

Readers' Letters

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Never Give Up

I really enjoyed reading the Story of the Month "Don't Give Up" written by Thomasa J. Duncan in the February issue. I have raised three adult children that have various degrees of bipolar disorder, seasonal affective disorder (SAD) and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD). I have always tried to impress upon my kids to never give up and to always keep trying and to use the best ways to solve things. Two out of three usually call when they need help.

There are not too many stories like this about mental illness. Thomasa never asked for the medical and mental disorder just as everyone else did not ask for it or want to have an extra challenge. All of my children have cats and enjoy the therapy that they give them. I want to say that I feel a lot of compassion for Thomasa when her Shadow passed away from cancer. Thank you for sharing your story. It is very difficult to lose such a trusted and loving friend.

Kris Williams
Via email

Earned Recognition

I was somewhat disappointed in "How to Find a New Veterinarian" in your February issue. Nowhere in the article did you mention the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP). This is the only group which puts veterinarians through a rigorous exam process and requires recertification every 10 years. It awards the title of diplomate in feline medicine and surgery. This is a meaningful achievement and not just a purchased membership in a group. Please view our website at www.ABVP.com and recognize our achievement.

Mary Abarno DVM, diplomate ABVP
Via email

Mine for Life

After reading Susan Logan's Editor's Note in the November 2006 issue, I had to write. When I got my cat from our local shelter, she had already been spayed, declawed and picked up as a skinny stray. After I brought her home, I discovered some issues she had with diarrhea or loose stools and room clearing gas. Maybe this was why she became a stray but I don't know.

With the help of my vet, the personnel at the shelter and online information the problem is no more. It was a matter of finding the right food, mostly canned. She's mine for life as were my other cats I had. She is really a very sweet cat and I just can't imagine someone putting her out to fend for herself without claws. I got her three days after putting my last cat to sleep and I love her very much.

Phylis Ryden
Via email

More Information Needed about FIV

I am a new subscriber to your informative publication and new to cat ownership. My wife finally convinced me to get two Siamese kittens. I noticed a letter from a subscriber in the February 2007 issue that said more attention should be given to FIV. I would like to see more information about FIP (feline infectious peritonitis).

We have lost two kittens to this non-testable, non-curable disease. Both kittens were from two different breeders. Both kittens contracted the two different versions. The first kitten, Sushi, contracted the wet version and the second kitten, Ikuro, contracted the dry form. The kittens contracted the diseases within 35 days of each other. We were assured by the second breeder that it would be OK to pursue the purchase. The remaining cat, Tamari, has survived. As far as we know, she is not a carrier.

We endured the forced feedings, giving medications three times a day of Clavamox and Interferon. We have read intensely about this disease that has taken our kittens lives within nine and seven months respectively. We found out after our first

kitten had been put to sleep that this disease can lurk in homes for quite some time. A thorough cleaning of the house, furnace filters, carpets and furniture is required to eliminate any chance of re-infestation.

I hope this has been of some help to readers or anyone that has experienced caring for a FIP kitten.

Gregory Geuss
Indian Head Park, Ill.

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