



THE BIRMAN SOCIETY INC.

A Society for the Appreciation and Advancement of the Sacred Cat of Burma

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 2, May 2008

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Appendices

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

****NEXT MEETING****

FRIDAY AUGUST 15TH 2008 AT 8PM

At the home of Sandy Scott

20 Riddell Street, North Dandenong

Ph: 9795 1202 (AH)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGES



Goodbye from Loraine

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all members who have been supportive to the Club while I have been President. Thanks for your vote of confidence last year, and I am standing aside after this one year, due to ongoing commitments at home and at work, in my recently appointed fulltime position.

Many thanks in particular to Lesley and Kevin for all they do for the Club, to Trish as our capable Treasurer, Melissa who acted as our Secretary, and John as our Property Officer. Also to Gaye Downes as our enthusiastic Magazine Editor - our magazine is excellent and very interesting. Thanks must be extended to Anne and Terry for all the help they gave in producing the lovely Birthday Cards for pet-owning members, and not forgetting Cheryl and Luis for their fundraising efforts and particularly the most enjoyable social events, including the Cup Day BBQ in Noojee, which was one of the highlights of my year so far.

The Birman breed continues to be popular and in high demand, and I encourage all members, owners and breeders alike, to continue their commitment to this Club. Thanks again for your support.

Lorraine Smith



Hello from Lesley

Hi Members

Our AGM has passed and I am once again in the "hot seat". Thankyou to Loraine and the committee for keeping the Society together for the last 12 months. Special thanks go to Gaye for her wonderful job in bringing colour into our newsletter. Our cats look that much better and our newsletter so much more professional. 2008 is our fifteenth anniversary, and I hope that we can make this a great year in terms of taking new directions and enjoying time together. As we get older it seems to me that there are more and more things to occupy our time, but I think that it is important that we all make an effort to keep promoting our Birmans to the community, and what better way than via the Society. We do intend to run a number of social functions this year, so come along when you can and bring a friend if you wish.

Our 15th Anniversary Show is almost upon us. We are having a Longhair only show as this one is special. It should be a great day with as many beautiful Birmans there as we can muster. If you wish to participate, please feel free to give me a call and have a chat about what you would like your involvement to be (03) 9754 2150 outside working hours. I would particularly like to hear from some of our more artistic members as I don't have an artistic bone in my body, (my Birmans are my artistic expression!)



Cheers

Lesley Freemann

BIRMAN BIRTHDAYS



April

Coco 13th Mr W & Mrs M Neumann 3 years old

May

Jezebelle 11th Mr M & Mrs C Nimmervoll 4 years old

June

No Birthdays in June

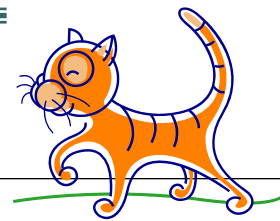
July

Kirra Shan 27th Mr J Newman 7 years old

August






No Birthdays in August

PET RULES



To be posted VERY LOW on the refrigerator door - nose height.

Dear Cats,

-  The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.
-  The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.
-  I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular, stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that stretching tails straight out is nothing but sarcasm.
-  For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years -feline attendance is not required.
-  The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough!

WITH FOND MEMORIES

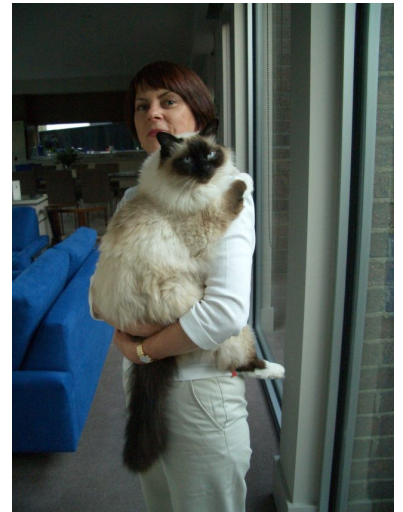


OBERON (9th November 1993 - 31st January 2008)

O.B. (Oberon) and his sister T.T. (Tatania, who is still with me) both came from Perth in February 1994 when they were just 12 weeks old. Why buy in Perth? Although I now live in Melbourne I was born in Perth and as my job took me to Perth on a regular basis it just happened that way.

