

# The Scratching Post





# The Scratching Post Autumn 2024



Contents	Page
The Supreme's Frist Show, Two Cat Festivals	3
No. 10's Larry, Christmas & Cats	4
Rainbow Bridge, Moose & Cat	5
Tortoiseshell Cat, Cat is Rescued From Dubai Floods	6
The Quiz & Fun Stuff	7
Dublin Championship Cat Show 2024	8
Cat's Hearing	9
The Catwalk	10/11
Two Cats Advertise A Single Room For Rent, Cat Found Safe After Sneaking Into Amazon Return Box	12
Catnip Releases Mosquito-repelling Chemicals, AI - Cats In Pain, Performance Is Disrupted By Cat	13
Cat Swims To Losing Weight, Owning Pets Helps Stave Off Dementia	14
Kit's Korner	15
The Final Miaow, Owners Bring Home Firstborn, Cat Steals Milkman's Money, Inside Japan's Cat Island	16

[www.sabcci.com](http://www.sabcci.com) 

## SABCCI Committee

Lorna Blackmore, Ronnie Brooks, Dionne Dixon, Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir, Aedamair Kiely, Hannah Phelan, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Aimee Weldon



### Where Did It Come From? - Night On The Tiles

This British expression dates from the late 19th/20th century and alludes to the habits of domestic cats spending the night on rooftop tiles. [www.idoimorgins.org](http://www.idoimorgins.org)



### An Appeal from UCD Veterinary Hospital



Due to an unprecedented increase in numbers of sick cats, the UCD Veterinary Hospital are seeking healthy cats to donate blood to be transfused to sick patients in their ICU.

Contact: [vetblooddonorclinic@ucd.ie](mailto:vetblooddonorclinic@ucd.ie) or 01 7166137

*Cats: The only creatures capable of sleeping 20 hours a day and still being tired.*

[www.sandjest.com](http://www.sandjest.com) 2

## Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn 2024 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Hot Chocolate and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

Do you have any photos or articles for the newsletter? Please send them to [karen@sabcci.com](mailto:karen@sabcci.com) or [gloria@sabcci.com](mailto:gloria@sabcci.com)



### The GCCFI Supreme Cat Show

Sunday the 13th of October

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!



### The Supreme's First Show 35 Years Ago

The show was held in Dublin on the 12th of March 1989. The entry was 60 cats with 42 exhibitors. Betty Dobbs was the Show Manager with Susan Hughes Assistant Show Manager. The Breed Sections at the time were Longhair, British Shorthair, Foreign, Burmese, Oriental & Siamese.

**Judges** - Muriel Calder, Madge Shrounder-May & Sally Hume

**Vets** - Argyle & Bainbridge

**Show Committee** - Anne Davis, Ann Doyle, Susan Hughes, John Hughes, Shelley Lombard, Sue McNab &, Maura O'Rourke (Maura Lenihan)

#### BIS Winners

**Adult** - Mrs M. Campbell's Dedannan Bobby Dazzeler (F), Chinchilla

**Neuter** - Miss A. Harkness's Ch Robstine Vladimir (FN), Sorrel Abyssinian

**Kitten** - Mrs B. O'Mahoney's Channel Classic (M), Chinchilla

#### Overall BIS

Mrs M. Campbell's Dedannan Bobby Dazzeler (F), Chinchilla



### Two Cat Festivals - Film & Video for 2024

#### The NY Cat Film Festival 2024

The NY Cat Film Festival celebrates the mysterious cats who share our world and their loving relationships with people. The Festival gives those who admire and are fascinated by cats to bring their films in front of like-minded cat lovers. These are not 'cat videos' - these are films that have been made with an intention, concept or story to convey something essential about where cats fit into our human world. This festival is a way to honour cats and those who care about them and raise awareness for their needs and qualities while supporting the caregivers in their communities. This Festival is philanthropic and a portion of every ticket goes to an animal welfare organization in every city it visits.



The 7th Annual NY CFF will premiere in New York City in October 2024 at the Village East by Angelika theatre and will travel to many cities across the country and Canada into 2025. [www.filmfreeway.com](http://www.filmfreeway.com)

#### 2024 Cat Video Fest



CatVideoFest is a compilation reel of the latest and best cat videos culled from countless hours of unique submissions and sourced animations, music videos, and classic internet powerhouses. CatVideoFest is a joyous communal experience, only available in theaters, and raises money for cats in need through partnerships with local cat charities, animal welfare organizations, and shelters to best serve cats in the area.

The 75-minute-reel of cat videos is family-friendly and can be enjoyed by anyone. The wide demographic appeal allows for it to be shown in virtually any type of setting - from museums to theaters to outdoor festivals and beyond. This flexibility means there are almost no limits to where CatVideoFest can go!

CatVideoFest has been seen in over 250 theaters in the United States and Canada, as well as over 100 theaters in Europe. People love cat videos, and they love coming together for a shared experience. CatVideoFest is committed to bringing the joy of cat videos to the masses, while doing good for the worldwide community of people working to help cats in need.

[www.catvideofest.com](http://www.catvideofest.com)

## Larry the Cat: What's Next For The Famous Feline At Downing Street?

*Larry might just be the most popular figure in British politics, if not the cutest.*

After 14 years of Tory control, a lot is set to change at Downing Street. But it's not just the politicians that are making headlines on election day. Sir Keir Starmer will take over No10 from Rishi Sunak out, so it's out with the old and in with the new. However, what will become of Larry the Cat, its most well-known resident?

Larry is a 17-year-old cat, born in January 2007. In 2011, Larry, a stray who was eventually taken in by Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, moved in with then-prime minister David Cameron and his children at No10. And Larry stayed behind, even as the Camerons bid adieu to Downing Street. Since then, he has resided there, spending his days in the home that Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, and Sunak were occupying.

### Who owns Larry the cat?

While having coexisted with all five prime ministers, he has never truly been owned by any of them. Rather, Downing Street workers look after him and provide voluntary funding for his lifestyle

As absurd as it may sound, No10 is where Downing Street claims Larry works. 'Welcoming guests to the house, examining security defences, and testing antique furniture for napping quality' are all included in his duties. However, things also become a little more serious for Larry, since he is now formally employed by the Cabinet Office as chief mouser. Larry was given this back in April 2011 for his first kill, which was a poor rodent in the No10 hallways.

