

2023 Cat Project Resources



Questions for 4-H Cat Project

1. What sex of a cat is spayed?

1: Female

2. What sex of a cat is neutered?

1: Male. Neuter is a proper term for both male and female.

3. Why do you spay/neuter cats?

1: To control the overpopulation of cats.

4. Why should you not give a lot of milk to your cat?

1: Giving your cat milk can result in diarrhea. You can give your cat milk daily but water it down a lot. However, you can give your cat milk if it comes straight from a cow, containing no chemicals.

5. What is the name of the period while a cat is pregnant?

1-3: Gestation Period 63 days for a cat

6. What is another name for a female cat?

1-3: Queen

7. What is another name for a male cat?

1: Tom

8. How can you prevent furballs?

2: Be sure to brush your cat. Vaseline can be placed on your cat's paws or they can be taught to lick the Vaseline from your fingers. Tuna oil is also a big help as long as it comes from "cat tuna" and not from "people tuna". Tuna made into cat food is watery and contains much less oil. You can also use commercial furball food and commercial furball remedy.

9. How often should you brush a shorthair cat?

1: Twice or three times a week.

10. How often should you check your cat's ears and why?

1-3: Once a week. Check for ear mites or foreign objects. Black soot debris indicates ear mites and the cat needs to see the vet.

11. What is ringworm?

2-3: A fungus that causes the hair to break, leaving bare rings in the cat's coat. A vet should be seen for an anti fungal medication. These are usually spread over the area in question.

12. What is a kitten?

1: A cat under eight months of age.

13. What is Parti-colored?
3: A coat consisting of two or three distinct colors.
14. What is "smoke"?
3: A coat that is white and tipped with blue, black, red, or cream.
15. What term means the fur is one color at the roots and another color at the tips?
3: Shaded
16. What are some symptoms of rhinotracheitis?
2-3: Fast noisy breathing, a good deal of sneezing and coughing, puffy face, ulcers on the tongue and throat. This disease can be prevented by regular vaccinations.
17. What is heart-worm?
2-3: It is a parasite in the bloodstream and the heart that is transmitted by mosquitoes. It is treatable. If left untreated it is fatal. It can be detected by a blood test.
18. What part of the egg is good for your cat?
1-3: The yolk is ideal for your cat, however should be cooked due to salmonella poisoning. Salmonella bacteria is present in uncooked eggs or poultry.
19. What is the soft silky sheen of a cat's coat called?
3: Bloom
20. What are points?
3: Dark markings on the cat's ears, face mask, tail, legs, and paws.
21. What does "flecked" mean?
3: Fur of one color spotted with another color.
22. What is barring?
3: The markings of stripes on a Tabby Cat. This is a fault on a solid colored cat.
23. What is chatoyant?
3: Having an exotic shine of the coat similar to a cat's eyes in the dark.
24. What is an alley cat or Feral cat?
1: This is slang term used for a cat of unknown ancestry. This term has been replaced for the most part by the Household Pet.
25. What is line of breeding?
3: The mating of two cats who are remotely related to each other. Example: Grandparent with grandchild.

26. What is pedigree?

3: It is the paper which states the ancestry of the cat. Three generations is adequate for a pet. Five is usually requested for breeding of show purposes.

27. What is outbreeding or outcrossing?

3: This is the term used to describe the mating of a female with a male for the same breed but not related to her in anyway.

28. What should you use to bath your cat?

1-2: Use diluted baby shampoo or a shampoo for cats.

29. What is a fur ball?

1-2: It is the term given to the clump of hair on the cat's coat and to the clump in the cat's intestines. .

30. Refer to attached mite pictures and be able to identify ear mites.

1-3

31. What are the symptoms of ear mites?

1-3: black soot debris in ears, shake head, scratch ears

32. What are ear mites?

1-3: They are tiny parasites in your cat's ears that bite and cause red spots and scabs with a black sooty discharge.

33. What type of shots does your cat need?

1-3: The three in one shot for feline rhinotracheitis, calici virus, and distemper. Also Feline Leukemia and rabies.

34. Why do make cats spray?

2: To mark their territory. They should be neutered if not being used in a planned breeding program.

35. What is F.U.S.?

1-3: Feline Urological Syndrome. It is a blockage of the urinary tract which has many causes. More common in males. Affects 5% of the cat population. Any straining or frequent trips to the litter box should be checked out by the vet IMMEDIATELY! Experts believe a low magnesium diet (low ash) can help to prevent this disease.

36. Should you pick up a kitten or cat by the scruff of the neck?

1: no

37. What is stud tail?

2-3: There are a set of glands on the top of the tail about 2 inches from the base of the tail. These glands secrete a very waxy grease. This greasy build up can become very heavy in whole males

and needs to be watched because these glands can become infected. These are products designed to wash this waxy substance out of the tail.

38. What age should a cat be neutered?

1-3: 6 months - testicles must be present in the scrotum.

39. Is a cat ever too old to be neutered?

1-3: no

40. Is it true that a cat always lands on its feet?

1-2: NO, a cat can be badly injured. One of the most common causes of death or injury is falling or being dropped from apartment balconies.

41. What is a good diet for a cat?

1-3: No table food. Dry commercial food with a low ash content (magnesium), canned cat food at least three times a week, ½ can a day at regular times is ideal for an adult cat. Lots of water, changed daily.

42. What is inbreeding?

3: The mating of too closely related cats. Example - brother and sister or mother and son.

43. What is Cross-breeding?

3: The breeding of one pure bred cat to a pure bred cat of another breed.

44. Refer to pictures of mites and be able to identify external parasites and internal parasites.

1-3: External: Earmites, Fleas, Ticks, Fly larvae, Mange mite, biting louse

Internal: Roundworms, Hookworms, Lungworms, Tapeworms

45. Which worm is caused by fleas?

2-3: Tapeworm

46. Be able to discuss the life cycle of the flea.

2-3: See handout.

48. What is the scientific name for a cat?

1: Feline Catus.

49. With reasonable good care, how long will the average cat live?

1-2: 10-14 years

50. What is the estrus period?

2: It is the heat cycle of the female.

51. How many heat cycles does a female cat have?

2: The average is three a year.

52. What is the difference between a diluted calico and regular calico?

1-2: A diluted calico should be white with clear patches of blue and cream. White predominates on the underside of the body. Eyes should be a copper color. Dilute Calicos are the result of mating Calicos with Blue and White BI-hairs in the United Kingdom. A Calico is tri-colored and are usually products of random matings. The coat of a calico cat should be white with well defined patches of red and black. The patches must always be clearly defined. The feet, legs, underside of the body, tail, chest, and most of the neck should be white with splashes on the nose. Eyes should be orange or copper-colored.

53. What color characteristics does a tortoiseshell coat have?

1: The Tortoiseshell cat has a patched pattern. Patching must be distinct and clear-cut. The colors in a Tortoiseshell are a deep rich black, red and a cream. Eyes are a copper color or a deep orange color.

54. How do you train a kitten to use the litter box?

1: Watch the kitten carefully. When you see him searching one place after another, put him in his pan, also put him in his pan after every meal, nap, or play.

55. Why should you provide your cat with a scratching post?

1-2: Cats scratch to wear off it's old claws. If a scratching post is not provided the cat will use furniture.

56. How often should you clean the litter box?

1-2: Remove solids once or twice a day. Clean and disinfect pan once a week.

57. Where can Leukemia be found in a cat?

1-3: Leukemia is a viral disease. The virus suppresses the immune system. It can be found in blood, bone marrow, saliva, urine, feces, milk and the nasal discharge of some infected cats. Saliva appears to be the major source of transmission and infection.

58. What are the signs of Leukemia?

1-3: Malaise, anorexia, weight loss, fever, anemia, lethargy, and enlargement of lymph nodes are the most common signs.

59. What happens in the wet or effusive form of FIP?

3: This involves fluid accumulation in the thoracic and/or abdominal cavities.

