

CFSA Informer

ISSUE 5
CHRISTMAS ISSUE

DECEMBER 2013

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SAFETY CORNER



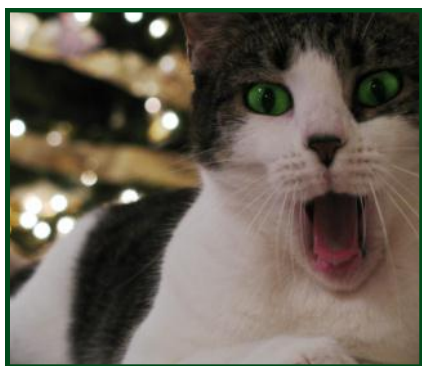
For this special Christmas edition, we are replacing the "HEALTH CORNER", with a "SAFETY CORNER"

"You can take the cat out of the jungle, but you can't take the jungle out of the cat."

Indeed, it almost seems like our cats' wild ancestry hard-wires them to interact with trees. It's little wonder that when we bring a tree into our house, it proves to be a source of infinite fascination for our felines.

We usually don't stop there, either: We make the extra effort of hanging these wonderfully attractive jingling cat toys decorations all over them.

It's little wonder that these trees become cat magnets the moment they're put up.



Chewing on the Tree and Paraphernalia

Some cats just love chewing on stuff. When it comes to the Christmas tree, branches and needles seem to be a favorite item on the menu for many a feline.

Real pine needles can be toxic to cats, and even plastic ones can hurt the cat's digestive system.



Trees are often sprayed with fire retardants which could be harmful if ingested in large amounts. Chewing on the lights and any electric cords is very dangerous as well.



What You Can Do?

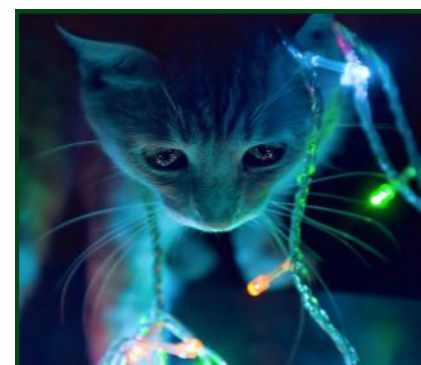
If possible, opt for a plastic tree. Plastic pine needles are less harmful if ingested and they are less likely to fall off the tree on their own. If you have a real tree, water it properly to prevent it from drying out and excessively shedding its needles. Unplug the lights and any electric appliances when not in use or during the night

when you cannot monitor your cat's interaction with the tree.



HOT TIP!

Place some orange peels around the base of the tree or spray the lower branches and electric cords with bitter apple spray. Some cats can be repelled by the scents and stay away from the tree (or will at least avoid chewing on it).



Christmas Tree Decorations

Christmas ornaments and tinsel can seem like toy-heaven to your kitty, yet they are very unsafe.

Some cats love playing with tinsel, yet if swallowed it can literally cut through their

SAFETY CORNER



For this special Christmas edition, we are replacing the "HEALTH CORNER", with a "SAFETY CORNER"

intestines or create a blockage.

The same is true of the string or hooks used to hang ornaments with. Fragile ornaments that get smashed on the floor become dangerous glass shards with the potential to hurt paws and human feet alike.



What You Can Do?

Avoid decorating the lower branches of the tree. Avoid using tinsel on your tree. If you must have some, keep it way up where your cat is less likely to reach it. Opt for durable ornaments rather than glass balls and other fragile decorations.

Watering a Live Tree

The water in the tree stand can be hazardous to your cat. The tree itself secretes toxins into the water, and as if that's not enough, many people add preservatives to the water, aspirin being a common choice, that are just as toxic to cats, if not more so.

What You Can Do?

Opt for a plastic tree that doesn't need watering. If you have a live tree, make

sure the water is not accessible to your cat by covering it tightly. Keep your cat away from the base of the tree by spraying the area with bitter apple spray.

The Tree's Stability

Most cats try to climb the tree at some point or another, or at the very least use it as a scratching post.



A regular tree stand may not be able to support the weight of a cat, or hold up against a well-aimed charge, and you may end up returning to a toppled over tree with the decorations shattered or strewn around the home.



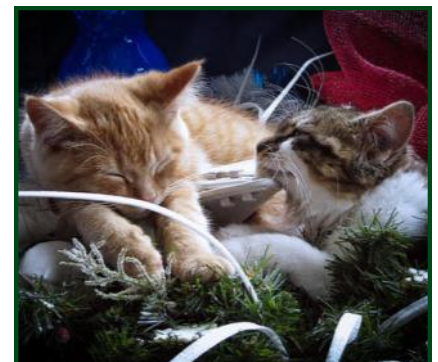
What You Can Do?

Secure the tree, either to the ceiling, a nearby wall or the floor. Our article Cats

and Christmas - Tips for Cat Owners has some ideas, along with diagrams, on how to keep your tree stable and secure.

Play it safe!

What measures need to be taken in your home is for you to figure out, depending on the temperament of your own cat. Some people choose not to have a Christmas tree because of their cats; others choose not to have any ornaments on the tree, or avoid electric lights and tinsel; and many simply keep ornaments off the lower branches. If this is your cat's first Christmas with a tree, make sure all interactions are supervised until you identify all possible risks and address them.



