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HAPPY
Easter

C.R.A. # 899091128RR0001 Alberta Charity Organization #3101541 In
Accordance with regulations imposed by the Province of Alberta, we are
required to inform you of the following: Estimated proceeds - \$5,000.00,
Estimated costs - \$2,080.00, Government taxes, fees & other levies - \$520.00
Total estimated costs \$2,600.00, Estimated net proceeds - \$2,400.00

C.R.A. #899091128RR0001 | Alberta Charitable # 3101541



Carter's Corner

Sent: February 03, 2021

From: Lydia Emanuel <lemanuel@telus.net>

Subject: Hi from Carter

Hi Marjorie. We got through January and now Ground Hog Day, and are making progress towards Valentine's Day, so moving in the right direction for Spring. Nonetheless, when we got up this morning it was -31 with the windchill so we spent the afternoon indoors, working on a jigsaw puzzle. Of course we had help from you-know-who, because it was the first one he had ever seen, so it was quite intriguing for him. As far as we know, no pieces were carried off or batted away. We'll find out tomorrow when we hope to finish it. Quincy, the big cat, was very blasé about it, just watching Carter. I'm sure he checked it out more closely when we weren't around, as he is also a very curious cat.

Keep well and stay safe,

Lydia



CAT WISH LIST

We are always in need of

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
- Temptations treats

CAT SUPPLIES

- Cat litter (clay or tidy cats light weight)
- Training pads
- Swiffer pads

CAT ENJOYMENT

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

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





Welcome to the Spring Newsletter!

Hi Everyone

Can you smell what I smell? Could it be – the sweet and promising scent of spring in the air?

What a relief to remove the many layers of clothing that protected us against the cold of this seemingly endless winter, made even more difficult by the ongoing pandemic.

Let me begin by thanking everyone for your thoughtful and generous donations to the Foundation over Christmas. Considering the financial hardships being faced by so many, these donations were doubly appreciated and greatly assisted us in remaining true to our longstanding mission. And I particularly want to thank G&E Pharmacy and Weruva for the December fundraiser they held for us.

In the 23 years since I started our Foundation, we've helped so many kittens and cats find loving homes; we've been delighted to have had numerous repeat adopters, and we've been especially pleased to have met so many wonderful people through our various events.

And speaking of events. Sadly, we will, once again, have to postpone our perennially popular Dinner and Silent Auction due to

Covid-19 and its increasing number of variants. Better safe than sorry, as they say. While I miss seeing all of you and miss YOU seeing all of the tantalizing items still tucked away in storage, let's pool our collective positive thoughts and set our sights on April 2022.

A suggestion: Consider if you can, donating the price of a ticket (\$50) to the Foundation. What a difference every dollar makes to the kittens and cats in our care. Thankfully, though, they're all thriving!

Have you been following our Blog on Face Book? For those who don't use Face Book and would like to learn about "all things cat", please visit www.herveycats.com and click onto the Blog header there.

Now settle back, make yourself comfortable, and be prepared to read some of our most exciting and enlightening articles ever.

And remember that I'm "all ears" when it comes to any kitty questions or purr-blems you might have.

Marjorie Hervey

The Importance of a “Pet-Nuptial”



Agreement by Nomi Berger

Like a prenuptial agreement, the aptly named “pet-nuptial” (pet custody) agreement can assist you in keeping your cherished feline companion should your current relationship end.

Whether you’re divorcing a spouse, breaking up with a partner or moving out on a roommate, if you’ve owned a cat together, gird yourself for a potential battle over the custody of that cat. The key to resolving this issue and being on the winning end of it is to have a “pet-nuptial” agreement already in place.

Since the law in most states regards pets not as family members but as personal property, protecting your rights requires foresight on your part. When you have a “pet-nuptial” agreement, a court – if it comes to that – will, in all likelihood, enforce it unless you live in one of a handful of states with pet custody laws. If so, the judge will, as in any child custody battle, make a decision based on the best interests of the disputed pet.

Without a pre-arranged agreement, you’ll have to prove why YOU’RE the one entitled to keep the cat rather than your spouse, partner or roommate. Are you able, then, to provide the answers to the following questions?

