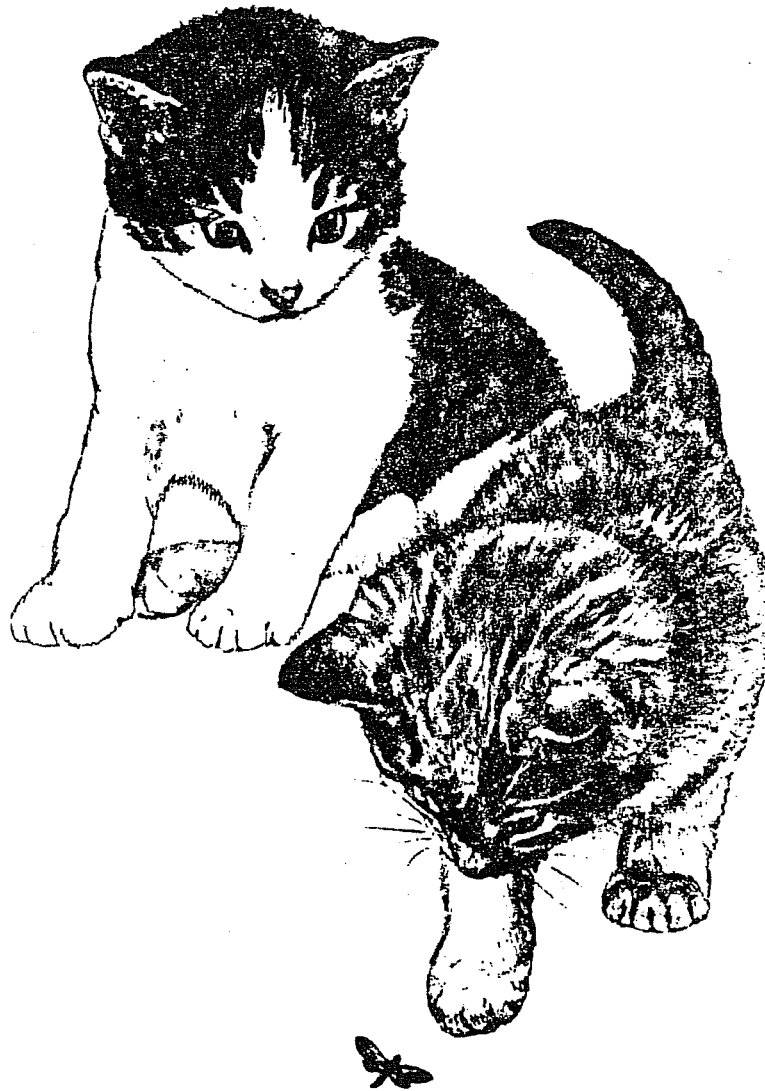


FELINE FEATURES



Berrien County 4-H Programs
Cooperative Extension Service
Berrien County Courthouse
St. Joseph, Michigan

Feline Features

DEVELOPED BY

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Purposes of the 4-H Cat Project

The overall purpose of the 4-H Cat Project is to provide experience and activities which help young people to:

- . . Become better 4-H members, thus better citizens.
- . . Experience the pleasure and companionship that a healthy, happy cat can provide.
- . . Acquire a knowledge of the responsibilities of cat ownership.
- . . Demonstrate sound cat care and management practices.
- . . Understand the special characteristics of the cat, i.e., body, configuration, personality traits and dietary requirements.
- . . Learn the characteristics and identification of different breeds.
- . . Learn how to select a cat.
- . . Learn and follow basic rules for good feline health.
- . . Train the cat to understand basic rules of good behavior.
- . . Learn why and how to show cats.
- . . Develop an understanding of the value of scientific research and its influence upon cats.
- . . Gain an appreciation of animals and develop a sense of responsibility that comes from an animal's dependence on man.

Requirements for Completion

1. Care for one cat which belongs to the member or the family. The animal may be registered or unregistered; male, female, or altered.
2. Keep records on the expenses for the care of your cat. This should include a list of expenses for food, equipment, medical care, etc., plus a short story on your animal and a photograph.
3. Exhibit the animal at a cat show or fair.
4. Obtain the necessary shots for rabies, distemper, pneumonitis and others that your veterinarian may recommend.
5. Have your cat inspected three times a year by your Project leader.

POINTS TO BE EVALUATED BY THE LEADER

1. The Cat
 - Grooming
 - General Health and Appearance
 - Temperament
2. The Member
 - General Attitude
 - Attendance at Project Meetings
 - Participation in Activities
 - Completeness of Records

The History of the Domestic Cat

Scientists believe that a small, tree-living mammal of forty to fifty million years ago was the ancestor of the cat. This animal was called MIACIS (pronounced My-a-Kiss). It is also the common ancestor of dogs, weasels, bear and raccoons.

Ten million years after MIACIS, another animal came to be, which more closely resembled present day cats. This was DINICTS, and he was very agile, both on the ground and in trees.

The modern cat is a newcomer, having been domesticated for approximately four to five thousand years. Compare this with the times for other domesticated animals; twenty to fifty thousand years for dogs, eleven thousand years for sheep, and eight thousand years for cattle.

The oldest records of domestication of cats were found in Egypt, where the cat was a pet as well as a good mouser for graineries and a retriever for the hunters. The cat was also worshipped, and when a cat died, the people who owned him shaved their eyebrows in mourning. At least one variety of the Egyptian cat resembled the present day Abyssinian.

Travelers to Egypt obtained cats and they soon spread along the trade routes. Although the Egyptian cat formed the basic stock in many countries, native species were also tamed. Romans probably brought the cat to England.

The cat reached high popularity in the eleventh century. This was due mostly to their help in controlling the rat and mouse population, which checked the spread of the Black Plague.

In the Dark Ages, cats were associated with witchcraft, evil and bad luck; hence many were killed. Superstitions such as "never let a black cat cross your path", originated in this period.

The American Indian did not attempt to domesticate the native cats, namely the bobcat, jaguar, puma, ocelot, and margay. Early white settlers brought domesticated cats with them. They soon spread throughout the country, mostly because of their importance in rat and mouse control.

The word "cat" did not come into useage until approximately the fourth century A.D. It is interesting to note that almost universally the word "cat" is related to the two English words, cat and puss.

The Nature of a Feline

Cats adjust very well to their environment. With proper care and affection, they can be equally healthy and happy spending their entire lives either indoors, outdoors or a combination of both. It is relatively inexpensive to feed and house a cat. Their small size lends itself well to dwelling in an apartment as well as a house.

Happy kittens will shower you with love and try to follow wherever you go. They may pounce on your foot or try to climb up your leg to attract your attention. Adult cats are more dignified, but continue to seek your company. They show affection for you by purring, rubbing against your legs, jumping onto your lap, or settling down in the room near you. They will even share your bed at night if you permit. Most cats love to be stroked and cuddled, but some have sensitive skin and are happier just to be near you.

Cats seem to have an equal attachment to their people and to the homes in which their people live. Some cats refuse to be moved from a given place and will return to a familiar neighborhood. Others will grieve for their people and refuse to accept food from a stranger.

Nature intended the cat to be a hunter, and they hunt for the joy of hunting. They may eat some of their catch, but they often bring "trophies" home to their owner. If your cat presents you with a mouse, bird, toad or other small game, know that it is a gift of love. A kitten learns hunting from its mother.

Cats are often jealous of other pets, but once they are sure of their place in the household, they will become friends with dogs or other cats. The hunting instinct is too strong for a cat to be trusted near a tank of fish or a pet bird.

Be reasonable but firm in your demands. Your cat will respond to training. They are very intelligent animals.

The voice of the cat is different from that of other animals. Very young kittens mew or purr a steady little sound. Older cats speak in many tones depending on their mood. Some cats are very talkative and will greet you with a sound that is almost a soft chirp. This may be repeated over and over as long as you answer.

A cat's meow has several meanings. The meow of hunger may have a questioning sound. The sharp meow that calls for attention is usually a signal for help, - such as "open the door".

In addition to purring an affectionate greeting, a cat will purr while eating. Sometimes, when apparently asleep, they will start to purr for no known reason. A very contented cat may snuggle up to you purring deeply and knead with its feet.

Angry cats will growl. This may be a soft warning to be left alone or it may be a threat. A growl followed by a sharp meow, hiss or scream is usually a threat to another animal.

Caterwauling is a loud wail used by adult cats at mating time.

The tail of the cat shows its mood as plainly as the voice. A tail held straight up or gently waving means, "all is well". The tail whipping back and forth expresses anger. A puffed up tail means, "I'm frightened, but I'm trying to look big and brave". A tail held out stiffly behind means, "ready to attack".



Pet Owner's Responsibilities

Pet owners have several responsibilities, including caring for the pet's health and well being, and respecting the rights of neighbors in the community. It is important to clearly understand these responsibilities and be willing to accept them before acquiring a pet.

Financial responsibilities include providing adequate food, shelter, medical needs, licensing costs if required, and entry fees for shows. Some states and communities require cats to be licensed and may have other ordinances pertaining to their ownership. These laws are means to protect animals from cruel treatment as well as to protect private property from loose pets. Failure to comply with these kinds of laws can result in fines. Find out from your local city or township clerk about your local, county and/or state laws concerning pets and obey them.