CHEF'S CORNER:

FESTIVE DINNER IDEAS



FESTIVE-FELINE SURPRISE

Makes 1 Serving

A delicious combination of goodies that your feline friend would love; low in salt and fat, containing only the best things for your cat.

Ingredients

- 56g cooked turkey giblets, ground or finely minced (liver, heart, neck meat, gizzard)
- **See note***
- 28g cooked rice
- 14g of raw, grated carrot
- 14g chopped Spinach (or one cube of Frozen Spinach thawed)
- 1 tsp fish oil

Instructions

1. Heat the fish oil in a skillet.
2. Add the ground giblets, rice, carrot and spinach.
3. Cook and stir over low to Medium heat (until heated through and the vegetables are soft).
4. Remove from the heat and allow to cool to room temperature, before serving.

* Note *

Cover the giblets with cold water, bring to a boil and then simmer for several hours the day before Christmas, this will turn into a flavored broth to make gravy with.



JOYOUS CAT TREAT

1 BATCH OF COOKIES

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup of Milk
- 3 Slices of meat OR 2 veggies OR 4 crab sticks
- 1 Egg
- 1/2 cup of flour

Instructions

1. Mix all the ingredients together.
2. Use a cookie cutter to cut into interesting shapes.
3. Bake at 180°C, until golden brown.
4. Allow to cook down.
5. Serve to your cat as a treat.



"EGGNOG FOR CATS"

HOT TIP 1

The following recipes are perfect for emergency kitten formula!

In a pinch, the Cornell Book of Cats says that human baby formula can be used if made up to double the normal Strength (human baby formula is normally not nutritious enough for kittens).

As with the below formulas, please remember that any emergency formula should only be used until regular Feline Replacement Formula (such as KMR or Just Born) can be purchased at the pet store.

None of these are nutritionally complete for the long term health of a kitten.



CHEF'S CORNER:

FESTIVE DINNER IDEAS

Formula #1

- 1 quart whole goat's milk
- 1 teaspoon light Karo / Corn syrup
- 1 tablespoon non-fat plain yogurt (goat's milk preferred)
- 1 egg yolk
- Unflavored gelatin:
 - * Newborn-1 week 1 p/kg
 - * 2nd week 1 1/2 - 2 p/kg
 - * 3rd week 2 1/2 - 3 p/kg
 - * 4th week 4 pkgs

Instructions

Put goat's milk in saucepan, add gelatin in the amount above depending on the kitten's age. Heat goat's milk/gelatin mixture just until gelatin is dissolved. Remove from heat. Mix in remaining ingredients and refrigerate. It will keep up to one week. Heat to skin test temperature and feed kittens.

Formula #2

- 230g homogenized whole milk
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon salad oil
- 1 drop liquid pediatric vitamins (optional)

Instructions

- Mix well and warm before using.
- Keep refrigerated.

Formula #3

- 1 part boiled water to 5 parts evaporated milk
- 1/2 teaspoon bone meal per 460g fluid

Instructions

Mix well, refrigerate, warm before using .

Formula #4

- 1 can Evaporated Milk
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tablespoons Karo / Corn syrup

Mix well, refrigerate, warm before using .

* PLEASE NOTE *

Recipes 2, 3 and 4 should be mixed well and kept in tightly sealed jar in fridge.

At feeding time mix 1/2 of the estimated feeding amount with:

Equal amount of boiling water (once a day mix 1 drop of human infant liquid vitamins in each kitties formula).

HOT TIP 2

If your cat is constipated, add 1 drop of vegetable oil to each kitties formula no more than once daily till problem is eased.

Remember to test the temperature before feeding (the combination of boiling water and chilled formula should be just about right).



MUSIC CORNER

TOP 5 CHRISTMAS CAROLS

5. Have yourself a **FURRY** little Christmas
4. I saw Mommy **HISS** at Santa **CLAWS**
3. **FLUFFY**, the snowman
2. Jingle **BALLS**

And the Number 1 Greatest Cat Christmas Carol of all times ...

1. **WRECK** the halls

CAT TOY BELLS



Dashing through the house,
And Jumping high and low,
We chase a cat nip mouse,
As fast as we can go.

The mouse is old and worn,
And we bit off it's tail,
What fun to rip the stuffing out,
And leave a catnip trail!

Chorus:
Oh, cat toy bells, cat toy bells,
Ringing loud and clear,
Oh, what fun, to play and pounce
When Christmas time is here!

I found a fuzzy ball,
That jingled when it bounced,
I rolled it down the hall,
And when it stopped I pounced.

The ball stayed where it lay,
I'd tired it out at last,
And then it tried to get away,
But I was much too fast!

WRECK THE HALLS



Wreck the halls and steal the ribbons
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Christmas time's such fun for kittens
Fa la la la la, la la la la



We like to help you with the wrapping
Fa la la la la, la la la la
No fair do it when we're napping
Fa la la la la, la la la la



So many gifts beneath the tree
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Is there a present just for me
Fa la la la la, la la la la



Rip the wrap to sneak a peek
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Is it a fuzzy toy I seek
Fa la la la la, la la la laaaaaaa ...



