

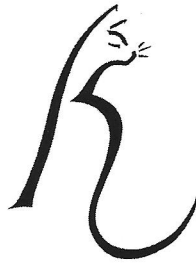
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BREED CLUB



*Autumn*

*2000*

*ISSUE 22*



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### Notes from the Editor:

It's been a sad year.

Helen Barnes, a founder member of this club, died recently and Brenda Rawlinson has written a very moving tribute. Helen's Mother has also asked that a poem read out at Helen's funeral be included.

The show has had to be cancelled but now we must all look forward to making next year's one a real special event. I am sure Helen, in particular, would have been extremely disappointed at the cancellation.

I hope more people are planning to show their cats instead of leaving it to the same old group who have done so much to keep the breed's presence on the showbench for the last couple of years. Do YOUR bit for your club!! I know it can be expensive showing, especially if you have more than one cat, but please do your share towards taking the breed forward again.

I have tried to make this an amusing issue as Christmas is approaching and we will all soon be dashing about trying to find the right present for this person, thinking should we get something for this other person and so on, as usual. Included in this issue are a couple of carols that have been 'adapted' for cats and cat lovers – it took me a while to track down the book, but eventually good old Amazon turned up trumps where W H Smith's couldn't help. Sing them aloud and enjoy.

However, on the serious side, Our President, Alison Ashford, has given us a most interesting article on skin complaints – see if you itch as well when you read it!

## Producing Tonkinfo

Have you ever helped prepare a magazine? I hadn't until I volunteered to do Tonkinfo, actually thinking it was only for one issue, but it seems to be my 'baby' at present – but I am not complaining as I do actually quite enjoy it!

However, I have found it a real disappointment waiting for articles to come in from club members or committee members and nothing materialises – but I had been warned about this by friends who have been producing cat club magazines for years. They told me to prepare an issue with items found or written myself and then replace items when 'offerings' did arrive, but

not to be too optimistic. Promises can be made to write something, but the promises are often (usually ?) forgotten. I am now almost that cynical too!

What should be included? How many serious items? How many humorous ones? What about trying to put something in for our younger members? What date shall I set for people to send articles in? How long do I leave it after that deadline before I accept that nothing is going to arrive and start finalising the magazine?

Then when the pages are filled, there comes the problem of getting them all printed off or copied, by friends, at work etc. This is done over several weeks. It is not a matter of taking the finished copy to a shop to be photocopied and collated – do you think we are made of money?! 😊

Next – Much MUCH more complicated – is collating the copies. For me this involves sitting on the floor surrounded by the piles of individual pages (usually 4 double-sided pages at a time) and collating them into sets BY HAND.

Much help is offered and given by my feline family whether I want it or not: some like to sit/lie on the piles of pages (Tiffany and Tuppence), a couple try to chew them (Nimrod and Mischa, and Levi's learning how to do this too) and some prefer to go skating on the piles (Tabitha and Levi) – this is why I do it on the floor, not so far for the pages to spread. No matter how quiet I am, one of the cats susses out what I am doing, spreads the word and the horrors arrive. Thankfully not all join in.

At best collation takes 3-4 evenings – there's a limit to how long I can sit on the floor because of my painful joints, and there are some 150 copies to do. By the time I've managed to finish it and get to the stapling part, I am fairly shattered and my joints are very painful, that's why there's only one staple! So if anyone can suggest a better method of doing it, please let me know.

The easiest part is putting the copies into envelopes and getting it to the post. It's a great feeling when the piles of paper and then piles of envelopes disappear.

THEN I start thinking about the next issue!

Regards

*Kathy Wilkinson*







Linda Vousden

## Hon.Sec's Report - Autumn 2000

As Club Secretary I have the dubious honour of reminding members about all the mundane matters of the Club, such as - subscription renewals are coming up again soon! They are due on January 1<sup>st</sup>, you'll find a renewal form enclosed, please return this to us even if you are a long-term member, it helps us to keep the Club records up to date.

Well, after all the hard work that made it such a successful year in 1999, this year has been rather disappointing. In June the BAC had to cancel the Tonkinese Breed Seminar. Despite the fact that it was well advertised there was a notable lack of response, only a couple of people applied for tickets!

This is truly a shame because the whole point of these seminars is, for our breeders and judges in particular, to share information and learn more about a breed of which they are rightly expected to be knowledgeable. Nobody knows everything about this, still developing, breed and the BAC tries very hard to make the seminar something that will appeal to anyone with an interest in Tonkinese, its not just for the purists and can be very enjoyable. We all have something to input and lots to learn - so next June why not make a point of coming along to see for yourself?

The other disappointment this year is the cancellation of our own show. Helen Hewitt and the Committee made every effort to keep the show viable, but it wasn't to be. Our calls for help had very little response from members (only 2 ladies rang me). I don't think people realise how *much* time and physical effort show organisers put in to these events, I certainly didn't until a few years ago! This year it was beyond us and the Committee felt that we had to take the initiative to cancel the show rather than risk further problems. It's a great shame, but next year we are looking forward to the best show yet - so gird up your loins, start thinking about what *you* can do to help - even if its just spending half an hour taking money on the door in the afternoon! Lets pull together as a Club for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show and make it something to remember!

Just in case there is anyone who *still* hasn't heard, as of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2000, the Tonkinese have been competing with other Tonks in Open classes for Intermediate Certificates. We've seen many new Tonks on the benches, but there is still plenty of room for more. Incredible as it may seem, we have heard breeders/owners say that they'll not show their cats until the breed is in Championship status, but how do they expect us to get there? If you really want your breed to progress then you have to help by showing your good cats and make sure you send your results to Chris Richards (see Committee list).

We still have more enquiries for Tonks than we have kittens, so don't forget to renew your kitten register fee next year (£3 per annum). The register is advertised in the Club section on my web site (which has links from all around the world, even from some dog breed sites!) Miriam tells me that she is now getting most kitten enquiries from this web advert, so let her know when you have kittens available (see Committee list for Miriam's new phone number). Visit the site at <http://www.mymystic.demon.co.uk>. and you'll find links to other Tonk sites.

The eagle-eyed among you will notice some changes in the Committee list. Two members have new addresses (and Carol Poole will have a new address shortly, until then you can e-mail her on [Clarinath@btinternet.com](mailto:Clarinath@btinternet.com), or ask a Committee member for her new phone number). We are pleased to welcome Jane Tyacke to the Committee. Jane was co-opted to replace Kevin Leaver (who left the Club for personal reasons), she has been a Club member for several years, and with her husband, James, she breeds/shows their Tonks under the 'Tyakit' prefix.

Finally - I look forward to seeing many of you at the GCCF Supreme show, but if I don't see you before then - **have a very good Christmas and a great New Millennium's Eve!**

# Show Support

The Committee were very disappointed this year to have to cancel our own show. This was due to a number of circumstances, the main causes being the availability of Tonkinese Judges and the availability of pens.

For those of you who hold cups from last year's show, please hold on to them for a further year and bring them along to next year's show, which we are hoping will be bigger and better. If this will be a problem and you are unable to hold on to the cups for a further year, please contact me by telephone or e-mail me.

This year has been a very special year for the Tonkinese, because as from 1 June 2000 we have been in Intermediate classes at shows. This means that we are now competing with each other in the Open classes for Intermediate Certificates (ICs). Whilst this does not allow the Tonkinese to gain a Title, it does mean we are now only one step away from Championship level. Yippee, Yippee, Yippee.

One of the requirements needed for going forward is 30 cats with 3 ICs, each obtained under 3 different judges. At the time of writing we already have 4 cats that have qualified. Congratulations to Beannoct Branwen, Shinara Enola Gay, Addinsh Ricercar and Bonzer Red Rum. By the time you read this I am sure there will be more. These cats have been granted a place on the Roll of Honour on my own web site that I have dedicated to the club. Here you will find lists of all last year's cup winners and photos of cats gaining their third IC.

Our cats can now also be granted the privilege of Best of Foreign Section and, More Importantly, Best in Show. I am sure it will not be long before someone rings me with the good news.

