

For Kids ...

# ABOUT CATS



# ACTIVITY BOOK

Feline Education for youngsters - brought to you by The Cat Fanciers' Association  
Our URL: [kids.cfa.org](http://kids.cfa.org)





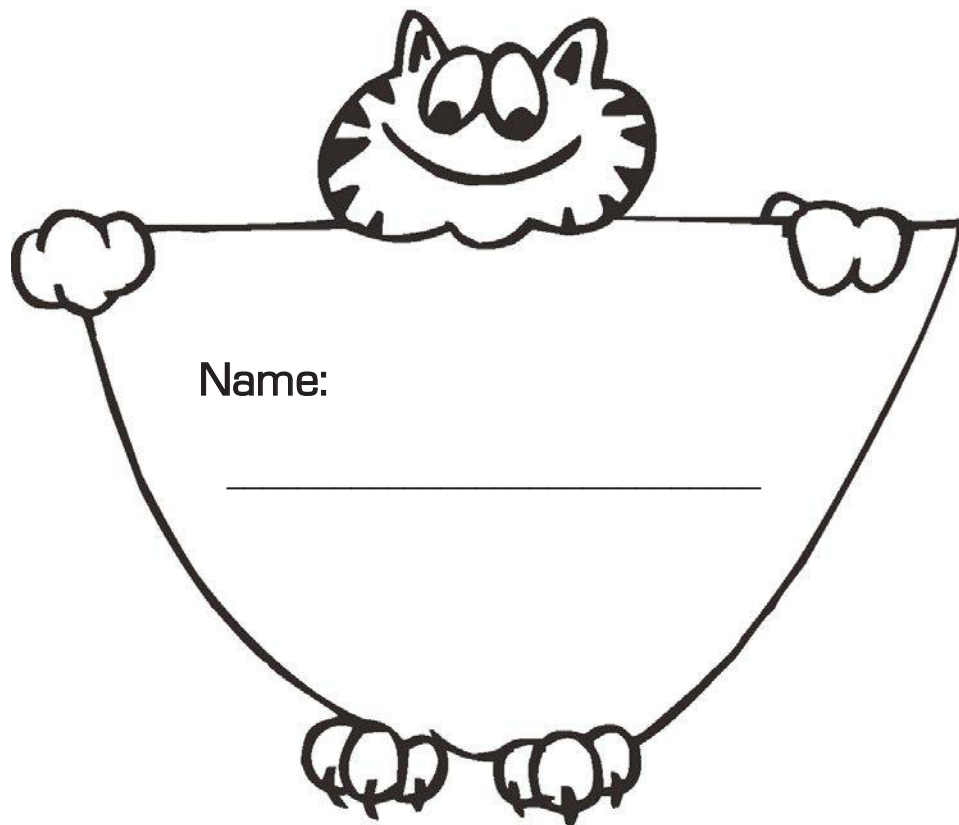
## Welcome kids!

We hope you enjoy this activity book. We've put together a whole bunch of information about cats that we think you will have fun learning. You can find a game to play at a cat show, several pages to color, a few word games and find out some interesting facts about cats.

If you want to learn even more, visit our **For Kids ... About Cats** web site at [kids.cfa.org](http://kids.cfa.org).

Enjoy the cat show!

