

MEWSletter



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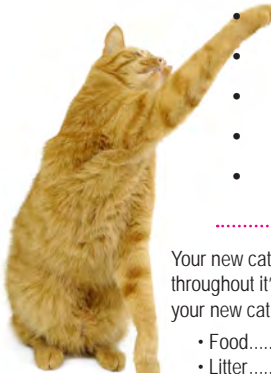
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ADOPTING A HERVEY CAT

The adoption fee is \$175 and includes:

- spay/neuter
- maximum vaccines
- deworming
- microchipping
- leukemia/FIV testing
- free checkup with vet
- free six week pet health insurance plan



Please open your heart and your home to one of our amazing cats and give them a second chance at a good life!

Want to adopt?

Please contact Marjorie at 780 963 4933 or the Morinville Veterinary Clinic at 780 939 3133

Your new cat requires food, care and attention throughout it's life. The estimated annual costs of your new cat are:

• Food.....	\$250
• Litter.....	\$150
• Vet Checkups/Vaccines	\$70
• Toys/Scratching Posts	\$100
Total annual costs.....	\$570

You will also need:

• Water/food dishes	\$20
• Scratching post	\$35
• Litter Pan & Scoop.....	\$30
• Brush & Comb	\$25
• Toys	\$25
Total initial cost	\$135

Total first year cost: \$850

Adoption Fee \$175

+ Other Items \$135

+ Annual Care \$570



I am a **FOREVER CAT**

If you cannot promise forever, I am not your cat!

I am NOT an until you...

- ... "get bored" cat
- ... "find a boy/girlfriend" cat
- ... "think I'm too old" cat
- ... "have to move" cat
- ... "have a baby" cat
- ... "get a new kitten" cat.

I am a **FOREVER CAT**

All donations appreciated!

CAT WISH LIST

GIFT CARDS for G & E Pharmacy, Canadian Tire, Walmart & Superstore help us buy much needed pet and cleaning supplies.

CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Pinesol
- paper towels
- garbage bags
- bleach
- Tide detergent (no lemon scent)

CAT FOOD

- Baby food (pref. chicken with broth)
- Friskies canned cat food
- IAMS Dry cat food

CAT ENJOYMENT

- Kitty toys
- Scratching posts
- Turbo scratchers
- Cat beds
- Kitty condos

CAT SUPPLIES

- Cat litter deodorizer
- Jumbo litter pans

WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF:



DID YOU KNOW? Eye color in cats is genetically related to coat color. Pointed cats always have blue eyes. White cats, and cats with a lot of white markings, can have: blue eyes green, gold, or copper eyes or "odd-eyes" (one blue eye and one green or gold eye)! Other cats can only have green, gold, or copper eyes, not blue eyes. The most common eye colors are in the middle of the eye color spectrum (greenish-yellow to gold). The colors at the ends of the eye color spectrum (deep green or brilliant copper) are usually seen only in purebreds who have been selectively bred for extreme eye color, but they may sometimes appear in non-purebreds.

"To understand a cat, you must realize that he has his own gifts, his own viewpoint, even his own morality." - Lilian Jackson Braun



MARJORIE'S MESSAGE



Dear Supporters,

Welcome to the winter/Christmas edition of the newsletter. I do not know where 2013 has gone and here we are looking at ringing in 2014, very shortly. Where does the time go?!

We have been kept busy this fall with adoptions!

Of course we attended the Edmonton Cat fanciers cat show at the end of September and several of our cats and kittens found wonderful homes, with very caring people. It was refreshing that some adult cats were adopted.

Kathy and Margaret, two volunteers with the Foundation, who travel to the different shows with our adoptables, also did a terrific job of adopting out in Calgary and BC. You will read about some of their escapades later in this Mewsletter!

If anyone wants to adopt a cat or kitten, please feel free to call the Foundation at 780 963-4933 for an appointment.

Speaking of cat shows, we are looking forward to the annual Cat Fanciers Edmonton Cat show in March, when it will move to a new, more central location. It will be held at the Ramada Convention Center on Kingsway, and promises to be just as much fun as always! Hope to see you there!!

We are also excited about hosting our Annual Dinner & Silent Auction again on April 26 2014 at the Aldergrove Hall, which is the same location as last year, but this year it will be a themed night! We will be enjoying Oktoberfest in April, with our wonderful chef, Michael preparing all the terrific German dishes! We sincerely hope you will join us for this fun event!

