



The Bristol Cats Study Newsletter

Bristol Cats go nationwide.....

Due to the successful launch of our study in June 2010, we are continuing to recruit kittens onto the study this year and are also opening registration up to 8-16 week old kittens **across the UK**. So, please help us to spread the word! If you get another kitten, then we would also be delighted if you would like to register your new addition with us too!

During 2010, 145 kittens were registered with the Bristol Cats study. 127 kittens have now reached 6 months of age, and owners of 115 of these kittens have completed their second questionnaire. **This is currently an impressive 91% - thank you!**

Please keep it up, - your cats need you to answer their questionnaires for them!

Thank you to everyone who emailed photos of their kittens in to the study team and to those of you who have posted pictures on our Facebook page (Bristol Cat Study Group). We had great fun designing our Christmas card, although it was very difficult trying to decide which pictures to use. We had lots of lovely comments about the card – thank you!



Lucky winner:

The lucky winner of our prize draw for £100 M&S vouchers, drawn at random from all completed 8-16 week questionnaires in December was the owner of: “Slim Shady” – a black male kitten who joined our study aged 13 weeks. Congratulations! We hope your vouchers came in handy at Christmas!

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Bristol Cats - Facts & Figures

As we are still recruiting kittens onto our study, we are unable to give you detailed results until we have analysed the questionnaires of the kittens that will be joining us this year. We are also aware that we must not influence your answers on your next questionnaires, by telling you too much about the 'average' cat. However, here are a few facts and figures that you may find interesting:

Other cats in your house and garden...?

- 75% of the Bristol Cats have other cats coming into their gardens
- 24% of the Bristol Cats have other cats staring in through their windows/doors/cat flaps
- 8% of the Bristol Cats have other cats coming into their homes

Most popular cat food:

At 8-16 weeks, 47% of the Bristol Cats were eating Whiskas, either as the main part of their diet, or in combination with other types of food. Other common brands were Felix and Iams.

Illness and injuries: In questionnaire 1 (8-16 weeks), you told us that 22% of the Bristol Cats had been ill or injured since you had owned them. The most commonly reported illnesses were sickness, diarrhoea and cat flu.

Once we have finished recruiting kittens onto our study, we will have enough information to enable us to identify factors that can *increase* or *decrease* the risk of common problems and illnesses that our kittens face.

Please remember.....

If, for whatever reason, you no longer want to take part in our study, then please tell us, so we can update our records. In particular, if you need to withdraw from our study because your cat is no longer with you, please could let us know the specific reason (e.g. cat went missing, new landlord does not allow pets, cat died due to a traffic accident). This is important information for us and will help us report accurate statistics.



Email/postal reminders for questionnaires are currently being sent to cats aged: 6-7 months, 12-13 months and 18-19 months.