LIGHTHEARTED CORNER:

New Year Resolution (*"anonymous feline"*)

- My human will never let me eat her pet hamster, and I am at peace with that.
- I will not puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has finished watching a horror movie.
- I will not slurp fish food from the surface of the aquarium.
- I must not help myself to Q-tips, and I must certainly Not proceed to stuff them down the sink's drain.
- I will not eat large numbers of assorted bugs, then come home and puke them up so the humans can see that I'm getting plenty of roughage.
- I will not lean way over to drink out of the tub, fall in, and then pelt right for the box of clumping cat litter. (It took FOREVER to get the stuff out of my fur.)
- I will not stand on the Bathroom counter, stare down the hall, and growl at NOTHING after my human has finished watching the X-Files.
- I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for a late-night snacks.
- I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare into her eyes until she wakes up.
- We will not play Herd of Thundering Wildebeests stampeding across the plains of the Serengeti over any humans' bed while they're trying to sleep.
- Screaming at the can of food will not make it open itself.
- I cannot leap through closed windows to catch birds outside. If I forget this and bonk my head on the window and fall behind the coach in my attempt, I will not up and do the same thing again.
- I will not assume the patio door is open when I race outside to chase leaves.
- I will not intrude on my human's candle-lit bubble bath and singe my bottom.
- I will not stick my paw into any container to see if there is something in it. If I do, I will not hiss and scratch when my human has to shave me to get the rubber cement out of my fur.
- If I bite the cactus, it will bite back.
- When it rains, it will be raining on all sides of the house. It is not necessary to check every door.
- Birds do not come from the bird feeder. I will not knock it down and try to open it up to get the birds out.
- The dog can see me coming when I stalk her. She can see me and will move out of the way when I pounce, letting me smash into floors and walls. That does not mean I should take it as a personal insult when my humans sit there and laugh.
- I will not play "dead cat on the stairs" while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days, it will really come true.
- When the humans play darts, I will not leap into the air and attempt to catch them.
- I will not swat my human's head repeatedly when she's on the family room floor trying to do sit ups.
- When my human is typing at the computer, her forearms are *not* a hammock.
- Computer and TV screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail.
- I am a walking static generator. My human doesn't need my help installing a new board in her computer.



SEASONAL CORNER 1:

CHRISTMAS Tips!

Although some cats may remain calm throughout Christmas, for the most part kittens and young cats, react because this is an exciting time. Their natural urge to explore is in high gear and the unusual activity of the house can also affect them.

The decorated tree you worked so hard to achieve must look like toy heaven to your cat. You will be hard-pressed to stop her from exploring the tree - so instead, here are some tips to make that tree cat-safe.

You can do this several different ways:

- **Make your Christmas tree as stable as possible.** Chances are your cat will try to climb all over it sooner than later. Make sure that the base of the tree is heavier than the top, even after all the decorations are hanging from those branches! Read this article through for more technical information.
- **If you have a live tree, never let your cat drink from the water in the tree stand.** Most people use aspirin or special chemicals to help preserve the tree and these can be deadly for cats! Even if you use pet safe preservatives, the tree itself releases Toxic sap into the water, so you'd need to cover the water altogether and make it inaccessible to pets. You can also spray around the center of the tree skirt with lemon scented air freshener to deter your cat from wandering too close.
- **Avoid using tinsel, strings and hooks as part of your tree decorations.** All are extremely dangerous to cats if swallowed. Fragile ornaments can be dangerous. Glass shreds on the carpet are a safety hazard to humans as well as felines - so keep all breakable ornaments out of your cat's reach.
- **Christmas foliage can be toxic!** Holly, mistletoe, poinsettias, ivy and Christmas roses, as well as the Christmas tree itself are all harmful to pets. Holly and mistletoe can be fatal. Poinsettias and ivy bring on bad digestive upset and pine needles when swallowed can pierce internal organs. Try not to use ornamental plants or keep them well out of reach. Spray the lower branches of the tree with anti-chew plant spray. Sweep up any dead needles lying about and always be vigilant.
- **Remember candles though festive are a danger!** If you burn candles, do so safely. A curious swish of a tail, can cause a burning candle to dump over and disaster can result. Inquisitive cats can burn their nose, ears paws or tail getting too close to a flame. Instead of spending the Holidays with your family, then you might end up spending it with your vet!
- **Christmas can be very stressful for some cats.** All the changes in the decoration, having guests over or simply changing the familiar routine can bring on anxiety in your cat. Make sure you don't neglect her. Spend at least 15-20 minutes a day with her, grooming and playing interactive games. If you're having guests, your cat has to maintain some privacy in the house. Be sure the litter pan and the feeding area are far enough away from the festivities, so as not to disrupt her normal habits.
- **Rich Christmas food is not good for your cat!** Make sure your cat keeps to her regular diet and doesn't feast on Christmas delicacies. Most of the foods we love are bad for cats and may cause up



SEASONAL CORNER 1:

CHRISTMAS Tips!

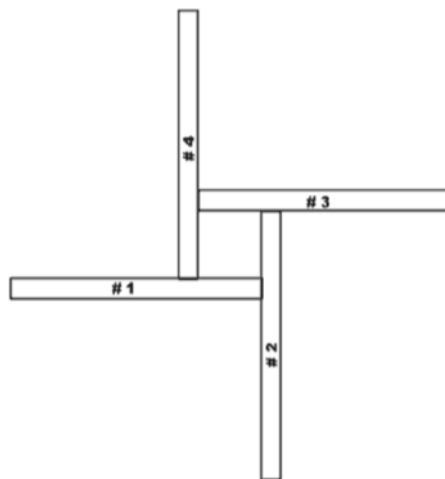
set stomach, vomiting and diarrhea. Instruct your visitors and guests not to feed your animals without your permission.

