The Domestic Cat

The Biology of its Behaviour

Third Edition

The most commonly kept domestic animal in the developed world, the cat has been a part of human life for thousands of years. Cats have been both worshipped and persecuted over this long period – either loved or hated for their enigmatic self-reliance and the subject of numerous myths and fables.

Highlighting startling discoveries made over the last 10 years, this new edition features contributions from experts in a wide range of fields, providing authoritative accounts of the behaviour of cats and how they interact with people. Thoroughly revised and updated to include information on the basic features of cat development and social life, the history of their relations with humans, health and welfare problems, and the breeding of cats for sale and for show, it is intended for all those, whether specialist or general reader, who love or are simply intrigued by these fascinating animals.

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Patrick Bateson FRS is Emeritus Professor of Ethology at the University of Cambridge. He is President of the Zoological Society of London and former Vice-President of the Royal Society. He is also co-author of Play, Playfulness, Creativity and Innovation (Cambridge, 2013), Plasticity, Robustness, Development and Evolution (Cambridge, 2011) and Measuring Behaviour (Cambridge, 3rd edition 2007).
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Abbreviations

AAFP  American Association of Feline Practitioners
ACC&D  Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs
ACTH  adrenocorticotropic hormone
ADCH  Association of Dogs and Cats Homes
ASPCA  American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
BCE  Before the Common Era
CAWC  Companion Animal Welfare Council
CNR  capture–neuter–release
CNS  central nervous system
CRF  corticotrophin-releasing factor
DEFRA  Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DJD  degenerative joint disease
DLH  domestic longhair
DSH  domestic shorthair
EE  environmental enrichment
HPA  hypothalamus–pituitary–adrenal
LUTS  lower urinary tract signs
MYA  Million Years Ago
NCPPSP  National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy
NRC  National Research Council
PCA  Principal Component Analysis
RSPCA  Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SRS  stress response system
TNR  trap–neuter–return
TU  tail up
VNO  vomeronasal organs
WSPA  World Society for the Protection of Animals