Anyone wanting to make a silent auction donation can contact me, (Marjorie), at 780 963-4933.

Once again, I would like to thank all my wonderful volunteers who do such great work for the Foundation. We could not get everything done without their expertise.

They put in many long hours of work to help our feline friends.

We also want to thank all of you wonderful supporters for your ongoing assistance, and to tell you how much we appreciate you helping us to help the cats and kittens in our care. Our supporters are the lifeline to the Foundation and without your support we would not be able to do the work we do. We look forward to another wonderful year of carrying on our mission of helping the felines that come to us.

We want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Marjorie Hervey



Turkey Delight for Cats Yields 4 to 5 servings.

Most cats love turkey, but the highly spiced holiday bird is often too rich for them. This recipe would make a fine meal for your cats during the winter holidays, or any other time of the year. Skip the salt if your cat has feline hypertension. Refrigerate or freeze in meal-size packets, then warm to serve.

1 1/2 cups water
1/2 tsp iodized salt (optional)
2 teaspoons corn oil

1/2 cup brown rice, uncooked
1/2 pound raw turkey giblets
(chopped into kitty-bite-size pieces)

1/4 cup carrot, chopped fine
1/2 cup chopped spinach

Combine salt, oil, and water and bring to a boil. Pour rice in boiling water, lower heat, cover and cook for 10 minutes. Stir in turkey giblets, carrot, and spinach. Cover and cook on low heat for another 10 or 15 minutes. Cool and serve. Store unused portions in an airtight container and keep refrigerated.

From *The Cat-Lovers' Cook Book* by Tony Lawson (This book is currently out of print, but you might be able to find a used copy.)

WHO WE ARE

Hervey Foundation for Cats
A Little Bit of Kitty Heaven on Earth

christmas  2013
MEWSLETTER

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I am an Animal Rescuer A RESCUER'S CREED

I shall be a believer of all that is good in man and of all that is deserving in animals.

I shall plead for their lives, campaign for their safety and uphold their right to a natural death.

I shall seek out the injured and the maimed, the unloved, and the abandoned and tend to them in their last days.

I shall not forget their place in the hierarchy of life, nor that we walk in each other's paths.

I shall bear witness to the wonder they bring to our lives and to the beauty they bestow upon our souls.

I shall renew their spirits when they are waning, bind their wounds when they bleed, cradle them when they whimper, and comfort them when they mourn.

I shall be near them in their hour of greatest need a companion and friend when the time has come.

I shall watch over them and console them and ask that the angels gather them in their arms.

From the creatures of the earth I shall learn the fruits of compassion & undying love, and I shall be called the beloved of God.

In their company I shall indeed be blessed.

- by Susan M. Pearson



— Our Mission —

To care for cats in dire need and give our less fortunate feline friends a warm, loving and caring environment that allows them to live out their lives. To attempt to find loving homes for cats and kittens that come into our care. To promote responsible pet ownership through public education, early spaying and neutering programs and promoting other care programs.



With costs in excess of \$5000 every month the Foundation needs the continued support of the caring public to carry out our mission.

It takes 450^{lbs} of dry cat food, 75 cases of canned food and 800^{lbs} of litter **EVERY MONTH** to take care of the hundreds of stray, abandoned and unwanted cats and kittens that The Hervey Foundation for Cats takes in at their facility each year. Many of these animals find new homes – but many fall into permanent care at our facility.



Financial donations may be made by mail, phone or paypal! Thank You!

Call Marjorie 780-963-4933

See page 2 for our Kitty Wish List!

The Foundation was founded by Marjorie Hervey in 1998 to provide care and loving homes for the unwanted, un-cared for and abandoned cats that fall into our society. She used her family inheritance and more to start and establish The Foundation. Since that time over 3,000 cats and kittens have come into our care and most have found good, loving homes. The balance stay with us to live a quality life.

The Foundation's prime objective is to offer either a temporary or long-term place of protection for injured, unwanted, homeless and abused cats.

In line with this philosophy is the concept of HOMING - this means that we provide homes for these animals - either a new loving, caring home or permanent home at our facility for the cat to live a Quality Life for the remainder of it's life.