- **Never give a kitten or a puppy as a Christmas gift!** Let all your friends know that this is not an acceptable gift under any circumstance. To many cute kittens and puppies who begin their lives as Christmas gifts, end them shortly afterwards in the local shelter or on the streets. Getting a cat or a dog is a life-long commitment that should receive the special consideration it warrants.

Some technical tips on how to have a kitty proof stable Christmas Tree:

One-way is to take four boards 2x4's or similar. If your tree is three feet in diameter then you want to make the base 4 feet across. You want to make the base wider than the tree is in diameter. If the diameter of the trunk is 4 inches (the trunk not the tree or the limbs), you want to end up with a hole where the four boards will overlap and you want the hole to be 4 inches in diameter.

- Place Board #1 on a flat surface.
- Take Board #2 place the end of Board #2 against the side of Board #1 so it overlaps 4 inches.
- In other words one board will stick out 4 inches then the other board.
- Take Board #3 place the end of Board #3 against the side of Board #2 approx. 4 inches from board #1.
- Now take Board #4 and place the end of it against the side of board #3 and



resting it against board #1 (are you getting board yet?)

Fasten these together with screws or nails. Now you should have four boards sticking out with a 4-inch hole in the middle. The hole in the middle is where the trunk of the tree goes, and that gets fastened with screws or nails. Cover the four boards with a decorative cloth.

Now this is a system that can't be used if you have a tree stand with water in it. If you have a tree stand, you need to figure out how to angle the boards to allow for the stand. Someone who is crafty in your life can help you there.

Another (easier) alternative is to hang a swag hook on the ceiling over the tree.

Take fishing line and wrap the top of the branch securely with the line, then run it up to the hook and tie it off tightly. The fishing line stays virtually invisible and does not detract from the beauty of the tree.

The tree stays snug in one place and if kitty crawls up, the tree will sway but not topple.



SEASONAL CORNER 2:

Is your cat afraid of FIREWORKS ?

Firework phobia can develop in pets that have previously not been afraid of noises. This can happen if there has been a bad experience, such as standing too close to a firework going off, or just a gradual increase in fear each year.

Some older cats and dogs suddenly start becoming afraid of noises, perhaps because they do not feel as able to get away from the noises, or because they are hearing them differently due to age-related hearing loss.

When firework noise starts does your pet:

Shake, salivate or mess in the house?

Howl, hiss or bark?

Become destructive?

Try to hide or even run away?

Become more scared the longer the noise goes on?

Remain afraid long after the noise has stopped?

When your pet gets very old, the total loss of hearing may mean that they are suddenly unafraid of the fireworks for the first time in years.

However, don't wait for old age to solve this problem. Most pets with firework phobia experience worsening signs every year.

There are many ways you can Help your pet to cope with firework noise.

Herbal treatment has no side-effects and can be safely given to cats and dogs of all ages, EXCEPT

pregnant or lactating females.

** As always, we recommend that you discuss the treatment with your Veterinarian first **

The medicinal herbs Scullcap and Valerian help relieve anxiety, nervousness and excitability in pets. These herbs can be given one week before firework night and continued for as long as needed, until the firework season has stopped. If your pet has become very stressed in the past, it is often useful to start this treatment earlier - anywhere between 10 days and 3 weeks, depending on how severely affected they have been.

Don't panic if you have not left a lot of time to prepare as you can still give these herbs on the day of the fireworks and they should still help your pet.

The dosage of this kind of herbal medicine is according to your pet's weight. Dogs and cats need 1 tablet for every 5kg they weigh.

We recommend the dose is split morning and night. So if your pet weighs 10kg, they will need 2 Tablets 1 is given in the morning and 1 at night.

You can give double this amount when the fireworks are at their worst, giving the second dose 2 hours before dusk and this double dose can be given for as long as it is necessary in perfect safety.

Also of benefit is liquid Valerian, which acts in around 30 minutes when given by mouth.

It is particularly suitable for cats, who will take this in their food, into their mouth or will lick it off their paw.

A few drops placed on bedding can also help calm your cat. This form of Valerian is ideal for dogs too. It can be given in addition to Scullcap and Valerian tablets as a top-up for especially scary moments, even if you are already using the higher dosage of tablets.

For cats, a few drops on bedding and a further ¼ teaspoonful by mouth or in food, when fireworks are severe.

So now you can help your pet relax safely and naturally!

Dorwest sells many herbal and homeopathic medicines, like Scullcap and Valerian.

You can visit their web site here:

www.dorwest.co.za



SERIOUS CORNER 1:

Potential STRESSORS for cats



THE ULTIMATE CHECKLIST

Stress is a word we often use in our daily lives, usually meaning a sense of being worried about something, sometimes to the point of feeling overwhelmed. We worry about our health, our loved ones, money issues, getting stuck in traffic... it's a long list indeed.

But what about our cats?

What stresses out our cats and how does that stress affect them?

Stress is closely associated with change. All living beings aim at achieving a stable existence where its needs are provided. This is called homeostasis - a state of equilibrium.

