

CATFLAP

Scottish Charity No.: SC026114

NEWSLETTER

Jan/Feb
2007

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 8th April - Spring Fair

Pollokshields Burgh Hall, Maxwell Park, Glasgow from 11.30am to ca. 3.30pm.

We will have all the usual stalls : home-baking, bric-a-brac, books, tombola, preserves, craft goods, etc. And - of course - the tearoom to satisfy your hunger. If you would like to come along and help, please contact Sheila or any of the Trustees.

Saturday 28th April - Annual Vet School Rodeo

Once again, CATFLAP will be attending this event, with tombola, new goods, etc.

Saturday 26th May – CATFLAP Bazaar & AGM

Shawlands Parish Church, Shawlands Cross, Glasgow 10.30am – 3pm

Stalls as above - come along and bag a bargain!

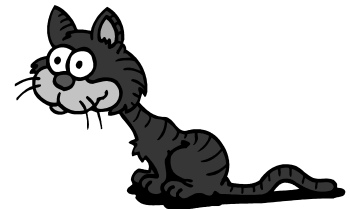
All members are invited to the CATFLAP Annual General Meeting, to take place immediately after the Bazaar. Entry is open to all paid-up members, but voting is restricted to paid-up members over the age of 18.

3 of the current Trustees are due to step down, and stand for re-election. If any other member of CATFLAP wishes to stand for election as a trustee, then - as per clause 4, para. 3 of the constitution - they require to be nominated by a minimum of 5 other members of the Charity. To prevent a conflict of interest, no member shall be eligible for Trustee status who holds a similar position with any other animal welfare charity.

Any member wishing to introduce an item for discussion/voting, including nominations, should submit it in writing to the Charity Secretary by the end of February, to allow for inclusion in the next edition of the Newsletter.

The *draft* agenda is as follows:

- Introduction of Charity officers.
- Minutes of previous AGM and matters arising.
- Election of Trustees
- Annual financial report.
- Annual administrative report.
- AOCB, including any discussion items as above.



Saturday 6th October – CATFLAP Annual Photo Show & Bazaar

Shawlands Parish Church, Shawlands Cross, Glasgow 10.30 – 3pm

Sunday 11th November - Festive Fair

Pollokshields Burgh Hall, Maxwell Park, Glasgow from 11.30am to ca. 3.30pm.

With Sympathy. . .

CATFLAP would like to extend sympathy to Elizabeth Cathcart on the recent loss of her beloved cat Leo, and dog Marra, both following illnesses. We wish Elizabeth and Graeme, and their remaining furry family all the best for the future.

HOMING FIGURES TO END DECEMBER 2006

Adults	125	Non-CATFLAP cats helped	30
Kittens	56	Lost & Found	15
Total number of cats/kittens homed since the start of CATFLAP			2744

Sheila advises that during the last couple of months we have had a number of older cats, who have taken a little longer to home, but who were otherwise at the risk of being put to sleep had CATFLAP not intervened. Also, we have had a lot of pregnant queens who remained with us until their kittens were all happily resettled.

The Joys of Public Charitable Collections (Can Rattling)

I have heard that CATFLAP will be having the opportunity to hold a collection at Braehead Retail Mall next month and thought that I could share my experience of can rattling with other CATFLAP members and by doing so encourage them to 'sign-up' for a day of fun.

Many people think "I couldn't do that" or "I would be embarrassed" but, in fact, conducting a charity collection is a most enjoyable experience. You will meet such wonderful people; you will hear such joyful stories of their pet cats and share tales of those wonderful companions now departed. Also,

- ☛ You will have the opportunity to raise very necessary funds for CATFLAP.
- ☛ You will have the opportunity to find cats in the shelter new homes.
- ☛ You will have the opportunity to recruit new CATFLAP members.

However, after many years of experience 'Can Rattling' for the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) and with Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDBA) there are a few 'tricks of the trade' that I would like to share.

1) **Smile**

Look people straight in the eye

Look at the person making the donation, not the *size* of the donation

Smile – You know you are helping homeless cats.

Don't ask for a donation – Just say "Good Morning" if they stop ask would you like to help

CATFLAP" Thank everyone who stops even if they don't donate (They frequently come back & donate)

2) **Smile - This is not scary after all**

Work in pairs if possible. This will make you more noticeable.

Stand side-by-side or back-to-back, not face-to-face. (You can have a conversation with your friend without looking at them.)

