

I Love **CATS**

November/December 2004

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Holidays
Happy: Avoid
Common Kitty
Hazards**

**Holiday Gift
Guide**

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I Love CATS

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Cover photo—Sue Johnson

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If you are moving, please give us 8 weeks notice. Please include your name and old address as well as your new address and send it to *I Love Cats*, P.O. Box 7013, Red Oak, IA 51591-0013

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Playful or pensive, cuddly or coy, cats have a way of captivating our hearts. Now show your love for the feline friend in your life with the exclusively designed "Cats Leave Paw Prints on Our Hearts Keepsake Pendant."

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Paws for Thought

By Lisa M. Allmendinger, editor

As announced last month, here is an early Christmas gift from us – a new, larger format for *I Love Cats Magazine*.

And in addition, we have provided you with a holiday gift guide that features fun, new products that will fit the budget and tastes of every cat lover.

As the holidays begin to engulf our day-to-day life, don't forget your kitties and don't ever underestimate their curiosity when "hiding gifts," decorating the house for the festivities, and preparing food. Ribbons and lights and snack food in bowls are very inviting. Plus, we've spelled them out in a story to ensure that this holiday season is a terrific one for you and your cats.

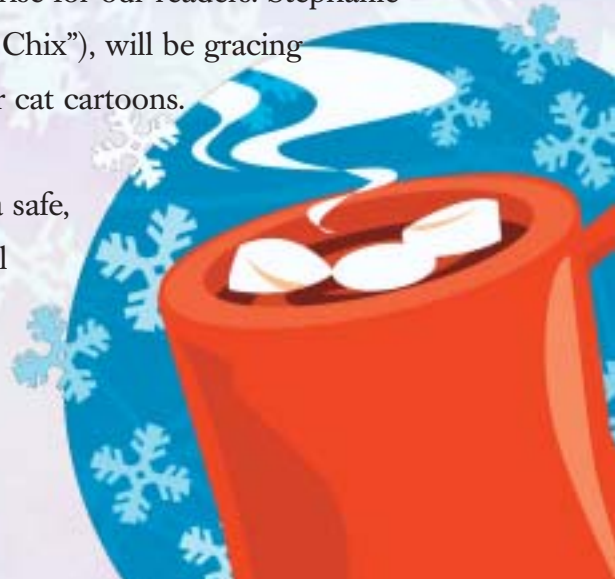
We have all kinds of new and fun stories in this issue for you – in addition to its transformation into a full-sized publication. Take a break from all the hoopla and enjoy a smile or two while reading some of the funny antics of our favorite felines. Try your luck at two new quizzes and learn about the advances in veterinary care. Delight in the work of feline artists who strutted their "paws ability" – talk about paws for a cause – for an Oregon Humane Society fund-raiser.

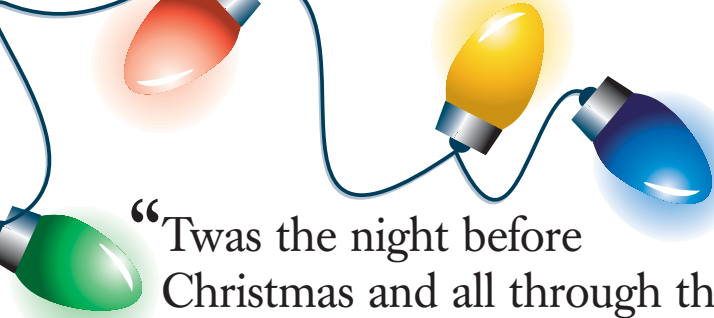
Simon, the Christmas Cat, is truly a one-of-a-kind kitty while the demands of cynical cats are made loud and clear.

And last but not least, we have another cool surprise for our readers. Stephanie Piro, a syndicated cartoonist ("Fair Game" and "Six Chix"), will be gracing the pages of *I Love Cats* with her wonderfully clever cat cartoons.

Read all about Piro and her work in this issue.

The staff of *I Love Cats* wishes all of our readers a safe, happy and healthy holiday season filled with special memories of family and felines.





Holiday Hazards

By Sheila Pursglove

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house ...”

was sheer panic as we raced our Abyssinian, Callie, to the emergency veterinarian after finding red streaks in her litter box deposits.

Sixty bucks later – and considerably wiser – we found out the little minx had been chomping on the red velvet bows adorning the Christmas tree.

Since red velvet cat BMs are unlikely to catch on as holiday ornaments, our Christmas trees no longer wear bows, and all other decorations – tinsel in the tummy being another feline no-no – are placed high and out of reach of paws and whiskers.

Not that Callie wouldn't be tempted to climb a tree, but deterrent spray and removing immediate temptation to higher branches seemed to have worked well in subsequent years, and kept our angel atop the tree from being whiskerless.

Ribbon and tinsel can cause major harm to the intestines, so be very careful both with tree decorations and at gift-wrapping (and unwrapping) time. Inspect gifts placed under the tree – store any with ribbons, or that contain edible goodies until unwrapping time.

Our (fake) holiday tree has, of necessity, become pretty basic – no electric lights (hence no cords to chew), no candy, no glass trinkets, angel hair, icicles, artificial snow or metal hooks – just very basic, unbreakable wood-or-plastic ornaments, mostly Popsicle stick monstrosities created by my offspring over the years. It won't win an award from Martha Stewart, but neither will it kill my cat.

I relegate lights to exterior displays, and hang ornaments and decorations I deem anti-feline way out of harm's – and Callie's – way. The main advantage to a fake tree is, no watering – ergo, no water to become a stagnant breeding ground for bacteria, or to contain harmful fertilizer. No pine needles dropping, a respite both for your vacuum

cleaner and your cat's tummy. Also, no toxic tree tar seeping out of the wood.

Tree life extenders added to water can be toxic as can the aspirin some people dissolve

in water to prolong the life of cut flowers and trees. Keeping your tree in a room you can close off is ideal. If that's not possible, to minimize accidental knock-downs, tie the tree to something sturdy – there are those who even nail it to the floor.

Holiday plants are pretty – but holly, mistletoe, lilies

and poinsettia all have toxic potential, so keep well away from cats.

Mountains of chocolate and other goodies are not only bad

Ribbon and tinsel can cause major harm to the intestines, so be very careful both with tree decorations and at gift-wrapping (and unwrapping) time.

for your waistline – they could also be a toxic disaster for your cat. So if you must indulge, keep goodies under wraps, or remove to safety immediately.

You can also keep kitty incarcerated in a bedroom or somewhere safe, while the table is groaning beneath the weight of turkeys, pies, chocolate, candies, yeast, eggnog, chocolate-covered espresso beans, and alcoholic beverages. Dispose of aluminum

foil and plastic wraps used in cooking or covering candies. If junior has toys with batteries, (are there any that don't require batteries?) or, if you've been gifted with a camera or other electronics requiring batteries, the corrosives could cause ulceration to the mouth, tongue and gastrointestinal tract. Plus, you certainly don't need a battery-powered feline.

Liquid potpourris may make your home smell delicious, but your cat may investigate the simmer pot, lick up a spill, or rub against the containers then groom himself. A poisoning emergency is definitely not worth the pretty smell. Potpourri burners and candles should both be no-no's if sharing the holidays with felines.

Since the holiday season is also prime time for colds, make sure all medications are out of your cat's reach.

Holiday guests won't be quite as primed to cat-proofing as you are – don't be shy about supplying guests with a set of house rules – with frequent reminders if necessary – to keep your pet safe.

And yes, kitty might look cute with a festive ribbon around his neck, but it could cause choking or strangulation. Remember, cats love to play in boxes and bags. One Christmas, I almost put Callie out with the garbage when she climbed – unnoticed – into a garbage bag while I was tidying up after a gift unwrapping frenzy.

Finally, be prepared. Keep the numbers of your local veterinarian, emergency vet service and the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (1-888-426-4435) handy – and remember that your local veterinarian will probably be on shorter hours during the holiday season. If you suspect that your cat has ingested something poisonous, seek medical attention immediately. 🐾

Sheila Pursglove has written previously for I Love Cats. She lives in Saline, MI.

Panther Ridge Sanctuary: Home to Exotic Cats

Photos by Cheryl Bender

Sixteen endangered cats – including ocelots, cougars, a black leopard and a tiger – call Panther Ridge in Wellington, FL home.

Meet Tristan, a 550-pound Bengal tiger, who is just one of the inhabitants of this marvelous not-for-profit home for exotic cats, which have been rescued from abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Tristan was born in Texas and was taken in by Judy Berens and Gail Laviola, caretakers of Panther Ridge, when he was just 11 days old. The tiger was

purchased by a German film crew to show how easy it was to buy an exotic animal in the United States.

“Tristan loves people, he’s very willing to come down and get close to them and entertain them,” Berens said. “The rest of the time, like most cats, he sleeps and plays with his toys.”

The Bengal Tiger has an extensive vocabulary, Berens says, adding that she and Laviola hear it loud and clear at feeding time.

Many of the animals at Panther Ridge have been rescued from neglect, abuse or abandonment and often after the state seizes them from people. Panther Ridge provides a safe, lifetime shelter with first-class veterinary care for these exotic cats.

“I’ve got the location, the

dedication and expertise to do this,” Berens says. “It requires extreme dedication and there are very few people willing to take on the responsibility. This gives me an opportunity to give back in an area where I have some expertise. There is an unbelievable need to take care of these big cats and there just aren’t enough places.”

The two women also give educational tours and explain the plight that these cats face.

The cats are in large, maintained enclosures with double locked doors. Each door has a different lock on it. The cats are surrounded by well-groomed landscaping that protects them from the heat and each cat has toys and a lounging area.

