

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - Spring 2021

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The Scratching Post



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SABCCI Committee

Ronnie Brooks, Dionne Dixon, Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir, Aedamair Kiely,
Norman O'Galligan, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Lorna Taylor, Aimee Weldon



Covid-19: Your Cat & Mask Dangers



It has been known for about a year that Cats (and dogs) can be infected by owners with Covid 19 and as yet there is no evidence that the transfer occurs from cat to human. The majority of infected cats have been asymptomatic and only a few cats have shown any symptoms with respiratory problems predominant: runny nose, coughing, sneezing or conjunctivitis.

However, in the past 2 months in the UK vets have seen a 10 fold increase in cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) which has been shown to be linked to infection by the Kent variant of Covid-19 (B117). The cats have responded to treatment. The source is thought to be either from direct contact with infected owners or from discarded masks in public areas. The discarded masks are not only a potential reservoir of covid-19 but can also pose a risk of causing obstruction of the gut if eaten, especially as the metal band can catch in the stomach if swallowed.

Advice from veterinarians is that if you are Covid-19 positive you should avoid passing on the virus to your pet by avoiding close contact (cuddling, being licked etc) and that food preparation should be done wearing a mask.

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

'My heart starts to slow down. Glancing down at the floor, I see Tybalt, who is glaring at me with a puffed-up tail. I wonder if he had been sleeping on my chest and I catapulted him off when I woke up. I don't remember, but I wish that I did, because it would've been hilarious'. Kendare Blake

Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2021 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with an Alabama Slammer and enjoy the newsletter!

Stay Safe Karen and Gloria ^.^

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

Notices Due To The Pandemic

SABCCI 2020 AGM - Due to these exceptional times we are in, AGM 2019 & 2020 were cancelled and extended out until such time it is feasible to have one. The current committee will stay on with the nomination and voting in of the new committee to be voted in when an AGM can be held.

GCCFI Cat Shows - GCCFI Supreme and Club Championship cat shows continue to be suspended. The resumption of shows will of course be dependent on Government restrictions both here and in the UK. The GCCFI will be reviewing the situation on an ongoing basis.

Irish Virtual Cat Show's Best In Show - Minka's Start In Life

I was in tears when I saw that Minka had won. He came into my life at 6 days old after being found under a hedge in someone's garden. He was taken to a local shelter who asked me to foster him and said: we don't think this kitten is going to make it but do you want to try?

He was skin and bone and had so many fleas on him that he looked like a black kitten. But after treatment and a couple of baths the most amazing colour emerged.... It was touch and go for a couple of weeks but he miraculously pulled through!

He competed in his first cat show when he was 16 weeks old and won Best in Show that day! And with his colour not fully developed then, there was quite a heated discussion amongst the judges about it. Some said he's caramel, some thought chocolate and others sepia. Well he turned out to be a seal sepia in the end, a colour not often found in household pets. Owner, Karen Beyers, South Africa

The Scratching Post's Supplement (separate PDF) covers the virtual show held in January. See Minka and all the winners.



Cat Carries Her Sick Kitten Into A & E To Be Treated By Doctors

Anyone who loves cats knows they're a lot smarter than we give them credit for. From somehow unlocking the door with their paws to knowing exactly when we're sad and need a cuddle, they're perceptive and intelligent. But this particular cat has shocked people in Istanbul with its incredible motherly instincts, as it brought its kitten to get help in a hospital.

Pictures show the mother carrying her kitten into the local hospital, dropping it in front of medics in one of the treatment rooms. The pictures, which show the hospital staff quickly gathering around the cat in order to help the sick kitten, were shared online by a patient waiting in an accident and emergency room in an Istanbul hospital.

Patient Merve Ozcan, whose age was not given, took the pictures on her phone and has been flooded with messages since posting from people who praise the work of the medics in looking after the mother cat and kitten.

While doctors worked in checking the kitten over, the mother cat remained alert below their feet. Staff even took some time to give the mother cat milk and food to keep her relaxed.

It wasn't revealed what was wrong with the kitten, but the doctors apparently managed to sort the problem out quickly and the two felines were then handed over to a local vet who confirmed they were doing well with no cause for concern.

Hospitals are scary places right now, and it's heart warming that people had something so sweet to witness and keep their spirits up. And that ingenious cat mama not only perked up the patients in that A & E, but saved her little baby in the process.

www.metro.co.uk, May 2020, Picture: CEN/@ozcanmerveee



A Cat's motto: No matter what you've done wrong, always try to make it look like the dog did it.₃

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.



All our cats here in The Rainbow Bridge frequently appeared on our Catwalk Pages in The Scratching Post.
A thank you to Sandy, Mary & family, and Erica & Family for sharing photos of them over the years.



Sandy Teti

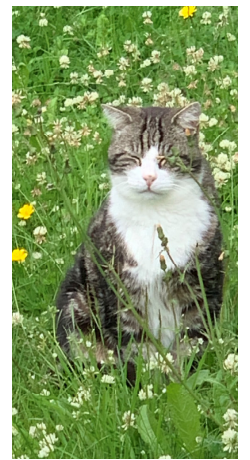
Surya - September 2020 aged 13

When tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right inside your heart.

Oscar - (Oscar Wilde) November 2020

I find it very hard even now to think about Oscar without getting upset. He came to our back door in about 2007 and terrorised our two gentile cats but no matter how we chased him away, he kept on coming back and was determined to get into the house and spray the furniture to mark his territory. We called him 'the wild cat'. We started to feed him, but it took 18 months before we could stroke him and once we could, we had him neutered and he moved in and never left the house again. We called him Oscar Wilde. Oscar welcomed every visitor to the house. He became the gentlest and most affectionate cat and his death has left a huge gap in our lives. Because of Oscar, we have helped our local cat rescue (Aughrim Cat Rescue) and now have adopted 12 cats who might otherwise have not survived.

Mary Mackay & Family



Xena & Pippin

Xena - December 2020 aged 13



Goodbye my tuxedo friends. Thank you for following me on my journey to France. I hope there will always be a warm sunny spot for you both at the Rainbow Bridge.

Erica McKerrow & Family

Pippin - February 2021 aged 14



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

Anonymous



Lend Me A Kitten by Unknown Author

I will lend to you for awhile a kitten, God said. For you to love while he lives, and mourn when he's dead. Maybe for twelve or fourteen years, or maybe two or three. But will you, 'till I call him back, take care of him for me?

