



# MEWSLETTER

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It has been a year since we started the Jonny Cat Club and what a great year we've had! There are over 1,500 members enrolled and the Club is still growing!!!

We're now an international club with members as far away as Hong Kong. Isn't it nice to know that a love of cats can bring people together?

People who love cats share a common bond that crosses regions, religions, races, and political convictions. Perhaps if we treated others half as well as we treat our pets, the world would be a better place.

Speaking of things we all love, June is National Kitten Month. In its honor, Sabrina Schloss of Goleta, California sent in this interesting fact from the Grolier Encyclopedia:

*Breeding cycles of cats are controlled by sensitivity to light. At equatorial latitudes, where there are longer periods of daylight, cats may breed throughout the year and have three or four litters. In temperate latitudes, cats normally have two litters a year; one in the early spring and another in late summer. Domestic cats living under artificial light may breed at any time.*

I've learned a great deal from your letters and especially enjoy the pictures of your cats.



## Could this be an ancestor of Jonny's?

*Minnie from the Outskirts of the Village*

© 1876, by R. P. Thrall, Courtesy of the Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont

The stories you share reinforce my belief that, like people, each cat has its own personality. Some are adventurous, or sweet and shy. Others are mischievous and outgoing to a fault. And there are cats that are downright difficult at times, but we love them all.

We're always looking for ways to make the Club even better.

You can help by letting us know what interests you. Are there special features you would like to see in the Mewsletter? What benefits of the Club are the most valuable to you? Send your suggestions to Jonny's Mailbox. We'd love to hear from you.

*Betty J. Stephens*

President  
Excel-Mineral Co., Inc.



What is it about the cat that has made it a favorite subject of artists around the world? From the beginning of history, painters, sculptors, and other artisans have paid tribute to this beautiful animal.

Pottery decorated with cats has been found on archeological digs. Famous paintings of cats hang on the walls of museums. It is quite possible there are more cats in art than any other animal.

Cats play prominent roles in music, literature, and drama as well. Children sing about cats in nursery rhymes and t-shirt collectors wear them. We laugh at them in comic strips and cheer them on in movies and TV shows.

Cats are mysterious, curious, playful, and loving. They make up their own rules. It's no wonder that artists, musicians, and writers find cats so inspiring.

A cat can be a ball of fur sleeping by a fire, a hunter stalking a butterfly or a favorite pet purring in a child's lap . . . an inspiration for a work of art! 🐾

# OFF TO A GREAT ADVENTURE

Tips for traveling with feline companions

**NEVER  
Leave  
Your Cat  
in a  
Parked  
Car in  
Warm  
Weather.**



**Pets can  
suffer  
heatstroke  
even  
in cars  
parked  
in  
the shade.  
Heatstroke  
can  
be fatal.**

It's vacation time and many of us are off to new adventures accompanied by our cats. Some cats love excursions as much as people do. Others find traveling to be a real test of nerves.

## Safety First

Even the most homebound cat has to take a trip once in a while, even if it's just to the vet. Whether on an afternoon outing or a long journey, it's very important that a cat be transported safely.

A cat traveling by car should either wear a harness that is secured to the back seat or be placed in a carrier. You'll also need a carrier for airplane trips.

A carrier should be large enough for the cat to stand up and stretch out in, and it should have adequate ventilation. For air travel, a carrier must also include separate dishes for food and water which can be filled without opening the carrier.

If you are traveling by air, you may be able to bring your cat on-board with you if you ask permission in advance. To fit under the seat, your cat's carrier must be under 17" x 12" x 8".

## International Traveling

If you are traveling to another country, consult the embassy of your destination-country for any special requirements.



Cruisin' with Cool Cats

## Prevent Motion Sickness

To help avoid an upset stomach, feed your cat six to eight hours before leaving. It can drink water up to two hours before departing. On warm days give it sips of water often while traveling.

## A Matter of Record

Current vaccination and health records are often required for air travel. If you are sending your cat through extreme temperatures, you may also need a letter of recommendation from your cat's veterinarian.

**Wherever you and your feline companions go this summer, have a safe and enjoyable trip.**



You're not going to believe where Jonny took the gang for Spring Break! Picture this: The open range, the land of cowboys, fresh air, and little field mice.

That's right. True Kitty Slickers – Jonny, Ginny, and Rusty went camping. They fished in the north fork of the river, meowed around the campfire, and slept under the stars. They even helped round up some cattle.

Rusty told me that he and Jonny wouldn't have minded living as wild cats for a few more days. He claims they came home because Ginny missed her soft bed. However, over lunch the other day, Ginny told me it was Rusty who really missed the comforts of civilization.



Jonny and Ginny sure have been spending a great deal of time together.

