



Catty Times

Volume 2, Issue 3

July 2008

Animal Communicators

Chuck and Suzanne Fisher of Nature's Country Store are both talented Animal Communicators.

They are available if their booth is not busy to assist you and your cat with any problems that arise during the show.

This service is free of charge to exhibitors during Cat Shows. See our web site or brochure for rates at other times

PetCommunicators.com

Email us at:

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Oops! Missed the Litter Box Again

When a cat urinates or defecates somewhere other than in the litter box, everybody has a problem (including the cat).

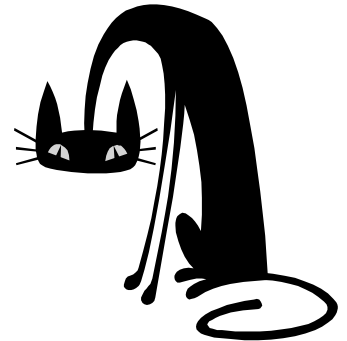
Soiling, as this behavior is often called, can have many and varied causes.

Soiling can be caused by physical problems. The first one to have checked out is a UTI (Urinary Tract Infection), either bladder or kidney. Soiling can also be a way for the cat to get our attention when there are other physical problems, so a thorough workup by a veterinarian is important before considering other causes for soil-

ing.

Urinating in unusual places can also be a way for the cat to mark territory. Whether the need to mark territory is caused by the introduction of another cat or pet into the household or a human, the cat is being really clear that the intruder needs to either respect that the cat was there first or go.

Problems like this can often be worked out by giving the cat a lot more attention than the new pet (or human) is given. This is especially hard to do when the new pet is a kitten or a puppy. Kittens and puppies are ador-



Oops! Messed in your shoes!

able and need a lot of attention.

When the problem is a new baby, a new boyfriend or girlfriend, or any person who seems to be getting between the cat and his or her favorite person, the situation calls for some

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Cat-ch Words & Phrases



A bag of cats - A bad-tempered person, such as: "She's a real bag of cats this afternoon!"

A cat in gloves catches no mice - Sometimes you can't accomplish a goal by being careful and polite.

Another breed of cat - something different from anything else

As nervous as a cat in a room full of rocking chairs - Someone with frayed nerves; jumpy

Busier than a one-eyed cat watching two

mouse holes - Very busy, almost to the point of being frantic

Busier than a three legged cat in a dry sand box - Very busy, almost to the point of being frantic

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Dear Aunt Catty

Tell Aunt Catty your problems...

Dear Aunt Catty,
I hopes you be's intrested in helpin' little kitty me. My peoples gots a new TV and it be's reely big. It be's so big I be thinkin peopleses be in my livin room. That be very scary.

Help,
Little Norbert Kitty Me

Dear LNKM,

I understand your being scared about a big TV. The peopleses that are on the screen are not really in your living room. I suggest you get up on your person's lap when you get scared and then look at the TV and hiss and growl at the screen. That way, the peopleses on the screen will know you don't want them in your room and they will stay out. AC

Dear Aunt Catty,
My people get so mad at me. When I want to go outside, I sit and say "OUT-OU" trying to get their attention. Sometimes they just ignore me. When one of my people picks up my leash and harness to take me out, I get so excited and anxious that sometimes I will turn around and bite them or scratch them with my claws because they are so slow. Why don't they just open the door and let me go out?

Determined to go out

Dear DTGO,
You have to realize that your time goes a little faster than people time. They are so slow. Remember how long it takes them to feed you, or to clean your litter box? They just don't realize that when we want something, we want it

now! Try to understand your people and realize they are slow. Try not to bite them when you get excited. People have a low threshold for pain and no tolerance when they get bitten. I have always felt that if our humans could rest the way we do (sleep all day and night) they would understand how little kitty us's feel about wanting things NOW. AC

Aunt Catty loves getting letters from your favorite felines.

Help them email Aunt Catty at: cattytimes@earthlink.net or send to:

Aunt Catty, Catty Times
5679 Smokey Road
Aylett, VA 23009

How to Teach a Cat to Sing

First, find the cat. Many cats like to sing. They really do not like to sing along with us when we are singing in the shower because our singing does not sound musical to them.

Just as our singing does not sound musical to them, be forewarned that theirs does not sound musical to us. To us it sounds like caterwauling.

The term caterwauling probably

came from Shakespeare's play Twelfth Night: "What a caterwauling do you keep here!"