He'll bring his charms to gladden you and, should his stay be brief you'll always have his memories as solace for your grief. I cannot promise he will stay, since all from earth return. But there are lessons taught below I want this kitten to learn. I've looked the whole world over in search of teachers true. And from the folk that crowds life's land I have chosen you. Now will you give him all your love, nor think the labour vain? Nor hate me when I come to take my kitten home again?

I fancied that I heard them say 'Dear Lord Thy Will Be Done' For all the joys this kitten brings the risk of grief we'll run. We'll shelter him with tenderness, we'll love him while we may. And for the happiness we've known, forever grateful stay.

But should you call him back much sooner than we planned, We'll brave the bitter grief that comes, and try to understand. If, by our love we've managed your wishes to achieve, Then in memory of him whom we loved, please help us while we grieve. When our cherished kitten departs this world of strife, Please send yet another needing soul for us to love all his life.

The Pedigree - The Bombay

The Bombay was named after the port city in India. However the breed did not come from there. Breeder Nikki Horner of Louisville Louisiana is credited in developing the breed in the US in the 1950's in trying to create a cat resembling a miniature black panther. Horner crossed a Sable Burmese with a black American Shorthair. Breeders in Britain achieved the same look by crosses of Burmese and black domestic cats.



The Bombay is a short-haired breed with a solid medium sized muscular body. When picked up they are heavier than they appear. They look very much like a Burmese however they are a bit larger with longer bodies and legs. They have a rounded head with a moderate nose break. Their medium sized ears are set wide apart with the tips rounded. The eyes are large rounded and wide set, the eye colour ranges from gold to copper. The tail is of medium length. The paws are rounded. The Bombay's coat is a glossy black. The paw pads, noses and mouth are also black. Due to its shiny black coat and their eye colouring the Bombay has a nickname of 'the patient-leather kid with the new penny eyes'. A Bombay usually will weigh 8 to 15 pounds.

The Bombay is intelligent, playful and loves to get much attention. They love people even greeting visitors at the door. They get on well with children, other cats and dogs but expects to be the top cat. Bombays are inclined to have a certain person who they pay special attention to. The Bombay is good at playing fetch, doing tricks and walk on a leash. This active breed is easy to entertain and challenge his brain by giving him puzzle toys. Although a lively breed they are also known to be a lap cat. Bombay are also vocal.


The CFA and TICA both officially recognized the Bombay in the 1970's.

Cat Litter Explained - Cat to Cat



From the moment you saw that box its purpose was clear. You hopped in, did your business, and buried the result.

Why is that? How come we know exactly where to go to the toilet? Here's where you'll find the answers to that and other questions.

Q: Where does cat litter come from? **A:** That's an easy one. It comes from things like this 

Q: What is it made of? **A:** composition can vary from simple clay for clumping litter, which is often calcium bentonite fused with quartz or diatomaceous earth.

Q: Why do I bury my business with it? **A:** That is due to residual instincts from your wild, feral ancestors who had to be extremely conscious and careful about predators. They were constantly in danger of being attacked and took precautions to ensure the scent of their waste did not give away their location. By burying the waste they increased the chance of remaining undetected. You are simply emulating the same process, and simultaneously having a little fun by kicking stuff all over the place.

Q: How come I sometimes like to really shoot out of there when I've finished? **A:** Again, residual instinct. Your ancestors were most vulnerable when going to the toilet and didn't like to dally after finishing - that would have given predators more time to find them. They ran off as if their life depended on it, which it sometimes did. You don't have the same concerns, but why hang around in that dingy box when there are better things to do upstairs.

Q: When should I start acting up to get the litter changed? **A:** Some cats simply can't stand to use a litter box that isn't cleaned daily. If that describes you, then protest by going outside the box takes the burying out of it and can make your person really angry. Other cats don't care much and will climb a mountain of old litter if necessary. Ultimately this question boils down to a matter of personal preference; it's totally up to you.

Q: Which cat litter smells the better? **A:** That stuff that smells like pine, no question.

Q: Why do humans seem annoyed when you jump in the litter straight after they've scooped it? **A:** Humans are selfish. They have a great time playing in the litter and then expect you not to use it as intended. You'd think they'd better things to do and better places to do it than where you go to the toilet.

Q: Are there cats who don't use litter and actually go where humans go? **A:** Yes, there are cats who will, over time, submit to using a human-style toilet.

Q: Are they real? **A:** They are highly regarded by humans, who fancy them as a more highly evolved feline. However, no, these cats are not real, they're tools.

Q: Is it acceptable to spread litter around where you live? **A:** certainly. You may want to minimize that, though, by jumping on your person's bed for a nap after being in the litter box. That way you're not depositing it in so many different places.

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

Cat Tail Fact: On average, 10% of the bones in a cat's body are found in their tail, with around 20 vertebrae found inside each tail. The average cat tail is 12" in length.



Clever Crow Learns To Meow After Watching Women Give Food To Cats



Since settling in to her new place in Turkey, animal lover Neslihan Orancı has been leaving food out on the patio for local cats to eat. Nowadays, when the food runs low, the cats let her know - meowing at her door for a refill. Evidently, this routine didn't go unnoticed. Unbeknownst to Neslihan and her feline visitors, a certain someone had been watching them from afar. And he was taking notes....

One day, Neslihan was at home when that familiar sound caught her ear: meowing from outside. It seemed that one of those hungry cats had arrived to find the food bowl empty, and was now asking her for more. But, looking through the window, Neslihan quickly discovered that it wasn't a cat. It was actually a crow who'd cleverly learned to meow so he could get free food, too. 'I was very surprised, Neslihan told The Dodo. 'I've never heard a crow speak like a cat!'

After the initial shock subsided, Neslihan of course gave the crow some food. And then she noticed he'd picked up other cat vocabulary. 'As he ate, he made the sound of an angry cat, the one cats make when they're fighting,' Neslihan said, 'so that any cats around would be scared away.'

The crow's cat-speak was so convincing, it's possible he'd been pulling this brilliant ruse for a while without Neslihan noticing. She doesn't mind though; to her, he deserves to be rewarded for his cleverness. 'It's very thought-provoking,' Neslihan said. 'Cats learned to communicate with us over thousands of years of domestication. But the crow learned it quickly, and for the same gain. It seems they could decode our language before we understand theirs!'

Stephen Messenger, www.the.dodo.com, February 2021

2,000 Year-Old Cat Etching Found At Nazca Lines Site In Peru

The image, stretching for 40 yards on a hillside in Peru, shows a creature with pointy ears, orb-like eyes and a long striped tail. It appears to be a cat lounging, as cats often do. Archaeologists stumbled across the faded etching while remodelling a section of a UNESCO heritage site known as the Nazca Lines, Peru's Ministry of Culture announced last week.