60. What are the symptoms of the dry or non-effusive form?

3: Manifests itself as incoordination, paralysis, eye disease and enlargement of various organs.

61. How long can the distemper virus persist in the environment?

1-3: Up to a year.

62. What are the signs of rhinotracheitis and calici virus?

1-3: Severe respiratory symptoms: fever, sneezing and discharge from the eyes and nose. Calici tends to cause less sneezing and discharge. Rhinotracheitis is far more severe.

63: What are the signs of rabies?

1-3: Usually exhibit "furious" form becoming extremely violent and aggressive. Personality changes, then cat will become vicious, and eventually paralysis will set in. Death ensues shortly.

64. What is another name for Panleukopenia?

1-3: Feline distemper

65. How can you tell if a cat is a carrier of Feline Infectious Peritonitis?

3: Unfortunately, there are no tests presently available which can positively identify FIP virus carrier cats. A serologic test for detecting carrier animals that are shedding FIP virus, similar to tests for detecting feline leukemia virus infection, is urgently needed.

66. My cat has FIP. How long can he/she be expected to live? How can I make my cat's last days most comfortable?

3: Once clinical signs appear, few cats with the effusive (wet) form of FIP will live more than a few weeks, although some adult cats may linger for 6-8 months. In those animals with the dry form of the disease, deaths usually occur in a few weeks, but survival for up to a year or more is possible.

67. Why is it taking so long for scientists to find a vaccine for FIP?

3: Because this disease is produced by the cat's immune response to the virus, traditional vaccination methods are not likely to be effective. Indeed, most attempts to vaccinate cats have either not protected them or have actually predisposed them to lethal FIP.

What should you look for when choosing a healthy kitten?

68. What diseases and parasites can be transmitted to humans?

2-3; ringworm, rabies, toxoplasmosis, roundworm larvae, and fleas.

69. How can you control fleas?

1-3: Flea powders and flea collar contain substances effective for controlling fleas. Commercial control, Frontline. Treatment, other than Frontline, needs to be repeated at one week intervals. Insecticides that are safe for cats have also proved effective, but they should not be used near kittens.

70. What can fleas cause?

1-3: flea eczema

71. Be able to recognize a picture of lice and ticks.

1-3:

72. What are ticks?

1-3: Ticks are a shiny gray insect. They bite into the skin, hold on, and suck blood. They are often found on the cat's head, but can also appear on other parts of the body.

73. What are roundworms and how do cats get them?

3: This common parasite can be transmitted to a kitten in the mother's milk. Grown cats get infected with roundworms primarily by picking up the eggs off the ground and licking them off their fur. The larvae hatch in the cat's stomach, make their way through the stomach wall, and wander to the liver. From there they are transported by the blood to the lungs, climb up the trachea, are swallowed again and return to the intestinal tract. Now they grow into worms. The sexually mature ascarids (worms) lay eggs which are eliminated with the feces, survive for months on the ground or in the cracks of the floor and are picked up again by the cat. Mice can act as a intermediary host.

74. What happens to a cat infested with roundworms?

3: If a cat is heavily infested, it may throw worms; other signs are a shaggy coat, loss of weight, or a swollen belly. If humans absorb roundworm eggs, the larvae can wander through the organism for a time.

75. Describe tapeworms.

3: Cat tapeworms grow up to 3 feet in length and consists of many small segments, which, thickly cover eggs, are passed with the stool. The most common tapeworm found in cats is absorbed by the cat when it eats infected mice, for mice are the carriers of tapeworm larvae. More rarely, cats get a kind of tapeworm that is transmitted by fleas.

76. Why should you not feed your cat raw meat?

1-3: It can contract Toxoplasmosis.

77. What causes ringworm and what are the signs and symptoms?

3: Ringworm is caused by a fungus of the skin and can be transmitted to humans. Symptoms are hair loss and some usually severe itching.

78. How do you detect gingivitis in a cat?

2-3: Older cats in particular often form tartar on their teeth. This condition can get so serious that a grayish white to brownish layer covers all the teeth, causing bad mouth odor and chronic inflammation of the gums called gingivitis. It can be recognized by the bluish red color and by frequent bleeding of the gums and occasionally by pussy sores.

79. How would you brush your cat's teeth?

1-3: You can use a cat toothpaste and cat toothbrush. Get your cat used to brushing by placing your finger in his mouth and massaging gums.

80. Be able to distinguish between a male and female cat using attached picture.

1-3

81: What is normal temperature for a cat?

1-3: 100-102.5 degrees F.

82. What is a normal pulse per minute for a cat?

1-3: 80-150 for older cats; 80-175 for young animals; 150-200 for kittens

83. What are normal breaths per minute?

1-3: 20 for older animals; 20-30 for young animals; 30-40 for kittens

1st Group:

Poisons -

Poison	Source	First Aid for Ingested or Inhaled Poisons
Chocolate	milk chocolate baking chocolate cocoa powder	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal.
Drugs (human)	aspirin acetaminophen (Tylenol®) ibuprofen (Advil®)	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal. <i>Antidote available from veterinarian for acetaminophen.</i>

Poisonous Plants -

Common Name/ Toxic Part	Symptoms	First Aid
blackberry / hooked barbs of stems	punctures and lacerations of eye, mouth, skin, and feet	1. Clean and treat wounds. 2. Bandage
poinsettia / irritant sap in leaves	inflammation to skin and eye, vomiting, diarrhea	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal.
skunk cabbage / leaves	swelling of the tongue and throat, difficulty breathing	1. Keep airway open. 2. CPR if necessary. 3. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING.

2nd Group:

Poisons -

Poison	Source	First Aid for Ingested or Inhaled Poisons
Chocolate	milk chocolate baking chocolate cocoa powder	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal.
Drugs (human)	aspirin acetaminophen (Tylenol®) ibuprofen (Advil®)	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal. <i>Antidote available from veterinarian for acetaminophen.</i>
Carbon monoxide	exhaust fumes	1. Remove the cat from the source of fumes. 2. Give CPR, if necessary. 3. Monitor closely for 48 hours.

Poisonous Plants -

Common Name/ Toxic Part	Symptoms	First Aid
blackberry / hooked barbs of stems	punctures and lacerations of eye, mouth, skin, and feet	1. Clean and treat wounds. 2. Bandage
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skunk cabbage / leaves	swelling of the tongue and throat, difficulty breathing	1. Keep airway open. 2. CPR if necessary. 3. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING.
azalea / leaf	repeated swallowing, excess saliva	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal.
castor bean / bean	fever, profuse bloody diarrhea	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal. 3. Monitor for signs of shock.

3rd Group:

Poisons -

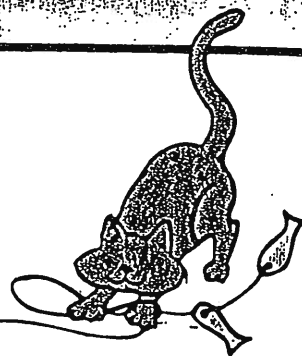
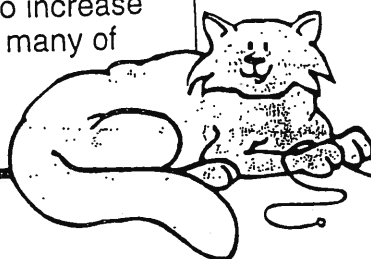
Poison	Source	First Aid for Ingested or Inhaled Poisons
Chocolate	milk chocolate baking chocolate cocoa powder	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal.
Drugs (human)	aspirin acetaminophen (Tylenol®) ibuprofen (Advil®)	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal. <i>Antidote available from veterinarian for acetaminophen.</i>
Carbon monoxide	exhaust fumes	1. Remove the cat from the source of fumes. 2. Give CPR, if necessary. 3. Monitor closely for 48 hours.
Acids	cleaning solutions etching solutions household chlorine bleach	1. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. 2. Rinse out mouth with water. 3. Give 1 to 2 tablespoons of cooking oil or mineral oil, once.
Petroleum distillates	motor oil gasoline turpentine paint paint thinner paint remover lighter fluid kerosene	1. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. 2. Give 1 to 2 tablespoons of cooking oil or mineral oil, once.

