

# The Scratching Post



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**SABCCI Newsletter - April 2008**

[www.sabcci.com](http://www.sabcci.com)



# The Scratching Post

## Contents

Editorial	page 3
Cats in the News	page 4
Pedigree - The Siamese	page 5/6
SABCCI 2007 Show	page 7
Test Your Knowledge	page 8
Toilet Train Your Cat	page 9
The Catwalk	page 10/11
Frolic In France	page 12
Rainbow Bridge	page 13
Why Cats Hunt	page 14
Kits Korner	page 15
The Final Miaow	page 16

### SABCCI Committee

Chairman – Tony Forshaw  
Vice Chairman – Karen Sluiters  
Secretary – Gloria Hehir  
Treasurer – Sue Middleton

Ronnie Brooks, , Elizabeth Flood, Alice Forshaw, Hugh Gibney,  
Aedamair Kiely, Alison Kinsella, Olia Obineche      Membership Secretary - Betty Dobbs



## How Pussy Willows Got Their Name

Many springtime's ago, according to an old Polish legend, tiny kittens had been chasing butterflies at the river's edge and fell in. The Mother cat, helpless to save them, started crying. The willows at the river's edge longed to help her, so they swept their long graceful branches into the waters to rescue the tiny kittens who had fallen into the river. The kittens gripped on tightly to their branches and were safely brought to shore. Each springtime since, goes the legend, the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the tiny kittens once clung.



## Editorial

Welcome to the April 2008 issue of The Scratching Post.

Breffni House Pets in Dundrum once again has given us sponsorship so many thanks to them.

So if you're ready, sit back, have an Irish Coffee and ENJOY!

Karen and Gloria ^..^

Do you have any photos or articles for the newsletter?

Please send them to karensluiters@eircom.net or gloriateti@eircom.net

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### SABCCI At The



SABCCI was given a stall at the first Pet Expo was held in the RDS from the 12th to the 14th October 2007. With one week to go to our own show we managed to find cats to exhibit for the two and a half days of the Expo. The stall had information on breeders, GCCFI, registrations, and of course lots and lots of fliers to hand out for the upcoming SABCCI show.



Special thanks to - Betty Dobbs, Margaret Kelly, Sue Middleton, Aedamair Kiely, Karen Sluiters, Tony & Alice Forshaw, Annie Murphy, Rowena Murphy, Martin & Gloria Hehir for giving of their time to man the stalls over the Expo. But lets not forget the cats who put in those long hours and for no ribbons - Bracken, Willow, Lelo, Sable, Puzzle, Pushkin, Storm, Gabby, MooGoo and Burbonne.

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### SABCCI Welfare Fund

SABCCI maintains a Welfare Fund. Monies in the fund come from donations and the entry fee for the charity class in the SABCCI Show. There is an emergency reserve for allocation to Club Members in exceptional circumstances on application to the Club Secretary.

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#### Mrs Billie MacDougald

It is with sadness that we record the recent death of Mrs. Billie MacDougald who founded our Club in 1953. It was the first cat club in Ireland and was originally known as The Siamese Cat Club of Ireland and catered only for Siamese. Siamese cats and their kittens were registered by the club. Many years passed and with the introduction of other breeds the name changed to Siamese & All Breeds Cat Club of Ireland (SABCCI) so All Breed shows could be promoted.

Mrs. MacDougald was the first judge of Siamese in this country and continued to judge at the annual show until the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary show in 1978. In the early days she was greatly encouraged by Kathleen Williams, a famous judge and breeder of Siamese in the UK under her prefix of Doneraile. Kathleen Williams was originally from Ireland and took a keen interest in promoting the Siamese in Ireland.

When we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club, in 2003, Mrs MacDougald was prevented, by illness, from attending but sent her best wishes to the Club and hoped it would prosper in the years to come. To her family we extend our sincere sympathy.

Betty Dobbs

#### Mrs Sheila Meeke - 1921 - 2008

I first met Sheila Meeke about 10 years ago, when I joined the SABCCI committee and Sheila was Chairman. I have always been amazed at Sheila's boundless energy and the wonderfully full and active life she led. She was an inspiration in how to get on with life and make the very most of it.

Sheila's contribution to SABCCI and the wider Cat World needs no elaboration and she will be greatly missed by all her many friends in the Cat Community and, indeed, by anybody fortunate enough to have known her.

