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Carter's Corner

Sent: May 16, 2023

From: Lydia Emanuel

Subject: Carter at Easter

Hi Marjorie. This little box with tissue papers has become an item of home décor for several months now, and raises eyebrows from people when they see it. Most cats love to pounce on tissue paper, and Carter 'goes to town' on it at Christmas or birthdays when gifts are wrapped or opened. We had some leftover tissue paper after Christmas and put it in a box for him just so he wouldn't drag it all over the carpets. Lo and behold, he really took a shine to the idea, and pounces on it at least once a day to shred it apart with wild abandon, before calmly settling down in it. It's like he works out all his frustrations there, and we dubbed it his 'anger management' box.

We hope all the smoke and risk of wildfires out there now are not a danger to you where you are.

Lydia



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 at www.herveycats.com!



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 Summer Newsletter!

Welcome everyone to the Summer Edition of the Mewsletter! Pour yourself a cool glass of your favourite summer drink, put your paws up, and enjoy some of the articles from our in-house author Dan Huen – including a new story from Gary and Morris!

At The Foundation, we're enjoying the beautiful summer weather – and it is hot! So hot, in fact, keeping cool can be a challenge. Temperatures are regularly hitting 30 degrees Celsius and above, so we really look forward to our evenings when things cool off.

The cats enjoy the mornings and evenings the most, being able to snooze their afternoons away in the house where it's cool. When it's hot like this, we always keep the blinds closed and the fans going to make sure the cats always have a comfortable place to be throughout the day.

Things at The Foundation are extraordinarily busy right now, but that isn't new territory for us. There are always many things to do with just as many kitties ready to help supervise! With the nice weather, we've been able to get lots of gardening done. Gary provided proper supervision while we worked, and now all our pots are planted, and our flower beds are blooming! With all that hard work done, once the day's tasks are complete, we can sit back and enjoy our beautiful garden!

Our many old kitties continue to enjoy their fur-ever homes here, and if I do say so myself, are aging quite gracefully. They live quite comfortably, with every need met, enjoying treats and lots of sunlight in the cat runs (our outdoor, enclosed areas for the cats to

come and go safely without leaving the sanctuary). We have a new tunnel out there, and they just love spending time in it, playing games of chase, as well as hide and seek. It's especially funny to watch them jump out and try to surprise each other.

In these difficult economic times, I want to thank everyone who made donations to The Foundation. With the prices of litter as well as wet and dry food soaring, it has been a very challenging time for us. Our expenses have doubled and we do not see any end in sight. Your donations make it possible for The Foundation to operate – providing a safe and happy home for these kitties to live out the rest of their lives in. We are so appreciative.

I would like to remind everyone that with the heat, and the long hot days ahead, to make sure your cat has plenty of fresh, clean water, and that you're keeping their environment as cool as possible (blinds closed, fans, air conditioning). Cats may eat less when it's hot, but make sure they have access to both wet and dry food. Wet food contains a lot of moisture which helps keep them hydrated. Be sure to keep them away from any pesticides in the yard and watch for signs of heat stroke. If your kitty is showing signs of heat stroke, get them to the vet right away.

Thanks for reading and we hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me and I will always try to help. Take care!

Marjorie Hervey

Avoiding a Pet Custody Dispute with A Petnup

By Dan Huen

If you watch sitcoms, you've probably seen at least one or two shows where they discuss prenups. On Seinfeld, George Costanza tried to get out of a marital engagement by suggesting a prenup to his fiancé.

Prenuptial agreements, for the uninitiated, are agreements whereby a husband- and wife-to-be, before their wedding day, will agree to how they want to divide their assets, or in many cases, protect them, in the case of a divorce. So, what is a petnup?

The Petnuptial

Many couples revel in the idea of sharing a pet as their pseudo-first child. Sharing a pet can be a great experience for couples as they can get a sense of how well each partner shows responsibility and love for an innocent creature, one who often creates disturbances and makes the odd mess.

Sadly, in many cases, considerations for what will happen to a pet in the case of a relationship breakdown are made too late. This is often because nobody likes to enter a relationship, or even adopt a pet, thinking that the relationship might not survive.

So, what happens when two people adopt a pet, but in the future, they aren't able to make things work between them? Who gets to take their furry child? Is there such a thing as visitation? This is where the petnup can come in handy.