Various pressures, either from the outside world, or from within our own body or mind, can all interfere with this sense of balance and produce stress.

The effects of stress can be both physical and psychological. Change is always threatening at some level. Even positive change. It triggers the body's fight-or-flight mechanism, causing the release of adrenal hormones.

WHAT CAUSES STRESS?

Stressors, or causes of stress, can be

tricky to identify. It is the perception of threat, rather than an objective level of threat, that causes stress.

Therefore, something may cause stress in one individual, human or feline, and not in another.

Some cats are just more prone to stress, being more sensitive to changes and disturbances in their environment. These cats tend to see potential threats everywhere.

Psychologists have lists of potential causes of stress in people. Generally speaking, these lists include two types of stressors, namely:

1. Events

Either positive ones such as engagement and marriage, the birth of a child, or moving to a new home, or negative events such as getting a divorce, losing one's job or a death in the family.

2. Chronic stressors

Things you have to deal with on a regular basis. Dealing with a difficult boss, teenage kids, or a noisy environment

can create a constant level of stress that can eventually take its toll.

WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF STRESS?

All living beings are affected by stress and cats are no exception. In the long term, constant elevated stress levels can be harmful. In humans, they are associated with depression, a weaker immune system and even cancer. It's likely that stress has a similar effect on cats.

Reports indicate that stress can trigger or exacerbate medical conditions such as FLUTD, asthma, skin allergies, stomatitis, pancreatitis, inflammatory bowel disease, liver inflammation and even FIP.

Behavioral problems are a common result of increased stress levels. They can be fairly quick responses to acute stress, or develop over time. Practically any change in the cat's behavior, and any reported behavior problem, can have its roots in

increased stress levels. This is why a cat behaviorist's detective work includes figuring out the stressors in a cat's life.

WHAT CAUSES STRESS IN CATS?

Stress patterns can be complex. For example, a disease can be caused, at least in part, by elevated stress levels, but it can also be a stressor in its own right.

When evaluating the con-



SERIOUS CORNER 1:

Potential STRESSORS for cats



dition of a cat, especially when dealing with behavioral problems, it's important to go over the list of potential stressors and identify the ones that may be at the root of the problem.

Only by addressing these stressors, can we achieve a long-term solution to the problem. Just remember to look into potential medical problems first.

Here's a list of potential stressors in a cat's life. Some of these are unavoidable; others may be changes with a long-term positive outcome.

Either way, they cause stress to your cat and you should be aware of that. Even if your cat is relatively "stress-resistant", stressors can add up and create a stress overload, eventually bringing on behavioral and health problems.

Physical

- A visit to the vet or being hospitalized
- New medication (physiological effects)
- Vision and/or hearing loss (sometimes gradual)
- Being medicated (aversion to being pillled)
- Chronic or acute pain
- Physical trauma
- Parasites
- Surgery
- De-clawing
- De-worming
- Flea/tick treatments
- An illness
- Going into heat
- Pregnancy

- Wearing an E-collar (the "cone")
- Lactating
- Getting a bath
- Getting a haircut

Diet

- Change in type of food
- Weight loss diet and limiting food
- Nutritional deficiencies or an unbalanced diet
- Thirst or hunger

Litter boxes

- Not enough Litter boxes (having to "wait")
- Dirty litter box
- A change in type of litter
- A change in litter box type
- A change in the location of the litter box

Environment

- Moving to a new home
- Renovating or remodeling the house, changing the decor

- Loud noises like :
 - thunderstorms
 - **FIREWORKS**
 - Construction
 - dogs barking, etc.
- Change in seasons and Daylight Saving Time
- Confinement to a single room or crates and carriers
- Limiting access to rooms in the house
- Strong odors
- Starting to wear a collar
- Being adopted
- Living in a shelter
- Traveling
- Being boarded
- Getting lost
- Change in daily routine
- House too hot or too cold

- **LOUD music or television** (e.g. **Christmas or New Year's Parties**)

- Surprises and "booby traps"
- Scary cat toys
- Earthquakes
 - Extreme weather conditions.
 - Not enough physical activity.
 - Sudden change in levels of physical activity



SERIOUS CORNER 1:

Potential STRESSORS for cats



- Boredom and lack of stimuli
- Not enough options to climb
- Harassment and/or attacks by a dog or another pet
- New pet in the household
- Participating in a cat show

Relationship with People

- New baby in the house
- A death in the family
- Guests in the house (e.g. **Christmas or New Year's Parties**)
- New roommates or roommates leaving
- Owner starting a new job
- New spouse
- Family member leaving the household (going to college etc.)
- Physical abuse by children or adults
- Being shouted at
- Being punished in any way
- Aggressive play with human
- Stress in humans
- Training of any kind (harness, use of toilet etc.).
- Excessive petting or attention
- Too little attention

Relationship with Other Cats

- Introduction to new cat

- (especially when not done right)
- Food rivalry - having to compete with other cats during mealtime
- General rivalry with other cats in same household
- Sounds of cat fighting/howling
- Harassment and attacks by another cat or cats, especially when using the litter Box
- Unknown cats showing up near the home
- Smell of another cat's territorial urine marking

PRECAUTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S

1. Keep you pets **INSIDE** before the New Year's festivities begin. Close them up in their favourite room in the house

2. Close the windows and doors
3. Maybe put on calming music for them to drown out the loud noises of fireworks, strangers laughing, screaming, shouting, etc.
4. Spray the room with Feliway "Comfort Zone Spray", or use the Feliway "Comfort Zone Diffuser" (available from larger veterinarian practices)
5. Give them natural calming tablets, like Scullcap and Valerian

(available from Dorwest - www.dorwest.com) or Bach Rescue Remedy for pets (available from Dischem - www.bachrescueremy.co.za)

The Straight-Talkers



SERIOUS CORNER 2:

Cats as "GIFTS"



Holiday seasons often prompt pet lovers to spread furry love around and give pets as gifts.