I wonder if we will be hearing wedding bells in the near future?

Ginny assures me that she and Jonny are far from such a commitment, but we'll see.

The couple plans to spend the summer months at the local animal shelter helping with pet adoptions.

I'll tell you all about their volunteer community work in the next issue. Until then, keep on purring! 🐾

## MEMBER FORUM • Name That Cat!



Contest winner Zapper Daniel

In Meridian, Idaho, a wild, dirty kitten was chased up a power pole by three dogs. Too scared to come down, the kitten stayed on the pole for three days. Finally, Sheila

Bresnahan called an electrician who was able to avoid the wires and grab the little cat with a cherry picker. Thankful he didn't get zapped, Sheila named the kitten *Zapper Daniel*. Zapper Daniel is the winner of our "What's in a Name" contest.

If there was an award for the longest name ever given to a cat, it would go to *Foo Foo Hopping Down the River*. When Ashlee Dana was asked how her cat got its name,

she replied, "I was just a little kid at the time, and it sounded good." (Ashlee is ten years old now.)



Dumpster understands hard times.

Pamela Silva of Carson City, Nevada has nine cats, all with very meaningful names. One of our favorites is *Dumpster* – a resourceful

Siamese cat who was found in a dumpster behind the Nugget Casino.

*Taz*, short for Tasmanian Devil, got his name from the whirling dervishes he performs in car carriers. Jon Van Niel of La Jolla, California found *Taz* at a Kentucky Fried Chicken drive-thru restaurant.

Thank you to all who entered names in the contest. 🐾

## KITTY CARE



A kitten's day is spent napping, eating and of course, playing!

### Keeping Them Healthy

**A** kitten is a playful and curious pet guaranteed to give you lots of love and laughter. Here are a few pointers from the Pet Information Bureau on caring for your kitten.

#### Sleeping Like a Baby

Kittens need lots of rest to develop into healthy adult cats. Provide your kitten with a sleeping basket, equipped with a soft pillow and blanket and place the basket in a quiet spot. (However, your kitten may choose its own private sleep and play areas.)

#### Protect Your Couch

Kittens have an innate desire to sharpen their front claws regularly. Don't try to suppress this natural urge. Instead purchase a good scratching post or kitty condo.

Rub catnip or a favorite treat on a preferred surface to

encourage your kitten to use it rather than your furniture.

#### Good Food is Fresh Food

Your kitten will probably nibble frequently during the day, so keep food in its bowl at all times. Don't let the food spoil. Dishes containing canned food should be picked up after 30-60 minutes, and the dish washed thoroughly.

#### Prevent Your Kitten From Having Kittens

Kittens can become fertile as young as 5 months of age. To prevent unwanted pregnancies, most vets recommend having female kittens spayed at 6 months of age and male kittens neutered at 8 months of age.

#### Love and patience

Above all, ENJOY YOUR NEW KITTEN! 🐾

## Fabulous FRAME • UPS!



A great way to show off your cat.

**S**ave that special photo in this one-of-a-kind musical frame with a whimsical cat-decorated insert. (The insert is removable.)

With the insert, the frame will display a 3" x 5" photo; without the insert, a 5" x 7" photo.

This acrylic frame is perfect for sending or displaying that special photo, letter, greeting, or work of art. It even comes in a ready-to-wrap gift box.

The frame is available with your choice of music – "Happy Birthday" or "Home on the Range" and costs only \$9.95.

To order your frame, call (800) 423-1833. 🐾



Jonny cares about the environment as much as you do. The JONNY CAT NEWSLETTER is printed on recycled paper.



Dear Jonny's Vet,

*I tried to give my cat a bath, but it was not a very pleasant experience for either of us. Do cats really need baths?*

—All Washed Up

Dear All Washed Up:

There are several reasons to give your cat a bath; the most common is flea control. Regular bathing can also help reduce cat allergies and the amount of shedding your cat does.

Most important, NEVER GIVE A CAT A BATH IN THE KITCHEN SINK WHILE THE DISHWASHER IS RUNNING. Hot water could come up through the drain and scald your cat.

There are a few things you can do to make bath time easier. Remember to keep calm and talk reassuringly to your cat. Try singing a few of your favorite bathtime songs. If "Rubber Duckie" doesn't relax your cat, it's sure to make you smile. 🐾

## JONNY'S COUSINS The Manx

Fiametta is the beautiful red Manx pictured here. Among other awards, "Fia" was named Seventh Best Alter by Cat Fanciers Almanac in 1992. Thanks to owners Carolyn and Merle Taylor for the picture.



"Fiametta"

The Manx's name originates from the Isle of Man, known for its large population of tail-less cats. The residents of the Isle of Man are so proud of their distinctive cat, they minted a coin in its honor.