Who actually adopted or purchased the cat in question? Have the necessary receipts, wherever possible.

Did you or “the other party” have the cat before the start of your “arrangement?”

Are there any children involved who are attached to this cat? If so, where will they be living?

Who plays the greater role in feeding and playing with the cat?

Who takes the cat to the veterinarian?

Who pays the bills -- from food, toys, beds and other kitty essentials to veterinary expenses, medications, supplements and therapies if applicable?

Does either party have a work schedule that prevents them from spending quality time with the cat?

Which party has bonded with the cat, is the one she always follows around, always sleeps near, etc.?

Has either party ever exhibited any cruelty towards your cat or any other animal?

To keep your pet dispute from ever going to court, consider using

mediation or arbitration instead. This way you can hopefully work together and come to an amicable arrangement.

Another solution is an agreement that either provides for joint custody of your cat or for sole custody with the other party given “visitation rights.” Joint custody agreements are far from ideal since pets, like children, are often traumatized by the dissolution of a marriage or partnership. A custody agreement where your cat is shuttled back and forth between two homes seldom works satisfyingly for any party – particularly the cat.

If your spouse already had the cat before you got married, it will be difficult for you to get custody of her because she’s not considered “marital property” but your spouse’s “separate property.”

And yet, in some cases, you may emerge victorious. Examples: if you spend the most time with your cat, you could get custody of her despite the fact that your spouse pays most of the vet bills. If children are involved, and you’re getting custody of them in one of the few states with pet custody laws, a judge will want the cat to remain with the children. In other states, custody could be split, with the children going to one parent and the cat going to the other.

Because pet custody is an evolving legal issue, consider hiring a family attorney to help you. Ensure that you have photos and videos of you and your cat sharing a series of bonding experiences. Ensure that you have witnesses eager to testify that YOU are her primary guardian and playmate. Ensure that you have records of or receipts for every purchase you’ve made towards her care and well being.

In short, if you have a cat and an intact marriage or partnership, put a “pet-nuptial” agreement in place NOW so that you’re protected should the relationship ever end.

Nomi is the best-selling author of seven novels, one work of non-fiction, two volumes of poetry, and hundreds of articles. She lives in Toronto, Ontario, Canada with her adopted Maltese, Mini, and volunteers her writing skills to animal rescue groups in Canada and the USA.



Uh-Oh! When Felines Ingest Foreign Objects

by Nomi Berger

Everyone is familiar with the old adage "Curiosity killed the cat."

But as conscientious cat owners, paw-lease ensure that your cherished companions' natural curiosity NEVER gets the better of them – especially when it comes to their seeing and then

swallowing small, strange objects. While some may pass through their intestinal tract without incident, some won't, lodging there and causing not only extreme discomfort but a dangerous and potentially life-threatening obstruction.

Thread threat! Another potentially life-threatening situation can occur when a cat swallows thread, particularly when it's attached to a needle. As she swallows the thread, it can wrap around her tongue and pull against it with every swallow. But even worse, the needle can pierce her stomach or intestines multiple times and prevent the thread from passing through her digestive tract.

Consider, as well, these other culprits:

Hair bands and rubber bands, ribbon and blind cords, dental floss and carpet fibers, stuffing from inside your cat's toys, and tinsel.

Bones, particularly from cooked chicken, can be very sharp, extremely brittle, and lodge in your kitty's intestines resulting in severe illness.

String and string-like objects: If swallowed, string can cause the intestines to bunch up, making for one very sick kitty and usually requiring surgery to remove it.

Coins, buttons and earplugs, fruit stones, nutshells and bottle tops, but especially small round objects which are the ideal size to block the intestines and require surgery to remove them.

If YOU suspect that YOUR kitty has swallowed something suspicious, watch for one or more of these symptoms: vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite, straining to defecate, constipation, lethargy and behavioral changes such as biting or hissing when being picked up. To err on the side of caution, promptly contact your vet and bring in your kitty for a thorough examination and assessment.

In order to detect a possible blockage, your vet will have x-rays taken (several x-rays, using dyes, will often be needed to locate a suspected object). Your vet may also order blood and urine tests to determine whether your cat's overall health has been compromised by the obstruction – should there be one.