A stone path takes visitors from feline-to-feline.

Also living there are Amos, a black leopard, Duma, an African serval, Monte and Cody, a pair of 7-year-old male ocelots, Charlie, C.J. and Coco, cougars and Eros and China, rare clouded leopards from Southeast Asia.

Panther Ridge Sanctuary is a 501(e)(3) not-for-profit corporation and is registered with the State of Florida and has a Web site:

www.pantherridgesanctuary.org, if you would like more information. 🐾



Maya and Judy

Maya (left); Tristan (right).



DEMANDS of the Cynical Feline

By Amber Chattee Saunders

Normally, I wouldn't say anything, especially since it is my solemn oath as a cat never to speak in the presence of the non-furry folk, but there are some things that have to be addressed. In the past, let's say 500 years, we cats have not been receiving the respect that we strongly believe we deserve.

Names

Allow me to begin with the most important issue. When I hold my bimonthly conferences with the other cats in the neighborhood, our discussions usually lead back to the one thing that irritates us the most about you people. Well, I'll just be blunt about it. You give us stupid names. It hasn't been a real problem since most cats have embarrassing names. Just think of it more as an inner conflict.

It's hard to respect yourself when you have a name like Mr. Button-Fluffy-Snowball-Head. This is, unfortunately, my name because my human made the mistake of allowing her 5-year-old female offspring to name me.

Personally, I lay the blame right at the feet of that ridiculous musical. I will not go in depth about the absurdity of the musical. I think you've all learned your lesson on that one. The bottom line is, give your cats strong and powerful names that we can possess with pride. Stick with the basics: Zeus, Killer, The Destroyer.

Children

An issue I have briefly noted is the problem with children. I don't hate children. Most cats don't hate children. Those felines who do hate them, hate everyone, so don't take it personally. Although, I do hate tail pulling, rough hugs, and being pinned down. I also despise being dressed up in doll clothes and pushed around in a stroller.

Hiding, I have discovered, is the best. However, cat lovers, if there is an instant where the child does happen to catch us, do not become angry if the child gets an accidental nick. It was an accident.

Leashes

I think it is high time we discussed leashes. This simple misunderstanding can easily be solved. We are not dogs. We are cats. Do not put leashes on us.

Sweaters

While we are on the subject of restraints, don't put sweaters on us. They itch. They are unnecessary (unless your cat is hairless).

I know that they must cost a lot of money and we will try to destroy them

at all costs. So, don't waste your cash. Dogs wear sweaters because they have no shame. Again, we are not dogs. We are cats. Do not put sweaters on us.

Do's

I do not want to come across as a negative kitty, there are also a lot of "do's" for humans to keep in mind. For instance, always put the cat above anyone else who has entered the home. Say, a 300-pound human. Just because this person might be allergic to me, why must you lock us in another room?

It is relatively easy to appease a cat. We don't ask for much. Feed us. Clean out our litter boxes on a regular basis. As much as we hate it, get us fixed. I'm not ready to be a father and I'm guessing that you're not ready to purchase five extra food bowls and clean five extra litter boxes.

Above all, love us unconditionally. We deserve it. 🐾

– Mr. Buttons-Fluffy-Snowball-Head

Amber Chattee Saunders lives in Huntsville, AL. This is her first story in I Love Cats.



“Everything You Ever Needed To Know About Your Cat That Your Cat Wants So Much To Tell You But Simply Can’t...”

***Everything* Your Cat Ever Wished You to Know In An Invaluable Single Reference!**

“A rich treasure trove of insider tips and must-have info! Every cat owner MUST read McIntosh’s book to make their cat the happiest, healthiest, most enjoyable feline possible...”

-- “Inside Cats”

Did you know that when your cat is healthy and happy, then YOU are too?

Of course! Makes all kinds of sense, doesn’t it? AND it’s really true.

Cat owners like you and I:

- Live longer
- Are a whole lot happier
- Are a lot more joyful
- And we live a lot less stressful lives!

We all know that cats are smart, sensitive and wonderful companions. Which is why your cat deserves everything you have to give!

But... let’s face it, cats are also very mysterious. It’s built right into cats... and it’s a part of their irresistible charm.

You know what I’m talking about!

From the adorable kitten chasing invisible spooks to the adult cat who’s the master of stealth, they all have their own little secrets.

We love this about ‘em!

But if you live with a cat, you’ve got to be in on at least one category of their secrets: **the secrets of raising and caring for a healthy, happy cat.**

There’s an enormous number of cat owners today who’ve missed this information... and whose cats, therefore, miss out on peak health and a harmonious home.

In fact, with your copy of Richard McIntosh’s book, *“How to Love, Care for & Nurture Your Cat for Life”* you place yourself among the ranks of superior, responsible pet owners who genuinely care about the life they share with their cat.

You’ll get a great read that’s also *searchable* because it’s an ebook – so it’s a source you can refer to again and

again for instant answers to all your cat questions!

You’ll discover:

- **The special care every kitten and cat needs to thrive.**
- Why even these pets (known for their cleanliness) sometimes need grooming (*we’ll show you how!*)
- **What you *must* know about cats who live outdoors**
- How proper feeding prevents health problems and saves money on vet bills!
- 5 ways cats actually improve your health!
- **How to correct a cat’s bad habits** (*yep, they really can be convinced!*)
- **The food that’s very bad for your cat’s teeth... and should be avoided!**
- The 6 best ways to evaluate your cat’s weight... too fat or thin?
- **5 tell-tale signs of serious feline dental problems!**
- 4 easy, fun and *free* ways to exercise your cat...
- **How to keep your cat from scratching furniture** (*and no, it’s not “declawing”*)
- 3 time-tested things that will make trips to the vet easier!
- How to deal with common illnesses and injuries.
- **Easy ways to reduce pet allergies!**
- Which simple household items make great cat toys?



Photo by Marge Gibson

... and tons of other important and FUN to read info!

And you can get your own copy of

“How to Love, Care for & Nurture Your Cat for Life” right now!

Simply go to...

www.meowmeowinc.com

...and you’ll be able to download the book instantly for just \$21.97!

Now... one other thing I want to point out is this:

Cats can be particularly difficult to “read” in terms of how they’re feeling

physically – their self-contained ways can mask illness if you don’t know what to look for.

But you’ll learn what to look for, and how to know when to call the vet... or when to get to the vet immediately.

This information alone makes *“How to Love, Care for & Nurture Your Cat for Life”* absolutely invaluable...

You could even save your cat’s life.

“How to Love, Care for & Nurture Your Cat for Life” gives you the information, the how-to directions and the confidence to provide the best home and best life for your cat.

And if you’re like me, you’ll agree that these wonderful companions deserve the very best!

To order or find out more about *“How to Love, Care for & Nurture Your Cat for Life”* simply visit the website at

www.meowmeowinc.com

To order or find out more about Don’t you think you owe it to your cat to at least check it out? You won’t regret it!



Stephanie Piro Cartoons Appear in *I Love Cats*

If you read the comic pages in a major newspaper, you've probably seen Stephanie Piro's wonderfully clever cartoons. But what I bet you didn't know is she's a CAT PERSON! Once a week, in "Fair Game," a feline is a prominent figure.

Piro is an award-winning, syndicated cartoonist, designer, illustrator and certified cat lover. She lives with FOUR feline companions – Reynard, Spacey, Big Eric and Conor Maken (named after a friend who is allergic to cats.)

For 20 years, Piro has made her fans laugh out loud each Wednesday – when "Fair Game" runs as a single panel. She is one of six female cartoonists with King Features and her work runs six days a week. She said she "sneaks cats into her cartoons as often as possible."

Her cartoons have been licensed to calendar and greeting card companies and she also has a company called Strip T's Design Company, where she has

produced a successful line of

cat design T-shirts. Check out her Web site:

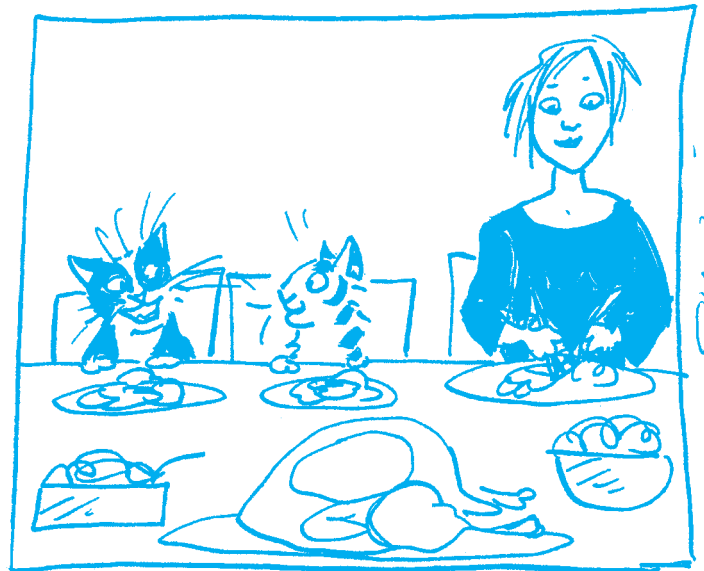
www.stephaniepiro.com.

Piro is also frequently tapped by animal and cat shelters across the country to assist them with fund-raisers.

I Love Cats is honored to include her work on its pages as one of its valued contributors. And we



"Happy Holidays!"



"I'm thankful for the turkey... and the occasional small rodent!"

hope readers will embrace her humor as well.

Piro has been cartooning professionally for more than 20 years and she's been living with cats even longer, so we hope that this little gift to you makes you smile.