Things to Consider

When building out a petnup, try to put the pets first. Think about what's important to them. Cats grow attached to their home environment, and if one person plans to stay in the home, the cat would likely prefer to stay there as well.

Some pets also grow used to certain expectations. For example, if pets are allowed on furniture, and one partner plans to no longer let pets on furniture, they should consider leaving their pets behind. It would be difficult for an animal to readjust to those types of expectations.

The Law

In the case of a divorce settlement, animals are seen as chattel, and therefore they are considered the same as a possession. As a result, the court cannot order a person to set up visitation with a cat.

As much as some folks might want to seek visitation with their pet, the only way to set something like that up would be with

the consent of their partner - a petnup, for example.

A petnup might include things like, in the case of a breakup: one person gets one cat, and the other gets the second. Another might have a visitation agreement built into it. Petnups are not as common as prenups, so the information found within would vary from one to the other.

Petnups are also only really as strong as the people setting them up. Since a petnup is not automatically legally binding, it's up to the people creating it and their legal counsel to stick to it.

Keep in mind, in the breakdown of a relationship, some folks might struggle with keeping their end of an agreement they formerly made with their ex-partner due to having strong negative feelings. A petnup relies on both parties remaining civil and amicable, but it can help relieve the stress of the unknown, and a properly drafted petnup will look out for the pet's best interests first.

Dan Huen is a writer, comedian, and online personality located in Winnipeg, MB. When he is not crafting tails about cats, he is spending time restoring old computers or hanging out with his girlfriend Kristyn, and his cat, June "Little Tuna" Huen. June is a rescue who got left behind when a family sold their house to a friend of Dan's. You can see Dan noodle with his collection of old computers on his YouTube channel: Canadian Computer Collector

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.



The Adventures of Gary



Hi Everyone Gary here!

It's my favourite time of year – summer – and there's nothing I appreciate more than a warm, lazy day in the sun. Let me clarify. There is nothing I WOULD like more than to have a lazy day in the sun. That pesky woodpecker is back, and he seems to be tapping on our tin chimney every single day! What a racket! We hope he figures out that the tin chimneys don't make great homes and moves on to something far away. I've tried to convince him to move on, but he has yet to do so.

On top of the woodpecker, I have my duties as CEO of rodent control. So far, this season has kept me on my toes (or toe beans as some like to say). When it gets warm, keeping the mice in check is a full-time job out where we live, and there's still lots of summer left! I also like to sniff all the bugs as they cross my path. It reminds them we are running a foundation for cats here, and it's not safe for them inside (some of the other cats might just have them for a snack!)

When all our work is done, I love to spend my evenings with Mommy, sitting on her lap and helping her with her projects. Spring cleaning alongside her was lots of fun and

required lots of my help. We pulled stuff out, threw things in the garbage, and re-arranged a bunch of items inside the outdoor buildings on the property. I got to climb, explore, and find tall things to stand on!

Mom is the best. Can you believe she even bought me a little stroller to go on trips? So far, we've gone on a few around The Foundation grounds, and there are lots more planned for the rest of the summer. I know many of my furry friends cannot stand going places in vehicles, but I just love it. Call it a trust thing. I trust my mom to keep me safe, and she teaches me all about the world. Things are less scary when she is around.

I had better go now! Today is another day at The Foundation and there are lots of things to do. There are mice to be kept in check, bugs to sniff and a pesky woodpecker I am still trying to convince to move along.

Goodbye for now! And if you want to hear more about some of my adventures, including those with my friend Morris, check out our blog at www.herveycats.com. That's where we keep them all! Enjoy your summer!

- Gary

Visit our website to view our blog and other amazing content

<https://herveycats.com/blog>.



Cat Love Bites - What Do They Mean?

Most cat owners are intimately familiar with love bites. Love bites can take shape in a number of ways, but I need to see how they appear as...



Should You Worry About Your Cat's Zoomies?

What are the Zoomies? They are a nickname to describe a cat's behaviour when they are darting around the house for seemingly no reason, and



Can Cats Eat Garlic or Onions?

The answer is always no! It's not about how much, or if they were cooked or not, the answer is always no. Cats cannot handle

Do Cats Prefer Silence, Our Music, or Theirs?