We provide a means of finding suitable loving and caring homes for these cats. In addition, we promote and educate the public on the proper treatment of cats all in keeping with the requirements of the Animal Protection Act.

Our primary concern is the cats under our care. Great precautions are taken to avoid introducing illness. For example, in the situation involving a typical member of the family our procedures would be as follows: Cats that come into our care are taken to an Accredited Veterinary Clinic where, at the cost of The Foundation, the animal would be examined and Feluk tested, spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, de-wormed, vaccinated with the 4 way combination vaccine and Feline Leukemia and Rabies (if old enough). Its ears would be checked for ear mites and treated. The cat is then transported to our facility. It is placed in isolation for observation for 4 to 5 days. If any symptoms develop that needs attention, then the cat is treated. Assuming all is well, the cat is placed up for adoption to find it a good home. The cats in our care are not caged but are free to enjoy an home atmosphere. If it clear that a new acquisition could not be adopted for some reason or another, it is made to feel at home, is given a name, and it becomes assimilated into our family.

The Foundation is unique throughout all of Western Canada. The reason is quite simple. No person has the patience and the devotion that Marjorie has for the cats.

The Foundation is a registered non-profit Charitable Organization in Canada and Alberta: C.R.A. # 899091128 RR0001 Alberta Charitable Organization License # 310154.

The Foundation operates a no-kill facility - euthanasia as an option only when the animal cannot enjoy a reasonable quality of life.

ESCAPADES WITH CATS IN HOTEL ROOMS.....

We (Kathy and Margaret - Hervey Foundation volunteers/ Board Members) have written often of our experiences travelling to cat shows around North America. This time, we'd like to share some of our memorable adventures in various hotel rooms!!

Generally, all of our cats are amenable to travelling and LOVE all of the neat new stuff to be experienced in hotels - whether it be wide, wide window ledges, exciting views of wildlife right outside the patio door - (a small lizard in Orlando and assorted interesting bugs and birds tantalizingly out of reach) or closets, box springs, etc.

The cats (some of them, anyway) are inordinately interested in exploring box springs and the box frames that many hotel mattresses sit on. The challenge for them seems to be, is there a tiny space to squeeze into and get inside the box spring where Mom can't see? This has happened on numerous occasions, usually necessitating a "hefting" of the mattress and box spring to free the hider. The hardest test of our human strength was in a hotel in Valemount, BC - the room was very large and actually contained four beds - one up front and three more in a huge bedroom at the back. When it was time to leave, we searched the usual hiding spots, then decided we had to "tip" the beds to look underneath. Four beds later - still no cat!! She really had found a good spot to elude us. We knew that she was somewhere in the room, as we hadn't been outside at all.



Our hotel in Pasco, WA

So, once again, we began to tip the beds - three had been done with no success. On the last bed, we expected to see a black and white cat sitting beneath the "bed box" - no such luck. Then, I heard the tiniest meow and one of the other cats seemed v-e-r-y interested. There she was - perched on the boards at the far end of the box spring - far from the point she gotten in. After ripping the box spring cover a bit more she was caught and caged right away for the trip home. We're not staying there again, ever - too many beds.

The same pair once found a hiding place in a hotel at the Portland cat show - not actually in the box spring, but far enough underneath and behind as to be just out of reach.

Last Fall, one of our older cats - 13 years+ decided to investigate the closet in our room - we had not noticed a smallish hole in the closet ceiling..... when it came time to go down to the show hall, one of our crew was missing -

every other spot was checked but no cat. The other two cats in the room were staring up at the closet shelf. We enlisted the help of some taller friends who verified that "yes, there was a cat in the crawl space"!! Trying to avoid getting panicky, everything was tried to entice him down, but to no avail - he stayed tantalizingly out of reach. We found out that the crawl space was just above our room - it didn't lead anywhere, so we didn't need to worry about him appearing in a room on the 6th floor!! The upshot of this caper was that the hotel called in a maintenance

worker who enlarged the hole, so that Margaret could reach up and retrieve Greg. We've stayed at that hotel since, and Greg always looks up to the closet ceiling....continued on pg. 6

A Stray's Plea

I'm homeless and helpless, unwanted, alone;
I've no place to stay, I wander and roam,
I've no one to care if I live or die,
Nobody wants me as hard as I try,
I'm abandoned and starving and nobody cares,



I've met with nothing but cold hard stares,
My stomach is empty; I've nothing to eat;
I have no shelter from rain or sleet,
Why was I born and why am I here?
Without any love, without any cheer,
Won't someone please help me and please hear my plea?
Won't somebody care and take care of me?

