

KATS' TALES

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PET PARENT OR PET OWNER? By Rod Lauman, KAS

Looking at the media and reading articles, it's pretty clear that a new attitude has turned up regarding the role that we humans have towards our animals. When I was growing up, the cats were called "the cats" and not "fur babies" or "fur kids." Those that had animals were referred to as cat/dog owners and not pet parents. I refer to my felines as "the cats" and regard them more as roommates, friends, and companions rather than my "kids." There is no right or wrong way to approach it, whatever works for the person that has animals. It's just interesting to watch how this role is evolving.

The term "fur kids" of course implies that you are the "dad" or "mom" for the animals that you have. This changes the dynamic that was in place for generations to more reflect the dependent status of the animal and give them a higher status in the family overall. For me, my cats are my feline family which does not make them less than a part of the general family, but reflects that they have different needs. After 9 months, animals are considered adults and I guess I like to regard them more as a friend or companion. With the little kittens that I have fostered I did get more of a feeling of being a parent than I do with adult cats.

The advantages of thinking of yourself as a pet parent and your animals "fur kids" is that it can create a strong bond similar to one you might have with a young son or daughter. It's easy to take on that role as the animals are much smaller than us and dependent on us the same as a young child would be. This role is a far cry from the old ideas that animals are around for work. Cats were to catch mice and keep an area vermin free and otherwise left to their own devices. Dogs did all kinds of work, guarding the property, helping with the hunt, chasing game birds, hauling sleds, herding sheep. Many times these animals were never let inside but kept outside all the time.

What's your opinion? I would love to hear it and what you feel your role is while interacting with your animals. Perhaps I can do another article sharing your stories and what your role is and how it works for you. You can reach me at this email address: ramblercat@yahoo.com



Charlie is about 2-years old, female, a beautiful torti color, with pale green eyes. She is very sweet, a bit timid, not clingy at all. She'd love to meet you and warm your heart this month. 

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 27 YARD SALE Butler's Bus Service, 231 Red Village Road, Lyndonville 9:00 to 3:00 Call Nancy for more info (802) 249-3199
- Don't forget about the photo of your cat that you would like to enter into the 2017 KAS Cat Calendar contest. Entries will be taken in June.

UNDERSTANDING FELINE LANGUAGE (Part 2)

Body Language Does your cat arch her back up to meet your hand when you pet her? This means she's enjoying this contact with you. Does she shrink away under your slightest touch? Save the petting for later: She's not interested right now. Pay attention to your cat's eyes, ears, body and tail—they're all telling the story. Here are some basic (though sometimes contradictory) clues: Ears Forward: alert, interested, or happy; Backward, sideways, flat ("airplane ears"): irritable, angry or frightened; Swiveling: attentive and listening to every little sound; Eyes Pupils constricted: offensively aggressive, but possibly content; Pupils dilated (large): nervous or submissive (if somewhat dilated), defensively aggressive (if fully dilated), but possibly playful Tail Erect, fur flat: alert, inquisitive or happy; Fur standing on end: angry or frightened; Held very low or tucked between legs: insecure or anxious; Thrashing back and forth: agitated. The faster the tail, the angrier the cat; Straight up, quivering: excited, really happy. If your cat hasn't been neutered or spayed, he or she could be getting ready to spray something. Body Back arched, fur standing on end: frightened or angry; Back arched, fur flat: welcoming your touch; Lying on back, purring: very relaxed; Lying on back, growling: upset and ready to strike; Rubbing When your cat rubs his chin and body against you, he's telling you he loves you, right? Well, sort of. What he's really doing is marking his territory. You'll notice that he also rubs the chair, the door, his toys, everything in sight. He's telling everyone that this is his stuff, including you. But he does love you, too. Kneading This is sometimes called "making biscuits," because the cat works her paws on a soft surface as if she's kneading bread dough. It's a hold-over from kittenhood, when a nursing kitten massaged her mother's teats to make milk flow. Your cat does this when she is really happy. (continued next issue)

(Source: The Humane Society of the United States; Cat Chat: Understanding Feline Language. February 27, 2015)

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Did you know....According to researchers, keeping a cat as a pet reduces the risk of heart attacks and strokes by nearly one third. 

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.