Poisonous Plants -

Common Name/ Toxic Part	Symptoms	First Aid
blackberry / hooked barbs of stems	punctures and lacerations of eye, mouth, skin, and feet	1. Clean and treat wounds. 2. Bandage
poinsettia / irritant sap in leaves	inflammation to skin and eye, vomiting, diarrhea	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal.
skunk cabbage / leaves	swelling of the tongue and throat, difficulty breathing	1. Keep airway open. 2. CPR if necessary. 3. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING.
azalea / leaf	repeated swallowing, excess saliva	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal.
castor bean / bean	fever, profuse bloody diarrhea	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal. 3. Monitor for signs of shock.
tulip / bulb	depression, vomiting	1. Induce vomiting. 2. Give activated charcoal.

Cat Talk 1

This is the first of three Cat Talk glossaries for you to use to increase your "cat" vocabulary. See how many of these words your family knows.



A

Angora - Breed of cat with long hair and long, slim body. Lacks woolly undercoat of the true long-haired cats.

B

Breed - Group of cats with similar characteristics and related ancestry.

C

Calico - American name for a tortoiseshell-and-white-haired cat.

Canine teeth - The long, sharp teeth near the front of the mouth used for catching and killing prey.

Carnivore - Flesh-eating animals.

Carpal pad - Extra fleshy pad above others on front paws, thought to help stop skidding when a cat lands after jumping.

Carrier - An enclosed, well-ventilated case used for traveling or transporting cats.

Castration - Neutering of a male cat by removing the testicles through surgery.

Cat - A member of the family Felidae.

Catnip - The herb *Nepeta Cataria*, which gives off a scent that most cats like. Used in some cat toys.

Cattery - Place where cats are bred and/or boarded.

CFA - Cat Fanciers' Association

CFF - Cat Fanciers' Federation

Condition - A cat's well-being; includes weight, muscle tone, cleanliness, radiant good health and grooming.

D

Dam - The female parent, the mother cat.

Dew claw - Extra toe on hind leg above paw. Its function is not known.

Domestic - A non-pedigreed cat, usually a shorthair native to a particular country.

E

Euthanize - Inducing the painless death of an animal for reasons of preventing future suffering.

F

Feline - Belonging to the Felidae, which includes the lions, tigers, jaguars and wild and domestic cats.

Feral - Domestic (tame) animals that have gone back to a wild state.

Flea collar - Special collar with chemicals that kill fleas.

Foreign - Another term for a cat of oriental appearance, such as a Siamese cat.

G

Gestation - The period between conception and birth; pregnancy normally lasts from sixty-three to sixty-nine days in cats.

Groom - To brush or comb a cat's coat.

H

Hair balls - Tangled mass of swallowed fur, resulting from cats washing themselves with their tongues.

Haw - Eyelid that is sometimes seen at corners of a cat's eyes.

Hock - A cat's ankle.

Housetraining - Training a cat to use the litter box or toilet.

Cat Talk 1

K

Kitten - An immature or young cat.

L

Litter - Kittens born at the same time from the same mother. Also the absorbent granules used in a cat's toilet box.

Litter box - Shallow box filled with litter.

Long haired - Cat whose coat has long top hairs, with a thick, woolly undercoat.

M

Manx - Tailless breed of cat, caused by mutant gene.

Metacarpal pads - Thick pads of tissue on paws to keep a cat from slipping.

N

Neuter - 1) A castrated male; 2) To remove testicles from a male cat through surgery.

O

Odd-eyed - Cat with one blue eye and the other orange. Blue eyes in white cats may mean deafness.

Oriental - Foreign breeds with almond-shaped eyes, wedge-shaped heads and long limbs. Examples are the Abyssinian, Siamese and Burmese.

P

Pigment - Coloring of a cat.

Purebred - A cat whose ancestors are all of the same variety or allowable varieties.

Q

Queen - A female cat of breeding age that has not been spayed.

Queening - Giving birth.

S

Scent marking - A cat marks its territory with urine, or with scent from glands on the head, sending a clear message to any intruding cats. It may also scratch furniture and trees, sharpening its claws and leaving a scent from glands on its paw pads.

Scratch post - A post or log used by a cat to exercise through scratching its claws into the surface.

Shedding - The casting off of hair to be replaced by new hair.

Sire - The male parent, the father cat.

Solid - All of one color.

Spay - 1) A female cat that has been sterilized surgically; 2) To make a female cat sterile through surgery.

T

Tabby - Markings, either striped, spotted or blotched.

Third eyelid - Eyelid that is sometimes seen at the corners of a cat's eyes.

Tipped - Coat whose top hairs are tipped with a different color than the undercoat.

Tomcat - An uncastrated male cat.

Type - The arrangements of the overall parts of the cat in accordance with breed specifications.

V

Veterinarian - A professional qualified to treat diseases and injuries of animals.

W

Weaning - Gradual change in a kitten's diet from mother's milk to solid food.

Cat Talk 2

This is the second of three Cat Talk glossaries for you to use to increase your "cat" vocabulary. See how many of these words your family knows.

A

Anatomy - The study of the structure of the body.

B

Bicolor - Coats consisting of white hair mixed with one other color.

Breed standard - A description of ideal characteristics against which each breed of cat is measured. This is determined by the national cat society of each country.

C

Calling - The term used to describe a female cat in heat since she will often make yowling noises to attract male cats.

Cobby - Describes a compact body with a boxy style such as seen in the Persian: a relatively large, round, short body set low on short, sturdy legs.

Coccidiosis - Illness caused by protozoan parasite that affects the digestive system.

Conjunctivitis - Inflammation of the thin outer layer of the eye, causing watering and soreness. Associated with feline respiratory disease.

Cross - 1) A mating between cats; 2) To mate or breed one cat with another that may not be related or may be a different breed.

D

Dermatitis - An inflammation of the skin.

Down hairs - Soft, short hairs under guard hairs that insulate body.

E

Ear mites - Tiny parasites living in the ear canal, causing irritation.

Estrogen - Female sex hormone that stimulates estrus.

Estrus - Heat; a recurrent period of varying length during which the female produces a watery secretion from the genital tract, becomes sexually receptive to the male and ovulates (releases an egg from the ovary) if mated.

Estrous cycle - The reproductive pattern of the adult female cat.

External parasites - Small, often microscopic organisms that live by feeding on the skin and hair of the host. Examples in cats include fleas, mange mites, fur mites, ear mites, ticks, lice.

F

Fleas - The most common parasite found on a cat's skin. Live by feeding on blood. Cats may be sensitive to bites or flea dirt.

Flukes - Parasites found in the intestine and liver, causing diarrhea and anemia.

G

Genetics - The study of heredity.

Genotype - The genes an individual inherits from its parents; the genetic makeup of a certain trait.

Ghost markings - Faint tabby pattern, which usually disappears, seen in young kittens.

Guard hairs - The outer and longest hairs in a cat's coat; sometimes called the primary hairs.

H

Harvest mite - Parasites that appear in the autumn and can cause skin irritation. Also known as chiggers.

Heartworms - Parasite. Transmitted by mosquitoes and lives in the heart.

Heat - A period of sexual receptivity in a female cat.

Hematoma - Blood blister in ear flap usually due to scratching and bursting of a blood vessel.

Hookworms - Bloodsucking worms that live in the small intestine. Can cause weight loss, diarrhea and anemia.

Cat Talk 2

I

Immunity - The ability of the body to protect against infectious diseases.

Internal parasite - An organism that, at some stage of its life, is nourished inside the cat. Examples in cats include roundworms, tapeworm, hookworms, strongyloides, heartworms, lungworms.

K

Keratitis - Inflammation of the cornea, resulting in eye becoming cloudy.

L

Lice - Parasites that suck blood, causing anemia in a severe infestation.

M

Mange mite - Minute parasites that burrow into a cat's skin, causing chronic hair loss, irritation and inflammation.

