

Cataway Waiuku Newsletter Autumn 2011

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Hello again. It is hard to believe that three months have passed, since the last Newsletter. I hope that everyone had an outstanding summer. A lot happened since, and I am glad to announce that we were able to withstand the critical eyes of AsureQuality who gave us the stamp of approval - which means that Cataway is now an AsureQuality approved cattery (please read more in the article below). Cataway experienced the first Christmas, and I tell you, it was crazy but wonderful. I took a great pleasure in looking after all the feline guests with different characters and habits ☺. I wish to thank all of you for your trust in Cataway. Please enjoy Cataway's Autumn Newsletter with interesting topics well worth to learn about. See you soon -

Sabine

AsureQuality Pet Boarding Approval Programme



Boarding a member of the family in a kennel or cattery situation can be a traumatic experience. Over the years the status of kennels and catteries has become as important as the holiday itself. Families are becoming "fussier" as to where they want their pet boarded and there is more awareness around ensuring that there are external quality checks in place for kennels and catteries.

AsureQuality has endeavoured to fill this gap by offering a voluntary programme to kennels and catteries where regular auditing covers operational processes and procedures such as physical, health and behavioural needs.

This auditing process is an essential component to this industry. For additional information, please visit www.petboarding.co.nz

Moggy's Gourmet Kitchen

Chicken & Sardines

Ingredients:

- 1 can sardines in olive oil
- 1/4 cup whole grain bread crumbs
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 tsp brewer's yeast
- 2 cooked chicken drumsticks, bones removed



Cat Food Recipe Directions: Drain the sardines, reserving the olive oil, and mash. Mix in the bread crumbs, egg and yeast to an even, gooey consistency. Coat the chicken drumsticks evenly in the mixture. Heat the reserved olive oil in a frying pan then add the coated drumsticks and fry, turning frequently, until brown. Remove from the heat, and cool before serving.

We hope your cats enjoy this yummy **cat food recipe!**

Cat Facts & Myths

Myth: *Cats always land on their feet.*

Fact: While cats instinctively fall feet first and may survive falls from high places, they also may receive broken bones in the process. Some kind of screening on balconies and windows can help protect pets from disastrous falls.

Myth: *Cats should drink milk every day.*

Fact: Most cats like milk, but do not need it if properly nourished. Also, many will get diarrhea if they drink too much milk. If it is given at all, the amount should be small and infrequent.

Myth: *Cats cannot get rabies.*

Fact: Actually, most warm-blooded mammals, including cats, bats, skunks and ferrets, can carry rabies. Like dogs, cats should be vaccinated regularly according to local laws.

Myth: *Tapeworms come from bad food.*

Fact: Pets become infected with tape worms from swallowing fleas, which carry the parasite. Also, cats can get tapeworms from eating infected mice or other exposed animals.

Myth: *Putting garlic on a cats food will get rid of worms.*

Fact: Garlic may make the cat's food taste better but has no effect on worms. The most effective way to treat worms is by medication prescribed by a veterinarian.

Myth: *Pregnant women should not own cats.*

Fact: Some cats can be infected with a disease called toxoplasmosis, which occasionally can be spread to humans through cat litter boxes and cause serious problems in unborn babies. However, these problems can be controlled, if the expectant mother avoids contact with the litter box and assigns daily cleaning to a friend or other family member.

Better Indoor Sanitation For Your Cat

For a cleaner, longer lasting litter tray I recommend using litter crystals. One bag will last one cat for approximately two months, as only the 'solids' need to be removed during that time, saving money and hassle. Using litter crystals in combination with a walk-in hooded tray and charcoal filter resulting in low-maintenance odour-free indoor toileting. This is great for apartment-dwelling or indoor cats as well as those that are kept indoors overnight. Keeping a cat indoors at night not only helps you monitor their health, but reduces native bird kills, reduces cat fights and the resulting abscesses.



Cataway's price: Ferplast Walk In Hooded Toilet "Bella"

\$63 (see photo above)

Angel Litter Crystals 15 Liter Bag (1cat – 14 weeks) \$29.90/bag

What Cat Breed is Right for Me?

Glad you asked...

There are a lot of factors that go into deciding what cat breed is right for you. Things to consider is how active do you want your cat to be. If you want a laid back lifestyle then there are breeds that remain active and playful for years and would not be a good match for you. Next, consider hair length. Long haired cats while beautiful do require that you brush them and they do tend to shed. An important factor will also be what size it is you want the cat to grow to. I will talk about a different breed of cat in each of my Newsletters, and try to answer all these questions and more to help you in selecting the perfect breed for your personality and lifestyle. This time I picked the "RAGDOLL"

Why Ragdolls?