The SABCCI Committee have created a special side class open to all at our Annual Cat Show, and we have commissioned the Sheila Meeke Perpetual Trophy in Sheila's honour, which will be presented for the first time this year at our Annual Show on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Tony Forshaw, Chairman SABCCI 3

## Cats in the News

### Cats Compete on TV Reality Show



In 2006 ten cats competed to find their perfect owner on a reality TV program shown in the US. The feline competitors, who all come from animal shelters or rescue groups, were filmed in a New York shop window. As on Big Brother, the cats had to complete tasks, and were graded on purring and catching toy mice. One cat each day got the boot until a winner was chosen, but all 10 got permanent homes.

The program's producers hoped the show would promote animal adoption. During the filming, the cats lived in specially constructed house, complete with scaled-down sofas, beds and even a fish tank with fake fish.

Members of the public could stop and watch the action, which took place in a specially rented storefront on Madison Avenue. The American Humane Association monitored the wellbeing of the cat contestants during the competition.

The show was broadcasted on US cable channel Animal Planet.

Story from BBC News

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### Cat Recruited to Patrol Station Police Have Mice Running Scared

Tizer was adopted by British Transport Police (BTP) from the Cats Protection charity in September and inducted into the force as an honorary constable. In his role as the Chief Mouser Pc Tizer walks around King's Cross rail station to keep it rodent-free. An "essential member" of the team, he has unfettered access to all areas and shares an office with a senior officer.

**'Playing fetch'** - Insp Roy Sloane, who enlisted the tabby, said: "Pc Tizer is already an essential member of the team. "Since we got him we haven't seen any mice in the building at all... Prior to his arrival we were spending a fortune on pest control and it wasn't really working."

Insp Sloane said he visited the charity's adoption centre in north London with the aim of finding a cat to clean up the station's rodent problem. He met Tizer, who arrived at the centre in August after his owner died.

Insp Sloane, who shares his office with Pc Tizer, added that his feline colleague helps other officers "de-stress" and has given a boost to the force's morale. "Everyone is always asking after him, and he is probably the most popular member of staff," he said.

Cats Protection Adoption Centre acting deputy manager Alex Davies said: "He loves being around people, and likes nothing more than playing fetch with his toy spider."



Story from BBC News:

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**Toyko (Reuters)** - Hoping to send the message that pets are lifelong partners not disposable accessories, a Japanese maker of medicines for animals has begun giving employees who own dogs or cats a monthly 'family allowance' for their pets.

The number of pets in Japan has grown with greater affluence and a falling birth rate and there are now more pet cats and dogs than children under the age of 15, but about 310,000 cats and dogs are put down annually, said Tokyo based Kyoritsu Seiyaku.

'Everyone has the right to own a pet, but they also have the obligation to raise the pet for its whole life,' the company said, explaining why it had decided to offer employees who own dogs and cats a 'family allowance' of 1,000yen (about 4.50) per month. 'In the future, it is our dream that this system will spread not just in the pet business but to other Japanese firms,' the company said in a statement.

Kyoritsu Seiyaku does not yet allow its employees to take paid leave to grieve when their pets pass away, as does one Japanese pet food maker, but may do so eventually. 'For now, we have introduced only the allowances, but we want to consider the condolence holiday system in future' a company spokeswoman said.

## Pedigree - The Siamese

Once upon a time, in a palace far away in the mysterious East, a beautiful princess went to the pool to bathe. But first she called her favourite cat, and removing her precious rings, she put them on the cat's tail and asked it to guard them for her. The cat turned up its tail tip to stop the rings from falling off, and ever since its descendants have had kinks in their tails....

This pretty legend and many others like it are familiar to all lovers of Siamese cats - no matter that kinks and squints are now discouraged, they were once thought a charming and essential part of the breed! Its distinctive appearance and character have not only inspired romantic stories but have made the Siamese one of the most popular breeds in the world, both as pets and show cats.

We may remind ourselves that SABCCI started life as The Siamese Cat Club of Ireland - 'And All Breeds' being added to make the club fully representative. The first cat ever to gain a title under GCCFI rules was a Seal-point Siamese - Ch. Roundway Boronia, owned by Mrs. Betty Dobbs.

There have been many theories about the origins of the Siamese, but there seems little doubt that a blue-eyed cat with dark points and a pale body was actually one of the native Thai breeds. The first Siamese brought to England were a pair believed to have been given by the King of Thailand to the British Consul General in Bangkok in 1884, although there are claims of earlier imports. The progeny of the Consul General's pair were exhibited the following year at the 17th Crystal Palace Cat Show in London.