By Dan Huen

As cat owners, we've all left the radio on at least once or twice for our cat before leaving the house for a period of time. But when compared to silence, is that really what cats prefer? Humans love background noise, be it in the form of music, a tv show, or even just white noise. What about our feline companions?

Let's have a look at a 2015 study from the University of Wisconsin. In this study, researchers attempted to find out what effects different types of music had on a cat's stress levels. They tested classical music, custom-created "cat music" meant to emulate sounds and pitches that might be attractive to a cat, and then just plain silence!

While conducting their research, a laptop and speakers were brought to the homes of 47 different cats where they played two classical music selections, and two "cat music" selections from University of Maryland Composer David Teie.

In most cases, when hearing the cat music, cats would warm up to the sounds and show signs of satisfaction. Strangely, when hearing the classical music, their reactions weren't much different from when there was no music at all.

While some might conclude that cats don't like classical music, perhaps a stronger conclusion is that cats prefer sounds they are more familiar with. Human sounds all likely sound very similar to cats, hitting frequencies the human ear can interpret (which are only a handful of the frequencies cats can hear).

Professor Emeritus of Psychology, and lead author of the study, Charles Snowdon, noted in his research that he found many pet owners showed bias towards whatever their preferred style of music was, believing their pets shared their taste in music.

"A reporter for National Public Radio is convinced his dog likes classical, so he puts on NPR all day," said Snowdon. "A guy from a rock station thought his dog liked heavy metal, so he put that on all day. There is a lot of silly stuff going on."

Snowdon also concluded that there are a couple of other factors that might play a role in how cats react to music. When testing was done on other animals, for example, in Japan, where researchers played Mozart for rats, they learned they were ignoring sounds under 4,000 hertz, and therefore human music had no effect on them. It's entirely possible cats may ignore certain frequencies as well.

"They don't hear it, and it's not music to them," said Snowdon.

Experiment and See What Works

With all this information, that isn't to say your cats might not appreciate the odd classical composition, or perhaps a documentary, left on the radio the next time you go out. Animals are all different, for the most part, just like we are. Some animals might like the idea of having some background noise while others might prefer silence. There isn't an easy way to tell what your animal responds to, so a good rule of thumb would be to mix things up a bit and stay perceptive! Try music one day, TV the next, and nothing at all following those. Record your cat's mood that evening and adjust as necessary!

YOU can find this and additional content on our website



What's the Deal with Cats Grooming Each Other?

If you've owned more than one cat, there is a strong possibility you've encountered this scene. Two or more of your cats are lying down

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We gratefully send
our sincere thanks
to the Cunningham
Animal Care Fund
at the Edmonton

Community Foundation for their ongoing support to
the Hervey Foundation for Cats.

It's Allergy Season Again, Does Your Cat Need Help?

By Dan Huen

Summer is here, the weather is beautiful, and seasonal allergies are in full swing. For your cat, especially if they spend time outside, it can be a particularly difficult time for them. Things like leaves, trees, grass and weeds are the most common perpetrators, due to their release of mold and/or pollen into the air (depending on the time of year). These airborne particles can cause irritation of the ears, nose, and throat, resulting one unhappy cat!

Seasonal allergies take form in a number of different ways on cats, and as a cat owner, it's important to know the signs. Sometimes an animal suffering from seasonal allergies can be mistaken for being stressed out or anxious. Since their symptoms come and go with the weather, owners might mistakenly think their treatments are working for a period of time only for them to eventually fail again as the allergies creep up again.

Know the Signs of Seasonal Allergies in Your Cat

There are a number of common signs you can look for in a cat with allergies, and they aren't too far off from what humans experience!

They're scratching and biting their skin – A cat with seasonal allergies might experience dry, itchy skin, and since they aren't able to rationalize the change in sensation, they will frequently scratch or bite it. Unfortunately this usually makes things worse instead of better, until human intervention is needed.

They have bald patches on their fur – In conjunction with the sign listed above, bald patches of fur usually indicate a cat whose skin layer is itchy, inflamed, and uncomfortable. Most animals don't remove their own fur because they are happy. If your cat is missing fur, talk to your vet.

