



KATS' TALES

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Kingdom Animal Shelter
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LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THE SUBTLE EFFECTS OF AGGRESSION AMONG CATS

by Marilyn Krieger (conclusion)

Another way cats avoid conflicts is through distancing behaviors that include blatant and subtle marking. Marking by scratching, rubbing objects with cheeks, middening and spraying helps keep strangers away and discourages unwanted social interactions. Cats are complicated—depending on the context, their behaviors have different meanings. Although scent marking can be effective distancing behavior, the same acts are also useful for identifying relatives and friends, attracting mates and delineating territories. Although our household kitties mark for the same reasons, when they're spayed and neutered they aren't as likely to use urine and feces for marking as their wild cousins are. Feral cats avoid conflicts by steering clear of areas that have been freshly marked by felines who aren't relatives or buddies. They will time-share though, spending time in the areas and partaking in the resources when the other felines are elsewhere. Our little indoor kitties also room- and time-share. They will hang out in the same areas the aggressors do, but only when the aggressors are not around. Both will mark objects by rubbing and scratching. *Actions You Need To Take* Kitties who are constantly vigilant usually are chronically stressed. Chronic stress can cause medical as well as behavior problems. Pay attention to your cats' behaviors and take actions to improve their relationships. There may be a pattern to the behaviors — they might occur around the same times every day or in specific areas. If you notice that there are times when one cat seems more vigilant, supervise them. Also focus both felines on other activities, such as play, clicker training and treasure hunts, or you may find at times it's best to separate them. In tense hot spots add vertical territory, scratchers and toys. You can also help decrease the squabbling while easing tensions by increasing the resources throughout your home. Add more feeding areas, scratchers, toys, sleeping places, litter boxes and vertical territory. It's important that your feline residents can time-share resources and rooms. Cats experience different levels of aggression — from all-out violence to subtle, passive expressions. Subtle or overt, the behaviors cause tensions and stress and need to be addressed.

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



Lacey is a bit shy until you begin to pet her and then she just opens up and cannot get enough loving. She loves to have her medium length, luxurious black fur brushed. She would do best in a quiet environment where she is the only pet. If Lacey might be just the cat for you, visit her at Kingdom Animal Shelter, 1664 Memorial Drive, St. Johnsbury.

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

by JaneA Kelley (conc.)

More good advice: Don't put off making that annual appointment with your veterinarian. It's easy to forget the importance of these visits, especially if your cat seems healthy and happy and shows no sign of medical issues. Cats are good at hiding it when something is wrong, and by having the vet check annually, you can delay future problems by catching something early. Of course, he or she will have your cat's entire medical record as well, and can detect subtle changes that might be easily overlooked by you. So don't wait; make that vet appointment today and get your kitty in for a checkup. That's one New Year's resolution that will be easy to keep!

(Source: Catster.com; 2016 LuminaMediaLLC; January 4, 2017; retrieved 1/20/2017)



- *UPCOMING EVENTS***
- **April 15 Yard Sale at Butler's Bus Service—Lyndonville 9:00—2:00 Call Nancy for more info: 802-249-3199**
 - **April 30 Dinner at the Danville Inn and Restaurant time: t/b/d**
 - **Pet Parade/Bark in the Park June 17 (stay tuned....)**

KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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****NEW MONTHLY FEATURE** FEBRUARY ADOPTIONS-- "FUR-EVER HOMES" found for: Raven, Mischa, Simon, Bill, Shadow, Ella, Patrick, Vanna, Greyson, Holly, and Lizzie. Woohoo!!**



Did you know...a cat has 244 bones in its body. Nearly 20 of these are in the tail, which allows the tail to make so many movements.

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.