FEEDING

Cats are natural meat eaters. When wild, they catch small animals, weak birds and sometimes insects. By eating the whole animal or bird, they benefit from what their prey has eaten.

Indoor cats depend on humans for a proper diet. Cats seem to like canned and dried processed foods. Dry foods can be served right from the package, stay fresh longer, and help keep the animal's teeth clean. They are much cheaper and are just as good as canned foods. Most cat foods are very well-rounded nutritionally and are scientifically prepared. Adding treats and table scraps to commercial cat food may unbalance the animal's diet. Some cat owners alternate canned and dry foods for variety. Cats with special health problems need special food. Your veterinarian can prescribe this for you.

If your cat gets fat, gradually cut down on the size of his meals until he reaches the proper weight. If the cat is too thin or is recovering from an illness, try tempting the animal with bits of cooked liver, kidney, or boned poultry as a treat. Sometimes you can start a reluctant cat eating by stroking the animal from head to tail while he is in front of his food. Some cats eat better in the company of another cat and others eat only alone.

Milk is a food, not a drink. It is not necessary for an adult cat and may act as a laxative. You may substitute yogurt or cottage cheese for milk.

The one drink cats should always have available to them is FRESH, CLEAN WATER. Cats, like people, could survive many days without food. Without water, a cat may weaken and die in only a few days.

All cats like to eat a little grass or fresh catnip now and then. You might grow some indoors for your cat to nibble on. If your cat eats a lot of grass, he is likely to vomit. This is normal but not pleasant on the living room rug.

SUGGESTED FEEDING SCHEDULE

AGE	MEALS PER DAY
5-9 weeks	4
10-14 weeks to 4 months	3
5 months to 1 year	1 or 2

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Remember, kittens are babies and need plenty of sleep. A carton with a small blanket to snuggle into makes a fine bed. Cats cannot stand drafts or dampness. Place the bed up off the floor in a quiet corner. Cats like to choose their own place to sleep. Unless you provide a place to their liking, they will climb onto furniture. Be sure to put a washable cover on any place your cat chooses to snooze. Since cats sometimes pick a dark closet, dresser drawer or a warm clothes dryer for a nap, be careful not to accidentally make a prisoner of your cat.

HOUSEBREAKING

Cats are naturally clean animals. Kittens are usually trained by the mother cat. If your pet is to spend much time inside, a pan or "cat box" filled with clean cat litter or fresh dry garden soil is a real necessity. Put this in one place and be sure it is available to your pet at all times. Take your pet to its pan after feeding. It will readily accept this as its place to go.

Replace the litter as needed. To keep the pan clean you will need a slotted spoon or strainer to remove the solids. Wash the pan about once a week with soap and water. If your kitten suddenly refuses to use its pan, it may be that you forgot to keep it clean and acceptable.

Health Care

A healthy cat is fun to have around. His coat and eyes shine. He is sleek, trim and moves with grace. He eats, plays, purrs, and wants to be near you. Your cat will normally stay well and happy if you take care of him. His only visits to the vet may be for routine shots and check ups. It is unwise and costly for you to medicate your animal without a specific need or without the advice of your vet.

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

Routine Vaccinations

Immunization should be started 2 to 3 weeks after the kittens are weaned. A series of two shots are given two to three weeks apart for Feline Distemper, Viral Rhinotracheitis, and Calicivirus. Annual boosters are required to maintain immunity. Cats may also be vaccinated for feline Pneumonitis.

Rabies vaccinations are not required for cats in most states, but it is recommended, especially for cats who are allowed to roam outside. Rabies vaccine is first given at three to six months of age and then on an annual basis. Rabies vaccine is given because of the possibility of transmitting the disease to man from cats and to protect the cats health. The other vaccines are given solely to protect the health of the animal.

Common Ailments

1. FELINE PANLEUKOPENIA (Distemper)

This is a highly contagious disease which is nearly always fatal. It usually causes vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite, and dehydration. Young kittens are especially susceptible and should be immunized soon after weaning. Antibiotics will not work against viruses, so treatment is limited to supportive therapy to keep the cat alive while the animal combats the virus with his own immune system.

2. FELINE VIRAL RHINOTRACHEITIS, CALICIVIRUS, and PNEUMONITIS

Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus are respiratory diseases whose symptoms are much like the common cold in man - fever, runny nose, watery eyes, sneezing, and occasionally coughing. In many cases, the disease is mild and no treatment other than warmth and liquids is required. It may be fatal to young kittens. If your cat stops eating, call your veterinarian.

Feline Pneumonitis shows similar symptoms. The disease makes the animal very sick. It can be treated with antibiotics.

3. RABIES

This is a fatal viral disease. It is usually transmitted by a bite. All warm-blooded animals, including man, are susceptible. Cats may contract rabies almost as often as dogs, especially if they are allowed to roam. Your cat should be vaccinated to protect his health as well as you and your family.

4. FELINE LEUKEMIA and INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS

These are viral diseases which cause prolonged illness and death. The cat is usually very sick with a high fever. Many different symptoms are seen, such as: anemia, enlarged lymph nodes, diarrhea, and lack of appetite. A sick cat that doesn't respond to treatment should be checked for these viruses.

5. HAIRBALLS

They cause vomiting and constipation. All cats lick themselves clean and may develop hairballs from the swallowed hair. This is especially true with long haired cats. A cat laxative may be purchased from your veterinarian and given as a treatment to prevent this condition. Daily brushing will remove much of your cat's loose hair so that he will swallow less while grooming himself.

6. FELINE URETHRAL SYNDROME (Urolithiasis)

Both male and female cats are susceptible to F.U.S. Crystals form in the urine and cause irritation and blockage (male only). Males are susceptible to blockage since they have a small urethra. Death can occur within 36 hours from onset of the blockage. If your cat appears to be constipated or cannot pass his urine, take the animal to your veterinarian as soon as possible. This condition is often controlled by diet and medication.

7. BITES and ABSCESSSES

Cats are frequently bitten by other cats or dogs. These bites often become infected if not treated promptly by your veterinarian. Without treatment, bites may form abscesses which must be lanced and drained. The cat will run a high fever and may refuse food. Infection may spread to the bones or blood, and may even result in death.

Cats will fight to defend their kittens. Tomcats will fight a neutered cat. Try throwing water on the cats to stop a fight. Do not handle your cat until he calms down.

8. BROKEN BONES/SERIOUS INJURY

If your animal is seriously injured, do not attempt to treat him yourself. First Aid may be given to stop bleeding. Keep the animal warm and quiet. Contact your veterinarian immediately. To transport the cat, carry it in a level position. Wrap it in a blanket for warmth. Use firm support under the animal if there is any chance of broken bones.

9. POISONING

Cats are seldom deliberately poisoned. Most poisoning occurs from eating poisonous plants, plants sprayed with chemicals, or poisons put out for other animals.

Some signs of poisoning are: pain, trembling, panting, slobbering, vomiting, convulsions, and coma. These signs may also be caused by other things. If you know your animal has consumed poison, give a solution of 1/2 hydrogen peroxide and 1/2 water at the rate of one and one half tablespoons per ten pounds of body weight to induce vomiting (only if the poison is NOT a caustic substance). If it was caustic and you induce vomiting, you would cause further injury to the cat. CONTACT YOUR VET IMMEDIATELY. If you take your animal to the vet, be sure to bring along the poison, if it can be located. IMMEDIATE ACTION IS ESSENTIAL.

SIGNS OF A SICK CAT

A cat that is sick looks and acts differently than a healthy one. A sudden or continuing change in your cat's behavior should alert you. Learn to recognize these symptoms and you can help your vet find and correct your animal's problem.

The Danger Signs are:

- Dull, rough coat; excessive shedding and matting
- Listless, hides and refuses to come out
- Refusal of food, unable to eat if he tries
- Constant thirst
- Vomiting, coughing, and/or sneezing
- Mucous and matter around the eyes and nose
- Diarrhea or constipation
- Cries when using the litter box, forgets to use it, or uses it too frequently

- Paralysis, has difficulty in walking
- Dull or watery eyes
- Unusual lumps or sores that don't heal
- Change in temperament - hostile, aggressive, bites
- Fits or convulsions

If any of these signs are seen, contact your veterinarian. Tell him clearly what is going on and for how long. He will tell you what care and treatment your cat needs.

CARE OF A SICK CAT

Keep the cat away from heavy traffic areas of the house and from other animals. It should be kept warm and away from drafts. A box containing a rug will do fine. To restrict activity, cover the box with a screen and weigh it down so that it cannot be pushed off by the animal.

Your veterinarian may ask you to take the cat's rectal temperature. Dip the thermometer in petroleum jelly and insert half of its length into the rectum. Hold it there for about one minute. Normal body temperature for the cat is 101° to 102° Fahrenheit.

Forced feeding may occasionally be necessary. Try feeding the cat's favorite foods and baby food meats. Broth and water may be placed in the mouth with a syringe or eye dropper. Pastes may be placed on the roof of the mouth. If the cat vomits solid food, feed only liquids frequently and in small amounts. The average cat requires 350 calories a day and ten ounces of fluid a day. A cat with a fever will have higher requirements since he burns the calories faster than normal. Check with your veterinarian before force feeding. He can recommend what, the volume, and how to feed your animal.