The Manx is easily recognizable. It has no tail; it has a short, rounded back; and its hind legs are longer than the forelegs, giving it a rabbit-like gait. Similar in size and

appearance to the British Shorthair, the Manx has short, dense fur which comes in a variety of colors and patterns. The cat has a stocky, muscular body with powerful legs. Its head is egg-shaped with large, round eyes and medium-sized, rounded ears.

Referred to as "Rumpy", a true pedigreed Manx has a hollow where the base of the tail should be. Manx cats

with a stub of a tail are known as "Stumpy."

Perfect for one-on-one relationships, the Manx is loyal, affectionate and soft-spoken. While somewhat of a homebody, it is an extremely active cat with lightning-quick reflexes. The Manx is a perfect breed for someone who wants an intelligent cat that likes to play. 🐾



Look us up in the phone book

**Dear Jonny,**

Just thought you might like to know that I am a Jonny Cat look-a-like and that my name appears in the Kirkland, Washington telephone book. After receiving annoying telephone

calls, my owner got an unlisted number, but eventually tired of paying \$2.00 per month for the privilege of not being listed and missing some calls when out-of-town visitors were unable to locate her number. Now I am listed, there is no fee, and people who know us well can look me up. The telephone answering machine also mentions that we, my fellow feline Sasha and I, monitor calls, but that we haven't learned how to take a message as yet.

Is there another cat out there who is in the telephone book?

-Zachary



Domino loves to shop

Domino, who lives with Peggy and Dennis Barasavich of Woodbridge, New Jersey, enjoys trips to the pet store where he helps select his favorite food and toys from a seat in the shopping cart.



Sir Paddington is Massachusetts's newest celebrity

## BABY-FACED JONNY DOUBLE A REAL CHARMER

An adorable 5-1/2 month old black and white kitten from Foxboro, Massachusetts won Grand Prize in the Jonny Cat Look-A-Like Contest held last March at the International Cat Show in New York City's Madison Square Garden.

Selected from more than 100 black and white pedigreed and household feline contestants, Sir Paddington Ryan Kelliher won the hearts of celebrity judges - Al Lewis of "The Munsters"; Arlene Dahl, star of stage and screen; Ruth

Warrick, Emmy-nominated actress and star of "All My Children"; and Tama Janowitz, best-selling author of "Slaves of New York".

Sir Paddington lives with Tricia Kelliher and Jeremy Barber. Ms. Kelliher, who works at Lifeworks in Medfield as a counselor for mentally-retarded adults said, "Sir Paddington has a very loving disposition and adores people." Jeremy Barber, a senior engineering technician at Fisher Price in Weymouth, said they adopted their kitten from the

North Attleboro Animal Shelter. As winners, they took home a \$500 cash prize, 500 pounds of Jonny Cat Premium Cat Litter, a handsome trophy and many prizes.

Sponsored by Excel-Mineral Company, Inc., (the maker of Jonny Cat Premium Products), the contest benefited P.O.W.A.R.S. (Pet Owners With Aids Resource Center).

Congratulations to Sir Paddington! 🐾

## When Mother Nature Needs a Helping Hand.

A mother cat usually needs no human help when delivering her kittens. However, there are occasions when she may need prompt medical assistance.

*Call the vet immediately if:*

1. Your cat screams in agony while trying to expel a kitten.
2. Your cat has been straining for two hours without expelling a kitten. (It's possible that a caesarean section may have to be performed because a kitten is too large to fit through the birth canal or because two kittens are blocking the canal.)
3. You notice a greenish, foul-smelling discharge (a sign of a retained placenta, retained kitten, or an infection).
4. You see profuse bleeding coming from your cat's vagina. Your cat could be hemorrhaging.

In her book CAT LOVE, Pam Johnson gives this advice: "If another kitten comes before the mother has a chance to clean up the previous one, carefully break open the birth sac with your fingers, removing it from the face first so the kitten doesn't suffocate. Wipe away any mucous from the mouth and nostrils with a cotton ball or swab. Gently rub the kitten with a soft warm towel to stimulate his breathing. If the mother fails to detach the umbilical cord, you can do it by tying a piece of dental floss or thread around the cord about one inch from the kitten's navel. With sterilized blunt-tipped scissors, cut the cord in front of the thread. Don't pull the cord."

"Of course, if the mother is doing everything normally, don't interfere," says Johnson. Unwanted assistance can actually be more stressful to your cat than helpful. Most of the time, the best thing you can do is sit back and watch. 🐾

**Send your comments, photos, and tips  
to: Jonny's Mailbox  
PO Box 6763, Santa Barbara, CA 93160  
(800) 423-1833 FAX (805) 964-3156**