Don't hesitate to let her know what you think of the cartoons we publish in *I Love Cats* during the next year. Her e-mail address is piro@worldpath.net. She'd love to hear from you. 🐾

PET SITTERS INTERNATIONAL

By Joyce White, contributing editor

Photos By Charlie Worton

On March 17, Pet Sitters International (PSI), the leading organization in the professional pet-sitting industry, celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Formally founded in 1994 by Patti Moran, PSI with its nearly 6,000 members, is the largest professional pet sitters' organization in the world.

"Our purpose is to educate professional pet sitters and to promote, support and recognize excellence in the industry," Moran says.

When she opened a pet-sitting business in 1983, people didn't take her seriously. After all, who needed a sitter when relatives and neighbors extended this service for nothing? Now, 20 years later, thousands have followed her into the business.

"In 1983, I left the corporate arena to become a pet sitter for the same reasons others are doing today: Pride in owning a business, working with animals and a flexible schedule.

"After seeing a demand for the service, I developed an organization that offered a network for support, education, training and much more. Today, the profession is in demand in every community," she said.

PSI provides members with many benefits, including group rates on liability insurance and dishonesty

bonds. Membership in a trade organization also gives individual owners credibility in the business. Some of PSI's innovations include:

- The first bi-monthly magazine specifically for the industry: The WORLD of Professional Pet Sitting.
- PSI Pet Sitter of the Year Award.
- National Professional Pet Sitters Week held each March.
- Accreditation Program for PSI members.
- Annual Quest for Excellence convention to educate and support professional pet sitters.
- Take Your Dog to Work Day, which encourages animal adoption.
- Bi-annual State of the Industry surveys.

"I'm thrilled that PSI has come so far," Moran says. "It's a great feeling to know it has done so much to advance the industry."

According to PSI's 2003 State of the Industry Survey:

- The typical pet sitting business operates 61 hours a week, which includes more than one part-time contractor.
- The average visit takes 36 minutes for 1-2 pets in the home. Most visits include feeding, watering, walking and playing with the animal(s), taking in the newspaper and alternating blinds and lights.
- For additional fees, most pet sitters usually offer services such as house sitting, over-night pet sitting, grooming, transportation and more.



- The average sitter charges \$14.36 per hour.
- The survey attributes vacations, midday walks, overtime at work, and business trips as the primary reason clients use the service.

"For owners, in-home pet sitting provides an alternative to boarding the pet – or relying on family or neighbors to check on the animal. Sitters come to the client's home daily and they are able to keep up the regular routine of feeding, walks, medication, as well as giving the one-on-one care that is so essential to a pet's well being."

Owners report that their pets suffer less stress and adjust better to their absence when they can remain in their own environment. There is the added bonus of home security because the sitters make sure the house looks lived in.

Pet owners looking for a professional sitter can visit PSI's locator Web at www.petsit.com to find contact information for their area. Pet sitters seeking support and money-saving benefits of an international membership association can receive a free information packet from PSI by calling 336-983-9222. 🐾



*Joyce White is the contributing editor to I Love Cats.
She lives in British Columbia, Canada.*



By Miss Aggie Cat

We cats never stay dirty and will not even use a dirty litter box, but a baby just doesn't seem to care how he smells.

I just do not get it.

Can you tell me why, whenever a human being sees a kitten or a cat, or God forbid, a dog, they forget how to speak English and in a normal tone, and start this high-pitched dribble as they reach for us?

Do they actually believe we understand such blubbering rather than normal speech, and do they think we can only hear them if they switch to a higher octave?

I suggest to humans that the next time they see a four-legged friend, they just listen to themselves. They lose all sanity as they slip into this sickening monologue. They coo and declare how precious we are, how soft we feel, how much they adore us. This is just plain nuts, especially if they don't even KNOW us.

And the sad part is they talk to us in this same sappy way forever. I mean, Jean still breaks into this new language whenever we commune, and we've been together forever! But, it isn't just me. Jean does this with every cat, dog, bird, or horse. Now, THAT is something to behold.

You know how big a horse is, right? There is not one thing cute or cuddly about a horse, yet I actually heard her drool to one of them, "Mama loves you. Are you mama's girl? How did you get to be so beautiful?" and on and on and on, 'til both the horse and I nearly puked.

Let me tell you that baby talk in a sing-songy voice to a grown horse is just plain nuts.

I gotta admit to you, though, if a human coos and drools over a beautiful feline such as myself, it is understandable how they fall prey to our charms and beauty. But a dog? Ugh! A horse?

How about a goat (yup, she used to use all that sugary talk to Willy T. Goat, and there was not one single endearing thing about that goat!) No, sir, I just do not get it.

There is one other thing that

automatically brings forth this deviant speech and that is a human baby. Just let a baby come anywhere near a person and oh my, it is shameful. Personally, I don't care for little babies. They make too much noise. They will grab your fur or your ear or attempt to separate it from your body and, worst of all, they have very poor hygiene.

We cats never stay dirty and will not even use a dirty litter box, but a baby just doesn't seem to care how he smells. I ask you – what's the attraction?

In spite of all that, humans melt in a puddle when they talk the same way to a baby as they talk to us. Oh, I have watched lots of babies when they visit in our home, and I am shocked to discover that they use the very same language and high tone as they use on us.

So, what is this?

Why on earth do they change octaves and speak this foreign language, even using words that aren't even words?

I have thought and thought about all this, and I may have come up with the answer. They must have a Tenderness Gene inside them that only comes out when they see innocence. I believe we cats (and I guess dogs, horses, and human babies) are the epitome of innocence.

So this Tenderness Gene automatically evokes a high pitched, sing-songy voice and sweet, gooey words. It seems like humans can't help it.

There must be a little switch in their brain that turns on and off this Tenderness Gene which causes drooling, lack of control and endearing adoration. And now that I have hit on the answer, I must be tolerant.

My fellow felines, I urge you to do the same. Just remind yourself the next time a human makes a fool of herself (or himself, though it seems to me this malady is more common in females), she has no control over it. We have to love them anyway.

The view from the hill is wondrous. 🐾

For people who attend assertion seminars and watch power role videos, I have one word – “pets.”

Those seeking more control should spend a few days watching their cats and dogs. Here we have creatures that don't speak human, don't have pay checks coming in, and never have the mortgage in their name. Yet, they manage to control entire households.

They send back meals they don't like with no questions asked, have designer labels on their outfits and are even left entire fortunes in wills.

In my household, there's no question about hierarchical positions. Pandora is definitely Alpha cat, Meg is Beta dog, and I slip into whatever role is left.

After I'm settled for the night, Meg usually sneaks her way onto the far side of the bed and stretches out.

Pandora sleeps in her usual place at the foot of the bed.

Somehow, during the

night, they manage to expand their territory so that I wake up in the middle of the night to find myself curled up in fetal position, sleeping in the upper right quadrant of the bed – the other three quarters of the bed covered in warm fur.

I know, I know, those of you who don't share their homes with animals will be saying, “Why don't you just throw the ruddy animals off the bed?”

It's simple; I couldn't handle the guilt.

In guilt-factoring, disturbing your pet's sleep ranks up there with tricking your children into eating no-name brand macaroni and cheese, or secretly sewing fake designer logos onto cheap jeans before school starts. It's why a person will sit for a half hour dying to go to the bathroom, yet unable to move because a cat is purring contentedly on their knee.

I've been thinking about signing up for an assertiveness seminar. But they might ask me what my reasons are for attending.

I can't see myself explaining about nightly boundary disputes with four-legged housemates or about the joys of waking up to a roaring in your ears accompanied by acupuncture being performed on your right shoulder.

Naw – I think I'm just going to upgrade to a king-sized bed. 🐾

Sharon McGregor lives in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.

Let Sleeping Pets Lie By Sharon McGregor

In my household, there's no question about hierarchical positions. Pandora is definitely Alpha cat, Meg is Beta dog, and I slip into whatever role is left.



Solution for word search puzzle on page 13.

What Cats Really Want for Christmas

By Jennifer L. Feuerbach

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in eight directions.

Solution on page 12

aquarium	R	A	B	B	I	T	S	K	I	N	A
attention	A	T	T	E	N	T	I	O	N	Y	S
brush	E	A	T	A	T	Y	T	H	E	O	D
catnip	I	M	N	A	Q	U	A	R	I	U	M
chef	C	N	O	E	R	T	A	R	B	R	T
mouse	L	A	E	U	A	R	B	Q	N	L	E
playmate	F	C	T	N	S	R	W	U	D	A	I
quiet	E	D	U	N	U	E	S	S	T	P	U
rabbit skin	H	T	L	S	I	V	W	V	Y	L	Q
sun	C	R	H	J	M	P	K	Z	J	O	K
toys	P	L	E	T	A	M	Y	A	L	P	T
tuna											
yarn											
your lap											

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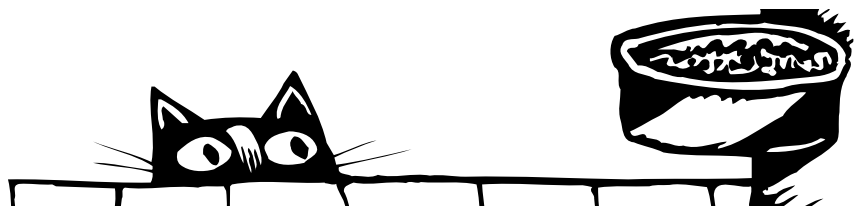
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 United States Code Showing Ownership Management & Circulation

1. I Love Cats	B1. Paid/Request Outside County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541	19,087
2. Publication No. 004-132	B2. Paid In-County Subscriptions	0
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B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	B2. Paid In-County Subscriptions	0
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	B4. Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0
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	D. Free Distribution by Mail	0
	E. Free Distribution Outside the Mail	270
	F. Total Free Distribution	270
	G. Total Distribution	17,932
	H. Copies Not Distributed	665
	I. Total	18,597
	Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	98.49%

Harry W. Hochman, President



Your New Cat – An Expert Answers Your Every Question

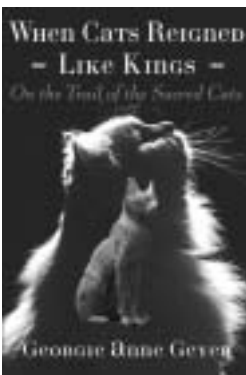
By Kim Thornton

As cat owners know, each cat is an individual, but each breed also has its quirks.