METHODS OF GIVING MEDICATION

1. LIQUIDS- may be poured or inserted with a syringe (without the needle) or eye dropper into the side of the mouth. Only a small amount should be inserted at one time. Too much will cause the animal to inhale some into the lungs and may result in pneumonia. For kittens, only one or two drops at a time. Hold the cat's head so he can't shake the medicine out.

2. PILLS- Place the cat on a level surface. Grasp his whole head in your left hand. With your thumb and forefinger, press in from the opposite sides of the jaw. Pull the head back gently. Pull down the lower jaw with your right hand and drop the pill on the back of the cat's tongue. Push the pill gently with your finger, but not too far. This will usually result in success. Cats normally void when given pills.

Be gentle but firm while handling the cat. They will fight more if not properly restrained. Stop if panting or weakness occurs.

Follow the vet's directions carefully. Do not increase or decrease the medication unless directed to do so by the veterinarian. Too much can cause harm. Too little may not do any good. DO NOT MEDICATE your cat without your vet's advice.

INTERNAL PARASITES

Internal parasites (worms and protozoa) attack most animals at one time or another. Some of these parasites can be especially dangerous to the young kitten. If your cat seems listless, loses weight, has a pot-belly, or diarrhea, he should have a sample of his feces examined by a veterinarian under a microscope for worms. There are several species of worms, each having a different treatment. Your veterinarian is the only qualified person to give these treatments. Do not rely on "WORM MEDICINE" bought at the store. Many only treat one type of worm and will not get the more dangerous types. Your kitten should be checked for worms as soon as you get him and periodically throughout his life.

1. ASCARIDS (Roundworms) - are long, white worms, 1 to 7 inches in length and are found in the stomach and small intestine.

Kittens are most susceptible and can acquire them from their mothers before birth. Roundworms are usually transmitted by direct contact with the stool of an infected animal. In severe cases, death may occur due to pneumonia caused by infection in the lungs, or from damage caused when the worm larvae pass through the lungs. These worms are also dangerous for people, especially small children.

2. HOOKWORMS - are small worms which attach themselves to the intestinal wall. Affected cats may be weak and anemic. Their gums are white in color versus pink or red. Also, the cat may have bloody diarrhea. Hookworms are transmitted by contact with infected feces or soil. Good sanitation is important for prevention.

3. TAPEWORMS - vary in size from 1 to 2 feet in length. The head is fastened to the intestinal wall and the body is formed by several segments which fall off when full of eggs and pass with the feces. Tapeworms appear as small, short, flat, white objects in the feces. Transmission is by several hosts such as fleas, rodents, birds, fresh water fish, and amphibians. To prevent tapeworms, keep the animal clean, free from fleas, and avoid feeding fresh water fish.
4. WHIPWORMS - are small worms up to two and a half inches long with a whip-like body that live in the colon and cecum. They can cause severe problems but they are not very common in cats. They are transmitted by contact with infected feces. Good sanitation is very important for prevention.
5. TOXOPLASMOSIS-The cat passes oocysts (egg-like structures) in the stool, but rarely shows any symptoms. Toxoplasmosis is not very common in cats. The danger to public health (humans) is in the last six months of pregnancy when it may be passed to the unborn fetus if the mother contracts it through raw meat or the soil.
6. COCCIDIA-These organisms are protozoa. They live in the mucous membranes of the cat's small intestine and colon. It is usually the result of unsanitary conditions. It commonly causes diarrhea in young kittens. The treatment includes the use of sulfanilamides.

EXTERNAL PARASITES

1. FLEAS
Fleas are small, hard-shelled active insects that feed on the blood of animals. Almost all outdoor cats get fleas as well as cats who primarily live indoors. Fleas jump off the animal and lay eggs in the environment. Black specks on the cat's fur indicate the presence of fleas. The specks are the droppings of the flea itself. A cat with fleas may show itching, allergies, continual scratching and even anemia with a severe infestation.

A cat flea spray or powder is the best way to eliminate this parasite. Severe cases may require a flea shampoo or dip. Flea collars may help if the cat has only a few fleas, but they are not effective over the whole animal. The cat's living quarters must also be treated and kept clean to eliminate this parasite. Fleas can also spread diseases and other parasites.

2. TICKS

They are hard-shelled, eight-legged parasites who burrow into the skin of their host and feed on the animal's blood. Anemia may result in severe infestations. You can remove them by picking them off the cat, making sure you get the head out of the skin. If there are many ticks, a dip is best. Soaking the tick with vinegar, alcohol or nail polish remover may help to loosen ticks. Once the parasite is full of blood, they drop off of the host and lay eggs in the environment.

3. LICE

They are not frequently found on cats. Lice are specific to a species and remain on the host all the time. A powder or spray may be used to help eliminate them. Some types of lice suck blood and may result in anemia, while other types feed on debris from the cat's skin. The eggs of lice, called NITS, can be seen attached to the hairs of its host.

4. EAR MITES

These are small parasites that live in the cat's ear canal. Affected cats shake their heads and scratch at their ears. A dark wax is seen in the ear. Ear mites are easily transmitted to other cats and dogs. It can be treated by using ear drops containing chemicals to kill the mites.

5. MANGE

This affliction is caused by small mites that burrow into the skin and cause itching. It is rare in a well fed and well kept cat. Excessive shedding of the hair may be a sign of the presence of this parasite. Occasionally, red or bald spots may be seen. Treatment is usually a dip or medicated bath.

6. RINGWORM

This is a very contagious skin affliction caused by a fungus. It often appears as an oval, bald patch on the head and around the eyes of the animal. It is easily transmitted to other animals and humans by direct contact so it is important to treat the disease right away.

MALE VERSUS FEMALE

1. Male cats are more prone to Urolithiasis but are cheaper to neuter than females.
2. Female cats have many reproductive problems if not spayed and cost more to be neutered than males. If spayed, females will not develop blockage from Urolithiasis.

3. Temperaments vary among individual cats. Generally speaking, a spayed or neutered cat is more affectionate.

FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE CYCLE

The female cat reaches puberty at 6 to 15 months of age. She comes into heat, or estrus, seasonally, usually in the spring and fall. If not bred, a cat may continually come into estrus until fall. The heat cycle ranges from 15 to 21 days. Heat lasts from 9 to 10 days when not bred, and from 4 to 6 days if bred.

After the second day of heat, the cat may be bred. Cats will not ovulate until 24 to 56 hours after mating. Signs of heat are:

- . . . Unusual affection
- . . . Rolling, rubbing or meowing

Cats may come back in heat from 4 to 6 weeks after having kittens.

PREGNANCY

Gestation, the period of pregnancy, usually averages 63 days. During this period, the female requires 3 to 4 times the usual amount of food, water or milk normally fed to her. Calcium supplements may be required. Feed well balanced meals as often as she desires.

A box should be prepared in a dark, quiet spot for her to have her kittens. Line the box with a towel and place the cat in it so as to acquaint her with the box. She may prefer to go elsewhere if permitted.

PARTURITION

This is the act of birth. A cat seldom has problems when giving birth. You should stand by in case of an emergency. Do not help unless she is having trouble. If no kittens are born within a few hours after the first symptoms of parturition, call your veterinarian.

After delivery, allow the cat to clean her kittens and the box. After the last kitten is born, wait a few hours before cleaning the bedding. It is best not to handle the new kittens for a couple of days unless necessary to supplement their feeding. If the mother is unable to nurse her kittens, formula can be purchased from your veterinarian.

SPAYING

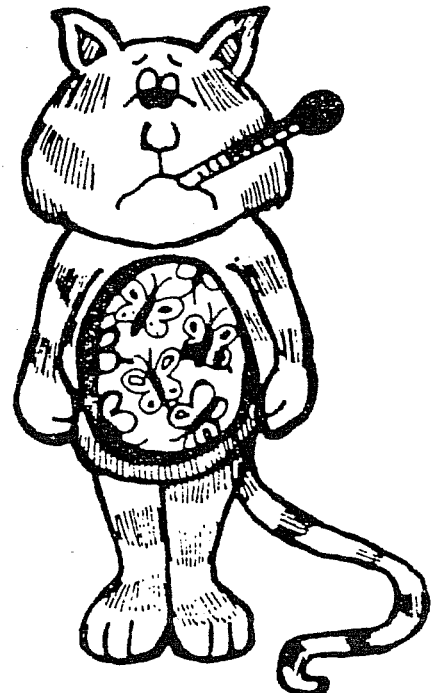
An operation can be performed to prevent a female from having kittens. It is called an ovariectomy and involves the removal of the ovaries and uterus. A spayed cat will not develop mammary tumors or other disorders of the reproductive system, have to endure the hazards of having kittens, go into season or call for a mate.