Ragdoll Cats are the most beautiful and appealing blue eyed cat known to man. From their laid back personality and quiet voice, to their playful nature and their craving for your companionship, Ragdolls will fill your life with special warmth.

Ragdolls are large cuddle bears of love, and truly deserve their name. A more loving cat you will never hope to find. Ragdoll cats are bred specifically for their puppy and childlike disposition. Because of their trusting nature, Ragdolls should be strictly indoor cats. An indoor cat will live longe, and in return their new owners will receive an overwhelming supply of magic moments.

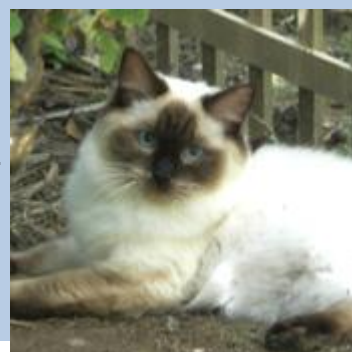
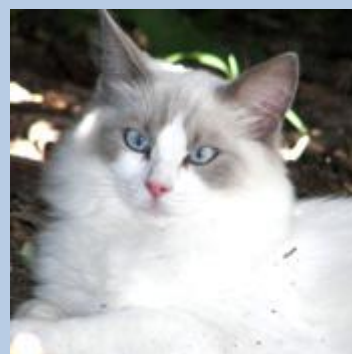
Ragdolls are very "people orientated" who love to be with humans and can attach very strongly to their owners. They like to be involved in whatever you are doing in the house and like to "help" their owners and are especially good at trying to help with making beds and sweeping floors, and certainly will be the first around to supervise with all your other activities.

Ragdolls are very docile with their easygoing nature and yet are very playful and ever so gentle. They are very intelligent, and because they have a tendency to be less stubborn than other cats, are very easy to teach tricks too. They can usually learn the same tricks that owners like to teach puppies. They love to play fetch, shake hands, beg on command, roll over and much more. Ragdolls love to interact with children, other pets and your visitors.

If your Ragdoll is not on your lap it is always very close by. They will endlessly follow you from room to room, and if you manage to escape the room while they are napping, when they awaken, they will run from room to room crying for you. They will then proceed to have a conversation with you to tell you about their ordeal while giving you lots of big cuddles, just because they are pleased to see you.

Ragdolls have been sometimes called a low maintenance breed, but of course they need just as much love and as much care as any other cat, but they don't have any specific breed requirements. Although their soft, plush, coat may look like a lot of work, it is actually very easy to care for, and only requires a weekly grooming. This helps control any shedding or fur-balls, and most Ragdolls adore being combed and brushed.

Ragdolls have no known genetic defects and are not prone to any specific disease. Put everything you could want together in one cat and you have this delightful package called the Ragdoll.



Go and get your cat spayed/neutered

What is Spaying?

A spay (ovariohysterectomy) is the surgical removal of the uterus and ovaries from the abdomen of an animal.

What is the purpose of spaying?

The spay is the only foolproof method of birth control for female cats, and it is a permanent method.

Will spaying eliminate heat cycles?

Spayed animal no longer goes through heat cycles. Female cats normally come into heat several times a year. Spaying ends several problems associated with the heat cycle, including spraying urine and the necessity of confining females to prevent the approaches of persistent males. Spaying also prevents such irritations as a howling cat in heat.

Are there other good reasons for spaying?

The risk of mammary cancer is reduced if a cat is spayed before its first heat. Also spayed pets cannot develop pyometra, a serious uterine infection. Finally, difficult pregnancy and delivery in older cats or ill cats is prevented.

Do cats gain weight after spaying?

Your cat will not gain weight, if you provide a balanced diet and encourage regular exercise.

Should cats have at least one litter before being spayed?

No. Your cat does not need to have a litter of kittens to mature.

What is Neutering?

Neutering (castration) is the surgical removal of the testicles from the scrotum of an animal.

What is the purpose of neutering?

Neutering is the primary method of sterilizing male cats.

What are other benefits of neutering?

Neutering an immature cat usually prevents development of mating behavior and the obnoxious habit of spraying urine to mark territory around the house and yard.

An unneutered cat cannot control its mating instincts. Given freedom to wander, such an animal may become hurt or lost, and is almost certain to be responsible for unwanted litters. Humane societies cannot place all unwanted animals; millions must be put to sleep. Countless others are abandoned.

See your veterinarian!

Discuss your questions about breeding and birth control with your veterinarian.



TOP 10 CAT NAMES

Male

- + Sassy
- + Toby
- + Sam
- + Spike
- + Buddy
- + Charlie
- + Oscar
- + Simba
- + Oliver
- + Gizmo



Female

- Maxie
- Misty
- Princess
- Samantha
- Lucy
- Missy
- Molly
- Sophie
- Pumpkin
- Lilly





Moggy's Health Tips

Cat Ear Health

One of the few weak spots cats have is their ears. Cat ear health is an issue to many cats, especially ones that spend time outdoors. Ear infections can occur from water in the ears of the healthiest cat.