Probably owing to the lack of knowledge of cat care in those times, the early Siamese had an appallingly high mortality rate. There was also much confusion about their colours until the first official Standard of Points was published in 1902. Only two varieties were recognised, the Seal-point and what was called the Chocolate, which was brown all over with darker extremities, probably resembling Tonkinese. The Seal-point was also known as the 'Royal' - no doubt due in some part to the myths and legends featuring Siamese cats as guardians of royal palaces and temples, though it may well have had some royal admirers.

The Standard of Points by which Siamese are judged today is based on the same ideal, calling for an elegant cat with a svelte but muscular body, a triangular shaped face or 'wedge' with large flared ears, long fine legs with oval paws, and a long tapered tail or 'whip'. The eyes, the glory of the Siamese, should be oriental in shape, i.e. with a slanted topline, and a clear bright or intense blue in colour. The points - mask, ears, legs and tail - should afford as much contrast as possible with the body, and the coat is short, fine and close lying, silky to the touch.

Selective breeding has refined the Siamese type so much that the early Champions in the last century would be considered too heavy and coarse on the show bench today. The first Champion in England, a cat called Wankee, born in Hong Kong in 1895, is a far cry from the GCCF Supreme Exhibit of 2007, Supreme Imperial Grand Premier Tianlex Full Monty, who is in fact rather extreme in type. There is also an 'in-between', variously known as Old Style, Old Fashioned or Classic, which is trying to make a comeback. These cats preserve some of the old lines and are rounder and shorter than their modern counterparts.

Pictured below left Ch. Wankee, the first Siamese champion in England, middle the modern Siamese, exemplified by this beautiful Blue Point and right the ultra-modern, Sup. Imp. Gr. Pr. Tianlex Full Monty



As with many other breeds, the range of colours in Siamese has been greatly extended and now goes way beyond the original seal. Blue-points appeared as early as the 1890s, but were discarded at first as they were considered freaks. The famous cat artist and judge Louis Wain refused to recognise them as Siamese at all. They were accepted

by the cat fancy in Britain in 1936, followed by the Chocolate-point in 1950. Lilac-points resulted from the crossing of blue to chocolate, dependent on both colours being carried by the parents. The solid point colours were grouped under Breed 24 Series. Experiments to introduce the red factor - resulting in red, cream and tortoiseshell points - and the tabby pattern meant patient and complicated breeding programmes which of necessity used outcrosses to other breeds. In time the Siamese type was established, and today the red-points and tabby-points (classified in 1966 as Breed 32 Series) have not only widened the gene pool but have contributed excellent type. During the past several years the Caramel, Apricot, Cinnamon and Fawn produced in Orientals, the genetic cousins of the Siamese, have also been bred in the pointed version. One wonders what can come next?!

While all these experiments with new colours were in progress, a natural mutation of the Siamese was developed in a semi-long coat, a 'Siamese with fringes' as it was described. Originating in the USA, it was named the Balinese - a breeder's flight of fancy as it had no earthly connection with Bali. Arguments raged at first as to whether it should be shown as a Semi-Longhair, but it was accepted in the Siamese section by the GCCF in 1990. The ideal coat should be close lying, silky and flowing, not heavy or fluffy, and the general appearance very graceful.

Siamese kittens are born pure white, the points colour (if dark enough to be visible) first showing up about a week later as pencil lines along the edges of the ears. The ears and tail usually fill with colour before the other parts, then a tiny smudge on the nose. Siamese are precocious and mature much faster than, for instance, the Maine Coon - in some cases it might be said, too fast. Some are real little goers and will breed at 6 or 7 months if they get the opportunity.

They have powerful voices and can be quite persistent in their demands for attention. Anyone who takes on a Siamese must be prepared to hold conversations with a cat, and to be answered back! A calling queen can be incredibly raucous when on full song - the American humorist James Thurber, who seems to have had a succession of disruptive cats and dogs, described it as 'the worst noise this side of hell'. When I am on the telephone my Siamese neuter invariably comes over to me and 'talks' loudly and urgently. One lady who rang me with an inquiry heard his wails in the background and apologised for disturbing me: 'you obviously have a little baby to attend to'. In a sense, I had.

In my experience temperament varies in individual cats just as it does in people. Some Siamese are placid, outgoing and friendly with everybody, while others seem to have inherited a shy gene and are frightened of strangers. Most are intelligent and playful, even in their senior years. I had two Siamese who loved to bound up and down the stairs, retrieving balls of screwed up paper which were then pointedly dropped at my feet, ready for another 'go'. They are disarmingly affectionate and love human company, even if, as sometimes happens, they only bond with one person. To summarise - a beautiful, companionable and fascinating cat to come home to.