ESCAPADES WITH CATS IN HOTEL ROOMS cont'd

Recently, we had the scariest “adventure” - the hotel we stayed at in Calgary had recently renovated its rooms. Unknown to us when we checked in was the presence of a hole in the bathroom wall, under the sink - the area was concealed by a decorative baffle. At the show hall, one of our friends mentioned it and she had been told that the hotel was repairing the holes - or at least covering the opening with duct tape. When we got back to our room, we hecked and the space was, indeed, covered. We went off to dinner with friends. Later, back in the room, we realized that we had not seen two of our cats - the same adventurers from other hotel rooms - and called the Front Desk to determine when the “repair” was done. The staff had come into our room, despite the “Do Not Disturb” sign, while we were away. I informed them that two of our cats were missing and we suspected that they might have been taped inside the space behind the bathroom wall. Once

again, we needed to determine just where the space led - we had visions of our cats showing up almost anywhere in the hotel!!

The staff came to our room (now 9:30 p.m. and the cats might have been in there since 4:00 p.m.) and began tipping beds, checking drawers, etc. Finally, they checked the taped up area below the sink - they also told us that the space didn't “go” anywhere - it was merely the same dimensions as the wall and was “dead space” between the rooms. Almost immediately, a cat was visible and once he realized there was a way out, Greg came shooting out of the bathroom into the safety of the room. The maintenance man could not see another cat, but he thought he heard some movement. The other one (she of the Valemount room!!) was shy and I suggested that if they departed we might be able to entice her out - I doubted if she'd come out while they were in the room. Margaret placed

a dish of cat food on the bathroom floor and, sure enough, Oprah came to investigate. However, when she saw a human, she retreated. However, about fifteen minutes later, she came all the way out and Margaret caught her (and caged her). The maintenance folks came back and thoroughly taped the hole in the wall and then added a plastic box taped over top to discourage any of the cats from investigating further. The hotel kindly waived the “Pet Fee” for our stay and gave us a complimentary room night.

We have purchased extra “tents” for use while travelling to keep our cats safe and out of trouble. And we always check for holes in ceilings, behind beds and under sinks. We'll still be travelling, though - off to White Rock, BC in October then Portland once again in January 2014.

Kathy Byram and Margaret McDaid

Edmonton Cat Fanciers' Club September 2013 Show

The Club held its final show at the Edmonton Hotel and Convention Centre on September 28th and 29th, 2013. It was a small, friendly show but there was intense competition in most of the classes.

As usual, many rescue cats were sponsored “in competition” and Hervey cats came to the fore - they monopolized the Household Pet Kitten class and Zinnia, a lovely Tortie SH came out on top. Unfortunately, she was not adopted at the show, but she is still available (contact Marjorie at 780-963-4933). She'd make a great show cat!! Thank you to all of the wonderful folks who sponsored rescue cats - a number of Club Members, as well as folks from Calgary and BC.

Four cats did find their “forever homes” and we hope to see some of them back at a show - competing for wins.

We were fortunate to have a great many vendors on hand with wonderful products for cats (and their owners) - we hope to have most of them at our next show. If you attended the show and would like to get in touch with a vendor, contact us and we can help.

We will be having our usual event in March 2014 - 29th and 30th at a NEW location - please note - Ramada Conference Centre, 11834 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton. We will have space to accommodate one more ring of judging so we are looking forward to enticing a large entry for competition. Of course, Hervey cats will be there in competition, as well as for adoption.

Join us in March 2014 at our new location.

Kathy Byram, President, Edmonton Cat Fanciers Club



The Edmonton Cat Fanciers Club
Kathy Byram & Margaret McDaid
Edmonton Cat Fanciers Club

www.edmontoncat.com

HERVEY NEWS & INFORMATION

EDMONTON CAT FANCIERS CAT SHOW
 March 29th — 30th, 2014
 9:30am - 4:30pm



CATNIP PILLOWS!



