

# Traditional And Classic Cat International™

Helping To Promote And Protect Traditional Cats Everywhere®

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## The Cat Box

Our cats must finally all be growing up. We put up a Christmas tree the week before Thanksgiving, and the thing is still standing! They do love sleeping under it though. The cuteness factor is right off the scale. This gives me more fodder for the photo show next year ☺

Speaking of the photo show, the forms should go out in February, so I hope all of you are taking pictures like mad. We loved being judges this year. The pictures are always great. The fun and silly classes are my favorite though.



Pipsqueak, WuShu, Gandalf

I hope you all renew your memberships this year. With the newsletter back on track, things should get more exciting. This organization is about all of you and your cats. We want to give you a place to register your cats and to have fun too. We can't keep going without you – our supporters. So, renew and get ready for the photo show!!!



## Felines Online

Join the listserver! To subscribe, just send an email to: [majordomo@tccat.org](mailto:majordomo@tccat.org) with the words *subscribe tca* in the body of the message – NOT as the subject.

## Site of the Month

[www.clydesight.com/index1.html](http://www.clydesight.com/index1.html)

“The fun and games cat site starring Clyde Big Paws, Feline Unit 236.8v2”

## New Year's Resolutions for Cats



### **Our version:**

1. I will try to remember that cat hair is not a desirable condiment.
2. I will not make my vet scream more than once during any routine appointment.
3. I will not help my human do yoga or any other floor exercise (unless she invites me to serve as a hand weight).
4. I will not demand to get out the minute after I come in and visa versa.
5. I will not use the clay litter box and then walk across the laundry basket full of clean clothes.
6. When jumping from the top of the tallest dresser onto the human's bed in the middle of the night, I will not select his groin as my landing target.
7. I must realize that not all parts of the human's body are appropriate for kneading.
8. I will not go into jungle kitty survive-at-any-cost mode, clawing and biting my way to freedom, when my human tries to trim my claws.
9. I will not kiss my human on the lips after eating something incredibly yucky, even if it is meant as a sign of affection.
10. I will not puff my entire body to 3 times its size for no reason when my human is watching the last 15 minutes of a horror movie
11. I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.
12. I will not begin a brand new game of Herd of Thundering Wildebeests Stampeding Across the Plains of the Serengeti on my human's bed five minutes after she finally gets to sleep. When my human wakes up, I will not pounce on the Demon Horror that lives beneath the bed sheets.
13. I will not scream and yammer at a can of food in the expectation that it will magically open itself. This is doubly true if I am any part Siamese.
14. I will not stick my paw into every container in the world just to see if there is something in it.
15. I will not play "dead cat on the stairs" while people are trying to bring in the groceries.
16. I will not projectile vomit on the couch when Mom is expecting important company.
17. I will not stroll across the carpet and then help my human install a new board in her computer.
18. When danger threatens, I will not leave skid marks on any part of my human's anatomy when I make my escape.
19. I will remember that a warm pepperoni pizza is not a good place for a nap
20. I will not walk across the keyboard when my human is working on important afs rehfig kh;lk[.

### **Their version:**

1. I will sleep more, and in more interesting (i.e., fragile) locations.
2. I will continue my pursuit of the perfect hairball: size, appearance, sopiness and final destination.
3. I will come when my human calls me if I feel good and like it.
4. I will get at least 3 minutes of exercise most days.
5. Kill the sock! Must kill the sock!
6. January 2nd - December 31: Re-live victory over the sock.
7. Whenever it rains or snows, I will be sure to check every outside door at least twice on the off chance that it will be dry someplace.
8. I will be courteous to my human's guests and present them with something tasty that I caught myself (extra points if it's still moving).
9. If my human annoys me I will be sure to kiss her on the nose at 2:00 a.m. to tell her that I have finally forgiven her.
10. I will continue to be perfect in every way.

### **At a Glance**

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A twinkle in her azure eyes;  
All that glitters is blue.  
An admirer of sweet sensation  
In her feline attitude.

She spends her time  
Spreading true  
Love that glistens, pure  
Love for all the world to see;  
Spectrum is her eyes, so ruled . . .

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## The Best New Year's Resolution

Most of us love our pets and take good care of them. But who would care for them if we weren't around anymore? Resolve now to make plans for your pets just in case—even the best shelter is not equal to a good home.

The simplest plan is to designate one of more trusted people to take over. Key questions are:

- Is the person able to take care of the pet, long-term? What would happen if they couldn't?
- Does the person need money for the pet? How will you provide it?
- Is your plan in writing, clearly describing what you want? Has your caretaker agreed to the plan?
- Have you arranged for your caretaker to be notified if/when he is needed?

More elaborate plans could include a will or trust making provisions for your pet. Historically, the American legal system has not been sympathetic to legal arrangements for pet care. Wills and trusts have been thrown out because they didn't meet legal technicalities. However, this is changing. Many states now allow pets to be provided for in wills and trusts, though the laws differ from state to state. If you want to go this route, you will need to consult a lawyer. Ideally, choose one who has experience in the area.

In addition to making sure your pet's future care is provided for, you might want to prepare a pet care package. This would include information like:

- Veterinary information: name of vet, details of health history (vaccines, medical conditions and medications)
- Favorite foods and problem foods
- Favorite types of petting and play
- Any fears that might trigger bad behavior
- Favorite bed (make sure the caretaker will have an article of yours that has your scent to put in the bed)

Hope the worst will never happen, but plan for it anyway. It's a great way to start the New Year!

## The Cat's Alphabet

*(reprinted from an American Greeting Card)*



**ct nonchalant.**

## Teach Cats To Use Scratching Posts

by Marilyn Pokorney

Cats love and need to scratch. When they live in a house or apartment they will scratch whatever is available, which usually turns out to be their owner's best piece of furniture.

Here are some tips to help teach your cat to use a scratching post instead of your favorite couch.

- Cats don't understand physical punishment. Punishment only breaks the trust that your cat has with you.
- It feels good to cats to scratch. Scratching serves as exercise to keep your cats muscles in shape.
- Don't try to show your cat how to scratch the post. Cats know how to scratch and will do so when they want to.
- A good scratching post should be tall enough for your Kitty to fully stretch the body, usually around 3 feet tall and should be very stable. If it falls over, even once, the cat won't go back to it. A resting place on top is even more attractive.
- Cats like rough surfaces that they can shred to pieces. Choose material as close as possible to the item that the cat is now scratching on. The reverse side of rugs provides a good texture for clawing.
- Cats mark their territory by scratching. The paws also have scent glands that leave their own special scent on their territory, so a scratching post should be in an area that's used by the family.
- Encourage the cat to use the post by feeding and playing by the post. Rub dried catnip leaves or powder onto it. Attach toys to it, such as a catnip mouse, which causes the cat to grab the post attempting to catch the toy.
- Put a post near where the cat sleeps. Cats like to scratch when they awaken, especially in the morning and the middle of the night. If possible, place a scratching post in every room of the house.

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