Margaret Baker



### How Much Is That Kitty In The Window?

The following prices for cats and kittens were found in Paris on the Quais de la Megisserie (Pet Shops)

Persian Chinchilla	€2,200
Persian Bluepoint	€2,200 (vac & tattoo included)
Persian Cameo	€1,800
Persian Smokey Blue	€800 (what was wrong with this little one?)
Persian Silver	€1,800
British Black	€850
British Golden	€1,280 reduced for €600 (poor little mite!)
British Golden (Male)	€1,050
British Golden (female)	€1,280
Siamese	€750
American Curley	€850 plus €8 for vaccination
Angora Chaton Brown Tabby	€1,600

And last but not least, the European Short and Longhair better know as The Moggie - €350, €250, €50





## The Siamese and All Breeds Cat Club 54<sup>th</sup> Show Knocklyon Community Centre - October 21st 2007



The Siamese & All Breeds Cat Club of Ireland (SABCCI) held their 54th Championship show in the Knocklyon Community Centre, Knocklyon Dublin 16. It was good to see new exhibitors to the show world and the total entries slightly up over the last few years.

The club welcomed our judges, Val Kilby from England, David Redtfeldt from the US and from Holland Peter Siffels-Engelan. Best In Show was Cassiobury Gretel Garbo, a British Blue, owned and bred by Mrs V Brooks. Reserve Best In Show Pedigree was Coomakista Gizem Saka, a Brown Burmese, owned and bred by Ms M Lenihan. Best Non-Pedigree was Baily, a Short Hair Cream Tabby, owned by Miss C O'Leary.

I would like to thank Assistant Show Manager Tony Forshaw, the SABCCI committee, stewards, table workers and all who put their efforts into making the day a success.

Gloria Hehir, Show Manager

### SABCCI Results – 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2007 Show

**Best Persian** - Hoitytoity Wannbe Posh, Tortie & white, owned by Dr S L Cox and bred by Mrs S P Smith

**Best Semi-Longhair** –Int Ch Dairymaine Ballybrack, Maine Coon, owed by Mrs P S Saville, bred by Mrs J M Haynes

**Best British Shorthair** –Cassiobury Gretel Garbo, Blue, owned and bred by Mrs V Brooks

**Best Foreign** –Rakasta Mr Bojangles, Brown Spotted Bengal, owned by Miss B Ryan, bred by A M MacDonald & Mr M Quinn

**Best Burmese** –Coomakista Gizem Saka, Brown Burmese, owned and bred by Ms M Lenihan

**Best Siamese** –Siawye Maid Office, Lilac Point, owned by Dr E Timoshenko and bred by Mr S Cahoon & Mr D Dowds

#### Best In Show Pedigree

Cassiobury Gretel Garbo, British Blue, owned and bred by Mrs V Brooks

#### Reserve Best In Show Pedigree

Coomakista Gizem Saka, Brown Burmese, owned and bred by Ms M Lenihan

#### Best In Show Non-Pedigree

Baily, Short Hair Cream Tabby, owned by Miss C O'Leary



**Next Show - The 18th Supreme Show on the 27th of April in the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin**

**Forthcoming shows held under licence from the GCCFI are:** Cork Cat Club to be confirmed, SABCCI - 5th October in Dublin & The Midland in Limerick on the 15th of February 2009.

Check [www.sabcci.com](http://www.sabcci.com) for further details on forth coming shows

## Test Your Knowledge

- An ailurophile is -
  - Veterinarian specializing in cats
  - A person with a phobia against cats
  - A cat lover
  - A cat collector
- White blue-eyed cats are -
  - Always female
  - Always deaf
  - Prone to skin cancer
  - Sterile if male
- Polydactyl means -
  - Too many white blood cells
  - Multiple toes
  - Multicoloured fur
  - ESP
- Sphinx cats are -
  - Completely hairless
  - Allergen free
  - Descendants from a Siamese litter in Canada
  - 'maintenance free' cats
- A nictating membrane is -
  - A thin membrane covering a cat's anal sacs
  - A third eyelid that protects the eye from dryness or damage.
  - Both B & D
  - A sign that your cat is ill when its presence accompanies lethargy.
- The Somali cat originated in -
  - Somalia
  - Ethiopia
  - North America
  - Great Britain



