envy of many creatures (feline and human alike). Chartwell sits on the top of a hill, with sweeping views over the Kent countryside. In fact, it is said that neither Churchill nor his wife cared for the architecture of the house, but were both so enraptured by its vista that they bought it anyway. They moved there in 1924 after two years of extensive renovation. Churchill had high regard for Blenheim Palace, the place of his birth, so endeavoured to turn his own home into a mini version of it. The lakes that lie in front of the house were inspired by Blenheim, and Churchill was greatly involved in their design.



Inside, the house is more homely than grand. The National Trust has maintained it as it would have been in the 1930s when the Churchills lived there, and it really does have a familial, private feel. Churchill's own paintings adorn the walls and the floral wallpaper chosen by his wife, Clementine, is still bright and cheery. 'This was his place of comfort and refuge,' explains Katherine. 'When he was in London he had the cause of saving Britain on his shoulders, but Chartwell was the place where he would really only host close friends and family.' A quiet family home it may have been, but there are many hints of great lives having played out there. One of the trinkets is a glass cockerel sent by Charles de Gaulle, given as a token of apology after he and Clementine Churchill had a disagreement during a dinner party. There are personal photos of the Queen in Churchill's study, smiling during her coronation (when Churchill was still prime minister). There is also a visitors' book, and one of the enthusiastic comments comes from none other than Charlie Chaplin. Rumour has it that he did his signature walk down one of the corridors to entertain the Churchill children.

From Churchill's slippers, to his spectacles, to his private collection of books, there are more than 8,000 pieces in the Chartwell collection. 'He would come back here and simply be Winston the loved husband and loved father,' says Katherine. 'There are countless letters between him and his wife in which they address each other by their nicknames: Pug (him) and Cat (her). It is easy to forget that there was a man behind the legend.' In fact, it was Churchill's ability to inspire personal affection that enabled him to remain at Chartwell until his death. A great man in many ways, unfortunately the handling of money was not one of his strengths, and it seemed that in 1946 he would have to sell his beloved home. However, his friend Lord Camrose came to the rescue by rallying a consortium of wealthy businessmen who then bought the property. The agreement was that the Churchills could live there until they both died, at which point it would be handed over to the National Trust.

In fact, the National Trust has managed the property since 1965 (Clementine decided to vacate it soon after her husband's death) and it now attracts 200,000 visitors annually. And, if they're really lucky, they might just catch a glimpse of a handsome ginger cat named Jock. www.lady.co.uk

Always remember, a cat looks down on man, a dog looks up to man, but a pig will look you straight in the eye and see his equal.

Winston Churchill

'Angry' Cat Swims Through Hurricane Harvey Floodwaters & Wins The Internet's Cold Heart

Houston - The Internet has collectively lost its mind over a photo of a cat swimming through Hurricane Harvey floodwaters in search of dry land.

Getty Images photographer Scott Olson took a picture of the cat swimming through floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.



The image, which Olson took on August 30, quickly became the stuff that memes are made of. Many posted the picture with the hashtag #HarveyCat and chatter about overcoming the hurricane. Others expressed concern for #HarveyCat and wondered whether he made it out safely.

Olson later snapped another photo that appears to show the cat perched on top of a car.



www.eu.usatoday.com, M. Bergan KHOU-TV Houston, Photos: Scott Olson, Getty Images

A Tiny Kitten Just Stepped Into Guinness World Record History

A 10 month-old kitten names, Toby, has tied a 24-year Guinness World record after being born with 28 toes.

