


# Cataway Waiuku Newsletter Summer 2011/12

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Hello again everyone! Yeah...we've made it through the winter and spring into summer. And that feels great!! I hope you are all well and everyone is looking forward to the "Festive Season". I will see some of you just before Christmas, however I wish to take the chance to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who trusted me with the care of their furry babies- it was such a great pleasure! Have a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. See you soon - Sabine 

## Microchipping Your Cat

"Microchips" are small computer chips about the size of a rice grain. A veterinarian injects the chip under your cat's skin. Most cats tolerate this minor procedure with no problem.

The chip contains your cat's identifying information and can be read by a special scanner. If your cat gets lost and is taken to an animal shelter, most shelters can scan the information on the chip, identify your cat, and get her home to you. Having your cat microchipped is a good way to help her get home if she ever becomes lost.

This should not be the only form of ID your cat has. Having a safety collar with a current ID tag will help you and your cat if she is found in an area where the local shelter is not equipped with scanners. It also helps to prevent your cat from being taken to the shelter in the first place. If someone finds your cat and simply reads the information on the cat ID tag, they can just contact you directly and help your lost cat get home even quicker. However, if your cat becomes lost and loses her collar, a microchip is often a powerful back-up method to help your cat get home quickly and safely.

## Moggy's Gourmet Kitchen

### Better Than Grass Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 small carrot peeled and grated
- 1/4 cup peeled and grated zucchini
- 1/2 cup chopped alfalfa sprouts
- 1 tsp. finely chopped parsley
- 1/8 cup chicken stock
- 1/4 tsp dried or fresh catnip



Directions:

Combine veggies in a medium bowl. Add chicken stock and toss. Sprinkle with catnip and serve at room temperature. Store leftovers in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. We hope your cats enjoy this yummy **cat food recipe**



# Moggy's Health Tips

## **Oh my aching joints – Osteoarthritis in Cats**

Senior cats that exhibit the symptoms of aching joints may be afflicted with Osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease. Excess weight may be a contributing factor, and weight control (incl. Exercise) is an important part of any treatment program for Osteoarthritis.

Fortunately, new developments in veterinary medicine have provided products that can help relieve the pain, and even to repair existing damage to the cartilage which normally protects joints from damage due to wear.

### **Symptoms of Feline Osteoarthritis:**

- Stiffness upon arising from rest
- Altered gait
- Reluctance to jump
- Obvious pain when walking
- Personality changes (increased nervousness, depression, or aggression)

**Treatment:** Supplements for your pet – talk to your Vet about options below



## **SYNOQUIN FOR CATS (AND DOGS)**

**A unique patented formula to maintain joint function.**

### **Glucosamine HCl: "The Builder"**

The major building block for the synthesis of new and healthy glycosaminoglycans (GAGS)

- Encourages manufacture of GAGs in cartilage.
- Maintains cartilage GAG quality.
- Helps to maintain joint function.

### **Chondroitin Sulphate: "The Shock Absorber"**

Its primary function is to give cartilage its shock absorbing properties.

- Predominant GAG found in cartilage.
- Maintains a healthy synovial fluid matrix.
- Maintains cartilage water content and binds with collagen to ensure tensile strength.



## Cat Myths & Facts



**Myth:** A cat's sense of balance is in its whiskers.

**Fact:** Cats use their whiskers as "feelers" but not to maintain their balance.

**Myth:** Indoor cats cannot get diseases.

**Fact:** Cats still are exposed to organisms that are carried through the air or brought in on a cat owner's shoes or clothing. Even the most housebound cat ventures outdoors at some time and can be exposed to diseases and worms through contact with other animal's feces.

**Myth:** Cats that are spayed or neutered automatically gain weight.

**Fact:** Like people, cats gain weight from eating too much, not exercising enough or both. In many cases, spaying or neutering is done at an age when the animal's metabolism already has slowed, and its need for food has decreased. If the cat continues to eat the same amount, it may gain weight. Cat owners can help their cats stay fit by providing exercise and not over-feeding.

**Myth:** Cats heal themselves by licking their wounds.

**Fact:** Such licking actually can slow the healing process and further damage the wound.

# Cataway Specials

Dec'11, Jan/Feb'12 only

### Referral Program:

When a new client mentions you referred them and boards their cat/s with us, you receive \$10.00 off your own cat/s next visit to Cataway Waiuku. Please have ready the names of the cat/s as well as the name of the owner who referred you.