Mastitis - Infection of the milk glands.

P

Palpating - Examining by touching.

Papers - Registration documents issued for a cat.

Pedigree - A document containing the known names, titles, colors and registration numbers of the first three to five generations of a cat's predecessors.

Phenotype - Visible, physical expression of a genetic trait.

Points - The face, ears, legs, feet and tail which may be a different color than the rest of the body, as in a Siamese cat.

Pricked - The upright or forward inclination of a cat's ears.

Pulse - The rhythmic throbbing of the arteries, caused by the beating of the heart.

R

Registration - The official filing of a pedigree with an association.

Ringworm - Form of fungal infestation that causes scaly skin and irritation.

Roundworms - Parasites found in a cat's digestive tract, feeding on digesting food. Can cause diarrhea, especially in kittens.

S

Skillathon - A series of learning stations where teams are presented with a realistic situation and a task to accomplish. After completing the task the station operator follows with questions.

Stop - A slight indentation in the bridge of the nose occurring between or slightly below a point in between the eyes.

T

Tapeworms - Intestinal parasites that feed on a cat's partly digested food. Fleas are needed to complete the life cycle.

Territory - Area patrolled by a cat, which it considers to be its own. A cat will fiercely defend its territory against intruders.

TICA - The International Cat Association

Ticks - Parasites that burrow into a cat's skin to feed on blood. Some types of ticks can transmit diseases.

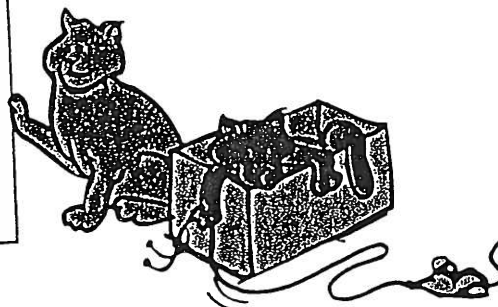
Tumor - Swelling on or beneath skin due to abnormal growth. Can be cancerous.

U

Undercoat - Thick layer of insulating fur under the topcoat.

Cat Talk 3

This is the third of three Cat Talk Glossaries for you to use to increase your "cat" vocabulary. See how many of these words your family knows.



A

Abscess - A collection of pus anywhere in the body.

Ad libitum - Free choice, at will, such as ad libitum feeding.

Agouti - The sandy color found between the black stripes of a tabby.

Allurophile - Cat lover.

Albino - Lack of pigment melanin, causing white fur and pink eyes.

Androgen - Any male sex hormone.

Aversion therapy - Changing a particular behavior pattern by teaching the animal to associate an unwanted behavior with an unpleasant stimulus, such as spraying with water.

B

Bloodline - Cats that are related to each other through several generations.

C

Cancer - An abnormal, uncontrolled growth of a group of body cells.

Cat fancy - A collective term used to cover pedigree cats, cat clubs and cat fanciers.

Chromosomes - Tiny strands of DNA that store genetic information.

Color points - The color markings on the face (mask), ears, tail, legs and paws, being a particular distinctive color different from the rest of the coat, which is a lighter shade.

D

Dermatitis - An inflammation of the skin, sometimes called eczema.

Dermatology - The study of diseases of the skin and their diagnosis and treatment.

DNA - Chemical substance that makes up chromosomes, from which all life begins.

Dominant gene - Prevailing over another. For example, the gene for folded ears is dominant over the gene for straight ears. If a cat has one gene for folded ears and one gene for straight ears, the ears will fold.

E

Elizabethan collar - Cardboard or plastic funnel fitted over head to prevent cat interfering with wounds.

Euthanasia - The act of humanely ending an animal's life.

F

Feline Calici Virus (FCV) - One of the two common viruses causing feline respiratory disease. Signs include coughing, sneezing, watery eyes and runny nose.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) - A relative of the HIV virus, which weakens the immune system, eventually causing death. Highly contagious to other cats, but not to humans or other animals.

Feline Infectious Anemia - Disease caused by parasite in blood. Signs are fever, weight loss and lethargy.

Feline Infectious Enteritis (FIE) - Virus causing loss of white blood cells, and fatal in most cases. Signs include depression, severe diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) - Usually fatal virus disease. Signs include fluid accumulation in the abdomen, jaundice and anemia.

Feline Urological Syndrome (FUS) - Inflammation of bladder and urethra. Sandy deposits in bladder and urethra can lead to blood in urine and difficulty in urination. Obstruction is a real emergency.

Feral - A formerly domesticated cat or the descendants of a formerly domesticated cat now living in a wild state.

Cat Talk 3

G

Gastritis - Inflammation of the stomach walls causing vomiting and lack of appetite.

Gene pool - The sum total of all the genes that exist in the cats of a given breed.

Genes - Units of heredity that control the growth, development, function and physical characteristics of the cat.

Glaucoma - Enlargement of eyeball caused by increased pressure from within.

H

Hormone - A chemical messenger sent into the bloodstream by a gland in order to affect development or function in another part of the body.

Host - An animal upon which a parasite lives.

Hybrid - A cat produced from a mating between cats of different breeds.

I

Intact - A cat that has not been neutered.

M

Mutation - Spontaneous change in the genetic structure that results in a new species, e.g. Balinese.

P

Pathogen - Organism capable of producing disease.

Pedigree - A record of ancestry, showing a cat's family tree over several generations.

Polydactyly - Having extra number of toes.

Q

Quick - The vein in a cat's claw.

R

Rabies - Serious virus disease affecting nervous system. Transmission is by bite from an infected animal.

Recessive gene - A gene whose characteristics are overridden by a dominant gene in each pairing of chromosomes, so the characteristic is not evident in the resulting offspring.

Register - List of pedigree cats. In order to be allowed to enter cat shows, each purebred cat must be registered upon birth with the national cat registry.

S

Stud - Uncastrated tomcat used specifically for breeding purposes.

T

Tortoiseshell - Coat resulting from linkage of dominant and recessive orange genes, both carried by female chromosome. Tortoiseshell cats are usually female.