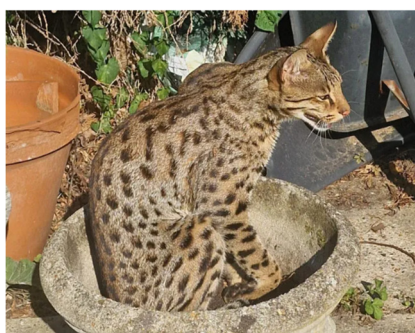
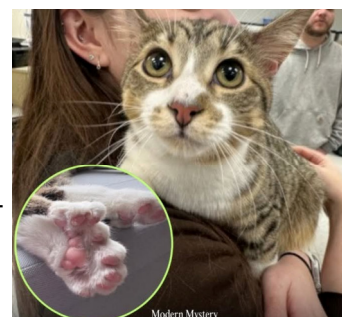
Toby was born with a rare condition that gave him far more toes than the average cat. Most cats have 18 toes, with five on each front paw and four on each back paw, but Toby has an astonishing 28. That number matches the Guinness World Record for the most toes ever recorded on a cat. His unusual paws have now turned him into a tiny record-type celebrity.

Despite the attention surrounding his extra toes, Toby's owners say he is completely healthy. They describe him as a perfectly normal and playful kitten who eats, climbs, explores, and behaves like any other cat. His condition has not stopped him from living a full and happy life. To the people who love him, he is just their regular kitty.

Cats born with extra toes are known as polydactyl cats. The trait is caused by a genetic mutation that affects paw development, creating additional digits on one or more feet. While the condition can look surprising, many polydactyl cats live healthy lives without major problems. In Toby's case, those extra toes have made him part of feline history.

The record Toby matched has stood for 24 years, making his achievement even more remarkable. Very few cats ever come close to having this many toes, which is why his case has captured so much attention. The record is simply the adorable bonus.

With 28 toes and one very normal kitten personality. Toby has proven that extraordinary can still look wonderfully ordinary at home. He may share a Guinness World Record, but to his owners, he is still the same sweet cat padding around the house with a few extra beans. FB: We Love All Cats.



Big Cat Found In Plant Pot After Two-Month Search

An escaped big cat believed to have been roaming the countryside for two months has been captured after being found with injuries in a plant pot in a back garden. Kevin Murphy, of Norfolk Wildlife Rescue, has been trying to track down the Savannah cat since it was spotted three weeks ago near Bramerton, south of Norwich.

The feline is native to sub-Saharan Africa and it had been on the loose since escaping from its home in May. Murphy, who used a net to catch it safely in Bramerton, said the owner had been confirmed as living in the NR1 postcode area of Norwich, about four miles away, and that the animal had been taken to a vet with a broken paw.

The Savannah cat is a cross between a serval and a domestic cat and it has brown spots and pointy ears. It was first seen in a field between the A146 Loddon Road and Framingham Lane on 23 June. Tom Baker, 27, who spotted the cat last month, likened it to a 'small leopard' when he saw it from a distance. The June sighting generated national headlines.

Murphy said the cat had been microchipped so the owner was able to confirm it was theirs and that its name was Blaze. Murphy added the Savannah had a broken right paw and a wound on its chest following its adventures in the Norfolk countryside.

Owners of serval cats and first generation Savannah cats require a Dangerous Wild Animals (DWA) licence to keep them. However, this cat was believed to be in the F2 category, which would mean its owner did not require a licence. According to a recent freedom of information request by Born Free, a charity that works to protect wild animals, there are two Savannah cats and three servals registered as being kept at private addresses in South Norfolk.

www.bbc.com, O Sennitt, Photo: Kevin Murphy

The cat always leaves a mark on his friend.

Aesop

Stunning Bengal-Maine Coon Cat Mix Looks Like an Ancient Drawing

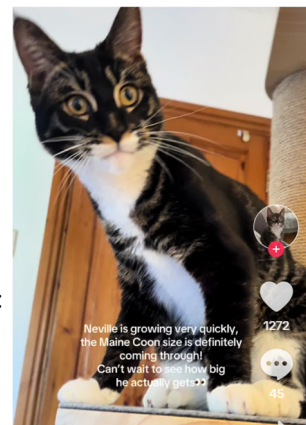
Neville is a 5-month-old Bengal-Maine Coon mix. His mom adopted him when he was 8 weeks old! By 8 weeks, he already had several defining features: That amazing eye makeup, silky, Bengal-patterned coat, already huge, very sassy.