Sneezing Backwards and Forwards – This one might sound a tad odd, but cats can sneeze both forwards and backwards. Cats shouldn't be sneezing regularly to begin with, and if yours is, seasonal allergies might be the cause. What does it mean to sneeze backwards? Occasionally pollen will tickle the back of a cat's throat, causing them to spasm and draw air in similarly to how they would expel it in a regular sneeze.

Watery Eyes – Another symptom similar to us humans, watery eyes also affect cats with seasonal allergies. These are uncomfortable, and for an animal that struggles to accurately touch certain parts of its face, watery eyes can be a nuisance as well. If you see them frequently squinting, accompanied by some inflammation, they might be suffering from an allergic conjunctivitis – which is easily treated with drops.

Frequent Head Shaking – Cats and other animals naturally shake their heads to remove pollen, dirt, insects, or anything else that might be on there. When this behaviour becomes frequent, that's when it might be worth looking to see if there are any other signs of seasonal allergies. Frequent head shaking might be a desperate attempt for your cat to try and deal with the itchiness and discomfort they are experiencing.

Take Seasonal Allergies in Your Cat Seriously

Just because they aren't lethal doesn't mean we should ignore seasonal allergies in our cats. There is a reason we developed allergy medication for humans and it's because allergies can be extremely uncomfortable. The same goes for our feline friends.

Your cat looks up to you and relies on you to take care of them. If they're suffering from something as simple as seasonal allergies, you can be the one who takes away their pain! Don't be shy about talking to your vet if you think your cat might be regularly experiencing some of the symptoms listed above.

Look for these and additional content on our website <https://herveycats.com/blog>.

You can also find them at <https://www.facebook.com/herveycats>.



What's the Deal with Cats Grooming Each Other?

If you've owned more than one cat, there is a strong possibility you've encountered this scene. Two or more of your cats are lying down



Cats and Arthritis

Much as humans do, when cats age, they become more prone to arthritis and joint inflammation. Arthritis for cats is similar to arthritis for humans



Do Cats Get Lonely? Do Cats Need Other Cats?

There are a lot of misconceptions about whether cats like to live among their kind – one of the biggest being they prefer to live

Check our blog out at www.herveycats.com or on facebook. Choice Marketing has created awesome graphics and you can also see Gary and his friend Morris's antics Graphics done by Kierra Dahlin



A Canada Day Picnic with Gary and Morris



By Dan Huen

Another hot summer day dawned on the Hervey Foundation for Cats. The sun had risen brightly into the sky and was beaming its hot rays down onto everything in its path. Gary and Morris happened to be in that path, and they were really feeling the heat.

"Sure, I'm glad it's not winter right now, but it sure is hot today," said Gary. "I'm starting to think I might even miss winter a little bit."

"With all this fur, I'm not afraid to say I officially miss the snow. Or maybe I just miss the rain. I'd rather have rain than snow," said Morris.

Both cats were sitting under the shade of a tree in the backyard, trying to stay out of the heat, but it was unavoidable. The house was nice and cool inside, but it was busy.

Marjorie and her volunteers were getting ready for their Canada Day celebration – they were hanging decorations, chatting, telling lots of jokes and stories, and putting together a table with some food and drink.

The plan was that they'd invite family and friends to come to The Foundation to ring in the country's birthday, but due to the heat, they set up their consumables indoors and would celebrate outside.

Gary and Morris love a party, but they both agreed that instead of supervising the planning operation, they would much rather hang around outside

"I don't know how I would get anything done if it was always this hot," said Morris.

"Do you get anything done now?" said Gary, with a laugh.

"I resent that remark," said Morris.

"No, you resemble it," said Gary.

They both laughed and rolled onto their backs, letting the warmth carry them off into a daytime nap.

About an hour passed when Gary and Morris were awoken by some gentle drops of water hitting their coats.

"What's going on?!" said Morris, who awoke suddenly.

"It's raining!" said Gary. "This way!"

The cats had been sleeping in the shade of the tree, but near the edges where the rain could still get them. They both ran to the base of the tree where the leaf coverage was dense enough to keep them dry.

"I was having a good dream too!" said Morris.

"Isn't that a shame," said Gary. "Oh wow, Look at the sky!"

Unbeknownst to them, while both cats were snoozing, dark storm clouds had rolled in and from the looks of things, it was going to rain for a while. The darkness of the shade had prevented them from noticing that everything had grown quite a bit darker. It was as if the evening had arrived early.