The information in this book covers more than 50 cat breeds and is written by Kim Thornton, a former president of the Cat Writer’s Association.

“While this book is designed to provide you with all the information you need to start off right with your new cat, it’s not meant to replace advice from other experts such as veterinarians and animal behaviorists,” the author states.

From making sure you’re ready for a new cat to what to look for, to shopping for your new cat, to preparing your home for your new cat, health issues, feeding, grooming, teaching and house training, this book gives you the A, B, C’s of correctly and safely starting life with your new cat.



When Cats Reign Like Kings

By Georgie Anne Geyer

A historic look at why cats have been worshipped and treated royally. From

Egypt and Burma to Siam and Japan, “When Cats Reign Like Kings” traces feline genealogy through the ages. More than 40 breeds are spotlighted.

The presentation documents the origins of the author’s cat and in doing so creatively weaves a beautiful historical tapestry of these cats we feline lovers have come to know and love.

This is a well researched look at the origins of catdom, beautifully written and well documented.



Kittycat Lullaby

By Eileen Spinelli, and illustrated by Anne Mortimer

The illustrations in this beginning reader’s book deserve to be hung as framed art on a cat lover’s wall. Each page is a standalone beauty. Children will want to keep this book handy to review the art work time and time again. It’s just lovely.

The Cat Fanciers’ Association Complete Cat Book

By Mordecai Siegal

If ever there was a book that belongs on every cat lover’s bookshelf, it’s “The Cat Fanciers’ Association Complete Cat Book.”



Where’s Petunia?

Written and illustrated by Ellen Jean Diederich

This book is a watercolor wonderland of cats and flowers that includes a wonderful story about a grand cat adventure. The artwork is so lovely, you want to hang it on the wall.

Striking colors accent a story that not only pleases the eyes but also teaches readers about a number of types of flowers from saliva to cleome to pansies and petunias. This book is awash in gorgeous illustrations from a country garden.

TH READING



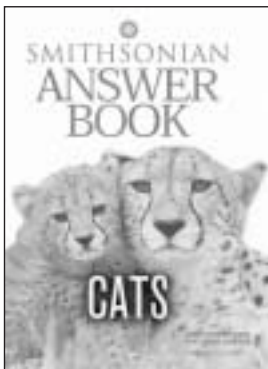
Happy Cat Day: A Manifesto for an Official Cat Holiday

By Tiger Hample,
Illustrated by Stu Hample

The premise of this book is declaring that there should be an official cat holiday – for everyone except dogs.

Chocked full of cartoons, “Happy Cat Day” sets out the many reasons why there should be an official cat holiday, like the 4th of July or Memorial Day. In this case, on August 15, during “the dog days of summer,” according to Tiger, the book’s feline author.

Stu Hample, the illustrator, has more than 20 books to his credit as well as a Website: www.happy-catday.org devoted to this idea.



Cats in Question: The Smithsonian Answer Book

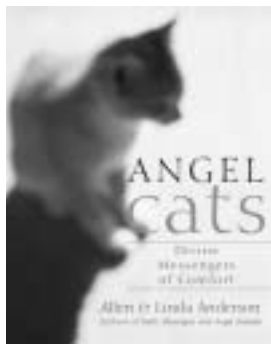
By John Seiden,
Sticker and Susan Lumpkin

If it’s published by Smithsonian Books, readers

are guaranteed a thorough and gorgeously illustrated work.

“Cats in Question” upholds those high standards.

From the chapter called “Cat Facts,” (which answers questions about cat biology, physical features, senses, diet and predation, social behavior and cat life), to the chapter called “Evolution and Diversity,” (which includes information on the evolution, distribution and abundance and diversity) to the chapter titled, “Cats and Humans,” (which includes the decline and recovery, domestic cats, man killing, cats and culture and cats and science,) this book would make a perfect holiday or birthday gift for a cat lover.



Angel Cats: Divine Messengers of Comfort

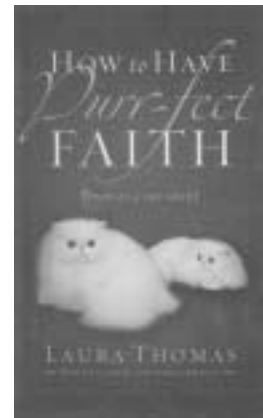
By Allen and Linda Anderson

Anderson may sound familiar to you since they are best selling authors and founders of Angel Animals Network.

The book documents the extraordinary ways in which cats have responded to human need. From

saving lives to diagnosing health problems, the cats in this book will inspire readers to love all cats more deeply than they already do.

It’s the “spiritual nature that attracts us to those astonishing creatures,” the authors write. They let the stories of cats illustrate their purpose in our lives.



How To Have Purr-Fest Faith

By Laura Thomas
Laura Thomas, a breeder of champion CFA Persians, combines her heartfelt religious

convictions with her love of showing cats in a well done story that chronicles what it’s like to run points during a national campaign.

Calling her quest to finish in the top 20 in the country, “Beyond a Dream,” Thomas tells the story of how her faith helped her achieve a goal of finishing 18th best cat in the nation with one cat and 20th best kitten with another – all in one year.

“Faith is the key that opens the door into God’s Presence,” she writes. 🐾

We welcome your comments about your favorite cat books. If you have read a cat-themed book you’d like to share with the readers of I Love Cats, please send an e-mail to Lisa Allmendinger, editor, at yankee@izzy.net and tell me about it.

Holiday Cat

Photo Contest

Winners




First Place: Thomas Lee is in the tree again. Submitted by Mrs. Robert C. Suchland of New Breman, OH.



Third Place: Zuki and Santa Claus. Little does he know that the man behind that red suit is his veterinarian. Photo Submitted by Kathy Hoffman of Kearney, NE.



Second Place: Bootsie and the pinecone. Submitted by Mrs. Robert C. Suchland of New Breman, OH.



I Am So Thankful for My Cat Because...

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



I Am SO Thankful for My Cats Because ...

By *Melissa McGinnis, Austin, TX*

Jadzia Dax, a tortie with attitude, and Nastasha Yar, a seal-lynx point Siamese princess, are both named for Star Trek characters, and while they do not fly through space protecting the Federation, they are heroes. They saved my life and my husband's as well.

They were less than a year old when it happened. My husband and I were awakened one night by our kittens leaping on us and caterwauling. I sat up, about to scold them, when they both ran to our folding-door closet, which was open, and started meowing like crazy. I walked to the closet and placed my hand against the wall—it was HOT!

I ran to the laundry room, where I flung open the door to be met with an overwhelming blast of heat!

When I removed clothes from the dryer earlier, I stopped it by opening the door and forgot to close it, also forgetting to turn the knob to "off." The element had continued heating, and without a doubt would've caught fire if my kitties hadn't awakened me to turn the dryer off.

If they never catch a mouse in their lifetime, that's okay with me!



I'm Thankful for My Cat Because...

By *Rusty Allred, Plano, TX*

I'm thankful for my cat because he is better than an alarm clock – more expensive and less accurate, but more persistent.

I'm thankful for my cat because someone in the house needs to be able to shed without thinning.

I'm thankful for my cat because he rubs his orange hair on my black pants, telling the world that some creature in my life loves me, or at least acts like it when he wants something.

I'm thankful for my cat because he ignores me when I speak, bringing a sense of consistency to my life.

I'm thankful for my cat because he takes naps for me when I don't have time to take them myself.

I'm thankful for my cat because he watches the house while I'm away; if someone breaks in, I'm sure he'll watch that too.

I'm thankful for my cat because I'd feel awkward waiting in the vet's office without him.

I'm thankful for my cat because, if he's not my best friend, at least he's not my worst enemy.

I'm thankful for my cat because I don't have to walk him in the rain; and, when it's nice out, he helps me remember what's behind the rose bushes.

I'm thankful for my cat because of his advanced understanding of technology; he knows just where to stand to block the signal from the remote control.

But most of all I'm thankful for my cat because, as you can see from all the above, I'd never get along without him.



I'm Thankful For Rescued Cats Because ...

By *Casey Newton, Syracuse, NY*

My name is Casey Newton. I run a small animal rescue in central New York. Through the years, I have had the pleasure of meeting many cats and kittens.

With each one comes a sad story on how and why they ended up in a rescue situation. Some have been thrown out like garbage, others have been left behind when the only family they ever knew moved out without them.

Others were born on the streets and never felt the warm, loving touch of a human hand petting them. No matter how sad the story, or how long it takes them to forget the past and learn to love and trust again, one thing is for sure. Every time I look at them I know they are eating a meal without worrying where the next one will come from; they are in a warm place with a sense of comfort and confidence and that they have accepted the touch of my hand with no fears of harm.

This makes rescue the most gratifying experience in my life. When there is a problem that comes my way, and I feel that it is too much to bear, I look at the little kitten that has been left in a box in a thunderstorm. Or the 2-year-old stray that has lived his life struggling for food and warmth on the streets. I realize that they overcame this and this makes any problem seem smaller than it once appeared.