Answers at the bottom of the page 9

## Baking Cookies (with your cat)

- Look in cookbook for cookie recipe.
- Get cup of coffee.
- Get cat off of cookbook.
- Find that special recipe.
- Get cat's nose out of coffee mug.
- Go to fridge and get eggs.
- Get dry ingredients from cupboard.
- Break eggs in small bowl.
- Sift dry ingredients in large bowl.
- Answer the phone.
- Cat ate eggs; get more from fridge.
- Get cat out of flour bowl and dust cat off.
- Get Band-Aids for scratches on hands.
- Throw flour out and get more.
- Preheat oven for cookies.
- Looking at cat & wanting to bake cat now.
- Cat runs for cover into bathroom.
- Flour the counter to roll out cooki dough.
- Big crash in bathroom; run to see what happened.
- Cat has TP all over floor; stuff spilled and knocked over on top of bathroom counter.
- Yell at cat. Cat falls in toilet bowl.
- Can sense cat is angry.
- Take cat out of toilet to dry cat off.
- Get bandages to cover more scratches on arms and legs.
- Cleanup bathroom.
- Hear a thump in kitchen Oh Golly ... now what?
- Get cat off floured counter in kitchen.
- Try to pick out cat hairs from flour.
- Step on cat's tail and get bitten.
- Get coat, car keys, and go to store to buy cookies!!!



### For The Cat - Sir Sardiney

- \* 4 canned sardines, drained
- \* 1/2 tsp oil from sardine can
- \* 1/3 cup cooked brown rice
- \* 2 tsp cottage cheese



In a bowl, mash the fish and oil with a fork. Add the brown rice and cottage cheese. Stir together. Serve. (Yield: 1 meal)

### Cat Legends -

According to one legend, the Prophet Muhammad was saved from the bite of a deadly snake by a cat. On another occasion, the Prophet cut off the sleeve of his robe in order not to awaken a sleeping cat when he stood up.



## Toilet Train Your Cat

The entire process involves gradually moving your cat's litter box into position with your toilet and encouraging your cat to make the switch. Some cats can be trained within 3 to 6 weeks and others longer. It is important to be patient with your cat, each one works at their own pace.





Cats most likely not to be suited to toilet training are cats with physical disabilities, older cats and kittens younger than 6 months all who may not be agile enough and would have difficulty balancing themselves on a seat.


Once you have decided to train your cat, there are various cat toilet training kits on the market however you need not use them and go your own way.


Things to keep in mind:


- The bathroom/toilet room door should always be kept open when not in use. Your cat needs full time access.
- Remember to always keep the lid up and the seat down.
- It is recommended to have 2 toilets, 1 for the cat and 1 for you.
- Patience with your cat.


 The first step in training is to move the litter box into the bathroom next to the toilet. If the litter box is located far from the bathroom you will need to move the litter box in stages into the bathroom.

 Once the litter box is in the bathroom, start to raise the height of the box as slowly or quickly as your cat can adapt to the change. Place newspapers, boxes or magazines under the box while at the same time ensuring the box is sturdy on them.

 Eventually the box is in line with the toilet seat. Here comes the tricky bit. The tray needs to be on the toilet seat. There are several methods to use. Some suggest using an aluminium tray placed between the ring and the toilet seat and others a bowl set into the toilet. Whichever method you use, stability is critical.

 Next place litter into the tray. Flushable litter is suggested and perhaps you are not already using it switch over at the start of the training.

 Once the cat is comfortable with this, slowly reduce the amount of litter in the box. As the litter gets lower and lower, make a small hole in the tray on the toilet. As the litter gets lower the hole should get bigger. Again take this process at your cat's own pace and careful attention must be made to the cat's schedule to quickly clean away all of his deposits so he is willing to continue to use the tray.

 Finally there will be a tray with no litter and a good size hole. Let your cat use this for a couple of weeks and then remove the tray.

Congratulations your cat is now trained!

There are many websites with information offering information, products and books to help in the training. If you are interested in not going it on your own [litterkwitter.com](http://litterkwitter.com) has their training system kit called the Litter Kwitter.

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## Cat Resolutions

I will not flush the toilet while my human is in the shower.

I will not help myself to Q-Tips, and I will not attempt to stuff them down the drain to dispose of them.

I will remember that I am a walking static generator. My human does not need my help installing a new board in her computer.

I will remember that my human really will wake up and feed me. I do not have to pry his eyelids open with my claws.



5  
4  
3  
2  
1

# The Catwalk

**Reina -**

You call this  
a mouse?



Valentina Labrada,  
Dublin

**Argie -**

I am not like that  
cat on page 8



Beatrice Aird-O'Hanlon,  
Delgany

**MooGoo -**

The Finest!