It can be done, BUT there are some pitfalls to avoid to ensure the fur-kid gets a home for life, and his new human parents welcome him unconditionally.

Cupid's fickle arrow works best when the individual person and potential pet meet face to face. What strikes your fancy may leave Uncle Felix cold. Even if he's begged for an Abyssinian cat for decades, let HIM choose.

The time, the place, the person, and the cat must be right for love to bloom into a lifetime commitment.

And just because you think that your grandma needs the company, she may have other plans, such as traveling to visit all the grandkids.

A new kitten that wreaks havoc amongst granny's fine china won't win you points.

Busy new parents may love pets, but have other demands that take priority.

Parents Giving Cats as Gifts

Children delight in fluffy kittens for a birthday surprise or on Christmas morning. Kids and cats make great friendships but kitty can't be shoved under the bed and forgotten when the latest video game has more appeal.

Remember-even if Fluffy is for the kids, the ADULT ultimately holds

responsibility for the well-being of the pet.

Before you put a bow around that furry neck, ask yourself these questions.

Will the child's parents have the time to spend the one-on-one attention a new pet needs, and deserves?

Will the gift recipient have the time, ability, and funds to care for the cat over the next 10 to 20 years? (Yes, some lucky cats live that long!)

What if the kids, your spouse, Aunt Ethel, or a best friend have made it clear they want a pet, are prepared for the responsibility, and feel ready RIGHT NOW to welcome a furry loved one in their life?

You're sure, and so are they. What can you do? Use this checklist as a map to finding the perfect kitty.

Choosing the "Gift-Cat"

AGE Matters!

Does the child want a playmate, or is a purring lap-sitting couch potato Grandma's perfect pet?

Kittens take more work including kitten-proofing the home but are more active and may be a good choice for youngsters.

Adopting adult cats means the personality is known-maybe the prospective kitty already gets along well with other cats or dogs, or likes grandkids.

Senior cats are more sedate, usually already spayed or neutered, and are a known quantity.

An older human might fear a young cat would outlive their ability to care for it, so a middle aged kitty could be the right match.

PERSONALITY Matters!

A shy kitty won't do well with a busy household that has lots of guests, but could be a great choice as an "only" pet and blossom with one-on-one attention.

Certain breeds like Siamese are known for talking a lot, Somali cats swing from the drapes, and Bengals enjoy playing in the bathtub.

Research to know what the recipient really wants as a match to lifestyle and their own personality.

CARE Matters!

Kittens and old cats require the most care, and that can involve added cost. Healthy adult cats in their prime certainly need routine exams but will be the least expensive to adopt.

SOURCE Matters!

If you want a pedigreed kitty, cat shows offer the best opportunity to meet



SERIOUS CORNER 2:

Cats as "GIFTS"



breeders, learn about specific behavior foibles and care issues.

Reputable breeders interview prospective buyers to be sure their cats have good homes for life, and sometimes place retired adult show cats in new homes. These breeders can be a great resource to help your new kitty fit into your home. Adopting from shelters and rescue groups saves a cat's life which is a "bonus" gift at this time of year.

Fund the Gift-Cat

Once you're in the furry ballpark of age, breed, and source, contact the professional cattery, shelter, and/or rescue organization and explain the situation. Ask them to conspire with you--arrange to place a deposit, or fund the adoption FOR the recipient, with the pet to be chosen later!

Then create a gift certificate explaining this special surprise, and have that ready to present on the big day. You can have the fun of accompanying the person later, when they choose their own furry wonder.

Wrap the Cat Gift (but not literally!)

Create a "pet care package" that contains all the must-haves for the new family member.

Fill a basket with treats, food, cat litter, training and

grooming equipment, and lots of appropriate toys.

Don't forget to include a book or two about kitty care and behavior or other fun information.

People who already have a special cat or dog also always appreciate a pet care package. And to top it all off, include that gift certificate you've created--and be prepared for the wonderful smiles!

Holidays tend to be hectic times when normal routines go out the window. Whether a baby, adult or senior rescue cat, new animals need the stability of knowing what to expect.

Following this guide to giving cats as gifts allows the recipient to choose their pet, and the timing to bring kitty home.

If folks can manage this over the holidays (summer break from school is ideal) more power to them! In fact, some holiday schedules may allow new owners to be home more during this time to help the new kitty adjust.

Article courtesy of, *About.com Cats*
www.cats.about.com



Please be a responsible person. A cat or kitten is a living creature; NOT a present. Most presents are discarded after Christmas. Cats and kittens are no different.

Please consider that a cat or kitten is for LIFE - a long-term commitment, which cannot be made on behalf of somebody else!