He has also had his fair share of encounters with international dignitaries; on one occasion, he chose to hang out in front of Donald Trump's £1.2m armoured Cadillac. Furthermore, in 2011, Lord Cameron disclosed to the BBC that, strangely enough, Larry had a soft spot for Barack Obama. Obama gave him a stroke, but that didn't bother him at all.

### What happens to Larry the Cat now there's a new PM?

Despite the residency of No10 changing hands, Larry the Cat will remain at Downing Street and will welcome Sir Keir Starmer as the UK's next prime minister. Larry will join the Starmer family as they prepare to move into No10, along with Sir Keir, his wife Vic Starmer, and their two teenage daughters. The family also have a cat of their own called Jojo, so it will be interesting to see if the pair get along. [www.standard.co.uk](http://www.standard.co.uk), N BulBul, July 2024, Photo: Getty Images



## It may be October but Christmas is only around the corner!

### Christmas Catnip & Tuna Stars Cookies

#### Ingredients:

1/2 cup canned tuna, drained  
1 tablespoon dried catnip  
1 cup oat flour

1 egg  
1 tablespoon water (if needed to help form dough)

#### Instructions:

1. Preheat your oven to 175°C.
2. In a blender or food processor, blend the tuna, catnip, oat flour, and egg until a dough forms. If the mixture is too dry, add a tablespoon of water to help bring it together.
3. Roll out the dough on a floured surface to about 1/4 inch thickness.
4. Use a star-shaped cookie cutter to cut out the cookies.
5. Place them on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 10-12 minutes or until they turn golden and firm.
6. Allow them to cool completely before offering them 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](http://www.iheartcats.com)



## Important Things To Remember For Cats At Christmas

- Keep an eye on your Christmas tree. Christmas trees for cat owners can be a nightmare – especially if your cat likes to climb!
- Festive plants like poinsettia and berries found in holly and mistletoe are poisonous to cats, so keep them out of reach.
- Tinsel and other decorations can be dangerous if they are swallowed.
- Festive foods are often poisonous for cats – from chocolate and raisins to onions and garlic.
- Cats can feel stressed and anxious at Christmas time. Make sure you give them space and a safe place to hide.

[www.cats.org.uk](http://www.cats.org.uk)



## 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.



### Zeuss 2014 - 2024

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.

The Best Neuter for 6 years running in the GCCFV Cat of The Year Awards.

Janet Overton, Australia

Janet is a member of The Royal Thai Cat Club, SABCCI's 'twinned' cat club, in Victoria Australia



### Leon - 2016 - 2024

Leon, a cream Burmese kitten joined our household in July 2016. Leon was a character and a very strong willed cat. He knew exactly what he did and did not want. He loved his food and a shake of the cat treats bag was a sure guarantee to get him in from the garden in double jig time. Leon loved to play but no need for expensive cat toys for him, he got the greatest fun from empty porridge sachets. He would carry the sachet off in his mouth like a prized possession. Unfortunately, Leon developed kidney disease and in June this year, he went to Rainbow Bridge. Leon is greatly missed but he leaves behind many happy memories.

Joyce Hammond, Dublin

## Moment Moose & Cat Enjoy Each Other's Company Delight Internet

An unlikely friendship formed in the Alaskan wilderness has taken the internet by storm, leaving viewers speechless. It's not every day you see people getting up close and personal with wild animals. In fact, the U.S. National Park Service advises people to stand at least 25 yards from wildlife and 100 yards from larger animals, since they are unpredictable and dangerous.

However, Instagram user @akshiloh has developed a special relationship with moose living near his Alaskan home that has been highlighted on the Instagram account. While all the videos he posted feature the incredible shared moments with these giant animals, one stood out to viewers.

Completely unafraid, Dan and his cat Plumps sat in the snow next to Tonka the wild moose in an April 21 video. Plumps plopped down on Dan's lap, contently watching as Tonka snacked. The picture-perfect moment is almost too hard to believe, but this isn't the first time the cat has interacted with the wild, free-roaming moose that come to visit. Plumps is completely fearless, greeting them with nose boops and a relaxed posture. While it looks like he easily befriended these animals, he advised in the video's caption: 'Please never approach a moose in the wild for they can be extremely dangerous.'



The Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported more people in the state are injured by moose than bears each year despite moose being generally perceived as less dangerous. While not normally aggressive, moose can be egged on when harassed by people, dogs and traffic. They also could become aggressive when hungry and tired.

In a comment on a separate video, Dan mentioned that generations have been born near his home, and over many years, they have cultivated relationships with the animals. The moose live in a strictly protected area with no hunting permitted. [www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com), L. O'Connell, May 2023, Photo @akshiloh



## A Scientific Benefit Of Being A Cat Owner - Cat Owners Are Smart

A 2010 survey of British pet owners by the University of Bristol found that people who owned cats were more likely to have college degrees than their dog loving counterparts.

In 2014, a researcher in Wisconsin surveyed 600 college students and found that cat owners were actually more intelligent as well. (But it's probably not the cat itself making the owner smarter: The researchers conducting the Bristol survey said that smarter people tend to work longer hours, and since cats require less attention than dogs, they are a better choice for the busy intellectual.) [www.mentalfloss.com](http://www.mentalfloss.com), K. Benjamin & a. Thompson



## Not A Breed, A Pattern - The Tortoiseshell Cat

With their distinctive patchwork coats and spirited personalities, tortoiseshell cats captivate cat enthusiasts. Known as 'torties,' these felines are celebrated for their one-of-a-kind mosaic fur patterns that combine black, orange, and cream. Beyond their striking looks lies an equally engaging temperament.

This distinctive blend of qualities makes every tortie a unique and charming companion. In this article, we'll explore the unique tortoiseshell cat personality. Whether you already share your home with a tortie or are considering adopting one of these remarkable cats, learning to embrace their uniqueness will help you forge a special lifelong bond.

Tortoiseshell cats are recognized by their striking, patchwork fur coats that mix black, orange, and cream colours into one-of-a-kind patterns. The term 'tortoiseshell' refers specifically to this blend of coat colours, not a breed. Tortoiseshell fur can appear in many different pedigrees.

These cats' signature look derives from a rare genetic combination that results in their mosaic fur. This genetic quirk also makes tortoiseshell coats nearly exclusive to female cats. No two tortoiseshell furs are exactly alike - each cat exhibits their own unique arrangement of colours. It is this rarity and their stunning coats that helped make tortoiseshell cats so prized. For cat enthusiasts, no two torties are the same thanks to their distinctive blend of colours and patterns. This diversity adds to their allure as special feline companions.