Both cats waited together under the tree for about 20 minutes before wondering if they should move.

"I wonder how Marjorie and the people at the shelter are doing inside? They wanted to have a party today," said Gary.

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"Poor folks," said Morris.

Just as the cats were about to head back to the house to go make sure Marjorie was okay, the rain stopped.

"Wait-" said Morris.

"Is that it?!" said Gary.

They looked up at the sky and most of the dark storm clouds had already moved on! Just moments ago it had been so dark and now the sky was basically bright again!

"That is the strangest thing," said Gary.

"How does that happen?" said Morris.

"Let's not worry about that," said Gary. "Look! The rain cooled everything down! It's not uncomfortably hot anymore!"

Morris looked at him, then licked one of his toes and held it up in the air.

"The weather is indeed beautiful," he said.

"You are ridiculous sometimes," said Gary.

"Well now it feels like we should do something fun," said Morris.

"Like lay under the tree and sleep for the rest of the day?" said Gary.

"No," said Morris. "The ground is all wet now, but I do have another idea,"

"What's that?" said Gary.

"Let's have our own Canada Day party," Morris replied.

"I'm listening. What are you thinking?" said Gary.

"Let's get some of our friends together, and just like the humans do, grab some food, some drinks, and have a picnic!" Morris said with a cheer.

"What a great idea," said Gary. "Let's start planning!"

"First things first, where should we have the picnic?" Morris asked.

"What if we had it on that big cliff's edge right along the river? It's nice and high up, the view is great, and the sun will probably have a chance to dry the grass by then too!" said Gary.

The cats were very excited by their plan. Earlier that morning it felt like the day was going to be too hot to get anything substantial done, but after that quick summer downpour, the Earth had cooled down and it was time to have fun!

Gary and Morris ran inside the shelter to find some food and drink. What would they serve? The shelter had lots of food to choose from, and even a few different things to drink. The first order of business was to find a device they could fill with goods and carry them to the riverbank.

At first, they tried out some boxes, pushing them around with their noses then eventually jumping inside and curling up. Morris almost started to fall asleep he was so comfortable.

"These boxes are comfy, but I think we are getting distracted," said Gary.

"They're also a bit too pointy to push down to the river," said Morris.

The two cats agreed and kept looking.

"I found something!" said Morris.

Gary ran over.

"What'd you find?"

Morris had the handle of a soft reusable bag wrapped around his waist and was pulling like a horse-drawn carriage.

"Knock some goodies into this bag and we can pull them out to our spot!" he said.

"Beautiful. Let's get to work," Gary replied.

Gary jumped up onto the storage racks and Morris shadowed him from the floor. With a couple easy slaps of his paw, Gary knocked packages of treats down into the bag, some wet food tins, a few cartons of kitten milk, and a small container of dry food. They wanted enough for their friends, but not so much they'd struggle to pull the bag.

Morris signalled the bag was as full as he could manage, so Gary jumped down and off they went!

Once they arrived at their spot above the riverbank, the two cats noticed the raccoon family hanging out down by the water.

"Ahoy down there!" shouted Gary.

"Oh, hello boys!" said Mama Raccoon.

"What brings you folks to the riverbank?" said Gary.

"We were about to make lunch!" said Papa Raccoon.

Raccoons are very clean creatures who always wash their

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food before eating. The raccoon family was in the middle of cleaning up a bunch of fruits and vegetables.

"So were we... sort of," said Gary.

"We're going to have a picnic," said Morris, whose head had suddenly popped up next to Gary's. "Come join us! Bring your food!"

The raccoons chattered back and forth for a second, then said they'd be right up!

Gary and Morris started to lay out their food items when they realized the grass was a bit too tall for them to keep everything level and easily accessible.

"We need something to put on the ground," they both said at the same time.

When the raccoon family finally got to the top of the hill, they expressed the same concern over not having anything to put down on the ground.

"I know just the thing," said Papa Raccoon. "I'll be right back!"

Gary looked over at Mama Raccoon.

"He sure is helpful," he said.

"Some days," said Mama Raccoon with a smirk.

The raccoon family had brought quite a few fruits and vegetables with them, and when combined with the cat foods brought by Gary and Morris, there was quite a bit to eat!

