



### Did you know cat brains are a lot like human brains?



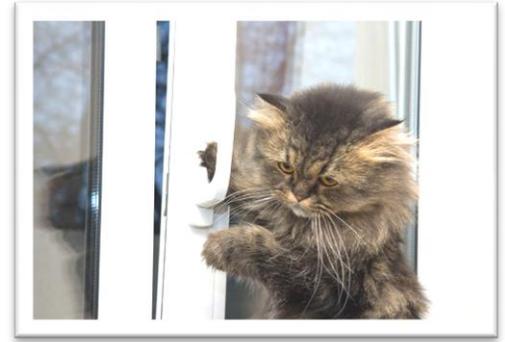
A Tufts University study revealed the part of the brain that controls emotions in cats is virtually identical to the section of the brain that controls emotions in people. Cat brains have the same lobes as human brains, and cats have similar patterns of thinking, too, partly because their neurotransmitters (which convey data) are a lot like ours. They have long and short-term memory just as we do, despite the fact that they often pretend to have no memory at all of being told not to get on the kitchen counter.

- ✚ *Scientific American* reported that a cat's brain has 1,000 times more "data storage" than an iPad and functions a million times faster. Your cat's brain has about 91,000 gigabytes of storage and can perform 6.1 trillion operations per second. (No Wi-Fi in the cat brain yet, however.)
- ✚ When IBM built a supercomputer to simulate the brain of a cat, it took 25,000 processors.
- ✚ The fact that cats have small heads doesn't determine how smart they are. The size of an animal's brain isn't a big factor in determining smartness. (Neanderthals, after all, had bigger brains than Homo sapiens.)
- ✚ Surface folds and brain structure are more influential than size in shaping intelligence, and cat's brains are about 90% like human brains when it comes to these important traits.
- ✚ A cat's cerebral cortex, which is the part of the brain responsible for decision making and problem solving, contains around twice as many neurons (300 million) as that of dogs. Cats can solve harder cognitive problems than dogs -- *if they feel like it*. Like humans and dogs, cats have a spectrum of intelligence. Some may not be too clever at certain tasks but may excel at others.

If cats are so smart, you might be asking, why aren't there any seeing-eye cats, or drug-sniffing cats at airports? Maybe cats are more like humans than dogs in this respect, too. You decide. Cats are more impulsive and far less patient than dogs. And perhaps they realize they don't really have to show off their skills for a living now that everyone can see how intelligent they are just by watching all those YouTube videos depicting them doing clever things.



## And speaking of clever cats, they can easily push out a screen or slip through a barely-open window



With the coming warm weather, remember, kitties can push out window and door screens, rip through them and even slip through barely-opened windows. Our director recently sent that reminder out to all our volunteers, and it spawned a flood of "that-happened-to-me!" emails:

- Our kitty was sitting on the window sill when the screen suddenly fell out, and she ended up outside! Luckily, our other kitty raised the alarm, so we got her back right away. She was pretty scared when it happened.
- We had a sliding screen door that was hard to open, so we never bothered to lock it. Last year, after working on it (for quite some time apparently), our kitty managed to slide it open enough to get out!
- My 6-pound ragdoll went right through the screen window when she saw some crows outside she wanted to get. Luckily, she landed in a hydrangea bush, which slowed her down and let us grab her.
- Our cat got into our bedroom (we usually keep the door closed), ripped through the screen and jumped out the second story window. And he was declawed (before he came to MCA)! He did it with his teeth.
- My very first foster cat got through a screen that I thought was secure. I got him back, but it was the worst feeling in the world when I first saw he'd gotten out.

Even when they're not specifically trying to get out, cats often target window screens because the metal helps sharpen their nails. They're clever enough and flexible enough to get through really small spaces, if they decide they need to be on the other side. Cats fall out of windows often enough that vets have a name for it -- high-rise syndrome. But the fall doesn't have to be very high to cause severe injuries. A fall between 2 and 7 stories can puncture a lung, shatter a jaw, cause swelling of the brain, internal bleeding, and break a limb or pelvis.