O.B. was a big boy and at his prime weighed 6.5kg. See the photo of him giving me a big hug. He was a very affectionate cat and loved to be carried around.

Even though he was a home body, in his hay day he did get up to mischief, like getting onto a neighbours roof and begging me to get him down with a ladder. By the time I came back with the ladder he was no where to be seen. On returning home, there he was, greeting me, inside, at the front door with that expression - where have you been!



Or another time when he was to be locked in for the night, but was missing - and on calling for him from the vacant block nearby - he came running with the local fox at his heels in hot pursuit.

He always knew when I was going away and would sit on the cases saying, 'Don't leave without me, I'm coming too!' - (see photo).

Wonderful memories of such a loving boy and a much loved boy. I miss him dearly.

MARGARET AKESTER

What Is A Cat?

Anon.

Gentle eyes
that see so much,
paws that have
the quiet touch.

Purrs to signal
"all is well,"
and show more love
than words can tell.

Graceful movements
touched with pride,
a calming presence
by our side.

A friendship
that will last and grow,
small wonder why
we love them so.



LOCAL PROFILE—PHOENIX

AUSTRALIAN CAT FEDERATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE, GOLD CHAMPION/CHAMPIONS SHARADA PHOENIX DREAMING (HONOURS)

Sire: Australian Cat Federation Award of Excellence, Cat Control Council of Australia Champion, Gold Champion/Gold Premier SHEKINAH SOOLAIMON

Dam: Champion SHARADA ONCE UPON A DREAM

Born 19th September 2004.

Colour: Lilac Point

Pet name "Phoenix" Owned and bred by B.K. Heather - Sharada Birmans



"Phoenix" is named after the mythical bird which rose from the ashes of its own demise thus showing immortality. When Phoenix was born her Dam was unattended because her owner and breeder, Heather, was bed-ridden with illness. When the litter of four kittens were found - 3 were suckling happily but one (Phoenix) gave every appearance of being cold and dead. As this was the only female in the litter, Phoenix was placed into a dish of warm water, she appeared to be quite dead and Heather doubted that it could be possible to save her. To Heather's amazement her little feet started to move and a little bit later gasping but very much alive she gave her first little cry. Needless to say she was much cherished and spoiled and has grown to be somewhat opinionated.

Phoenix is beautiful show cat who holds many very nice awards including Supreme Adult at the Birman Show and numerous Group 1 - Long haired and semi long haired BEST and SUPREME IN SHOWS she is much loved and cherished for her personality. She is a sweet natured cat with her humans but she can be a regular fiend if she takes a dislike to another cat in the cattery or loose in the house. She is a good mum to her kittens and aside from that is also a good producer - in 2007, both the Top Birman Female - CCC of A Champion, Gold Champion SHARADA INYA DREAMS and Top Birman Male Kitten - Silver Premier SHARADA MAKIN'DREAMS were her babies...And even though she took time out to have a litter in 2007 she still managed to complete her Gold Champion Title and Honours title.

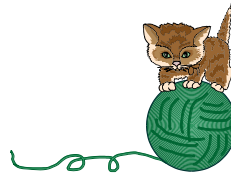
Phoenix can be a little bit naughty and loves nothing better than to climb a tree that is in the back garden, stalk and sometimes even catch a bird and yet she is as playful as a kitten with toy mice. She is very "talkative" and like her wonderful grandmother Shinoto Dream Maker who was imported from New Zealand to start the Sharada lilac family - she can construct long sentences when she is talking...she always has a complaint to issue or a long tall tale to tell.