He completed her household. His coat isn't quite as fluffy as a traditional Maine Coon, and he might not get as large mass-wise. However, he's shaping up to be a very, very long cat. Like a Dachshund in cat form!

He is so perfect, and he's already doing the main thing that both Bengals and Maine Coons excel at: things they shouldn't. That is absolutely not for climbing, but he's so cute that his mom just can't say no!

About Bengal-Maine Coons - This is a wild mix to have: whoever thought of it is certainly stronger than me. Bengals and Maine Coons are two of the most energetic cat breeds money can buy! These are cats who will need a ton of enrichment and exercise every day: they're not going to be couch potatoes who are willing to sit around and snuggle all the time. Things like walks, a wheel, and even trips to stores can help keep them happy, healthy, and sharp!

www.paradepets.com, A. Blair, Photo: Tick Tock, May 2026



Meet Bobo, The Ginger Cat

For nine years, one little ginger cat quietly became a local legend. Bobo arrived at a Chinatown shop as a tiny kitten, but it did not take long for him to decide he was in charge. Day after day, he stationed himself near the entrance, keeping an eye on customers supervising the windows, and claiming cardboard boxes as his personal throne.

Regular visitors came to expect his presence. Some stopped by just to see him. Others looked forward to the silent approval only a cat can give with a single glance. Bobo never needed a title, but to the people who knew him, he was much more than a store cat. He was part greeter, part supervisor, and part neighbourhood celebrity.

His caretaker, Annie Liao, lovingly called him the king of the store, and any cat lover knows exactly what she meant. Cats have a special way of turning ordinary places into homes and everyday routines into cherished memories. Sometimes the biggest impact comes from the smallest paws.

www.iheartcats.com, Photo: Instagram

Russian Museum Commits To April Fool's Joke & Hires A Cat 'Doorman'

Most cats live a lazy life of naps and 'nip. Not Maray, a ginger feline in Serpukhov, Russia. Thanks to a playful April Fools' Day joke, the kitty now has a paid 9-to-5 gig as a 'doorman' at the Serpukhov Museum of History and Art.

In honour of April 1, the museum staff decided to trick the local media by writing up a fake job application letter from a cat that had been hanging around the building and greeting visitors, according to Metro.co.uk. The application read: 'As I am a direct relative of Maraeva (the museum's ex-owner, who Maray was named after), I ask you to give me a job in your museum. Maray The Cat.' The note was even signed with a scribbled paw print.

The Serpukhov Museum sent that application letter to the Russian media, along with a fake press release announcing that they'd hired the furry visitor, Hyperallergic reports. But the joke was on staffers when the museum ended up receiving so many inquiries about their new hire that they decided to take the prank even further. They 'hired' Maray as a permanent employee.

Now, Maray greets visitors from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and he's allowed a lunch break and the occasional outdoor stroll. He also has his own special spot in the museum to conduct official business. After his shift, Maray is provided with his own tent to sleep in. As for 'payment,' Maray is given fish and patties instead of rubles.

So far, the feline is popular among his new co-workers. 'All people who work in our museum love Maray,' museum employee Nina Strelkova told Buzzfeed. 'Many bring him food from home and take pictures with him. So he gets a little fat now. And visitors love the cat too - lots of them taking selfies with him.'

Maray isn't the world's only working feline. In south-central Japan, a fluffy calico kitty named Nitama famously serves as 'station master' at a train station near Wakayama City. A library in Novorossiysk, Russia hired a tabby named Kuzya as an 'assistant librarian' in 2013, and paid her a salary of 30 packs of cat food a month. And in the 1870s, the Belgian village of Liège trained 37 mail cats to deliver letters.

www.mentalfloss.com, K. Fawcett, 2016 Photo: FB - lovecats



Meet Magnolia

A man allegedly attempted to rob a Maryland bank using a kitten he is accused of stealing just minutes earlier. Magnolia, a black-and-white tuxedo kitten, was taken from a local pet store by a man whose identity has not been released by police. According to authorities, the suspect ran from the store to a nearby PNC Bank, where he allegedly used the kitten as part of his attempted robbery. Prince George's County Police said officers responded to the call and took the suspect into custody. Magnolia was recovered unharmed and is currently available for adoption.