We leave you with the poem:

"The Christmas Kitten" (Author Unknown)

I once was a cuddly kitten,
But now I am a stray,
'Cause when I was no longer fluffy,
They sent me on my way.
They've kept their big watchdog,
As he can bark and growl,
But I could fly at strangers,
If I caught them on the prowl.
I slink around their garbage can;
I mew outside their door;
But it's clear from their behaviour,
They don't want me anymore.
Now I'm cold and hungry,
And getting very thin,
What have I done to hurt them,
Why won't they let me in?
I crouch in sheds and boxes,
In my bedraggle fur,
So shivery and dejected,
I cannot even purr
They have another kitten,
Their children's whole delight;
But probably next Christmas,
It will share my wretched plight.

The Straight-Talkers

OFFICIAL CORNER 1:

Breeder Ethics

We sometimes forget that "New" pet owners are not always aware of all the do's and don'ts - so maybe it is time to address some issues.

When you are a CFSA Registered Breeder you should and must register all litters that you breed -

- You cannot decide to only register some of your litters or only part of a litter.
- You cannot sell kittens as a Registered Breeder when they are not registered, irrespective of the fact that they may not be show or breeding cats.

The practice of selling kittens that are not registered even if the parents are registered are the same as **backyard breeding** and as a matter of fact are indeed what most backyard breeders do, is to buy registered cats and then breed and sell them.

We as breeders tend to forget that the public has very little knowledge of the cat world in general and what may seem obvious to us is not so obvious to them.

The Cat Fancy in SA has come a long way in educating the public primarily through the media and it is indeed a feather in all our caps that in recent years most people make use of the technology available to them (Search engines, web sites, etc.).

However advising people to enquire from the Registering Authority whether a person or Cattery is indeed registered is not enough!

For example:

Someone phone the Registrar's Office or look on the web site to see if a Breeder/Cattery is registered. Having satisfied themselves that the breeder/cattery is registered they go ahead and acquire a kitten from the breeder.

In reality this is sometimes not enough - the website or even the Registrar's office can only confirm if said cattery is Registered with CFSA; the Registrar CANNOT guarantee that the kitten that they are interested in is indeed registered ... for this they will need to get the registration details from the breeder and then validate that with the Registrar.

Now it is of course very possible that at the time the new owner enquires about the kitten it may as yet not have been registered, in which case it is almost always advisable for new owners to before they take the kitten home insist on receiving the Registration Certificate or at the very least ensure that the breeder has indeed submit the Application for Registration to the Registrar's Office.

Breeders have the responsibility to ensure that before a kitten leaves their

home the Application for Registration has been submitted to the Registrar.

Most, if not all of us, are indeed aware of the fact that people frequently buy kittens from registered breeders, who do not register all their cats.

CFSA Breeders do NOT have the right to "retain" pedigrees until the new owner have neuter/spay the kitten. It is against our Rules. Rather practice ENS.

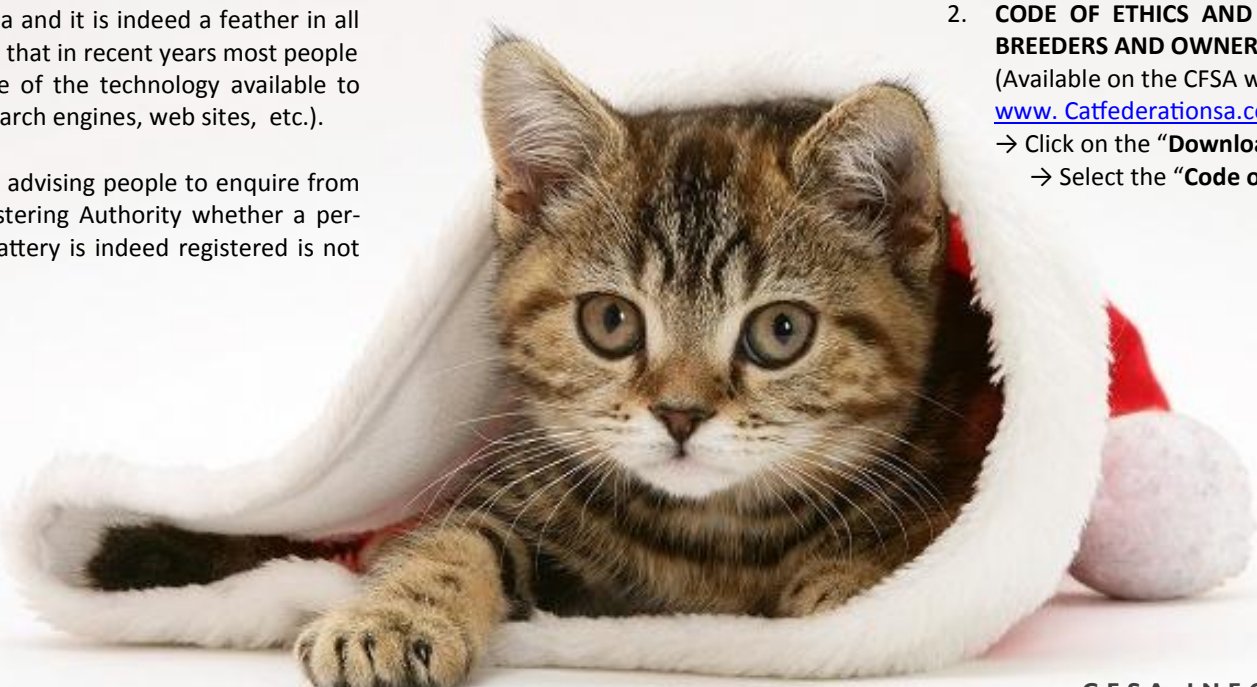
Certificates MUST be handed over with the cat on change of ownership - this is printed on every pedigree issued by the CFSA Registrar!