3) **Smile - You know you're having fun**

Have you got a jersey with a cat on the front? – Wear it

Have you got a cat outfit? – Wear it

Have you got face paint? – Paint whiskers on your face

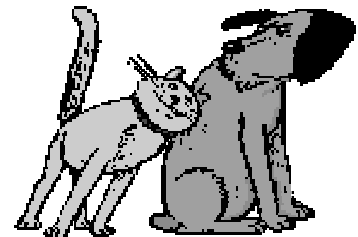
4) **Smile – Why haven't you done this before?**

If your can is getting heavy Annie will give you another

If you need a break Annie will get you a relief

You don't need to volunteer for the whole day – Just ask when you are most needed.

5) **Smile – Ask when you can volunteer for the next collection**



See you at Braehead on the 10th February !

John Veitch

TRUSTEE NEWS

Following a recent resignation, we are pleased to advise that Kerr Ross has been co-opted by the remaining Trustees to join the Board of CATFLAP. Below he tells us a little about himself.

As CATFLAP's newest trustee I have been asked to put pen to paper and tell you a little about myself.

I grew up in Golspie, a small village on the east coast of Sutherland. As both my parents came from agricultural backgrounds they instilled in me both a respect and love of animals, especially cats. I first came to Glasgow in 1975 as a student at Strathclyde University graduating in 1978. After working in Arbroath and Dundee I returned to Glasgow in 1985 to work as a Librarian at Glasgow University.

My family had a wide variety of pets over the years but there had always been at least one cat the place, often coming from rescue centres. My remaining cat "Morangie" is now approaching 15 years but shows no sign of slowing down!

Prior to becoming a member of CATFLAP in 1999 I had participated in a number of fundraising events for Greenpeace, Amnesty International and Lepra, as well as being a member of the SSPCA and Cats Protection.

Over the years I have had experience in running most types of stall at various sales. More recently ,however, I have been concentrating my efforts on helping to run CATFLAP's "Café" with Elizabeth Cathcart at the regular fairs in Shawlands and Pollokshields.

I am therefore looking forward to working as a Trustee for CATFLAP, to help it achieve its aim of helping as many of our furry friends as possible.

Kerr Ross

WHAT MAKES CATS SO WONDERFUL AND LOVABLE ??????



You know when they do their musical fur-coated hot water bottles that don't get cold OR move when you get cramp from lying in a shape not meant to be...

...Or when they want their dinner in *THAT* dish and then take the food out and eat it on the floor!!

Why do fat cats instinctively know how to lie in a flattering position?

They can find the warmest place to sleep, the best books to lie on - THE ONE you are reading...

... and you haven't lived till you have been ignored by a cat.

Cats are a tonic. They are funny...

... just don't EVER let them see you laugh when they aim at something and miss. Leave the room first.

You can feel an inch high when you get one of their disdainful looks when they are less than impressed with what you think is a very nice piece of haddock!!!!

I love my furry ones, they never fail to impress OR to leave me a wreck when they decide to do their "let's hide" or "leave me alone I'm having a breakdown" and start tearing round the room and up the curtains, and – once - into a sink full of dishes.

What would we do without them?

Liz MacGowan

Micellaneous Cat Facts...

One un-neutered female cat can, in five years, be responsible for over 20,000 descendants. Female cats can have their first litter as young as six months and can have up to three litters each year—with five or six kittens in each litter.

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Ninety-two per cent of cats are "Moggies", or, non-pedigrees. How did the name "Moggie" come about? One theory holds that it comes from old English dialect, where "Moggie" was used to designate a loose woman or prostitute. It is thought that this name was given to cats because they mate repeatedly with different males when they are in season.

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Ever wondered why kittens can all be different colours and look so different from their mums? The fact is that one in four pregnant cats carries kittens fathered by more than one mate. A fertile female may mate with several tom-cats, which fertilise different eggs each time.

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Cats' eyes shine in the dark because of the tapetum, a reflective layer in the eye, which acts like a mirror. They also need 1/6th less light to see than humans, which is why they can play and hunt in the dark.

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British cat owners spend roughly 550 million pounds a year on cat food. Americans spend almost 3 billion dollars a year on food for their cats, yet, for comparison, America spends only 700 million dollars on drug prevention and treatment programs.

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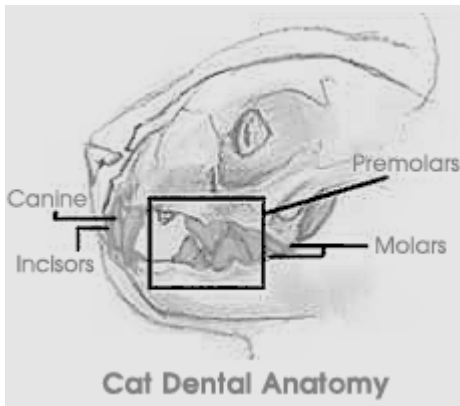
Cats lack a true collarbone. Because of this, cats can generally squeeze their bodies through any space they can get their heads through. You may have seen a cat testing the size of an opening by careful measurement with the head

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A man named Sir Henry Wyat was sentenced to the Tower of London, at a time when prisoners generally starved to death. Sir Henry's cat seemed to understand the situation because she snuck into the Tower bringing him a freshly-killed pigeon every day. When the king heard of this, he must have felt sad for the cat, because he immediately set Sir Henry free.