www.bbc.com, Produced by Madeline Gerber & edited by Blanca Estrada

Halle Berry, Former Catwoman, Saves Black Cat Family That Appeared In Her Yard



It's been 20 years since 'Catwoman', and Halle Berry is still the cat's meow. The Oscar winner posted a series of photos of herself and a family of black cats, which she said she rescued after finding them in her yard. 'I found these two little fur babies in my yard along with their 2 siblings and their mom!' Berry wrote on Instagram. 'I got the mommy spayed and released her back in my yard and she's now our outdoor cat.'

Berry said that she's keeping two of her new feline friends, which she named Boots and Coco, and placed their siblings with another caretaker. 'The other 2 babies I've found a forever home for and these two are our new loves,' she wrote. 'It's a full house over here!'

Berry's 'Catwoman' was critically derided upon its release in 2004, and comic book fans expressed irritation that the film's vision of the antihero bore almost no resemblance to the DC source material. In the film, her alter ego was Patience Phillips, an artist who was resurrected by an Egyptian cat spirit and granted cat-themed superpowers, whereas in the comics, she's a skilled burglar named Selina Kyle who usually doesn't have abilities beyond that of an expert thief.

www.ew.com, W. Stenzel, 2024. Photo: Hally Berry/Instagram

Cat Sisters Rescued From A Filthy Auto Shop Walked Into Their Forever Home & Never Looked Back



Two young sisters pulled from a colony of cats living in a dangerous, filthy auto shop in New Jersey have found their forever home, and from the moment they walked through the door, they acted as if they had always lived there. Jetta and Lexus were part of a colony of roughly fifteen cats discovered living at an auto repair shop in New Jersey, surviving in conditions as grim as they looked. Cats were huddled among piles of trash and debris, navigating snow and filth with almost nothing to eat. A former adopter from NYC Animal Rescue Group happened to pass by, recognized how dire the situation was, and contacted the rescue immediately.

The rescue moved quickly. Over the course of two days, volunteers worked to trap as many cats as they could, pulling cat after cat out of the cold and into safety. Jetta and Lexus came out together, which was exactly how it needed to be. They were malnourished, covered in fleas, and both had eye infections that needed immediate attention. At the vet, the sisters received everything they had been going without. They were treated for their infections, vaccinated, dewormed, spayed, and microchipped. The eye infections cleared. The weight began to come back.

What emerged from underneath all that hardship was a surprise to no one who spent more than five minutes with them. 'The most precious, sweetest, loving, adorable young girls,' NYC Animal Rescue Group shared with LoveMeow. The shyness of those first days gave way quickly, and Jetta and Lexus showed exactly who they were. They were affectionate from the start, leaning into every hand that reached for them. Each day in care, they grew a little more comfortable, a little more themselves, and a little more certain that people were worth trusting.

From the cage, they moved to a foster home with Sophie, and that's where the real transformation took hold. Sophie gave them space, time, and something neither of them had known before: a proper bed. They claimed it immediately and slept there every night, pressed against each other, while their coats filled back out and the last traces of the auto shop faded behind them.

'They are happy, loving, extremely affectionate, playful and very, very lucky,' the rescue shared. Lucky felt right. But earned felt closer. They chased toys across Sophie's floors, investigated every corner with the focused intensity of cats who had decided a place was theirs, and took turns requesting attention from anyone who sat down long enough to offer it. Curious did not quite cover it. They were thorough.

The adoption inquiry came in, and it was the right one. A home that would keep them together. Bonded cats are common and tend to take a bit longer to find the right home. Lexus and Jetta wasted no time deciding this was their place. 'In a matter of minutes, they made themselves right at home,' the rescue shared. 'Exploring, eating, playing, and falling asleep on the bed.' The two cats who had spent their first year of life navigating a junkyard in the snow walked into a warm apartment and immediately began deciding which pieces of furniture were theirs. All of them, it turned out. No comfy area was safe from a nap.

