



KATS' TALES

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MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUION TO GET YOUR CAT TO THE VET

by JaneA Kelley

It's easy to put off getting your cat in for a checkup, but it's crucial to continued good health. This is the time of year when you plan to do things that are good for you. Maybe you've decided to lose weight, exercise more, quit smoking, or start meditating to relax. But it's time to make plans to do things that are good for your cat, too. The most important of these is getting your cat to the vet for a checkup. It can be hard to imagine why your cat would need to go to the vet if she's not sick. Here are just a few reasons why she should. *To detect illness before it becomes serious* Cats are experts at hiding pain and illness. Just because your cat doesn't seem sick doesn't mean she isn't. She could have dental disease—by three years of age, most cats have signs of dental disease, which can be very painful. As your cat ages, the likelihood that she'll develop other illnesses such as hyperthyroidism or kidney disease also increases. *By getting your cat to the vet for regular blood tests and exams, you'll catch the disease earlier, leading to a better prognosis and a longer life with your beloved kitty.* *To monitor your cat's weight* An estimated 58% of cats are overweight or obese. This can lead to illnesses such as diabetes, heart and kidney disease, and painful joint problems. Sometimes it can be hard to recognize when your cat is overweight, but your vet can tell you—and give you advice on diet and exercise to get her back down to a healthy weight. *To get lifestyle appropriate vaccines* Not every cat needs every vaccine, but the only way to know for sure what is best for your cat is to take her to the vet. Not only that, but rabies vaccines are required by law in most of the United States—even for indoor-only cats. *To help with behavioral issues* The number one reason cats are surrendered to shelters is inappropriate elimination. Your vet can help you deal with this problem by screening your cat for illnesses and giving you advice on how to manage the behavior. Other issues your vet can help you manage behaviorally are problems of clawing and scratching, eating inappropriate objects, and anxiety. (continued next issue)

(Source: Catster.com; 2016 Lumina Media LLC; January 4, 2017; retrieved 1/10/2017)

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THE SUBTLE EFFECTS OF AGGRESSION AMONG CATS

By Marilyn Krieger

Aggression doesn't always end in fights, but it affects cats who are subject to it; here's what you can do. Cat fights are traumatic for everyone, cats and observers alike. Although the assailants may think they have good reasons for rumbling, usually the recipients would rather not engage in combat. This isn't limited to felines who live wild—our little household kitties, when given the chance, will also avoid conflict using the same subtle and covert behaviors that their wild cousins display. They have good reasons for avoiding conflicts. It's difficult for cats to de-escalate while they're intensely fighting. The brawls are usually serious—often ending when one or both of the fighters are hurt. Injuries can compromise kitties, slowing them down and affecting their alertness. Hunting can be difficult for wounded kitties; additionally, it is harder for them to escape life-threatening dangers. Cats who would rather not rumble will engage in avoidance and distancing behaviors that help them steer clear of conflicts. Many of these behaviors are blatantly obvious to people; others are subtle and easily overlooked. Overt or subtle, these behaviors serve the same purposes—avoiding conflicts. Cat lovers who live with more than one cat need to recognize and take action when these behaviors occur. They're stressful for kitties and can escalate into violence. *Passive Conflict* Avoidance behaviors are often misunderstood or not recognized by people. Based on what they see, the observers sometimes inaccurately assume that one of their cats is "alpha" and another "submissive" and that conflicts are unprovoked and "come out of nowhere." They might label kitties who slink past their antagonists with lowered tails and those who vacate areas when the other kitty is present "submissive." These same kitties may also hug walls. Instead of venturing into the center of rooms, they stick to the perimeters when the antagonist is present. They aren't submissive—they're avoiding conflicts. Other ways that kitties evade altercations are by withdrawing and hiding. Although there may be other reasons for these behaviors, these cats are not submissive. (continued next issue)

(Source: Catster.com; Lumina Media LLC: Dec. 2, 2016; retrieved 12/12/16)



Nick is a gorgeous 4 year old orange boy in need of a quiet home. Nick is a favorite of many of our shelter volunteers. Nick would do best in a calm and peaceful home, being an only cat, or with a female cat who is very laid back and gentle. Nick loves to bask in the sun, and lie on the top level of his cat tower where he can look out the window and watch the birds and the goings-on in the yard next door. At his times of playfulness, Nick loves his crinkly tunnel and chasing toys. And Nick especially loves to play in boxes. He also can be a wonderful lap cat and enjoys being petted. He is very good about letting you know when he has had enough. Nick came to us as a stray, over 2 years ago. We believe that at some time in his past, Nick may have been mistreated. Based on this possible mistreatment that Nick experienced, he will take extra time settling into your home. During any transition to his new home, Nick may get upset and would likely display some behaviors that will require patience and understanding. But that patience and understanding will be well-rewarded with the wonderful and affectionate cat that Nick can be.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have no upcoming events at this time, but won't you PLEASE consider joining our Fundraising Committee in 2017? We need YOU!

KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Helen Morrison – President
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Did you know....domestic cats purr both when inhaling and when exhaling.

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.