



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



Photo: Bridgend Cats Protection

STUDY PROGRESS:

Most of our study cats are now around 18 months of age, and some have reached two years! Thank you to everyone for their continued participation in our feline welfare study. As with questionnaire two, **over 80% of you** came back to tell us about your cat in questionnaire three ('My 12 month old cat'). This is such a fantastic response and the study team are extremely grateful for your continued participation.

Remember – there are only **five** questionnaires in the study:

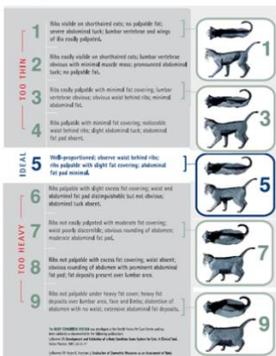
- 🐾 Questionnaire one: 2-6 month old cats
- 🐾 Questionnaire two: 6-7 month old cats
- 🐾 Questionnaire three: 12-13 month old cats
- 🐾 Questionnaire four: 18-19 month old cats
- 🐾 Questionnaire five: two year old cats

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

BEHAVIOURAL STUDY

Lizzie Rowe is continuing to investigate individual differences in persistence in cats using 'puzzle feeders', alongside Sezan Ozgunay who is carrying out a behavioural task for her Waltham funded MSc investigating the social behavior of cats. This research delves into aspects of cat behavior that we know little about. **Thank you to everyone who has already helped**; feedback from this project has been very positive, with owners especially enjoying watching their cats' responses to the different tasks and helping out with the tests. We are **now looking to recruit more cats** to this project, concentrating on areas where there are groups of C.L.A.W.S cats that live close together to help with travel arrangements. Sezan will continue getting in contact with owners to ask for help, but if your cat is aged between **10 and 18 months old** and you would be interested in taking part, or if you know of a group of C.L.A.W.S cats aged 10-18 months whose owners would like to find out more about participating, then please get in touch with Sezan via email at: sezan.ozgunay@bristol.ac.uk or use the contact details at the end of the newsletter, as we would love to hear from you! **We hope you can help!**

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM



BODY CONDITION SCORE CARDS:

Thank you very much to everyone who has been sending in their completed **Body Condition Score Cards** (as displayed left). Body condition is an important part of feline health and is an area we would like to investigate in this study. We would like to collect a **second (and final)** body condition score for our study cats at around **2 years and 3 months** of age, when cats will be due their next annual vaccination. We will be sending you another card; please take this 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.**

We will send you a free cat toy upon receiving your completed card(s)! Without a completed body condition score card, your cat will not be able to be included in an important aspect of the analysis for risk factors for health and welfare problems, so please do get your cards completed and sent back to us!

PRIZE DRAW

Our winner for the prize draw for spring 2014 is Sharon Tudor. Sharon and her cat Domino have won a **£50 gift voucher** from www.voucherepress.co.uk! The next chance to win will be in autumn, and at the end of the study, participants who have completed all five questionnaires could win **£100 of vouchers!**

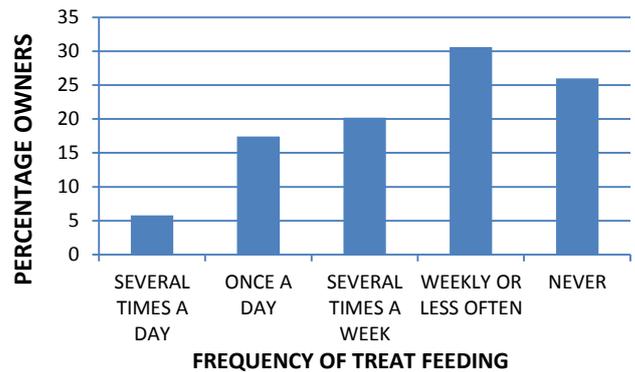
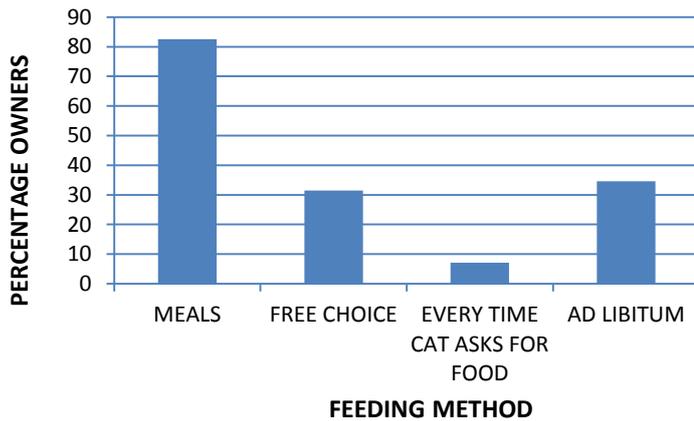


STUDY RESULTS

Here are the results of a recent analysis of questionnaire one to investigate the **feeding practises of owners of 2-6 month old kittens.**



HOW OWNER MAKES FEEDING DECISIONS	%
EXPERIENCE WITH PAST CATS	48.3
ADVICE FROM REHOMING ORGANISATION	48.3
KITTEN PREFERENCES	22.3
INSTRUCTIONS ON FOOD PACKAGING	11.7
ADVICE FROM VETERINARIAN	8.7
TRIAL AND ERROR	8.0
BOOK/MAGAZINE/INTERNET/TV	5.0
ADVICE FROM FRIEND	2.7



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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. Please continue to complete our questionnaires, as 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. Thank you.

Very best wishes,

Lizzie Rowe

