

Sarah Says...

Q: I have noticed that my 13 year old cat seems to prefer to sleep under the radiator, rather than come and sit on my lap like she used to. She has also started to scratch me when I comb her. Is this just her getting old and grumpy?

There are certainly some changes in behaviour associated with ageing but it is important that we rule out any medical problems before putting these down to old age. Conditions such as Arthritis and Cognitive Dysfunction (brain ageing) can lead to a variety of changes to a cat's normal behaviour and routine. Chronic pain associated with Arthritis can mean that cats are no longer able to jump up onto higher surfaces and may choose a lower level resting space.

As cats are solitary animals, their survival depends upon them being able to carry on in spite of quite high levels of pain. As such it is often difficult to recognise when they are in pain as they show very little obvious signs. They rarely give vocal signals such as yowling or crying and tend to become quiet and withdrawn instead. An unusual reaction to being touched or groomed in a particular area can indicate that they are painful.

If your cat is becoming withdrawn and less active it is a good idea to get them checked. Please contact the clinic if you have any concerns and we will be happy to advise you.

The Cats Whiskers

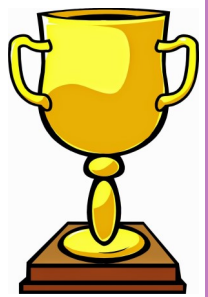
Did you know that at Cambridge Cat Clinic we hold the **Gold Cat Friendly Clinic** award?

The Cat Friendly Clinic scheme is run by the International Society for Feline Medicine, and includes a long list of stringent criteria that practices must. The awards range from Bronze, to Silver, and then finally Gold award. The list of standardising criteria includes everything from staff training, feline expertise, to the premises and facilities that we provide.

To learn more about the Cat Friendly Clinic scheme, use the following web link: www.icatcare.org/sites/default/files/PDF/cfc-criteria-owner-summary.pdf

We try our hardest to give the best care to both our owners and their cats, and hope that this is reflected in the service that we provide. If you would like to let us know about something that we have done to please you, (no matter how big or small) be it a kind word when you were feeling anxious about your cats vet visit, or promising to give your cat an extra cuddle once you dropped them off for a hospital stay, we would love to hear about it.

Please use the following link, or visit our Facebook page, to leave a review, and we will display our favourites at the clinic! <http://vethelpdirect.com/dashboard/write-review?id=1068>



A Fresh Take on Feeding Our Cats

Historically we have fed our pet cats from bowls, but we now understand that this does not meet the cat's instinctive, natural feeding needs. As humans we naturally want to feed the people and animals that we love, and like to see an empty plate! Just because your cat doesn't finish their bowl at the first sitting, does not necessarily mean that they don't like the food. It is normal for cats to pick at their food throughout the day (and night!).

Cats are predators, tending to eat little and often in their natural environment, hunting 10-20 times a day. Cats can spend on average 6 hours a day seeking food, which provides them with the majority of their daily exercise. Hunting releases Dopamine, a hormone that causes the feeling of eager anticipation. Catching and then eating prey, the cat is left satisfied. Hunting also provides cats with the majority of their daily exercise, and many enjoy playing with their food before eating it.

A cat that is denied their normal hunting or feeding behaviour (e.g. indoor-only cat, no cat flap, scared to go outside due to friction with neighbouring cats) may suffer mentally and physically.

Ideally cats will have free access to outdoors, to come and go as they please, and have their food and water sources located separately. Obviously this is not always possible due to our many different lifestyles and housing arrangements, but the good news is that there are some things that we can change and implement to create a healthier and happier cat.

Feeding puzzles are great at allowing cats to express some of their natural hunting instinct, encourage exercise and allow for portion control. Some of the problems that can be improved or corrected with the use of a food puzzle include obesity, harassing owner for food, waking owners at night for food, stealing food from owners plates, frustration based aggression towards owner, fear of people, fear aggression behaviour, separation anxiety, multi-cat household competition for food, inappropriate toileting, hunting wildlife, regurgitation after food due to eating too quickly and destruction of furniture.

There are many types of food puzzles available, and they don't have to be expensive - some of the best are homemade. It's important to find the right puzzle for your cat, some may prefer puzzles that move and are very interactive, whereas others prefer a stationary puzzle. It is also important to introduce your cat to the puzzle correctly, and not to give up after the first go. Have a go at home by making some simple beginners feeding puzzles. We would love to see photos of your creations once you have finished. We also have some puzzles available to buy at the clinic.



l o s e t h e b o w l



Cambridge Cat Clinic

Welcome
back!

Here is the Summer edition of our much loved clinic newsletter. Our quarterly bulletin will keep you up to date with clinic news, upcoming events, current offers and also any fabulous feline features, tips and facts that we have thrown in for good measure!

Summer 2017 edition of.....

The Mog Log

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5 Year Anniversary (That's 36 in cat years...)

In May, Cambridge Cat Clinic will be celebrating its 5 year anniversary, and we would like to give a big thank you to all of our lovely owners and cats for your continued loyalty and patronage.

In the past 5 years we have registered 1800 cats (950 of which were Domestic Short Hairs, 757 toms, 473 new kittens and 26 named Molly), used 1500 kilograms of cat litter, run 2400 loads of laundry, opened 120 packets of Dreamies treats, held 5 clinic Open Days, said 'Hello!' to 4 new members of staff, said a fond 'Farewell!' to 3, had 2 staff babies, and (temporarily) cared for 1 hedgehog.

We are all looking forward to the next 5 years and the feline fun it will bring.

The Purrrfect Carrier

We see a wide variety of weird and wonderful pet carriers come through the clinic, and are regularly asked which are best. When choosing a carrier, look for the following:

- Easy to clean
- Both top and front loading
- Has a covered roof, or can be covered with a towel
- Made from a robust material
- Has a solid floor (which can then have a familiar smelling blanket or towel placed inside)
- Large enough for the cat to easily turn around in

Many cats associate their carriers with fear, which in turn makes for a stressful travelling experience (for everyone!). For tips on travelling with cats, please have a look at our website, or ask a member of staff for advice.

Fabulous Feline!

Lovely Ellie is our latest fab feline, and has charmed all clinic staff into falling in love. Ellie is a 6 year old Tortoiseshell DSH who lives at a stable yard, putting her keen hunting skills to good use. Tortoiseshell cats often get the nickname "Naughty Torties", due to their sometimes spikey nature (also known as Tortitude!), although there isn't any hard evidence to support this. As Tortoiseshell cats are almost always female, some would say this may also contribute to their distinct reputation... Completely debunking this theory, Ellie is incredibly friendly and loves a cuddle! After a nasty wound infection and a stay at the clinic, Ellie is now feeling much better, and is back to work catching mice.