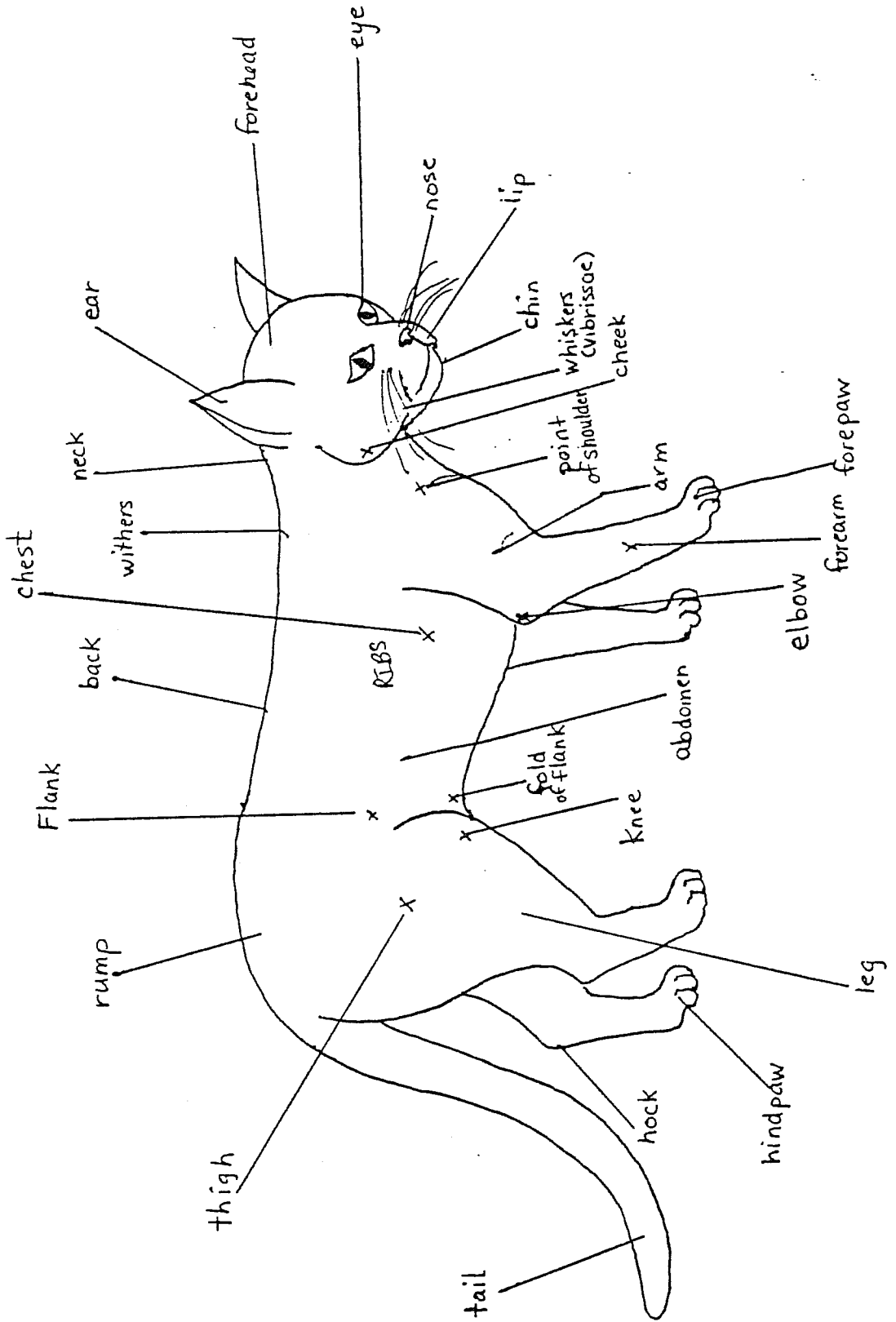
NEUTERING

The castration of a male cat, called a tom, may improve his temperament, prevent his odorous spraying and makes him less eager to go out and fight with other cats. It is a simple operation where the testicles are removed. He will not be preoccupied with finding a mate and can enjoy simply being a pet.

The most important reason for ALTERING a cat is that there are not enough homes for all the kittens born. Hundreds of thousands of cats are killed by enemies or must be destroyed by animal shelters. Many cats are abandoned by people who mistakenly think that they can survive in the wild, but they eventually die of starvation. If you cannot guarantee homes for your kittens, have your cat spayed or neutered.

Spaying and neutering does involve some risk as does all surgery. Females should be spayed at 6 months of age and before their first heat. The surgery can be done even while in heat or pregnant but more risk is involved. Your male cat should be neutered at 6 to 8 months of age and before he develops any bad habits such as spraying. Neutering may not stop spraying if the cat has already acquired the habit. Most spayed and neutered cats recover quickly and will not gain weight unless overfed.





Breeds and Colors

COLORS FOR PERSIANS, EXOTIC SHORTHAIRES, MANX, REX AND AMERICAN SHORTHAIRES

SOLID COLORS

WHITE: Pure glistening white.

Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Pink.

Eye Color: Deep blue or brilliant copper. Odd-eyed whites shall have one blue and one copper eye with equal color depth.

BLACK: Dense coal black, sound from roots to tip of fur. Free from any tinge of rust on tips, or lighter undercoat.

Nose Leather: Black.

Paw Pads: Black or brown.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

BLUE: Blue, lighter shade preferred, one level tone from nose to tip of tail. Sound to the roots.

Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Blue

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

RED: Deep, rich, clear, brilliant red; without shading, markings or tickings. Lips and chin the same color as the coat.

Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Brick red.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

CREAM: One level shade of buff cream, without markings. Sound to the roots. Lighter shades preferred.

Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Pink.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

SHADED COLORS

CHINCHILLA (SILVER): Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head and tail sufficiently tipped with black to give the characteristic sparkling silver appearance. Legs may be slightly shaded with tipping. Chin and ear tufts, stomach and chest are pure white. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with black.

Nose Leather: Brick red.

Paw Pads: Black.

Eye Color: Green or blue-green.

SHADED SILVER: White undercoat with a mantle of black tipping shading down from the sides, face and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as the face. The general effect to be much darker than a chinchilla silver. Rim of eyes, lips and nose outlined with black.

Nose Leather: Brick red.

Paw Pads: Black.

Eye Color: Green or blue-green.

RED CHINCHILLA (SHELL CAMEO): White undercoat. Coat on the back, flanks, head, and tail to be sufficiently tipped with red to give sparkling appearance. Face and legs may be very slightly shaded with tipping. Chin, ear tufts, stomach and chest white.

Nose Leather, Paw Pads and Rims of Eyes: Rose.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

RED SHADED (SHADED CAMEO): White undercoat with a mantle of red tipping shading down the sides. Face and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as face. The general effect to be much redder than the red chinchilla.

Nose Leather, Paw Pads and Rims of Eyes: Rose.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

SMOKE COLORS

BLACK SMOKE: White undercoat, deeply tipped with black. Cat in repose appears black. In motion, the white undercoat is clearly seen. Points and mask black with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when the fur is parted. Light silver frill and ear tufts.

Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Black.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

BLUE SMOKE: White undercoat, deeply tipped with blue. Cat in repose appears blue. In motion, the white undercoat is clearly seen. Points and mask blue with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted. White frill and ear tufts.

Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Blue.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

RED SMOKE (CAMEO SMOKE): White undercoat, deeply tipped with red. Cat in repose appears red. In motion, the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Points and mask red with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted. White frill and ear tufts.

Nose Leather, Paw Pads and Rims of Eyes: Rose.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

PARTI COLORS

CLASSIC TABBY PATTERN: Markings dense, clearly defined and broad. Legs evenly barred with bracelets coming up to meet the body markings. Tail evenly ringed. Several unbroken necklaces on neck and upper chest, the more the better. Frown marks on forehead form letter "M". Unbroken line runs back from outer corner of eye. Swirls on cheeks. Vertical lines over back of head extend to shoulder markings which are in the shape of a butterfly with both upper and lower wings distinctly outlined and marked with dots inside the outline. Back markings consist of a vertical line down the spine from the butterfly to the tail with a vertical stripe on each side of it, the three stripes well separated by stripes of the ground color. Large solid blotch on each side to be encircled by one or more unbroken rings. Side markings should be the same on both sides. Double vertical row of buttons on chest and stomach.

MACKEREL TABBY PATTERN: Markings dense, clearly defined and all narrow pencilings. Legs evenly barred with narrow bracelets coming up to meet the body markings. Tail barred. Necklaces on neck and chest distinct, like so many chains. Head barred with an "M" on the forehead. Unbroken lines running down the head to meet the shoulders. Spine lines run together to form a narrow saddle. Narrow pencilings run around the body. Lips and chin the same shade as the rings around the eyes.

SILVER TABBY: Ground color pale, clear silver. Markings black.

Nose Leather: Brick red.

Paw Pads: Black.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

BROWN TABBY: Ground color brilliant coppery brown. Markings black. Lips and chin same as rings around eyes. Back of leg black from paw to heel.

Nose Leather: Brick red.

Paw Pads: Black or brown.

Eye Color: Brilliant copper.