Written by, NCR (National Cat Register)
Daniel Germishuys

IMPORTANT

Please familiarise yourself with the following official CFSA documents:

1. **RULES PERTAINING TO REGISTERED BREEDERS**
(Available on the CFSA web site)
www.Catfederationsa.co.za
→ Click on the "Download" tab
→ Select the "Breeder Rules" link
2. **CODE OF ETHICS AND RULES FOR BREEDERS AND OWNERS**
(Available on the CFSA web site)
www.Catfederationsa.co.za
→ Click on the "Download" tab
→ Select the "Code of Ethics" link



2014 SHOW DATES



JANUARY

TO DO:
Unpack grooming "stuff"

GetREADY

FEBRUARY

TO DO:
Submit FFC Entries!
1 CFSA AGM

GetREADY

MARCH

8 FFC (single JHB)
15 CCC (single PTA)

IT'S SHOWTIME

APRIL

26 NCS (double Boksburg)

IT'S SHOWTIME

MAY

10 KZNCC (double DBN)
31 FFC (double JHB/PTA)

IT'S SHOWTIME

JUNE

21 CCC (single PTA)

IT'S SHOWTIME

JULY

26 FFC (single JHB/PTA)

IT'S SHOWTIME

AUGUST

2 KZNCC (double DBN)
16 NCS (single Boksburg)

IT'S SHOWTIME

SEPTEMBER

27 COTY / GARS

IT'S SHOWTIME

OCTOBER

11 KZN TOPCAT

IT'S SHOWTIME

NOVEMBER

TO DO:
Unpack baby "stuff"!

TIME TO
RELAX!

DECEMBER

TO DO:
Happy holidays!

TIME TO
RELAX!



OFFICIAL CORNER 2



CATTERY RENEWAL INFORMATION

The 2014 renewal forms and information were sent to all members on 20 December 2014, so please check your e-mail!

Please note!

The deadline for Cattery Renewals have been extended to **31 March 2014**

Registration fees for 2014 will remain unchanged, with the following exceptions:

- Transfer of a kitten/cat older than 6-months
⇒ R 35-00
- Breeder contact details on CFSA web site
⇒ R 75-00
- Cattery re-activation fee
⇒ R150-00

All queries must be directed to the Registrar and will be attended to from 7 January 2014.

ONLY EFT payments will be accepted!



*** IMPORTANT ***

The Registrar's Office will be closed for the Festive Season, from **13 December 2013** to **6 January 2014**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



OFFICIAL CORNER 3



ELECTION OF CFSA EXCO

In accordance with the Constitution of the Cat Federation of Southern Africa, nominations for the positions of Chairperson and Secretary have been called for.

2 Nominations have been received for the position of Chairperson:

- Daniël Germishuys
- Etrechia Bester

1 Nomination has been received for the position of Secretary:

- Wilma Hyman

In accordance with the CFSA Constitution, the nominations have been found acceptable by the sitting Executive Committee of CFSA.

The term of office shall be four years and they shall be eligible for re-election.

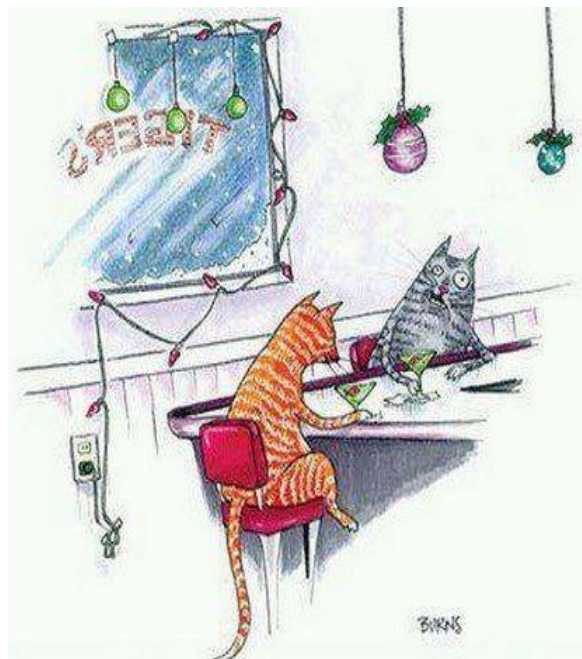
Should you have any objections to the Executive Committee's decision in this regard, the objection can be lodged at the Annual General Meeting and a two thirds majority vote of the members shall be required to overrule the objection.

*** SPECIAL OFFER ***

CFSA is offering white steel cages (previously used at shows) for sale.

The price per cage is R50-00, which is (pardon the pun) a real "steal".

Kindly forward inquiries to cfsasec@gmail.com



"So they bring a tree in the house and put all these shiny, dangling things on it; and then they freak out if I go near it! ... this is why I drink!"





From everybody at CFSA,

We would like to thank every member of CFSA for their loyal support during 2013.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

Keep safe and we look forward to seeing you all in 2014!