Chelsea Holan makes these adorable catnip pillows, and is donating the proceeds from selling them to the Hervey Foundation for Cats! We are so grateful for her creativity and thoughtfulness!
www.facebook.com/chelseaholan




Hi Marjorie. We adopted Carter at last Saturday's cat show, and I thought I'd send you a little update. Firstly, he's adjusted extremely well to our house and our other cat, Quincy—a large, almost 3 year-old Maine Coon. I think Quincy missed having a feline companion after our 17-year old cat passed away in December 2012. They both like following each other around and sniffing noses. Carter is very bright and feisty, and wants to copy everything the big cat does. He's had full run of the house since Tuesday. He also has an enormous appetite and I'm sure he has doubled in size! Now you can see the tabby markings forming on his body, and his tail has bushed out considerably. We changed his name a little and are calling him "Ozzie -Carter". We took advantage of the 6-week pet insurance, and also booked the complementary vet visit for the following week. Thanks you so much for the opportunity to adopt our wonderful little pet. I love the photo where they're snuggled up watching birds together.



We wish to thank Dr Christopher Stepney and Dr Jennie Stepney, both chiropractors at LiveWell family Chiropractic, www.livewelledmonton.com who brought a donation to the cat show. The kitties and volunteers at the Hervey Foundation for Cats are so very grateful for your contribution!

VISIT HERVEYCATS.COM

- to download past issues of the MEWSletter
- update your email address & preferences
- tell us about YOUR cat—we love adoption stories!
- don't forget to LIKE us on 



Warm regards, Lydia and Gene Emanuel



Zara, adopted at the Calgary show

Mark your calendars for our **13th Annual Fundraiser Dinner & Silent Auction**, with the theme of "Oktoberfest in April" on April 26, 2014.

As always thanks to Rosslyn Veterinary Clinic for their wonderful care of the Hervey Kitties and to Creative Color for all the wonderful work they do for the Foundation. And especially to YOU, our wonderful, generous supporters. Without you, the Hervey Foundation could not continue on with our lifesaving work for the kitties!!!

(EASY!) FUNDRAISING FOR FELINES

Let us recycle your cans and bottles!

Call to arrange a dropoff.



The Foundation requires funds on an ongoing basis. Throughout the year we partner with selected groups to raise funds to help us help the kitties. Please assist us in any way you can. If you or someone you know can help us out with fund raising opportunities – contact Marjorie @ 780-963-4933.

Shop online while raising money for Hervey Cats!

ShopandShare.ca



CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

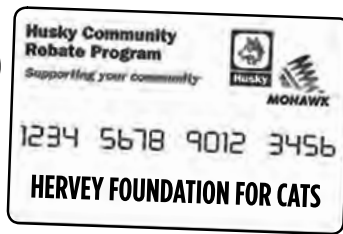
With an on-going need for cleaning supplies, garbage bags and other essentials, your donation of Canadian Tire money helps us out tremendously! Send your Canadian Tire Money to Box 12 Site 200 RR2, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1X2



Visit www.herveycats.com 'Donations' page. Simply click on the banner there, & you will be taken to a site where you can select The Hervey Foundation for Cat as your chosen charity to support. Then just shop at the many stores on the site, and, through Shop and Share's affiliate program, the Foundation will receive a percentage.

Shopping and helping the kitties too! Now that's multitasking!

FUEL UP FOR FELINES!



Husky's Community Rebate Program

When you use our card, Husky donates 2% of the purchases* at Husky or Mohawk Gas stations or Husky House Restaurants. Call us today to get your free card for Hervey Foundation for Cats! 780-963-4933.

Visit www.myhusky.ca for more information on the program.



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TRAVELLING? WHAT TO DO WITH THE CAT(S)?

CAT SITTING
By The Cat Lady

Call Sandra
(780) 982-6496

Let your cat(s) enjoy your vacation in the comfort of their own home. House sitting also available.

IS YOUR PET SUFFERING FROM STRESS?

We live in a very busy world today, and most of us have many demands on our time, long hours at work, kids' activities, keeping your home and yard up and a million other things that go along with day to day living. Stress has become a very common catchword in our vocabulary. Did you know that cats can also experience stress, which can have far reaching impacts on their behaviour and how they interact with their families and surroundings?

We think it is time that our readers are given a different perspective about cats and behavioral problems.