Their new family renamed them Margot and Poppy, names that suited the cats they had become rather than the place they had come from. By any name, they are the same two girls: happy, loving, extremely affectionate, and entirely inseparable.

From living in a pile of trash and filth to living in a safe and loving forever home,' the rescue shared. That is exactly what happened, and exactly what they deserved. They came out of an auto shop in New Jersey with nothing. They have a home now, with a family who chose them together and intends to keep it that way.

www.lovemeow.com, J Allen & A Bojo, July 2026 Photo: NYC Animal Rescue Group



Health (Human)

Scientists Debunk Common Health Misconception About Living With Cats

Living with cats is not likely to aggravate asthma in those with the condition, a new study of over 30,000 children suggests. Asthma is one of the most common causes of hospitalisation among children, with nearly 1 in 10 children and adolescents living with the condition. The prevalence varies across countries, regions, and environments, with as many as 1 in 5 children living with asthma in the British Isles and parts of the Middle East and Oceania.



Air pollution, smoking, childhood viral infections, obesity, and pre-existing allergies like eczema or hay fever are known to be risk factors, with some patients also self-reporting that exposure to animal dander sometimes triggers asthma attacks. However, clinical data proving that animal hair triggers asthma has been minimal, coming mostly from small studies.

Now, scientists have shown that sharing a home with cats is not likely to worsen the outcomes of children with asthma and allergies. 'Here we show in a nationwide cohort of children in Sweden with asthma and allergies, that children living with a cat had similar asthma severity, exacerbation, asthma control, and lung function to children living without cats in the short

term,' said Resthie R Putri, an author of the new study published in the journal *Frontiers in Allergy*. 'We also did not see any differences in asthma outcomes related to the number of cats, the cat's sex, or the cat's age,' said Dr Putri, a post-doctoral researcher from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm.

The study analysed health data from 30,277 children between four and 17 years old diagnosed with asthma or an airway allergy participants were observed for over 24 months until 2024 to track asthma outcomes, drawing records on their diagnoses, emergency hospital visits, prescribed medications, asthma control test and spirometry tests. About 1 in 10 children involved in the study lived in a household that had at least one cat as of 2023. This data was obtained from Sweden's National Cat Register, where registering one's pet cat is mandatory for all such felines born after 2008.

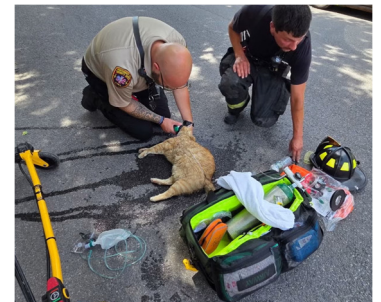
The analysis revealed that there was no significant association between exposure to pet cats and asthma outcomes. Scientists found that moderate-to-severe asthma, based on prescribed asthma medications, occurred in 1 in 10 of the cat-exposed children compared to the same 10 per cent of the non-exposed children. Asthma flare-ups occurred in just over 3 per cent of the cat-exposed children, and nearly the same fractions of the non-exposed children. 'One possible explanation is that cat allergen exposure is very common, even outside the home,' explains Dr Putri. 'Children who do not have cats at home may still be exposed in shared environments such as schools or public transportation, which could explain why we didn't see a difference,' she says.

www.independent.co.uk, V. Sankaran

EMS Revives Cat Rescued From House Fire

Amsterdam, New York (WNYT) – Montgomery County Sheriff's Office EMS said its crews revived a cat found unresponsive during a house fire in Amsterdam.

Earlier Saturday, according to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office EMS, crews were sent to a structure fire on Brookside Avenue in the City of Amsterdam. The agency said Amsterdam firefighters found the cat unresponsive inside the home. 'Our EMS crews immediately went to work, providing oxygen and supportive care,' the Facebook post said. 'After several tense moments, the cat began breathing again,' the post said.



