

# KATS' TALES

Volume 6, Issue 11



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November  
2015

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF DOMESTIC CATS

Today, domestic cats are everywhere: in the home, in the yard, on television, and overwhelmingly, on the Internet. But have you ever wondered where they came from and how they ended up as the world's most popular pet? Here's a brief history of cats—from being domesticated in ancient Egypt to wearing funny hats on YouTube. *In the beginning....* Thought to have descended from the African wildcat and used to catch vermin, the domestic cat can be traced all the way back to ancient Egypt 4,000 years ago (and perhaps beyond). By helping to reduce disease and protect crops, cats were quickly regarded as sacred creatures by the Egyptians. *The wandering cat....* After the Egyptian dynasty collapsed, cats became popular elsewhere. In the Far East, cats were originally owned by the rich. As their popularity grew, the domesticated cat made its way to surrounding countries like India and Japan. This is when breeding also began, with breeds such as the Siamese and Burmese first emerging. *Meanwhile in Europe....* It's believed that Egyptian traders originally introduced cats to Europe, where the Greeks and the Romans used them as pest control. However, during the Middle Ages, cats in Europe became associated with superstition. During the Black Death of 1348, rulers ordered the killing of all cats, because they were suspected of carrying the disease. It wasn't until the 1600s that their reputation started to recover. *Living in America....* During the 15th and 16th century, cats were welcome cargo on ships to minimize vermin and disease. It's commonly thought that when Christopher Columbus discovered America, cats from his ship went ashore and flourished. In fact, this is where the American Shorthair is rumored to have originated. *Cats today....* Nowadays, cats are a key part of modern society—it's estimated there are close to a half a billion around the world. They continue to be an important and special part of our lives. We're always looking for new ways to show them how much we care. So actually, when you consider how revered cats were by the Egyptians—not much has actually changed.

(Source: Cats Pride Club Newsletter, November 2015 www.catspride.com Feline Facts; retrieved 11/13/15)

## WHEN DOGS AND CATS SHED HAIR

Dogs and cats shed hair year round, although they typically shed more as the hair coat thickens or thins during the fall and spring. The level of shedding is more of a response to the length of daylight than to the temperature. Shedding can also be affected by nutrition, hormones, and stress. Poodles shed very little and certain terriers shed less than other breeds, so these dogs need periodic coat trimming and more grooming than short-haired breeds such as pugs or beagles. Shedding is much more noticeable in dogs and cats with long, thick hair than those with short hair. Unless pets with long, thick coats are groomed regularly, their hair can form mats. Mats frequently develop around the ears and on the long hair on the legs, but they can form anywhere on the body. Matted hair can lead to skin conditions such as hot spots. Mats are best removed with electric trimmers; using scissors can accidentally cut the skin. Normal shedding is gradual and produces no noticeable bare spots, which can be a sign of a skin condition or a generalized illness such as a hormonal disorder. Any bare, itchy, or raw areas should be brought to the attention of your veterinarian. The best way to deal with normal shedding is to keep your pet well groomed. Regular (e.g. daily) brushing removes dead hair, decreases mat formation, and cuts down on hair within the home. Many pets also enjoy being groomed, so that daily grooming becomes a time of bonding between you and your pet. For dogs, occasional bathing can also be helpful, but remember to use only mild pet shampoo and to rinse thoroughly.

Source: Written and reviewed by John A Bukowski, DVM, MPH, PHP, and Susan Aiello, DVM, DLS; www.webvet.com/main/2008/10/02/when-dogs-and-cats-shed-hair retrieved 12/9/2014



## HANNAH

This is our beautiful Hannah, who is sure to warm your heart. She likes to explore and loves to have visitors to her cat condo.

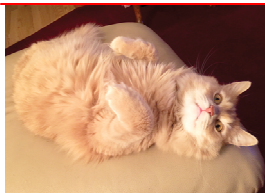
She's playful and even a bit impish at times. Please stop by and meet her today. She'd love to find a new forever home for the holidays!

## \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- December 12 Share the Love St. J. Subaru, Route 5, St. Johnsbury 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Photos with Santa Paws, bake sale, etc., items for sale
- February 27 YARD SALE Butler's Bus Service, Red Village Road, Lyndonville Call Nancy for more info (802) 249-3199

## KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Helen Morrison – Co-President  
Heidi Sessions – Co-President  
Klari Emmons – Secretary  
David Gile – Treasurer  
Rod Lauman – Board member  
Nancy Rivet – Board member



## 2016 KAS Calendars Now Available!

The new 2016 calendars are out and ready for your holiday giving. They are \$12 and are available at several area businesses, including Western Ave Vet Care, AquaRealm, Locally Social Coffee, Morrison's, Green Mt. Books, Freight House Restaurant, Agway, The Danville Inn, Diamond Hill, Hastings Store, Joe's Pond Crafts, and from our volunteers at White's Markets on select Saturdays in Oct., Nov., and Dec. They will also be available at the Subaru event. Get yours today!



**Did you know....Cats have the ability to sense earthquake tremors ten or fifteen minutes before humans can.**

**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.