



The Sunbeam Newsletter

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It's hard to believe summer is over and we're already in mid-Autumn. However, it's the perfect time to grab a cuppa, sit back and relax while reading the latest edition of the *Sunbeam*.

Jessica Wilson, Editor

Elizabeth Taylor's Love for Cats

Dame Elizabeth Rosemond Taylor DBE (27 February 1932 - 23 March 2011) was an English-American actress, businesswoman, and humanitarian. She began her career as a child actress in the early 1940s and was one of the most popular stars of classical Hollywood cinema in the 1950s. Elizabeth Taylor continued her career successfully into the 1960s, remaining a well-known public figure for the rest of her life. In 1999, the American Film Institute named her the seventh-greatest female screen legend of Classic Hollywood cinema. During her celebrated and intriguing life, Elizabeth Taylor was also a devoted cat lover.



Elizabeth Rosemond Taylor was born at her family's home in Hampstead Garden Suburb, London. She received dual British-American citizenship at birth. Her parents were United States citizens originally from Arkansas City, Kansas. In early 1939, the Taylors decided to return to the United States due to fear of impending war in Europe.

When she was 12 years old, Taylor was signed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and then became a popular teenage star after appearing in *National Velvet* (1944). Taylor transitioned to mature roles in the 1950s, when she starred in the comedy *Father of the Bride* (1950). She received critical acclaim for her performance in the drama *A Place in the Sun* (1951). The film was a critical and commercial success, winning six Academy Awards and the first-ever Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture - Drama.

Elizabeth Taylor's love of animals began while being raised on her family's farm in the English countryside. Although she loved all animals, she had a special affection for her feline friends. Over the years, Taylor owned a sizeable number of cats. In 1974, Elizabeth Taylor and her husband, Richard Burton, were living in California while he filmed the movie *The Klansman*. During that time, Taylor's beautiful cat Cassius went missing. It led her to write this emotional letter:

"Letter to my Lovely Lost Cat. I see you, my beauty boy, in the reflection of those shining black-brown rocks ahead of me. I see the green o' thy eyes every rained, sweated leaf shaking in my eyes. I remember the sweet smell of your fur against my neck, when I was deeply in trouble and how, somehow you made it better - you knew! You knew always when I hurt and you made comfort for me, as I did once for you when you were a broken kitten. Anyway, I love you Cassius - and thank you for your beauty. Please come back!" Cassius never returned.



Elizabeth Taylor received American and British honours for her career. She was known for her beauty and caught the interest of people throughout her life. One less known aspect of her private life was a love of cats, which provided her with personal peace and happiness. **By Fred Glueckstein**

Feline Fridge Fiddler

Keith the cat's owner has spent 'tens of thousands of pounds' trying to get him to lose weight and has even had to put child locks on the fridge to keep ever-hungry moggy out. When he was adopted, his new owner knew he came with some medical issues, but what she didn't know was that, just months after bringing the big guy home, she would have to put childproof locks on her fridge to stop Keith from getting in when he was feeling snacky. Despite all her best efforts, including multiple diets and vet visits, the black and white moggy has gone from 11lbs to a shocking 24lbs over the last seven years. Keith is so good at opening cupboards and drawers nothing is safe, which is why the locks for the fridge were required. Despite his weight Keith is an active and happy cat and his owner is trying her best to keep him that way. 🐾 *Source: www.metro.co.uk*



Curious Cat Cut Out

Many of us pet owners are familiar with the panic that sets in when our furry friends go missing - but one woman was left fearing for her cat's life when she heard him meowing but couldn't see him. A TikTok user named Giavanna, posted a video of her recently redecorated bathroom and said she had heard a meow coming from behind the newly put up tiles on the wall. Giavanna then realised what had happened - her cat had been hiding behind the wall when the tiles were fitted, and had become stuck. Thankfully the handyman was able to locate the kitty and cut a cat-sized hole out of the wall to set him free. Of course being a cat, when he strolled out, Giavanna's kitty didn't know what all the fuss was about! 🐾 *Source: www.themirror.co.uk*



