



THE CAT LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF WELFARE STUDY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

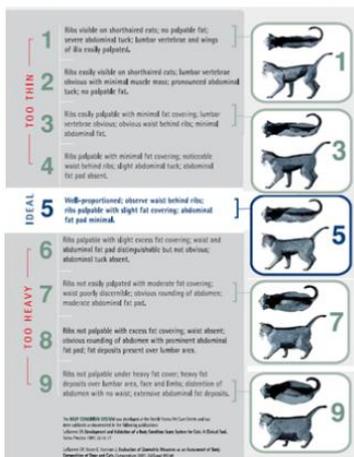


Photo: Cats Protection

RECRUITMENT SO FAR...

We have over **500 completed first questionnaires** ('My New Kitten aged 2-6 months'), and over **400 completed second questionnaires** ('My Kitten age 6 months'). Some of our study kittens have now reached 1 year of age! We are very grateful for every single questionnaire we receive – so **please do keep them coming in!** 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!

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM



BODY CONDITION SCORE CARDS:

At Christmas we sent you - and to all new participants, we will send you - a card relating to feline body condition, an area we would like to investigate in this study. We would be very grateful if you could take this **'Body Condition Score Card'** along with you when you take your kitten for his/her annual vaccination at around **15 months of age**. Please **ask your vet** if he/she would be kind enough to complete the card at this appointment. **If you do not plan to have your cat vaccinated**, but are attending a veterinary appointment when your cats are aged approximately **1 year 3 months**, then please ask your vet to complete the card then. Send the completed card back to us in the freepost envelope we provided. If you need another card/envelope, please let us know using the contact details below.

KITTEN NAMES:

Here is another one of our 'word clouds', showing the names of some of our study kittens. **The larger the font, the more popular the name!** Can you spot your kitten's name in the cloud?



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

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

WHERE DO OUR STUDY KITTENS LIVE?

This map shows the location of our first 300 study participants.



PRIZE DRAW

Don't forget, all completed questionnaires will be entered into a prize draw! Every 6 months, all owners who have completed their questionnaires 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!



CAT OF THE MONTH

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! 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! Alternatively you can send us pictures using the contact details below.

SOME FACTS ABOUT CATS...

THE DOMESTIC CAT EVOLVED FROM THE AFRICAN WILD CAT THROUGH DOMESTICATION BY THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS AROUND 4000 YEARS AGO.



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE NOW 10.3 MILLION OWNED CATS IN THE UK.

THE GESTATION PERIOD OF THE DOMESTIC CAT IS 63 DAYS. KITTENS ARE BORN BLIND AND ALMOST COMPLETELY DEAF. THEIR EYES OPEN 2-16 DAYS AFTER BIRTH, AND THEIR EAR CANALS AFTER 10-15 DAYS.

THE AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF A CAT IS 14 YEARS. THE OLDEST CAT ON RECORD WAS 'CREME PUFF' FROM TEXAS, USA WHO LIVED TO 38 YEARS OF AGE.

CONTACT US:

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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