But to us, it describes what to the cat is an aria in three-part harmony.

A cat singing may be thought to be in intense distress, but if one looks closely, one will see the cat smiling as he or she sings. We

First, find the cat.

probably sound quite distressed to them when we sing.

Some cats prefer to sing along to jazz, others prefer rock and roll or country music, but not many like rap music or hard rock.

Ask your cat to sing along with you the next time you caterwaul in the shower.

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Oops! Missed the Litter Box Again, cont.

extra work not only on your part but by the new person also.

Sometimes the problem is one of perception in that the cat feels that the new person is getting in between him or her and his person. But often the cat really is getting a lot less attention and is being taken for granted. In this situation it often helps to have the new person bond with the cat, and to have the cat's primary person spend a lot of quality time with the cat. Be sure to talk with your cat and let him know how important he is to you.

Signs of territorial marking are:

1. Spraying on an upright surface.
2. Urinating in the litter box sometimes and in other places sometimes.
3. Defecating in the box but urinating in other places.
4. Urinating near a door or a window, which may be meant to tell an outside cat that the territory inside the house has already been claimed.

Cats also use urination and defe-

cation as a means of communication with each other. While we might ask, "Why can't they just meow?" the leaving behind of urine and feces is a common territorial behavior in a number of species. It says "I have been here and this is part of my ranging territory."

Psychological stress such as a prolonged absence by the cat's person can be a cause of territorial marking also.

Another common problems is called 'litter box aversion.' The cat may dislike the litter box for any number of reasons:

1. The litter box itself—most cats do not like a hooded litter box or a box that is not big enough for them.
2. The depth of the litter—the litter needs to be of a sufficient depth for the cat to cover up its waste, but not so deep that the cat sinks down into it.
3. A preference for a particular type of litter—cats' sense of smell is much greater than a human's sense of smell. Odors which are strong to us

are quite overwhelming to a cat. So, strongly perfumed litter can cause 'litter box aversion.'

Dirty litter or litter that is not scooped often can also be a cause of 'litter box aversion.'

Litter box guarding can also be a problem. Cats can gang up with each other and not allow one of their housemates to get to the litter box. The cat kept from the litter box has no choice but to urinate and defecate wherever he or she can. Putting this cat in a separate room with the door closed to other cats can often break this cycle.

Whatever the cause is for the 'oopses' you find in the wrong place, the best way to find out the cause is to ask your cat what the problem is and listen carefully to the answer.

You essentially have to become a **Super Dooper Pooper Scooper Snooper** in order to find the answer to your cat's 'oopses.'

Cat-ch Words & Phrases

(Continued from page 1)

Cat ice - Thin, dangerous ice

Cat's foot - To live under the cat's foot is to allow someone to control you.

Cat's pajamas - Something considered to be outstanding

The term "cat's pajamas"

comes from E.B. Katz, an English tailor of the late 1700's and early 1800's, who made the finest silk pajamas for royalty and other wealthy patrons.

Enough to make a cat laugh - Something that is ridiculously silly.

Fat cat - A wealthy and privileged person

High as the hair on a cat's back - Very expensive

Honest as the cat when the meat's out of reach - Will not steal if he's likely to be caught.

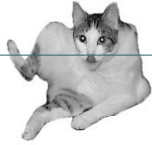
Keep no more cats than will catch mice - Don't surround yourself with people who will be dependent on you.

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Southern Regional Cat Show
Charlotte Merchandise Mart
2500 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, NC

July 5-6, 2008

Star City Cat Fanciers Cat Show
Holiday Inn
3315 Ordway Drive
Roanoke, VA

July 19-20, 2008

Garden State Cat Club of New Jersey
Garden State Exhibit Center
50 Atrium Drive
Somerset, NJ

July 26-27, 2008

Cat Fanciers of Washington
Sportsplex Indoor Sports & Event Center
221 Commonwealth Court
Winchester, VA

Cat-ch Words & Phrases

(Continued from page 3)

Like herding cats - An effort that will likely be futile or at least very, very difficult to accomplish.

Make the fur fly - Start a fight

Put the cat among the pigeons - A British term which means to cause an enormous fight or flap, usually by revealing a controversial fact or secret.

Sweeten the kitty - Increase the amount

Walk the cat back - To attempt to understand the true nature of a situation by reconstructing events chronologically from the present to the past

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