Tortoiseshell cats are renowned for their colourful, headstrong personalities that earned them the nickname 'tortitude.' This distinctive temperament is characterized by their lively, vocal, and opinionated nature. Torties frequently showcase their independent spirit and sassiness. However, this doesn't make them difficult pets. On the contrary, tortoiseshell cats make extremely engaging companions.

They form strong attachments to their owners underneath their spirited exterior. Torties display deep devotion and affection for the special people in their lives. Their dazzling personalities reveal themselves through a spectrum of emotions ranging from playful and affectionate to wilful and independent. To build an unbreakable bond with these cats, it's essential to appreciate every facet of their captivating tortitude. Their unique temperament makes tortoiseshell cats highly interactive, vocal, and entertaining companions.

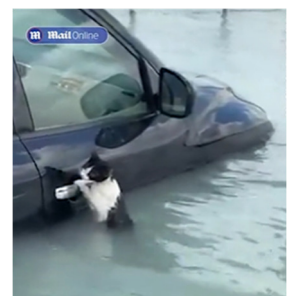
Here are some of our favourite fun facts.

- Tortoiseshell coats occur nearly exclusively in female cats. This results from the unique genetic combination behind their signature fur.
- Male tortoiseshell cats are extremely rare. When they do occur, these males are typically sterile.
- In many cultures, tortoiseshell felines are considered lucky. This includes nicknames like 'money cats' in the United States for attracting prosperity.
- No two tortoiseshell furs are exactly alike. Each cat displays their own one-of-a-kind mosaic pattern.
- The Japanese refer to tortoiseshell cats as 'mi-ke' which translates to 'triple fur.'
- Tortoiseshell and calico coats are often confused. While similar, calicos have larger patches of colour contrasted with white fur. [www.twotailspetcompany.com](http://www.twotailspetcompany.com), Photo: [www.trustedhousesitters.com](http://www.trustedhousesitters.com)

## Cat Is Rescued From Dubai Floods After Desperately Clinging To Door Of Car Submerged By Water

This is the heartwarming moment a cat was rescued from deep waters following the freak flash flooding and storms that have lashed Dubai over the last two days. (April 2024)

In footage shared to X, formerly Twitter, a black and white feline can be seen hanging onto a car door handle as flood waters lap around it. With drenched, flattened fur, the cat is filmed wide-eyed as it looks around at its rescuer - still clinging on to the submerged vehicle.



A hero police officer makes his way through the water in a small inflatable boat until he reaches the stranded pet, before leaning over to pull it off the door. But the stunned cat scrambles to keep a hold on to the vehicle, not realising it is being rescued from the murky flood water. The cop places the cat into the boat before floating ahead, as the curious feline peers over the side of the vessel at the deep water that stretches around them.



The clip went viral on social media after being posted to the popular Restoring Your Faith in Humanity channel, and animal lovers were quick to leave their comments below the video. One user wrote: 'I can't even begin to imagine how long did the poor thing hung on to the car door handle in that massive flood'. Another said: 'Kitty must have been sooo exhausted. thank you kind man'. A third added: 'I love how to cat eventually realizes the man is trying to help'.

It comes after terrifying storms struck Dubai on Tuesday April 16, plunging the lively city into a blanket of darkness. Clips from people caught in the deluge have shown giant hail stones, flooded buildings, flying furniture and debris crashing through an underpass. [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk), T. Pedler & C. Jewers, 17 April, 2024



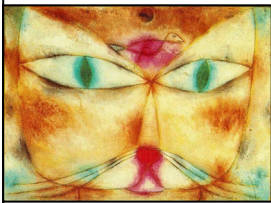
## The Quiz -

- 1 In the cartoon 'Pixie and Dixie and Mr. Jinks', which one is the cat?
- 2 What is the name of the hair used by cats to sense their environment?
- 3 What cat went on an adventure on a bike journey around the world?
- 4 In which 2016 movie can you see a stray ginger cat changes the life of James Bowen?
- 5 What is the name of the Instagram star cat with a moustache '\_\_\_\_\_ the Hipster Cat'?
- 6 What is the smallest breed of cats?
- 7 Mrs Chippy was a ship's cat who went on an expedition to?
- 8 In Harry Potter, what is the name of the pet cat of Argus Filch?



Answers on page 16

### Famous Cat Lovers - Paul Klee



Swiss artist Paul Klee (1879-1940) was inspired by his adored cats. Cats feature in close to 30 of his artworks, and those are just the ones where cats are the subjects. Sometimes they were his assistants and he directly enlisted their aid in his work. His cats Fritz, Bimbo I, Bimbo II, Mys, Nuggi, and Fripouille (Skunk) were by his side when he painted and travelled. American philanthropist and collector Edward Warburg once tried to shoo away Bimbo when he walked across one of Klee's still-wet watercolours. Klee stopped him. 'Many years from now,' Klee said, 'one of your art connoisseurs will wonder how in the world I ever got that effect.' [www.Mentalfloss.com](http://www.Mentalfloss.com), picture: Cat and Bird by Paul

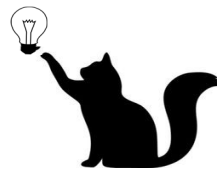
### How Many Cats Does it Take to Change a Light Bulb?

Korat: Oh knock it off and just change the damn bulb.

Ocicat: In the jungle we don't need lights.

Exotic: Anything U can do, I can do, better.

Persian: Hang on while I chase this parked car...OUCH!



[www.petplace.com](http://www.petplace.com)

### How to Annoy Your Cat

Wake up your cat from their nap holding an empty cat food tin under their nose.



100 Fun Ways to Annoy Your Cat by Jim Erskine



### Cat-tionary

Cataract - What the house looks like if you leave your cat alone for too long.

Catfish - What your cat does in in your aquarium.

Catwalk - Your cats daily exercise routine, consists of short trips to the food bowl.

### Where Did It Come From? - Bell The Cat



Meaning: To do a job, mostly difficult, that has few takers.

Origin: In 1482, a group of nobles wished to hang the favourites of King James 111. At the time Lord Gray asked a very pertinent question, 'Who will bell the cat?' Would anyone actually muster the courage to do the needful? Archibald Douglas, 5th Earl of Angus, undertook this responsibility and completed what needed to be done. [www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)

### House Rules Set By Cats



Leave the door open, you don't need privacy in the toilet.

If you do anything to my poop box, I must immediately rechristen it.

After sleeping, changing the position will not be tolerated.

