

Moggy Mail

from Moggy Minders

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Moggy Minders

We care, when you're not there!

Moggy Minders

If you've enjoyed this issue of Moggy Mail, please let us know!

We also welcome comments or suggestions for articles for future issues.

If you would like to get in touch, please email us: info@moggyminders.co.uk

Do Cats Have Emotions?

Do cats have emotions? Of course they do - and all owners come to recognize their own kitties moods, from the noises they make and their facial expressions. However, its difficult to measure emotions in animals - for example how happy or fearful your kitty may be.

Seven Basic Systems

Now research has shown that mammals, cats included, have 7 basic emotional systems - including a seeking system to look for food and fear system to respond to unfamiliar events that may be dangerous. In addition, they have a play system, and a care system to help them raise their kittens and form vital social attachments.

Emotions and Behaviour

Recognising that cats have emotions is helping to drive progress in other fields, such as dealing with relatively common behavioural problems like aggression, excessive grooming and nervousness. By taking into account the emotions that a cat feels, rather than simply looking at the way that it behaves, is vital in helping to combat the problems that can lead to such undesirable behavior.

Emotions and Reactions

If we think of an emotion as what gives the cat the impulse to react in response to an event or stimulus, we need also to look at how they

feel once they have reacted. Emotions may be divided into positive or negative feelings, and have rising or decreasing scales. So, for example, the negative emotion of fear may arouse a cat to defend itself, whilst positive feelings of contact or touch may help it to form and maintain relationships with others within a group. On a rising or decreasing scale, pleasure at contact may increase to feelings of elation or ecstasy, whilst apprehension may escalate to fear or terror.

The realization is that emotions are key to how animals learn any type of behavior, and addressing their emotions can be critical in solving their problems.

The Games They Play... written for your cat by Simba, the Ginger Ninja

How To Have Fun With A Cardboard Box...

Your owner won't believe how much fun we kitties can have with a simple cardboard box. You can hide things in it, hide yourself in it, or hide from your friend if you live with other cats.

Make sure your owner gets you a nice, sturdy box, so that you can climb in and out without any problems. This also helps the box withstand any chewing you may feel like doing.

Your Owner may buy you a toy mouse or similar to play with in the box. We all know

that this isn't a real mouse, but we can humor them for a little while by pretending to be ferocious hunter, stalking our prey. They will laugh and think they are very clever and probably reward you with a nice treat for being such a clever kitty.

Win-win situation I say....

Cats Protection League Bring “Mews-ic” To Your Ears!

The Cats Protection League are bringing music to our ears with a novel new mobile phone ring tone. Featuring the soothing sounds of cats meowing and purring, this new ring tone is a great addition to your phone, in addition to being an easy way to support the vital ongoing work of the CPL.

To get hold of the new ringtone, simply text KITTEN to 88222. Texts cost £3 (2 x £1.50) plus one text at your standard network rate. Approximately £2

will go to help the cats in their care. To find out more visit www.cats.org.uk/supportus.

Future dates for your diary:

Harrogate branch of the CPL will have a stall at Calcutt Gala on Sunday 12 July from 11 until around 5pm, on the cricket field, behind the Union Pub, Calcutt.

Adel & District Cats Protection are holding a table top sale at the Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Lane, Adel,

(nr Leeds) on 25th July from 10am–12pm.

Become Involved!

Volunteering is a great way to support your local branch or adoption centre - from hands on work as a fosterer or feline chauffeur, to PR or fundraising. Many CPL volunteers work full time, and roles are available to suit you, and the time you have available. To find out more, visit www.cats.org.uk/supportus/volunteering.



“I have had the pleasure of my first pair of Abyssinians this week, and have been quite enchanted by them...”

All About... Abyssinians

I have had the pleasure of my first pair of Abyssinians this week, and have been quite enchanted by them...

The name Abyssinian refers to Ethiopia, but it is thought that the breed originated from Egypt. They are medium sized, often with lithe, well developed muscles. They have small paws, a long, tapering tail and a broad, moderately wedge

shaped head. They have an unusual coat, with the hair having a base colour but with 3 or 4 darker bands. It will be lightest at the root, with the darker “ticking” colour at the tip. They are one of only 2 cat breeds with this type of colouring.

In terms of personality, they are intelligent, wilful and extrovert, but are not usually

lap cats due to their love of exploring and playing. They can be shy toward strangers and need a great deal of contact with their family as they can become depressed without daily activity and attention.

They do get on well generally with other cats, although do need their space to be able to explore their surroundings.

Cats and Children

A new arrival 4 months ago in the Moggy Minders household has provided our cats with something to think about—just when they had got used to the 4 year old. So how can you make the process easier for your kitties?

From a young age, children can be taught to be gentle with cats, and to leave them alone when they are sleeping or eating. Providing a safe, high

windowsill or cupboard top in busy household will help kitty still feel part of the family, but without all the hectic goings on below.

If a new baby is imminent, it is advisable to introduce your cat to things such as the cot, or car seat, but make sure he is not allowed to climb in it, as he must understand these are out of bounds. The same applies to the nursery. Don't panic if your

kitty sniffs at baby's feet or hangs around the pram—he is just curious!

Do remember though to try and find even 5 minutes to make a fuss of your cat - not only will it give you chance to relax and unwind, it will also reassure him that he is still a loved, and valued part of your household.

