



# KATS' TALES

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Kingdom Animal Shelter  
1664 Memorial Drive  
P.O. Box 462, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 (802) 741-7387  
www.kingdomanimalshelter.com

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## 7 REASONS YOUR CAT KEEPS MEOWING

Are there some days when your cat just won't be quiet? When you hear meow after meow and don't understand what your furry friend is trying to tell you? Here are seven possible reasons behind your cat's calls: 1) "Look at Me! Look at Me!" Just as a child learns to cry when he wants something, excessive cat meowing sometimes is the feline's way of getting what he wants. If your cat is always meowing to initiate play or to seek your attention, stop responding every time you hear her meow. Give her attention only when she is quiet. When she begins meowing again, walk away. Don't completely ignore her—spend quality time with her every day, playing and talking with her. Let her know she is loved. Consider getting a pet sitter if he's left home alone for most of the day. The attention-seeking meows are not quickly stopped; nor are they easily brought to an end. Breaking this cycle will take time and patience. Teaching your cat that she will be rewarded for being quiet is quite a task. Keep rewarding quiet behavior while ignoring the ongoing meows. Eventually she will get the idea. So, what kind of rewards are we talking about? Sophia Yin, DVM, MS (a veterinarian and animal behavior expert), suggests that you use food to teach your cat that quietness is rewarding. Give her bite-size treats or kibble, making sure she finishes each one with just one or two bites. Instead of pouring her kibble into a bowl, feed it to her one piece at a time, teaching her to sit quietly for several seconds to receive the treat. Always reward her before the meowing kicks in, as well as before she gets up. This method is the quickest way to teach a kitty that just sitting quietly has its rewards. 2) "I'm Not Feeling Well" Meowing is a cat's way of vocal communication. Your cat may be trying to tell you of a discomfort she may have or that something is not quite right. If your cat is always meowing at night, she could be suffering from hyperthyroidism (usually seen in cats older than 10). Other medical possibilities that may be causing the non-stop meowing are high blood pressure and/or kidney disease. A trip to the veterinarian is in line, especially if the continuous meowing is a new behavior. 3) "Feed Me!" Many cats become incredibly vocal when feeding time approaches. Getting an automatic feeder that opens at set times will entice kitty to meow at the feeder—not at you. (Also, have you checked your cat's water bowl? Maybe it's empty, and Fluffy's trying to tell you so. And while we're on the subject, have you cleaned the litterbox? Is the entrance blocked to it? These things might all be additional reasons for the extra meows.) 4) "I'm Totally Stressed Out" A nervous or stressed cat often becomes meowy. Any changes in home, an illness, or the loss of a loved one can trigger stress in a cat. Once you figure out what is stressing her, you will be able to help her adjust to the changes. Give her extra attention and quiet time during this adjustment period. (continued next issue) (By Gayle Hickman for PetsAdvisor.com Source: <http://www.webvet.com/main>; retrieved 02/12/14)



Meet our Hannah! She's a spayed female, about 3 years old, a beautiful, tawny tabby with green eyes. Though shy at first, she is now coming out of her shell more and more each day. She's sweet, talkative, and likes to be petted. And she just loves attention!

### \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- September 27 YARD SALE 1738 Burrington Bridge Road, Lyndonville 8:00 to 2:00 Call Sandy at 802 673-7954 to donate items
- October 5 Autumn on the Green Danville, Vermont. Stop by and say hello!

### KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## INSIGHT INTO CAT SNEEZING

Have you ever heard of the phrase "feline sternutation"? This fancy word simply refers to cat sneezing. Chances are your furry friend has had a couple of sneezes in its day, but you may be wondering if there is an underlying medical condition that should worry you. Here is some insight into cat sneezing and what might be causing it in your feline. **Irritants** Everyday irritants that come into contact with your cat's nose can cause sneezing. So if you notice your furry friend is sneezing more often, check its favorite hang out areas for likely sources. According to Catster, tons of items make up the list of irritants including dust mites, mold, perfumes, cigarettes, pollen, and flea medications. Additionally, overly dusty cat litter can also be at fault. **Viral Causes** Take a look at your cat's eyes and nose to see if there is any discharge. If there is some present, this is a good indication there may be a viral cause for the sneezing and medical attention is recommended. **Breeds** This may surprise you—your cat's breed can make it more prone to sneezing. According to the source, felines with flat faces have shorter nasal cavities, which are more sensitive to irritants. So if you have an American shorthair, Bombay, Himalayan, Scottish Fold, or Persian, your feline may be sneezing more than its long-nose counterparts. (Source: *The Animal Rescue Site.com Blog*; retrieved 3/23/14)



Did you know....Europe had a more negative view of cats, especially after the Dark Ages. In many places across the continent, people believed that witches would disguise themselves as cats.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT** The purpose of the Kingdom Animal Shelter is to facilitate the placement of stray and unwanted animals and pets in desirable homes; to establish and maintain an animal shelter and associated procedures that promote health, care and handling; and to prevent overpopulation and the prevention of cruelty to animals. The animals in our care, our guests, are never euthanized merely because we lack space or because the animal's stay with us has exceeded a predefined amount of time.

Please forward this to your friends, family, co-workers, or anyone interested in supporting our shelter. If you no longer wish to receive emails from Kingdom Animal Shelter, please hit "Reply" and change the subject line to UNSUBSCRIBE. Kingdom Animal Shelter respects your privacy and will never share or sell your email address or other information.