

## Purrs and Hisses

**See more of our readers' letters.**

### Don't Be Afraid of Raw Diets

I was very disappointed when I read "Hazards of a Homemade Raw Food Diet," in the September issue. Veterinarians Robinson and McClelland cited good reasons why not to be sloppy, careless or disrespectful to the meat when making homemade, raw pet food. However, it sounded more like "be afraid, be very afraid." There is no reason to be afraid of raw pet food when made in a hygienic and respectful way. I make raw pet food for my pets and clients, and I prepare my pet food with as much care and interest as I do food for my family.

Many health problems can be reduced or eliminated by feeding an animal the kind of food he was meant to eat. Most of our pets can't use the stove, so we must assume that they were meant to eat raw diets.

J.P. Persyn  
Veneta, Ore.

### Help the Wildcats

I was pleased to see the October issue and the "17 Pages of Wild Cats." I have an 8-year-old Egyptian Mau-Serval mix named "Tattoo Mau-Mau," who I raised from birth (her mother abandoned her). She is an indoor cat but will go outside only on a leash or her pink stroller (which brings a lot of looks).

It hurts to see that these beautiful cats are on the brink of extinction. Yes, something needs to be done about it, hopefully before it's too late. I would love to see a wildcat conservation so these wonderful creatures can live a happy and healthy life without being harmed or killed.

Stephanie Rivedal  
Centennial, Colo.

### Fun Cat Game

It started as an ordinary Scrabble game, but after one frustrating round, my husband suggested making words all about cats. What fun! Our Norwegian Forest cat, Sugaree, came to see what the fuss was all about after we finished.

Kathryn J. Riss  
Piscataway, N.Y.

### Scotting Significance

Thank you for the article in Ask the Vet about expressed glands in the October issue. I have a 5-year-old domestic longhair who had been scooting. I was surprised that Elaine Wexler-Mitchell, DVM, made no allergy mentions. She says it is unknown whether diet plays a significant role in anal gland problems. Based on my experience, cats can and do have food allergies and these allergies do result in scooting. Now my cat is on a low-allergen diet. She recently started scooting again after two years of not scooting. She took several tests to identify her response to 57 antigens. Unfortunately, the results showed she is sensitive to all 57. Now she is on a shot schedule and this plan will continue the rest of her life.

I was referred to Terese C. DeManuelle, DVM, with the American College of Veterinary Dermatology who has overseen my cat's care since the beginning of her scooting incidences. A cat's body condition might be a factor in scooting, but my cat is not obese, nor does she have incompetent sphincters. DeManuelle informed me that surgical removal of these glands is a very sensitive surgery and could easily leave the cat incontinent. She did not recommend it.

I would strongly recommend CAT FANCY readers who have a cat who scoots to see a specialist in dermatology and allergies. There is more to this condition than Wexler-Mitchell implies in her response. Allergies are a real factor in scooting and today, under DeManuelle's care, my cat is doing just fine. She no longer scoots.

Angela Dreher, Ph.D.

West Linn, Ore.

**More Photos, Please**

The September issue with the “coolest” cat home project was a real disappointment. Through the years, I have bought your magazine almost every month. When I saw that you had an article on what people have done in their homes to let the cats enjoy it, I grabbed the magazine without looking at it first — my mistake. What a waste of time. There were so few photos. You asked people to send photos of things they have done to their home, and yet we never got to see but a couple.

Nancy White  
Via email

**Vaccination Advisory**

My cat Mittens almost died when she went to get her shots for the first time. After they gave her the shots, she was alright. We left and went down the road to the store for a couple items. Mittens had a reaction to her shots and got sick all throughout the van.

When we took her immediately back to the vet, they put her on oxygen and put an IV in her little leg. We waited more than an hour. Finally, they came out and said she was almost back to normal.

She wasn't quite back to normal for a couple of days. I was so happy that she was alright. Every time I look at her I remember the incident because she has a white spot called her “stress spot” that she got from the shots. Hopefully this letter will remind other cat owners to monitor their cat closely after it receives its shots.

Renee Guterba  
Leetonia, Ohio