"We should invite some more friends to join us," said Morris.

"Yeah, I agree, there is plenty to eat for everyone!" said Mama Raccoon.

Morris decided he would go visit some of their other woodland friends and invite them to the picnic. Gary and Mama Raccoon would stay behind with the raccoon children and the food.

The two of them decided that they, and the raccoon kids, would lay in the grass and soak in the sun/cool breeze.

Almost 15 minutes later, Papa Raccoon returned with a long, checkered blanket draped over his shoulder. It was so long it was dragging behind him, almost in its entirety. And who was sitting on the blanket being pulled along by Papa Raccoon? It was the prairie dogs, chipmunks and squirrels.

"I found some friends on the way," said Papa Raccoon.

"WE BROUGHT NUTS!" said a VERY excited Joey, their

squirrel friend. "We've been waiting for the first big party of the year!"

Joey wasn't kidding when he said they brought nuts. There was a pile of acorns, peanuts, and even some cashews, which they must have found in or behind a human store.

Another fifteen minutes later and Morris was back, with Canada geese waddling behind him, Terrance the beaver (who also had a pretty strong waddle) in tow, and the massive Bullwinkle, towering over the rest of them. It looked like they all brought some food as well, while Bullwinkle had a big blue watercooler jug full of water he was nudging along.

The animals all greeted each other and then spread out the big checkered blanket Papa Raccoon had brought.

"Where'd you find this thing?" said Gary.

"I found it behind that place with all the great boxes that Bullwinkle came across a few weeks ago," said Papa Raccoon. "The humans must have thrown it out because it was dirty, so I took it to the waterfront and washed it, hung it up to dry, and here we are!"

Once the blanket was all stretched out, the forest creatures, plus Gary and Morris, laid out all their food, water, and the kitten milks! They all took a brief moment to thank each other for their wonderful company, then started to pass the food around.

Gary and Morris chowed down on the wet food, the geese were eating some dried corn they'd brought with them, Terrance was chomping on some young saplings he'd been growing next to his dam, the squirrels were inhaling their acorns and everyone else was enjoying what they'd brought. Water started flowing after Bullwinkle used his antlers to poke a hole in the jug, and everyone was able to wash down their meals with a nice cool drink.

After all the food, drink, and great conversation, the sun was starting to set and the sky was filled with beautiful colours. There were bright reds, pinks, oranges, and purples. It was like they were sitting in a pastel drawing.

"I'd like to say a few things," said Gary.

"Speech!" yelled Papa Raccoon, who was quickly hushed by Mama Raccoon.

"Thank you, everyone, for coming out today, and for bringing some food with you, this has been one awesome picnic!"

The group gave Gary a round of applause.

"I also want to thank my buddy Morris, as this was his idea,

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and since he has come to live at the shelter, we've had nothing but great times... especially with all of you."

They all applauded again.

"Most of all, thank you, to all of you. These last couple of years have been a blast, and it's in large part due to all the adventures we've all had as friends."

Morris put his paw on Gary's shoulder.

"I think there is one thing we are all thinking about though, and that is Canada Day. What is Canada Day?" said Gary.

"I don't know. Today?" said Bullwinkle.

"That's right," said Gary, but from what I've gathered, it's a bit more than that."

Morris stepped in and said, "You're both right. I worked quite closely with humans for a long time, and Canada Day is the day when they celebrate the birthday of the land where they live and its history!"

"What's history?" said one of the baby raccoons.

Mama Raccoon rushed over and whispered in their ear.

"That's a great explanation," said Gary. "Thank you, Morris. Couldn't have said it better myself, likely because I have a very loose understanding of it all. What I do know is that the humans take this day seriously, in a happy way, and if we are lucky, we might even get to see a show..."

The group wasn't quite sure what Gary was alluding to, but only a minute or two later, their conversation was interrupted by a loud squeal.

"Look!" shouted Terrance. "Human sky theatrics!"

A firework shot straight into the sky and burst into a beautiful array of teal, then it all turned into gold, then fizzled into smoke.

"Wow..." said Papa Raccoon. "I always hide when there are loud noises, but this is beautiful."

Just then three more shot up in succession, each bursting into a big circle of vibrant colours.

"See what I mean?" said Gary. "They do this every year!"