The catlike geoglyph - which experts say dates to 200 B.C. to 100 B.C. - is the latest discovery among the carvings of larger-than-life animals and plants previously found between the towns of Nazca and Palpa, in a desert plain about 250 miles southeast of the capital, Lima. 'The discovery shows, once again, the rich and varied cultural legacy of this site,' the ministry said in a statement.



The Nazca Lines were first discovered by a Peruvian aerial surveyor in 1927. Images of a hummingbird, a monkey and an orca were unearthed at the site. UNESCO has designated the Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Palpa a World Heritage Site since 1994. The cat etching is believed to be older than any of the prehistoric geoglyphs previously unearthed at Nazca. 'It's quite striking that we're still finding new figures, but we also know that there are more to be found,' Johny Isla, Peru's chief archaeologist for the Nazca Lines, told Efe, a Spanish news agency.

The designs were believed to have been created when ancient Peruvians scraped off a dark and rocky layer of earth, which contrasts with lighter-colored sand underneath. Researchers believe that the figures once served as travel markers.

Drone photography has led to several discoveries in recent years, Mr. Isla said. In 2019, researchers from Japan, aided by satellite photography and three-dimensional imaging, unearthed more than 140 new geoglyphs at the site. Research and conservation work had continued at the site even during the coronavirus pandemic, when most tourist sites have been closed. Archaeologists and employees were working on the Mirador Natural, a lookout point in the protected site, when they began unearthing something intriguing. When they cleaned the mound, clear lines showing the sinuous body of a cat emerged. 'The figure was barely visible and was about to disappear because it is situated on quite a steep slope that's prone to the effects of natural erosion,' the culture ministry said in a statement.

The authorities said that even a stray footprint could mar the fragile grounds, and have imposed strict rules against trespassing at the site. Before the pandemic shut down tours, visitors were permitted to view the lines and figures only from planes and lookout points. But disturbances at the Nazca lines have occurred, drawing widespread condemnation. In 2014, Greenpeace activists left shoe marks near a large hummingbird design when they placed a sign that promoted renewable energy, Peruvian officials said. 'You walk there and the footprint is going to last hundreds or thousands of years,' Luis Jaime Castillo, a Peruvian official and archaeologist, told The Guardian at the time. 'And the line that they have destroyed is the most visible and most recognized of all.' In 2018, a truck driver was arrested after intentionally driving his tractor-trailer across three lines of geoglyphs.

Even as Peru works to preserve its ancient sites, officials reopened Machu Picchu this month for one lucky tourist after he became stranded during the pandemic and waited seven months to see the 16th-century Inca citadel.

Tiffnay May, www.nytimes.com, October 2020 Photo: Johny Islas/Peru's Ministry of Culture-Nasca-Palpa, via Associated Press

The Quiz - How well do you speak 'Cat'?



Answers on page 16

- Your cat is purring away, kneading at you with both paws.
 - Let's go bake a cake together.
 - I'm happy and I love you.
 - There's something in my throat and I also want to use the litter box.
 - I love the colour of your sweater.
- A cat looks at you and slowly squints with both eyes.
 - I'm not a threat to you.
 - I didn't get enough sleep last night.
 - I'm giving you the evil eye...**mwahahaha**.
 - Dude, you should do something about that hair. I can't bear to look.
- Your cat rolls over and shows you her tummy while you're petting her..
 - I'm falling asleep, please bring me a blanket.
 - Rub my body! I'm a dog!
 - Can't you see it's empty. I'm hungry, fetch food.
 - I trust you enough to show you my tummy (but not necessarily to let you touch it).
- You're watching TV and your cat starts walking along the table knocking things onto the floor.
 - Change the channel.
 - Feed me.
 - I want your attention.
 - Let me go outside.
- You're petting a cat and it's tail starts moving from side to side.
 - I'm so happy, I'm wagging my tail.
 - I'm trying to get those pesky flies away.
 - I'm getting uncomfortable and possibly annoyed - keep that up and I'll show you my rattlesnake imitation!
 - Wanna play some table tennis with me?

thecatsite.com

Where Did It Come From? - 'Rub The Wrong Way'

This term is used when, for some reason, you just don't like someone else. 'He rubbed me the wrong way.' The phrase is said to stem from the act of stroking an animal (in particular, a cat) against the natural direction of his fur. This phrase seems to have been around since the mid-19th century. catster.com



Rules For Cats

Birds & Mice -

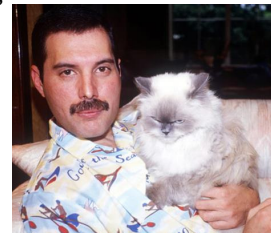
Always bring home your quarry. Be sure to mess it up. Entrails are a nice touch. Leave it just outside the front door if possible. It's always good if they're not looking down and step on it. Then it is the Cat's Meow.

Indecision -

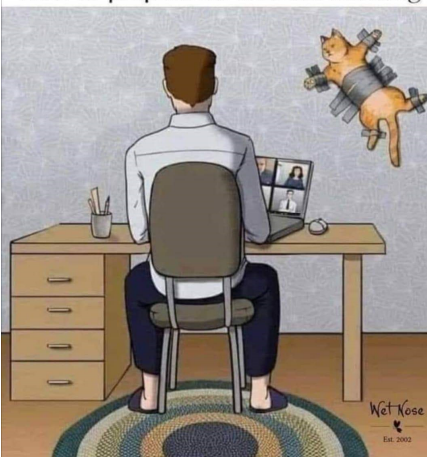
Sit at the screen door looking out. They almost always think you want to go out. Run away when they open the door. Three or four times is enough to drive them up the wall.

Cat Lover Freddie

Freddie Mercury, generally known as the frontman of Queen, was also known as a fanatic cat lover. When on tour he would call home to talk to his cats and tell them he loved them. So it came as no surprise when he dedicated his debut solo album Mr. Bad Guy to his cats: 'This album is dedicated to my cat Jerry – also Tom, Oscar and Tiffany, and all the cat lovers across the universe – screw everybody else!' www.ilovepets



How to prepare for a Zoom meeting



Cat Language

- ◇ Catamenial - Low grade work
- ◇ Catachumen- Spice used in Indian cooking
- ◇ Cathectic - Frantic feline
- ◇ Cathepsin - Feline actor



A kitten is so flexible that she is almost double; the hind parts are equivalent to another kitten with which the forepart plays. She does not discover that her tail belongs to her until you tread on it.

