

A ginger and white kitten is shown from the chest up, nestled inside a tan-colored suede boot. The kitten's front paws are resting on the black laces of the boot, and its hind legs are also visible, with one paw reaching up towards the top of the boot. The kitten has large, expressive green eyes and is looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

# Behavior patterns of cat

# Ingestive behavior

- A mother cat brings the dead prey and eats it in front of the kittens and so, they eat with her.
- As they mature
  - she brings live prey and may help them in killing it. Later, she may take them out on hunts
  - The kittens learn
    - the hunting by associative learning although the prey catching and killing is innate.



- Mice killing increased with age (maturation effect) but the older kitten before it is exposed to the prey
- The harder to do this behaviour where there is a critical period for the development of prey killing.
- Cat more often performs play with live prey, where it postpones the killing bite. This activity is rewarded to the cat





# Play behaviour

Play behaviour develops in kitten around the third week of life.

It includes chasing, stalking, leaping, rolling over and wrestling with hind feet kicking and forelimb claspings of the neck of the partner.

Action patterns associated with intra-specific aggression and prey catching is incorporated into the social play

Inanimate object play and self-play (e.g. tail chasing) are comprised essentially of prey chasing and catching actions.

- Playing with peers leads to social attachments and development of social relationships
- Play and exploration of an inanimate objects may lead to knowledge of where to find food and what can be eaten (insects, small reptiles, birds and rodents)





PLAY AGGRESSION  
**STOP CAT BITING**

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# Social behaviour

## social organization

Feral cats have a home territory and also a home range consists of places for resting, watching, sunbathing and so on, which are connected by a network of paths and are visited regularly

They have a system of paths, which lead to place courting and hunting.

A high-ranking cat in the area may visit the home territory of an inferior without violence but usually such territories are respected.

If two cats meet at the intersection of two pathways, the dominant cat may take precedence and conflict is avoided where the inferior cat backs off.





Defense of home and home area is intensified in males during the breeding season

Moreover, in food competition, a clear linear dominance hierarchy is exhibited

The predatory cat carries its body as close as possible to the ground.

It moves towards its quarry slowly, Taking advantage of any natural cover

The tip of the tail only moves as the cat lies in wait

When attacking a large animal, they try to make a nape bite to sever the spinal cord



# Marking behaviour

Cats of either sex, particularly males, spray their urine against conspicuous objects , posts and stones

This behaviour serves as a social olfactory function and also serves to space cats out temporally so as to avoid sudden encounters

Marking behaviour consists of backing up positioning, trembling of the vertical tail and then spraying of urine

The urine passed contains a viscous lipid material which may be selectively voided as a “scent” when marking

Marking increases in males when stimulated by the presence of a female in heat.



Marking cat investigating another's mark usually opens its mouth and closes its eyes while sniffing

This is the flehmen reaction and may facilitates access of the odour to the vomeronasal organ (two ducts of which are situated behind the upper incisors).

Cats possess scent glands diffusely along the tail (caudal glands) and others on each side of the forehead (temporal glands) and also in the lips (perioral glands) and chin region

So, cats rub its head more often against a chair or any other inanimate objects to marks it with caudal and perioral glands while the temporal glands are associated with friendly head rubbing.





# Sexual behaviour

## A- Female

An oestrus female calls and purrs.

She is restless and shows an increased general motor activity.

If she is a house cat, she may run from one room to another.

She may  
be very affectionate  
towards the owners

She urinates frequently and rubs  
her head and flanks on the furniture



She crouches, elevates her perineal region and treads with her hind legs with opening and closing of the claws of her fore feet with rolling and stretching of her body

When fully receptive, she becomes immobile and stands in crouching with her head held on the ground between her fore legs

. Her tail is deviated to one side and allows the male to mount.



# **Sexual behaviour**

## **B- Male**

The tom-cat locates an oestrus female via olfactory cues deposited as pheromones in her urine.

The cat shows a flehmen response ungulates.

He calls to the female, circle her and sniffs her genitalia.

When the female is receptive, the male approaches her from the side and behind and rubs her with his fore paws.



- Intromission follows a forward stepping with arched back and pelvic thrusts
- Ejaculation occurs seconds after intromission, with lasts less than 10 seconds
- The female exhibits a loud cry during intromission due to presence of the penile spines which is very important in stimulation of ovulation
- Copulation occurs every 10-15 minutes for several hours.



# **Parturient and maternal behaviour**

## **Parturition**

Gestation is 56-66 days in cat.

There is a seasonal distribution of births with the greatest number of litters being born in summer and the least number is in autumn and early winter.

Parturition in cats is characterized by excessive licking by the queen of its belly and genital area as well as excessive licking of the foetal fluid from her body.

- Gestation is 56-66 days in cat
- There is a seasonal distribution of births with the greatest number of litters being born in summer and the least number is in autumn and early winter
- Parturition in cats is characterized by excessive licking by the queen of its belly and genital area as well as excessive licking of the foetal fluid from her body.
- The queen is typically very restless and she lies down and stands up with uneasy movements, licks her vulva, circling and walking around the cage, lying down and rolling.

