

CAT FANCY Reader Letters

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Nurturing Foster Cats

I was looking through the December 2008 issue of Cat Fancy magazine and on Page 39 I noticed a kitten that resembled my foster. I remember the gal that adopted her worked for Cat Fancy and was wondering if this was her. So many times we never hear how our fosters are doing. I have included a few baby pictures of her with her brothers and sisters. They were the most beautiful litter. There were eight total and I had four. If it is her, she seems very loved. I always knew she had the makings of a model. I am a volunteer at the Irvine (Calif.) Animal Care Center and take care of the kitten room, as well as fostering throughout the year. Your magazine has been very good to us and we really appreciate it.

Mary and Fred Evans
Irvine, Calif.

Beautiful Norwegian Forest Cats

As a Cat Fancy subscriber for over four years, I was so happy to see the Norwegian Forest Cat grace your December cover! As an owner of two lovely Norwegian Forest Cats, I totally agree with the comments by Elisa Jordan. I have been a cat owner all of my life, and I struck gold when I brought these loveley animals into my home. My forest cats are kind, affectionate and love to be in the room with all of our family members. They are wonderful company! Even my husband, who is a professed dog lover, is very fond of them. Maybe I can convince him to get another one for Christmas.

Maryann McCauley
Westborough, Mass.

Living With Deaf Cats

I have been a subscriber for more than 20 years and I eagerly read the article "Living With a Deaf Cat" in the December 2008 issue. My husband and I have four cats, one of which is deaf. We adopted Killian from our local animal control shelter, not knowing his disability until several days later. Luckily, he does not startle when approached. We talk to him just like he can hear us. He also talks to us, using a variety of chirps and purrs, all the way up to loud, demanding meows when the food bowl is empty. Of course, he can't hear himself either. He snores very loudly but it doesn't seem to bother him. Other than he's often the last to know when something happens in the house, he's just like the other cats and is not disabled in our eyes.

Michelle Bishop
Clifton, Colo.

I was happy to see an article on deaf cats since I have been blessed with not one, but two deaf-from-birth cats over the years. I was a little disappointed to see the emphasis on the cat's "handicap" and not on the more positive aspects, as neither of my deaf cats ever acted like they were handicapped. Deaf cats have a heightened sense of sight and smell and always know when treats or catnip is brought out. Their internal clocks tell them when it's dinnertime and if that fails, then they see the other cats heading to the kitchen and know something is up. My first deaf cat, Fop, would greet visitors at the door and my current deaf cat, Frankie, while not that outgoing, is far from aggressive or scared and is one of my more confident cats. Besides, it's the easiest thing to play with/exercise a deaf cat:

1. Get a flashlight
2. Swing flashlight wildly
3. sit back and enjoy the show!

Pati Cheesman
via e-mail

Ask the Vet

First, thank you for your wonderful magazine. On Page 28 of the December 2008 issue, Teresa Madden stated she was confronted with a special problem concerning the tubings on her dialysis machine. (She was concerned the cats would disturb the tubing.) We were hindered (in the same way) when my sister was battling cancer. When I was checking the oil in my pickup, I spotted the answer. Over the wires under the hood of your car is a covering called a wrap. It is plastic, soft, flexible, slit from end to end, and (can cover the tubes of a dialysis machine without unhooking them). The wrap is available at most auto-parts stores. It is very inexpensive, comes in different diameters, is cut to desired lengths ... and works very well. Some refer to it as a wire shield. Most are black. I do believe this will solve her problem, and she can enjoy her furry family members all night through. It kept my sister from closing her door to the kitty she loved so dearly.

Barry Rigg
Via e-mail

I read with interest the letter entitled "A Different Sleeping Spot," about the woman who was undergoing home dialysis and wanted to keep her cats in the room with her. I am also a home dialysis patient and have successfully trained my four cats, including a new kitten, to leave everything alone. I started by letting them see the equipment and then turning it on. The rule from the start was look but don't touch. If a cat got too close, I would say no and gently push him away. I let the cats stay until I was ready to sleep and then put them out of the room. After a while, the cats no longer showed an interest in my equipment and could stay with me overnight. The key to this method is absolute consistency. The cats have to know that whatever else you might let them get away with, you mean business with your dialysis equipment.

Stephany Fine
Via e-mail

'Hard to Swallow'

I just finished reading the December 2008 issue and found the letters to the editor regarding the article on "Hard to Swallow" very interesting. Two years ago, our 16-year-old cat, Buddy, required an emergency visit to the veterinary hospital. He was diagnosed as having a potassium deficiency and an overactive thyroid. We were given a prescription that he has to take for the rest of his life. MY wife and I would stick the pill down his throat with much success. But after regaining his strength, there was no way Buddy was going to be forced to swallow pills. During one of my shopping runs, I strolled through the pharmacy section and saw a pill crusher. I brought it home, put his pills in it, screwed on the top and crushed them into a fine powder. I mixed it with his canned cat food and it has been a success ever since. I would strongly recommend it to other cat owners whose cats are reluctant to take pills. This way, there is no need for kitty strait jackets or pill pockets.

Ernie Barany
Mercerville, N.J.