



CARRIE A. SEAMAN ANIMAL SHELTER
PROVINCETOWN

CASAS

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CAT CHAT WHY DO CATS ACT THAT WAY? Cat Behavior by Roz Goldstein

Those of us who have cats in our home or observe cats often have questions about certain cat behaviors. What we may know about dog behavior doesn't translate across species to cats. If a domestic cat could talk it would tell us that most of his behaviors center around two sentences: "I am a predator" and "I am prey".

Predator behaviors:

A cat's ability to hunt small prey such as rodents first earned him a place in our homes and granaries. Domestic cats are considered the Top Predator in the world. They are lone hunters by nature and territoriality is important. A cat needs to mark where he has been and what territory belongs to him. That's why that cat scratcher you put in the back bedroom won't get used but the side of the sofa where you sit most of the time gets scratched. The cat needs to mark the space he moves in and that space is where you are. He marks with scent glands in his paws and face. He also scratches to mark. A declawed cat still needs to mark. Spraying is also a form of marking and used when territory is threatened. Make sure that cat scratcher is put in places you and your cat spend time. Rubbing against you is also marking you as "his".

Activity:

Contrary to some popular belief cats are not night (nocturnal) hunters, but primarily hunt at dawn and dusk (crepuscular). Their eyes have developed specialized features to optimize low light. The slit pupils are able to open to maximize light. The reflective area in back of the cat's eye ("tapetum lucidum") acts as a mirror to increase low light. This is why cat's eyes appear to "glow" in the dark. This dawn/dusk hunting routine is why your cat wakes up at 4AM and wants to play and eat. He also may become very active after

dinner right before your bedtime. Make sure you spend 15-30 minutes in the evening playing with him to help your cat settle in.

Especially young and active cats need vigorous evening play. Leaving food out at night and toys such as small toy mice and soft balls will occupy him in the wee hours of the morning.

Hunting: Cats are lone hunters and have developed the ability to quietly stalk and pounce on prey. The kitten who is stalking your ankles and pouncing out at you is practicing his hunting skills. Offer play and toys such as balls and toy mice and dangles to help him distinguish what is proper "prey". Hide treats around the house or in a box with holes (which can be made or purchased) for him to "hunt". A hunting cat is a happy cat.

Prey behaviors:

We should not forget that due to his lone hunting and small size cats are also prey animals. Many of the behaviors we see in a shelter or a new home which puts a cat under stress are based on this. Many people desire a cat that can be held and picked up and carried. Unless a cat has had this experience from early on, they are unlikely to allow this. From the cat's point of view, if he is picked up and held he can't run from a threat. If he doesn't know you, you present that threat. We need to let the cat come to us and they will then learn it is safe to sit on our laps and be touched.

Hiding behaviors:

Cats are expert at hiding. They can climb of course as well as get into very small spaces. They are very quiet and if in a situation that may be threatening will hide. A favorite place is under the bed inside the box spring, and of course drawers, boxes and ceilings. Allow a shy cat or one in a new home a safe spot such as a cat condo or covered bed or a box as a refuge for a time.

Allowing your new or stressed cat time to adjust on his own time table will go far to ensuring a good friendship between you both.

at the shelter but to help those in our community with pet food, emergency vet bills, and other much needed programs.

PAW 2020

Given the current state of affairs in regard to the pandemic, our Board has decided to cancel PAW for this year. It was a unanimous decision and we all will miss the events and fun this week brings to the community. Hopefully next year, we can all meet together at the various venues: Truro Treasures for the Canine Games, Bayside Betsy's for the Fabulous Fish Fry, St. Mary's for the Blessing of the Animals, our Pet Parade through Town culminating at The Boatslip for an amazing Pet Tea Dance!

We are brainstorming to bring some pet themed virtual events in the weeks leading up to what would have been PAW. We know that impressive pet stuff abounds on social media, but let's do something that is distinctively ours. I think we could have the coolest virtual pet parade ever!

Cancelling this event also significantly impacts our financial bottom line. PAW generates at least one-third of our operating expenses for the year. We still have expenses and there is always the possibility of emergency vet visits. Thankfully, we are a volunteer-run organization and we have great appreciation for our volunteers who are continually committed to taking care of all of the cats in our residence. If you are a regular contributor, now is the time to continue your support however you are able. If you are just finding out about our remarkable shelter, please consider joining our family of donors.