- Cats are usually quiet during parturition (with the exception of Siamese).
- Their restless behaviour serves to stretch the umbilical cord of the newly delivered kitten. When the placenta is delivered, the queen eats it and a part of the cord
- When the last kitten has been delivered, the queen directs her attention to her litter
- She lies down with an encircling motion and positioning her legs in such a way as to form U-shape around the kittens
- For the next 12-24 hours, she rarely leaves
- her newborns except for brief intervals to eat,
- drink and eliminate
- Each time she returns, she arouses the
- kittens by licking them and then encircles
- and nursing them.







# Nursing

- When the last kitten has been delivered, the queen directs her attention to her little
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- Each time she returns, she arouses the kittens by licking them after which, she encircles and then nurses them

- Blind and deaf kittens about 9 days, apparently use smell and to a great extent, tactile sensation

To locate the nipple



- Most kittens are suckling within an hour or two of birth. The feline nursing period has been divided into 3 stages: -
- Stage 1, from 1-14 days, mother initiate nursing.
- Stage 2, from 15-30 days, both mother and kitten initiate nursing.
- Stage 3, from 31 days to 8 weeks (weaning age), kitten initiate nursing.
- If the queen died or refused to suckle her newborn kittens, use a foster mother, otherwise, artificial feeding on warm cow's milk can be used.



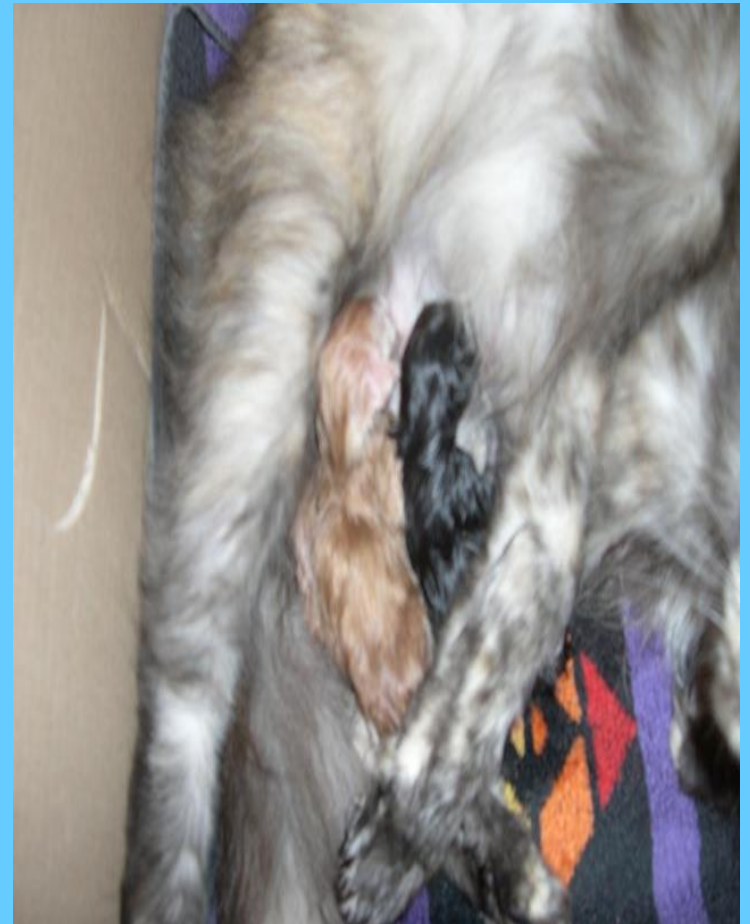
- The feline retrieval behaviour is quite different from the canine form
- Queen retrieves its kittens in response to auditory, not visual signals.
- The more the kitten vocalize, the more the queen is to retrieve them
- The queen usually picks the kittens up by the scruff of the neck, occasionally she grasps the skin of the back of the head of even the kitten's whole head

# Post-natal care

- The healthy lactating queen will need extra food which she is supplying her kitten's needs as well as her own
- She is likely to drink more when lactating because of the loss of fluid in her milk



- Mineral and vitamin supplementation may be advisable
- Food must be offered 3-4 times a day during this period
- It is important to keep a watchful eye on the suckling kittens to ensure that are feeding successfully



# Rearing orphan kittens

- kittens are orphan or if the mother is unable to provide milk and in absence of foster mother, it is necessary to rear them by hand.
- Evaporated milk diluted in the ratio of three parts to one part of boiled water is suitable



- The milk powder should be mixed fresh each time according to the instructions and offered at a temperature of 38 °C
- Young kittens take small quantities of fluid
- At first, only 3-5 ml per feed and must be fed every 2 hours, and then their food intake should be doubled by the age week every 4 hours.





# Weaning

- Kitten should be weaned at 8-10 week old
- Weaning is a gradual process which should occupy a week and is affected by removing the queen from the litter for gradually increasing periods until she remains away all day, being with them only during the night.

# Number of meals / day

- Kittens after weaning are best when fed four times daily
- At about 10-12 weeks, three daily feeding is sufficient.
- Two meals per day will generally be found sufficient for the adult.
- A queen with a litter of kittens needs about 4-5 meals per day, depending on the number of kittens.

# Grooming

- It plays an important part in the feline behaviour as in most species
- Queen licks its kittens frequently and in particular, the perineum to stimulate urination and defecation for the first 2-3 weeks of life.

- In common with most carnivores, female cats ingest the kitten's urine and faeces for several weeks post-partum, thereby keeping the nest clean