Most of the time -- especially in uncomplicated cases -- the prognosis for cats with a gastrointestinal blockage is very good. But the overall prognosis depends on several factors: the location of the object, how long the intestine has been blocked, the size, shape, and characteristics of the object, whether or not the object has caused a secondary illness and the general health of your kitty prior to ingesting it.

Your vet will provide you with a detailed treatment plan based on these factors. If the object has lodged in your pet's stomach, however, an endoscopy may be performed. This involves inserting a long tube through her mouth and down her throat to pull the object out. If this is the case, your vet may also suggest hospitalization of your cat for close observation and follow-up x-rays.

But if the foreign object has traveled to and is trapped in her intestine, your vet will have to surgically remove it.

Whatever the scenario, time is critical because stomach and/or intestinal blockages can cut off the blood supply to these organs, causing the tissue to become necrotic or "die."

How DO Falling Felines Land On Their Feet?

by Nomi Berger

Have you ever wondered how many of their legendary nine lives cats use up when they fall from extraordinary heights?

Have you ever wondered how they, more often than not, manage to land safely on their feet?

Known as the righting reflex, this innate ability to reorient their bodies during a fall has been observed in kittens as young as the age of three weeks, and this gravity-defying skill is fully developed by the time they're seven weeks old.

Historically, cats falling from greater heights (five stories and more) suffer less severe injuries than those falling from only a few stories. This longer free fall allows them more time to right

themselves and position their bodies correctly so that by the time they reach the ground, their feet will touch down first.

Visualize a kitty falling in slow motion. She starts shifting her balance the instant her flight begins. First, her body determines which side should be up, guided by her eyes and ears. A cat's inner ear's vestibular system acts as her balance and orientation compass, alerting her to where her body is in relation to the ground. She then begins rotating her head until she's facing the proper way and can see precisely where she's going to land.

Continued on Page 7



CRD / CKD

... What the heck does it mean?

By Gayle McDonald | Housecalls for Housecats
780.938.2278 info@housecalls4housecats.com

Chronic Renal Disease (aka Chronic Kidney Disease) becomes common once a cat is a senior (> 11 years old).

CRD can happen in younger cats. Toxins like antifreeze or lilies can cause Acute Kidney Failure. If a cat survives the Acute disease they are at high risk for CRD later in life. Cats can be born with an abnormal kidney that cannot last as long as a normal kidney.

The cause of CRD is usually a lifetime of small injuries to the kidney. Infections or poor blood flow (and therefore decreased oxygen supply) cause damage. Once > 70% of the kidney tissue is damaged the kidney cannot perform properly.

Kidney functions include:

- Electrolyte balance
- Maintain hydration / water balance
- Remove excess waste products from the blood (Urea and Creatinine)
- Part of the cycle of red blood cell production
- Manage blood pressure

Symptoms of CRD can be subtle. They can include urinating more, drinking more, decreased appetite, weight loss, vomiting, blood in urine, constipation, and lethargy / weakness.

If your cat has any of these symptoms they need to see a veterinarian and have some lab work done. Blood and Urine tests will confirm CRD and rule in/out diabetes, hyperthyroidism, and other causes of the symptoms.

An ultrasound of the kidneys may be helpful to assess the amount of kidney damage.

All cats with CRD need to have their blood pressure checked.

Once the diagnosis is made what can you do?

Don't panic. Kidney disease is not often an instant death sentence. Some cats can live with kidney disease for years. The severity of the kidney damage determines what treatments are needed and how long a cat can survive.

IF the Potassium is low, supplement it.

IF the Phosphorous is high, use a Phosphate binder.

IF the Urea and Creatinine are very high (or if the cat is vomiting a lot and / or not eating well) give Subcutaneous fluids.

IF the Blood Pressure is high, treat with Amlodipine or Semintra

IF the cat is Anemic, consider treatment with Epoetin

IF the cat is Vomiting more than once a week, treat with Cerenia or Omeprazole

IF the cat has a poor appetite, treat with Mirtazapine.