Currently Phoenix has a litter of seals and blues and it has been decided that this will be her last litter although she is yet a young cat so she will be de-sexed and find her way to become the spoiled pet she deserves to be.....probably in a home where there are no other cats to harass.

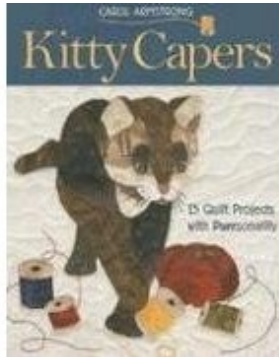


If you would like to meet some more Sharada Birmans, please visit the web site at www.users.tpg.com.au/sharada

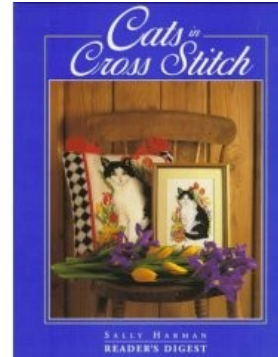
CRAFTY CAT



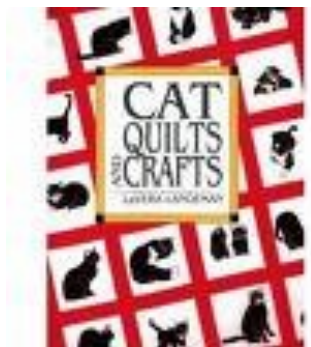
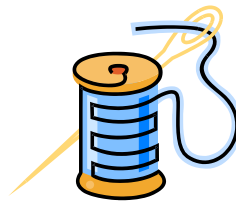
Are you a creative person? If you have some spare time you might like to investigate the craft ideas in these books.



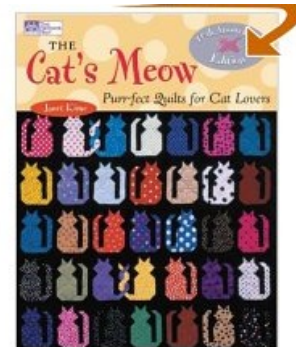
Kitty Capers
15 Quilt Projects with Purrsonality
by Carol Armstrong



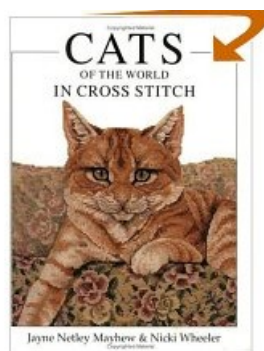
Cats in Cross Stitch
by Sally Harman



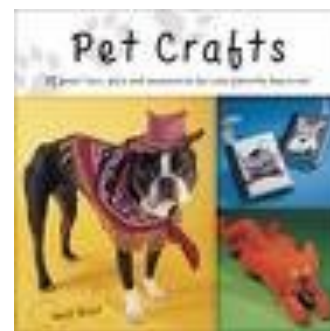
Cat Quilts and Crafts
by Lavera Langeman



Cat's Meow
Purr-fect Quilts for Cat Lovers
by Janet Kime



Cats of the World in Cross Stitch
by Jayne Netley Mayhew and Nicki Wheeler



Pet Crafts
28 Great Toys, Gifts and Accessories for Your Favorite Dog or Cat

INTERNATIONAL PROFILE—United Kingdom

PET BIRMAN OF THE YEAR 2007

This award is only open to Pet Birmans (not show or breeding cats) owned by members of The Birman Cat Club in the UK. Owners nominate their pet, writing about them and the reasons why the cat deserves the award. In 2007, the award went to Sapphire. This is her story:...



Sapphire has just celebrated her 2nd birthday. She was our first pet Birman. We never intended to breed. We just wanted a fluffy lap cat. She came to us at 8 weeks old a tiny bundle of fluff. As she got older out came her beautiful blue cream tortoiseshell markings and the temperament to match. She would stand up to her big brothers, there was nothing she'd back down from.

