



The 'Cat Longitudinal Analysis of Welfare Study' Newsletter Autumn 2014



Photo: Bridgend Cats Protection

STUDY PROGRESS:

How time flies - most of our study cats are now around two years of age! We would like to say a **HUGE thank you** to all our participants for your continued participation in the study – around **75%** of you are continuing to complete our questionnaires, which is a fantastic result! **The information you provide is being used to increase our understanding of the factors affecting feline health and improve the welfare of our pet cats.**

Please do keep your completed questionnaires coming in.

Remember – there are only **two** questionnaires left to go in the study!

-  Questionnaire four: for 18-19 month old cats
-  Questionnaire five: for two year old cats

We will send you an email or a paper copy of the questionnaire when the time comes!



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Christmas is just around the corner, so we will be sending out our annual 'C.L.A.W.S.' Christmas card to all our lovely participants! As such, we would really love to get pictures of our study cats to be featured on the card. Please send your photos to us using the contact details at the bottom of the newsletter.

Need to send some cards of your own? You can buy cards and other goodies from **Cats Protection's online Christmas shop** at <http://www.cpchristmasshop.co.uk/> where your money will go towards the thousands of cats the charity helps every year.

STUDY DATA

At the end of Questionnaire Three (12 month old cats), we asked you to rate whether you agreed or disagreed with a selection of statements about your cat. These statements were taken from the 'Lexington Attachment to Pets Scale', which measures emotional attachment of individuals to their pets. The questionnaires are yet to be fully analysed but here are some interesting findings from a subsection of the completed questionnaires:

86% of you believe that cats deserve as much respect as humans do

54% of you believe that your cat knows when you are feeling bad

74% of you believe that loving your cat helps you stay healthy



74% of you consider your cat to be a friend

75% of you enjoy showing other people pictures of your cat



80% of you often talk to other people about your cat



97% of you believe that owning a cat adds to your happiness

PRIZE DRAW

DON'T FORGET next year we will have our grand prize draw, where participants who have completed all five questionnaires could win a **£100 voucher of their choice!** So make sure you complete all 5 questionnaires to be in with a chance of winning! Good luck!



BODY CONDITION SYSTEM



BODY CONDITION SCORE CARDS:

Would you like to receive a fabulous **free toy** for your cat(s), as well as helping us to understand factors affecting feline body condition? Then please take your **Body Condition Score card** along with you when you take your cat for his/her annual vaccination, or any veterinary appointment at around **2 years and 3 months** of age, and **ask your vet to complete and stamp** the card. Then return it to us using the freepost envelope provided! **If you need another card/envelope, please let us know.**

BRISTOL CATS STUDY



If you have enjoyed being a part of this research and would like to continue to contribute your information in order to help improve the lives of our pet cats, then when you reach the end of the 'C.L.A.W.S.' study you can join our sister study, **'Bristol Cats'**.

The 'Bristol Cats' study is very similar to the 'C.L.A.W.S.' study, but on a larger scale. It is a study of cat health, welfare and behaviour run by vets, behaviourists and epidemiologists at the University of Bristol. The aim is to improve knowledge of common diseases and behaviour problems of cats, for example (but not exclusively), unwanted elimination, obesity and hyperthyroidism. Findings from the study may be used by veterinary practitioners, cat breeders, owners and the cat community to improve the health and welfare of cats in the future. Currently, there are a total of **2,375 cats** on the 'Bristol Cats' study!

You can join 'Bristol Cats' by informing us at the end of Questionnaire Five (2 year old cats). For more information, visit <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/vetscience/research/projects/cats/>.

CONTACT US:

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FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/clawsproject

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for participating in this project. We are hopeful that the study will help us better understand the development of these amazing animals, and improve the welfare of our country's approximately 10 million pet cats. The more data we collect, the more chance we have of generating useful results.

Please help us to improve the lives of our feline friends.

Very best wishes,

Lizzie Rowe



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