On the darkest of days and the loneliness of nights, I can sit back and look into each one of their eyes dreaming of their future and remembering the ones that have gotten a second chance at a new life.

It reminds me that no matter how bad it once was, or how bad it might get, there is a chance at a new beginning and true happiness. And for this I am, and always will be, truly thankful to each and every one of the cats and kittens that enter my heart and home. 🐾

2 NEW Love CATS CONTESTS

Sponsored by **Heritage Makers / My Family Tales**

Special Bonus Prizes: Pet Storybook Kits!

Essay: Your Favorite Cat Caper • **Photo:** Cats Just Being Cats

I Love Cats is pleased to announce that this issue's contest is sponsored by **Heritage Makers/My Family Tales**, a national storybooking company who is celebrating its one-year anniversary of the **Pet Storybook Kit**. The Pet Storybook Kit provides cat lovers with the unique opportunity to preserve their special stories and photos of their furry friends. The 28-page storybook kit can be completed in less than three hours and is a great way to share their pets' stories with friends and family.

The **Pet Storybook Kit PRIZE** includes a guidebook, a blank storybook, and paper/di-cuts to spice up the pages. The retail value of the prize kits is \$29.95 (\$34.95 in Canada). For more information about Heritage Makers/My Family Tales please call 1-866-MYTALES, or visit the website at www.myfamilytales.com.

STORY CONTEST:

First Prize: • \$50.00 cash and your story in the magazine
• My Family Tales Pet Storybook Kit

Second Prize: • Your story in the magazine • My Family Tales Pet Storybook Kit

Third Prize: • Your story in the magazine • My Family Tales Pet Storybook Kit

PHOTO CONTEST:

First Prize: • \$50.00 cash and your cat's photo in magazine. • My Family Tales Pet Storybook Kit
Second Prize: • Your cat's photo in the magazine • My Family Tales Pet Storybook Kit
Third Prize: • Your cat's photo in the magazine
• My Family Tales Pet Storybook Kit

Here's how to enter:

OFFICIAL RULES FOR STORY CONTEST

1. Every cat owner has a favorite cat caper story. Here's your chance to tell us about your cat's antics. The tale can be funny, scary, or just plain amusing. Each entry should be 300 words or less, typed and double spaced. Entries must be received on or before Dec. 15, 2004 at 12:00 a.m. EST, so you must act quickly.

2. Entries will be judged on originality and creativity by a panel of judges. The winner's stories will be announced and published in the March/April 2005 issue of *I Love Cats*.

3. Address your entries to **I Love Cats' Cat Caper Essay Contest, I Love Cats, c/o Lisa Allmendinger, Editor, 16 Meadow Hill Lane, Armonk, NY 10504**. We cannot acknowledge the receipt of an entry, nor will entries be returned. Entries can also be e-mailed to yankee@izzy.net with the subject line: **Cat Caper Contest**. 4. Please include your name, home address, phone number, with each entry.

OFFICIAL RULES FOR PHOTO CONTEST

1. Please send *I Love Cats* your favorite clear, color photo of your cat(s) just being cats. Photos must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2004, and they will not be returned.

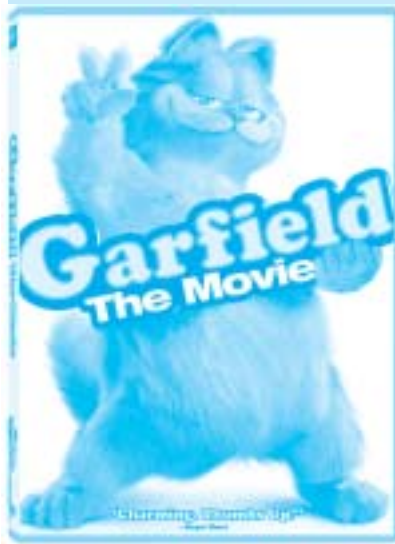
2. Entries will be judged on originality and creativity by a panel of judges. Winners will be announced and published in the March/April 2005 issue of *I Love Cats*. 3. Address your entries to **Cats Just Being Cats Photo Contest, c/o Lisa Allmendinger, Editor, 16 Meadow Hill Lane, Armonk, NY 10504**. We cannot acknowledge the receipt of an entry.

Entry into either contest constitutes that this is an original entry and has not been previously published. Entry into the contest constitutes permission to use the work by *I Love Cats* Publishing Company.

These contests are open to all residents of the United States and Canada, except families and employees of *I Love Cats* Publishing, Inc., and Heritage Makers/My Family Tales, its affiliates, corporate and advertising agencies.

These contests are void where prohibited by law and are subject to all federal, state and local laws and regulations. Prizes are non-transferable and no substitution is permitted. Tax liabilities on prizes are the sole responsibility of the winners.

For the names of the winners, send a SASE to *I Love Cats* Cat Capers/Cats Just Being Cats Winners, *I Love Cats*, c/o Lisa Allmendinger, Editor, 16 Meadow Hill Lane, Armonk, NY 10504.



WHY I LOVE GARFIELD ESSAY CONTEST

I Love Cats is excited to announce *another* holiday surprise: A **bonus essay contest** starring everyone's favorite lasagna-eating, fat cat **GARFIELD**.

In honor of Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment's DVD/VHS release: **Garfield The Movie**, which stars Bill Murray and Jennifer Love Hewitt, **three lucky winners** of the *I Love Cats*' "WHY I LOVE GARFIELD ESSAY CONTEST" will be sent a copy of Garfield's feature film debut on DVD.

One of the year's top grossing kids' films, **Garfield The Movie** was given "Two Thumbs Up" by Roger Ebert.

Here's how to enter:

OFFICIAL RULES FOR STORY CONTEST

1. Who doesn't love Garfield? Here's your chance to tell us why you think Garfield is the coolest cat on the planet. Your essay should be 300 words or less, typed and doubled spaced. Entries must be received on or before Dec. 15, 2004, so you must act quickly.

2. Entries will be judged on originality and creativity by a panel of judges and winners will be announced in the March/April 2005 issue of *I Love Cats*.

3. Address your entries to

I Love Cats' Why I Love Garfield Essay Contest
I Love Cats
c/o Lisa Allmendinger, Editor
16 Meadow Hill Lane
Armonk, NY 10504.

We cannot acknowledge the receipt of an entry, nor will entries be returned. Entries can also be e-mailed to yankee@izzy.net with the subject line: **Why I Love Garfield Essay Contest**. Please do not forget to include your complete home address with your entry. Entry into this contest constitutes that this is an original entry and has not been previously published. Entry into the contest constitutes permission to use the work by *I Love Cats* Publishing Company.

These contests are open to all residents of the United States and Canada, except families and employees of *I Love Cats* Publishing, Inc., and Fox Home Entertainment, its affiliates, consultants and advertising agencies.

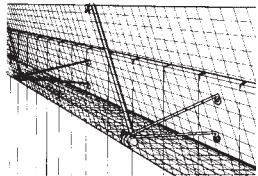
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For the names of the winners, send a SASE to *I Love Cats* Why I Love Garfield Winners; *I Love Cats*; c/o Lisa Allmendinger, Editor; 16 Meadow Hill Lane, Armonk, NY 10504.

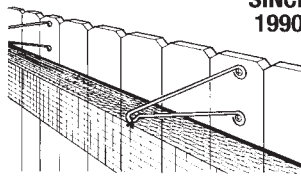
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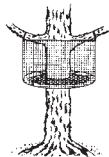


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FORESTDALE

TONE POEMS INSPIRED BY NATURE

What's New in Kitty Health Care

Happy Petz™ Natural Healing Salve

Passion Island, a Monterey-CA-based company dedicated to products and information that helps to improve health and relationships for individual and their pets, has launched a new product called Happy Petz. The product is a new effective, all-natural salve for pets to heal things such as hot spots, skin irritations, rashes, flea bites, abrasions, cuts, excessive scratching, and tender paws.

Happy Petz is made of Shea Butter and Olive Oil and is infused with a blend of comfrey root, calendula, chickweed, tea tree oil, lavender and organic bee's wax. It is an all-natural first aid remedy that is antiseptic and antifungal.

Go to www.happypetz.com for more information.

Thermal Aid Pet

Thermal Aid Pet is a hot/cold pack for veterinarians and pet owners. It's a 100-percent natural therapeutic compress designed to help reduce swelling and relieve pain.

The pad is filled with specialized corn that holds temperatures for long periods of time. Because the heat-and-cold storage element is made of corn and not a poisonous chemical, Thermal Aid Pet is one of the safest products for use with animals.

Thermal Aid can hold heat for more than an hour.

"For years the veterinary world has struggled with the challenge of relieving animal pain through safe heat and cold compress over long periods of time," said Dr. Richard A. Smollin, who added that it can be

used for anything from arthritis to hip dysplasia.

Flavored Supplement

Pala-Tech Laboratories, Inc. has launched Pala-Tech Feline Joint Health Granules to sprinkle on your cat's favorite meal as a feline joint health supplement.

If your veterinarian thinks a daily dose of glucosamine hydrochloride, omega-3 fatty acids, taurine and other nutrients would be a good idea, check out this product before you try to shove pills down your cat's throat.

For more information, go to www.palatech.com

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Pharmaca will custom prepare veterinary prescriptions for your cat. If you've ever had to cut pills in half, you know that meds come in different shapes and sizes and not all commercially available medicines are appropriate for every pet. Plus, meds can be prepared with a tuna-flavor suspension to make pills most palatable for your pet.