- RED TABBY: Ground color red. Markings deep brick red. Lips and chin red.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Brick red.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.
- BLUE TABBY: Ground color, including lips and chin, pale bluish ivory. Markings a very deep blue affording a good contrast with the ground color. Warm fawn overtones or patina over the whole.
Nose Leather: Old rose.
Paw Pads: Rose.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.
- CREAM TABBY: Ground color very pale cream. Markings of buff or cream sufficiently darker than the ground color to afford good contrast, but remaining within the dilute color range.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Pink.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.
- CAMEO TABBY: Ground color off-white. Markings red.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Rose.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.
- TORTOISESHELL: Black with unbrindled patches of red and cream. Patches clearly defined and unbroken on both body and extremities. A blaze on the face is desirable.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Charcoal or rose pink or a combination of both.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.
- CALICO (TORTOISESHELL AND WHITE): White with unbrindled patches of black and red. White predominant on underparts.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: To conform with the adjacent body color.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.
- BLUE CREAM: Blue with patches of solid cream. Patches clearly defined and well broken on both body and extremities.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: To conform with adjacent body color.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.
- PARTICOLOR (REX AND MANX ONLY): White with unbrindled patches of black, or white with unbrindled patches of blue, or white with unbrindled patches of red.
Eye Color: Brilliant copper.
- OTHER COLORS (REX AND MANX ONLY): All other colors of Manx and Rex are recognized. Markings, if present, should be pleasing. No penalty for white buttons or lockets.

PEKE-FACE RED AND PEKE-FACE RED TABBY: The Peke-Face cat should conform in color, markings and general type to the standards set forth for the red and red tabby Persian cat. The head should resemble as much as possible that of the Pekingnese dog from which it gets its name. Nose should be very short and depressed, or indented between the eyes. There should be a decidedly wrinkled muzzle. No kittens are now being registered as Peke-Face Red or Peke-Face Red Tabby.

COLORS FOR SIAMESE, HIMALAYANS, COLORPOINT SHORTHAIRES,
BIRMANS (SACRED CATS OF BURMA), BALINESE & RAGDOLLS

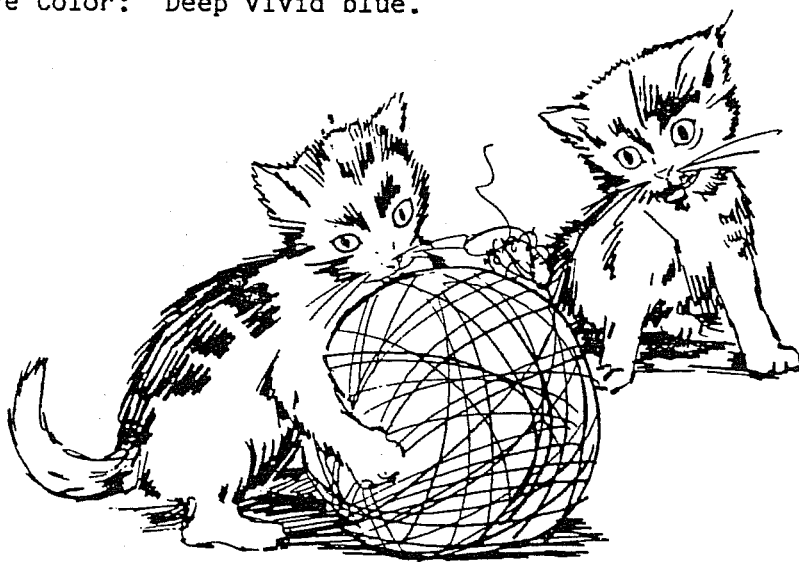
(Note: The Birman and Ragdoll follow these color standards except for the presence of a white "glove" on each foot.)

SEAL POINT: Body even pale fawn to cream, warm in tone, shading gradually into lighter color on stomach and chest. Points deep seal brown.
Nose Leathers and Paw Pads: Same color as points.
Eye Color: Deep vivid blue.

CHOCOLATE POINT: Body ivory with no shading. Points milk chocolate color, warm in tone.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Cinnamon-pink.
Eye Color: Deep vivid blue.

BLUE POINT: Body bluish white, cold in tone, shading gradually to white on stomach and chest. Points deep blue.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Slate color.

LILAC (FROST) POINT: Body glacial white with no shading. Points frosty grey with pinkish tone.
Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Lavender-pink.
Eye Color: Deep vivid blue.



BREEDS OF CATS

Breed	General Description	Head and Ears	Eyes	Body	Coat	Colors	Comments, History
Abyssinian	Athletic, active, exotic-looking.	Rounded wedge. Large ears.	Gold, green, hazel. Almond-shaped.	Long, lithe. "Tip-toe" look.	Medium-short, dense. Hairs "licked" light/dark.	Ruddy-brown or red. (Silver is experimental)	Origins shrouded in legend. Resembles several kinds of small wild cats.
American Shorthair	Aristocrat of American cats. Sturdy, intelligent, colorful.	Broad, squarish muzzle. Ears medium.	Round, full. Color to harmonize with coat.	Solid, broad-chested.	Short, thick, even-textured.	All colors.	Developed by careful breeding to "breed true." Some mixed-breeds resemble it.
Angora	Uncommon Turkish cat. Formerly confused with and bred with Persian.	Wedge-shaped. Ears medium, tufted with fur.	Blue, amber, or odd-eyed (one each color).	Light-framed. Graceful. Long tail.	Long, silky. Lies flat on back and sides.	White is only color officially recognized.	Thought to have come from Ankara. Breeding regulated in Turkey.
Balinese	A mutant, long-haired Siamese. No extra grooming required.	Wedge-shaped, not curved. Ears large.	Blue, almond-shaped, set wide apart.	Long and sleek. Type like Siamese.	Minimum 2" long. Silky. Ruff at neck.	Same as for Siamese.	Occurred unexpectedly in Siamese litters. First officially recognized in 1983.
British Shorthair	Large, hardy, bold. Similar to A.S.H., but rare in the U.S.	Quiet large, broad. Ears smaller, wide-set.	Large, round, copper-colored.	Firm, solid, hefty but not fat.	Short, plush. Not cottony.	All colors. Blue is best-known.	Imported from Britain, where the Blue is the most popular breed.
Burmese	Medium-small brown cat. Gentle, outgoing and companionable. Popular.	Rounded, sweet expression.	Yellow to gold, strikingly round.	Compact, muscular, level.	Very short, glossy, sleek.	Sable. Champagne, blue gaining recognition.	Not from Burma; fully developed in U.S. First introduced in 1930.
Havana Brown	Tobacco-hued, easy to groom. Generally quiet.	Elongated, with a distinct "break" at nose.	Oval, dark green, clear.	Between A.S.H. and Siamese in type.	Glossy, medium-short in length.	Tobacco brown.	Introduced from Britain, not Cuba. A "man-made" breed.
Himalayan	A Persian with Siamese coloration. Increasingly popular.	Same as Persian.	Round, full, blue.	Same as Persian.	Same as for Siamese.	Same as for Siamese.	A breed "man-made" by crossing Persians and Siamese.
Korat	Quiet and gentle. A recent import.	Heart-shaped face. Large, rounded ears.	Green-gold, large and luminous.	Medium bone structure. Muscular.	Short-to-medium. Each hair silver-tipped.	Silvery-blue.	A Thai cat, popular there even today. Related to Siamese.
Maine Coon	Large, quiet and calm. A medium-long haired American cat.	Med-broad. Long-faced. Large, tufted ears.	Large, wide-set. Copper or green color.	powerful, long, well-muscled.	Heavy, fine, lustrous. Longer on underparts.	Any and all colors.	Shown at the first U.S. cat show in 1895. Officially recognized only recently.
Manx	The tailless cat. Lively. A brave hunter.	Rounded, with prominent cheeks. Ears tapered.	Large, round, full. Color to harmonize.	Compact, balanced. "Bunny-like" look.	Double; longer outer + dense undercoat.	Any and all colors.	Only completely tailless Manx cats are shown.
Persian	Very popular purebred. Needs careful grooming of its long fur.	Snub-nosed. Head round and massive. Ears small.	Large, round, wide-set. Copper-colored.	"Cobby," low on legs. Broad-chested.	Allover long hair, fine-textured, fluffy.	All colors.	Origins possibly in Persia, Afghanistan. Elegant and popular at shows.
Rex	A mutant with a wavy, kinky coat. Unusual appearance.	Oval. Devon Rex has a definite nose stop.	Oval, wide-set, slanting upward. Color to harmonize with coat.	Long and slender. Tall. Whip tail.	Curly or wavy. Fine, short.	All colors.	A mutant. Two types shown are Cornish and Devon. Standards for them differ.
Russian Blue	Known by its outstanding coat. Loyal and graceful. Not common at present.	Flat-skulled. Broad face, longish nose.	Green, as vivid as possible when mature.	Fine-boned, lithe, long-legged.	Double-coated. Short, thick, fine.	"Bright blue," preferably light, w/o shading.	Known previously by other names, it is not necessarily Russian.
Siamese	Most popular breed. Mainly long lined. People-oriented, "talkative."	Total wedge from tips of large ears to chin.	Almond-shaped, deep blue. Not crossed.	Finely-boned, long, cylindrical.	Short, fine-textured, close-lying.	Seal-, chocolate-, blue-, lilac-, red-, frost-, lynx, tortie-points.	No proof that it originated in Siam (Thailand). Now most popular breed in U.S.

Choosing a Cat

CHOOSING A CAT

Choosing a cat is a long term commitment. Carefully weigh all the facts and make a responsible decision. Spend time reading about cats. Observe them and talk to other owners and breeders. This way, you will have fewer surprises.