Henry David Thoreau

Police Cats

Pawficer Oreo - The Cutest CATdet In Training!

In a small police department in Riverdale, Georgia, 911 dispatchers received a call that led to one of the most memorable moments of their careers. They never expected that it would lead to a co-worker named 'Pawficer Oreo'!

In early May, Officer Harrison got a call about some tiny kittens that were found underneath a church. An extensive search for the mama cat was done but even over several hours, sadly she did not return to her babies. Several church members took home fur-babies and Officer Harrison took one as well. Dispatcher, Jennifer Johnson is known as the resident 'crazy cat lady' so Officer Harrison immediately brought the kitten to her for advice. Thanks to the countless number of Kitten Lady videos Jennifer has watched, she knew exactly what to do for the abandoned kitten. Because he was so tiny, he needed special supplies to provide the best care.

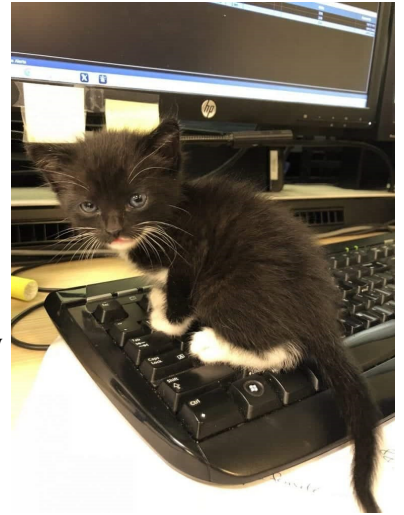
The next day, a veterinarian confirmed the little boy was about 3-4 weeks old. He was thankfully in good health but still too young for any shots or vaccines. Officer Harrison took him home to her 3 daughters, who immediately fell in love with him and named him Oreo. The purrfect name for the black and white kitten who was sweet all over like an Oreo cookie.

Being so young however, Oreo needed to be bottle fed throughout the day. When Officer Harrison had to return to work, she asked Jennifer if she would be able to 'kittysit' during her shifts. Of course she agreed right away! Within the first few hours of kitty-sitting, she realized that Oreo was a lot more alert than most kittens his age. Not being able to resist his cuteness, she began playing with him at her desk and snapping cute photos. Just about every officer that came through the center couldn't resist the adorable kitten and would stop to play. He was an instant hit around the station; even by those that claimed not to be 'cat people'.

As Oreo played at her desk, he eventually learned how fun a keyboard can be. Not thinking he even weighed enough to press down the keys, Jennifer was shocked when she looked at her screen and he had managed to type 'awwwz'. She couldn't help but laugh out loud at the kitten who obviously knew he was adorable enough to type it out. Jennifer is a member of our Cole and Marmalade – I Love My Cats Facebook group. It was here that she couldn't withstand bragging about him to the thousands of fellow cat lovers on the page. Thank goodness she did!

Not surprisingly, Oreo became a huge hit on the social media page. Knowing he loved to type, Jennifer figured they may as well teach him to 'dispatch'. Everyone loved seeing Pawficer Oreo typing and learning the phone system. She gladly kittysat for 3 days straight while the tiny 'Paw Enforcement' trainee became an accomplished typist and skilfully attempted to answer the phones...that is when the cord didn't distract him. Officers would stop by for a quick cuddle from the little guy too. One night, Officer Harrison had to stay late to finish reports. Another officer was playing with Pawficer Oreo when he fell asleep on her police vest.

Even though Oreo's training was only for a few intensive days, he left a large impact on everyone in the station. On May 30th, Oreo's mom Officer Harrison was involved in a horrible car accident while on patrol. She suffered some severe injuries but thankfully will be okay. Jennifer was sure once she gets out of the hospital, little Oreo will willingly change jobs & become 'Nurse Oreo' to help her heal with snuggles & purrs.



Oreo wasn't the only cat that week to be taken in by the station! Just a few days before, a beautiful tortie had shown up outside the building. She was very friendly from the beginning but due to the hours that they work, they had not had the time to get her to the vet to be checked out right away. They began feeding her, were able to bring her inside and she quickly made friends too. The 1st time Officer Harrison brought Oreo in the building, she was in here and at first meeting, she immediately began grooming Pawficer Oreo. She interacted with him and taught him a few things about being a cat. No one had seen Oreo groom himself until she showed him. It was only about a week later that they realized that she was pregnant. All were certain the tortie's maternal instinct was kicking in with Oreo, naming her Mama Kitty.

Now they are anxiously awaiting the birth of Mama Kitty's babies. Dispatchers and officers will help her raise them, along with teaching them to dispatch and do other police work. The plan will be to get them adopted out and one of our dispatchers has already decided to welcome Mama Kitty into her forever home.

Over the years, the dispatch heroes have found homes for a total of 10-12 cats and countless dogs. They are proud to say they've only had to send one kitten to Animal Control, only because he was very sickly and needed more vet care than they could provide. They frequently joke that there must be some kind of underground kitty blog out there that tells all the stray cats to come to their station because we will feed them and treat them like royalty!

Police Cat Receives Promotion After Coercing Confession From Suspect With His Therapeutic Purr

There is a small town in North Carolina whose motto is 'Time Well Spent'. Its population reaches just over 5,000 people spread across a mere 7.5 square miles. But this small town has something most other towns don't. It's a secret weapon in the fight against crime, drawing confessions from tight-lipped criminals. An unexpected ally who is by your side through each day. For the officers and staff at the Mocksville Police Department, it is something that they've come to cherish dearly. Even if it happens to be a young ginger 'police cat' who sleeps on the job quite often - but who's so good he still gets a promotion!



Meet Sergeant Butterscotch, or as he is affectionately known now after his promotion, Sarge Butters. He was just a young kitten of 4-months when he stumbled into his calling in life. It is not known where his life began but when he was found, it was clearly not ideal. Starving and filthy, the ginger kitten wandered up to the police station in the summer of 2018. The caring team brought him inside, cleaned him up and fed the very hungry boy. Whether it was their generosity he could sense, or just yummy food, he decided this would be his home.

Butters was sure to give his new abode a good 'once over' and thoroughly investigated his surroundings. That situational awareness is an important skill to purrfect you know! Some of the officers weren't sure about having an office cat, but they soon warmed up to the loving boy. It may have been due to his 'help' with their mounds of paperwork.