We need your help. Tonkinese are your chosen breed too and the Committee cannot do all the work alone, so come on members get your cats out there competing. Let our Tonkinese become champions as they deserve to be.

If I am not at a show that you are attending, first I wish you good luck and secondly would you mind collecting ALL the Tonkinese results and forwarding them on to me. It is very important that we can produce accurate results to the GCCF. We need to show the GCCF how well our cats are being placed and whom they are beating in side classes.

When I look through Our Cats for results it usually only shows the first 3 places of any miscellaneous classes. It does not tell me how many were in the class and which titled cats our cats continue to beat. Some of the Tonkinese on the bench regularly get placed in classes of 10 or more. I can only get these data from catalogues.

So, once again, HAPPY TONKING my friends

## MEMBERSHIP

Hi everyone,

Just a little note to say how privileged I feel to belong to such a wonderful club which continues to grow. We are steadily gaining new members which will allow us 2 full delegates at GCCF council meeting. We continue to attract new members from the UK and abroad.

The club belongs to you all and the committee are always open to suggestions. We would like you to participate and enjoy your club. Apart from the AGM and our show we do not hold any other 'meetings'. Do you have any ideas how we can all get together?

Chris Richards  
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## HELEN BARNES 1963-2000

I first met Helen in 1994 at the Kernow Cat Show. Steve and I had just acquired a Tonkinese and I wanted information about showing and breeding. I can't remember who gave me her name, but as soon as we had met, we liked each other instantly and became firm friends. As I write this I can still see her, greeting me with a bright enthusiasm, answering all my questions and encouraging me to join the club and to begin showing and breeding. It was Helen who really got me started in those early days, offering constant advice. It was also Helen who persuaded me to stand for committee and taught me so much about breeding and showing. Attempts at trying to teach me genetics were to no avail, I just could not grasp it, but Helen (true to character) was determined, and never gave up, even though I did. I owe Helen a great deal, as do all of us involved in the understanding and progression of the beautiful Tonkinese cat. Helen, as many of you know, was a founder member of the club and in the early days would make the long and sometimes tedious journey from Plymouth to Seaford, a journey which could take up to 5 hours in one direction. Her eye for detail and strong opinions were known to everyone. Helen was always honest, she gave her views in a straightforward manner and if this could appear or sound abrupt, it was always meant to be objective and was never intentionally meant to offend or hurt.

There was another side to Helen, beside her keen intellect and ability to discriminate, she was a deeply loyal and a loving friend ready to help in any way she could. Earlier in the year she adopted a litter of kittens from a fellow breeder, who had sadly lost the mother cat. Helen already had a litter of her own and thought nothing of getting up through the night supplementing feeds and using her own queen. I had personal experience of her determination and skills in this area when, in April this year, after a terrible day my own queen Sheba had to have a hasty Caesarean section. There was only one kitten which the vet had fought hard to save. The nurse at the surgery was not hopeful and we took mother and baby home with heavy hearts. Sheba was still under the influence of the anaesthetic and the kitten was curled up, hardly moving. I phoned Helen for support, within 40 minutes she was at my house, colostrum in hand and with brisk determination said "not only will this kitten have its first meal in 10 minutes, but will be taking its mother's milk by 8 pm", as the church clock struck 8 times, Sheba was purring and the kitten was suckling contentedly. For Helen there was no question of this kitten not surviving. The kitten, later called Teddy, grew up strong and healthy, never knowing a day's illness. He is now a strong and healthy growing boy much loved by his new owners, a tribute to both Helen and to his father, Helen's stud boy Samkabar Pleides.

Two days after her funeral I'm still numb with disbelief that Helen is not with us any more. I can't imagine a cat show without Helen, striding down between the pens in her very distinctive and colourful clothes, her beautiful hair flowing behind her, it really will never be the same, and I will miss her so much. At the funeral we celebrated her life, whilst sadness overwhelmed us. The minister spoke of her life and of the kitten he had bought from her, telling us how she had been so interested in its progress, keeping in touch, and being there if needed. He talked of her constant physical pain, which had inhibited her ability to do so many of the things she enjoyed, particularly horse riding. Helen was laid to rest in a beautiful old walled Victoria graveyard, filled with wild flowers, insects and butterflies. During her interment 2 kittens positioned themselves on the wall above, a fitting image to a

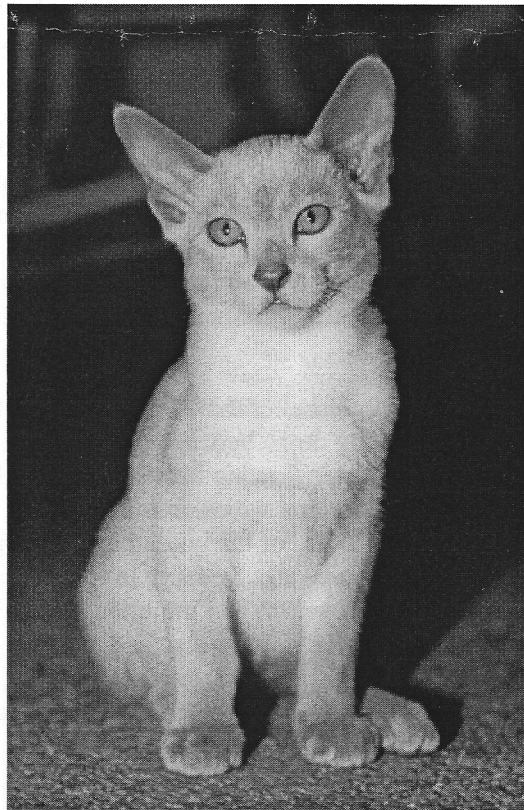
lady of cats. The place where Helen is buried is a conservation site, a cause which was dear to her. It is ironic that a legal loophole in the agreements that are relevant to this site state that the land must not be developed for at least 50 years after a burial: the last burial was in 1948. There has been discussion about developing this site, now it will not be possible. Helen's death has prevented the destruction of this lovely site, a fact that I am sure would have brought her much joy and contentment. I am left with an image of Helen at rest in this wonderful place, wild and beautiful like her own soul. Rest In Peace, Helen.

“Oh build your ship of death Oh build it in time  
and build it lovingly  
and put it between the hands of your soul.”  
(D H Lawrence, Ship of Death)

Brenda Rawlinson

When I must leave you for a little while,  
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears  
And hug your sorrow to you through the years,  
But start out bravely with a gallant smile...  
And for my sake and in my name  
Live on and do all things the same.  
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,  
But fill each waking hour in useful ways.

Helen Steiner Rice



This is Teddy – Melusine Little Emperor, the kitten that Helen saved.



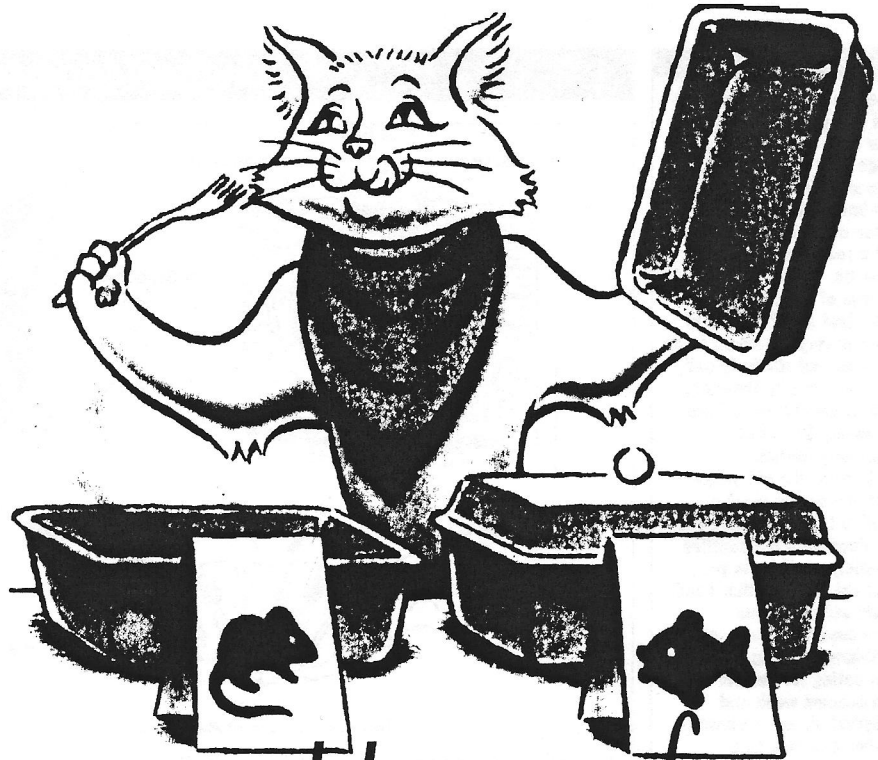
**YOU AND YOUR** cat see eye to eye on many things — the comfort of a warm bed, the thrill of a game of chase, the annoyance of the vacuum cleaner. But where food is concerned, your tastes seldom overlap - and no wonder. Cats have evolved as obligate carnivores, relying on meat to supply most of their nutrient and energy needs, whereas humans descend from a long line of omnivores (Latin for 'devour everything'). It's only natural that your cat considers squishy bugs and plump mice delectable — whereas you relish crisp vegetables and juicy fruits that your cat probably wouldn't touch with the proverbial 10 foot pole.