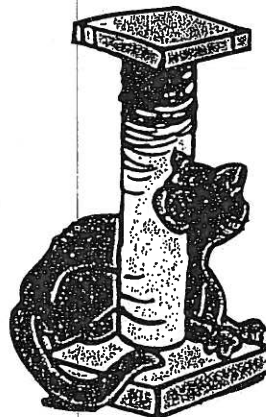
V

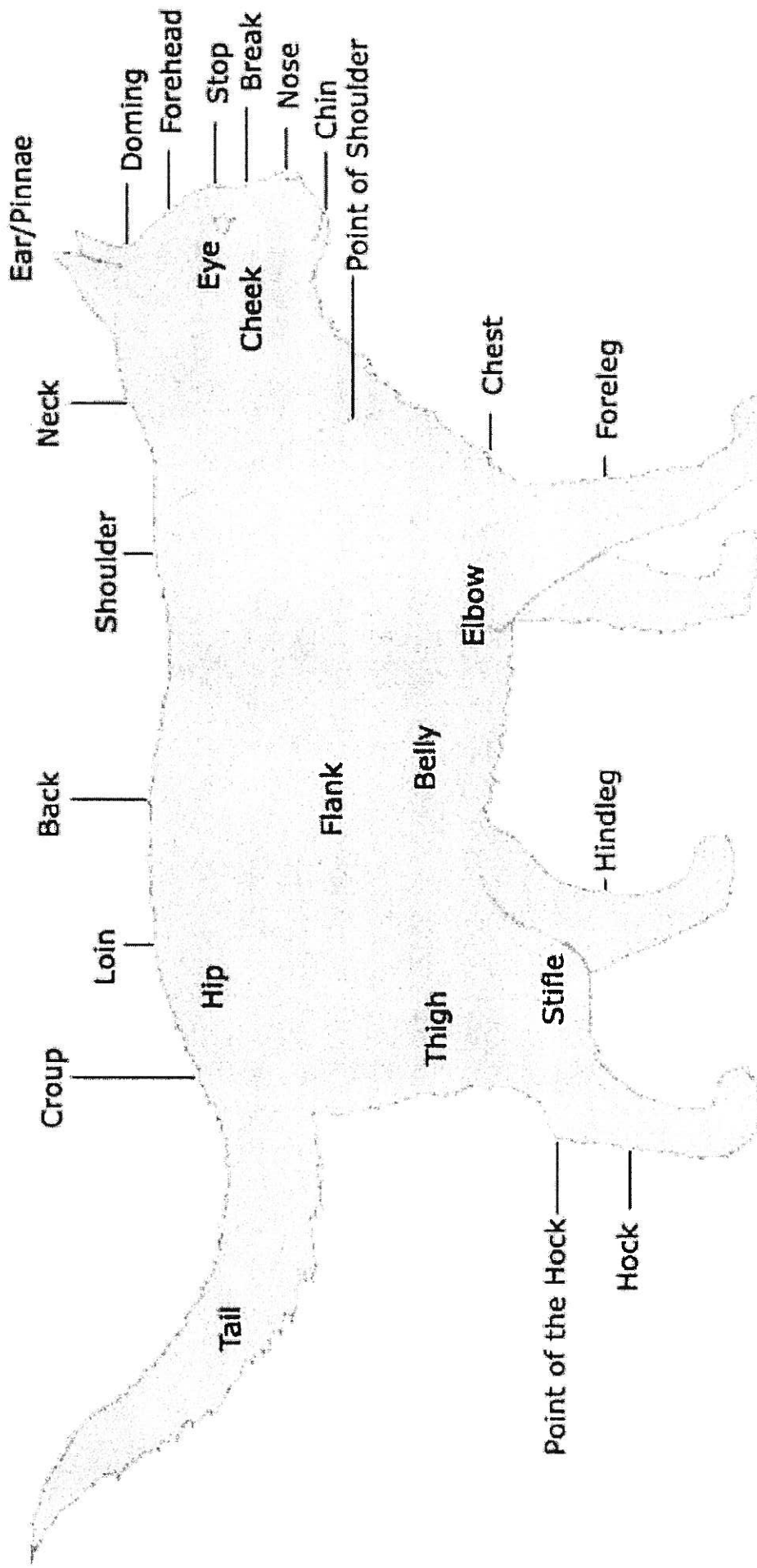
Vaccination - To inoculate an animal to produce immunity from certain diseases.

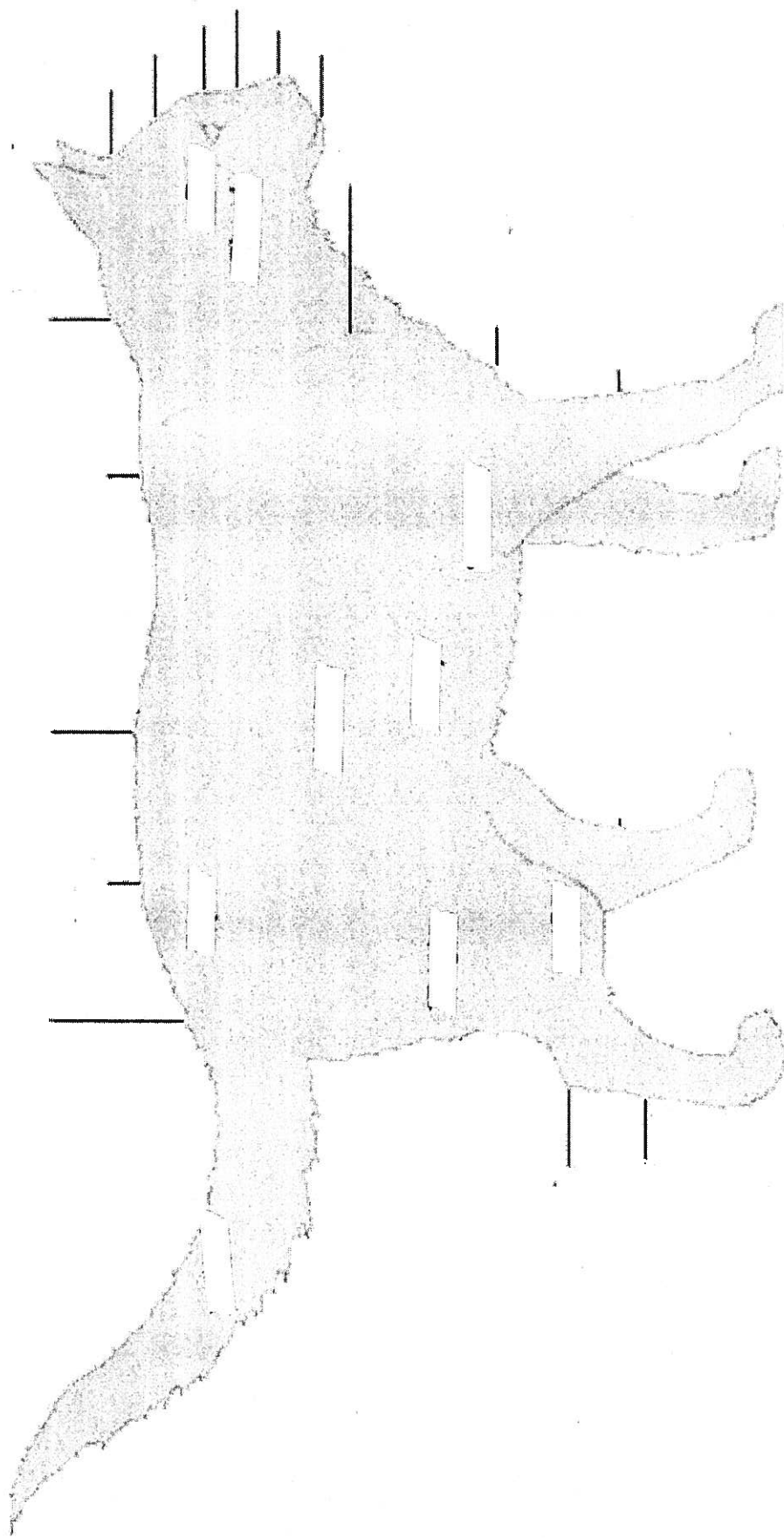
Vasectomy - A surgical operation to cut the tubes carrying sperm from the testes to the penis, making a male cat infertile.