Turkish Trickster Scores Tasty Treats

The "beggar cat" that stalks the pet food aisle of a market in Istanbul's Kadıköy has gained social media fame for his Oscar-worthy "hunger" pines, tricking passers by into thinking he is a starving vagrant - in reality, the store's manager says the street cat actually eats 10 meals a day thanks to the feline's clever antics. The stray, who the store's employees have nicknamed "Nokta," or "Dot" in English, maintains a vigilant daily watch of the pet food aisle. The clever feline waits for sympathetic shoppers and starts woefully meowing as they draw near. To add to the effect, the furry swindler sometimes raises one foot and pretends to be lame or often "faints" to get less interested customers to buy him food. Nokta has been 'working' in the shop for 2 years and he's mastered the art of being the pitiful pussycat. People come from all around to visit him! 🐾 *Source: www.dailysabah.com*



Siamese Heat Sensors

Did you know that Siamese cats are walking heatmaps. Their characteristic coloration results from a delightful mutation in tyrosinase, an enzyme that makes melanin. Tyrosinase in Siamese cats is particularly sensitive to temperature, denaturing at normal body temperature. This means that near the cat's warm body, the enzyme doesn't function, and melanin isn't produced. But at colder extremities like the tail, feet, ears, and face, the colour kicks in. When Siamese cats are born, their fur is white— which makes sense, considering the warm temperature of the womb. Within a few weeks, the colour pattern emerges. As they age and naturally get less active, they also get darker, and colour can be used to predict their age. There's a similar mutation in the tyrosinase of Burmese cats which occurs at a different genetic location than that of Siamese cats. 🐾 *Article from www.boingboing.net*



Do No Harm

Of course at *Sunshine Cat Rescue* we urge people to 'adopt, don't shop' and hope that cat lovers will look to rescue organisations like ourselves when looking to add a feline family member. Yet, there are some people who want a certain breed due to their looks or certain behavioural characteristics. However, there is often hidden harm behind the breeding of specific cats. This campaign from the charity International Cat Care seeks to raise awareness about the cost of breeding cats for looks.

Unlike dogs, where breeds were initially developed for certain working roles (guarding, shepherding, hunting etc), the role of cats was only ever rodent control or companionship. Most cats worldwide are a result of random breeding based on survival of the fittest – the result is an animal which is remarkably consistent in its size and shape and in its abilities. It is robust, agile and self-reliant. It can survive alone or live happily with people depending on its experiences, genetics and opportunities.

It seems to be human nature to try and adapt and change animals – to create new coat colour, length, texture and pattern, as well as alter the body shape and size to suit particular preferences. International Cat Care generally has no problem with making these changes or in using friendlier cats to breed and produce cats which find it easier to live alongside people. However, we believe this should only be undertaken – provided that NO HARM IS DONE, that the new cat is not less healthy than the 'original' and its welfare is not compromised. Pedigree is not better than non-pedigree (moggie), it is just different (and unfortunately in a number of cases has resulted in avoidable harm).

If, however, there is even a small chance that the changes, (often caused by a genetic mutation) compromise health or welfare, then questions should be asked and cat lovers should demand that the new 'breed' is not proliferated. These changes can be direct – i.e., breeding aimed at changing conformation (head shape, leg length, tail length etc.) or altering coat specification (no coat, rex coat, long coat etc.). However, because of the small gene pools being used for breeding to a certain breed standard, various other inherited problems may also occur and spread, for example, polycystic kidney disease or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Both direct changes and changes which arise accidentally need to be considered in the continued health and welfare of a particular set of cats which constitute a 'breed'.