#### TO THINE OWN SENSE BE TRUE

The taste gap between you and your cat is about more than just food preferences. In all likelihood, your cat has greater taste sensitivity than you do. 'We should not make the assumption that animals are as limited as humans in their ability to taste', says Dr Lola Hudson, associate professor of anatomy at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine and co-author of *The Atlas of Feline Anatomy for Veterinarians*. For one thing cats have about twice as many smell-sensitive cells (olfactory receptors) in their nasal passages as the average human, and smelling (olfaction) contributes greatly to the sense of taste (gustation). Young cats have a particularly acute olfactory sense. In the first few days after birth, a kitten can't hear or see, but it can identify its favourite nipple by the odour.

#### THE MULTI-TALENTED TONGUE

While the nose provides information on the subtleties of odour and flavour, it is the tongue that does the 'nitty-gritty' work of tasting. The tongue's surface sprouts dozens of lumps of tissue called papillae that hold many microscopic clusters of taste-sensitive cells (taste buds). (See box 'Tongue Topography'). When your cat eats a mouthful of kibbles, its saliva dissolves some of the chemical components in the food, including salts, acids and sugars. The taste buds detect these dissolved chemicals and signal the brain by way of three pairs of cranial nerves. Because taste buds on different areas of the tongue vary in their sensitivity to particular types of chemicals, the brain can identify a taste based on the pattern of gustatory signals it receives.



# a matter of TASTE

The feline tongue has other talents beyond tasting. It also senses texture and temperature, ladles liquids, picks up tiny food morsels and directs 'traffic' in the mouth. 'The tongue acts like a plunger, pushing food and water down the throat', explains Dr Hudson. 'It also keeps food from going down the wrong way'. During swallowing, muscles at the base of the tongue pull on the hyoid apparatus, a set of small bones in the throat. These bones then shift forward, closing off the windpipe with a flap of tissue called the epiglottis.

The best-known feature of the cat's tongue is probably its 'sandpaper' texture — created by the stiff, curved filiform papillae in the tongue's centre. This rough surface helps cats clean and untangle their fur as they lick themselves during grooming. But a raspy tongue also aids in feeding. Wild cats use their tongues to remove feathers or fur from their prey and to lick meat from the

bones. 'Although cats have good shearing teeth, their teeth are not set up well for grabbing things close to a surface — and the attachment of muscle to bone is incredibly strong', explains Dr Hudson. 'The tongue helps cats tear those attachments.' Oddly enough, the only other domestic animals that have raspy tongues are the vegetarian cow and its kin. The cow's stiff filiform papillae are put to use pulling up grass rather than pulling out meat fibres.

#### DISCRIMINATING TASTES

While we know quite a lot about the structure of the feline tongue, we know considerably less about its tasting abilities. After all, your cat can't tell you whether it perceives something as sweet, sour, or bitter. Nevertheless, scientists have tried to assess the gustatory sensitivity of cats by training them to discriminate between plain water and water mixed with sugar, salt, or some other substance. The results of these taste

*How important is taste to a cat? How sensitive is its sense of taste? Catnip investigates.*

## APPETITE LOST

If you've ever had a cold so bad that it totally clogged your nose and sinuses and made your favourite curry dinner taste like cardboard, you know that losing your sense of smell and taste can put a real damper on your appetite. The same seems to be true of cats. 'Studies show that a cat's sense of smell is very important to its appetite and ability to eat', confirms Dr Lisa Freeman, clinical instructor at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Despite the old adage that you should 'feed a cold', a brief fast while you are down with the snuffles probably won't harm you. Your cat, on the other hand, could suffer serious repercussions from even a mini-hunger strike. Cats that quit eating for several days can become weak and dehydrated, and prolonged fasting can lead to a condition called hepatic lipidosis, a dangerous accumulation of fat in the liver. 'If your cat has been eating less food for several days, or if it has stopped eating for more than a day or two, you should see your veterinarian', advises Dr Freeman.

If your veterinarian finds that your fasting cat has nothing more serious than a mild respiratory infection, you may want to take steps to tempt your pet's taste buds.

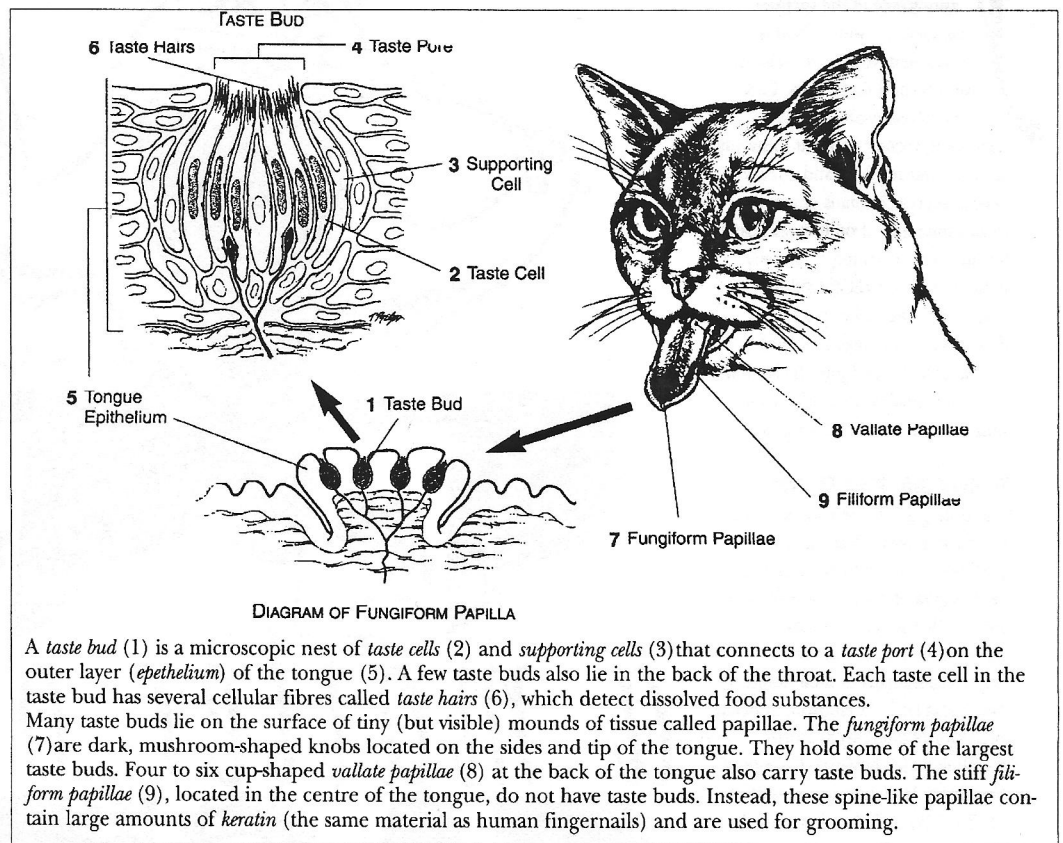
- **Serve up some aromatic selections like canned fish- or liver-flavoured cat food. A food's odour resides in its fats, and these oily foods are packed with aroma. Such concentrated aromas are more likely to penetrate your cat's stuffy nose and turn on its appetite.**