Gloria Hehir, Dublin

# The Catwalk

## Argie & Kimmy -

We had to get away  
from the monkey -  
Read about  
our experiences  
in France on  
Page 12

Beatrice Aird-O'Hanlon,  
Delgeny



## Pippin -

Where's my  
rubber duckie?

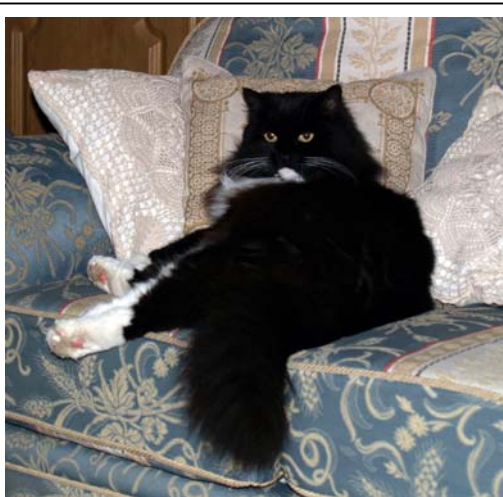
Erica McKerrow, Dublin



## Miss Mu -

Miss Mu surveys all -  
'You may bring my food now'

Valerie Reynolds, Dublin



## The Frolics of Argie & Kimmy in France

For two years following their vaccinations and passports, I still had not the heart to bring our two Burmese cats with us to France. So finally mustering up courage, we took them in June of this year to our lovely longere ( type of farmhouse) on Irish Ferries.

We had planned to put them in one of the pet kennels on the boat to Cherbourg, but when I saw a rather mean looking dog waiting in the queue to board with the other cars at Rosslare, I decided there and then that they would remain if at all possible in the car. I didn't fancy them sharing the kennel section with this dog! So I asked one of the Irish Ferries personnel and they agreed to allow them stay in the car. So they were left in their cat-boxes on the car with the window open an inch.



Argie

However during the passage, there was a gale force 9 in operation and so being worried about them, I went to check on them and discovered that the lilac Burmese, Argie, had escaped from his cat box and was walking up and down inside the car, which was swaying like the rest of the vehicles on that level. So I quietened him down and went back to our cabin. Several times during the voyage I checked on them again and each time Argie had got out of his cat-box. No wonder he is known as "Houdini".

So finally we were on our way, with Argie sitting on my knee in the front for five hours surveying the French country-side, grateful to be at last on dry land, until we arrived at our home in Montmorillon in the Vienne. We have a large field at the back of our house with an enormous oak-tree standing majestically in the centre, surrounded by other beautiful tall trees, such as poplar and willow, which are very typical of the French country-side.

Initially we placed them in harnesses and walked around our demesne until they got used to the place and after ten days, we removed the harness and for another three days closely supervised all outdoor activities. When at last they had their freedom, they spent the next three months tearing up and down huge tall trees, chasing all of the dogs, which were mostly hunting dogs, off the premises, ingratiating themselves with all of our French neighbours. They became leaner, and meaner with time!!!! They would travel off up the fields on their own but always returned at sunset, tails up high like meerkats.!!!



Kimmy

When we arrived back home (this time we placed them in a kennel on Irish Ferries, fearing a repetition of Houdini's activities) we had to order their food - offal, from the local butcher. As the French tend to eat all parts of an animal, there was plenty of offal available in the shops and this is what they ate, as they simply did not like the French pet food!, no matter how beautifully it was packaged, as only the French know how!

I think that it did them a world of good and they have become much closer to myself and my husband now. Now that we have made the plunge to bring them abroad, all I can say that as long as one observes the strict rules re the taking of pets in and out of Ireland by the Dept of Agriculture, one looks after them well and acquaints them with their new surrounds abroad, there should not be any problems.

Beatrice Aird-O'Hanlon. 

We take a trip down memory lane  
The good times come flooding back  
Of all those shows past and how we enjoyed the crac'  
The clubs dedicated workers would toil late into the night  
So on the morning of the show everything would be just right  
There would be the usual hiccups but Show Managers took it  
in their stride  
And as the day progressed faces glowed with pride  
Congratulations were in order for a job well done  
In a happy atmosphere if your exhibit won  
All exhibits entered are the best in their owners eyes  
They all hope to go home with first prize  
Some felines are not happy and below their blankets stay  
And some of the sweetest natured become demons on the that  
day

