

FELINE DEFENDERS

of the
National Cat Protection Society



WINTER 2010

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The National Cat Protection Society is a shelter whose primary mission is dedicated to the protection and welfare of cats.

EDUCATION

Providing humane education on keeping your cat happily hydrated...



Enhancing quality of life for your cat may be as simple as keeping him or her hydrated. An essential nutrient comprising 60 to 70 percent of an adult cat's weight, water critically keeps the body cool and circulatory, cardiovascular, renal, and other systems functioning properly. "A deficiency of water may have serious repercussions for pets: a 10-percent decrease in body water can cause serious illness, while

a 15-percent loss can result in death," writes the ASPCA. Cats with constipation, diabetes, and kidney disease particularly benefit from high water intake.

However, cats don't naturally drink the amount of water they require to adequately fulfill their physical needs – even if their drinking bowl is always full. They also don't get sufficient water from dry food, which only contains 10-percent moisture. Canned food on the other hand contains up to 78-percent moisture, but is significantly less nutritious than dry food.

So how do you ensure your cat is hydrated and as a result, physically sound and comfortable? Try using a circulating drinking bowl as well as placing a few water bowls around the house, regularly rotating them to maintain interest.

Based on information from:

Nutrients Your Cat Needs. (2010). ASPCA.

Keeping Your Feline Friend Hydrated for Optimal Health. (2010). Wellness.

Understanding the Different Forms of Pet Food. (2009). PETCO Nutrition Center.

Wet and Dry Cat Food. (2010). ASPCA.



Want to help NATCAT continue providing humane education to our local communities? Become a Fan of National Cat Protection Society – Spring Valley and National Cat Protection Society – Newport Beach, and learn the different ways you can donate.

EVENTS

Keeping you informed of community events...

Newport Beach Events

Monthly, first and third Saturdays

Anesthesia-free teeth cleaning for cats
at Pet Supply, Huntington Beach
(800) 600-7387

February 13, 2010, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pet First Aid
at the American Red Cross, Santa Ana
600 N. Parkcenter Dr., in the George M. Chitty Building
(714) 481-5355

May 2, 2010, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

National Cat Protection Society Open House and Fundraiser
at the Newport Beach shelter
RSVP (949) 650-1232

Spring Valley Events

January 26, 2010, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

How to Live Happily Ever After with Your Cat Class
at the San Diego Humane Society
(619) 299-7012

February 14, 2010, 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Pet First Aid
at the American Red Cross, San Diego
3950 Calle Fortunada
(877) 454-7229

June 13, 2010, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

National Cat Protection Society Open House and Fundraiser
at the Spring Valley shelter
RSVP (619) 469-8771

For updated event information, don't forget to check out the next issue! If you'd like to receive the latest news and announcements from NATCAT, please send your e-mail address to newport@natcat.org.

NATIONAL CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY, INC. www.natcat.org

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NEWPORT BEACH

SUCCESS STORY, GIZMO



After Beate Davis-Mota adopted two-year-old Snowshoe male Gizmo from NATCAT, he sadly developed the liver disease Feline Hepatic Lipidosis, also known as feline fatty liver syndrome. First, she noticed that his litterbox lacked stool. Then when she noticed that his eyes were yellow, she quickly took him to the veterinarian. He recommended force-feeding vs. a

nasal feeding tube that would only intensify the stress he had experienced living with his deceased owner unfound for a week, in a shelter for five days, and adapting to his new home.

For food, Beate created a paste using:

- 2-percent milk
- Tuna specifically for cats, rather than standard canned tuna that typically contains corn filler. “Trader Joe’s Tuna for Cats contains only tuna, rice flour, vitamins A, E, B, and B12, folic acid, and other vital supplements,” Beate recommends
- Small flakes of light tuna from a water-packed pouch for the additional omega oil, texture, calories, flavor, and scent

She force-fed Gizmo the paste hourly with a syringe, cutting off the entire tip (but not the black plunger) to permit a larger amount. “The goal was to daily get as many calories on a continuous basis into Gizmo as possible,” she says. Separately, she discovered that Gizmo voluntarily ate organic, no-sugar apple sauce from a baby spoon. “The vet condoned these extra calories as long as he also ate the paste,” she adds. Beate used a different syringe to administer water after each feeding, since he had stopped drinking as well.