Dental Care for Your Cat's Gums and Teeth

The signs of healthy cat teeth are easy to spot. Does kitty have white teeth? Does she have any damaged or broken teeth? Do the gums look healthy? And now, the big question: How is your cat's breath? If she smells like she needs mouthwash, we have a problem!



Anatomy of the Mouth

Take a close look at your cat's mouth: You're looking at one of nature's most fearsome killing machines. Domestic cat teeth aren't that different from that of a big wildcat. Look into a lion's mouth and you'll see remarkably similar teeth. You might not see them for long, but you'll notice the resemblance before you're swallowed.

An adult cat has thirty teeth, and they're all specialized. See those long canines that frame the front of the mouth? They're for holding prey and killing it. They're also designed for tearing flesh. The small incisors between the long canines are for ripping flesh from the food. Further back in the mouth you'll find premolars and molars. Cats don't chew food as we humans do. Their molars cut food down into chunks small enough to swallow. The teeth are embedded in jaws attached to powerful muscles.

Cat Health Problems and Teeth

Why bother worrying about your cat's teeth? Because good dental care can add years to the life of your cat. Unfortunately, cats with irreparable dental problems may sometimes have to be put to sleep.

That's an extreme example, of course. Most cat health problems that arise from improper dental hygiene are less obvious. Bacteria from the mouth can travel through the blood stream to almost all parts of the feline body, causing heart, kidney, and liver problems. Dental health problems in cats could be compared to high blood pressure in humans: It's a silent disease that may only become apparent after some degree of damage has been done.

Bad Breath and Health

Snuggle up to your cat. Bring her face up to yours. Bring her mouth close to your nose and take a sniff. Do you smell pleasant, sweet breath, or did you just pass out from the stench? If so, you've just become a victim of Cat Bad Breath. Now, before you go running to the pet store for the kitty equivalent of mouthwash, you should know that bad breath can indicate some pretty serious health concerns.

Note that the odour might be the tuna you fed Fluffy immediately before you checked her breath. (In other words, don't check your cat's breath immediately after she's eaten canned food.)

A bad odour could come from anything from minor gingivitis to advanced gum disease. Infections in and around the teeth and gums, often from tartar accumulation, are probably a leading cause of pet bad breath. Hopefully, all that your cat's bad breath indicates is a need for some routine dental care and then a regular program of home maintenance.

Bad breath can indicate other serious health concerns. Burped up gas can point to a number of stomach and metabolic problems. One of the more serious possibilities is kidney failure. While most of us think of this in terms of the other end of the cat, urinary health, including kidney disease, can be indicated by unpleasant breath. Look for these additional indicators:

- 🐾 bad breath
- 🐾 excessive urination or frequent attempts to urinate
- 🐾 straining in the litter box
- 🐾 increased drinking
- 🐾 weight loss
- 🐾 urinating outside of the litter box
- 🐾 vomiting
- 🐾 a sudden lack of interest in grooming
- 🐾 lethargy.

The toxins normally eliminated by the kidneys build up in the blood stream and are detectable in the breath. Many veterinary experts believe that bacteria from the mouth gain access to the blood stream through diseased gums, resulting in bacteria being deposited in vital organs such as the heart and kidneys. For a cat, bad breath is reason enough for a trip to the vet's to rule out any serious conditions.

Plaque and Tartar: Constant Problems/

Plaque and Tartar: Constant Problems

Plaque and tartar are visible as yellow and brown deposits on the teeth. Plaque accumulates over the teeth and tartar is often most visible at the gum line. Regular cleaning with a toothbrush and toothpaste designed for cat health care can slow down deposit build-up. Pay special attention to the gum line — an area that the toothbrush can't always clean adequately. Plaque and tartar at the gum line indicates that it's time for a professional cleaning.

When it comes to preventing tartar build-up, dry cat food is best. Wet food doesn't provide the abrasion that dry food does. Dry, crunchy food can scrape plaque deposits off as the cat eats, to some degree.

Recently, cat food companies have developed tooth-cleaning cat food — food that is specially formulated to promote healthy teeth. The food is abrasive enough that it scrapes tartar and plaque off the teeth, and some products even leave small crystals embedded in the plaque that work to break down plaque even when the cat isn't eating.

The science of dental care and cat food is just beginning to reach pet food stores. Only time will tell how efficient such products actually are. While they may prove to be a valuable ally in the war against plaque and tartar, regular brushing and inspection remain the most efficient of techniques for healthy, clean feline teeth.