KITTEN OR CAT

Nothing is as cute as a kitten. For most families, raising them is a delightful experience that they wouldn't have missed. Kittens usually adjust readily to new places and new owners. However, they do require more supervision and training than adult cats. Since the disposition of an adult cat depends greatly on the way it was raised, kindness and attention are very important. Kittens will very readily adapt to other pets around the house. Allow at least three days before giving up if it appears the animal will not make friends with your other cats or dogs. Allow a longer period of time for your pets to accept the kitten.

Young cats are more susceptible to infectious diseases. More care must be taken in selecting a healthy kitten than a healthy cat. Animals with running discharges from the eyes and nose or those showing signs of diarrhea should be avoided. The smallest baby of the litter, if much smaller than the rest, frequently is suffering from severe disease or birth defects. These should be avoided. The safest way to assure yourself of getting a healthy animal is to have the new pet examined by a veterinarian within 24 hours of acquisition. Return the animal if severe problems are found.

Many humane societies will not release a kitten to a home with young children. However, care can be taken to see that children are trained to be kind. Time should be taken to instruct young children to handle a kitten GENTLY. This type of training can be valuable training for a child. It teaches children compassion. This training is the responsibility of parents and older family members.

If you decide to get a kitten, keep in mind that it will not remain a kitten for long. Force yourself to think of how it will look as an adult. It will be an adult much longer than it will be a kitten.

There are certain instances in which a cat might be better for a family pet. While adult cats are slower to adjust to new circumstances, they do not require the supervision and training that a kitten does. An adult cat usually trains a child very quickly to leave it alone. The child and cat soon

learn to know what to expect in future encounters. Many times adult cats will put up with indignities at the hands of children that they won't tolerate from adults. Very often a cat will make itself scarce in the presence of a small child. If you need a good mouser immediately, a cat is the best answer. Many families have acquired full-grown cats with great success.

LONG HAIREd OR SHORT HAIREd

Long haired cats are said to have more gentle temperaments than other cats. However, they require more attention. These cats must be brushed or combed almost daily to keep their coats lively and attractive. If you do not have the time or desire to do this, then a shorthaired cat will be much more suitable for you. If you are buying a long haired cat, be sure it comes from gentle parents that like to be groomed. It is very discouraging to have a cat that needs grooming but is so bad tempered it is difficult to brush.

REGISTERED OR UNREGISTERED

There is very little difference in the work required to care for a registered or an unregistered cat. It is a matter of personal preference. Registered cats are usually more expensive. If you are interested in showing cats or raising purebreds, then only a registered cat can meet your requirements.

There are advantages to owning registered cats. They are usually very well taken care of before you get them. Also, you can see what the cat will look like as an adult by looking at its parents. Many registered cats are bred for showing and, as such, must have very docile personalities. Therefore, most are extremely good pets and are very easily adapted to living with human beings. Registered cats also have that certain something called "status" associated with their ownership.

Beware of very low priced registered or unregistered cats of a particular breed. There is usually a reason why the price is low. There are very few "good deals" among low priced individuals of a breed. If you are not asked to pay at least \$25 for an animal, it indicates that the owner does not place much value on the animal. (These comments usually do not apply to unregistered American Shorthairs.)

WHERE TO OBTAIN THE FELINE YOU WANT

Once you have decided on the kind of cat you want, try to stick with your decision. They are all adorable. It's easy to settle for something that isn't quite what you wanted which you later may regret buying. Make certain that the cat you are considering is suited to you. It should be in good health, have a good temperament, have been treated well and

have had its shots. Do not feel that you must take the first animal you see.

When selecting a kitten, choose one who looks clean, alert, playful and comes from clean surroundings. Avoid the shy ones, as they tend to remain shy all their lives and will require special attention. When you buy a pet, insist that the sale depend upon a "clean bill of health" from your vet. Have the vet examine the animal the day it is purchased.

A friend or neighbor may offer kittens free. If this is your situation, be sure to look at the mother cat and, if possible, the father. See their living conditions, temperament, care and other items already explained. Usually, the disadvantage with free cats is that they are not pedigreed and it's hard to say, "No, I'd rather shop around first". A kitten should be at least 9 to 10 weeks of age before it is taken away from the mother.

Animal shelters, like the Humane Society, have animals which can be adopted for a small fee. The fee may include a certificate to get the female spayed. The quantity and condition of the animals at shelters will vary from week to week. Frequent visits will allow you to make a selection of the kitten or cat just the size, age, color, sex and temperament that you want.

Pet shops often sell both registered and unregistered cats. Be careful in dealing with pet shops. Make certain that their animals are healthy and well taken care of. Don't feel sorry and select one that sneezes. This condition can cost many dollars at the vets later on.

It is wise to purchase registered cats from a breeder with a good reputation. Breeders generally advertise in cat magazines and in the "Want Ads" in local newspapers. Professional breeders know more about the breed of cats they raise than most people. Often they have animals for sale to a "good home" as a pet. Prices are set to help him meet his expenses, which can be considerable. Show quality kittens generally cost more than regular animals. Some breeds cost more than others. The cost of registration is often included in the price.

When you buy a registered animal, you must decide if you plan to breed him or her. Often, a purebred can be bought at a reduced price if the new owner plans to have it neutered or spayed. The registration papers are often supplied to the new owner after being shown proof of altering by a vet.

Sometimes a cat may come around and beg to be taken in. Check with your local Control Officer, Humane Society, neighbors and the "Lost and Found" ads in your local paper before you let the animal settle down with you. He or she may have an owner who is looking for it.

Care of Your Cat

THE FIRST 6 - 8 WEEKS

After kittens are 2 weeks of age, it is good to gently handle them and get them used to people. Before this, handling should be limited. The kittens eyes and ears are not working for the first 10-14 days. After this time, hearing and sight become more acute as the kittens grow. The mother cat usually gives excellent care. The kittens are too weak to stand at first, but move with a swimming motion. The mother nurses and cleans the babies and protects them from harm.

Orphan kittens require a lot of time and care. The younger they are, the less their chance of survival. Milk may cause diarrhea. If diarrhea occurs, stop feeding milk for a few days, then dilute it half and half with water. If diarrhea occurs again, consult your vet. Some cats are unable to properly digest cow's milk. Calcium supplements may then be necessary.

Introduce solid foods gradually from 3 weeks on. Feed mushy foods first and increase the consistency as time goes on. Strained meat baby foods are good to start with. Increase the frequency of meals as the kittens grow. They should be able to eat as the mother does at 7 to 8 weeks. Frequent small meals are best until the kitten is grown. By 8 weeks of age, the kittens should be completely weaned.

DECLAWING YOUR CAT

Declawing is an operation which removes the cat's claws, usually only on the front feet. If done properly, declawing causes very little pain and the claws will not grow back. It is a good idea if the animal is to be a house cat and/or is aggressive or mean. Outdoor cats should not be declawed. Declawing will not change the cat's personality or prevent it from biting, but it will help prevent injury or damage from scratching.

A declawed cat can still climb trees if it should get outside, but will not be able to defend itself properly. If your cat is declawed, it is your responsibility to keep it indoors and safe from harm.

Some cats can be trained to use a scratching post or the claws can be clipped regularly. This may be sufficient to prevent injury to you or damage to household objects.

HANDLING

Handling should show your cat that you are a friend, that no harm will come to him, and that you are in charge of the situation. You convey this security to him by learning the right way to approach, pick up, and carry him.

Greet your cat when you come into the room. Use a calm low voice. Walk up to him, don't run. Let him sniff your clothing and hands. Treat him with respect. If he is sleeping, eating or using the toilet, don't bother him.

Each cat likes to be held and carried in a different way. A common factor is that cats don't like to hang in midair. It is also not a good idea to pick a cat up by the scruff of the neck, except in an emergency. When you pick up your cat, support both his front and hindquarters. A larger person can securely carry a cat under one arm, with the hand under the chest and the cat's hind legs resting on the person's hip. Some cats like to ride facing back over your shoulder while your crossed arms support his body.

When you put your cat down, lower him so that all four feet touch the floor at the same time. Don't drop him or push him off high places. Cats don't always land on their feet.

Handling an injured or angry cat can be a job for an expert. At such times, the cat forgets who and where he is and could scratch or bite you. If you can, give him time to calm down. Wait for the angry noises to stop and for his fur to smooth down. In a medical emergency, get the cat into a box, cage, or carrier, and close it securely before calling the vet.

When you get him to pay attention, he may respond to your calls and permit handling. If you must act right away, get help, wear gloves, and get a blanket or sack to drop over him. A cat that is upset often welcomes the chance to hide in his carrier or box. If you have time, give him a chance to retreat into it rather than cornering him.

Kittens and cats need touching, petting, and gentle handling. Human contact - stroking under the chin and along the head and sides - pleases them. Never chase, grab or tease a cat. Make friends by being the kind of person that cats trust: calm, soft-spoken and kind.

GROOMING

Grooming performs several functions. It aids in preventing swallowed hair from forming hairballs, gets him used to being handled, may give him pleasure, and improves his looks.

Care of your cat's coat should take no more than a few minutes each day. To groom a shorthaired cat, you can simply wet your hands, shake off excess water, and rub through his coat until the moisture is gone and dead hairs have been loosened. Scratching and petting also serve the function of grooming and polishing the coat.