Speak to your veterinarian about this service or have he or she go to www.pharmaca.com.

U of Florida uses human simulator

Veterinary students at the University of Florida are the first in the country to have studied anesthesia using a Human Patient Simulator developed as a teaching tool by UF physicians in the 1980s.

"You can stop and talk about why pressures are dropping," he said. "Also, if it's a bad scenario, you do

not have to deal with someone's actual pet. That definitely takes the pressure off," said David Woodham, who graduated this year.

The simulator represented an animal patient and critical events were presented to the students to diagnose and treat.

"It was exciting for students to work with, it made them deal with real-life scenarios, permitted them to learn without subjecting live patients to complications, and it enabled them to retrace their steps when their therapy did not correct the simulated patient's problems," said Dr. Shauna Cantwell, DVM.

Acupuncture Available to Veterinary School Patients

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital now offers its clients acupuncture treatment for their pets if Western medicine and surgery aren't accomplishing the desired results.

Local veterinarian Dr. Dawn Mogilevsky began offering on-site acupuncture for small animals. She is certified by the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society.

Most of her patients are older, Mogilevsky said, adding that she commonly treats arthritis problems resulting from hip dysplasia or chronic cruciate ligament conditions.

She says that acupuncture can be used to treat all kinds of problems and in conjunction with existing medical treatments to support animals with inflammation of the bladder, diabetes, cancer or FeLV. She says it can improve energy levels and appetites and support the immune system. 🐾



The Holistic Cat

by Andi Brown

As a creator of "Human-Grade" products for pets, and Director of Halo, Purely for Pets®, holistic pet care advocate Andi Brown frequently explores problems that result from a pet owner treating the symptom rather than the cause. What an animal eats — the quality of nutrients — as well as the purity of the environment, is the foundation of its overall well being. By staying as close to the ways of nature and eliminating non-essential ingredients and chemicals from their diet and their environment, you'll see miraculous changes in your pets. Your questions about holistic pet care are welcome. E-mail them to info@halopets.com

Dear Andi,
My longhaired cat Alexandria sheds horribly; her fur falls out in patches. She's constantly itching and scratching, too. We tried steroids, cortisone, and steady doses of prednisone. It works for a few days and then she is back to square one. I've even had her allergy tested, but I don't know what to do. A friend of mine recommended Flax Seed oil. Do you think it might help?
Knee deep in cat hair in New Jersey

Dear Knee Deep,
Stand up and be counted! You're not alone. Close to 75 percent of the pets in this country are treated for allergy symptoms, and your friend is probably recommending Flax Seed oil because more than likely, there's a deficiency in Alexandria's diet.

I bet you're feeding her dry food or highly processed canned food and she is missing out on the Essential Fatty Acids (EFAs) necessary for a healthy skin and coat. Flax Seed oil is not a bad choice and you'll probably see some progress. Several veterinary studies have shown that the best sources of EFAs for dogs and cats come from a variety of oils, that include Linoleic Acid and Linolenic Acid, Omegas 3 and 6, respectively.

I suggest a blend of safflower, sunflower, wheat germ, garlic, soybean and cod liver oils (cold pressed are best) for faster results that won't taper off. That's because you're getting all those great oil-soluble vitamins including A, D, and E, which directly benefit the skin, the heart, the eyes and the immune system. Grow a gorgeous new coat that stays on your cat and improves her skin with those wholesome oils. Most cats get great results within days.

Dear Andi,
My Persian tends to have chronic eye discharge and stains. The whites of her eyes are red, too. I've tried warm water, vet medicines, and wiping it away daily — it keeps coming back.
Too many tears in Tampa

Dear Too Many:

The "p" pets, Pekinese, Pugs and Persians, are bred to have "peke faces" and as a result often have bent tear ducts. Debris can clog in the bend and the waste backs up in the tear duct, spills on the face, and produces the ugly discharge.

Anitra Frazier, mentioned previously, recommends a two-step solution using Eyebright to gently open the ducts and Golden Seal to clean them out. Again, you can find the remedy in her book or look for it on the shelves of better health and pet stores.

Dear Andi,
My four year old calico has had odd nose pigmentation all of her life. The top of the nose is black and the nostrils are pink. I thought it was part of her overall colorful nature. My friend says not. What does that mean?
Nosey in Charlotte, NC

Dear Nosey,

According to Richard Pitcairn, DVM., author of *The Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs & Cats*, having variation in the nose color may indicate an immune deficiency disorder. Many cats (and dogs) are born with pinkish noses, and as they mature, the darker pigment fills in. With the addition of supplements and use of healthy food, you should be able to enhance the immune system enough to fill-in the spots.

Anitra Frazier, author of *The New Natural Cat*, has Vita-Mineral Mix you can make or purchase. This raw food supplement promotes normal pigmentation, enhances the skin and coat, and aids digestion. 🐾

Ask Dr. Margaret

Dr. Margaret Lane D.V.M. is a practicing veterinarian at Lane Animal Hospital in Chelsea, MI.

Dear Dr. M:

I have a 1-year-old cat that looks like she had fleas on her neck and has lost all the hair on her neck and head. She hasn't lost any fur on the rest of her body. She's supposed to be the size of my other cats, but she looks like a 6-week-old kitten. We found her in my old neighborhood like that.

Sarah, via the Internet

Dear Sarah:

Your cat may be suffering from severe ear mite infestation, as they will often scratch all the fur off their neck and ears to relieve a maddening itch. Severe ear mite infections may also cause secondary skin and ear infections that if left unattended could cause irreversible damage.

Another possibility could be skin mites such as Notoedres Cati, or flea bite hypersensitivity. Any of these conditions are considered parasitic and by nature a parasite will rob its host of essential nutrients and proteins. It will be necessary to visit a veterinarian to definitively diagnose these potential ailments and to ultimately treat them.

Dr. M. C. Lane

Dear Dr. M:

I'm very desperate to help my kitty get over her fear of cars. I adopted her at 2 years old and she is now 4 years old. At first, she'd just meow and thrash in her cage. Then she occasionally started getting sick.

Now she gets sick every time she's in the car. At the sight of the car, she starts foaming at the mouth and crying. She's scared to death. I travel on the weekends to my summer house (1.5 hours away). She has a large dog cage in the back of my SUV so she can see out and has room to move around. I've tried covering it, uncovering it. She's not scared of anything else (well, maybe the vacuum cleaner, when it gets too close). I've even tried Dramamine.

Ellen, via the Internet

Dear Ellen:

Many pets are phobic of cars. This fear manifests in gastrointestinal as well as physical and mental distress.

Anti-motion sickness medications, such as Dramamine are usually ineffective to combat these phobias, as they relieve nausea, but do not combat anxiety.

You should continue to expose your cat to car travel in the hope that it will eventually desensitize her to it. It may be very helpful to employ the assistance of some anti-anxiety products as well. Pharmaceutical products that come to mind are; Elavil, Buspar, Valium and Acepromazine.

The first three drugs are strictly anti-anxiety (although Valium does have smooth muscle relaxation capabilities), the last drug, Acepromazine is a sedative. The difference between the classes of drugs is such; the anti-anxiety meds may assist your cat in freeing herself of his phobia, and the sedative will just render her somewhat oblivious to her environment.

Both kinds of drugs are effective, but if you take this trip often you may want to really try the anti-anxiety route rather than subjecting your cat to repeat doping with a sedative.

There are also some pheromone (a cat-appeasing, hormone-like substance that is odorless to humans), which are available to promote calm and combat certain inappropriate behaviors. I know of no research that has suggested these for travel anxiety, but it might be worth looking into.

Before beginning your cat on any medical therapy, I would suggest consulting with your veterinarian. Many long-term medications like anti-anxiety meds should have patient blood work run prior to beginning and for monitoring therapy.

Dr. M.C. Lane

If you have questions for Dr. Margaret, they can be emailed to yankee@izzy.net with the subject line: Ask Dr. Margaret, or mailed to Ask Dr. Margaret, c/o I Love Cats, 16 Meadow Hill Lane, Armonk, NY 10504.

Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas

Pet owners living in Texas as well as surrounding states are lucky ducks. If their pet needs specialized veterinary care that cannot be performed by their general practice veterinarian, there is a state-of-the-art facility in Dallas where almost 20 different specialists are housed under one roof.

First established in March 2000, the Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas combines the services of five veterinary specialty practices where patient referrals can be sent from general practice veterinarians for a host of maladies.

The five independently owned clinics have 18 specialists and staff that concentrate their practices to cardiology, neurology, dermatology, oncology, diagnostic radiology, ophthalmology, internal medicine, radiation oncology, nuclear diagnostic and therapeutic medicine as well as orthopedic, soft tissue and neurosurgery.

The idea came about when eight veterinary specialists envisioned a clinic where multiple disciplines could be housed in the same facility



Veterinary Referral Center of North Texas opened its doors in March 2000 to provide a state-of-the-art facility for five veterinary specialty practices that receives referrals and challenging cases from veterinarians in general practice.



Dennis Crow, DVM, (right) a board certified veterinary dermatologist examines a cat with assistance from a staff member.

The Animal Dermatology Referral Clinic

This clinic cares for dogs and cats with disorders of the skin and hair – diagnosing the origins of such problems as itching and excessive licking, hair loss, standing ear infections, abnormal skin appearance, non-healing wounds, etc. Check out Web site: www.dermvets.com.



Douglas Bronstad, DVM, board certified veterinary internal medicine, listens to the heart of a cat that has diabetes.

Animal Diagnostic Clinic

This clinic offers comprehensive diagnostic internal medicine. These veterinarians diagnose and treat animals with abnormalities of the heart, lungs, gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, lymph system, kidneys and urinary tract. It offers 24-hour care, which allows the animals to be under observation at all times. Check out Web site: www.adcdallas.com.