We get a lot of phone calls from people whose cats have all of a sudden developed what they think are behavioral problems, but many of these problems are related to stress in the environment that they are living in - in other words, their owner and family. This is usually a cumulative problem, as cats do not just all of a sudden become stressed, except in unusual circumstances.

Cats are very in tune to their guardians and the environment that they live in, so rapid changes in their environment do affect them immensely. How well they cope with, and react to, these changes and their effects depend heavily on what kind of an environment they live in, and how well it is managed.

Such things as an owner working longer hours, moving, a change in partners and new additions to the house hold whether it be a baby or other pet or other children such as in a blended family can create very real stress for your pet.

Cats express some of their stress in very similar ways to humans, both adult and child. Yet, while children may become stressed by school or other people in their lives, or something happening in their home life and children can react in way that are not appropriate, we do not even consider giving

the child away! Instead, we find ways to get to the root of the issue, and deal with it.

Quite often, the way the parents lead their lives is what is causing the child's issue, or the fact that they haven't been paying enough attention to what is going on in their child's life. The very same thing holds true for cats! Both, in that, first off, we should not even consider getting rid of the animal (remember-you made a commitment to him/her when you brought them home and into your life!) and secondly, that often, the pet guardian is causing the issue for the cat, or possibly not noticing something that is causing the cat grief.

A child who wets the bed until he/she is 6 or 7 usually (but not always) has a stress problem somewhere in their life. The first thing a concerned parent would do in this case is take their child to a doctor. Very often, the first symptom that the cat is experiencing stress is that s/he will begin inappropriate elimination. This leads to all kinds of grief for the cat and the guardian. The guardian generally just assumes that the cat is just being "bad". This is a very wrong, and dangerous, assumption.

The first thing that should be done in this situation is to take the cat to the vet to rule out a medical problem. If the cat is cleared medically, then s/he is reacting to some change in the environment and has become stressed. The inappropriate elimination is a symptom of this, and therefore, the guardian must look at the situation, troubleshoot it, and find a solution to help relieve the cat's stress.

Many people who are under stress become cranky and argumentative. So it is with some cats, who begin growling and hissing when they never used to before. They are reacting to some change in their life.

Some people who become stressed become

very withdrawn, and don't want to talk to anyone; they just want to be alone. Some cats also do this- they start hiding and trying to get away from their stress. Often this happens when new baby is just starting to crawl and walk. The noise from children can also be very upsetting to the cat.

If your cat is exhibiting these unusual (for him/her) behaviours, you need to stop and examine what may have changed in their lives to trigger these changes, and contemplate what you can do to help your cat adjust better.

People who are more structured and outgoing, and who care about life and others, (both human and animal), around them, are more likely to be able to manage their stress in a better way. We all know that having a routine, eating well and getting a good nights' sleep (8 hours, at least) will help you to better cope with the stresses in your lives. Sometimes, all it takes is for the guardian to make these changes in THEIR lives, to improve that of their cat!

Remember, we are what we eat is an adage that rings very true. If your cat isn't receiving adequate nutrition, s/he will not be able to produce the hormones that help them cope with stressful situations in their lives.

Having a place where we can get away from stresses in our lives often helps to enrich our lives and help us deal with our stresses better. Cats are no different. Have a place where your cat can get to, when they feel they need a break from company, or children, that is just for them. Children can (and should) be taught to respect this space.

Some people are "stress eaters", who eat in order to appease feelings of stress, loneliness, or inadequacy, or merely for something to do. This is true also in the feline world. A cat who is left alone, without a playmate, or much other stimulation

IS YOUR PET SUFFERING FROM STRESS?

in their lives, while their owners work or are otherwise away from the home for long hours at a time, will often over eat, all day long, to fill the time and/or make themselves feel good. In this case the guardian should make sure that the cat has a variety of toys, a cat tree by a window where s/he can sit and look out and see what's going on, and there should always be a radio on for company. There are DVDs for cats that you can purchase, and program your player to have the cat DVDs come on through the day to keep him/her company. Here at the Sanctuary, we often leave the cartoon channel on, as cats love to watch cartoons! Your cat should also have a playmate, but most important of all, when you are home, be sure to give your cat some attention. The cat can be with you when you are watching TV or take them to bed with you, talk to them and take time to play with them.