After a while I noticed that she wasn't really growing. She would vomit occasionally but nothing ever very serious. She was still so small and thin. I just assumed that she would fill out as time went on. She made up for her small size with her big personality, one minute being naughty and mischievous, the next being loving and licky.

As time went on we decided that maybe we could just have one pet litter from her. We thought she would make a great mum because of the way she 'mothered' my other cats. We went about finding a stud and she was mated. My partner Adam and I were thrilled when she successfully mated and went about preparing for the new kittens.

About two weeks after she was mated I noticed Sapphire was very poorly. She was very quiet, not eating and wasn't her normal self. We rushed her off to the vets where she was put on intravenous fluids for 24 hours. We brought her home the next day only to take her back the next very lethargic and collapsed. It was then she was diagnosed with a pyometra (womb infection). This was a life threatening condition. The vet advised the only way to save her life was to neuter her. We waited on tenterhooks during the operation, praying she would pull through. Our prayers were answered. Over the next few days she perked up and gradually got back to normal.



Life was good for a few months, and then I noticed that Sapphire's vomiting had increased to every day. She also suffered bouts of coughing fits but never produced anything. She went back to the vets for an x-ray of her chest and to find out the reason for her sickness. Time went on and we were no closer to finding out what was wrong with Sapphire. We were referred to a special vet surgery where they performed every test imaginable. Bloods were sent to a human hospital for testing. She had ultrasound, x-rays and exploratory operations.

Finally test results showed that Sapphire was suffering from IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease). The IBD was being triggered by meat product and the vet told us that Sapphire could no longer eat a food that contained any poultry or animal meat, but would have to live on a fish diet. If Fish triggered the IBD as well, then there was no other option for her.

.....continued over the page

INTERNATIONAL PROFILE—SAPPHIRE.....continued

We had the task of finding a food that did not contain any trace of meat. We tried all foods available to us and finally found a Capelin and Tapioca diet. She started to do well on the food. She stopped vomiting and started to gain weight. Once again she was back to the old Sapphire.

The vet at the referral clinic suggested that we try a procedure to try and find out why she coughed. At this stage asthma and heart problems had been eliminated. She was booked in for a bronchial wash. The vet explained that this was where fluid was injected into the lungs in order to take a sample of lung fluid. We were told this was a risky procedure.

We dropped her off and kissed her goodbye and went about our daily routine. At about midday I received a phone call to say that Sapphire was dangerously ill. Her lungs had filled with fluid under anaesthetic and she was in an oxygen tent, barely alive. The next half an hour was crucial. This poor cat had been through so much in her short life, but I willed her to keep going and to keep fighting. I got the phone call to say that she was starting to pull through and that evening we went to visit her. I saw this scrawny little cat with shaved neck, legs and stomach, attached to a drip and smelling of pilchards and my heart burst with pride. She was a real fighter.

Six months on and Sapphire is back to her old self. Terrorising her brothers and sisters and our new litter of kittens, playing the dutiful aunt and being the little madam she is. She is settled on the food and is probably more than the ideal weight now!!

We think Sapphire deserves this award because she is a real fighter. We look at her face and into her eyes and I see how much she loves us. In two years we have nearly lost her three times. I have promised her that we will never give up on her and her illness because all three times she never gave up on us.

Debbie Pocock



CAT QUIZ

Humans:

Your cat waits and miaows at the front door when you arrive. Is it saying:

- a) Welcome home
- b) The phone rang twice while you were out
- c) Feed me, NOW

Your cat miaows at the door when you go out. Is it saying:

- a) Please don't leave me here all alone
- b) Goodbye
- c) But what if I get hungry while you out?

Your cat digs its claws in your leg. Is this:

- a) An unsuppressed primal instinct
- b) A sign of affection
- c) A demand to be fed now

Your cat scratches at the door after being fed: Is it saying:

- a) Lemme out - I need to use the garden
- b) I wanna go out and play
- c) Wonder what they've got to eat next door?