- **Heat your cat's meals slightly. As the temperature of a food rises, more of its odours become airborne (volatilise). However, be careful not to heat the food too much. If it feels more than lukewarm to the touch, it's too hot!**

- **Sit with your cat and pet it while it eats. Your comforting presence may provide just the encouragement it needs.**

- **If your cat still isn't eating after a day or two, take it back to the veterinarian. It may need to get its water and nutrients through a feeding tube for a few days until it is feeling 'up to snuff'.**

## Tongue Topography



A *taste bud* (1) is a microscopic nest of *taste cells* (2) and *supporting cells* (3) that connects to a *taste pore* (4) on the outer layer (*epithelium*) of the tongue (5). A few taste buds also lie in the back of the throat. Each taste cell in the taste bud has several cellular fibres called *taste hairs* (6), which detect dissolved food substances. Many taste buds lie on the surface of tiny (but visible) mounds of tissue called papillae. The *fungiform papillae* (7) are dark, mushroom-shaped knobs located on the sides and tip of the tongue. They hold some of the largest taste buds. Four to six cup-shaped *vallate papillae* (8) at the back of the tongue also carry taste buds. The stiff *filiform papillae* (9), located in the centre of the tongue, do not have taste buds. Instead, these spine-like papillae contain large amounts of *keratin* (the same material as human fingernails) and are used for grooming.

tests suggest that cats can detect sour, bitter and salty tastes, but not sweet ones.

Some experts think the test results do not tell the whole story. Dr Bruce Fogle, author of *The Cat's Mind* and a practising veterinarian in London, believes cats fail to distinguish sugar water from plain water because they are acutely sensitive to the taste of water itself. While humans generally consider water bland to the point of tastelessness, felines show a high sensitivity to natural variations in water flavour. This may explain why certain cats are so 'picky' in their drinking habits. 'I've heard of owners who leave taps running because their cats don't want to drink water out of a bowl', says Dr Fogle. 'I imagine thousands of gallons going drip, drip, down the drain just because that's the way the cat likes to drink'.

The question of whether cats have a 'sweet tooth' is further complicated by anecdotal evidence from owners. Many people say their cats show a distinct preference for sweet foods like ice-cream, biscuits and fruit. While these reports of feline 'dessert fetishes' suggest that some cats crave sugar, the evidence may be misleading. The textures of these foods — called mouth feel — may actually be more important than their

taste. When Fluffy 'screams for ice-cream', she may desire its iciness and creaminess — not its sweetness. It's also possible that dessert-eating cats are simply mimicking owner food preferences. After all, kittens learn from their mothers which foods are edible, so adult cats may also acquire some of their tastes through observation and imitation of human 'parental figures'. Unfortunately, owners don't always set the best example for their cats. Many human foods contribute nothing to feline nutrition and health — and some foods may actually be harmful.

### CULINARY CHOICES

As your cat goes about deciding which foods it likes, it weighs up several factors. 'The odour, taste and feel of a food in the mouth are all important', says Dr Philip Roudebush, a veterinary nutritionist at Hill's Science and Technology Centre in Topeka, Kansas. Given their preference, cats often choose foods with lots of meat, a powerful aroma, a high fat content, a combination of soft and crispy textures and a temperature of about 35 degrees Celsius (the body temperature of most small mammals). In other words, cats crave 'fresh mouse in a can'.

Cats also prefer variety in their diets. If they have a choice between two equally palatable foods, one familiar and the other unfamiliar, most will eat more of the new stuff — at least for a few days. Eventually, of course, the new stuff becomes as mundane as the old stuff. This feline preference for novel foods probably explains why there are so many types of cat food on supermarket shelves. It may also account for the 'finicky' reputation of cats. But this infamous dietary pickiness may be more fabled than real. Most cats eat healthily even with only one item on their menu — unless they are ill. (See box 'Appetite Lost').

Although your cat may prefer variety, there is a down side to an ever-changing diet. Some cats may suffer indigestion or allergic reactions after eating new foods. And animals with certain medical conditions may need to stay on a prescribed diet. An occasional change of pace is probably fine for healthy cats, but you should not cater to your capricious feline's every epicurean whim.

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## Little Known Feline Ailments Part 2

More oft-observed, but little-documented, afflictions of cats:

### FUFFLING

#### Symptoms:

The cat lowers its nose into water and exhales. This is followed by whiffling, spluttering, sneezing, snorting, head-shaking and a generally confused expression. Bath-foam appears to trigger attacks of fuffling in some cats. It may also be linked to interesting items seen in the water, eg goldfish, food-crumbs, greeblingz. Fuffling is most common during kittenhood although even quite elderly cats may suffer an occasional bout.

#### Treatment:

None. Snorkelling apparatus or scuba suits are possibilities, but cats do not readily accept such treatment. Kittenhood fuffling generally subsides as the cat grows older, possibly due to some acquired immunity (or greater common sense).

### IRRITABLE LAP SYNDROME

#### Symptoms:

The cat appears unable to settle comfortably on laps, instead treating, kneading, rearranging itself, fidgeting, vocalising, getting up and turning around, falling off lap and getting back on again, attacking magazines, needlework, computer keyboard, telephone etc.

#### Treatment:

Immediate treatment is essential. Drop whatever you are doing (literally if need be) and give 100% attention to the sufferer otherwise symptoms may escalate and become quite distressing to the lap-owner. Only prolonged attention will cure an attack of Irritable Lap Syndrome. Like Collapsible Legs this syndrome is incurable, although attacks may be effectively treated as and when they occur.

### LAP FUNGUS DISORDER

#### Symptoms:

Having taken over a human lap, the cat proceeds to spread in all planes. This may be accompanied by secondary symptoms such as high volume purring, dribbling, kneading and snoring. The condition is highly contagious and several fungoid cats may infest a lap simultaneously.

#### Treatment:

Topical treatment with proprietary anti-fungals is ineffective. Prompt treatment (as per Irritable Lap Syndrome) is required to alleviate the worst symptoms although in a number of cats, such treatment actually aggravates the condition. This disorder manifests itself periodically through the affected cat's life and there is no long-term cure.

## SMURGLING

### Symptoms:

Varied: sucking at clothing, owner's earlobes, nose, fingers or skin; drooling, glazed expression. Often accompanied by kneading and high volume purring.

### Treatment:

Ultimately incurable. It is possible to remove smurglable items from around the cat. The ailment may be transmitted to humans in the form of large laundry bills, mis-shapen clothing and chapped skin.

## GREEBLINGZ

### Symptoms:

Random dashes through to helter-skelter running through house in pursuits of unseen prey. Greeblingz are believed to be non-visible entities and some authorities have linked them to UFO sightings or feel that they may be diminutive other-dimensional beings. Cats suffering from greeblingz typically have wild-eyed expressions. There is a minor danger of greeblingz attaching themselves to humans; if a cat tackles such greeblingz, injury to humans may result. A very few cats are naturally immune.

### Treatment:

None known. Anti-epileptics are ineffective as the condition appears unrelated to other forms of seizure. Avoid getting in the way of a cat engaged in greeblingz hunting. Attacks usually subside spontaneously, perhaps as greeblingz return to their own dimension. These irritating creatures are not visible to human eyes, but no doubt the superior sight and hearing of cats enables them to see them.

Found by Linda Vousden on her internet wanderings



## Some Common Skin Problems

by Alison Ashford, FZS

Providing a cat is given regular, daily grooming there should not be ANY problems with the skin. However, occasionally problems WILL present themselves, and it is for these unfortunate owners that I am writing this article.