All of us at CASAS want to thank you for helping to make us a strong and viable shelter with the emphasis not only on caring for animals but for caring for our community as well.

William & Barbara Hill

Nathaniel Mayo

Amazon.smile

Network For Good

Kay & Bart Kuhns

John Dunn

Ann Phelan

Pfizer Foundation

Stop & Shop

Thomas Thompson

Corinne Sirna

Leisa & Kevin Keiser

Margaret Brett

Peter Burgess

Snoopy Peters

HARD TIMES FOR EVERYONE

All parts of our lives are being touched, in some way, by COVID-19. Some ways are huge. Some are smaller, more personal. Some are having unexpected consequences. There is some good coming out of the turmoil. We are breathing cleaner air as the earth is healing itself. Wildlife is showing up in places where there hasn't been any for generations. Our companion animals are getting more attention than ever. Some of them may think this is not necessarily a good thing. At CASAS, without any visitors and fewer phone calls, we have more time to spend with our residents. For us, that is a good thing.

One way the virus has touched all of us is the cancellation of events, parties, and fundraisers. Last year we had a record turnout for the pizza party at Montano's. This year it was, of course, cancelled. Our wine dinner at The Pointe has always sold out with everyone having a great time. Again, we had to cancel. Hopefully, this fall we will be able to reschedule these fund raising evenings. For now, we are feeling the effects of reduced donations. Our expenses remain regardless of our income. With so many people out of work we understand that money is tight and all non-profits are hurting now. If you can, please consider a donation so we can continue to not only care for the animals

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Sassy and Naiad



Daisy



AMELIA EARHART A LOVE STORY



Amelia has been our first intake due to Covid-19. Her owner, John Perrone, a Provincetown local, died of complications from the virus in early April.

Amelia came to CASAS late in 2011, captured in Wellfleet by our inveterate cat trapper, Carol MacDonald. She knew that *Amelia* had kittens who were soon trapped as well and reunited with their mom at the Shelter. The kittens (*Bomber* and *Pilot*) were adopted out together and continue to live the life of Riley locally.

John met *Amelia* and it was love at first sight. He adopted her and they set up house together. As his family and friends will attest, she was “the love of his life”! John, in his role as disc jockey for *Night Flight* at WOMR, did the PSA’s for CASAS and would ask me for more information about the cats that we were advertising for adoption. He always managed to interject a story about “his *Amelia*” during these chats. She was a shy girl, doting on him.

When I heard, on the day that John had passed, I started to make inquiries about *Amelia*. Thanks to family and friends, via social media, I quickly

found out that the Rescue Team had left food and water down for *Amelia*, perhaps anticipating that John would come back. This was not to be the case. The Police delivered a trap into the residence but the apartment was off limits for some time. Neighbors kept an eye to make sure she had food, and I went in, with PPE, when the appropriate time had lapsed. I made sure *Amelia* appeared OK, which she did from her safe space under the sofa. We also were concerned that she had been without human contact for some time, so I sang and spoke with her daily. There was broken glass, which worried me, but I closed off all the doors and set the trap in the room where she was hanging out. I was unconvinced that she would take the bait and she did not, but I already had a plan to cat wrangle her. Dave, Anita, and myself went in, to capture her and bring her to Shelter. It went better than I expected.

We at the Shelter have been reading up on guidelines dealing with intake of animals since the beginning of this pandemic. Things change a lot and with guidance from our volunteer vet, we were able to establish a quarantine protocol for *Amelia*. I braced myself for the worst case scenario where *Amelia* was concerned. So much trauma in a short period of time. Having John wrenched from her in a noisy and confusing fashion. Him not coming back. Being alone. Her being captured and transported into a new place with strangers taking care of her.

She has astounded me. She is a sweet, loving kitty. The resilience of these animals is truly amazing!

I know John would approve.

RECENT ADOPTIONS

Ghost, now Lily, to Dick and Enid Caouette

Jasmine, now Grace, to Dinarte Xavier

Petunia to Sophia Reznikas & Rocco Paccioni

Kiri to Kathleen Ryan

Skittles, now Grace, to Lisbeth Chapman

Charlie & Wilbur to Kathy & John Weisblatt

FABULOUS FELINE



Joey

Thanks to one of our readers, we tracked down the ‘funniest’ kitty in the Fabulous Feline Photo contest from 2019. The owner of *Joey* is John Dunn.