Rachel Ring, DVM, a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist, with the help of a technician, peers into the eyes of a cat that may have glaucoma.

Animal Ophthalmology Clinic

This clinic is staffed by veterinarians who provide diagnoses and treatment of diseases of the eye

and adjacent structures. They treat glaucoma, cataracts, and abnormalities of the eyes and lids that include corneal ulcers, lacerations of the eye or lids, abnormalities involving proper tear production, lashes and retinas. Check out Web site: www.eyedvm.com.



Ronald Green, DVM (left), board certified in veterinary radiology, with the help of a technician, prepares a cat for a gamma camera image.

Animal Radiology Clinic

This clinic performs four different types of functions including the taking and interpretation of x-rays, ultrasounds, MRI's as well as performing radiation on animals with neoplasia or cancer. Check out Web site: www.xrayvet.com

Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center

These veterinarians are surgery specialists who repair fractures, perform surgery on joints, the thorax, chest, abdomen, soft tissues, back and nerves. Surgical patients are placed under inhalant anesthesia, receive pain management prior to and after surgery and have constant care with 24-hour monitoring. Surgery is done with the most up-to-date techniques available. Physical therapy is also available. Check out Web site: www.dfwwvetsurgeons.com. 🐾



Robert Barstad, DVM (left), an orthopedic, soft tissue and neurosurgery specialist removes a Penrose drain tube, with the help from a technician, from a cat that had surgery the previous day.

Cats in Paradise

By John Walsh

My wife and I live in Hawaii with six cats. People ask, "Why so many?" We share our home with six cats because we do not have the resources or space for seven. Plus, we possess large hearts and small brains.

Supporting six cats in style on the salaries of two public school teachers requires meticulous accounting, comparison shopping, and a willingness to go without human comforts, like retirement.

When budgeting for half a dozen cats, start by asking your spouse to find a second job. Then purchase six financial ledgers and make eight columns on each page. Routine cat costs include food, kitty litter, veterinarians, flea expenses, cat treats, cat toys, cat furniture and marriage counseling.

Six cats times eight sources of feline related debt equal 48 ways to rid your household of all that spare, cumbersome money.

My wife and I used to have boxes of cash stacked in the kitchen, spilling out into the garage. Those of you burdened with a garage full of money may commiserate. Providing for so many cats solved our tedious money storage problems.

The budget squeeze begins with cat food. Dogs act grateful for 100-pound bags of generic chow purchased at warehouses; cats are not so cavalier concerning dining standards. Drag a gargantuan bag of "Bulk City" cat food into the house, and prepare for orchestrated cat disdain.

Who can deny six sets of narrow eyes and flat ears? Who wouldn't yield after six cats perform the all-day snit under the bed?

Avoid frazzled felines with delicatessen turkey hors d'oeuvres and gourmet cat brands. It's safe to plan on \$70 a month per mouth.

Fortunately, the cats allow us to buy kitty litter in bulk. Our brand comes in 22-pound plastic jars packed in sturdy, green boxes. Wheeling six cartons in the rain through a mammoth parking lot should be an Olympic event – "The 100-Meter Kitty Litter Sprint."

Lift and load boxes with your spouse in

the "Kitty Litter Free Style Pairs." And, \$55 a month keeps the household clumping.

Our cats visit two skilled, compassionate veterinarians. Since we are steady customers and cat lovers, they take pity on our pathetic incomes. Figure \$1,000 a year for regular care and an occasional crisis.

Flea meds and shampoo cost \$70 a month during flea season. Unfortunately, Maui means paradise for people and insects. All those fleas that freeze in February in Armonk, NY, book charters to Maui for snorkeling and Mai-Tais. Fleas flourish year-round and boost annual expenses another \$800.

Cat treats range from 99 cents to \$10 a package. Our felines prefer expensive brands but retain the right to be persnickety. Why should they refuse to eat cheap treats when they can refuse to eat the expensive stuff? Our cats like to ignore the very best – \$80 a month plus aggravation.

Cat toys prevent the economy of France from collapsing. Study the colorful wrapping. The toys promise "heures d'amusement pour votre chat." That's French for "Five minutes and it's under the couch." Twenty dollars a month matches my limit, merci beaucoup.

Marriage counseling and cat furniture expenses belong together. We own two cat beds, a windowsill cat hammock, four cat cushions and a tri-level carpeted cat condo.

The penthouse of the cat condo wouldn't fit in my Subaru, and we had to borrow a friend's truck, which stalled next to a sugarcane field. In a monsoon. I paid for towing, truck repair and traffic citations. Then, I sprang for dinner at a fancy restaurant to placate my disheveled spouse. Couples therapy and cat furniture adventures pro-rate to \$60 per month.

Each cat costs approximately \$1,480 per year, provides a million dollars worth of joy and produces an annual profit of \$998,520 per cat. If only I could employ such imaginative accounting techniques to purchase more real estate and welcome more cats. 🐾

This is John Walsh's second humorous story about cats in Hawaii. He lives in Maui.

Dogs act grateful for 100-pound bags of generic chow purchased at warehouses; Cats are not so cavalier concerning dining standards.

Feline Artists Strut Their Paws for Charity

The Oregon Humane Society allowed feline artists to strut their artistic paws for charity and more than \$5,000 was raised at the event, topping last year's total.

"Using their tails, tongues and paws as brushes, these creations are truly works of cat," said Barbara Baugnon, marketing and public relations director for the Oregon Humane Society.

There were 65 paintings and 70 cat print tiles and 33 animals were adopted during the event that transformed the cat adoption area into an art gallery.

Guests were able to purchase the artwork of their favorite feline – from "Clawed Monet" to "Pablo Purrccassos."

And the paint – it was water from a can of tuna mixed with milk and cornstarch heated up with some food coloring added.

For more information about the Oregon Humane Society, check out its Web site:

www.oregonhumane.org. 🐾



Photos by Dave Childs and Kathy Covey

Simon



By Bonnie
Jarvis-Lowe

I have always had a cat in my life. For those who are not cat oriented, there is one rule – a cat is not owned by you, you are owned by the cat.

If you leave a cat for a day or so, or give it a scolding, it will turn its back on you and punish you for your unsuitable behavior.

Right now, I am owned by a Tonkinese cat named Simon. His coat is a beautiful beige color, with a grey face, paws and tail, and he has blue eyes. Simon is mellow, has made friends with a Labrador Retriever, and looks at birds with an expression that says, “Why bother?”

He considers himself Royalty.

He captured me, and knows he is fortunate. If you take his favorite chair, he will stare at you until you move. If you displace his dish or give him food he dislikes, he will walk away with an air of disdain.

Simon likes Christmas, and turkey is his favorite food. But one Christmas in particular, Simon became a celebrity and people still talk about him with fondness.

We lived just up the street from a little Baptist Church, which always had the most delightful nativity scene, with flood lights shining on the Babe in the manger. It was

endearing, and the chimes playing Christmas music always added to the festive atmosphere of the neighborhood.

The church was on the other side of the intersection but I never worried about Simon in traffic because he did not venture outside. One cold evening, with air that would freeze your breath, the wood stove was inviting and we were all inside thinking Simon had found his favorite spot of the week, and was safe and warm.

Then the phone rang.

“Is your cat home?” a neighbor asked. I told him yes, but he insisted I check to see if he was indeed home. We began the search.

No, Simon was not home. Panic set in. How did he get outside? I went back to the phone and fearfully asked my neighbor why he was inquiring, expecting to hear that he had been hurt.

My neighbor lived directly across from the church and was in the habit of sitting in his cozy chair by the window, watching television, while keeping an eye on the nativity display. He thought he saw movement in the manger, and it looked like a real baby moving around. Then he remembered that I had a beautiful beige cat. He got the binoculars, and he and his wife decided that it was, indeed, Simon in the manger.

He went and verified that it was

my handsome Simon. His fur was warm from the hot floodlights as he snoozed next to the figurine of Baby Jesus.

I rushed out to fetch my cherished cat. He wasn't pleased about leaving the manger and the warmth of the lights, but I cuddled him, and went home.

So Simon became a celebrity that Christmas. He has slept in the manger with the Baby Jesus, surrounded by shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph. My precious cat became part of Christmas in our village. He never tried that again, because Simon knows what is good for him, and what is bad. The warm manger was good, but the busy highway was bad.

Every Christmas since the nativity scene was built, the story of Simon the Christmas cat in the manger, is told with fondness. My fugitive cat had stolen their hearts.

Merry Christmas to you, Simon. God understands and loves all his little creatures. It reminds me of the childhood hymn we sang, “God sees the little sparrow fall, it meets his tender view.” And Simon, if God so loved the little birds, I know he loves you, too. 🐾

This is Bonnie Jarvis-Lowe's first story in I Love Cats. She lives in Shoal Harbor, Newfoundland, Canada



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I Love Cats' 2004 HOLIDAY GIFT

Smellkiller™

Okay, we've all been in a house where you knew there was a smoker or a pet without seeing it. If this

house belongs to a friend, here's a gift idea for you.

Environmentally safe, the Smellkiller Air Cleaner eliminates pet odors in the home or car without the aid of

chemicals, sprays or electric current in just a few hours. It is safe to use near children or pets because it has no chemicals.

Patented, the Smellkiller utilizes a special high-grade stainless steel alloy that neutralizes odor-causing molecules and is activated when the disc is partially immersed in water and exposed to oxygen.