But his secret weapon would show itself soon enough. Not only was it unexpected, it was effective at serving justice! Shortly after he began his watch at the station, he earned a well-deserved promotion—purrmotion? After a high-speed chase ended in the county, a suspect was brought in. The woman was eventually approached by the 'fuzz', in this case, literally. Butters confronted the woman with a sly sparkle in his eye. His methods were simple for flushing out a confession. Under the watchful eye of his many self-appointed partners in the office, the woman reached down and picked him up. Butters purr motor started and the woman fell under his therapeutic spell. Sitting and calmly petting the soothing cat, the suspect eventually came to her senses. She confessed to the crime right then and there! All because of a mysterious little feline that showed up out of the blue a few months prior! He was appropriately rewarded with his promotion to Sergeant.

Now, the cat can still be found 'supurrvising' the office during both day and night shifts. Along with his new responsibilities, he decided to do more because he'd never be able to repay their generosity. Sarge Butters is the departments food inspector. That includes any crumbs that may be left on your face. But most importantly of all, he provides a well needed, and again well-deserved, source of comfort for the entire department. With the high stresses of police work, having Sarge Butters there to offer unconditional support has been wonderful.

The community has also fallen in love with the furry 'pawfficer'. His additional pawlice duties include becoming the face of the local marketing initiatives as well. With this adorably boop-able nose, I'd say it's a genius move by the town! He regularly gets visitors stopping by the station for play dates. They're always sure to bring him some treats, new toys and cuddly blankets. www.coleandmarmalade.com, Photo: facebook sarge butters

Unclaimed Kitten Finds New Family With A Small Town Police Department In Maine, USA



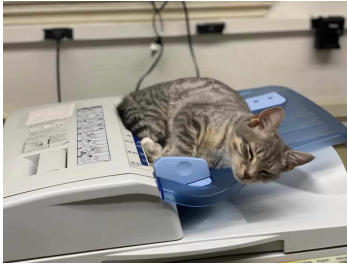
No one knows where the little grey tabby kitten came from originally. Some believe she was a feral, born to the wild streets. Others feel that with her loving nature, she was possibly dumped and abandoned. Regardless, the young feline found herself needing a new family and safe home. Whether or not she was 'working out' the best way to find these, she ended up in the right place at the right time. That happened to be when she was found clinging to a fire escape at a local fitness center.

Her new family would eventually realize she may have just been practicing her fearless fitness routine though! But that new family understands the importance of staying fit and alert. They are the police officers and staff at the Hallowell Police Department in Hallowell, Maine. How does a police department end up essentially adopting a kitten though? Well just how many others do. The kitten adopts them.

It began on September 9th, 2019 when a man discovered her at the Granite Athletic Club on Town Farm Road. In the small town of approximately 2,000+ citizens, he ended up taking the lonely kitten to the police department.

The kitten is estimated to be about 7 months old and sweet as can be. They named her Granite for the gym where she was found, but they affectionately call her 'GG'.

The department posted a photo of the grey & white tabby kitten looking for anyone who may be missing her. But it had been almost a month with no claim on the kitten. It was time for her to officially join her new family. The police department posted the announcement on their Facebook page on the morning of October 5th. As we've seen before, the calming effects of felines are amazingly therapeutic for individuals in high-stress jobs. And it's no different for this small town police department either.



Not only have the entire force supported their new family member, they all pitch in to help in their 'catty duties'. Local companies and Hallowell residents have donated food, toys and supplies for the tiniest pawtroll woman. Still, GG is happy to pay her new family back each day with an immeasurable amount of smiles, laughter and love. Although she lives only on the bottom floor of their City Hall building, she has plenty of people to pass the time with. The floor houses not only the police department, but the code enforcement office as well.

Unless owners come forward with unmistakable proof that GG belongs to them, she will stay with her family in blue.

www.coleandmarmalade.com, 2019, photo: Hallowell Police Department

Wool Sucking & Pica

Many cat owners discover their kittens, and sometimes older cats, sucking on wool or other fibers and wonder why their feline is doing this and what it might reveal about their cat. The ingestion of non-food items is known as 'pica' and is found in many species.



In cats, pica is often seen in kittens that have been weaned too early but there also seem to be genetic and breed components. Many cats will chew and tear at objects when exhibiting predatory behaviour during play but pieces are torn off and not consumed. A pica sufferer will take the chosen object in its mouth and grind repeatedly with the back molar teeth before swallowing in a sequence that can take just a few seconds. The behaviour is highly rewarding for susceptible individuals and many will go to great lengths to seek out the favoured material. Common target objects for feline pica include; plants, electric cords, phone cords, wool, fabric, string or yarn. Felines with a mild case of pica may not consume the object, but chew, lick or suck on the inedible object. Some younger cats will eventually grow out of the problem but others will continue into adulthood and continue until there is some form of veterinary/behavioural intervention.

It is most frequently seen in certain breeds, such as Siamese, Burmese, Tonkinese and other Oriental types, leading to the suggestion that there may be a genetic component with the trait passing down particular family lines. However other domestic cats with no known Oriental ancestry can also suffer from pica. They may be kittens weaned too early or have restricted home environments that are not stimulating enough to compensate for not being outdoors.

So what problems are associated with pica? The obvious danger is the possible obstruction of the gut system which may require an expensive operation to clear blockages. The signs of a blockage could include vomiting, diarrhea, constipation (straining unproductively) and general listlessness.

However, there are some diseases in which pica is seen as a symptom. Unusual substances can be eaten or licked as a result of specific cravings associated with diseases, such as hyperthyroidism (tumour of the thyroid gland), cancer, lead poisoning or feline infectious peritonitis. Cats with severe burdens of intestinal parasites or with chronic deficiencies in their diet may also consume non-nutritious material. Most cats eating these substances for medical reasons will also exhibit other behaviours that indicates they are unwell.

So what can you do if your cat has pica? These cats need a great deal of stimulation *indoors* to give them things to do that enable them to behave in a natural way for the species. The ideal solution is free access outdoors; if this isn't possible then a secured garden or outside pen may be an option.

It is advisable to remove all materials that are consumed (this may involve locking them away) and increase opportunities to play with moving objects, such as fishing rod toys. Some cats benefit from a dietary change to one with high fiber content or the introduction of softened hide sticks (usually given to small dogs) with a drop of fish oil added as an acceptable object to chew. Your vet can recommend a diet that may be suitable.

