

KATS' TALES

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LEAVING YOUR CAT HOME ALONE: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW By Christie Long, DVM

Cat Boredom: the Struggle is Real We're starting to understand more and more about what causes many of the behavioral problems we routinely deal with in our feline friends. One of the reasons that cats are so popular as pets is the perception that they don't need much in the way of interaction; however, this is untrue for many of them, especially the young ones. Cats need regular play and interaction with their owners, in the form of brushing or snuggling, and they'll be missing that interaction while you're gone. So make sure there are plenty of ways for him to keep himself entertained in your absence. Regular cat toys, especially those loaded with catnip, if your cat likes catnip, are a great choice. If you want to go really high-tech, consider something like the PetCube, which allows you to play laser pointer games with your cat while you're away. Consider the World From a Cat's Eye View One of my professors in veterinary school was the world-renowned animal behaviorist, Dr. Temple Grandin. One of the many things she is famous for is redesigning the way animal slaughter facilities are designed, and her work was fueled by her ability to consider these facilities from the same level that a cow or pig would – almost seeing things through their eyes. Dr. Grandin's research may not seem applicable to housecats on the surface, but it's relatable, because considering your cat's world is important to keeping him safe and happy while you're gone. Walk through the areas your cat will have access to while you're away. Consider what hazardous items might be easily accessible by your cat (plants, the cords to Venetian blinds, additional food stores), as well as those items that your cat might want access to but can't reach without assistance (window viewing perches, water and food bowls, litter boxes that are kept behind closed doors). (Source: <http://PetCoach.co>; retrieved 07/16/2017)

THE LEGEND OF THE BLACK CAT by Polina Olsen

Witches on broomsticks, bats, and especially black cats announce Halloween's coming each year. Animal shelters cringe with tales of cruel pranks and even satanic rites. Some halt black cat adoptions; all say keep animals inside. But legends about black cats vary by country. They bring love to British lasses and help German witches cast spells. And whether considered by the culture to be devil or angel, black cat stories stretch from antiquity to modern times. Early stories may account for modern superstition. Some say Freya, the Norse love goddess, rewarded the two black cats who pulled her chariot by turning them into witches. In Greek mythology, Galenthias turns into a cat and becomes priestess to Hecate, goddess of the underworld. By the Middle Ages, people believed the devil transformed into a black cat. As witches' animal helpers, or "familiars," black cats enhanced magical rites. Thousands of cats died when, in 1233, Pope Gregory IX warned that the devil meets worshippers disguised as a black cat. In Northern India, a chordewa is a witch who changes her soul into a black cat. When she visits the sick and licks their lips, they die. Even in Algonquin Indian legends in America, Pook-jin-skweess, a black cat witch, transforms into humans. The British believe black cats bring good luck. Kept in a Yorkshire fisherman's home, they are believed to ensure safe return from sea. If black cats wander aboard ship, good fortune comes with them. If chased away, good fortune leaves, the legend goes. It is considered good luck if a British bride sees a black cat on the way to the wedding. In Cornwall, passing a black cat's tail over the eyes cures soreness. In Wales, they are believed to prevent sickness. While today we don't turn to black cats to provide healing for sore eyes or a safe landing, their magic brightens all who cross their path. Animal behavior expert Temple Grandin believes black cats are more social overall, whether it's with other cats or humans; their laid-back manner makes them particularly good pets. (Source: Petcha.com; posted 8/5/09; retrieved 8/8 2017)

****NEW MONTHLY FEATURE**** JULY ADOPTIONS: Agnes, Ike, Izzy, Frederick, Calvin, Tracey, Pierre, Vivienne, and Hank



In honor of Aug. 17, National Black Cat Appreciation Day, let us present Murray. Murray was trapped in St. Johnsbury as a stray. He is extremely affectionate and friendly and loves to sit on laps and be petted. He is a bit over a year old. He has a wonderful badge of honor, a quite distinctive and visible notch in his left ear. He wears it proudly.

Actually, he has no idea it is there. Murray does have a mischievous side with regard to other cats.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 1 Autumn on the Green, Danville 2018 KAS Cat Calendar debut!
- Oct. 21 Yard Sale Butler's Bus Service, Red Village Road, Lyndonville

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Did you know...A kitten will typically weigh about 3 ounces at birth.

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.