

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

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. You can help your kitties remain perfect little angels throughout the year by making a few changes in your home along with implementing specific activities. Here are five behavior resolutions that will help stop cat behavior problems before they begin: **1. A vet check** Your first resolution is a vet check. Don't hesitate to have your cat examined by a veterinarian whenever you see changes in her behavior. Sometimes the only way you know your cats are not in good health is by their behavior. The indicators can be subtle and hard to recognize—the only clues of medical problems may be changes in how cats act. Feigning good health is a survival tactic that helps ferals and strays survive among hungry predators who are looking for easy meals. Felines who show signs of being sick or injured are more vulnerable than healthy ones. Although this tactic can work for cats living wild, it can be detrimental for pets. Usually, by the time cat parents notice changes in behavior, medical issues have progressed and the kitties need to be examined by veterinarians as soon as possible. Cats who are cranky may be reacting to painful arthritis, mouth and teeth problems, as well as a number of other unpleasant conditions. Litter box avoidance may be a symptom of serious ailments that include urinary tract infections, kidney disease, and diabetes. Kitties who hide from people they are bonded to may be instinctually responding to injury and illness by making themselves scarce. Be aware that the subtlest of changes may have their roots in disease. **2. The right litter boxes and daily maintenance** The second resolution is creating an ideal bathroom situation for your cat. Buy the right boxes and place them in the right places. Don't forget to scoop them every day. Finding urine on beds, sofas, and carpets is not the high point of anyone's day. Although frustrating, eliminating outside the litter boxes is a problem that most likely can be resolved. Depending on the circumstances and the environment it can also be headed off before it begins, through daily litter box maintenance, providing large, uncovered litter boxes, and placing them in accessible yet quiet areas where cats won't feel trapped. **3. The right stuff to scratch** Scratching the household furniture is one of the main reasons people declaw their cats—an unnecessary and painful procedure. Although cats instinctually scratch objects, they do not have to focus their claws on sofas and rugs. Scratching is a multifunctional activity. In addition to providing claw maintenance, scratching marks territories. Kitties also scratch when they feel conflicted and stressed, when playing, and after a satisfying nap. In short, cats have to scratch! The third resolution is to satisfy your cat's instinctual need to scratch while saving the couches and carpets. Place horizontal scratchers and scratching posts in areas where your cats hang out. You can then easily train your kitty to scratch only the objects that are hers. *(continued next issue) Credit: Marilyn Krieger, author Source: <http://www.catster.com/lifestyle/cat-behavior-new-years-resolution>*

FEVER IN CATS (conclusion)

The diagnosis of FUO (fever of unknown origin) is made when no other cause for the fever can be identified. Treatment often involves antibiotics to treat any hidden bacterial infection or to prevent bacterial infections from developing as a secondary problem. Never give a medication to reduce fever without specific instructions from your veterinarian. Most human fever-reducing medications should not be given to cats, and both aspirin and acetaminophen (Tylenol)* are especially toxic. Most cats respond well to basic supportive care. Your cat should be kept warm and dry, and be fed a good diet with constant access to fresh water. Viral infections can wax and wane before full recovery, so that a cat may seem completely well but then experience a relapse a week or two later. **Q&A How do I know if my cat has a fever?** Pets always feel warm to us because their normal body temperature is 100 to 102.5 degrees F. Your vet can tell you if your cat is running a fever above this range. **When is a fever serious in my cat?** Fever is often a normal and even beneficial response to infection, because the higher temperature inhibits the growth of certain microorganisms (e.g., bacteria) and improves the function of the immune system. However, high fever above 105 to 106 degrees F for more than a day or two can lead to dehydration, loss of appetite, listlessness, and even brain damage. **How is the cause of fever diagnosed in cats?** Searching for the specific cause of a fever requires a complete history and physical exam to search for injuries or obvious signs of infection, and may require numerous blood and urine tests. **What is "fever of unknown origin" and how is it treated in cats?** The diagnosis of FUO is made when no other cause for the fever can be identified. Most cats with FUO respond well to basic supportive care and antibiotics to treat hidden bacterial infections. Never give a medication to reduce fever without specific instructions from your veterinarian. (Credit: Written and reviewed by John A. Bukowski, DVM, MPH, PhD, and Susan E. Aiello, DVM, ELS) Source: <http://www.webvet.com/main/2008/06/06/fever-cats>; retrieved 12/9/2014



Helen is a special needs cat available for adoption to a quiet, loving, and patient home. She is a wonderful blind cat, approximately seven years old. She was brought to a local vet to be euthanized, but we happily agreed to take her. She loves being petted and has a constant purr going on. She has learned to maneuver around the shelter quite successfully, but she is not very fond of other cats. She was checked for glaucoma and her eye pressures are normal, but she has crystals in the fluid of her eye. If you would like to meet her, please stop by.

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....house cats can run about 30 m.p.h., faster than Usain Bolt, who set the world record for humans.

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.