Additionally, she smashed and fed Gizmo 10 milligrams of metoclopramide in a light tuna chunk three times a day to prevent him from vomiting both food and bile. As the vomiting subsided,

Continued on page 5

FELINE FRIEND, GINGER



Ginger came to NATCAT with her sister, Teeny, from a woman who found them in her yard. She took great care of them, getting them to eat despite resistance at first as well as socialize. Thanks to her hard work, we were able to accept them into the shelter at eight weeks old.

Although Ginger isn’t particularly fond of other cats, she adores people – especially ones who make her the

center of attention! Also very vocal and active, Ginger loves toys, playing, and being held, cuddled, and kissed.

GIZMO *(continued)*

she accordingly adjusted the interval to twice and then once a day.

When the vomiting stopped, Beate continued to feed Gizmo the paste with the syringe, gradually stretching out the feeding interval to every 1½, 2, 2½, and then 3 hours. During the process, she also fed him the cat tuna and light tuna chunks, eventually feeding him only the chunks. He ultimately passed normal stool and two days later, began eating canned cat food on his own again.

The following week, he thankfully started eating dry cat food. “As soon as he weighs between 10 to 12 pounds, I’ll give him 1 to 1½ cups of dry food a day,” Beate explains. “Still a growing boy, this amount will be enough to maintain his weight as well as support his sporadic sprinting and powerful pouncing!”

Gizmo now shadows Beate wherever she goes, comes when she whistles – and most importantly, is as spunky and playful as ever.

CAT CLUE

Did you know that the crossed eyes some Siamese cats have are actually a defect, limiting their peripheral vision and depth perception? *For more on the Siamese cat, check out our special cat breed series on page 8.*

SPRING VALLEY

FELINE FRIENDS, KEEBLER, MINI-MO, & MR. STUBS



Six-year-old male Keebler, eight-year-old female Mini-Mo, and six-year-old male Mr. Stubs came to NATCAT together as family – and would like to leave the same way. All spayed or neutered short-haired white

and gray tabbies that get along with other cats, Keebler is a tad shy but very friendly, Mini-Mo is a bit more outgoing, and Mr. Stubs is an attention-loving sweetheart. Charmingly distinguishing them from other cats, Keebler has one blue eye and one yellow eye and Mr. Stubs has a stub for a tail, earning him his name.

Visit NATCAT today to learn more about this lovable threesome, which you're likely to find adorably grooming or sleeping on shelves with each other around the shelter.

NATCAT & TYCO EMPLOYEE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM



NATCAT is excited to report that we're now participants in the Tyco Employee Matching Gift Program! Tyco International is a global company that provides electronic security

products and services, fire protection products and services, valves and controls, and other industrial products. As a global corporate citizen with more than 100,000 employees, Tyco matches each employee's donation to local charities to support our communities.

If your company matches employee donations and you'd like to support NATCAT, please contact NATCAT with more information.

INTRODUCING NATCAT PARADISE



NATCAT Paradise – our retirement center redesigned to promote environmental enrichment for our senior cats is complete! What's environmental enrichment? "A dynamic process for changing environments to increase the animal's behavioral choices and drawing out their species-appropriate behaviors, thus enhancing animal welfare," according to the AZA Behavior Scientific Advisory Group. Simply speaking, Paradise offers our seniors various attractions to stimulate physical and mental activity, minimize stress, support natural instincts, and enrich quality of life.

Visit us today to see our seniors delight in the wall-to-wall, overhead walkway, ramps, "lifeguard tower," large "island," "volcano and lava" with pressure-controlled heating pads, scratching posts, and "Retirement Bay boat dock" anchoring "love boats" with litterboxes. You're sure to enjoy the scenery – while our seniors enjoy you!

CAT TIP

Cats are much more likely to chew their food than dogs, which means they often spit out any medicinal pill you try to hide in food. *For steps on getting your cat to take a pill, check out page 10.*

FELINE FIELD

Helping you get to know more about your cat...

Cat Breed Series: The Siamese



In this ongoing series on cat breeds, you'll learn about the Siamese cat – the oldest domestic cat breed.