The skin of a cat varies in thickness from .37 mm to 1.9 mm. It is more pliable and elastic than is the skin of dogs, and is composed of two distinct layers, the epidermis (outer layer), and the dermis, or inner layer. Because it is so thin it is easily damaged or infected, although the coat protects the cat to a great extent. White cats are sensitive to the sun, their ears becoming easily affected by the sun. Because of this sensitiveness, white cats should be kept indoors during the summer months, unless their ears are protected by one of the sun-screen creams.

Most infuriating of all the skin diseases, because there is now no definitive treatment, is CHEEYLETIELLA. This is a very irritating rash that occurs when the mite is burrowing its way into the skin. It is one of the few diseases that is zoonotic – ie can be passed to and from humans to cats. In fact my Vet said that when he suspected the mite infestation, it was easy to diagnose by asking the owner to strip!!

When an infestation is suspected, it can be definitely be diagnosis by a skin scraping, which can be examined microscopically for the presence of the mite. If it IS present, the problem is to find a drug which is effective AGAINST the mite. At one time a dusting of ALUGAN powder would quickly dispose of the pests, but now the EEC has ordered that it may no longer be used, so (unless owners have access to the powder!) eradicating the mite DOES represent a problem. My own Vet now advises a good bath in Fairy Liquid, a thorough dry, and then the application of FRONTLINE (made by Rhone Merieux). I am fortunate not to have had the wretched mite recently, but I am sure that Frontline is effective.

'Stud Tail' is another common and annoying skin complaint which affects both males AND females. It is a form of acne, which affects the areas of skin at the base of the tail and under the chin, although other areas CAN be affected.

Basically, this is a disease in which the hair follicles of the chin, lip and base of spine become clogged with keratin and sebum, and there is a slight area of alopecia. Occasionally the area will become infected with Pasteurella or streptococci or staphylococci, and pustules develop. It is important to keep the area spotlessly clean by the use of detergents, or, if pustules are present, by cleansing with a topical application of Chlorhexidine. This should be continued, three or four times a week for several weeks. If the area is really infected, a Vet should be consulted and he will probably prescribe an antibiotic.

A more serious condition is cause by immuno-suppression. This is commonly known as Rodent Ulcer, with the most commonly affected areas being the mouth and the base of the tail. In these areas the hair disappears and there is red-brown ulceration of the skin, with raised borders sometimes covered by a hard crust. Lip ulcers are not usually irritating. Such ulcers are, OCCASIONALLY malignant, but this is not usual.

These ulcers will often heal NATURALLY, but very effective treatment can be given by cryosurgery (surgery by deep-freeze technique). After this treatment the condition does not recur,

Psychogenic Alopecia is a fairly rare condition in which patches of localised baldness occur on the back, thighs, abdomen and genital areas. Found most often in Siamese and Abyssinian breeds, the condition is thought to be caused by stress and anxiety. It is important to discover the CAUSE of the alopecia before starting any treatment. Usually a tranquilliser, such as Diazepam, will be effective. This is given twice daily for three weeks. Sometimes a 'mood modifier' such as Megestrol acetate will help the cat to relax and the condition will clear.

Finally, I come to Ringworm, or Dermatophytosis, to give this unpleasant skin disease its correct name. I can remember catching Ringworm from a little cat which had been given as a wedding gift in my first marriage. This large red ring appeared in the centre of my forehead, like a tribal caste-mark! I was very conscious of it, but, since the Cat Fancy was unknown to me, the infection soon cleared, using only an anti-fungal cream and nobody worried. How different it would be today! One part of the Cat Fancy which I do NOT admire is the section which becomes completely hysterical about such things.

Of course, it is due to a small faction which uses the knowledge of the disease as a form of blackmail on poor, unfortunate breeders who are honest enough to acknowledge that they have a problem. So, once the cats have been treated, the owners most probably need a course of psychotherapy! It really is no joke, but I do not know HOW to treat it.

As most cat owners know, the first signs of Ringworm are constant scratching of the skin around the neck and ears. The hairs fall out, leaving a small, hairless area on the head and legs. In the centre of these rings there MAY be a small, crusty area 'like cigarette ash'. When ringworm is suspected, ALL cats from the household should be checked by the Veterinary Surgeon. Brushings from each cat should be taken and sent to a laboratory which is known to check for Ringworm. Examination beneath a Wood's lamp is NOT sufficient, as not ALL the types of Ringworm fluoresce under the lamp.

These tests may take up to a week, which seems an endless time to the anxious owner, but it is necessary. If the cat is positive, the WHOLE cattery must go into isolation, with strict precautions being taken. It would take a complete chapter to write about these, and I think these should feature in another issue.

Once Ringworm has been diagnosed, the entire Cattery must remain in isolation for the better part of a year, so it is only by being completely honest that we can eradicate this disease. The Feline Advisory Bureau is presently working on a possible Ringworm vaccine, but it is proving to be a very difficult task. My Vet has told me that one single hair can remain infected by Ringworm for up to FIVE YEARS! This is a frightening thought, and I do hope that readers will take the matter seriously. Extreme care must be taken when disinfecting premises. I still believe in using Formalin gas. This is easily done, but it COULD be dangerous in the wrong hands. For the benefit of those who would like to try it, here are the directions:

Required: 4 fl oz Pure Formalin (formaldehyde)  
1 oz Potassium permanganate crystals

Method Remove all flowers and living things from the room to be treated. Seal under any doors or windows. Place large Pyrex bowl in centre of floor. Into this place crystals of potassium permanganate. Pour onto these the liquid formalin - and RUN!

The gas is quickly produced and gets into every crack and cranny, killing all its contacts. Leave room closed for at least 12 hours - longer if possible. I have used this over the years, and rely on it completely.

Good luck to you all

## TONKINESE IN AUSTRALIA

Tonkinese in Australia have Championship status right from the first generation. First to third generations are classed as Sub Registers and this is included in any titles, SRCh. Fourth generation onwards are classified as Full Register Pedigree.

Tonkinese were given full recognition at the Australian Cat Federation Inc AGM in 1997. There are two main governing bodies in Australia, the ACF Inc and the Co ordinating Cat Council of Australia - (who do not accept Tonkinese at all).

Tonkinese are accepted in all colours and patterns but only the Minks are given Challenge Status.

In Victoria, the Solid and Pointed varieties can be shown and bred from, but most of the states only allow Minks to be benched and bred from.

In Australia, the ACF Inc accepted colours are, Seal/Brown (Natural), Blue, Chocolate (Champagne), Lilac (Platinum). Red, Cream, Caramel, Apricot, Tabby and Tortie varieties have not been recognized by the ACF Inc yet, these colours and patterns are allowed to be shown and bred with but cannot be awarded Challenge certificates.

There are three types of show styles in Australia:

1. Australian Owner Participation, sometimes known as American Ring Style. The cats are taken to the Ring, a bay arrangement with a judging table set up in front and an audience area.
2. Australian Bay Style shows arrange the cages in large bays according to the grouping, with a judges table set up in front for the audience and the Judges move from bay to bay.

And

3. Closed shows, an older style of show, the Judge and Stewards move from cage to cage judging each exhibit. The show is cleared of exhibitors during judging and results are posted on a board.

Tonkinese are extremely popular and bred in all the states of Australia, registration guidelines vary from state to state, only Queensland has adopted the GCCF SOP's, all the other states have adopted CFA's SOPs and registration guidelines.

Queensland has the largest concentration of Tonkinese breeders at present and is the only state with it's own Tonkinese cat club, "Tonks and All"...Breeds Cat Club, affiliated with QICC Inc. Tonks and All have seventeen Tonkinese breeders as members as well as a lot of enthusiastic Tonkinese owners.

*Loris E Kerlake*

Loral Tonkinese, PO Box 159 Kenilworth Qld Aust 4574, Tel 07 5446 0913 Secretary, "Tonks and All" Breeds Cat Club (affiliated with QICC Inc and ACF Inc)



## The Modern Way (or A Hallowe'en Up-date)

Eye of newt, tongue of frog, bat's wing and gossamer web not only sound revolting but are difficult to procure in today's high speed, hi-tech environment. A forward thinking exponent of curses, enchantments and potions (Esmeralda Hypnaea) decided to come up with modern alternative. Here are her notes:

1. Eye of newt – a suitable substitute would be caviar, or lumpfish roe for any economy-minded.
2. Tongue of frog – anchovy fillets (fresh not tinned to cut salt content).
3. Bat's wing – gelatine sheets.
4. Gossamer web – a little more tricky, but you could use Thai glass noodles (As you can tell, Esmeralda's other occupation is that of gourmet cook!).