Clean laundry will be considered as a bed.

[www.boredpanda.com](http://www.boredpanda.com)

### Live Like A Cat

*'Treat every cardboard box as if it were a castle, for imagination knows no bounds.'*

[www.sandjest.com](http://www.sandjest.com)



For a more organized home, make sure everything has a place



# 2024 Dublin Championship Cat Show

SABCCI

Ballinteer Community School, Ballinteer, Dublin 16

14th April 2024



This show was to be the usual joint show between SABCCI and GCCFI Support. Due to several judges cancelling out of the show last minute we could not find available judges to replace in judging of certain classes therefore we had no choice but to cancel the GCCFI Support show and run with a SABCCI show only. Unfortunately it still meant some breeds could not be entered as there was no judge to cover the class. We had an entry of 97 cats.

A thank you to all who helped with the show pre and on the day.

## SABCCI SHOW 2024 RESULTS

### Best of Variety

#### Section 1

**Neuter** - Mrs Harte's HibGrCh & Int Daisydaisycarts Day Dreamer (Persian)

#### Section 2

**Adult** - Mrs McClelland's Strangrfjordr Lorcan MacCuill ( Norwegian Forest)

**Kitten** - Mrs McNeely's Katez Ruben Carlendoola (Maine Coon)

**Neuter** - Dr Wagner's Sup IS, HibGrPr &Int Pr Silverfern French Kiss (Maine Coon)

#### Section 3

**Adult** - Mr Steele's Astralcharm Tailor Made (BSH)

**Kitten** - Mr Mckernan's Celticmoonpaws Daisy (BSH)

**Neuter** - Mrs Wren's Ch Delphinium Summer-Morning (BSH)

#### Section 4

**Adult** - Ms Kornat's Gaudi Emancypacja (Sphynx)

**Kitten** - Ms Kornat's Maol Campirna (Sphynx)

**Neuter** - Miss Mackenzie's GrPr Daddy Talkie Toaster (Devon Rex)

#### Section 5

**Adult** - Mr O'Brien's Isajen Paradisa (Burmese)

**Neuter** - Ms Sluiters' Pr Sliabh Ginhiroyuki (Burmese)

#### Section 6

**Kitten** - Ms Smidta's Shagio-Chen Kesar Mnago (Oriental)

### Overall Best In Show

Dr Wagner's Sup IS, HibGrPr &Int Pr Silverfern French Kiss

### Overall Best In Show Reserve

Mrs Wren's Ch Delphinium Summer-Morning

### Best In Show Non-Pedigree

Miss Weldon's Yankel

### Best In Show Pedigree Pet

Mr & Mrs Shackleton's Monty





# Cat's Hearing

Cats generally do not find the 'psss' sound offensive, but they may react to it with curiosity, alertness, or even mild discomfort depending on the context. The sound mimics the natural hissing noises that cats make when they feel threatened or defensive. As a result, cats may associate this noise with negative or cautious emotions. This doesn't mean they necessarily find it offensive, but they may interpret it as a warning or a signal to pay attention.

**Association with Hissing** - Cats naturally hiss when they feel scared, threatened, or defensive. When a human makes a similar "psss" sound, the cat might interpret it as a mild warning or a signal that something is wrong. They may become alert, cautious, or back away, thinking it is a precursor to aggression or danger. However, not all cats will react strongly, and some might simply ignore the sound if they do not feel particularly threatened.

**Startling Effect** - Cats have very sensitive hearing, and the 'psss' sound is often a sharp, sudden noise. This type of sound can startle a cat, making them stop what they are doing or turn their attention toward the source. While it may not be offensive, it can cause a momentary sense of confusion or surprise.

**Attention-Grabbing** - Some cat owners use the 'psss' sound to get their cat's attention, especially when the cat is engaging in unwanted behaviour (like scratching furniture or jumping on counters). Since the sound is distinct and different from regular human speech, it often serves as an effective way to break a cat's focus. However, if overused or used in a harsh way, the cat may start to associate it with negative outcomes and feel uncomfortable or stressed by it.

Cats are highly individualistic in their behaviour. While one cat may seem startled or defensive upon hearing the 'psss' sound, another may show no reaction at all. Some cats may even come closer out of curiosity, interpreting the sound as a form of communication rather than a threat. Others might ignore it completely, especially if they do not see any accompanying visual or physical cues that suggest danger.

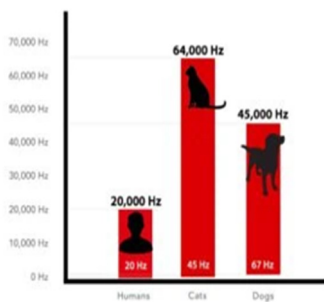
The 'psss' sound is not inherently offensive to cats, but its resemblance to a hiss and its sharpness can elicit different reactions depending on the cat's temperament, experiences, and the context in which the sound is used. It is important to note that repeatedly using the sound to discipline a cat may lead to stress or fear, so it is better to use positive reinforcement and gentle redirection when managing a cat's behaviour.

Cats possess extraordinary hearing abilities, making them highly efficient hunters and communicators. Their auditory system is finely tuned to detect a wide range of sounds, including high-frequency noises that are beyond the range of human perception. This acute sense of hearing is crucial to their survival, whether in the wild or as domestic pets.

**Anatomy of a Cat's Ear** - The structure of a cat's ear plays a vital role in its hearing capabilities. Cats have large, triangular ears that are mobile, allowing them to rotate and tilt to catch sounds from all directions. Their outer ears, known as pinnae, can move independently by up to 180 degrees. This flexibility helps cats pinpoint the exact location of a sound source without having to turn their heads. This is particularly useful in hunting situations, as it allows them to track prey silently and efficiently.

Inside the ear, cats have a highly developed cochlea, which contains specialized hair cells that convert sound vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain. The cat's auditory range is quite broad, from 48 Hz to 85 kHz, compared to the human range of 20 Hz to 20 kHz. This wide range allows cats to hear both low-frequency sounds, such as the movement of large animals, and high-frequency sounds, like the squeaks of rodents or the ultrasonic signals used by some animals for communication.

**Cats and High-Frequency Sounds** - One of the most remarkable aspects of a cat's hearing is its ability to detect high-pitched sounds. Cats can hear frequencies up to 85,000 Hz, which is far higher than the upper limit of human hearing. This heightened sensitivity helps them detect prey, such as mice, that communicate using ultrasonic calls. Because rodents emit sounds in this frequency range, cats' ability to hear these noises gives them an advantage in hunting and helps explain why they are so adept at catching small creatures.