Bred as an aristocratic cat in Thailand (formerly Siam), the Siamese cat was originally believed to be sacred. In fact, only the royal family and Buddhist monks had the cat until royalty started giving it to European dignitaries in the late 1800s.

The breed has evolved into two lines throughout time: traditional, characterized by a longer body and wedge-shaped head, and modern with a rounder body and apple-shaped head. All Siamese cats are partially albino, so they're born white and then develop coloring on their head, feet, and tail. This coloring identifies the cat as a blue, chocolate, lilac, Lynx, red, seal, or Tortie point. They're also known for their eyes varying widely in shades of beautiful blue.

Behaviorally, healthy Siamese cats are notably intelligent, particularly playful, and very vocal. Along with a typical lifespan of 14 to 20 years old, the breed is ideal for the whole family.

Next time in our special cat breed series, we'll discuss the Abyssinian cat – popularly known as the Border Collie of cat breeds.

Based on information from:
Popular Cat Breeds. (2009). Discovery Communications.
Ardrey, Joan. *Breed Profile: Siamese*. (2009). The Cat Fanciers' Association.

Knowing increasingly more about felines can help you understand your own cat's behavior and desires. Visit Feline Field in Feline Defenders every issue to obtain such knowledge, which can only nurture a happier and healthier relationship with your faithful friend.



Interested in adopting a Siamese cat? Become a Fan of National Cat Protection Society – Spring Valley and National Cat Protection Society – Newport Beach to see some of our adoptable cats and kittens!



NATCAT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Each year, NATCAT finds loving, responsible homes for hundreds of unwanted cats and kittens. Donations and memberships help us provide them with food, shelter, and medical care while awaiting adoption. Please help us continue to provide this vital service.

Join NATCAT by becoming a member!

- \$10 YEARLY
- \$250 SUPPORTING MEMBER
- \$1000 LIFE MEMBER
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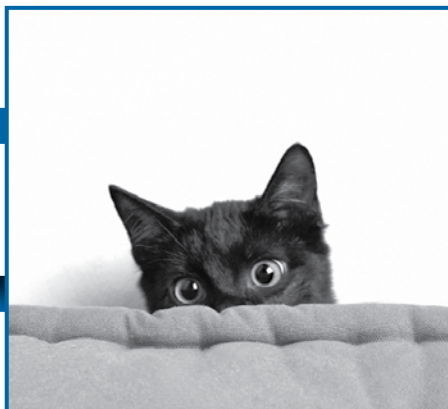
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NATCAT - PO BOX 6218 - Long Beach, CA 90806

CAT CABLE



Supplying the latest information in cat care...

Pill Taking

Your cat won't take his medication?

When hiding or wrapping a pill in food doesn't work, try following these steps:

1. Sit your cat on your lap, facing away from you
2. With your palm facing the top of your cat's head, use your fingers to grip his upper cheek bones to firmly hold his head
3. Gently tilt your cat's head back. His lower jaw should slightly drop
4. Hold the pill with your free hand's thumb and index finger
5. Use your remaining fingers to tenderly push on your cat's small incisor teeth to keep his mouth open
6. Drop the pill down your cat's throat as far as possible
7. Immediately close your cat's mouth
8. Blow on your cat's nose to stimulate swallowing

Based on information from:

Administering Medication. (2010). Purina.

College of Veterinary Medicine. *Giving Oral Medications to a Cat.* (2009). Washington State University.

Visit Cat Cable in Feline Defenders every issue to read the latest in cat care. If there's any specific information you'd like to see in Feline Field or Cat Cable, please notify the Newport Beach shelter.



Where There's A Will, There's A Way

Protect the Ones You Love

**You can give the gift of life after you're gone by including
The National Cat Protection Society in your will.**

Our humane education programs strive to teach population control and the responsible care of cats to school children so that there will be fewer unwanted cats in years to come.

Your bequeathed donation can help make our dreams a reality by promoting humane cat care and adoption of the homeless cats in our shelter.

**Please write today for our free brochure:
"Planning for Your Charitable Donations"**

c/o National Cat Protection Society
6904 W. Coast Hwy, Newport Beach, CA 92663

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