A few other ingredients that need replacement: Reptile rattle, viper venom, rat's tail and spider's leg. There is also the matter of the fluid to dissolve and liquidise which is usually tomcat urine or stagnant pond water.

Substitutions as follows:

1. Reptile rattle – flaked or nibbed almonds, depending on strength required.
2. Viper venom – angostura bitters or Worcester sauce.
3. Rat's tail – Liquorice strings, red or black.
4. Spider's leg – a little more difficult, but a great potency is achieved with shredded coconut imbued with strong Colombian coffee.

The fluids which can be used are as follows: Tomcat's urine has been replaced very successfully with Raki, a strong liqueur. Stagnant pond water must be replaced with a combination of raw egg white (alligator is preferable), absinthe and vodka. Anyone wishing to remain traditional – colourwise – must add viridian food colouring.

Incantations can remain the same as most people find it easy to remember antique arcane words – as their modern-day vocabulary is limited in the extreme. Other practices are open to the individual's preferences; however, it is strongly recommended that for coven gatherings and dancing under the moon flesh-coloured thermal long johns and vests are worn. The reason for this is very practical, many an incantation has been ruined or irretrievably altered by sneezing and blocked enunciation.

*Pamela Davey*

## Wrapping presents with the help of your cat

By Mark Jefferson

1. Clear large space on table for wrapping present.
2. Go to wardrobe and collect bag in which present is contained, and close door
3. Open door and remove cat from wardrobe,
4. Go to cupboard and retrieve rolls of wrapping paper.
5. Go back and remove cat from cupboard.
6. Go to draw, and collect transparent sticky tape, ribbons, scissors labels etc.,
7. Lay out presents and wrapping materials on table, to enable wrapping strategy to be formed.
8. Go back to draw to get string, remove cat that has been in the drawer since last visit and collect string.
9. Reopen drawer and re-remove cat.
10. Remove present from bag.
11. Remove cat from bag.
12. Open box to check present, remove cat from box, replace present.
13. Lay out paper to enable cutting to size,
14. Try and smooth out paper. Realise cat is underneath and remove cat.
15. Cut the paper to size, trying to keep the cutting line straight.
16. Throw away first sheet as cat tried to chase the scissors, and tore paper.
17. Cut second sheet of paper to size. Try putting cat in the bag the present came out of.
18. Place present on cut to size paper
19. Lift up edges of paper to seal in present, wonder why edges now don't reach, and realise cat is between present and paper. Remove cat and try again.
20. Place object on paper, hold in place, while cutting transparent sticky tape.
21. Spend next 20 minutes carefully trying to remove transparent sticky tape from cat with pair of nail scissors.
22. Seal paper down, with transparent sticky tape, making corners as neat as possible.
23. Look for roll of ribbon, chase cat down hall in order to retrieve ribbon.
24. Try to wrap present with ribbon in a two directional turn.
25. Re-roll up ribbon and remove paper that is now torn, due to cat's enthusiasm to chase ribbon end.
26. Repeat steps 13-20 until down to last sheet of paper.

27. Decide to skip steps 13-17, in order to save time and reduce risk of loosing last sheet of paper. By retrieving old cardboard box, that you know is right size for sheet of paper.
28. Put present in box, and tie down with string.
29. Remove string, open box and remove cat.
30. Put all packing materials in bag with present and head for lockable room.
31. Once inside room, lock door and start to re-lay out packing materials.
32. Remove cat from box, unlock door, put cat outside door, close door and re-lock.
33. Repeat previous step as often as is necessary. Until you can hear the cries from the cat outside the door.
34. Lay out last sheet of paper. (I know this is difficult in the small area of the toilet. But try your best).
35. Realise cat has already got to the paper. Unlock door go out and hunt through various cupboards, looking for sheet of last year's paper, until you remember that you haven't got any left, due to cats help with wrapping last year.
36. Retire back to room, lock door, and sit on toilet whist trying to work out how to make torn sheet of paper look halfway presentable.
37. Seal box, wrap with paper and start repairs by very carefully sealing down tears with transparent tape. Now tie up with ribbon and decorate with bows to hide worst effected areas.
38. Label, then sit back and admire your handiwork, congratulating yourself on making good of a bad job.
39. Unlock door, and go to kitchen to make drink and feed cat.
40. Spend next 15 minutes looking for cat, before coming to obvious conclusion.
41. Unwrap present, untie box and remove cat.
42. Retrieve all thrown away sheets of wrapping paper, feed cat and retire back to room for last attempt, making certain you are alone and the door is locked.
43. Find least torn and wrinkled sheets of paper, along with the ones that the pattern matches closest.
44. Vainly try and wrap present in patchwork of paper. Tie with the now tattered ribbon and decorate with the now limp bows. Label and put present in bag, for fear of anyone seeing this disaster.
45. At time of handing over present, smile sweetly at receiver's face, as they try and hide their contempt at being handed such a badly wrapped present.
46. Swear to yourself that next year, you will get the store to wrap the damn thing for you.





# THE CHRISTMAS KITTEN

Author Anon

I once was a cuddly kitten,  
But now I am a stray,  
'Cos when I was no longer fluffy,  
They sent me on my way.

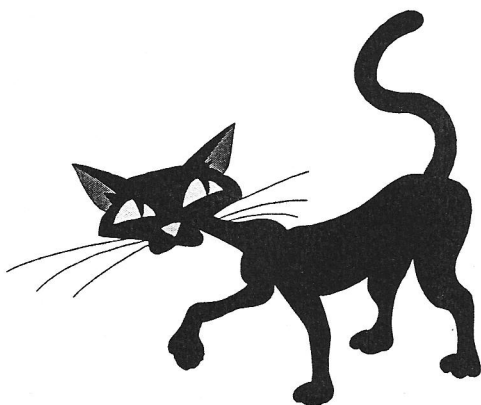
They've kept the big Alsatian,  
As he can bark and growl,  
But I could fly at strangers,  
If I caught them on the prowl.

I slink around their dustbin;  
I mew outside their door;  
But it's clear from their behaviour,  
They don't want me anymore.

Now I'm cold and hungry,  
And getting very thin,  
What have I done to hurt them,  
Why won't they let me in?

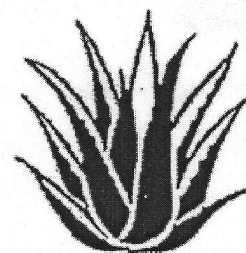
I crouch in sheds and boxes,  
In my bedraggle fur,  
So shivery and dejected,  
I cannot even purr.

They have another kitten,  
Their children's whole delight;  
But probably next Christmas,  
It will share my wretched plight.



## Aloe Vera

Most people in the UK today know of aloe vera because of its inclusion in many popular cosmetic products but the healing properties of this succulent plant have been known for thousands of years not only to the Egyptians but also to the Roman, Greek, Arab and Indian cultures with many ancient physicians including aloe vera in their therapeutic armouries. Traders first brought aloe vera to London in 1693 and by 1843 considerable amounts were being imported to be made up into medicines and throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it remained one of the main popular prescribed and over-the-counter medicines.



Over the years the plant has also been known by a number of names - 'the silent healer', 'the miracle plant', 'the burn plant' and 'heaven's blessing'. Travellers abroad may encounter it if they burn themselves and someone gives them a piece of cactus-like stem. Just squeeze the gel from this bit of greenery on to the burn and the traveller will be most pleasantly surprised when the pain quickly subsides and the burns heal quickly with minimal scar formation!!