A natural-bristle or rubber "slicker" brush made for cats can also be used for grooming. Carefully and slowly go over all areas of the cat's body. You may gently grasp the loose skin at the back of the cat's neck to keep him still. As you work, look for skin problems and external parasites that you might not otherwise notice.

Longhaired cats require brushing. They need grooming with a wide-toothed cat comb every day to get down to the skin. Tangles should be combed out before they become a problem. Careful clipping of mats with blunt-tipped scissors is a last resort but may be necessary in severe cases.

Good nutrition also contributes to the condition of the fur. A poor diet will show up in his overall appearance.

Claws will need clipping about every two weeks. Either a large "people" nail clipper or a small pet nail clipper will work. You may find this to be a two person job, and you should have someone who knows how, show you the first time. Be careful to nip off only the end. Cutting into the quick is not a serious injury to the cat, but can be frightening for both of you. If you make claw trimming a routine when your cat is young, he will let you do this without much fuss. There will then be far fewer complaints about damaged upholstery and scratched people.

Avoid touching the cat's whiskers when grooming. Whiskers grow from the sides of the muzzle and are used as special "feelers" and are very sensitive. When walking or hunting at night, the whiskers are brought forward to feel the way through the grass or bushes, and to avoid running into trees or other objects. NEVER cut your cat's whiskers!

If necessary, ears, eyes, and anal areas may be gently cleaned with cotton moistened with warm water.

Show grooming takes extra time. You are working towards perfection: minimizing your cat's faults and emphasizing his strong points. Shorthairs are brushed and polished until they are sleek and gleaming. Longhairs are sometimes powdered first and then brushed and combed until the fur is full and flowing. Every trace of powder should be removed.

PLAY

Cat play is practice for hunting. The kitten learns this from his mother. He also instinctively pretends to catch and kill prey. The indoor cat often gets no closer to real hunting than this, but he doesn't lose his enthusiasm for games. Watching two cats stalking, ambushing, and wrestling with each other is wonderful fun and is instructive as well.

When playing with your animal, you must be in charge. Encourage quiet play that makes you and your pet better friends and promotes mutual respect. Do not be unkind or destructive in your activities. Rough play could accidentally hurt your cat.

A very important lesson to teach is that your fingers and hands are not toys. Never try to get him to stalk and attack your hands or strike with his claws. This becomes a painful and unattractive habit in an adult cat. If he tries to do this, slowly move your hand away and stop the game. Hands are for feeding, petting, and holding your cat, not for him to bite and scratch.

Cats like to use an empty cardboard box or paper sack for hide and seek. They like to chase a ping-pong ball, bat a catnip mouse, or just play tag with another cat or a friendly dog. Toys for the two of you might include a spool or feather on a string, or a crumpled ball of paper (never foil or cellophane). Another game cats enjoy is "shuffleboard", played by the cat in a dry bathtub with a large overcoat button or poker chip. When your cat shows any signs of getting tired or bored, or if he becomes overexcited, it is time to put the toys away in a secure place. He will then be ready to give himself a wash and settle down for a nap.

TRAINING AND TEACHING TRICKS

Training your cat can be part of your project. You and your parents will want to set some simple rules as to where the cat may go and what he may and may not do. As you get to know your cat's nature, you will see that he does not respond exactly the way a dog does. The altered cat, who is not always trying to find a mate, has two main interests. He wants to avoid discomfort and danger, and he wants to have food and pleasure.

When you discover your cat breaking a rule, such as getting up on the dining table, you must correct him immediately. Stop him. Clap your hands, and say "Kitty, No!", in a stern voice. Never hit him. The idea is to get him to associate his wrong action with something unpleasant, not to make the two of you enemies. You must correct every mistake. Your

cat will take advantage every time you are too busy or too forgetful to enforce your rules. Some people keep a water pistol handy to correct an uncooperative cat.

To get your cat to do something for you, you must again use "cat psychology." You can get your cat to come when you call him by name. Practice this every time you feed him. All cats train themselves to come to the sound of the refrigerator door or can opener, so you know that he can learn his name in the same way.

Leash training begins with getting the cat used to the equipment. Make sure that the cat is friendly, willing, and unafraid. There have been many debates about whether or not a cat should wear a collar. To prevent the possibility of your cat being choked, buy a safety collar with an expansion device which will expand and free the cat if it is caught. If you wish to use a flea collar on your cat, make sure it is designed to be used by cats. Some dog flea collars are very deadly to cats when the cat licks itself and swallows some of the flea powder.

For leading your cat, you may desire a harness instead of a collar in order to stand less chance of choking your cat. A harness designed in the shape of a figure eight is preferred. Once he has become used to wearing a collar or harness indoors and eating and sleeping in it for short periods, attach a leash. The leash should be light weight. Don't pull on it. Let him go where he wants. Don't take him outside until he is completely comfortable with this arrangement. Your cat may never walk alongside you like a dog, but you should be able to take him out into your yard for some fresh air. Avoid anything that might frighten or threaten him. Don't tie him up or leave him unattended.

To teach a simple trick, start with a cat who is eager for his dinner. Take half of his food and use it to get him to get up on a stool, shake hands, or sit up and beg. Use one word, plus his name. Work in small steps, rewarding him with a piece of food when he does what you want. Teach only one trick at a time, and work only as long as the cat is interested. Then feed him the rest of his meal as usual.

Intelligent cats will often do tricks on their own, such as fetching a favorite toy, sitting on your shoulder, or jumping inside a box or basket.

THE KITTEN

Kittens start life totally dependent on their mothers. She nurses and keeps them safe from harm. As weeks go by, young ones begin to play, explore and learn their first lessons: watch, listen, sniff carefully, and quickly hide from danger.

When about five weeks old, they spend longer periods away from their mother, nurse less than five hours a day and start to eat solid food. The breeder gives these animals a good start by feeding a balanced and nutritious diet, while monitoring their development and behavior. Kittens should stay with their mothers until at least eight to ten weeks old.

When a kitten moves to your house, you must remember that he is still a baby. Introduce him slowly and for short periods to other members of the household. Do not leave him alone with other cats, dogs, or small children until they know how to treat each other and can get along. Keep a sharp eye on him so that he does not play with electrical wires, get into poisonous substances, catch cold, or suffer heat stroke.

Write down complete instructions from the breeder, including the weekly diet, shot record, and the vet's name and address. Get into the record-keeping habit, and continue as long as you have your pet.

OLD AGE

Cats nowadays are getting better care and attention, both at home and at the vet's clinic. It is not uncommon for people to own cats that are ten, fifteen, and occasionally twenty years old. If you have an old cat, be proud. You have done a good job of husbandry.

Cats, like people, are as young as they feel. Not all cats age at the same rate. In general, a cat over the age of eight is on his way to becoming a "senior citizen" with special needs.

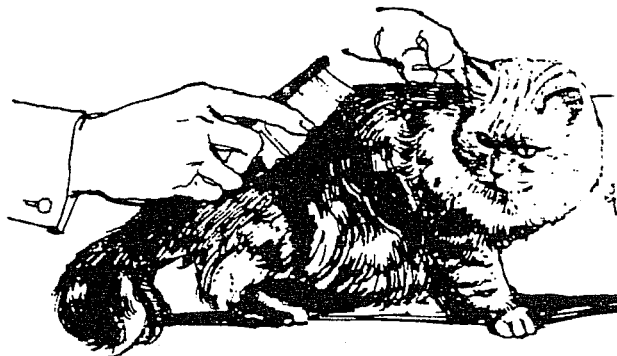
You will notice that he sleeps more hours each day. But this does not mean that you should not play with him when he is in the mood. The more attention you pay, the more interest he will have in living. Remember, though, that he should be handled gently and kept out of danger.

The older cat will want everything to be the same every day: his dinner time, the temperature, his living quarters, and most of all, his family. Do your best to keep his daily routine the same. See that he gets a good-quality cat food to eat. Smaller and more frequent meals may suit him better. If he has a specific medical problem, your vet may suggest special foods or extra vitamins. Drinking water -- fresh and clean -- should always be handy.

Since he can't keep himself as well-groomed as he would like, you should brush or comb him daily. He has a harder time with swallowed hair than a younger cat. Keep his claws clipped and don't forget to keep his toilet box clean and fresh.

Your cat should have a checkup once or twice a year. Your vet can spot the beginnings of problems that you may have missed. You can help by keeping records of the shots, illnesses, and injuries he has had in the past. Be a good observer, especially of the eyes, ears, mouth, and digestion.

Death can come to your cat in many ways. Whether it is sudden, like an accident, or slow, as with a long illness or old age, it is a time of sadness and memories. You have watched him develop from a small kitten into a graceful adult. Perhaps you have also watched him mature into an old and familiar companion. His death completes an endless cycle. Sometimes an owner must put his cat's welfare above his own feelings and allow the vet to put the cat to sleep. Your vet will be the best person to help you at such a time. If your vet wants to do a postmortem, let him. He may learn something that may help other cats to live longer.



Showing

Showing your cat, whether in a 4-H show or at an association sponsored show, can be the highlight of your project year. You have the chance to demonstrate that you have done a good job, that your cat is a good representative of his breed or type, and that you know how to present and display your entry for judging.