Z

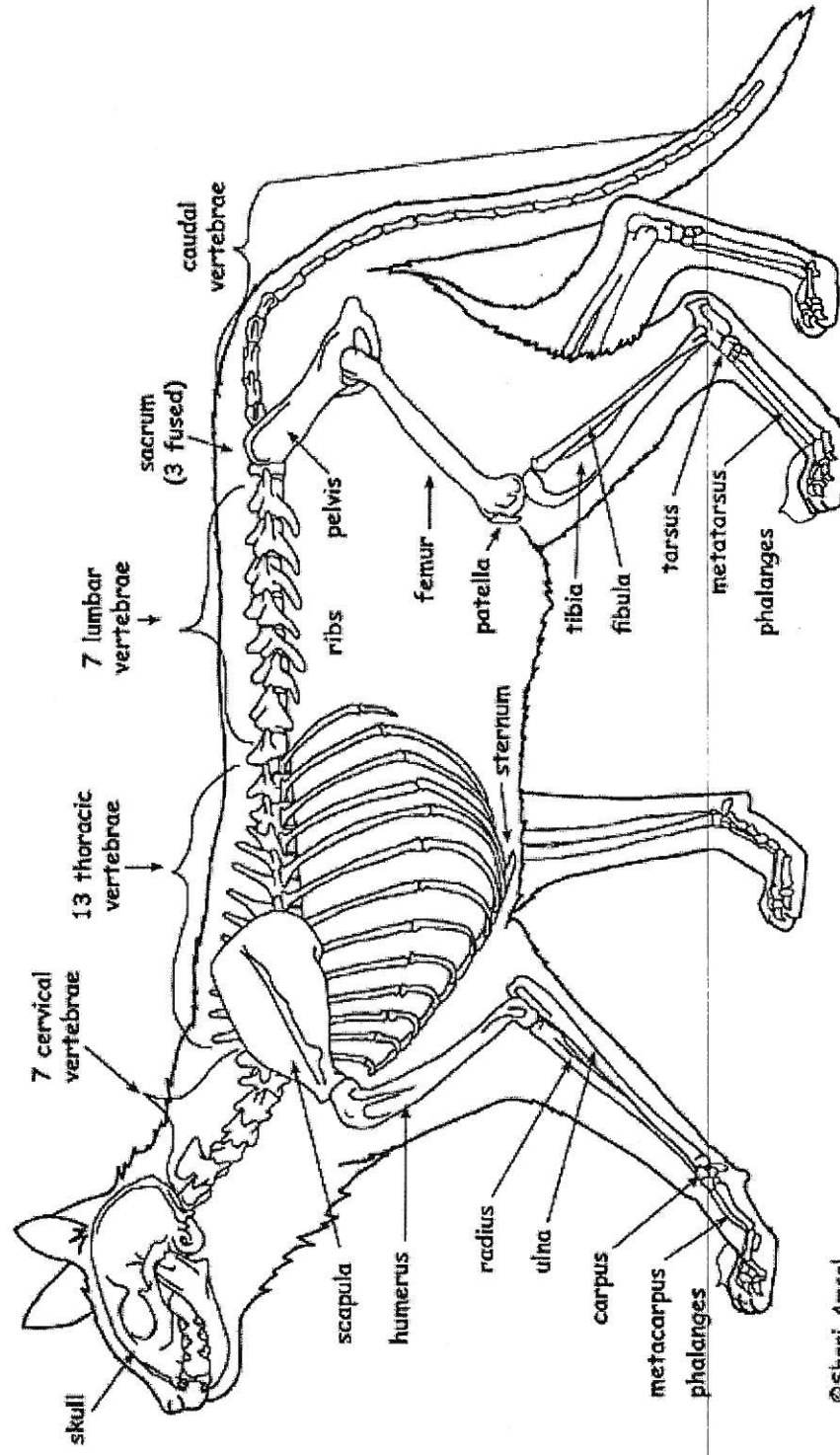
Zoonotic - Describes a disease that can spread between animals and humans.