When cat is outside in the rain or roaming the countryside in fresh morning dew, it's easy to get some water in their ears. If you bathe your cat, always be careful not to get any water or soap around the ear area.

Other foreign matter such as seeds, hair from shedding, and insects can all cause ear problems for your cat. A cat's ear canal has an L shape and can trap moisture which creates the perfect environment for bacteria, fungi, and parasites. Add in some earwax and dirt, and your cat can get all three.

Sore, itchy, and swollen ears can also mean the cat may be allergic to something common in their habitat. If your cat shakes its head and scratches their ears frequently, it's a sign of something wrong. And if the cat continues to scratch at the area, it complicates the issue more so.

The first thing to do is examine in and around the ear. If you see discharges of fluid that is dark brown to black, it may be a fungal or yeast infection. If the material is dark and crumbly, and looks like coffee grounds, then it could be ear mites. These little critters are barely visible to the eye but can be very irritating to your cat.

If there is some type of blockage visible, balance or walking problems, and discharge material that's light brown, yellow, greenish or dark with blood it may be a serious infection that will require antibiotics. Then it's probably time for a visit to the Vet. Serious hearing loss and other problems can develop quickly so don't delay the trip.

If the problem appears to be dirty ears or fungal infections, both can be treated with household items. Start by gently spraying the ear areas with a squirt bottle with a 50/50 solution of vinegar and water and then swab the areas dry with a cotton ball that you can easily address. Be careful not to use too much and keep away from the cat's eyes and face. Do this twice a day.

If you don't see any improvement in 24 to 48 hours, you may want to consult your Vet. Most yeast and fungal infections start to improve quickly, so if you don't see any improvements it may be a more serious infection.

If you suspect ear mites (and they are the most common ear problem for cats), there are several treatments sold at pet stores. These treatments also have ingredients that sooth the inflammation and will help stop your cat from scratching the area. You should use the treatments for the time listed on the product, it may take several days to totally eliminate the ear mites altogether.

There is a popular natural treatment for ear mites that many owners swear by. It's a mixture of olive oil and liquid vitamin E (it comes in capsules that you can open to retrieve the fluid). Mix a 50/50 solution and use an eye dropper to put several drops in the ear. Hold the cat still and rub around the ears to evenly spread the mixture. Then swab out excess with a cotton ball. Do this every other day for a week. Normally your cat will shake its head after the treatment so you might want to make this an outdoor activity.

Ear mites are also highly contagious. If one of your pets have them, they all probably do (even dogs). If you have more than one cat, you might want to treat them all at the same time to make sure you get all of the pesky devils in the household.

Cat ear health is important and you should keep an eye on any scratching or head shaking by your cat. It's a sure sign something is going on and requires some attention. Most cat ear health problems can easily be treated and don't require a visit to the Vet.

The last word from "John - The VET"



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Cats - Urethral / Bladder Blockages

Obstructions of the urethra or urinary bladder outlet are a not uncommon problem in cats and although this condition can occur in both male and female cats it is by far most common amongst male cats. This is because the urethra, the tube through which urine passes from the bladder to the outside of the animal's body, is longer and narrower in male cats compared to female cats. As well as being very painful, such blockages are extremely life threatening and do require immediate veterinary attention.

Urethral obstruction are most the result of bladder debris, which includes microscopic urinary crystals, mucus and various types of cells, accumulating within and eventually completely blocking the urethral which prevents the cat from passing urine.

A cat experiencing a urethral obstruction will strain to urinate, frequently attempt to urinate, and produce little, if any, urine. After a few hours, an obstructed cat typically becomes much more distressed, often crying out in pain. Frequently, owners think that the cat is constipated, when actually the cat is unable to urinate. Male cat may constantly lick at their genital area. Small sand-like particles are sometimes seen around the bladder outlet of affected cats.

Urethral obstruction is a true veterinary medical emergency and therefore any cat suspected of suffering from this condition must be seen immediately by a veterinarian. When the urethra is completely blocked, the cat's kidneys are no longer able to function adequately to remove toxins from the blood and maintain a proper balance of fluids and electrolytes in the body. If the obstruction is not relieved, the cat will eventually lose consciousness and die. Death most frequently occurs as a result of electrolyte and metabolyte imbalances, which ultimately cause heart failure. The time from complete obstruction until death may be less than twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

If you suspect your cat has a urethral obstruction please phone us immediately. Immediate veterinary treatment is essential.

Facts compiled

Dr John Swney

Pukekohe / Waiuku Veterinary Centre