### What to do:

- ✚ Check window screens for any rips or signs of wear that could provide an escape route for a cat.
- ✚ Check the sturdiness of screens as well. Pet screens and window gates are available commercially. Some people double-screen windows by adding an adjustable screen that sits in between the window and the sill so cats can't get to the outermost screen and push on it.
- ✚ Put slider stops on your windows so they only open a little bit, and then screen the opening. If possible, open the top part of your windows, rather than the bottom. Close all your windows before leaving the house.
- ✚ If your cat likes to scratch the screen doors or windows, put some double-sided sticky tape on the screen. Cats don't like sticky paws, so you won't have to leave the tape there for long. They'll quickly realize they don't like touching the screens anymore.
- ✚ And to cover the worst case scenario, make sure your kitty is wearing an I.D. tag with your phone number. Don't assume your indoor kitty doesn't need tags. Many strays in shelters are indoor pets that escaped. And the sad fact is that only 2% - yes, that's 2% - of cats that enter shelters are reunited with their owners.
- ✚ If you adopted your cat within the last few years from MCA, it will have a microchip. If your cat isn't microchipped, now would be a great time to do it. There are lots of places that offer low-cost microchipping. Ask your clever cat to do an internet search to find a place near you.



## Playtime is essential to kitty health

Purrlitzer Prize winning Dr. Mac talks to you today about play.

Despite our herculean sleeping abilities, we cats are actually born to move and hunt. Our hearing is sharp; we can see in the dark; our sense of smell is acute; we can jump several times our own height and can change direction mid-air in the blink of an eye. To stay healthy in mind and body, we need exercise. Bored cats can develop behavior problems, including picking on other animals in the house, over-grooming and chewing or scratching things.

Keep our natural skills in mind -- think vertical and visual. Whereas humans tend to look at the world horizontally, it's a vertical place for cats. Adding more high spots in the home, such as a kitty condo or a window perch, provides both entertainment and security. It can be a safe place for a timid cat, or a place for an alpha cat to show dominance (by climbing to a high spot) without physically engaging other cats in the house. Putting a kitty condo next to a window or providing a window perch, adds visual stimulus. Your kitties can check out the fascinating outdoor world from a safe place.

The hunting instinct remains strong even for indoor cats. That's why play is so important. Kittens first learn survival skills, like stalking, chasing and catching prey, through play. Match toys to your cat's personality. Some cats are happy with a paper sack they can crawl into. Some love toys that move around on the ground. Others like toys that fly through the air. Whichever type of toy your kitty likes, try to mimic the way real prey behaves. Mice dart along baseboards; birds flutter about, snakes wiggle along the ground.

When cats hunt, they plan their moves carefully. They listen; they watch; they think; they inch forward; they pounce. Alternating between fast and slow motions will give your kitty time to plan. Movements that go away from or across your cat's visual field will trigger the prey drive. Don't dangle the toy in her face or move it toward her. Try to set aside 15 minutes a day for interactive play with your kitties. Such play keeps your kitty healthy & happy and strengthens the bond you share.



Bodee says, "Oh, boy! Toys! How can I ever decide which one to play with first?"

Yes! I want to help the kitties!

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a new address? \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **PET Rescue\*** (non-profit tax ID No. 27-0225418) and mail to:

Maine Coon Adoptions  
2527 Carmel Street  
Oakland, CA 94602



\$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Maine Coon Adoptions, a division of  
Preventing Euthanasia Through Rescue  
2527 Carmel St.  
Oakland, CA 94602

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## Saving kitties since 2004 with your help! Voted 'Best of the Bay 2016' Animal Rescue!

Read About *how smart your kitty is* and more .....

## One MCA Cat Goes Home every 36 Hours!

We found homes for 234 cats in 2016. That's **one cat every 36 hours!** Or as one of our mathematical volunteers figured out, that's **8-1/2 football fields of kitties** lined up nose to tail. Here's a **BIG CHEER** for our **donors** who make everything possible.

14% of the cats adopted in 2016 were older or had special needs.

Around 4 million cats end up in shelters every year. 70% of them are euthanized simply because no one wants them. Older cats and those with special needs don't stand a chance against cute kittens in the shelters. It takes a big commitment of time and money to rescue these cats because their health often has been neglected for years. So far in 2017, 18% of our adoptions have been older and special needs cats.

70% of all our revenues came from donations in 2016.

Vet bills were 77% of expenses. Chips, medicines, & tests came in second at 15%. Transport, food, litter, and other supplies accounted for the rest.

100% of donations go to helping neglected and abused kitties.

As an all-volunteer group, virtually every penny goes to saving kitties.