With more and more 'herbal', 'natural' and 'organic' remedies there has been a great deal of interest in the medical potential of extracts of this plant. Investigations into the efficacy of the extracts have assessed the value of the products in radiation disease, tuberculosis and burns, and research by an American company has led to one compound being licensed for the treatment of a form of feline leukaemia, with possibilities for human use also.

One GP, Peter Atherton, was so impressed by the effects of an aloe vera and bee propolis (a natural antibiotic) cream on a child patient's eczema that his whole life has now been changed: he tried aloe on himself and his family and then decided to research further into the effects of aloe vera, taking a sabbatical to study the medicinal effects of this plant. He has written the definitive work on the this plant, telling how it works primarily on epithelial tissue and the immune system, reporting benefits for various skin complaints (eczema, psoriasis, ulcers, burns) and improvement for some people suffering from such disorders as IBS and conditions such as arthritis, asthma, ME and Lupus.

Similarly, a vet, David Urch, has also been 'converted' by the beneficial effects of aloe vera. He was given an aloe vera gel drink to take himself and he has ended up using various aloe products on his family, his pets and his farm animals because he is so convinced of its efficacy. He has written a most useful book too and lectures all over the country about how aloe vera can help in veterinary practice.

My husband, Richard, and I both take a daily amount of gel every day to get the benefit of all the vitamins and minerals it includes. We have found various other products that we like too - a gelly for skin problems (I had 'hives' recently as a reaction to a particular antibiotic and this helped with the itching) as well as a cold sore, the toothgel (contains propolis) for a troublesome dental infection, and the moisturiser - wonderful. I am looking forward to trying more products.

I have been including aloe vera gel in my feline family's food every day for just over a year now and am very pleased with the results. Their coats are really soft and plush - I have received many compliments about them and I am sure the gel has helped boost their health generally because of the many vitamins and minerals it contains. One of my vets has encountered the product and thinks highly of it too, so much so that she referred some pet owners to me to get the gel for their animals. One cat in particular (Yoda) has shown very good results, and although he still has some bad days, his 'Mum' is convinced that aloe is helping.

If anyone would like to learn more about the products, please contact me and I will be only too pleased to let you have some information about the range of products that are available for human and animal use.

*Kathy Wilkinson*





**A**s a small research project I set out to compare the activity patterns of older cats with younger ones and also to look at whether owners valued and enjoyed their older cats.

### The study

Twenty owners volunteered and were divided into two groups. Ten owners had cats from nine months to 10 years and 10 owners had cats 13 years - 19 1/2. In the younger group of cats eight were under 3 1/2 and the remaining two were eight years and 10 years but very active.

All owners were asked to complete diary sheets from 8.00 am - 8.00 pm on four different days making observations of their cat's activity. Information on hunting behaviour was also sought and owners were asked to state whether their cat went out at night.

I decided to concentrate on looking at three areas of activity.

- ◆ Sleep
- ◆ Interaction  
cuddles, feeding, play and being groomed
- ◆ Time spent outdoors.

All the completed diary sheets were carefully read and time spent on each activity worked out as a percentage of the 48 hour total.

To complete the study, owners of the older cats were asked to fill in a questionnaire to gain some understanding about how owners viewed their older cats.

### Results

The younger cats spent 45 per cent of their time sleeping, 27.2 per cent outdoors and 14.9 per cent interacting with owner and family. Play activity was a feature for all the cats in the younger group and six out of the 10 owners played with their cats every day. All the young cats enjoyed a cuddle and being stroked. These interactions were sometimes brief but frequent.

Observations of activity outdoors included 'patrolling the perimeter of the garden' and watching and stalking birds.

When the study was conducted it was not good weather or the best season for hunting but most owners indicated that their young cats normally hunt and bring home prey.

Life for the older cat is a much more

## Maggie Gallop looks at how age affects activity in cats



Top left: Billy (male — 15 years)  
Top right: Suki (female — 15 years)  
Above: Savick (male — 1 1/2 years)

contemplative affair: 62.4 per cent of their time was spent sleeping, 10.8 per cent was spent outdoors and 16.7 per cent interacting with owner and family. The oldest cat (over 19) slept 72.5 per cent of the time. Many of the cats actively sought and displayed affection and were also more vocal and 'chatty' than the younger cats. They enjoyed sitting on an available lap for longer periods than the busy youngsters.

Five out of 10 cats actively played during the study period enjoying soft toys rather than noisy ones with bells in. Cardboard boxes were also popular for sitting in and observing family life.

Activity outdoors included finding a sheltered 'comfy' spot for a snooze in the sun if possible but some were more active. One 16-year-old visited the local Chinese restaurant every day to raid the dustbins and two of the cats stalked and sometimes caught birds.

### Views on older cats

I obtained owners' views about their older cats by using a questionnaire. When asked, all 10 owners were very positive about enjoying their cat's company. 'Yes very much' and 'definitely' were the commonest replies. Nine out of 10 cats continued some form of play activity including the 19-year-old Puss, who showed occasional interest in a ball of wool.

Eight of the cats demonstrated a continued

ability to learn and accept new situations. One 14-year-old moved three times in three years without problems and learnt to use a catflap. A 14-year-old accepted a litter of four kittens and now eats and sleeps with them and even the 19-year-old Puss accepted the use of a harness when necessary.

The older cats were not seen as particularly grumpy or temperamental by seven of the 10 owners. One cat had become less 'wild' and much calmer. Those that were grumpy had also been inclined that way when younger.

The activity patterns of the older cats compared to the younger ones is clearly different in some respects. They generally slept for longer in response to their body's need for more rest and during the winter months are less likely to go outdoors for long periods. The majority continued with play activity but perhaps less frequently and with less vigour as age increased.

The 10 owners in this study both enjoyed and valued their older cats. The bond between owner and cat had strengthened with the passing years and most of the cats demonstrated a willingness to accept a closer physical and emotional bond with their owner.

AUTUMN 1997 FAB journal

## TONK'S THE NEXT GENERATION

Jasper is my little boy's name  
We wanted a Tonk and home he came  
Not because we wanted a red  
But because he nipped our toes instead  
That just made us love him more  
And now it's him we all adore  
Kizzie is our Lilac girl.  
Who we went to see as I said before  
People say we are insane  
But it was off to Devon once again  
Jap and Kizzie, that makes a few  
But we wanted 'Katie' a chocolate too!  
Pauline's helped us quite a lot  
Showing us what to do when things got 'hot'  
As it was we didn't need to intervene  
When Jasper got started he was very keen  
Now we are expecting kittens  
So mum get started on those mittens  
Dad hated cats as he once said  
But now they are sleeping in his bed  
Tonks have changed our lives and view  
If you knew them, then they would change yours too!!

*Jo Richards*

The following advert was seen in a computer magazine:

### **Paws off!**

Is your cat irresistibly drawn to your keyboard? Does it dance all over it the moment that your back is turned? Now there is a solution to the problem in the shape of PawSense, which detects irregular key strokes made by 'cat typing' and blocks your keyboard to prevent damage, while emitting a noise to scare your cat off. It costs £15.90 plus p&p on the web.

A short time after I saw the following letter in New Scientist magazine:

### **Catproof**

I was amused to read that a \$20 program has been developed to help prevent disastrous encounters between domestic cats and PC keyboards (4 December, p 18). I prefer to use KAAT (keyboard angular aspect adjustment technology).

When leaving my PC unattended, I simply pick up the keyboard with both hands, rotate it through 90 degrees about its long axis and, while preserving this aspect, rest it against the front of the PC's monitor or some other suitable vertical prop. I find it works every time – and it doesn't cost \$20.

Brian Higgins

When asked if I could use his letter, Brian said he was absolutely amazed that anyone should have troubled to write such a program – 'a fool and his money are soon parted' was one of his comments!

# Mike's Chewy Chocolate Cookies



## Ingredients:

75g (3oz) Butter  
125g (4oz) Caster Sugar  
50g (2oz) Soft Dark Brown Sugar  
1 Fresh Egg (size 3), Beaten  
125g (4oz) Milk Chocolate Drops  
65g (2 1/2oz) Porridge Oats  
10g (1/2oz) Bran  
25g (1oz) Cocoa Powder  
50g (2oz) Self Raising Flour  
1 Tablespoon of Milk.