Moreover, cats can differentiate between minute variations in sound. They can distinguish between a variety of tones, pitches, and distances, which helps them understand their environment better. This ability allows domestic cats to detect even the slightest movement, which can alert them to potential threats or opportunities, such as a bird flapping its wings or a mouse scurrying in the grass.

**Hearing and Communication** - In addition to their hunting abilities, cats use their hearing for communication. While they rely heavily on body language and scent marking, vocalizations also play a role in their interactions with humans and other animals. Cats can pick up on the tone of human voices, which may explain why many cats seem to respond differently to their owners depending on how they are spoken to. A soft, friendly tone may prompt a cat to approach, while a harsh or loud sound may cause the cat to retreat or become defensive.

Furthermore, cats have an innate ability to recognize the voices of their owners. Studies have shown that cats can distinguish their owner's voice from those of strangers, even if they do not always respond outwardly. This selective hearing showcases their ability to filter out irrelevant sounds and focus on what matters to them.

In summary, cats possess an extraordinary sense of hearing that enhances their survival, hunting abilities, and communication skills. Their ability to detect high-frequency sounds, coupled with the precision of their ear movements, makes them exceptional hunters and astute observers of their environment. This keen auditory sense, alongside their sharp vision and agility, is a testament to their evolutionary success both as predators and companions to humans.

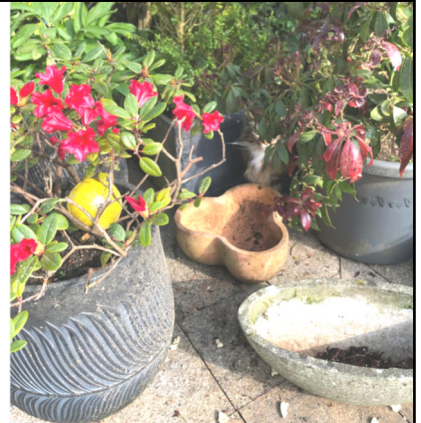
# The Catwalk



**Bosco -**

Where is Bosco?

R Brooks, Carlow



**Gus -**

Is that moose out there Plumps friend from page 5?

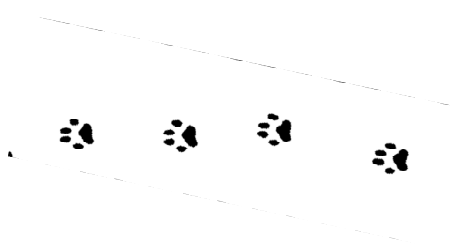
T. MacDonagh, USA



**Yankel -**

The majestic hunter.

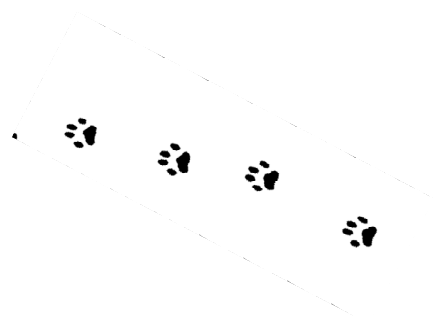
A. Weldon, Wicklow



**Dora -**

Dora 'The Explorer', a tiny fearless lady always on a mission!

K. O'Neill, Dublin



# The Catwalk



**Luna -**

Don't I look Perfect!

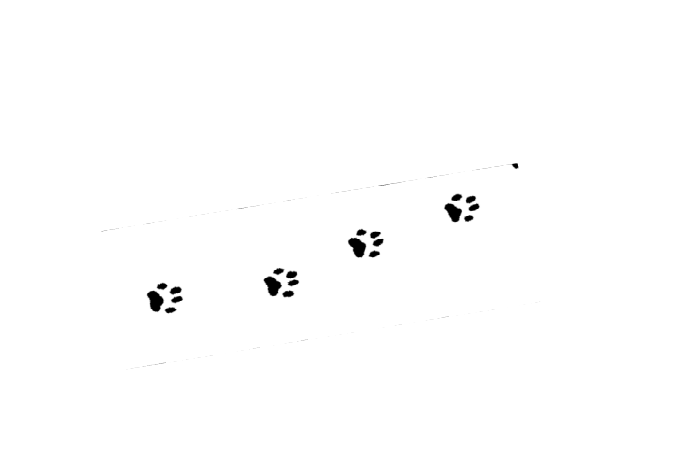
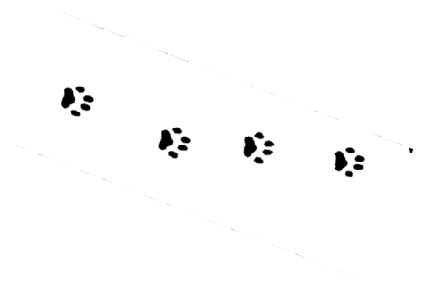
E. O'Regan, Kilkenny



**Canice -**

I swear I didn't do it!

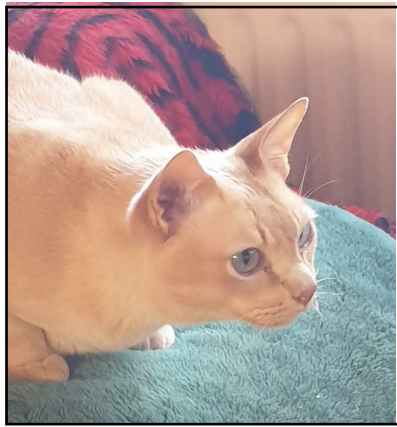
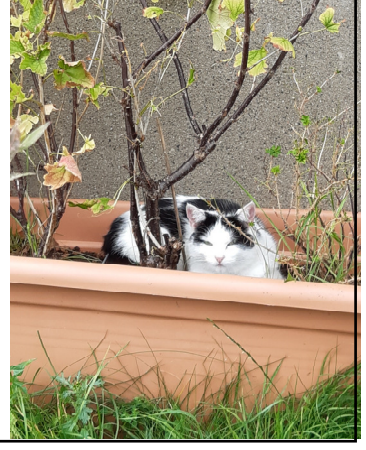
A. Weldon, Wicklow



**Autumn -**

No shade here!

