



KATS' TALES

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Please...No Fleas!!

In the past, we have taken in several cats that we have rescued that suffered from severe flea infestations. One was so bad that the cat had lots of fur loss and bald patches due to the fleas eating the cat alive. Many come in with at least a moderate problem that has to be controlled and eliminated before the cat can be put out on the main floor for adoption. The best way to control fleas is to work with your local vet to keep a regular flea control program going. If you see some scratching or biting that looks suspicious or if you see some fleas, it is time to get right on it. Once the problem gets out of hand, it is much more expensive and harder to get back under control later on. Imagine if you had hundreds of insects crawling on your body 24/7, laying eggs and larvae on you. Think of how it would feel getting bitten over and over again so they can get their blood meal from you, and depositing feces on you. This is what your animal is experiencing without good flea control. In addition to it being unpleasant, it can create medical issues. Your animal can become anemic from the fleas, and if a flea is ingested your cat can get tapeworm. Fleas can start to jump onto you and your family, which is just a bad situation all the way around. In severe to moderate cases, the entire environment the animal lives in must be entirely cleaned. This often involves environmental sprays and complete removal of all bedding and cleaning towels. Rugs are a favorite hiding spot for eggs that can fall off the animal; they would need vacuuming on a regular basis. A good way to continue to monitor your animal is to get a flea comb from your vet. This is a fine toothed comb that will pull out live or dead fleas and flea dirt (flea feces) from your pet's fur. You will see evidence of this in the comb and then know that the problem is either under control or you still have to keep working on it. Allowing insects to live on your animals, creating constant itching and discomfort, is hard on the animal and can create stress for them and for you and your family. So please, keep a constant eye on your animal to nip this problem in the bud before your animal becomes a blood meal for these nasty pests! We have many rescued cats at Kingdom Animal Shelter currently that have already been treated for fleas and would love to have you come and take a look at them. Our website with our hours, current cats and other information is listed above. By: Rod Lauman, Kingdom Animal Shelter Board member



Callie is an approximately 5-year old spayed female who needs companionship. She enjoys being petted, is active and playful, and would prefer to be the only animal in the house. She is quite independent, but would prefer a calm home and someone with a good deal of patience. Please stop by the shelter to meet her today!

5 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ON CAT BEHAVIOR THAT YOU CAN KEEP (conclusion)

You can stop many unwanted cat behaviors before they begin by following these tips. Instead of making new year's resolutions that are difficult to keep, give yourself and your cats ones you know you can handle. 4. Provide high places to perch Your fourth resolution is to add vertical territory—high places around your home that your cats can jump and climb up to. Vertical territory can improve inter-cat relationships, become safe havens, and help keep your cats physically fit. Cats don't always get along with each other. One thing that fuels these iffy relationships is kittens not being able to demonstrate their positions in flexible hierarchies. A way they show their status in a multi-cat household is by where they situate themselves in relationship to each other. Typically, cats who occupy a high position in the hierarchy sit at the highest level while the others hang out on the lower perches. It's not a static hierarchy—it changes, depending on a number of factors including other animals, food, and their health. Vertical territory, in the form of tall cat trees and condos, high shelves, perches, and household furniture contribute to improving relationships. Like many cat-centric objects and activities, vertical territory has many purposes. Climbing and jumping are natural pastimes for cats. Navigating up to the high shelves and perches provides exercise and mental stimulation. Felines feel safe in high places—they can view potential threats from up high. Additionally, tall cat trees placed next to secure windows are perfect for napping and observing the neighborhood activity. One can never have too much vertical territory. 5. Provide enrichment Your fifth resolution is enriching your cat's environment. Gift her with toys she enjoys playing with, places to climb, objects to scratch, and things to do. Interact with her every day—spend quality time playing and cuddling. Cats often become bored and inactive when they do not have enough stimulation. Bored cats live in a boring environment—devoid of interesting toys to play with, objects to climb, or bonded buddies to interact with. Cats who are bored often develop behavior problems. They may create their own entertainment by scaling the curtains, knocking items off of shelves, or shredding toilet paper. Some develop harmful repetitive behaviors such as over-grooming. Others become obese from being inactive. Although all of these behaviors may indicate boredom, they can also be caused by medical or other types of behavior problems. Cats need mental and physical stimulation. Enriching their homes with ball-and-track toys, puzzle boxes and feeders, tall cat trees and high perches, tunnels to hide in, and cat scratchers helps keep cats active and interested in their environment. Games and play sessions also help keep kitties engaged. Some cats love to fetch; most enjoy lively play sessions every day. Other activities that are fun for cats and their people include treasure hunts and clicker training. Although being proactive does not guarantee behavior issues won't develop, the odds are in your favor that your cats will be perfect angels for 2015. Credit: Marilyn Krieger, author Source: <http://www.catster.com/lifestyle/cat-behavior-new-years-resolution>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 28 YARD SALE 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Indoor location at Butler's Bus Service Red Village Road, Lyndonville Call Sandy 802 673-7954 for more info.
- May 3 Cinco de Meow North Congo Church, St. Johnsbury (more info later)

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Did you know....a prehistoric horse called Eohippus was approximately the size of a house cat.

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.