Cats:

Your human walks into the kitchen. Does this mean:

- a) It's hungry
- b) It's lost
- c) You're hungry

Your human puts down a bowl of food for you. Is this:

- a) supper
- b) something to keep you going till supper's ready
- c) inedible junk to be scorned in favour of what the human's got.



Your human removes you from the top of the television. Does this mean:

- a) You're in trouble - better not do it again
- b) Nothing - humans do this from time to time
- c) The human wants to play, so climb up again to amuse it.

Staircases are for:

- a) Getting up to the human's bedroom at 4am
- b) Lying in wait in the dark at the top of
- c) Walking down just slower than the human in front of it.
- d) all of the above

A BIT OF HISTORY— The Domestic Cat's Ancestor

The cats of the world come in all shapes and sizes.

But the ancestry of every one can be traced to the same incredibly specific source, say scientists.

The Near Eastern Wildcat is the domestic cat's closest relative.

All domestic felines are descended from a group of around five in the Middle East around 130,000 years ago, a study suggests.

The findings overturn the traditional view that the first domestic cats were tamed by the Ancient Egyptians just 4,000 years ago.

Instead, they were bred thousands of years earlier by farmers in Mesopotamia, the cradle of civilisation, it is claimed.

Researchers have traced the domestic feline family tree back to a small family of wild cats living on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates in modern-day Iraq.

They also found that the closest living relative of the pet cat is the Near Eastern wildcat - a shy and rare creature which resembles a large tabby.

Dr Andrew Kitchener, a zoologist at the National Museums Scotland and co-author of the report in the journal *Science*, said: "This shows that the origin of domestic cats was not Ancient Egypt - which is the prevailing view - but Mesopotamia and that it occurred much earlier than was thought. The last common ancestor of wildcats and domesticated cats lived more than 100,000 years ago.

"However, we do not know exactly when cats were domesticated, although it is likely to have been around 10,000 years ago when other animals like cattle and goats were domesticated."

The study used DNA samples from 979 wild and domestic cats to piece together the feline family tree. They looked for markers in mitochondrial DNA - a type of genetic material passed down from mothers to kittens which can reveal when wild and domestic cat lineages were most closely related.



The Near Eastern Wildcat

Aside from accidental cross-breeding, domestic cats are not closely related to the wildcats of Europe, Central Asia and Southern Africa, the team found.

But their DNA is closely related to the Near Eastern wildcat. The tests showed that the ancestors of domestic cats broke away with their wilder cousins up to 130,000 years ago.

Dr Kitchener said the findings were supported by the discovery of a cat skeleton apparently buried with its owner in Cyprus 9,500 years ago. At the time it was found, three years ago, it was not clear whether the animal had been domesticated or was a Near Eastern wildcat.

The experts believe cats originally sought out human company, attracted by rodents infesting the first agricultural settlements. These early farmers would have found the animals extremely useful for protecting their grain stores.

The Domestic Cat's Ancestorcontinued

Over the generations they selected the friendliest and most reliable creatures for breeding, creating the domestic cat in all its forms and forging the peculiar relationship between human and feline which has lasted to this day.

Although the first domestic cats appeared in Mesopotamia, it was the Egyptians who turned them from a working animal into a pet, creating a cult which was passed on to the Romans and exported around the world.

Although the domestication of the cat has been pushed back thousands of years, it still took place long after dogs were tamed.

Scientists believe the first wolves and wild dogs began to live alongside hunters around 100,000 years ago.

At first the creatures lived outside travelling camps, scavenging off kills and providing a useful alarm system for the hunters.



HAVE YOU HEARD OF A.A.A.D.D.?

Recently, I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table, and see that there is only 1 cheque left.

My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke I'd been drinking.

I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The Coke is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye,-they need water.