Not all pica habits represent serious addictions. For those cats that idly chew it is often possible to deter them by using eucalyptus oil or Bitter Apple (used to deter animals from chewing at stitches in surgical wounds) to coat the item of choice. Removing the items from view may even be a sufficient measure in these cases to manage the problem.

However, in serious cases of pica your cat should be visiting your vet for an investigation of other possible underlying conditions and perhaps be referred to a behaviourist together with psychopharmacological support.

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



Five Ways To Piss Off Your Cat



- Shut her in the bathroom so the other cats can eat.
- Stop feeding her lunch so that she doesn't get overweight.
- Pay too much attention to the other cats.
- Forget to take out her toys and play with her at night.
- Forget to tell her that she is the most beautiful cat in the world.

The Catwalk



Minka -

So I went for a walk
and let me tell you....

K. Beyers, South Africa



Leo -

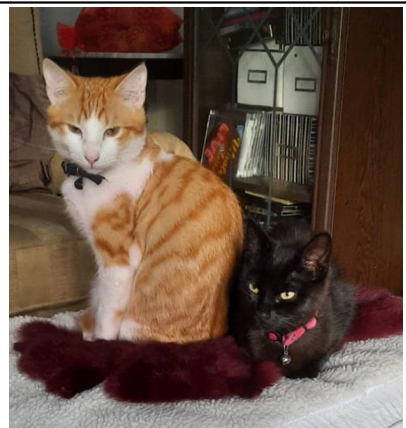
Well you found me.
Now what?

D. Ivory, Dublin

Jasper & Arya -

Are we pretty or what?

The Buckley Family, Cork

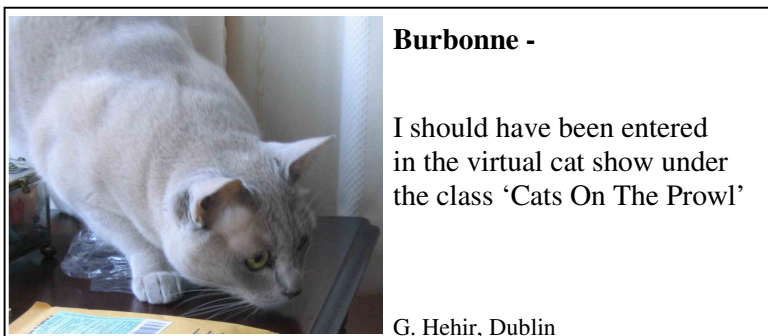
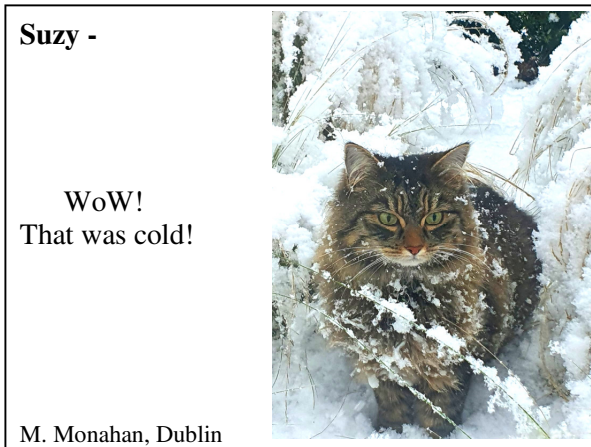


Eilidh Laura -

I am so Cosy and here
is where I stay.

C. Weldon, Wicklow

The Catwalk



Why Orange Cats Are Special, According to Science



Research suggests that orange male cats may enjoy greater social status. Orange cats are thought to be the friendliest of all cats, but is this just a myth? Self-report surveys indeed suggest that orange cats are more affectionate. This finding, however, could be a result of confirmation bias or a self-fulfilling prophecy, with cat owners looking to support their own stereotypes.

Yet, there are other plausible reasons for why orange cats may be more affectionate. The gene responsible for the orange color is sex-linked, resulting in a much higher likelihood that an orange cat will be male versus female. Although the research is far from definitive, male cats have been said to be slightly friendlier than female cats, which could explain the loving nature of orange cats. Accordingly, 'tortitude' may be partially explained by the fact that tortoiseshell cats are almost always female.

But might there be another reason, besides gender, that explains the unique behavior of orange cats? Pontier et al. (1995) conducted a study examining the frequency of the orange gene variant among cat populations, finding that orange cats may differ from other cats in a number of ways.

To conduct their study, the researchers sampled from 30 cat populations in France from 1982-1992, collecting data on 56-491 cats from each population. They found three interesting trends with regard to orange cats.

1. Orange cats are more common in rural (less dense) as opposed to urban environments - This finding suggests that orange cats may enjoy greater reproductive success in particular social conditions. In rural environments, the mating system of cats is more polygynous, meaning that while male cats tend to mate with multiple female cats, females tend to mate with only one male. Meanwhile, in urban environments, both female and male cats have multiple mates.
2. Orange cats are less common in areas with greater mortality risk - This finding indicates that orange cats may be more likely to engage in risky behaviors that result in death.
3. Orange cats show greater sexual dimorphism - Orange males weigh more than cats of other colors, and orange females weigh less than cats of other colours. This pattern has been documented previously in Australia. These intriguing patterns led the researchers to come up with a theory – that due to physical and behavioral differences, orange cats (the male cats in particular) may rely on a different reproductive strategy. Specifically, since they are larger in size (and likely more aggressive given previously documented links between a male cat's body size and aggression towards other cats), orange male cats may enjoy greater social status and thus reproductive success in rural locations where females typically only mate with one male.

However, in urban environments, their social status may not get them as far. In these dense environments, female cats tend to mate with many male cats. As a result, reproductive success is dependent on sperm competition rather than physical competition between male cats. Therefore, in an urban environment, the competitive nature of orange male cats may heighten their risk of death (e.g., through fights with cats or other animals), thus driving down the proportions of orange cats. This idea is supported by past findings that larger male cats are more dominant and aggressive, resulting in both greater reproductive success and greater mortality risk.

Although these color-based behavioral associations may seem odd, they are found among other animals including rodents and birds (as reviewed in Pontier et al., 1995). Certain genes responsible for behavior or other physical attributes (e.g., body size) may be inherited alongside those responsible for fur color.