There are special diets for cats with CRD. They will have less Phosphorous / Protein than adult food. The main problem with kidney diets are if the cat will not eat it. You cannot force a cat to eat a food they don't want to. Eating any cat food is better than no food. Kidney food cannot help a cat if they don't eat it. Many seniors need more calories than they used to. It is important to use food with easily digestible protein. Wet food is good for cats because it is very palatable (tasty) to most cats and it is usually more digestible than dry. Dry food has more calories than wet food so some cats need some dry food to prevent weight loss. Pay close attention to calorie listed on the food bags. Dry food can be as low as 250 calories per cup and as high as 600 calories per cup.

The goal of treatment is not to cure anything – kidney damage is irreversible. The treatment is to give the cat good Quality of Life (QOL) for as long as we can. We cannot make our cats live forever. We can make sure they do not suffer while they are with us.

Things to focus on are:

- Eating enough to NOT lose weight ... the thinner a cat becomes the shorter their survival time

- Comfort ... arthritis, dental disease, and constipation are common causes of pain for senior cats with CRD

- Prevent or treat nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and other gastrointestinal upset

Monitoring a cat with CRD involves doing weight checks every 1-2 months, checking blood pressure every 3-6 months, and testing blood every 3-6 months (potassium and urea/creatinine can change quickly).

There is often a lot we can do to help cats with kidney disease. Find a veterinarian who will work with you to decide on treatment and monitoring.

Does Your Cat Drink From the Sink?

by Nomi Berger

Picture this: you're brushing your teeth or preparing a meal and your kitty hops into the sink. Competing for the same stream of water from the tap inevitably goes from amusing to annoying.

Why, you ask, does your finicky feline prefer the sink to her water bowl? Is it by choice or by something more sinister, such as an underlying medical condition that has her seeking out additional sources of water?

Essential to answering these questions is having your capricious cat seen by the vet for a thorough examination. If she's happily healthy, the next step is to carefully inspect your home, then make some equally essential changes to both her living space and her daily routine.

Begin with the location of her water bowl. Cats who crave high places may prefer a faucet because of its "view" to a bowl that's placed flat on the floor. If it rests in a raucous or heavily trafficked area (shared with children and/or other pets), a sink may seem like a quieter and more appealing solution to all the unwanted hubbub.

Experiment with various locations until you find the purr-fect one. If your cat is happiest with heights, set her bowl on an easily accessible counter. If there are several cats in your household, there should also be several drinking locations. Most importantly, keep kitty's water bowl far from her litter box. Many fastidious felines prefer not to drink near the place that they potty.

Quite often, cats prefer sipping from the sink simply because the water tastes better. It may be due to the sink's being free of the lingering scents or residue found in a bowl that's not cleaned regularly, is made of a product whose odor she dislikes (think plastic), or whose sights and sounds are disturbing to her (think metal). Two solutions: clean her current bowl daily with an unscented cleaner that leaves no residue, allowing the water to remain fresh and clear or experiment with different bowls to find the most pleasing material for your persnickety puss.

Cats in the wild favor freshly flowing sources of water and turn down their paws at drinking from stagnant bodies of water. Is it any wonder then, that some cats prefer the sink tap's free flowing water to the still water in their bowl? Replace your kitty's bowl with a specially designed pet fountain that regularly replenishes its water, thereby redirecting her attention away from the sink. To further tempt her, smear a soft, high-value treat along the edge,

and consider putting a flavored additive into the water (consult your vet first, paw-lease).

Some cats seek out the sink purely to play with the water – a clear indication that they're bored. If your kitty's fascination with the running faucet is all about entertainment, find other ways to keep her constructively engaged – preferably for the entire day. Food puzzles, regularly scheduled interactive play sessions and games of hide and seek work wonders when it comes to both holding her attention and burning up her excess energy.

Key to the success of any new routine is reinforcing only the behavior you want repeated. Reward your kitty for drinking out of her bowl or fountain with praise and pets, treats and play: whichever she values most, any combination of the four, or all four. Whenever she reverts to drinking from the faucet or playing with the water, turn off the taps and either look or walk away. With time and perseverance on your part, she'll hopefully learn to choose the behavior that wins your approval rather than the one that earns her the proverbial cold shoulder.

