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ANIMAL COMMUNICATION NEWSLETTER

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Hints from Your Cats

When people come to me with cat issues, we have a three way conversation with their kitties and come up with solutions to their situations. Over the years, I've come across some consistent input from cats. Here are some suggestions that come up over and over.

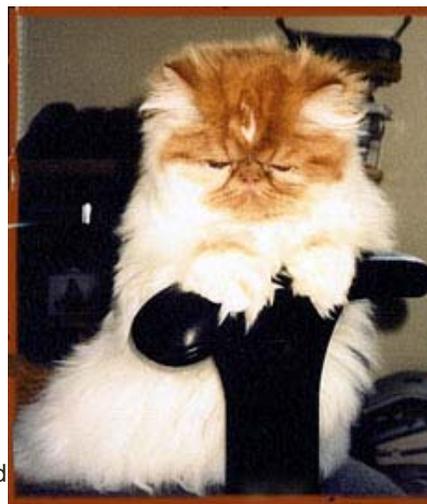
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Hints from Cats

Itchy Itchy Itchy

Older Dogs and Hardwood Floors

- Scented litter is offensive to most cats. They hate going into a litter box that smells like cheap perfume. They complain that the scent stays on their feet and they never get rid of the smell because they have to use the litter box again.
- When introducing a dog to a cat household, set it up for success. Tell your cats ahead of time what to expect and keep the new dog on the leash while in the house. If the cats run at the first sight of the dog, the leash will prevent the dog from chasing them. Be vigilant with a new dog and be sure he doesn't already have a predator approach with cats. If you see signs that the dog may not be friendly, it is good to get help from a trainer or behaviorist to assess the safety of your cats with the dog. If you don't know the dog's history, it is important to keep your cats safe and give everyone time to get to know each other. I usually suggest that you keep the dog on a leash until the kitties have approached the dog and moved freely around him. This can take weeks but gives you a chance to bond with the new dog as you take him out for walks.
- In any situation where you are making changes in your cats' lives, it's helpful to set up a calm environment. I find the kitty cheek pheromone called Feliway to be very helpful. Since cats rub their cheeks on things to label them as "good", spraying a small amount of Feliway at kitty cheek height in each room can set up the atmosphere to signal that "everything is ok here!".
- Play, Play, Play! Especially if you have inside only cats! They are bored with the same old routine and same sights. Steve and Claudia Anderson have a great idea for their kitties Stella, Desi and Abby. They get helium balloons that float around their house with the ribbons trailing under the balloons. They sometimes tie a feather to the ribbon and their cats stalk and follow the balloons all over the house. Notice the games your cat initiates. Some like to play hide and seek, others love to fetch, others like to show



Pachi Turner-Blanca

off to an appreciative audience. Notice “What a fast cat you are!” or “ My goodness! That was an incredible jump!”

- Appreciate what they offer in term of affection. Some cats just don't want to sit in your lap. They may prefer to sit nearby and keep you company.
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Itchy Itchy Itchy!

During conversations, people often ask their dog why they chew on their feet or scratch their ears, etc. It's important to first check with your vet to be sure there is not a more serious underlying cause for the itching. Here is a list of simple things you might want to try and see if one of them solves the problem.

- Fleas? You don't have to see a flea for it to be present. Some animals are allergic to fleas and one bite can lead to a reaction that affects their whole body. If your dog has a flea allergy that is unchecked, it often appears as little bumps and scabs at the base of the tail and lower back.
- Perfumes? Look around your house and notice if you use scented products.
 - Do you bathe your dog with a scented shampoo?
 - Does your laundry detergent have a scent?
 - Do you wash the bedding with it?
 - Does your floor cleaner have harsh or scented chemicals that get on your dogs' feet?

Consider what Laura Pierce discovered....

Her dog Souki licked her feet constantly. Laura tried multiple things including changing Souki's diet several times. Nothing helped. She asked for my help and what we found was that it was the laundry detergent she used. This was confusing to Laura at first because she already used a non-perfumed brand of detergent. But she tried switching to another brand and did a double rinse when washing Souki's bed. Now Souki doesn't lick her feet

anymore.

Schedule an Appointment Online!

Just go to my site - www.animalsmith.com, and click on the "Schedule Your Appointment" link, and make your selection of a time that works for you.

Upcoming Classes

Quite a few of my students have requested a retreat weekend where we work on animal communication skills and move more deeply into communication w/ nature as a whole. I'm in the process of creating a fall weekend for the retreat. The weekend will be a combination of level 2 and the extra information of level 3 with more free time for live conversations in a setting full of willing participants; including goats, horses, kitties, dogs, geese and chickens. Please let me know if this interests you and any special topics you would like to cover and I'll set it up to match the participants requests. You can email me at: cin28711@yahoo.com.

I'm offering a spring level 1 class in Asheville (April 15) and level 1 (Sept 18th) and level 2 & 3 (Oct 9-10) in the fall in Asheville. These are fun, experiential classes that provide you with the skills you need to communicate with your animals. The classes also offer the opportunity to meet like-minded people. Often people who have taken my classes continue practicing their skills via email with other class members.

Other Upcoming Classes and Events - Go to www.animalsmith.com for details

AND...

Do-It-Yourself Animal Communication My new CD is now available. It's called "Talk to Your Animals in a Language They Understand". This is the most basic and simple part of animal communication, and if practiced, can resolve lots of problems before they even occur. The cost is \$12 (price includes shipping and handling) and you can pay by paypal - use the button below and don't forget to include your address.