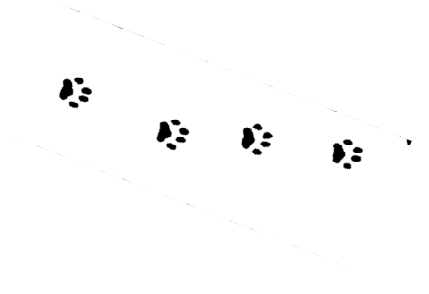
S. Hopkins, Dublin



**Joshi -**

I have that fly in my sights, I'll get him!

K. Sluifers, Dublin



## London Rental Crisis: Two Cats Advertise A Single Bed In A Kensal Rise Livingroom For £1,000 A Month

Two cats in Kensal Rise have apparently gained the keyboard skills to type out an advertisement on Sparreroom, subletting a single bed in the living room of their one-bedroom flat for £1,000 a month. The London rental crisis keeps breaking all records, but this sublet advertisement has to take the (fish-flavoured) biscuit.

‘We live with a lovely couple of humans who take care of us, they think the place is theirs, but it’s ours’ The furry live-in landlords go on to elaborate that ‘it’s a very large room with high ceilings, which we cats love to lounge around’.



The generous feline property barons stress that their human companions rarely use the communal space. ‘The female human is not around much so it’s just us and the male,’ they said. ‘Aside from watering the plants he never goes into the living room, so we thought we’d rent it out on a room-only basis.’ A single bed sits in the corner of the living room, facing two sofas. ‘The couch can also open into a double,’ said the cats. ‘You even have a desk in the corner if you do some work from home.’

There’s also a kitchen, dining room and a back garden, which is modelled by the furry slumlords prowling around an outdoor table. Funky cat accessories can be spotted in many of the accompanying photographs, including a scratching post disguised as a tree and a hammock in a sunny window spot.

It now costs £2,633 a month on average to rent a home London, according to the latest data from Rightmove. There are now only six postcodes in the whole of London where you could find a room to rent for under £800 a month. In Kensal Rise the average rent is now £2,478 a month, according to Hamptons, rising 22 per cent between 2019 and 2024. Private rents in the capital rose 11 per cent between April 2023 and 2024, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The tweet wording belies the increasingly feral situation that the London rental market has descended into. Potential tenants must be an ‘animal lover’ and ‘cool to share with us cats’. Still, if you like cats, it’s probably a better deal than the room advertised earlier this year that required free babysitting services.

Twitter user Eloise Hendy said the room advert, which she spotted cross-posted to the Facebook group ‘London sublets’, was proof that ‘the London rental scene is the wild west’. [www.standard.co.uk](http://www.standard.co.uk), I Blocks, June 2024, Photo Sparreroom

## Utah Cat Found Safe In California After Sneaking Into Amazon Return Box

In the famous Schrödinger’s cat hypothesis, a cat in a box is both alive and dead until someone looks inside – and in the case of one mischievous cat from Utah discovered inside an Amazon return package, it was very much alive.

The cat, Galena, survived being shipped all the way from Lehi, Utah, across the US to California after sneaking into the package. Galena, six, an indoor-only cat, travelled more than 500 miles in a 3-by-3ft shipping container, according to NBC. Galena endured six days of travel with no food or water, but was discovered in relatively good shape by an Amazon employee.



Her owner, Carrie Clark, first discovered that her beloved companion was missing on 10 April. Family and friends quickly helped her look for. ‘Galena, our super shy indoor cat escaped today,’ Clark wrote about Galena’s disappearance to a Facebook group for lost pets. ‘She’s a part of our family and has never been gone this long before.’

A week later, Clark and her husband got an astonishing notification from Galena’s microchip: the cat had been discovered in Los Angeles. At first she thought the notification was a mistake. But Galena the cat had actually been mailed cross-country.

Brandy Hunter, an Amazon worker at a California warehouse, said co-workers informed that they had found a cat in a returned package, Hunter said on Facebook. Hunter, who self-described as a ‘crazy cat lady’, took Galena in for the night, then to a local veterinarian. When the vet scanned Galena’s microchip the Clarks were instantly notified, and the vet also called the Clarks to confirm Galena was now in their care.

The Clarks hopped on a plane and travelled to California to be reunited. While ‘much skinnier’, Clark confirmed Galena was ‘completely unharmed’. ‘We’re in awe of all the tender mercies that have taken place. It’s a total miracle!’ she posted. She believes Galena may have gotten into the Amazon box while they were trying to seal the return delivery, she told the New York Times. Because the box already weighed more than 30lb, they did not notice the extra weight. ‘She doesn’t meow a lot and she loves boxes, so for her, she was really happy in that moment, I’m sure,’ Clark said. ‘Although I’m sure that wasn’t the case later on.’ [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com). G. Oladipo, April 2024, Photo C. Clarke

### Did You Know?

- Cats like to nap rather than sleep but if relaxed enough to enter a deeper sleep, they produce the same brain wave patterns that we do when we dream.
- Like dogs, cats can also get sick or die from eating chocolate.

## When Cats Chew Catnip It Releases Mosquito-repelling Chemicals

By chewing and spitting out catnip and silver vine leaves, cats cause higher concentrations of natural insect repellents to be released from the plants, suggesting a possible reason for the strange behaviour they induce in felines.

Both catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) and silver vine (*Actinidia polygama*) produce chemicals from a group called iridoids that repel mosquitoes, flies, roaches and possibly other insects or mites. Most cats, on the other hand, appear to be intoxicated by their scent, often licking, chewing and rubbing their bodies on the plants.

Masao Miyazaki at Iwate University in Japan and his colleagues wondered why cats have these reactions. Last year, they found that when cats rub their heads in these plant leaves, they coat themselves in nepetalactol, an iridoid compound that repels mosquitoes.

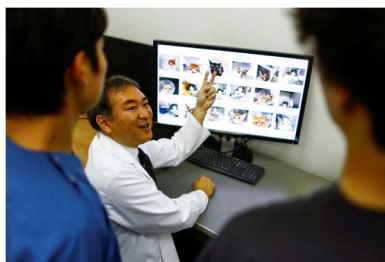
The scientists were still curious about why cats chew and spit out the leaves, however. Cats swallow little of the catnip and silver vine that they lick and chew, so the research group suspected that the animals weren't getting a medicinal effect from swallowing the plants.

Noticing that torn and crumpled catnip and silver vine have a much stronger odour, the team decided to test the concentrations of iridoids in leaves either crushed by cats' mouths or crumpled and ripped by human hands. The damaged leaves of farmed catnip plants emitted 20 times more iridoids into the air compared with undamaged leaves, says Miyazaki. Emissions from wild silver vine plants were 10-fold greater when the leaves had been chewed by cats and up to 40-fold greater when they had been chopped up by humans – although the reason for that difference isn't yet known, he adds.