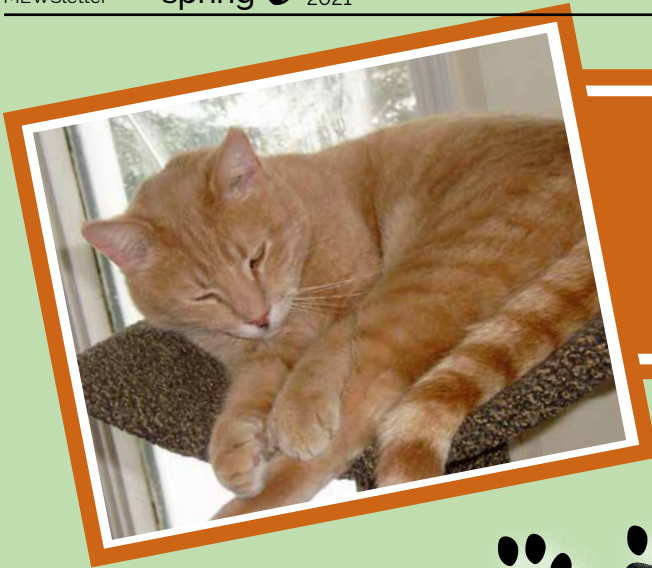
How DO Falling Felines Land On Their Feet?

... continued

Secondly, her spine follows as she arches her back. Possessing a unique skeletal structure, a cat's spine has no collarbone and an unusually flexible backbone with 30 vertebrae – unlike humans who have 24 – and it's the suppleness of this backbone that enables her to correct her course during her fall. And since a cat has a low body-volume-to-weight ratio, much like a flying squirrel, she's able to slow her velocity when falling by expanding her body size which, in turn, creates air resistance.

Thirdly, she positions her front feet under her, followed by her hind legs, with her front paws placed close to her face to protect it from the impact of landing on the ground. More like a parachute and less like an airplane, she relaxes her falling body and spreads it out in preparation for landing, ensuring her leg joints bear the impact of her weight.

Several years ago, a cat who fell a staggering 32 stories from a high-rise apartment to land on the concrete sidewalk was released from a veterinary clinic after 48 hours with only a chipped tooth and a minor lung puncture!



The Adventures of Gary



Hi Everyone, Gary here.

M-E-O-W! Season alert! Spring has sprung!

Soon there will be green grass and leaves on the trees, Mommy will be planting flowers in her various pots and my bed will be outside on the deck once again.

Luckily, the first few months of winter were quite mild so that I was able to perform my duties as CEO of rodent control on a regular basis. Then the temperature plummeted, leaving me housebound for several weeks. I couldn't even stick my nose outside. So there I was, staring through the living room window without a single bird or squirrel in sight, which gave me plenty of time to sleep in Mommy's warm bed.



We are saddened to announce that on February 5, 2021 Heather Wilson, friend, volunteer and board member passed away suddenly. That was truly a sad day for the cat world. Heather loved all animals but especially cats and had over the years many rescues. She loved coming to the Foundation to volunteer her time with the cats

and they were lucky to have someone who loved them so much and there were no expectations. There was no job that Heather wouldn't do to help the cats. Cleaning litter, running them into the vet and she was a very big help with our annual Fundraiser. Donating a lot of items Heather was there to help with set up and anything else we needed. Heather was devoted to anything that would help the cats. She will be deeply missed.

But my peace was shattered by silly kittens running and chasing toys, and jumping in and out of the tunnel they got for Christmas. While I'm too dignified for such silliness, I chose an afternoon when the kittens were napping, actually tried out some of the toys myself, and decided I liked the balls best! But don't tell anyone. It's our secret.

Christmas was made even better because G&E Pharmacy, along with Weruva, held a fundraiser for us in December – and that provided us with tasty goodies too numerous to count.

Then one sad day, Mommy told me that Heather, a devoted Board member and dedicated volunteer, had died unexpectedly. Not only was she a great help to the Foundation but she loved all of us and we adored her. She often took breaks from her work and sat on the deck, talking to me and petting me. Sometimes Mommy would join her and I would have them both to myself. It was great! We're all going to miss her very, very much.

Let me end on a paws-itive note and wish you a sweet and safe spring while I set off on what I hope will be a productive rodent patrol.

PUrr

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.