"Hervey Cats?" said Terrance. "I'd love to know how they-

"Not us, the neighbours!" interrupted Gary.

"It's fascinating!" said Terrance.

The animals all sat there, on the Raccoon family's blanket,

taking in the lights and sounds of the fireworks show.

Once the last firework had shot into the sky, displayed its bright plume then hung in the sky as drifts of smoke, the animals all looked around and noticed how dark it had gotten.

The raccoon kids were sound asleep despite all the loud bangs from the fireworks so Mama and Papa loaded them onto their backs, bid their farewells, then headed back home, blanket in tow.

The geese wished everyone a good night and took off into the sky.

The prairie dogs, squirrels and chipmunks all headed into the deep grass, and a very tired Bullwinkle and Terrance thanked the cats for the great time and walked back to their respective homes, side-by-side, along the riverbank.

Gary and Morris headed home as well, tired but fulfilled. Once they were finally back inside the shelter, they lay by their favourite window and got ready to doze off. Being the responsible cats they are, they both had a quick bath, drank some water, then curled up for a nice long snooze.

"There is nothing like Canada Day with good food and good friends," said Morris. "I wonder how Marjorie's party went?"

"You said it," said Gary. "That's a really good question! I hope everything went well. I am sure we will find out tomorrow."

"Let's hit the hay!" said Morris.

Look for this on our website <https://herveycats.com/blog>.



Cat Enrichment: How to Help a Bored Cat

Enrichment is the term used to describe the opportunity we give to our cats to learn, explore, eat, and use all their senses. So how

Laser Pointers and Cats, Plus Some Alternatives

By **Dan Huen**

Cats are active creatures who need regular stimulation. In the wild, they have other creatures, trees, grass, and a whole world available to them. When living in the home, it can be harder for them to feel stimulated to that same level. As a result, it falls on the shoulders of cat owners to spend time with their cats and provide an environment that provides sufficient engagement.

When done properly, playing with a cat can provide exercise for both the mind and body, keeping them fit and mentally sharp! It also reduces the odds of them acting out, like going outside of the litter box or ruining furniture. Much like people, a busy cat is a happy cat.

A good strategy to have as a cat owner is to respect them on the same level you would a child. Cats may be simpler than a child, but they want many of the same things. They want to feel safe, they want to learn, be loved, and one thing often overlooked, they want to have their own possessions. Cats are creatures of familiarity and having their own bed, litter box, and more importantly, toys, are all very important to them. There are plenty of toys for cats, but one of the most common we hear about is the laser pointer.

The Arguments For, and Against, the Laser Pointer

Laser pointers, for a lot of cats, are instant engagement. When they see that light hit the floor, it sends them crashing into hunter mode – which can be a good thing – but like many things in life, it comes with some risks which can be mitigated if taken seriously

Many of the debates surrounding whether or not laser pointers are good for cats are based on two arguments. The first speaks to the danger a laser pointer can present when pointed directly into an eye, while the second argument sympathizes with the cat for never being able to catch anything physical.

Physical Risk Factor

Looking at the first argument, around the risk posed to a cat's eyes, we completely understand. This is a very real concern and as a result, we don't suggest using just any laser pointer to play with your cat. When purchasing a laser pointer for this purpose, specifically look for a low-powered, pet-safe light.

We also suggest remaining standing above and moving along with your cat when using a laser pointer. This will help avoid situations where the cat can look back at you and accidentally stare into the beam. You do not want the light to shine in their eyes ever.

Anxiety and Potential Distress

The second argument against using a laser pointer is the fact that it frustrates cats and can stress them out. The

reasoning for this is rooted in the idea that cats who hunt and are unable to find prey eventually get frustrated and give up. Some theorize that repeated exposure to these “unwinnable games” can have a negative effect in the long term.

To mitigate any negative feelings they might be having, if you plan on having a laser pointer session with your cat, be sure you periodically sprinkle treats down for them to enjoy!

What to Remember if You Still Want to Use a Laser Pointer

We cannot stress enough that if you want to use a laser pointer with your cat, you follow our advice. You absolutely must move along with your cat and not remain stationary, and bring a handful of treats with you to periodically provide a reward to your cat.

Alternatives to the Laser Pointer

With all of this in mind, there are some great cat toys that can achieve a lot of what the laser pointer does without any of the risks.