Between the two kinds of plants, the damaged catnip released about 40 times more iridoids into the same space than damaged silver vine did. But silver vine contains a wider variety of iridoids than catnip, which appears to make up for its lower concentrations, says Miyazaki. The emissions from both plants effectively repelled young female Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*) in the laboratory, and the eight test cats all equally rubbed, licked and rolled on perforated plastic boxes filled with either catnip or silver vine.

The findings suggest that the damaged plants could offer an effective mosquito repellent for anyone – not just cats, says Miyazaki, adding that he himself had no bites on his own arm after rubbing it with damaged silver vine leaves. However, the study doesn't prove that repelling insects is the reason for the cats' behaviour – it may just be a coincidence.

www.newscientist.com, C. Leste-Lasserre, June 2022



## Artificial intelligence (AI) Can Now Detect Whether Your Cat Is In Pain By Looking At Its Face

The AI app was trained using 6,000 pictures of cats, and developers say it is more than 95% accurate.

The head of the Animal Medical Centre at Nihon University worked on the app. He said vets like him can tell to a certain degree whether an animal is in pain or not, but it's harder for owners. 'More than 70% of elderly cats have arthritis or pain, but only 2% of them actually go to a hospital,' said Professor Edamura. 'So rather than a final diagnosis, we use [the app] as a tool to make owners aware of whether the situation is normal or not.'

More than 230,000 people have used the app since it launched in Japan last year. Mayumi Kitakata lives in Tokyo with her 14-year-old cat Chi. She uses the app to read his face each day. 'He is at an age where more and more diseases are going to appear,' said Ms Kitakata. 'So being able to consult the vet but still reduce the number of visits to the hospital is very important for him and for me.'

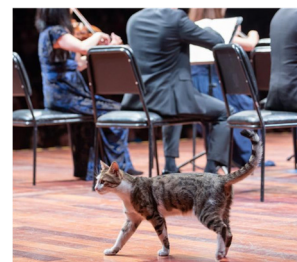
Photo above- Professor Edamura giving a lecture to students on diagnosis of pain in cats - Reuters, www.news.sky.com

## What Do You Do When Your Performance Is Disrupted By Animals?

Earlier this month, a video went viral that showed a carefree cat walking along the front of the stage during a performance of Beethoven Symphony no.6 'Pastoral' at the Istanbul Music Festival. Interruptions from animal audience members happen more often than you might think – indeed our staff writer for 'The Strad' and violinist Rita Fernandes has performed at the same venue in Istanbul, and confirms the presence of many furry felines. 'There are cats everywhere in that concert hall,' she says. 'The cats are so used to humans that they totally own the space.'

The incident in Istanbul was generally met with approval, nods of acknowledgement from members of the orchestra and a frisson of excitement from cat lovers in the audience. I know I'd personally remember favourably any performance that features a cat – for example, in 2013 I was playing in a fresco performance of another Beethoven symphony, the 'Eroica' at the Anghiari Festival in Italy. A big orange cat chose the half-tempo section near the end of the final movement to sit in front of the conductor's podium and loaf majestically during the triumphant horn theme. What a soundtrack.

www.thestrاد.com, Playing Hub, Photo: Muhenna Kahveci, June 2024

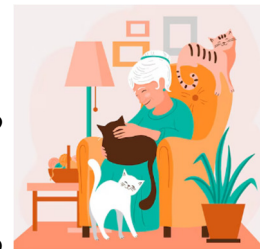


**H**aving a bad day? I'm sure a small box and a cat could fix that.

sandjest.com



## Owning Pets Helps Stave Off Dementia For People Over 50 Living On Their Own



Caring for a pet helps stave off cognitive decline for people over 50 who live on their own, according to a new study of almost 8,000 participants. Researchers found that pet ownership was associated with slower rates of decline in verbal memory and verbal fluency among the older adults who were living alone. The study included 7,945 mostly-white British participants from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing with an average age of 66. Followed over an eight year period, more than a third of the group (35.1 percent) owned pets; about 30% of the group lived alone.

Previous studies suggested that solitary living is a risk factor for developing dementia and cognitive decline, but among those folks, raising dogs or cats was related to reduced loneliness.

The new research published in JAMA Network aimed to further explore the association between aging by oneself - a trend which has been on the rise over the past few decades - and pet ownership. And the results were clear. 'Pet ownership offset the associations between living alone and declining rates in verbal memory and verbal fluency,' said study corresponding author Professor Ciyong Lu, of Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China. It was 'a significant modifier' in all 3 associations - composite verbal cognition, verbal memory, and verbal fluency.

Prof. Lu is now calling for clinical trials that could help inform public health measures to address dementia among the elderly. 'Pet ownership was associated with slower rates of decline among older adults living alone.' But owning a cat or dog did not make any difference for older people who lived with other people. 'These findings suggest that pet ownership may be associated with slower cognitive decline among older adults living alone.'

[www.goodnewsnetwork.org](http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org)

## Flabby Feline Has Taken To Swimming Lessons For Losing Weight - And It's Working

A fat cat that weighs more than double his healthy size has been thrown into the deep end on a mission to lose weight by swimming. Moses, who weighs as much as a French bulldog, started the unusual hydrotherapy sessions in a bid to slim down in much the same way that people with bad knees, a bad back, bad hips, or too great a body mass index use pools to start exercising. The nine-year-old cat piled on the pounds after refusing to go outside or exercise despite his owner putting him on countless diets.



At Avonvale Veterinary Centre in Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, staff say that his weight loss mission is going 'swimmingly.' 'When he first came to us, Moses was nearly 10kg in weight,' said Olivia Stokes, veterinary hydrotherapist, meaning 22 pounds. 'His owner said he had been on diets and been encouraged to exercise before but had still not been able to lose weight. So, we decided to try a different approach with hydrotherapy. I have been in the industry for five years and a qualified hydrotherapist for almost two years, and I have never experienced hydro with a cat before, so Moses was a first for me.'

Obviously this was because Moses didn't like water, as is true for so many cats. Stokes tried a variety of toys and treats to get Moses started but eventually switched to tougher methods, including starting him on a moving treadmill before adding water. Now she says that Moses sits and waits on the treadmill for the water level to come up before starting. Once he has been walking for 13 minutes, I then lift him up, raise the water level further, and swim him for a couple of minutes to give him a full body workout,' she added.

