

# Shelter mews



## Cat Personalities

Dr. Lauren Finka of the University of Lincoln in England recently interviewed nearly 200 people owned by cats. The study, documented in her book *The Cat Personality Test*, showed that cats basically fall into one of five personality types. Of course, **a cat's personality changes over time due to experiences and development** but the initial genetic personality never goes away, it just recedes in importance. The five personality categories summarized from Dr. Finka's book are:

**The Human Cat** loves their people. They crave human affection and attention and may be very vocal about it. They will share their home with you but will invade your personal space at will, maybe as a lap cat or allowing you to share their bed. Keep human cats entertained with wand toys, laser lights, or other activities you do together.



**The Hunter Cat** is a born hunter. It's in their wild DNA. Their hunting method is to stalk and pounce when prey emerges from hiding. Given access to the outside, they will often return with **presents you probably won't appreciate**. The hunter cat loves to sit motionless for long periods of time in a window or patrol a screened porch to stealthily watch the wildlife outside. They prefer realistic toys that allow them to stalk, run and pounce.

**The Cat's Cat** is comfortable with other cats. They are sweet cats who give care and comfort to other cats. They groom each other, give head bumps, and touch noses (kisses instead of hisses). They will curl up with and also play together. This personality trait does not frequently happen in the wild. Rather it happens when raised with other cats. These cats like motorized toys that draw the attention of other cats. They also like cat towers.



**The Cantankerous Cat** is not very tolerant of being handled or touched. They are sensitive to their environment and seem always on the alert. They need their independence and distance and will be annoyed when habits are disrupted. Cantankerous cats choose their humans with care and will love them loyally, it just has to be on their terms. These cats need to have solitary play options such as toys to bat around and chase.

**The Inquisitive Cat** is always on the wrong side of every door, investigating something, or being some place that defies all logic. They are playful and outgoing and in addition to being



curious, they are very social and easily greet strangers. They like to play in empty boxes and bags. Puzzle boxes intrigue them.

We think there is one additional cat personality that Dr. Finka failed to mention: The Purr-fect Cat is that cat who lives with you!

They undoubtedly share many of the above personality traits and are thankful for your care and comfort. This is often shown **by their loud and loving purr**. We know of many "purr-fect cats" available for adoption at Second Chance. ~Carl Schafer

## Cats and Cardboard

Think of cats as little kids entertained by the simplest things life has to offer...like a cardboard box. Your kitty can jump into it, smack it with a paw, claw it, or push it around. Their obsession with boxes actually makes sense. Boxes come in so many shapes, sizes, and smells that they will think every new one is more exciting than the last one. Cats get comfort and security from enclosed spaces, which is why they love spending time in boxes. They are also natural predators and boxes provide the perfect space to hide, hunt prey, and feel safe.

Snug cardboard boxes fit the bill perfectly. Cats also like small, dark spaces as it helps to reduce their environmental stress, and **as they don't have in-built conflict resolution strategies**, instead they prefer to



hide from their problems. A recent study conducted by the University of Utrecht discovered shelter cats that were given access to cardboard boxes recovered faster and adapted more quickly to new environments, which shows that boxes are incredibly beneficial in dealing with the anxiety of change.

According to a 2006 study by the National Research Council, the ideal temperature range for a domestic cat is 86 to 97 degrees F. That probably explains why your kitty enjoys soaking up the sunlight or sleeping in a body-heat-retaining cardboard box. Felines spend up to 18 hours every day sleeping so finding that perfect spot to snooze is so very important.

**Don't be surprised to see your kitty having a good look** when a new cardboard box appears. Not only are there new smells but cardboard boxes are made of the perfect material for your cat to bite, scratch, and soon shred to bits. How entertaining!

So there you have it. Boxes are both insulating and stress relieving comfort zones. Places where cats can hide, relax, sleep, and occasionally launch a sneak attack against the unpredictable people they live with. To your cat, no toy in the world, no matter how expensive or fancy it may be compares to a simple cardboard box. ~ Jackie Allison

Sources: [www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com), [www.pawtracks.com](http://www.pawtracks.com) and [www.purina.com](http://www.purina.com)

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**OUR MISSION**

To provide homeless animals with a second chance at life and companionship in a no-kill shelter.

Our organization goes beyond shelter walls and is committed to:

- 1) Positive people and animal relationships and placements
- 2) Offering affordable spay, neuter and vaccination clinics
- 3) Cooperative rescue efforts
- 4) Animal welfare education

Second Chance Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and our EIN is 27-2815668.

SCAR receives no federal or state tax money; nor portions of donations made to national humane organizations.