Available in several types, the Smellkiller Air Cleaner Universal has adhesive on the back and can be attached directly to the litter box. It has a rubber pouch that holds a small sponge that needs to be kept moist. It has a lifetime guarantee and is also dishwasher safe and easy to clean and maintain.

Smellkiller Air Cleaners can be found at Linens 'n Things as well as other retailers nationwide. For more information, go to the company's Web site at www.frieling.com or call 1-800-827-2582.

Personalized Blankets

When the winds howl with winter's mighty gusts, how cool would it be to have your cat's likeness on a throw blanket, which keeps you toasty warm?

Thanks to new technology, TreasureKnit can take a photo of your cat and weave it directly into a 100-percent hypoallergenic, high quality, ultra soft yarn blanket available in lap, throw, twin, queen and king sizes in both cotton and acrylic.

Go to www.treasureknit.com for details.



Decorative Lamp Finials and Ceiling Fan Pulls

Here's the perfect gift for the cat-loving friend who has everything – neat kitty lamp finials and ceiling fan pulls from Finial Showcase of Vinton, VA.

There are curious cats in antique metal, a cat with a fishbowl in resin, a sleeping cat in faux ivory or a smarty cat perched atop books in faux ivory.

Form and function at it's feline finest.

E-mail admin@finialshowcase.com for more information and a catalog.



Litter Box Covers

No one wants to look at an ugly open litter box in the living room but Tabby Shacks™

decorative litter box covers might be just the solution to your decorating dilemma. Or the perfect idea for a Christmas gift.

They come in a number of different designs, are durable and lightweight and roomier than most covers with 8-inch entry and exit holes.

Go to www.Tabbyshacks.com for more information.



Panic Mouse recently introduced a line of Garfield products that are electronic and interactive, creating "mouse-like" movements, changing directions in unpredictable motions.

What cat wouldn't like to be amused and take a swipe at Garfield, while you're at work? This is just one of a number of fun cat toys manufactured by Panic Mouse. Go to www.panicmouse.com for more information.

Garfield Goes to the Dogs Calendar

Who can resist having a Garfield calendar at their desk at work or even at home? No one who loves cats, that's for sure.

From Andrews McMeel Publishing, "Garfield Goes to the Dogs" (\$12.95) can be found in retail stores where calendars are sold and contains such "Garfield-isms"

as: Dogs turn around three times before lying down. They can't sleep unless they're dizzy."



FTGGUIDE

By Lisa M. Allmendinger, editor

Liv-A-Littles Treats



There are new all-natural freeze dried treats for pets on the market from Halo, Purely For Pets® -- free-range chicken, filet mignon and cold-

water codfish. Why not treat your cat or a friend's cat to something healthy and new this holiday season. These products are available in pet food stores nationwide. www.catsdogsbirds.com

Gourmet Pizza for Cats



Bon A-Paw Tete has introduced a line of gourmet pizzas for pets – a precooked and frozen organic pet food dinner with names like salmon soufflé, apple meatloaf and more. There are no chemicals, artificial ingredients, byproducts or preservatives added. The pizzas are precooked and quickly frozen.

Go to www.bonapawtete.com for more information.



Pet Gift Basket

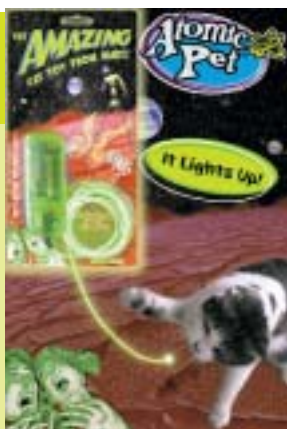
From Beyond Bookmarks, here's the solution to your holiday gift decision.

A Cat Pack, which includes things like a wheatgrass kit (gourmet grass for digestion), all natural treats, toys and other fun stuff -- for cats and their owners. There are even add-on options that can be included in this gift basket.

Go to www.beyondbookmarks.com for more information.

The Amazing Cat Toy

There are a number of new cat toys on the market for the gift-buying season, but this one takes a simple idea and gives it new meaning.



The Amazing Cat Toy From Mars uses Glowtronix illumination to make this simulated "string-like" toy glow while it entertains your cat.

A first pet toy from Atomic Products, this one, like the company's other creations, utilizes a battery, so if the glow begins to fade, just replace the batteries.

Go to www.atomicproducts.com for more information.

Fine Cat Jewelry



FINE PEWTER PINS

Gold Plated Pewter \$15.95 Each - Qty _____

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New Jersey Res. add 6% sales tax _____

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From England With Love



Whimsiclay, a range of collectable cat figures, could be just the ticket for this holiday season. These are the cutest cat figures! But don't take my word for it, take a look for yourself at www.whimsiclay.com.

From Lovey to Anxiety to Blake to Casanova and everything in between, you owe it to yourself to take a look as this marvelous line of clay cat figures. 🐾

If you would like to have your product featured in I Love Cats magazine, please send an email to Lisa Allmendinger, yankee@izzy.net or send a press kit to Lisa Allmendinger, editor, 16 Meadow Hill Lane, Armonk, NY 10504. Please be aware that we request photos of the product and they should be sent on a CD, as we cannot accept .jpegs via the Internet.

Cats in the NEWS

Caught in the Act! This cat belongs to Linda Baker of Denton, TX.



If you take my photo ... Variety on a bad fur day. The cat is owned by Arthur Kropp of Duluth, MN.

If you would like to submit a clear, color photo for Cats in the News, please send it to
**Cats In the News,
I Love Cats, 16 Meadow Hill Lane,
Armonk, NY 10504.**

Come on now, don't be shy, it's time to play. The cats are owned by Bill and Judy DeRaneh of Lakewood, WA.



Peanuts gets into the spirit of the holiday season. The cat is owned by Robert and Gail Berlepsch of Wallingford, CT.

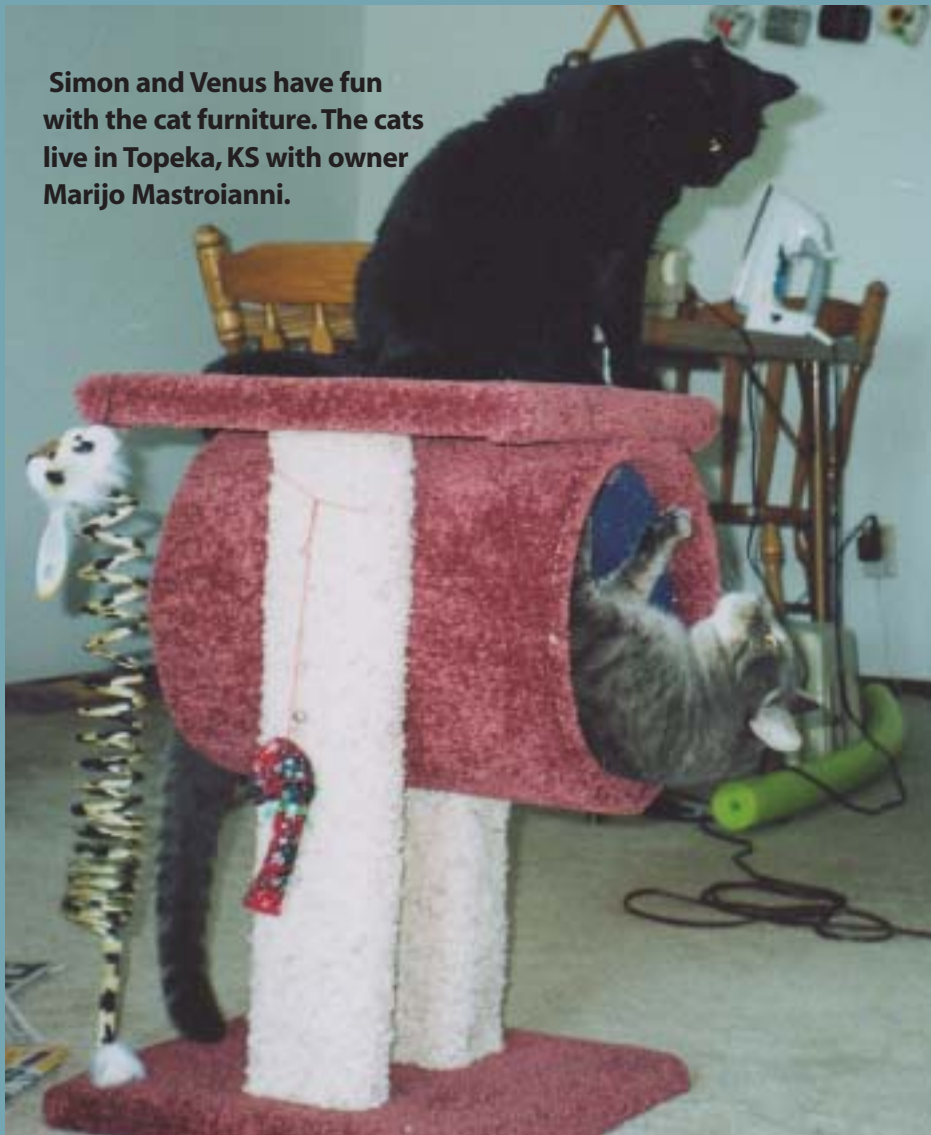




Give me that toy, says Pearl as he tries to pull a colored rope down from the railing. The cat is owned by Shirley Backus, whose photos have been winners in several / Love Cats' photo contests.



That hanger is MINE says Phoenix. The cat is owned by Julie Dietrich-Cote of Laconia, NH



Simon and Venus have fun with the cat furniture. The cats live in Topeka, KS with owner Marijo Mastroianni.



Willie loves to leap. He's owned by Laurie and Lennie McKemmie of South Hadley, ME.

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