Moses is now starting to shape up, and as well as losing weight has become far more active and livelier at home. He is already down 2.2 pounds, and the vets see an increase in muscle tissue as well. 'That's a loss in body weight of almost four percent in about six weeks, which is perfect as we don't want to lose the weight too quickly,' said Stokes. 'The important thing is that his body shape is clearly changing as he loses the fat and builds back muscle.'

'I am very proud of Moses' progression; he's even walking with the incline on the treadmill now.' Moses' owner Jenna Joshi is thrilled with her pet's progress. 'I could see a difference almost straight away,' she remembers. 'After his first hydro session, he came through the cat flap, which he hadn't done in a long time. We are still having regular weight checks, still doing hydrotherapy, and making good progress. It was difficult at first but now he doesn't complain and knows exactly what he needs to do when he goes for his sessions.'

The best treatment for overweight animals is to monitor their food intake and don't let them get fat in the first place. It can take far more time for a house pet to lose weight than even a semi-determined human being, but fortunately Moses has a strong will and a determined human. [www.goodnewsnetwork.com](http://www.goodnewsnetwork.com), A. Corbley, Photo Avonvale Veterinary Centres via SWNS



Restaurant Signs  
In  
Galway & Spain



## Live Like A Cat

**P** *ractice the fine balance of grace and mischief; be elegant in your movements but playful at heart.*

[www.sandjest.com](http://www.sandjest.com)



# KIT'S KORNER



## Spot The Difference

Can you spot the 10 differences between these 2 pictures?

## 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 ^..^

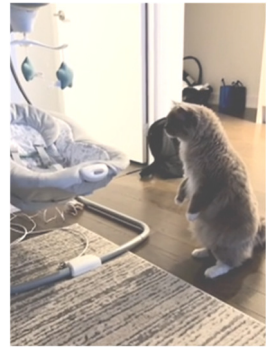
### Cat's Shock and Horror As Owners Bring Home Firstborn: 'An Alien'

A cat who had spent most of its life as an only child had no idea what to think when its owners brought home their firstborn. Ragdoll Trudy was adopted by Keon Parsa and Shelby Kemp four years ago and, naturally, got used to being the center of attention. So when Parsa and Kemp brought home their newborn son Rumi six weeks ago, there was always going to be a bit of an adjustment period.

A video shared to TikTok by Parsa on April 8 has gone massively viral, garnering more than 9 million views so far as it showed Trudy's reaction to, as Parsa put it, when 'your parents bring home an alien.' The clip starts with the very first meeting: Parsa and Kemp walking in the door with their son, and Trudy staring with a shocked impression - before taking off running, leaving a rug askew in her wake.

A montage of the next few days shows Trudy warily sniffing the baby boy in his carrier before backing away, bewildered; watching from a distance as he swings in a rocker; and checking out the swaddled newborn with an expression that can only be described as confused distrust.

An online publication from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals warns that 'some cats do not tolerate change well. There are the cats most likely to be affected by a new baby, so use the entire pregnancy to slowly prepare them.' It advises that, during pregnancy, expectant parents should 'play tapes of baby noises to acclimate your cat to the new sounds she's about to hear, or rub baby lotion on your hands before engaging in a pleasant activity with your cat to create positive associations with baby odours.' [www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com), R. O'Connor, May 2024. Photo: Parsa's TikTok



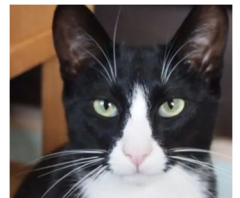
### Ipswich Cat Burglar Theo Steals Milkman's Money

A kleptomaniac cat notorious for stealing items from its neighbours has 'finally brought home something of real value' - £25.70 in cash. Pilfering puss Theo became known for thieving Christmas decorations and toys in Ipswich, which owner Rachael Drouet would then try to return. She had joked it might be useful if he brought home cash instead of 'tat'.

So he did. The eight-year-old Siamese cross stole the money a neighbour had left out for the milkman. Ms Drouet and her family recently moved to a new house in the town and thought Theo might have left his thieving habits behind him. Far from mending his ways, the filching feline upped his game and stole a plastic bag containing the cash.

Luckily there was a note inside with an address, and Ms Drouet's partner Paul Edwards was able to return the money to their neighbour. He explained we have an Asbo cat, Ms Drouet said. 'The young lad smiled, took the money and acted like that kind of thing happened all the time.'

Mr Edwards said it had been a 'great way for me to introduce our cat's behaviour to the new neighbours'. The couple said: 'Stern words [were] had with Theo - he said he thought it was his old favourite - an empty charity bag. Mistake pointed out, he was full of apologies.' [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), Photo: R. Drouet & P. Edwards



### Inside Japan's Cat Island Where Felines Are Worshipped At An Altar

Cats as far as the eye can see: your idea of heaven or hell? - Tashirojima, off Japan's northeastern coast, is home to more than 100 cats, leaving space for only 50 humans. Along a paved road running two kilometres between the island's two ports, cats groom themselves and mingle with other cats. Everything is built around their comfort, so you won't find any car rental shops, petrol stations or public transportation here. Tourists are expected to walk up and down the island's hills while visiting. Most of the cats are used to tourists, who can be seen petting the friendly animals throughout the island. There are a few cafes in Tashirojima where, you guessed it, the cats are fed.

Fishermen on the island have traditionally believed that cats bring good luck, including large hauls of fish. Another legend says fishermen used to watch the cats' behaviour for tips on the coming weather before heading out to sea.

The islanders have long coexisted with the cats. One day, however, a fisherman accidentally injured a cat while working. Feeling sorry for the injury, the islanders built the shrine for cats. Now, visitors make offerings at the shrine.

The 'Neko Jinja,' or Cat Shrine, mythologises cats as guardian angels of Tashirojima. Legend says the island used to be famous for sericulture and farmers would keep cats because they would chase away rats, protecting the silkworm cocoons from the rodents. [www.euronews.com](http://www.euronews.com), R. Wright, May 2024 Photo: AP photo/Hiro Komae



Quiz Answers: page 7

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Mr Jinks                | 5 Hamilton   |
| 2 Whiskers                | 6 Singapura  |
| 3 Nala                    | 7 Antarctica |
| 4 A Street Cat Called Bob | 8 Mrs Norris |

Always  
kiss your  
CAT GOODNIGHT

If cats could talk, They wouldn't.

Nan Porter