When Cats Chase Their Tails: Play or Problem

by Nomi Berger

While many felines, like their canine counterparts, chase their tails as a form of amusement or pleasure, it's a sight seen less often in cats than in dogs.

How many times have YOU witnessed your cherished pussycat companion circling round and round in an effort to capture her own tail?

According to animal experts, if a kitty is chasing her tail, it may not be for fun and frolics but rather as an exercise born out of sheer boredom. In that case, as a conscientious cat owner, redirect her attention towards chasing a piece of string, a favorite toy or the red beam of a laser pointer. And remember that high-value treats will both serve to reinforce your efforts and reward her compliance.

Concerned that your kitty is bored because you're not home for extended periods of time? Keep her constructively occupied by leaving her with one or more interactive toys – from puzzle boards and rolling food dispenser toys to multilevel roller balls and rotating electric toys. These will help her focus more on playing with the toys and less on playing with her tail.

Sometimes, though, a cat will chase her tail (and even bite it at the same time) because of some underlying medical condition. She may have an infection that's making her tail extremely uncomfortable. She may have an allergy that's making it very itchy. She may have stud tail, a skin condition caused by overactive glands at the base of the tail. Or she may have Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome, caused by overactive nerve endings that give her tail a tingling sensation.

Since you know your kitty's body language best, if you suspect that her behavior is suspect, consult with your vet as soon as possible.

If yours is a multi-cat household, you may find yourself facing another situation: one cat playfully chasing or swatting at another cat's tail. The solution? Separate them

and redirect their attention to those oh-so-essential interactive toys.

A second, more worrisome scenario may involve one cat attacking, and sometimes biting, another cat's tail. This may be either playful or pugnacious, depending on the attacker's demeanor and the extent of the injuries – if any – sustained by the victim. Because a cat's tail can become infected so easily and can be difficult to treat and resolve at home, any injury, however small, should automatically be examined by your vet.

If, however, all medical issues have been ruled out, and your feline friend continues to chase her tail in spite of your best efforts, locate a veterinary behaviorist in your area to evaluate her and assist you in finding the most paws-itive future course of action.



The Foundation would like to thank the KittyHawk Foundation for their lovely donation to us at Christmas. The cats love everything.



The Foundation would also like to extend a very sincere and heartfelt thank you to G&E Pharmacy and Weruva for their fundraiser that they did in December. The cats are loving the food.

Did you know you can now go online to our modernized website, scroll down to the bottom of any page and sign up for our digital newsletter!



Hervey Foundation for Cats

A donation of \$50 (the price of a ticket to our annual fundraiser) would help us carry on with our mission.

Thank you.

www.herveycats.com

Adopting Responsibly



Becoming a pet parent isn't as simple as you may think. It's more than purchasing food and litter and paying the vet for annual check ups and vaccinations. Since a pet is a lifetime commitment, you must be prepared to care for your adopted kitten or cat for its lifetime whatever the circumstances. You must also consider, not your age, but your lifestyle -- where you are in your life -- in order to make an informed decision.

If you're a college or university student, being away from home for the first time can be both stressful and lonely. It's natural to think that adopting a kitten will ease those feelings, but you have to consider the realistic demands on you, from academic to social, and how much quality time you'll actually have to spend with your new pet.

If you're a single professional focused on your career and gone most of the day but want a kitty waiting for you when you return, consider once again how much time you have to spend with your new pet. The best choice for you would be an adult cat, long past the kitten stage, quieter and calmer, and if you're away for long periods of time, consider adopting two to keep one another company in your absence.

If you're in a serious relationship and planning a life together, learn all you can about making the proper introductions to ensure that your partner and your cat are soon the best of new friends. Re-homing your kitty if they don't get along should, if at all possible, not be an option. Remember that lifetime commitment. Of course, cat allergies are an entirely different matter, and require an entirely different approach and solution.

If, however, you're in a serious relationship, planning a life together, and each of you has a cat, learn all you can about making the proper introductions -- human to feline and feline to feline -- to hopefully ensure that you're all soon the best of new friends. Once again, re-homing one or the other kitty should, if at all possible, not be an option. Remember that lifetime commitment.