Judges and stewards will coax and handle them with care  
So as not to spoil their chances of being placed being fair  
Competition is fierce to be the Best In Show  
All owners want their exhibits in that special row  
Anticipating the hopes of one or more silver cups  
Proving that their precious puss is the one of the tops  
All the energy and efforts have proved worthwhile  
Now all can relax and greet everyone with a smile  
All packed up and ready to off home to go  
To all prepared once again for another show  
The start of Championship shows many years ago  
The GCCFI made it all possible you know

Helen Turner 

## The Rainbow Bridge

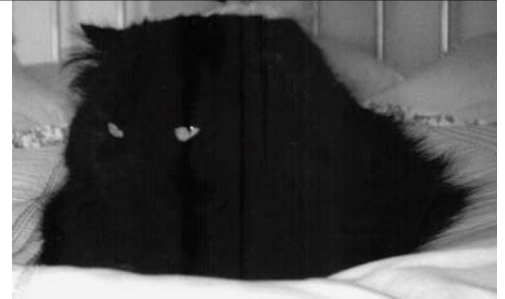
Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them.

When our time comes they will be waiting for us and then we will cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

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### Premier Doychi Cornflakes Oscar - Lucas to his family and friends

Born March 12<sup>th</sup> 1993. Died October 30<sup>th</sup> 2007.  
Peacefully at home surrounded by his family.



Darling Lucas,

Thank you for fourteen and a half years of companionship, love, joy, and beauty.

We adored you and miss you so very much. Nothing will ever be the same again.

We miss the mornings, when without fail you climbed the stairs, jumped on our bed and lay down for a cuddle.

We miss those mealtimes when you suddenly decided that you were being left out of the conversation and let us know

We miss the after dinner coffee when you demanded a lap to sit on.

We miss those tentative forays into your garden to be with your parents.

We miss that wet face after a visit to the frogs in the fishpond.

We miss your joyful sniffing of plants and potpourri.

We miss your late night TV watching with your brother, your tranquil listening to Bach played by you sister.

There is so much to miss, but above all we miss that wonderful character and the love and trust that shone out of those amber eyes.

Rest in Peace Dear One.

Our ever grateful thanks to your breeders Ann Doyle and Ruadri MacEoghan, and to our caring vets John Sharpe and Elizabeth O'Brien.

Mary Jennings.

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### Grand Premier Carabur Boomerang - known as Boom

Born 8th December 1992 - Died 20th March 2008



As I grow old  
I will catch fewer mice  
I will play less and less  
I will sleep day and night  
This is the time when  
You will need to love me more

Karen Sluiters

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No Heaven will not ever Heaven be - Unless my cats are there to welcome me.

Anonymous



## Why Cats Hunt

Our domestic cats, like their relatives, hunt for the same reasons. As kittens they are taught how to hunt through playing. Barn cats have kittens, and even if the mother cat is fed regularly, she will hunt to supplement her kitten's food. This is the feline's instinct calling. When a cat doesn't have kittens, you become a member of their family, and therefore they want to bring something home for you.

Although you won't eat the gift, it goes back to the instinct of taking care of their own, so they hunt for you because you don't. What your cat brings home can vary widely, depending on where you live. If you live in an apartment, the cat may catch the flies or bugs he sees inside the apartment. If you live in a house in the city, the cat might bring you a grasshopper or a spider from the yard. If you are in the country it can be mostly anything.

The most important thing to remember is why your cat is doing this. He has accepted you as a member of his family and is treating you as such. The cat is trying to prove that he is a great hunter, and loves you so much that he wants you to share what he has caught with you. For your cat, this is the ultimate devotion they can show a fellow creature. The very last thing you want to do is scream and yell at him, although that may be what your instinct is.

When your cat brings you his gift handle the situation by trying to remain calm. Try not to make a horrified face because cats can read body language too. Thank your feline friend for the gift and he is a 'good cat, good cat', and if he will allow you, dispose of it. If the cat won't let you dispose of his gift, try to get him to take it outside or offer him an alternative gift such as a toy or a treat.

Source – cats.lovetoknow.com

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### On the Lighter side - When Cat Gives You a Gift

Here is a list of things your cat is likely to bring you and what they mean.

A dead mouse -

I love you

or

I hope you find this in the morning after a greasy breakfast because I love to watch you throw up.

A dead bird -

Catching a bird is a feat of great prowess. I did it for you because I love you.

or

I found this in the street. Throw it away, will you, the smell is making me nauseous.

Stuffing from your favourite chair -

I opened a new present for you. And there's more where that came from. I love you.

or

Look what I found. I tried to put it back, but I couldn't. Perhaps you can.

A dead dog -

I am mighty and will protect you against all intruders.