You need to plan ahead for a show. Eligible purebreds must be registered well in advance with the organization sponsoring the event. Contact the breeder of your cat, who will provide you with documents and help you to write to the association. Mixed-breed cats are shown without papers in 4-H and household pet classes.

All cats should have certificates of all required inoculations, some of which must have been given well in advance of the show. Cats must be in good health and free of disease, injuries, and parasites. No female that is in heat, obviously pregnant, or is nursing kittens should be shown. Check with your project leader about eligibility of complete males that have reached maturity. Be sure that your cat accepts handling by strangers and has the calm temperament needed to tolerate a cat show.

When you decide to show a cat, learn the rules. Make certain that you have precise knowledge of the age group, sex, coat length, type, color, and pattern of your cat. Be careful to enter him in the proper class. It is not fair to cat, judge, or owner if the exhibitor expects a decision despite an incorrect classification or is not shown according to the rules.

You must take especially good care of your cat in the weeks before a show, so that you can have him looking and feeling his best. If your cat is dirty, you must bathe him. Two weeks ahead for longhairs and one week ahead for shorthairs is suggested. All cats must be combed or brushed daily up to show time. Judges look for winners among cats that are clean in every way. Eyes, ears, and anal areas must be free of dirt and matter. The cat should look alert, healthy and have no objectionable odor.

The day before the show check your cat over and clip his claws. Assemble the supplies you'll need. If it is a caged show, consider the following (if a presentation-only show, omit items of decoration):

- * A rug or mat for the cage floor

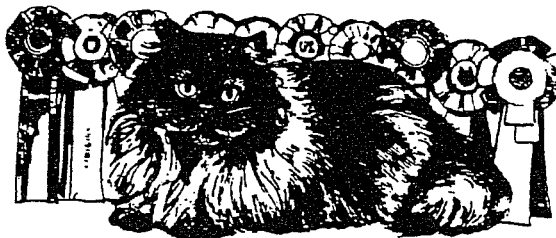
- * Clean towels or cloth to decorate and screen off the cage from other cats (cages are usually 21" x 21" x 21")
- * Litter and a small litter pan
- * A small quantity of cat food and a dish
- * Water from home (less likely to cause digestive upsets) and a water dish
- * Rubber brush and grooming cloth for shorthairs
- * Metal grooming comb for longhairs
- * Reading material and whatever you need to make yourself comfortable and to help pass the time waiting to be judged

Feed the cat a regular meal the evening before the show and skip his breakfast the day of the show. See that you and your cat both get a good night's sleep and a good early start the next morning.

On show day you must take all entry documents, supplies, and the cat in his carrier and appear for "vetting in" at the proper hour. After being cleared, you will be directed to a numbered cage where you and your cat will be stationed. Make your cat comfortable. Plan to stay with him during the day, except when a friend can keep an eye on him for a short time. He may be upset and annoyed by curious (and sometimes unfriendly) spectators who don't realize that they must not poke fingers or noses into the cage. You should also be handy to answer questions and exchange information with other participants or show officials.

You must promptly present your cat to the judging area when your cat's number is called.

Whether or not your cat wins a blue ribbon, you can profit from the experience if you have worked hard and done your best. You will also have learned how to do even better next time. When it is all over, remember that ribbons and trophies do not tell the whole story. Appreciate your cat for the fine qualities you know he has.



Safety

Some people believe "that cats have nine lives", and have an almost magical way of surviving brushes with disaster. This is not true. Cats need your help to live a full and long life.

The biggest hazard to your cat is "the great outdoors." Unfortunately, the days are past when you could let him run loose. Laws and common sense forbid it. Cats have many enemies -- dogs, hunters, traffic, pesticides, severe weather, and other cats. Unless you live on a farm and far from any public road, be kind to your cat by taking him out only on a leash or by building him a run enclosed with chicken wire or screening. Do not let him eat anything he finds outdoors that may be spoiled or poisoned.

You must also use common sense inside your house to keep him away from danger. Be sure that needles and thread, pins, rubber bands, small buttons, food wrappers, and string are put away or disposed of in a closed container. Cats are naturally curious. They will often get into open cans and boxes, nibble houseplants, and roll in anything with an interesting smell, later licking themselves and swallowing what is on their fur. Keep your cat out of workshops and cupboards where chemicals are stored. Check labels for harmful substances. Place mouse or rat traps where cats cannot get caught in them. Make sure clothes washers and dryers are kept closed.

Some houseplants can make your cat sick, but he still may want to eat them. Some dangerous ones are philodendron, ivy, laurel, holly, poinsettia, and mistletoe.

Keep your eye on him during the Christmas holiday season. Place electric wiring out of reach, dispose of turkey bones carefully, and don't let your cat yield to his temptation to climb that glittering Christmas tree. Shut him out of the room if necessary.

When you need to take your cat with you when away from the house, avoid trouble by confining him to a carrier. Some cats find traveling in a car so upsetting that they go wild, and this could cause an accident. The cat you calmly carry in your arms at home can forget himself in strange surroundings and quickly escape. If you must leave your animal in a car, be sure that it is not parked in the sun and roll the windows down just a crack. Don't leave any pet alone in a car for a long period of time.

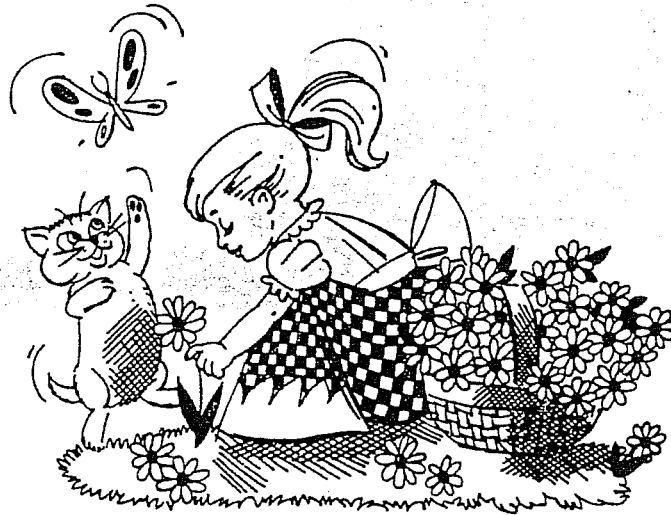
If you encounter a cat fight, dump a bucket of water or squirt water on the cats. Do not attempt to "shoo" them away or pull them apart.

In coping with hazards, remember the word "prevention". Your parents had to be very watchful when you were little, and you have a similar responsibility to watch your cat. Prevent him from getting into trouble. Keep track of where he is and what he is doing. If, in spite of your watchfulness, he has gotten into something harmful, you must act quickly. Get the name of the substance or the cause of the accident and call your vet immediately. You will then have time and expert help on your side.



Wives' Tales

1. "Cat's see in the dark". Actually, they use their whiskers. Cats have about 30 whiskers, which help them find their way in the dark.
2. "Cats are surefooted and always land on their feet". While cats are agile, surefooted, and graceful most of the time, it is not uncommon for a cat to have a broken leg or neck as a result of an injury.
3. "Cats are cowards". There are many stories of cats scaring away poisonous reptiles, scorpions and other unpleasant animals.
4. "Cats are not affectionate". People who think cats are unloving have never held one in their lap. When he purrs loudly, it's love at first sight. A cat's affection is subtle, like rubbing against your legs.
5. "Cats are stupid". Cats have superb skill and strategy in stalking prey. Cats have a built in clock, they know when it is time to come home and go to bed.



MY CAT'S DATA SHEET

Registered name: _____

Nickname: _____

Obtained from: _____ Address: _____

Breed: _____ Birthdate: _____

Distinguishing features, to help identify if lost: _____

Weight: _____ Height: _____ Length: _____

Ears: _____ Eyes: _____

Reg. No.: _____ License No.: _____

How many litters (if a female) _____

MEDICAL HISTORY:

Veterinarian's Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Record of Examinations:

Date: _____ Reason: _____

Shots or Inoculations:

Dates

Feline Distemper

URI

Rabies

Worming

Castrated _____ Date _____

Spayed _____ Date _____

Bred _____ Date _____

Kittened _____ Date _____

GUIDE FOR HOME INSPECTION OF CATS IN 4-H PROJECTS

Name of Member: _____ Name of Cat: _____

Club: _____ 1st Date: _____ 2nd Date: _____ 3rd Date: _____

Inspections should be made at least three times during the 4-H year by the project leader. The first inspection should be made within one month after responsibility of the cat is assumed.

Points to Check	Inspection Dates			Remarks
	1st	2nd	3rd	
CONDITION OF COAT G-Good, F-Fair P-Poor				
CONDITION OF EYES C-Clear, CL-Cloudy D-Discharge				
CONDITION OF EARS C-Clean, D-Dirty I-Inflamed				
CONDITION OF BODY N-Normal, O-Obese T-Thin				
CONDITION OF TEETH C-Clean, S-Stained T-Tartar, B-Broken				
COLOR OF GUMS Pink -Healthy Pale - Anemic				
LEG STRUCTURE S-Straight D-Deformed				
TEMPERMENT F-Friendly, S-Shy A-Aggressive				