If you're ready to start a family, please remember the experience is as new for your cat as it is for you. To prepare

adequately for this most joyous -- and stressful, especially for older cats -- event, please refer to the Summer Newsletter 2012 and the article entitled "Cats, Kids and Babies".

If you're a young senior who's physically and socially active and interested in a kitty companion, choose a quiet and calm adult not a frisky and curious kitten. And if you spend most of the day away from home, consider adopting two cats to keep each other company while you're gone.

If you're an elderly senior in search of companionship, a senior cat may be just the ticket! Content to settle on your lap or curl up beside you on the couch while you read or watch TV, cats are considered seniors at the age of seven and are, sadly and all too often, passed over for younger ones. And because this remains a lifetime commitment on your part, ensure that your executor (and/or Power of Attorney) knows (always put this in writing) who's agreed to take your cat (always have a backup person in place) in the event of an incapacitating illness or death. If possible, set aside funds to cover the cost of your cat's ongoing and all-inclusive care, thereby relieving the person who takes your cat of this financial responsibility.

Because kitties, whatever their age, love their guardians unconditionally, let's prove ourselves worthy of that most purr-ecious love.



Hyperesthesia in Cats

by Nomi Berger

Rather than being a single disease, Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome (FHS) is a set of symptoms that indicates the presence of a dermal, neurological or behavioral problem. The opposite of anesthesia, instead of a LACK of sensation, an affected cat has TOO MUCH sensation in her skin or in the muscles under her skin. Much like tickling, it begins pleasantly enough before devolving into something both painful and distressing.

The classic symptoms of FHS – lasting a few seconds or several minutes – are episodes of a cat's skin twitching or rolling. She may not only appear uncomfortable, her pupils may be dilated or she may be staring off into space. Normally calm cats may become aggressive during an episode while aggressive cats may grow calmer. And episodes occur most often in the morning or evening -- the dawn/dusk times when cats in the wild would be hunting.

Some cats with milder forms of FHS experience pain when they're petted, particularly along their lower backs. Some may lick or bite themselves, often leading to shortened hair or baldness in those areas. Some will attack their tails or lower backs while others will lick or chew at their paws. Cats with more severe symptoms may cry or race screaming from room to room, mutilate their tails or suffer seizures if touched in a certain way.

Possible causes or triggers of FHS include allergies to food (this requires a special diet) or pollen, fleas, mites and ringworm. The symptoms of milder skin allergies can be relieved by antihistamines like doxepin, while more troublesome cases are usually treated with prednisolone, a steroid that eliminates any and all offending parasites. Skin scrapings detect the presence of mites and a fungal culture will test for ringworm. Bravecto ointment, applied to your cat's skin, is designed to kill both fleas and mites.

If treating your cat for skin issues doesn't help, a neurological problem -- affecting her spinal cord or the nerves to her back or tail -- may be the culprit. In this case, your vet may order spinal x-rays taken or, if need be, refer you to a neurologist for either a CT scan or MRI.

Cats suffering from a neurological condition can exhibit other symptoms besides FHS, including weakness or an unsteady gait, obvious pain in their neck, back or legs (pain medications may help), difficulty with jumping or problems with going up and down stairs. Some cats' symptoms, on the other hand, seem more like seizures,

for which Phenobarbital and/or Gabapentin (this decreases neurological pain) may be prescribed.

If both dermatological and neurological problems are ruled out, the third option is a compulsive disorder, thought to be caused by a lack of the neurotransmitter serotonin. Your vet can prescribe a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) to increase the amount of serotonin in your cat's brain and reduce her symptoms. Used for years in people, Prozac often works well for cats, and is available as a chewable tablet (for dogs) that can be crushed into your cat's canned food or broth. (To ensure she's tolerating the drug, your vet should draw a blood sample to check her liver and kidney function).

If the cause is indeed behavioral, any stress or conflict between cats in a multi-cat household tends to worsen the afflicted cat's symptoms. To reduce this stress:

Ensure that both their food (keep to one brand) and feeding times are predictable.



Engage them in regular play sessions, especially with toys that they can chase or bite.

Provide them with tall hiding and perching places to make them feel safer.

Ensure there are enough food bowls and litter boxes around so that a timid cat doesn't fear being "picked on" by a more aggressive one when she's eating or eliminating.