I put the Coke on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:

- The car isn't washed
- The bills aren't paid
- There is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter
- The flowers don't have enough water,
- There is still only 1 cheque in my cheque book,
- I can't find the remote,
- I can't find my glasses,
- And I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired. I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.



HAMLET'S CAT



To go outside, and there perchance to stay
Or to remain within : that is the question.
Whether 'tis better for a cat to suffer
The cuffs and buffets of inclement weather
That Nature rains on those who roam abroad,
Or take a nap upon a scrap of carpet,
And so by dozing melt the solid hours
That clog the clock's bright gears with sullen time
And stall the dinner bell.

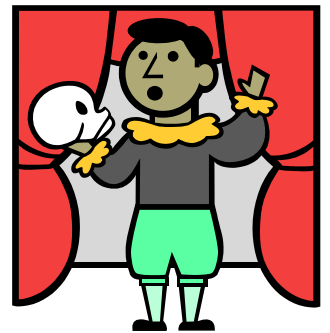
To sit, to stare
Outdoors, and by a stare to seem to state
A wish to venture forth without delay,
Then when the portal's opened up, to stand
As if transfixed by doubt.
To prowl; to sleep;
To choose not knowing when we may once more
Our re-admittance gain: aye, there's the hairball;
For if a paw were shaped to turn a knob,
Or work a lock or slip a window-catch
And going out and coming in were made
As simple as the breaking of a bowl.

What cat would bear the household's petty plagues,
The cook's well-practiced kicks, the butler's broom,
The infant's careless pokes, the tickled ears,
The trampled tail, and all the daily shocks
That fur is heir to, when of his own free will,
He might his exodus or entrance make with a mere mitten?

Who would spaniels fear,
Or strays trespassing from a neighbour's yard,
But that the dread of our unheeded cries
And scratches at a barricaded door
No claw can open up, dispels our nerve
And makes us rather bear our humans' faults
Than run away to un-guessed miseries?

Thus caution doth make house cats of us all;
And thus the bristling hair of resolution
Is softened up with the pale brush of thought
And since our choices hinge on weighty things,
We pause upon the threshold of decision.

Author Unknown



CAT CAPTIONS & CHUKKLES

Why don't cats play poker in the jungle?

Too many cheetahs.



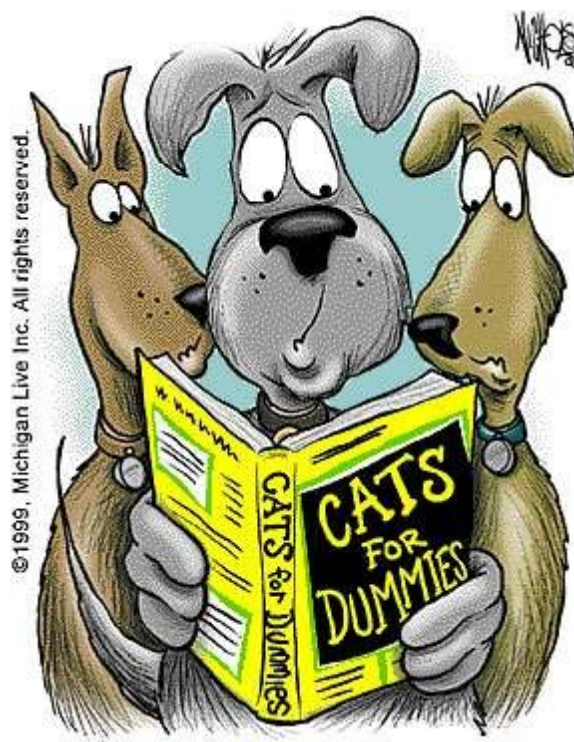
Did you hear about the cat who drank 5 bowls of water?

He set a new lap record.



What do cats use to make coffee?

A purrcolator.



NEWSLETTER

The Birman Society Inc.

*A Society for the Appreciation and
Advancement of the Sacred Cat of
Burma.*



www.thebirmansociety.com