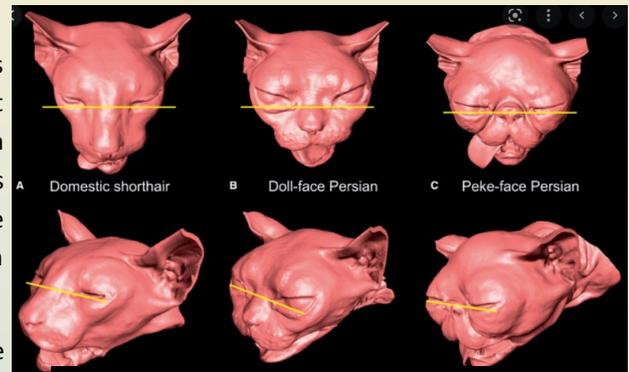
There is a further issue of crossing some of the wild cat species with the domestic cat to produce hybrids. International Cat Care does not agree with this practice as there are concerns for the welfare of the domestic cats used in the matings; concern for the welfare of the wild cats and the F1 crosses, which must be kept in captivity (with a licence), and concern for both the new owners and the hybrid cats themselves because of uncertainty of behaviour and needs of the hybrid cats.

Breeders of pedigree cats must accept responsibility for the production of cats with certain characteristics; purchasers of cats must realise that they create a demand which will then be fulfilled – both must put the welfare of cats before the rewards of money or creating or owning something new or different. First do no harm.

If, despite the best intentions of good breeders and owners, a problem becomes apparent within the breed where it was not evident initially, the custodians of that breed should make any changes necessary to bring it back to health, including changing the breed standard or introducing new lines of cats (with appropriate advice), without delay. An example of a breed affected by genetic harm is the Scottish Fold, thought of as 'cute' because of its folded down ears which give it a round, baby-like face. However, this breed suffers from joint pain because the gene which affects the cartilage to allow the ears to fold forward, also affects cartilage in the joints causing problems such as arthritis in these cats, even from an early age.

International Cat Care has a list of breeds, some old, some new and some emerging. The list deals mainly with information on health and welfare, including an International Cat Care comment where the charity feels the health and welfare of cats is compromised and 'looks' or novelty are being considered over all else. Many people are not aware of the issues and their choice may not be well informed. First and foremost, do no harm.

The [British Veterinary Association](https://www.bva.org.uk/) (BVA) and International Cat Care have teamed up to urge cat lovers to avoid choosing pedigree breeds of cat designed to have extreme or unusual features, such as flat faces or folded ears. This is because of problems associated with these features which may not be immediately obvious, but cause suffering for the cats. 🐾 www.icatcare.org



Changes in Persian cat skull with breeding



Hybrid Savannah cat

Loving Homes Needed

LONG STAY--LOVING HOME URGENTLY NEEDED



This pretty girl is **Sukie**. She's been in our care for a long time, but has come on leaps and bounds since she first arrived. Eleven-year-old Sukie is independent and affectionate on her terms. She will allow strokes when she's eating, but she can be worried by hands in front of her so cat experienced owner who can read her body language is needed. She will play a little, but loves snoozes and lying in sunny spots. She needs a calm home, no pets or children please. Do you have room in your home and heart for Sukie?



This cutie is **Billy Boy**! He is a domestic short hair kitten, around 16 weeks old (at the end of September). He has had a poor start in life but is coming on in leaps and bounds - literally! He's very energetic and just loves playing and darting around, high and low. He's affectionate and very nosy- doesn't miss a thing! He likes children and enjoys meeting new people. He would suit, maybe, a younger household as he's quite demanding and has boundless energy. He is not quite ready yet as he still has to have his vaccinations, microchip and the usual treatments. Do you want a kitten who's loads of fun? Billy Boy is your boy!



This handsome boy is **Koofy**. He is neutered, microchipped and vaccinated. He very much needs a cat experienced person as affection is on his terms although he has mellowed since being in our care. He needs adult home, with no children or other pets. Do you have an understanding home for this special fella?



If you would like more information on any of these beautiful cats,
please phone 01993 831 279 or email

CONTACT US!!!



For more information on our work, to rehome a cat, donate, volunteer or seek advice on cat rescue, please contact Lou on:



01993 831279



lou@sunshinecatrescue.org.uk - General Advice



lou@sunshinecatrescue.org.uk - Volunteering



www.sunshinecatrescue.org.uk



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