One of the most commonly found cat toys (in stores) is the stick with a long piece of felt or a string attached to the end. These toys are great alternatives to the laser pointer as they simulate the chase and engage your cat while leaving them something to physically latch on to and feel the satisfaction of a successful hunt.

More great alternatives to laser pointers are puzzle games! These are typically food-driven puzzles that require your cat to problem-solve and try lots of different things to get to the treat. There are plenty of great puzzle games for cats you can purchase online, and some you can even make yourself. We suggest having a look online for instructions.

Final Thoughts

While those who worry about cats and laser pointers have some very real concerns, we find that with a deliberate approach and the right equipment, they can be mitigated to an extent. There are also lots of options out there for toys that can stimulate your cat similarly without the use of a laser pointer. At the end of the day, if you are a cat owner who can move around with your cat, provide treats to them on the fly, and you own a laser pointer safe for use with pets, we say go for it!



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WHO WE ARE



Our Mission.

The Hervey Foundation for Cats is a place of refuge for cats. We specialize in cat adoption and rescue for those who otherwise would perish: the abandoned, the abused, the sick, the old, the suffering. This foundation is a place of last resort for cats who would otherwise be euthanized. Our foundation is a no-kill, non-profit, and tax-exempt, private Charitable Foundation.



With food, litter, medicine, and operational costs in excess of \$10,000/month, The Hervey Foundation for Cats needs your support to care for cats from all walks of life - many of which have nowhere else to turn.

Our Story.

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 numerous cats and kittens have come into our care and most have found good, loving homes. The balance stay at The Foundation home, living out their remaining days being loved and cared for.

Marjorie has been referred to as the "Mother Theresa" of cats. She's the person who provides the inspiration and drive behind everything.

There is no doubt that the sick, the homeless, and the neglected felines she willingly, and without reservation, devotes herself to, have never felt the warmth, love and compassion that she gives to every one of them.

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

In line with this philosophy is the concept of **homing**. We provide homes for these animals - either a new loving, caring home, or a permanent home at our sanctuary - Where the cat will live out its remaining days happily, in a home, where they are loved and their needs are taken care of.

A point of pride at The Foundation is that the cats are rarely isolated. They live in a warm familial environment (after being acclimatized to live in harmony with other cats).

Many cats come to us due to illness or a desperate situation, but many also come to us when individuals move out of their homes and into permanent care facilities. We provide the same level of love and care for these cats as we do for all our cats.

The Hervey Foundation for Cats also promotes public education. Owning a cat, or any pet, is not a novelty. When a person adopts a pet, they are taking responsibility for another life.

As a long-term sanctuary for cats, we are at the frontline in the battle against overpopulation, and we feel the best tool is education. We regularly promote spaying and neutering of pets as a means to reduce population, as well keeping cats indoors, not giving them as gifts, and more.

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.

Contact.

Hervey Foundation for Cats

Box 2565 Station Main
Stony Plain, AB
T7Z 1X9

Phone

(780) 963-4933

Email

info@herveycats.com

President/Founder

Marjorie Hervey
info@herveycats.com

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

The Foundation is a registered non-profit Charitable Organization in Canada and Alberta:
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With your help, we can provide food, litter and life-saving medicine to those who need it the most. We take care of cats in dire need, the aged, the abandoned and more; providing a comfortable and loving home for the rest of their lives. We're proud of our work, but it comes with a cost, and your donations make this all possible.

Our foundation is powered by volunteers – there are no paid employees, nor do the owners/directors receive remuneration – all funds are used for the care of the animals and operation of the sanctuary.

OUR MISSION IS THREE-FOLD

Our first mission is rescue.

We give each cat immediate medical care. Each is spayed or neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped, 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 second mission is adoption.

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 third mission is education.

Educate people to have compassion and respect for all animals. We promote that an animal is a lifetime commitment – we advocate early spaying and neutering as a solution to the overpopulation of animals. In addition, we recommend micro-chipping of all animals as a means of identification should they stray.



YES! I would like to support the Hervey Foundation for Cats by either a single donation, or joining the **monthly donor program**. Through this donation, I can help care for the cats at their no-kill sanctuary, providing a homelike living experience, medical care, and more!

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