EMS Supervisor Kent then took the cat to a veterinary hospital in the Albany area for more treatment, according to the post. The agency said it had not received an update on the cat's condition. 'Whether the patient has two legs or four, our first responders are always ready to do everything they can,' the post said.

www.wnyt.com, WNYT, August 2026. Photo WNYT

Cats In Madrid



Cat Café, La Gatoteca is a tranquil lounge that is home to around 24 cats at any given time. Grab a drink and spend quality cat time with all of the mischievous kittens, lazy tabbies, and sweet calicos.

Non-profit La Gatoteca partners with ABRIGA, a rescue organization committed to feline care and well-being, and all of the cats here are available for adoption. You might just go home with a new family member, but even if you simply come for a visit, that's fine too. They have merchandise for sale that also supports the cats!

In the best interest of the residents of La Gatoteca, a booking must be made in order to visit, and you can spend anywhere from 15 minutes to one hour with the cats. The entry price is adjusted accordingly. The kind staff will also outline some rules to abide by before you enter the lounge to make your visit amazing. La Gatoteca is a quiet escape in this busy city and a place that offers immeasurable benefits to both the humans and cats of Madrid.

Edited from www.spottedbylocals.com, Photo: G. Hehir 2026

Art Stalls Outside The Museo Nacional Del Prado





KIT'S KORNER



Colour In The Cat Playing The Guitar

The Final Miaow

As you can see we have come to the last page of our newsletter and we hope you found it interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone who sent us material and photos for the ~~CAT~~WALK. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending them in. *Stay Safe.* Karen & Gloria ^..^

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

Albino Puma Club Born In A Nicaragua Zoo

At almost four months old, an albino puma cub made her first appearance at the Thomas Belt zoo in Nicaragua last month. Three Puma clubs were born, two of the cubs are the usual brown and spotted fur however one was an Albino. This cub is the first albino puma born in captivity in Nicaragua.

Because of how rare this cub is, she's getting a lot of attention from zoo staff and visitors. Puma cubs are usually born with light brown fur and dark spots. They lose their spots as they grow up into adult cats. Both of the cub's siblings were born with traditional puma colouring.

According to estimates from zoo veterinarian Carlos Molina, this pink-nosed albino cub is one of only four in the world. The marshmallow-coloured cub was given the name Itzae, which means 'gift from God' in the Mayan language family. His siblings' names are Itziar, which means 'old stone,' and Itzel, which means 'rainbow'.

Pumas belong to a family of large cats and go by many different names depending on where they're found in the world. Cougars, mountain lions and pumas all refer to the same kind of cat, whose scientific name is *Puma concolor*. In Canada, these big cats are called cougars or mountain lions and are considered to be Canada's largest and most powerful wildcat, according to the Government of Ontario's website.

Visitors to Thomas Belt zoo have been able to see the snow-white cub, and her family, since she debuted on November 10. Some guests wore t-shirts with a doe-eyed, cartoon version of Itzae on them and posed for pictures in a photo cutout board beside the blue-eyed baby.

'It is something amazing, unparalleled, and we must all take care of it and protect it so that it has a good life and good health,' Maria José Hurtado, a zoo visitor, told Reuters in Spanish. Albino cubs are vulnerable to sunlight and need lots of care.

www.cbc.ca, Image Credit: Mayor Valenzuela/Reuters.



Make It A Meowy Christmas For Your Feline With Something Tasty!

Festive Chicken and Catnip Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup of canned chicken, drained and shredded
- 1 cup oat flour
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon dried catnip

Instructions:

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C).
2. In a blender or food processor, combine the canned chicken, oat flour, egg, and catnip until a dough forms.
3. Roll out the dough on a floured surface until it's about 1/4 inch thick.
4. Use Christmas-themed cookie cutters to cut out shapes.
5. Place the cookies on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 10-12 minutes, or until they are slightly golden and firm.
6. Allow them to cool completely before serving to your cat.

These recipes provide a festive and enjoyable way to treat your cat during the holiday season. Just remember to feed them these treats in moderation and keep an eye on their reaction to ensure they don't have any adverse effects. Enjoy baking and happy holidays! www.iheartcats.com



If you want to write, keep a cat.

Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)