This study identifies several unique characteristics of orange cats, however, it does not explain why orange cats are friendlier to humans. If this stereotype is true, might it be attributed to the risk-taking behaviors of these special cats? Perhaps orange male cats, due to their dominant status and bold personalities, feel more comfortable with approaching humans, who often frighten timid cats. Future studies can investigate whether this might be the case.

www.psychologytoday.com, Karen Wu PhD, September 2020. References: Pontier, D., Rioux, N., & Heizmann, A. (1995). Evidence of selection on the orange allele in the domestic cat *Felis catus*: the role of social structure. *Oikos*, 73, 299-308. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3545954>

Most Vocal Cat Breeds

Most cat owners will know that their cats can be quite vocal at times and this applies to some breeds more than others. But what are the most vocal cat breeds and what are they saying?

Siamese are probably the most vocal of all the cat breeds and some can talk all day long! Siamese cats have a distinctive vocalisation that sounds like a human baby cry, among their large repertoire of other interesting cat sounds. Some owners will no doubt enjoy conversing with their Siamese all day, whilst other may find that they 'talk' a bit too much. Especially as some Siamese cats will vocalise during the night, which can be quite loud and disturb their owners' sleep.

Oriental shorthairs are quite similar to Siamese – they're very loud when they vocalise and it's even said that their purr can sound like a truck rumbling by! Orientals are also very social cats and they love interaction with their owners, so they are an ideal breed for those with a lot of time on their hands. But this is definitely not a quiet cat – when they're not purring like a truck, they tend to have quite a loud and raspy voice which they like to make sure is heard.



Burmese are generally not as loud as Siamese or Oriental. A Burmese cats' vocalisation is really quite pleasant – especially when they're showing affection. Burmese cats have a soft, sweet-sounding, slightly raspy voice and love to give and receive lots of cuddles. Some people may choose this breed over another simply because their vocalisation isn't as loud or as harsh.

The Japanese Bobtail – like the Burmese – generally has a very pleasant and soft voice. This particular breed can convey a full range of tones from long melodious meows, to short little chirping sounds. Japanese Bobtails are also very loving, people-pleasing cats and they enjoy striking up a 'conversation' with their owners, which is great for those who like daily interaction with their feline friend.

Sphynx are known to have a rather raspy voice. This breed can be quite demanding and insistent with their vocalisation – they purr, meow, sing and chirp in a range of tones. With Sphynx being so warm and affectionate, they are very dependent on their owners and crave active involvement in their lives, which is why they tend to 'talk' a lot. This is an ideal breed for patient owners looking for a chatty cat to keep them company.

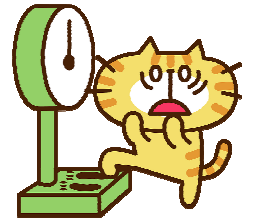
Why are they so vocal? - There are a number of reasons that cats like to vocalise and for the most part – it's completely normal. Cats have learnt to communicate with their owners in order to fulfil their needs and to receive the attention they desire. However, some cats will seek more attention than others and know that if they vocalise for long enough, they will almost certainly get their own way – which can sometimes be quite annoying for their owners.

For the majority of the time, cats vocalising is completely habitual and it's only when it happens for an unknown reason that you may need to consider if something's wrong. After all, cats are excellent communicators and there's no doubt that they would let you know if they were unhappy or unwell. www.animalfriends.co.uk, Elena Barnard, Animal Friends Pet Insurance

Health - Cat Owners Have Overfed Their Pets During Lockdown

With lots of us spending more time at home over the past 10 months, the number of overweight cats in the UK is rising, as owners are tempted to feed their pets more.

In a recent survey by the Cats Protection charity, looking at more than 2,000 cat owners, more than a quarter (28%) said they had overfed their pet since the start of lockdown in March 2020. Over a third (36%) said their cat visited neighbours for a bonus feed and overall, one in five cats (20%) had typically gained between 2-2.5 kilograms in weight. This is on top of a survey carried out before the start of the pandemic, which highlighted that at least 3.2 million owned cats were already overweight.



The charity says owners have been spoiling their cats with extra treats, and well-wishing neighbours may also be overindulging any feline visitors. However, overweight cats are at significant risk of diabetes, joint problems and urinary infections

The charity is now giving cat owners the following advice:

1. Weigh out cat food daily so you are not overfilling bowls.
2. If giving your cat treats, reduce the overall amount of food you provide them.
3. Avoid giving your cat human treats such as milk or cheese as many cats cannot digest cows' milk products.
4. Ask neighbours to help your cat by not feeding them. This is especially important if your cat is on a special diet or medication. Consider affixing a simple paper collar to your cat stating that your cat is on a diet and politely requesting neighbours to avoid putting out food.

www.itv.com

Meerkats Seem To Rejoice When Zoo Visitors Return After Lockdown - Penguins Just Carried On As Normal.



When humans flooded their zoo in South Africa, after months of lockdown, the African Penguins couldn't have cared less, according to a new study. Meanwhile, the bubbly Meerkats at a zoo in the U.K. seemed uplifted by their bipedal visitors.

Slender-tailed Meerkats interacted more positively with each other after humans returned to their exhibits, while African penguins just carried on as if nothing had changed.

Researchers studied the behavior of the animals before and after zoos reopened in the U.K. and South Africa to learn more about how lockdown affected them. Their results were published in the March issue of the journal Applied Animal Behaviour Science. 'We can't say what the animals were feeling, but the positive behaviours that we observed (e.g. positive social interactions with each other and positive human-animal interactions) suggest the return of visitors was a positive and engaging experience for the Meerkats,' first author Ellen Williams, a lecturer in animal behaviour and welfare at Harper Adams University in the U.K., told Live Science in an email.