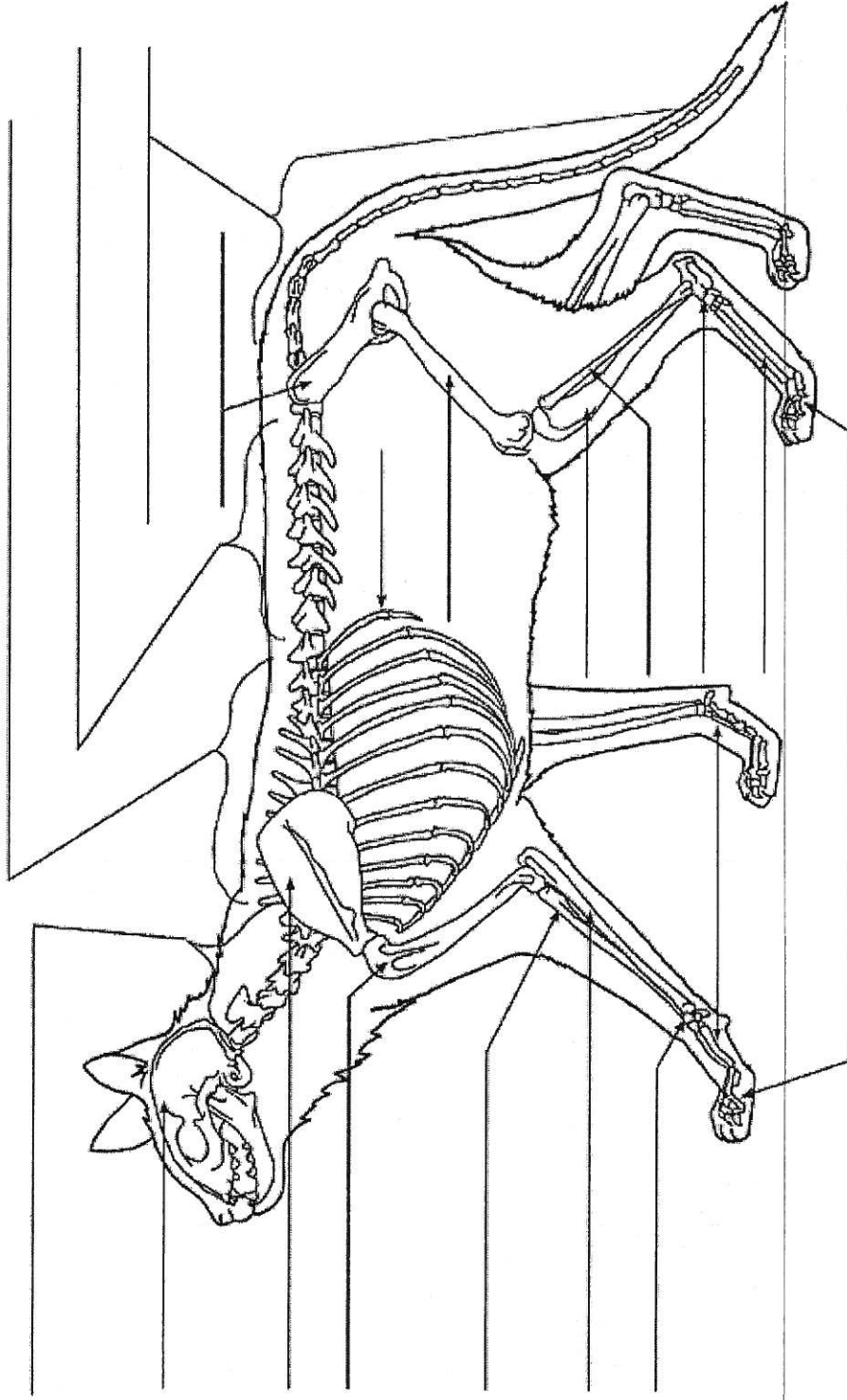




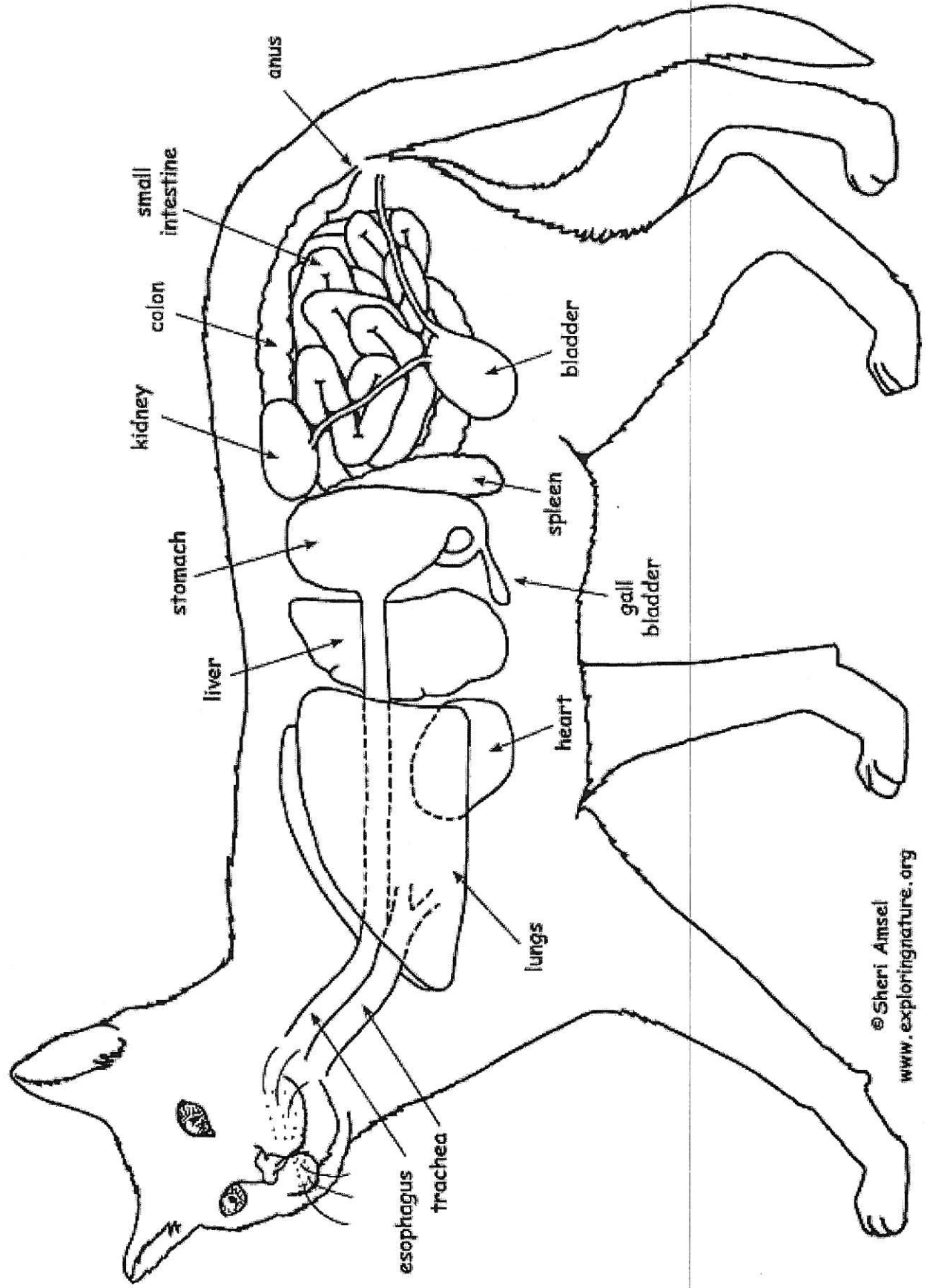
Cat Skeleton



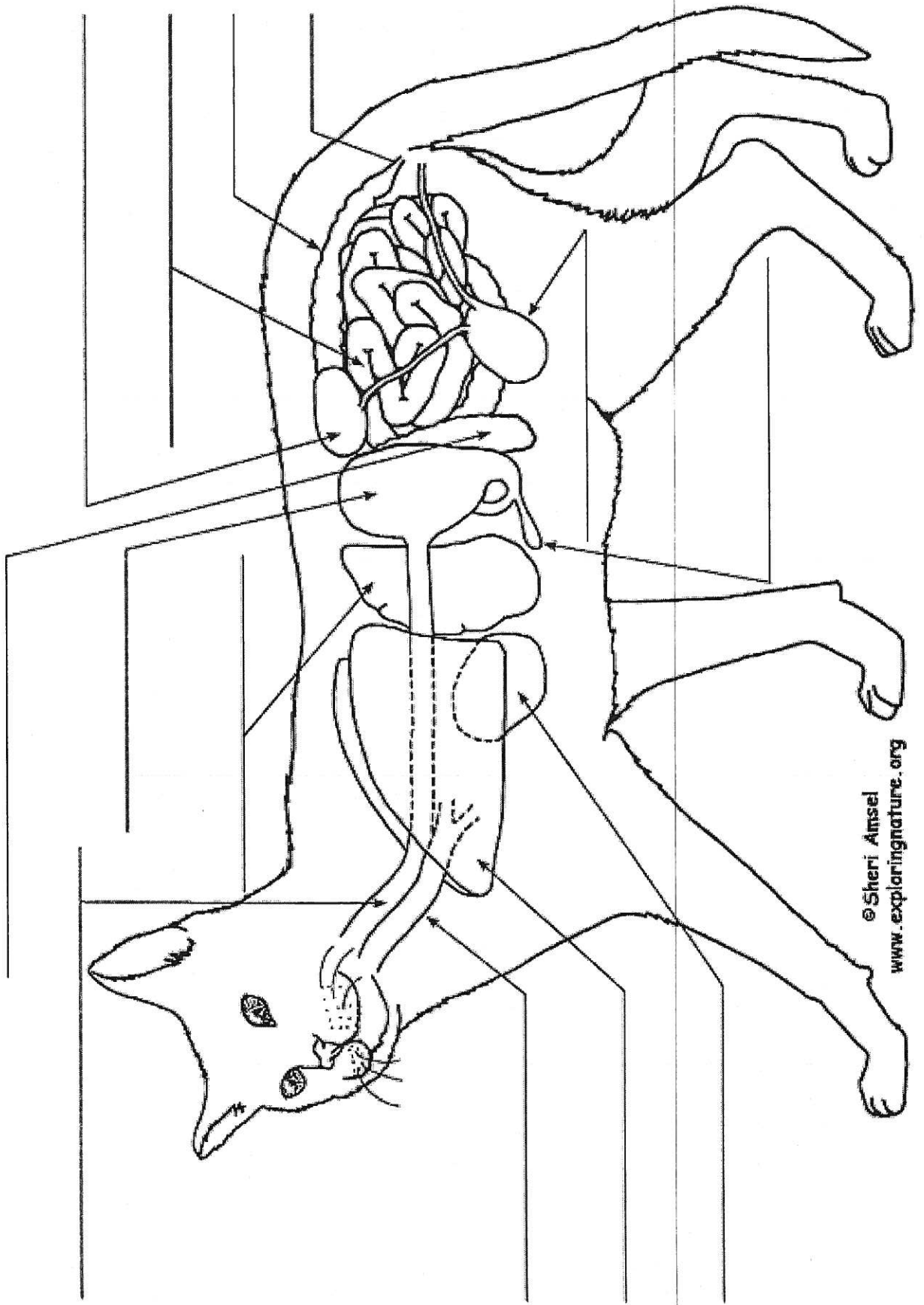
Label the Cat Skeleton

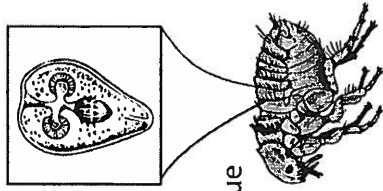


Cat Anatomy

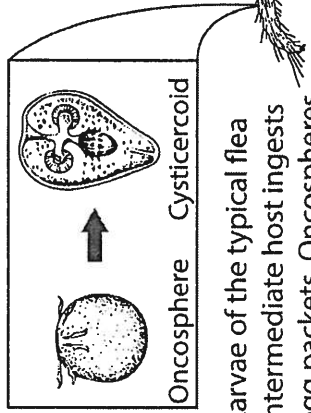


Name the Cat's Organs

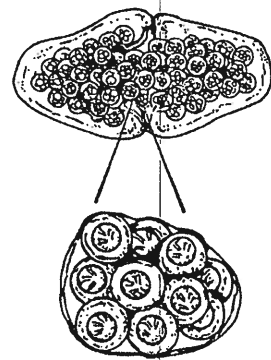




4 Flea larvae mature into adult fleas, which continue to harbor infective cysticercoids.

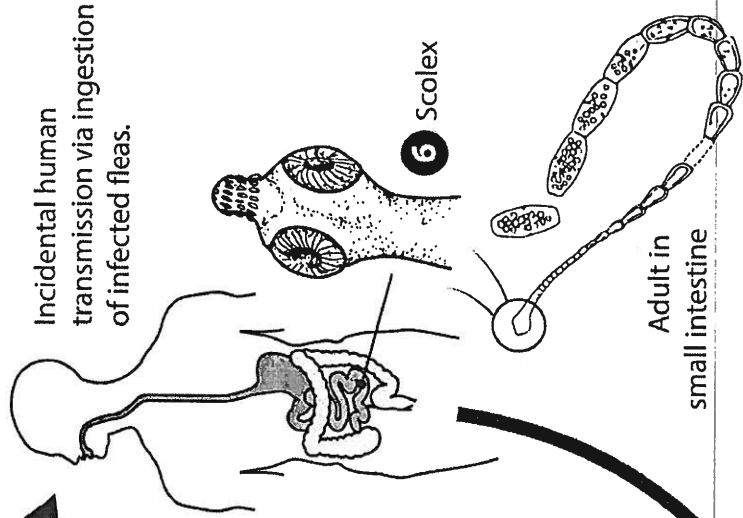


3 Larvae of the typical flea intermediate host ingests egg packets. Oncospheres hatch and develop into cysticercoids.

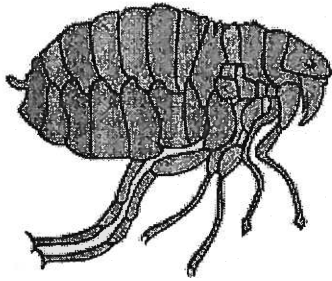


2 The proglottids disintegrate and release the egg packets.

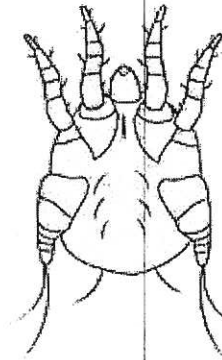
1 Gravid proglottids are passed intact in the feces or emerge from perianal region of either animal or human hosts.



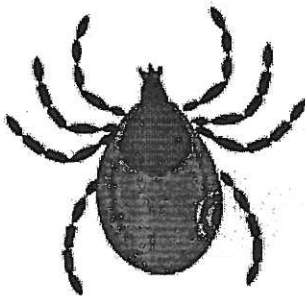
Infective stage
Diagnostic stage



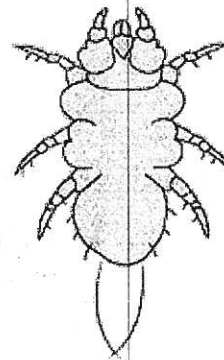
Flea



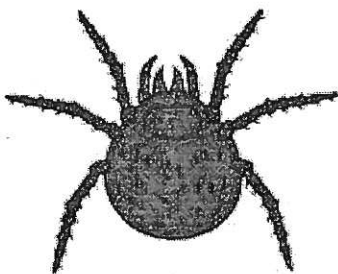
Ear mite



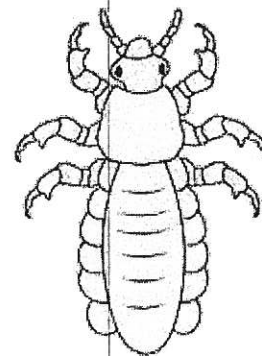
Tick



Fur mite



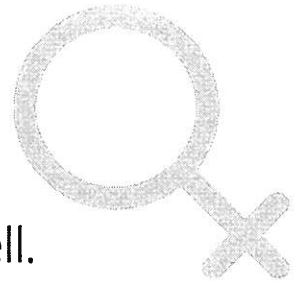
Harvest(chigger)
mite



Louse