Anticipate whenever possible, a stressful situation and avoid it or redirect any undesirable behavior on the part of an aggressive cat through either training or playing.

It's only \$50 an issue to advertise your business card in the Mewsletter! Call 780.963.4933 or email info@herveycats.com



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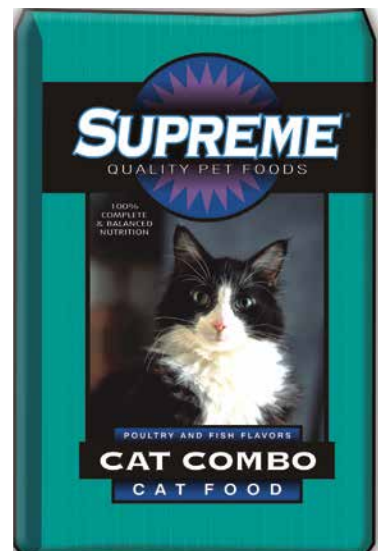
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Please open your heart and your home to one of our amazing cats and give them a second chance at a good life!



Want to adopt?

Please contact Marjorie at 780 963 4933

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

- Food (Dry, Canned & Treats).. \$400
- Litter \$200
- Vet Checkups/Vaccines \$200
- Total annual costs..... \$800**

You will also need:

- Water/Food Dishes \$150
- Scratching Post..... \$150
- Litter Pan & Scoop..... \$ 50
- Brush & Comb \$ 45
- Interactive Toys & Other Toys..\$150

Total initial cost \$545

Total first year cost: \$1520

Adoption Fee \$175

+ Other Items \$545

+ Annual Care \$800

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WHO WE ARE



MEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT/FOUNDER
MARJORIE HERVEY
info@herveycats.com

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

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



— 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.



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.

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

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

ALL DONATIONS MADE TO THE FOUNDATION ARE TAX-DEDUCTABLE!

Financial donations may be made by mail, phone, E-Transfer, Visa, Mastercard, ATB Cares.com, paypal, or Canadahelps.org!

**ALL DONATIONS WELCOME
CALL MARJORIE 780.963.4933**

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.

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, dewormed, 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.

Our Supporters Are Our Lifeline

Monthly donations are the lifeline of the Foundation. They are essential to help with the ongoing care of the cats and kitties. It goes towards food, litter and vet care. The Foundation is powered by volunteers - there are no paid employees of the foundation, nor do the owners/directors receive remuneration - all funds are used for the care of the animals and the operation of the Sanctuary.

your donations make a difference!

Our main source of funds is YOU...
your support helps us continue to care for cats!



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The Hervey Foundation for Cats
Box 2565 Station Main,
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Our Mission is three-fold

Our 1st Mission is **RESCUE**

We give each cat immediate medical care. Each is spayed or neutered, fully vaccinated, dewormed, microchipped, tested for Feline Leukemia & FIV, and rehabilitated physically and psychologically. We find loving homes for those who can be adopted. The rest live out their lives in peace and dignity in our family.

Our 2nd Mission is **REHOMING**

finding good, loving and caring homes for those cats that are adoptable. Being a private Foundation our screening procedures are strict to ensure that our cats will receive the best care possible.

Our 3rd Mission is **EDUCATION**

We educate people to have compassion and respect for all animals. We promote that an animal is a lifetime commitment — we advocate early spaying & neutering as a solution to the overpopulation of animals and recommend Micro-chipping of all animals for identification should they stray.



YES! I would like to join the **"SHARE THE CARE" monthly donor program.** Through this program you can help to feed, care and house these cats, that for health or other issues are un-adoptable. **These animals live in a home like environment at our facility.**

Would you like to receive email updates/and or newsletters?

email updates newsletters



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debited on 15th 30th/every month

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One time donation \$ _____

Thank you!

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VERIFICATION / CVC CODE (3 numbers on back of your credit card)

SIGNATURE _____

*By signing this form, I authorize the Hervey Foundation for Cats to withdraw my specified donation on the 15th or the 30th day of each month from my credit card as indicated above. I realize that I can change or cancel my authorization at any time by contacting the Hervey Foundation for Cats.

C.R.A. # 899091128RR0001 / Alberta Charitable # 3101541

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