

THE CAT LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF WELFARE STUDY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2012



RECRUITMENT SO FAR...






Since the beginning of May 2012, almost **600 kittens** have been registered with the C.L.A.W.S. project. Recruitment for the study will continue until May 2013. Please let anyone you know adopting a kitten from a **UK rehoming organisation** about the study! Whilst we are delighted with every new kitten registered, we are even more pleased when we receive your completed questionnaires. This is because our main aim is to collect long-term data on kittens as they develop into adult cats over the 2-year study period. So please keep your completed questionnaires coming to us!

PRIZE DRAW

The C.L.A.W.S. team are very grateful for every completed questionnaire we receive as it enables us to investigate factors which influence the behaviour and health of cats, in our quest to improve feline welfare. We couldn't do this without you! So as a thank you and an added incentive, all completed questionnaires will now be entered into a prize draw! Every 6 months, all owners who have completed their appropriate questionnaire (for 2-6 month, 6 month, 12 month, 18 month and 24 month old cats) when requested will be entered into a prize draw for a **£50 gift voucher of their choice** from www.voucherepress.co.uk. Furthermore, owners who complete all 5 questionnaires during the two year study period will be entered into a draw to win **£100 worth of vouchers**. So keep those completed questionnaires coming in! Thank you and good luck!

As a reminder - we will be asking you to complete a questionnaire when:



-  You first adopt your kitten (aged 2-6 months)
-  Your kitten is 6-7 months
-  12-13 months
-  18-19 months
-  24-25 months

Don't worry - will send you an email or a copy of the questionnaire in the post when the time comes.

CAT OF THE MONTH

Thank you to all the owners who have been posting pictures of their kittens on our Facebook page – keep them coming, it's great to put names to faces of our kitten participants. Each month we will be selecting at random a C.L.A.W.S. cat participant to be named 'Cat of the month'! As well as enjoying a celebrity status on our website and Facebook page, each 'Cat of the month' will win a cat toy to enjoy! If you are not a Facebook user, please send us a picture of your cat using the contact details below for your kitten to be in with a chance of being selected for this prestigious title!



Photo: Stig and Timo, courtesy of Keith Hanson

C.L.A.W.S. CHRISTMAS CARD



We love seeing photos of your gorgeous kittens and would like to use a selection of these to design a Christmas card for our participants! So keep your kitten photos coming to us through our Facebook page or using the contact details below. If you have posted pictures of your kittens on Facebook but would **not** like them to be included, please let our team know.

RESULTS SO FAR...

Although the first questionnaires 'Your new kitten (aged 2-6 months)' will not be fully analysed until the end of the 2-year study period, here are some interesting facts that we have gathered from our recruited kittens so far:

- 🐾 **55% of 'C.L.A.W.S.' kittens are male, 45% female**
- 🐾 **83% of 'C.L.A.W.S.' kittens are Domestic Short Hairs, 9% Domestic Long Hairs and 8% Pedigree breeds**
- 🐾 **47% of 'C.L.A.W.S.' owners adopted their cats for companionship for themselves, 23% as pets for their children, 22% for companionship for their other household cat(s), 5% for companionship for their other household pet(s) and 3% to catch rodents**

KITTEN NAMES:

Below is a 'word cloud' showing the names of some of the kittens in the study. The larger the font, the more popular the name! Can you spot your kitten's name in the cloud?



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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 feline development and improve the welfare of our 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