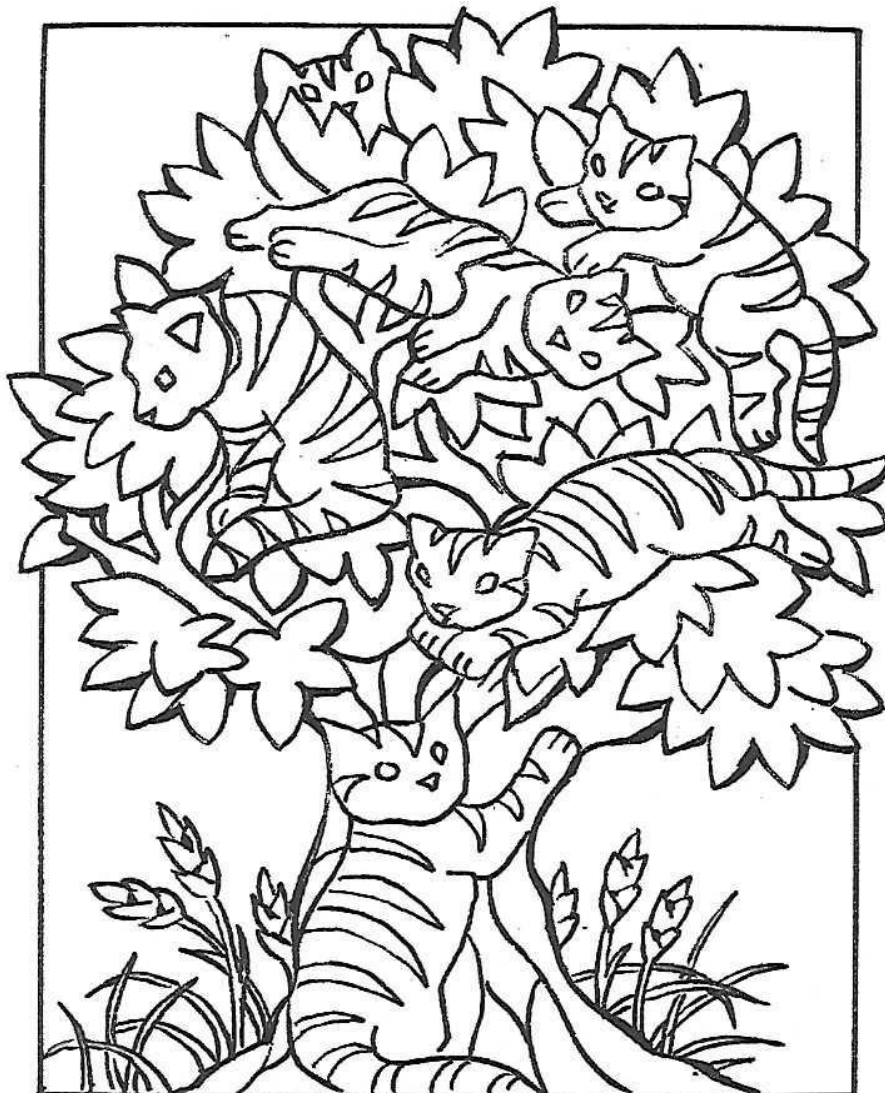
www.livescience.com, Patrick Pester, March 2021, Photo Meerkats at a Zoo in Italy during a nationwide lockdown to control the spread of COVID-

Law of Cat Thermodynamics: Heat flows from a warmer to a cooler body, except in the case of a cat, in which case all heat flows to the cat.





KIT'S KORNER



Believe it or not, there are 6 cats hidden in this tree!

Look carefully and colour all 6 cats.

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 ~~CATWALK~~. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending them in. *Stay Safe.* Karen & Gloria ^..^

Cats Relieve Anxiety



Feelings of depression and anxiety are common in the modern world. Beyond turning to professional therapy or even medicine, it's often suggested that a person suffering from depression and anxiety should consider getting a pet to help alleviate feelings of fear and loneliness.

So should you get a cat to help with your anxiety or depression? The short answer is, well, maybe. But it should not be your sole reason for adopting, and you must make sure you can handle the burdens that come with pet parenting. Adopting a pet should also not replace therapy or professional treatment for your condition.

While studies have shown that cats and pets in general can help calm people down and convey a sense of tranquillity, adopting a cat is a large responsibility that no one should take lightly.

If you do suffer from depression or anxiety, you should speak to a healthcare professional for treatment, and you can even ask them if they recommend adopting a pet. Here's what you need to know when you're considering whether to adopt a cat to help with your depression or anxiety.

How adopting a cat can help with depression or anxiety - When people feel depressed or anxious, they often also feel alone. Living with a cat can offer a sense of constant companionship. Every time you come home, you'll know that your cat is waiting there for you with a loving presence – even if all they're really after is dinner.

Additionally, caring for a cat brings a sense of schedule to your life, and a regular routine often goes out the window when people feel anxious or depressed. Knowing that your cat relies on you for breakfast, to clean out their litter box, and to groom them can help bring regularity and purpose to days that might otherwise seem aimless.

Finally, petting or hanging out with a cat on the couch definitely imparts a sense of calmness and well-being. Studies have shown it can increase your levels of serotonin and dopamine. Both of these hormones can help alleviate depression.

It's worth repeating that adopting a cat or any pet is a very large commitment in terms of time, money, and even emotions. While cats have a deserved reputation for being self-sufficient creatures, you'll still need to make sure you carry out daily tasks, including feedings, grooming your feline to ward off the chances of mats and hairballs developing, and keeping the litter box clean, plus the icky task of changing litter at least once a month.

There's also a financial commitment that goes with cat adoption. Food, litter, and vet bills, even just for yearly wellness visits, can add up. If you suspect that financial issues are contributing to your depression or anxiety, sit down and crunch some numbers to see whether adopting a cat might inadvertently exacerbate the problem.

Cat parenting also relies on you staying actively involved with your cat. You might have to rearrange your own schedule to make sure that you can serve food at daily meal times. You'll also need to keep your cat entertained with play sessions and bonding time; otherwise, boredom or even destructive behaviour might set in.

A cat is a living, breathing, thinking being with their own needs and emotions. They do not exist simply to make you happy. If you don't have emotions or energy to spare on another creature's well-being, then take that into consideration. You'll need to provide for your cat in many ways. Understand that before you opt to adopt.

Ultimately, weighing up whether to adopt a cat to help depression or anxiety will have to be considered on an individual basis. You should rely on the advice of your healthcare professional. As you probably know, there is no easy, one-stop solution when treating depression or anxiety.

As an alternative, seriously consider fostering a cat or a kitten. There's never a shortage of cats needing temporary homes. And this way, you'll find out how you like living with a cat before committing to the idea www.cattime.com, Phillip Mlynar

Guidelines For Cats - Doors

Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get door opened, stand on hind legs and hammer with forepaws. Once door is opened, it is not necessary to use it. After you have ordered an 'outside' door opened, stand halfway in and out and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow or swinging doors are to be avoided at all costs.



http://www.stumbleupon.com/su/2wnzJA/www.jameshuggins.com/h/hum1/guidelines_for_cats.htm###

10 Eyebrows
9 Ernst Stavro Blofeld
8 Former Blue Peter cats
Fancy
7 Governing Council of the Cat
6 Percy Shaw
5 Crookshanks
4 T.S. Elliot
3 True
2 It was the first cat sent into space
1 Queen or Molly



Quiz Answers: page 7

Kits Korner
Answers: 16