**Aren't Cats Wonderful?**

*Crazy for Catnip*

So, what is catnip anyway? Catnip is a member of the mint family. Nepetalactone, the essential oil found in the plant's leaves, can turn the laziest couch potato into a crazy furball. The intense catnip experience starts with the nose. Cats have an extra scent organ in the roof of their mouth called the vomeronasal gland. This allows scents that are collected in the nose and mouth to be carried to the "happy" receptors in the brain.



Most cats react to catnip by rolling around, leaping in the air, rubbing their chins all over everything, sprinting back and forth, and eventually zoning out. Not all cats will respond to catnip. About 60% will go bonkers for this fragrant herb. Researchers have determined it is a dominant trait based on genetics. Also, it has been noted that both kittens (under 1 year of age) and senior cats are less likely to be affected by it. Don't worry. Used sparingly, catnip is not harmful for your feline. The effects can last around 10 minutes or less and then it wears off gradually.

Catnip is available in many forms. You can grow your own in a large pot or somewhere where you don't mind it spreading. Good soil and full sun exposure are required. The plant will bloom in mid to late summer. Offer your furry friend some freshly picked sprigs and dry some for a winter treat sprinkled on their scratching post. Catnip loses potency over time. For maximum freshness, it is recommended to keep the dried herb in an airtight container away from sunlight. Your cat will appreciate it. ~ Jackie Allison



**Annual Gigantic Tent Sale August 12!**

Spring means it's time to think about donating your gently-used household items to SCAR's biggest fundraiser of the year! We'll be accepting items soon, call us at 603-259-3244 or check our website [www.secondchancear.org](http://www.secondchancear.org) for more information.

**Two Ducks for Twenty Bucks!**

Michael Gallego has been creating and selling these adorable rock ducks with his CI from Common Ground Northern Human Services.



Michael has donated to many charities over the years, and in December they dropped off a check for \$600 to SCAR!

We'd like to thank them for the generous donation, which will go right to work helping pets in the North country!



**Sierra the Surrogate**

Toward the end of October we took in a cat after her owner passed away and we named her Sierra. She had given birth to six kittens but unfortunately only one survived. Sierra took very good care of her last kitten, little Cedar, but it saddened everyone to see how empty her cage had become.



In November we took in four tiny kittens from someone who found them living under their deck. The mother cat hadn't been seen in a few days, and boy were they hungry! They were young enough that they needed to be bottle-fed, and while we were certainly up to the task, a feline mom would have been best. A light bulb flickered on—we had a nursing mama in the shelter!

We introduced them to Sierra, hoping she would accept them as her own, and she did! Sierra and little Cedar were back to having a cage full of rambunctious, healthy kittens. Since then, all five kittens and mom have been spayed or neutered and adopted into loving new homes. All five kittens got to have their chance at a happy ending thanks to Sierra. Not all heroes wear capes—some have fur! ~Gabby Sweet



## Do You Use Topical Creams?

Human medications that are applied to the skin can be dangerous for pets. Even tiny amounts of some topical drug preparations are toxic to dogs and cats.



Animals are exposed to topical medications by chewing a product tube, licking the product from a person's skin, licking their fur after being touched by someone with the product on their hands, or possibly by absorbing the medication through their own skin.

If you use any topical medications, be aware of the possible risk to animals. **Keep all medications out of your pets' reach.** Wash the product off your hands or wear gloves while applying it, and keep pets from licking skin and bedding that the product has touched.

If you think your pet has been exposed to a toxin, contact your veterinarian or animal poison control:

- ASPCA Animal Poison Control: 888-426-4435  
[www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control](http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control)
  - Pet Poison Helpline: 855-764-7661 [petpoisonhelpline.com/](http://petpoisonhelpline.com/)
- For more information: [www.avma.org/news/fda-warns-topical-drug-humans-can-be-deadly-pets](http://www.avma.org/news/fda-warns-topical-drug-humans-can-be-deadly-pets).

## Cat Tails: Farley

**"Thought we'd provide a quick Sully (now Farley) update. He is doing amazingly well in his new home. He and his new brother Oliver have become fast friends who enjoy playing and chasing each other as well as getting up to all sorts of mischief together. They talk to each other in burrs and chirps constantly. Even his cranky old sister Ruby doesn't seem to mind him. He is a playful, sweet kitty and a joy to have as part of our family. Liz & Mike S."**



## Cat Tails: Arnie



**"Arnie is full of personality. He loves little toy mice, kicker toys, the lazer pointer. We're looking forward to getting to know all of his quirks and what makes him, him. So far it's been a delight! Thank you for being so easy to connect with. What we really liked about your shelter was how you gave us accurate pictures of a cat's temperament, the good and the limitations. It helped us make an informed decision. We feel confident giving Second Chance a glowing recommendation to anyone that is looking to have a new cat to love. Corrie C."**