When you brush your cat's teeth, use cat toothpaste. Ordinary toothpaste isn't healthy for felines to swallow (since you're unlikely to be successful in teaching her to spit) and besides, she probably won't like the taste much!

If your cat expresses discomfort or physical pain while you're brushing her teeth, you may have stumbled across a broken or infected tooth or an exposed root. Obviously, advanced dentistry isn't going to be part of your at-home cat health care program, and this is going to require a trip to your vet's for medical treatment.

Brushing your cat's teeth shouldn't cause pain. Any indication that it does suggests the existence of a dental problem that requires prompt attention.

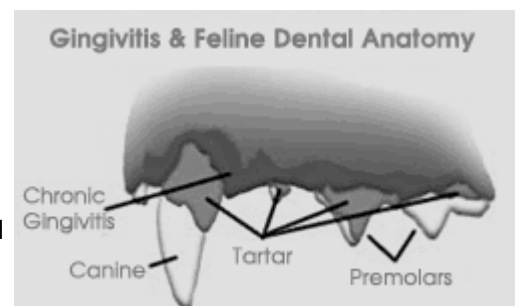
Cat Gingivitis

Cat gingivitis is one of the "silent" cat health care problems. Gingivitis is inflammation of the gums caused by plaque and tartar accumulation. The disease progresses slowly, so it's often overlooked until the gums have receded.

At-home cleaning alone cannot fight cat gingivitis because much of the tartar lies either at or below the gum line. To be effectively controlled, a cat health care professional should periodically examine and clean the entire tooth surface while the cat is under anaesthesia.

Look for these symptoms:

- ☹ sensitivity or discomfort when eating
- ☹ pain when drinking cold water
- ☹ loose teeth
- ☹ discomfort during tooth cleaning
- ☹ bad breath
- ☹ shiny, rounded gum lines instead of pink and sharply defined lines



Gingivitis starts out slowly, with minor inflammation of the gum line itself. The inflammation slowly spreads deeper into the gums, attacking the tissues that support the teeth.

Advanced gingivitis can lead to loose teeth and inflamed pockets around the teeth. As the gum line recedes, the nerve roots of the teeth are exposed, leading to increased pain sensitivity when eating. Without intervention, gingivitis can even eat away at the bone underneath the teeth.

Gingivitis can lead to serious cat health care problems. At advanced stages, up to 50% of the tissues attaching the cat's teeth to its jaws can be lost. Gingivitis can cause tooth loss and great discomfort to cats suffering from its effects. The bacteria causing the gums to deteriorate can also spread to other areas of the body.

Brushing is the first line of defence against gingivitis, and is quite effective against the early stages. To effectively control gingivitis, however, a professional tooth cleaning is required. With the cat under anaesthetic, the vet can clean the tartar that hides beneath the gum line.

Rodent Ulcers

No, rodent ulcers (also called *eosinophilic ulcers*) in cats aren't something your cat catches from eating mice. Rodent ulcers are open sores that most often appear on the cat's upper lip. The ulcers have a hollowed out appearance, and can spread if untreated. In advanced cases, the sores can spread over the entire lip and into the mouth itself, causing great discomfort. Rodent ulcers in cats are usually treated with anti-inflammatory medication.

Oral Tumours

Cancerous tumours are relatively rare in the mouth, but they do occur. *Squamous cell carcinoma* is by far the most common of cat tumours that occur in the mouth. They can be treated either by chemotherapy or surgical removal. The tumour may resemble an unhealed sore, or simply be an area of apparent swelling.

<http://www.catfocused.com>



www.catflapcharity.co.uk

For most enquiries from the public the first point of contact should be our **Homing Officer**, Sheila Frater. The telephone number which should be used for these enquiries is:

0141 423 3246

Correspondence should be sent **direct to the relevant person**, where possible. *General* correspondence may be sent to :

Sheila Frater, 190 Titwood Road, Glasgow, G41 4DD

For ...	Contact	Telephone / email
...information about homing or welfare matters, or general cat queries	Homing Officer Miss Sheila Frater	0141 423 3246 sheila.frater@tiscali.co.uk
... general information about the Charity, or correspondence for the Trustees	Charity Secretary Mrs Elizabeth Cathcart	High Kilwinnet Strathblane Road Campsie Glen Glasgow G66 7AP 01360 311344
... information about financial matters or to order CATFLAP goods	Treasurer Mr Alan Beveridge	c/o sheila.frater@tiscali.co.uk
... information on membership, the cat sponsorship programme	Membership Secretary Dr Janice Kennedy	8 Beech Avenue, Bearsden E Dunbartonshire G61 3EX 0141 942 4390 catchemist@tiscali.co.uk
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