Or

I fixed old Browser's ass. And I can fix yours too. Remember when you're too tired to get up in the night and let me out.



**T**wo things are aesthetically perfect in the world - the clock and the cat'

Emile Auguste Chartier

**There has never been a skeleton of a cat found in a tree; therefore, they must come down on their own.**

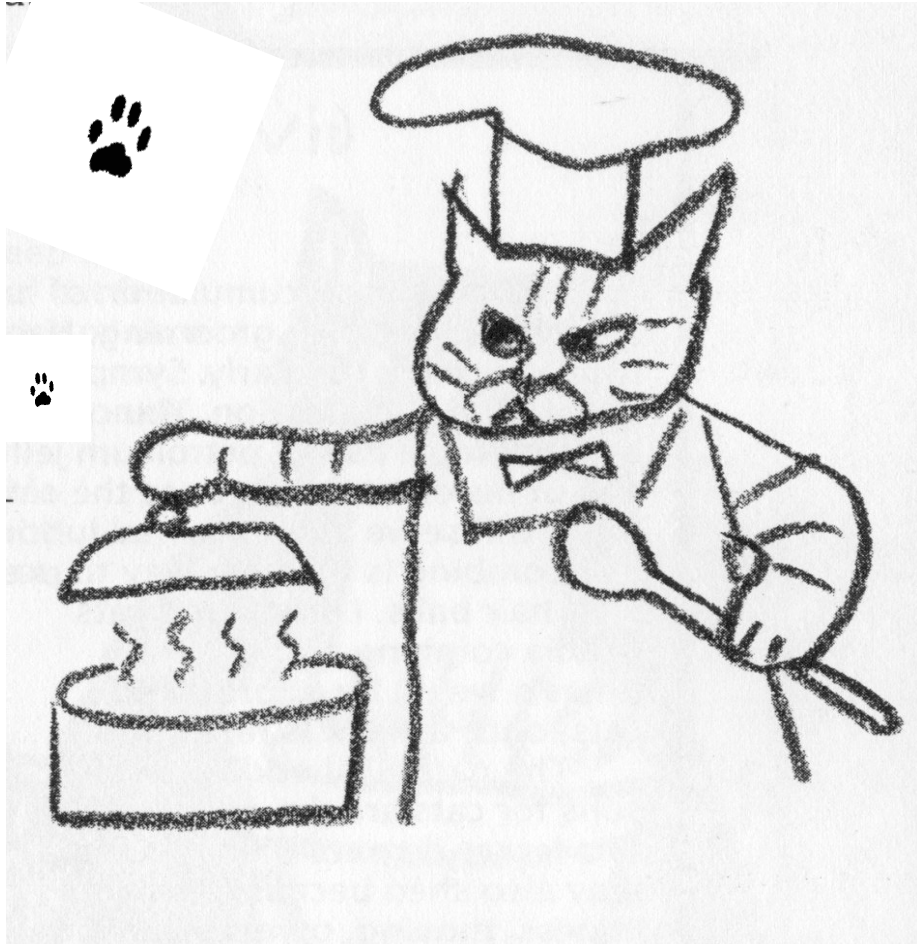
Old American Saying





## KIT'S KORNER

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### Some More Cat Jokes

- How does the cat get its own way?      *With friendly purrsuasion.*
- How is a cat laying down like a coin?      *Because he has his head on one side and his tail on the other!*
- If a cat can jump five feet high, then why can't it jump through a three foot window?      *Because the window is closed.*
- If a cat is a flabby tabby, then what is a very small cat?      *An itty bitty kitty.*
- In which month do cats meow the least?      *February - it's the shortest month.*
- What cat purrs more than any other?      *Purrsians!*
- What did one cat say to another?      *Have you heard the mews today!*
- What do cats read in the morning?      *Mewspapers!*

## **The Final Miaow**

As you can see we have come to the end of our newsletter and we hope you found it interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone who sent us material and photos for the CATWALK.

We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending us more.

Many thanks to our sponsor **Breffni House Pets** who will be at The Supreme Show in the RDS on the 27th of April. Don't forget to come and pay his stand a visit.

**Remember - The GCCFI 18th Supreme Show on the 27th of April in the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin**

**Doors open to the public 12:30 to 5:00**

See you all at the show! ^..^

# **For All Your Pet Needs**

## **Breffni House Pets**



See You on the 27th of April!



Good Luck to All Exhibitors on Show Day

Breffni House Pets  
Windy Arbour, Dundrum Dublin 14  
(01) 2961339