## Instructions:

- 1) In a large bowl, cream together the butter and the sugars until light and fluffy. Add all of the egg and beat for 1 minute then mix in half of the chocolate drops and the remaining ingredients.
- 2) Place spoonfuls of the mixture onto greased baking trays and sprinkle on remaining chocolate drops.
- 3) Bake in a pre-heated oven for 15 minutes at gas mark 4 (180 degrees C, 380 degrees F). Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

*Makes approximately 18 yummy biscuits.*

## Bayer released a statement to the veterinary community (USA) in July 2000

Bayer has received sporadic but increasing numbers of reports about altered vision in feline patients treated with Baytril tablets and/or Baytril injectable. Baytril injectable is only approved for use in dogs [in the USA]. Reports include retinal detachment, blindness, temporary blindness, partial blindness.

The increase of incidents started in July 1997 with a label change re: dosage; from a dosage of 2.5 mg/kg/day to a flexible dose of 5-20 mgs/kg (as a single dose or two equally divided doses) per day.

The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology has been asked by Bayer to investigate this matter. As a result, a specific feline safety study to assess Baytril and ocular parameters is underway, specifically retinal involvement. Bayer states they will contact the veterinary community with the results.

At this time, Bayer is strongly recommending that doses be given at the lower end of the scale *not to exceed* 5mg/kg/day.

## Some USA Statistic's on Re-Homed Cats and Dogs

Recent studies, including the USA's National Council's Shelter Relinquishment Study from 1998, show the source of dogs and cats that were re-homed.

*Cats at HIGHEST risk of being re-homed were:* previously owned by friend (33.2%), obtained as stray (23.3%), and obtained from a shelter (14.3%).

*Cats at LOWEST risk of being re-homed were:* obtained from a veterinarian (0.9%), obtained from a breeder (3.4%), received as a gift (3.3%), or obtained from a pet shop (4.8%).

Other sources considered in the study, such as previously owned by a stranger, offspring of their own pet, etc., fell in the middle percentages.

Percentages in the study were fairly similar for dogs, with notable exceptions (more cats are obtained as strays than dogs). Only 3.0% of the dogs re-homed were originally obtained as gifts, according to this study, compared to 22.8% obtained from shelters, and 10.9% from breeders.

While these statistics relate to studies on animals in the USA it is generally the case that ownership patterns in the UK are similar to the USA.

## Do Not Go Peaceable to That Damn Vet

By Dylan Thomas's Cat

Do not go peaceable to that damn vet,  
A cat can always tell a trip is due,  
Hide, hide, when your appointment time is set.

Wise cats who watched, and learned the alphabet,  
And never let men know how much they knew,  
Do not go peaceable to that damn vet.

Young cats who want to keep their claws to whet  
On sofa legs, and save their privates, too,  
Hide, hide, when your appointment time is set.

Sick cats, poor things, whose stomachs are upset,  
But hate to eat some evil-smelling goo,  
Do not go peaceable to that damn vet.

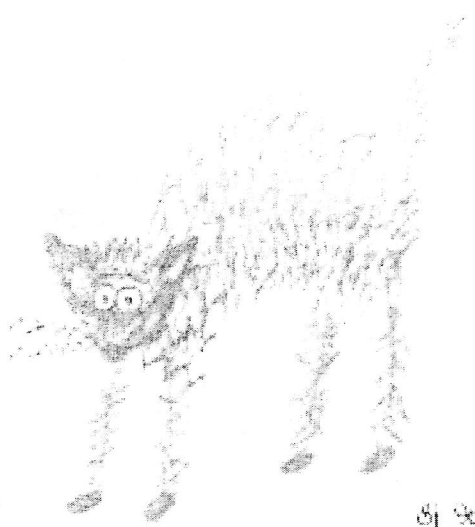
Old cats who have no wish to sleep just yet,  
And plan to live another life or two,  
Hide, hide, when your appointment time is set.

And though your human sweetly calls his pet,  
Or rants and raves until his face is blue,  
Don not go peaceable to that damn vet,  
Hide, hide, when your appointment time is set.

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# Clarinath Cats



## Chairman's Report

Well this year has certainly been different. What started off with such high expectations has certainly come down with a bang! We all looked forward to June when the opportunity to gain ICs for the first time made showing very exciting. I attended the Somerset Cat Show and saw Brenda Rawlinson and Anthony Ponsford (who had travelled from Lincolnshire) become the first club members to win an IC. At the same time several ICs were won up at the Merseyside, and the following week saw a good turnout for the London Cat Club with more members winning ICs.

We were then struck another blow! As those who show will have been aware, we had changed the date of the Tonkinese Show to enable us to get more judges, but instead were unable to get more than one or two because we clashed with the Yorkshire "the Supreme of the North" so we had no choice but to apply to the GCCF for a sudden change of show date. Despite Mrs Helen Hewitt's hard work ringing around to change everything, the pen company were only able to supply us with pens but not to erect them for us or take them down. Linda Vousden wrote 100 letters to people asking for help and only had two replies! As Linda, Mike and I were totally unable to do this mammoth task on our own, we were forced to cancel the show! The committee was very upset by this but we tried everything to find a way round this and failed. We are now making plans for next year's show well in advance and hope to make it a really good one.

May I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Carol Poole and the Clarinath Cats.



**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY'S  
GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR BREEDERS AND OWNERS**

Registered owners of all GCCF registered cats/kittens accept the jurisdiction of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and undertake to abide by this general code of ethics.

1. Owners should think carefully and take advice before getting a kitten and choose a breed of cat suited to their lifestyle. They should only keep as many cats as they can care for adequately.
2. Cats and kittens must be provided with warm and comfortable housing, with plenty of opportunity for exercise and play. Cats should be kept indoors at night for their own safety. Drinking water must be available at all times and cats must be fed regularly and adequately. Breeders will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing cats in a new home.
3. All cats need some grooming to keep the coat in good condition and to check for parasites, eg fleas. Longhair cats need daily grooming to prevent the formation of knots and matted areas of fur, which cause considerable discomfort to cats.
4. Veterinary attention must be sought whenever a cat is showing signs of illness.
5. Cats that are bought as pets, not for breeding, should be neutered or spayed at the age recommended by your veterinary surgeon. If cats are registered on the Non-Active register, this means that under no circumstances should the cats be bred from; no progeny from these cats will be registered by the GCCF.
6. Breeders agree only to sell cats where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life. An offer should be made at the time of sale to help with the rehoming if at any time circumstances require the cat to be found a new home.
7. Owners should not sell any cat to commercial cat wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow cats to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind.
8. Breeders must not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise cats nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of the cat and must draw the attention of purchasers to the implications of the Non-Active register when selling pet kittens.
9. Breeders selling a kitten on the Active register should offer advice and support to the new owners. Owners should not breed cats in a way that is deleterious to the health of the cat or the breed.
10. Owners should consider carefully the best means of identifying their cat in case it should become lost. This can be done by means of a microchip, which can be painlessly inserted under the cat's skin by your veterinary surgeon and then registering the number of your cat with the RSPCA registration scheme run by the Kennel Club and also by notifying the GCCF of the cat's chip number. The alternative is for the cat to wear some form of identification on a collar. However, there are dangers for cats wearing collars as they may become hooked up and caught by them or more likely the collar will break or come off over the cat's head, so preventing easy identification.
11. Breeders/owners must ensure that all relevant Governing Council of the Cat Fancy documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a cat in accordance with Rule 10 (see below), *including* a copy of this code.

**N.B. Transfer of Registration - GCCF Rule 10**

- 10a. When a cat or kitten is advertised or sold as a pedigree cat or kitten the breeder shall, at the time of sale, provide the purchaser with a properly completed pedigree signed by the breeder, carrying 3 generations at least, showing all the breed numbers and registration numbers, also the breeder's name and address.
- 10b. If, at the time of sale, the cat or kitten is registered the seller shall provide the purchaser with a transfer form, duly completed and signed by the seller, unless it is jointly agreed in writing by both parties at the time of sale not to do so.