## Cat Tails: Violet & June

**"Hello there everyone at SCAR! The two new girls fit in and get on with everyone here, it feels like they've been with us all along. It's absolutely amazing. Thank you so much for being the ones to connect us all. Tonya P."**



## Cat Tails: Farrah

**"Hi Jan and Gabby! I named Farrah after my favorite Charlie's Angel but also because the name means joy, happiness and gladness and that is exactly what she's brought me. She's loving and loyal...sleeps with me and anytime I wake up, she's there. She is my shadow/little puppy dog because she follows me everywhere, knows her name and comes running to greet me when I get home**



**from work! Thank you so much for everything you guys do! Our community is so fortunate to have you taking care of these kitties and finding them good homes. Todd C."**

## Volunteer Spotlight: The Bettencourts

### The Future is Meow

**Michael and Beverley's involvement with cats began in a video rental store of all places. The business owners were fostering a friendly black and white cat named Dooley. As they were checking out, the cat reached through the bars of his cage to gently touch Michael. It was so gentle that he thought the cat didn't have any claws. That act made such an impression on them that they returned an hour later to adopt Dooley. This was totally unexpected since they had only had large dogs in the past. As the saying goes—Cats are like potato chips. You can't have just one!**

**It wasn't long before they adopted Angelo as a companion for Dooley. That was the beginning of felines becoming an integral part of the Bettencourt family. Unfortunately, they lost Angelo to a fatal reaction to a vaccination. This experience haunted them so they decided they had to do something to honor his memory.**



After 20 years of living in southern New Hampshire, growing restlessness nudged Michael and Beverley in a life-changing direction to a little farm in Lyman, NH. This was the perfect get-away place to spend retirement time with their adult children and their granddaughter, Sophie Elizabeth. They had traveled to many places but this truly felt like home.

To make the transition complete, they wanted to continue to honor Angelo by volunteering at Second Chance. While some people work their way towards being different, Michael and Beverley strive towards making a difference for the cats and kittens at Second Chance. At first they need us, then we need them. May the joy Angelo brought them live on.

~Jackie Allison



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## Wish List

- ♥ Postage Stamps
- ♥ Gift Cards
- ♥ Dishwasher Detergent
- ♥ 13-gal. Trash Bags
- ♥ Laundry Detergent
- ♥ White Unscented Clay Cat Litter
- ♥ Purina Kitten Chow
- ♥ Purina Cat Chow Complete
- ♥ Black Oil Sunflower Seed



## You Can Help

We know that you're swamped with requests for donations. While you support the big national organizations that help animals, we ask that you first consider giving to your local shelter. You can visit us any time and see your gift at work, giving the local area's abandoned and abused cats and kittens a "Second Chance"!

### MONETARY DONATIONS

SCAR relies entirely on private donations to fund our shelter, rescue and adoption operations, and community programs. Your donation is 100% tax deductible. Please mail your check today, large or small or donate securely online at [www.secondchancear.org](http://www.secondchancear.org)

### TRIBUTE GIFTS

Tribute gifts can be made in memory of or in honor of a pet or loved one. A card will be sent upon request.

### WISH LIST DONATIONS

Help keep our supply closet stocked up year round. See our wish lists at [www.secondchancear.org](http://www.secondchancear.org), [www.chewy.com](http://www.chewy.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### GIFTS OF STOCK & ANNUITIES

Stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares and other securities, along with transferring of real estate offer alternative ways to donate that can benefit both you, your heirs and SCAR.

### EBAY SELLABLES

Donate jewelry, antiques and estate valuables for resale on eBay. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

### WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

Many workplaces coordinate charitable giving campaigns for their employees. These campaigns allow employees to donate through one-time gifts and regular payroll deductions.

### VEHICLE DONATION

Donating your unwanted car is simple, easy, and free, plus it 100% tax deductible. [www.careasy.org](http://www.careasy.org) will convert your car into cash, which becomes a much-needed donation to SCAR!

### DONATE WHILE SHOPPING

You shop online, SCAR gets money! For free, with no cost to you! Sign up at [iGive.com](http://iGive.com)

### ESTATE GIFTS

Include SCAR in your will, trust or with a beneficiary designation.

### CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

There are many ways for your company to increase its visibility in the community and build positive brand presences while helping Second Chance.

### VOLUNTEER

Join us and help the cats and kittens who can't help themselves. You'll also make new friends and have fun! Fill out a Volunteer Application today.

### FOSTER

Can you open your home occasionally to house a mom and her kittens until they're old enough to be adopted; or house a needy cat on a short term basis when the shelter is full? Call the shelter for more information.