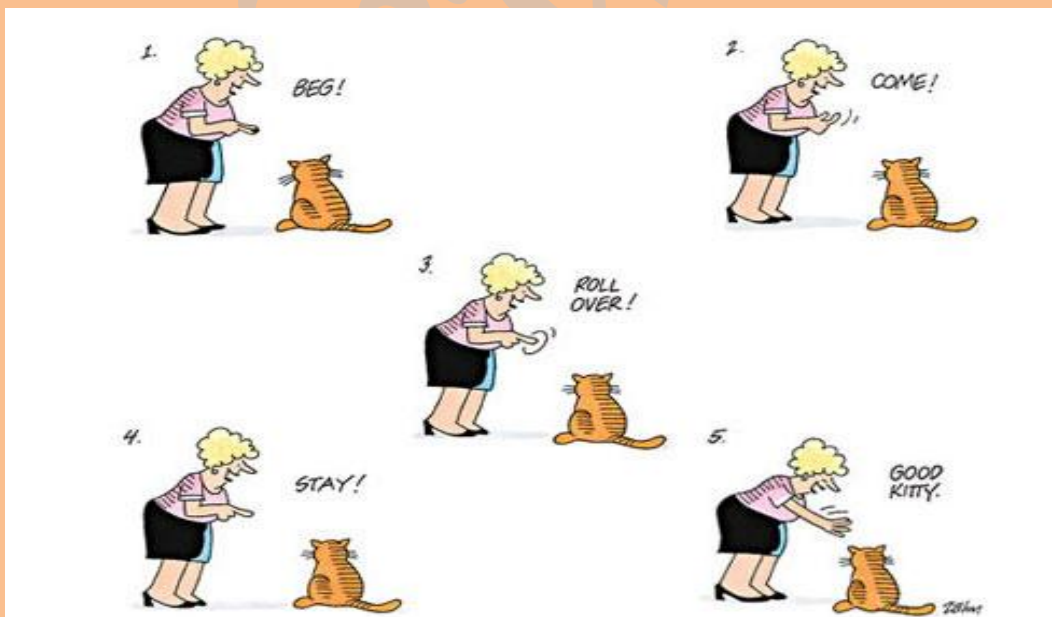
Receive 15% discount on everything  
in Cataway's little gift pet shop!!

High quality, highly absorbent cat litter,  
20kg, 100% Zeolite, made in New Zealand

NZD33,00

# Fun Cat Facts for Kids

- Cats are one of, if not the most, popular pet in the world.
- There are over 500 million domestic cats in the world.
- Cats and humans have been associated for nearly 10000 years.
- Cats conserve energy by sleeping for an average of 13 to 14 hours a day.
- Cats have flexible bodies and teeth adapted for hunting small animals such as mice and rats.
- A group of cats is called a clowder, a male cat is called a tom, a female cat is called a molly or queen while young cats are called kittens.
- Domestic cats usually weight around 4 to 5 kilograms.
- The heaviest domestic cat on record is 21.297 kilograms.
- Cats can be lethal hunters and very sneaky, when they walk their back paws step almost exactly in the same place as the front paws did beforehand, this keeps noise to a minimum and limits visible tracks.
- Cats have powerful night vision, allowing them to see at light levels six times lower than what a human needs in order to see.
- Cats also have excellent hearing and a powerful sense of smell.
- Older cats can at times act aggressively towards kittens.
- Domestic cats love to play, this is especially true with kittens who love to chase toys and play fight. Play fighting among kittens may be a way for them to practice and learn skills for hunting and fighting.
- On average cats live for around 12 to 15 years.
- Cats spend a large amount of time licking their coats to keep them clean.
- Feral cats are often seen as pests and threats to native animals.
- One un-spayed female cat can, in five years, be responsible for over 20,000 descendants. Female cats can have their first litter as young as six month, and can have up to three litters each year – with five to six kittens in each litter.



# The last word from "John - The VET"

Facts compiled by Dr John Swney

Pukekohe / Waiuku Veterinary Centre

## Interesting Facts about Fleas

- Fleas are dangerous because they
  - cause flea bite dermatitis (itchy skin)
  - transmit tapeworms
  - heavy burdens can cause anaemia especially in young and old animals
- In NZ there are 3 species of fleas;
  - cat fleas - dog fleas - human fleas
- Most fleas on cats and dogs in NZ are cat fleas
- On average adult fleas live for 2 – 3 months
- Fleas are tropical insects – hence fleas are more of a problem during our hot summer months but because the flea lifecycle can continue throughout the year, especially inside a warm home, flea control should be carried out all year round
- Adult fleas are permanent ectoparasites i.e. they do not leave their hosts unless forced to do so e.g. ingested by host, by the grooming behaviour of the host, natural death or chemical death following contact with an adulticidal chemical
- Adult fleas have backward facing spines on their bodies and legs which help prevent their being dislodged from their host
- A flea's slender body shape helps it move about within an animal's coat
- Adult fleas can jump a distance equivalent to 100 times its body length
- Adult fleas can jump up to 1 meter in height which is the equivalent of a human jumping a height of 250 meters
- The gravitational (G) force experienced by a flea as it jumps is 150G. Astronauts in the space shuttle on take-off experience a gravitational force of 3G
- A female flea can lay up to 50 eggs per day – during her life time a female flea can lay up to 2000 eggs
- A female flea cannot lay eggs until she has had a blood meal – eggs are laid 36 – 48 hours after this meal
- Adult fleas feed on blood, immature flea stages (larvae, pupae) do not
- Flea pupae are chemical resistant ( no chemical spray can penetrate the cocoon)
- An adult flea emerges or hatches from its cocoon in response to vibration (animal movement), pressure (being sat on by animal), carbon dioxide ( mammal breathing out) and not all adult fleas emerge from pupae at the same time even with stimulation
- A female flea can consume 15 times her body weight in blood daily
- A typical flea population consists of 5% adult fleas, 50% fleas eggs, 35% flea larvae and 10% flea pupae i.e. 95% of a flea population are the microscopic stages (flea eggs, larvae and pupae) that live off the animal
- ***Always Remember*** - for every 5 fleas found on a dog or cat there are 95 immature fleas living in that cat or dogs environment

Newsletter