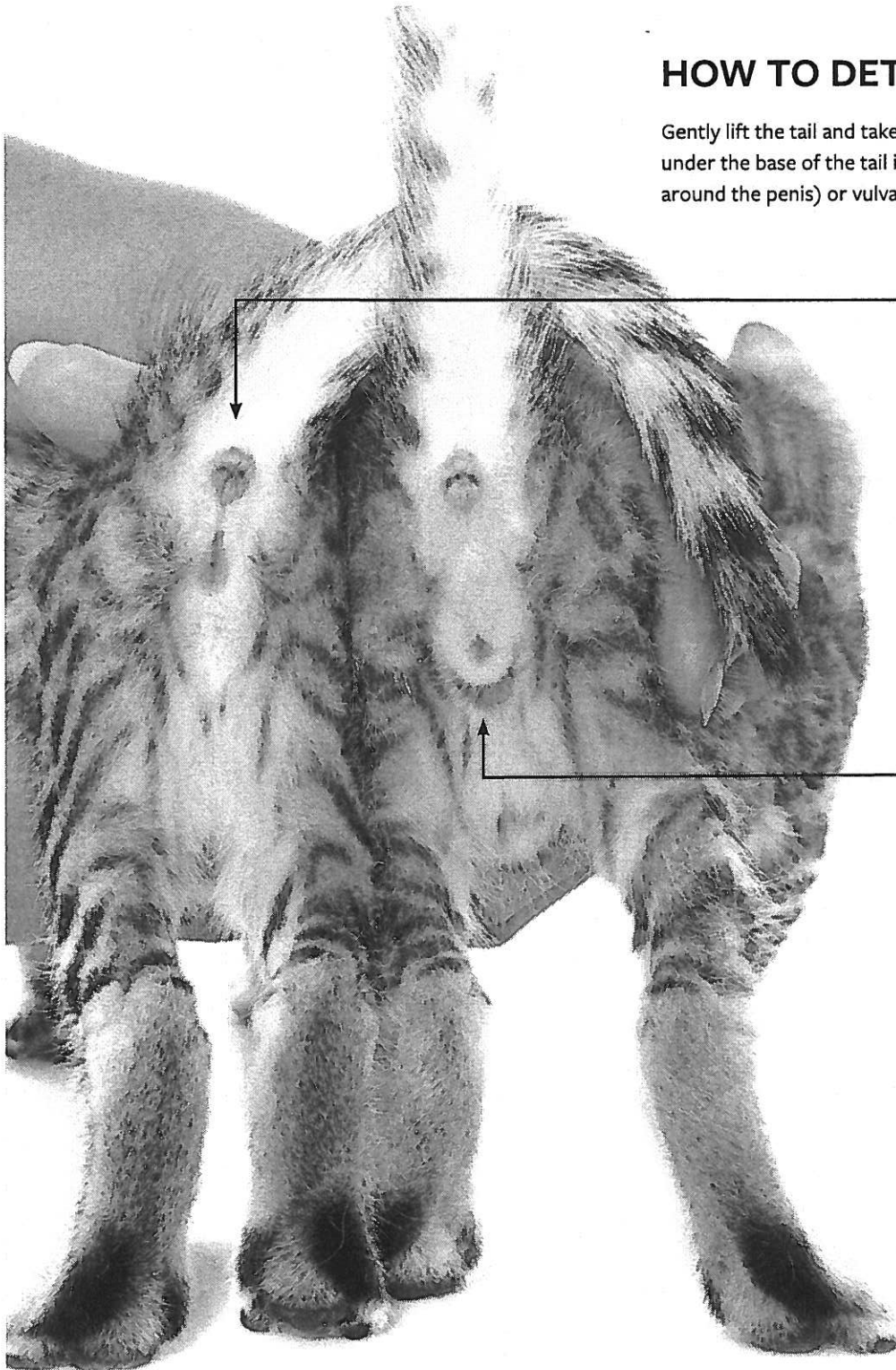
Felix OR *Felicia*?



In young kittens, it's not always easy to tell.

HOW TO DETERMINE A KITTEN'S SEX

Gently lift the tail and take a close look at what's beneath. The first opening under the base of the tail is the anus; below that is either the prepuce (skin around the penis) or vulva (opening to the vagina).



FEMALE

- The anus and the vaginal opening are close together, almost touching.
- The vaginal opening looks more like a vertical slit or a teardrop than a round hole.
- Coat color is another clue: A tricolor cat (such as a calico or tortoiseshell) is nearly always female.

MALE

- The spacing between the anus and the penis is relatively wide (about 1/2 inch apart).
- The penis is usually hidden, but the area around it will look more like a circle than a slit.
- Testicles won't be plainly visible until the kitten reaches 6 to 10 weeks of age, but you should see excess fur and tissue between the anus and the penis where the testes will form. Still not sure? Gently palpate the scrotum area (on a suspected male) with your thumb and forefinger. If you feel two small, oval-shaped objects under the skin, you've got a boy.