Please do not phone and tell me that you don't have time for your cat anymore. We can always find time for those parts of our lives we deem a priority. If your cat is no longer a priority in your life, then you are part of the "Me" society, only thinking about yourself. You made a commitment to this animal and you should be fulfilling that commitment. You would if it were a child. Cats should be treated as part of the family, no different than a child. However, if you are seeking a solution to help keep your cat, while reducing his/her stress

levels, we have many ideas (some of which we are sharing in this article), and would be happy to assist!

Long before we became a Foundation, we were dealing with these problems. We have observed the cases of stress levels in pets rise over the years and we have found that, quite often, people just don't understand that cats can suffer from stress, just like people. Additionally, it is usually the people in the cat's environment that are the cause of the stress.

So many times, people decide that they are going to get rid of the "problem" of a cat who is displaying stress behaviours because it is not happy in his/her environment, by sending the cat off to a Humane society or a rescue. While the cat may not be happy in his/her current surroundings, do you truly feel they will be happy to be dumped off, away from familiar surroundings and people? Being a responsible owner means that one takes the time to work on the problem, instead of passing the cat with the behaviour problem you likely helped create on to someone else!

For years, going back into the nineties, we have used a drug from our vet called Amitriptyline to help relieve stress, and therefore, stress related behaviour in cats. It calms them when they are aggressive, it brings the cat out of hiding, it helps the cat not eat so much and also helps with

the inappropriate elimination problems and spraying. I did not say cure it, but it does help. While there are many other newer drugs on the market, we have found Amitriptyline to work the very best. We have not found pheromones to be of any use. Amitriptyline comes in three forms. It come in a pill form, and can also be compounded into a liquid or an ear gel and while we have used it in all three forms, we find we prefer the ear gel, as it is easy to give the cat. Otherwise, you are only increasing the cat's stress (and likely your own!) by trying to give him/her a pill or the liquid. The most important thing with the Amitriptyline is to be sure to administer it the way it has been prescribed. Often, we find that the guardian neglects to use it so they do not see a change in behavior, and blame it on the inadequacy of the drug. However, we have very successfully used it for years on cats brought to us from people who just refuse to believe or understand that they had caused the cat's issues.

We hope this article has shed some light on the undesirable traits cats can sometimes develop. They truly are often stress-related, and with a little bit of thought, time, love, and care, possibly with the support of the above mentioned medication to help relieve stress, you can probably keep your cat. It might not be perfect but neither your children, nor you, are ever going to be perfect either. A little bit of love and understanding goes a long way.

Marjorie Hervey

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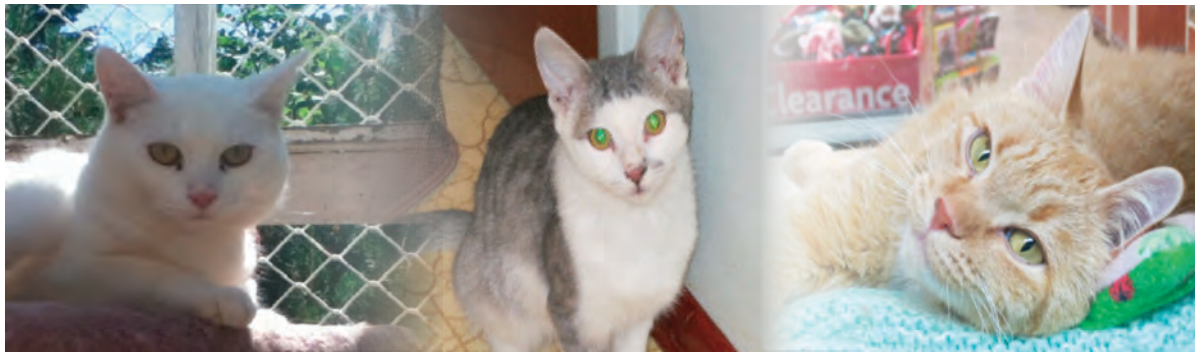
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I'm Duncan and I am currently being cared for by the Hervey Foundation for Cats. I hope to find my Forever Home, along with my brother, Donovan.



I'm Chloe and I'm currently in the care of The Hervey Foundation for Cats.

The Hervey Foundation for Cats helped us find our wonderful new Forever Homes.

We all found our Forever Homes with the help of the Hervey Foundation for Cats.