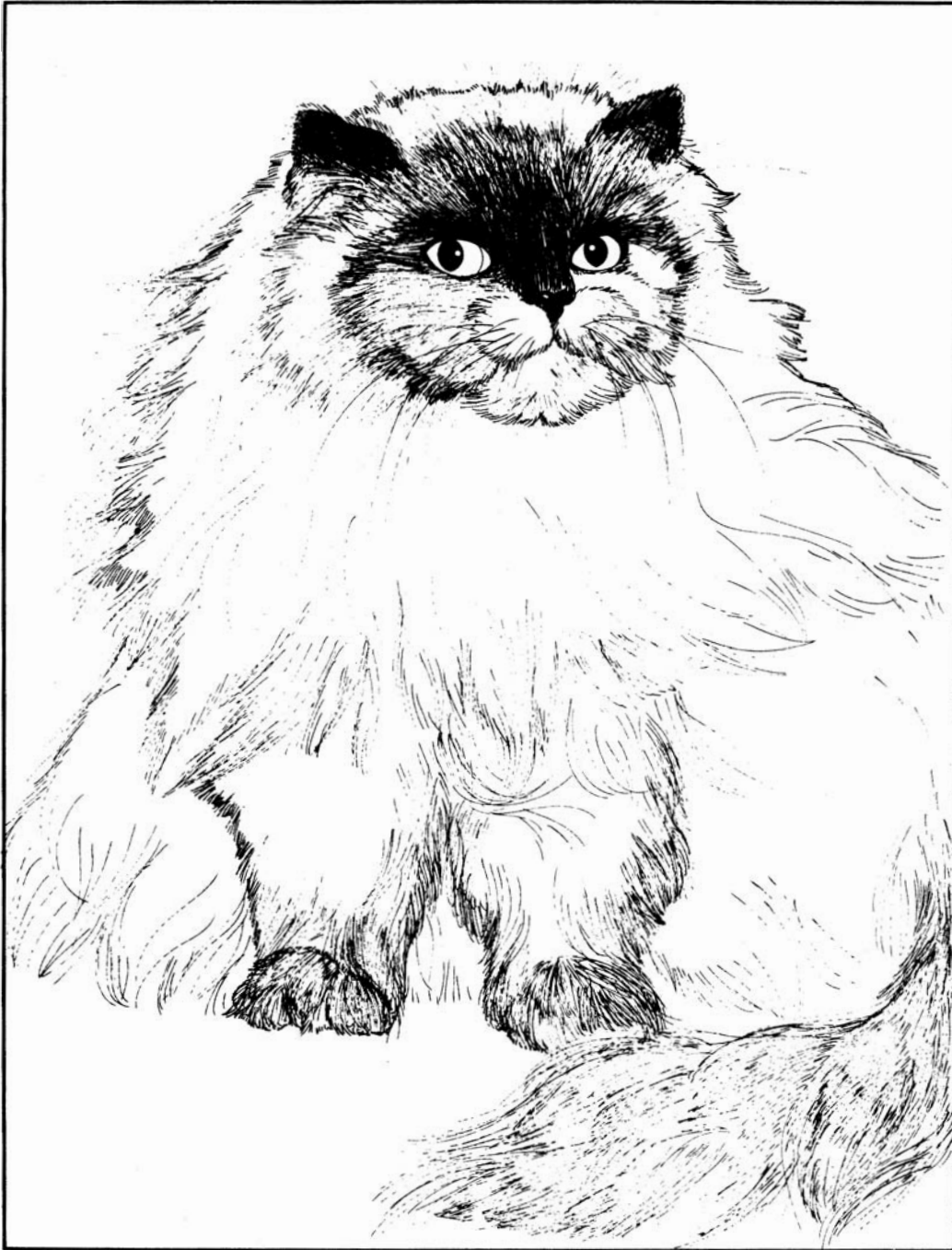
This **For Kids ... About Cats Activity Book** belongs to:



# Cats are out of this world!!!

Cats make great pets. They are fun to play with and to cuddle.  
You can tell them all your secrets and they'll never tell another soul.

Read on to see how you can have a happy cat.



This is a Himalayan-Persian.

The Himalayan is one of the many Persian colors available.

## Cats are living beings, which means ...

Cats need food, water and exercise, just like you do.  
Cats need to go to the doctor sometimes, just like you do.  
Cats can feel happiness and sadness, just like you do.  
Cats need tons of love and kindness, just like you do.

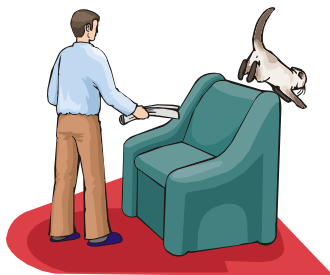
**Most of all, cats need love!**



**ALWAYS** touch your cat gently and speak softly and sweetly to him.

**ALWAYS** pick up your cat carefully.

Don't let his back end dangle because it is uncomfortable.



**NEVER** hit or yell at your cat. Remember that your cat is only as smart as a 2-year old baby. He doesn't understand why you are mad at him.

**IF YOU SEE** anyone being cruel to an animal,  
**ALWAYS** tell a grownup about it.

## Cats have been our pets for hundreds and hundreds of years.

A long, long time ago, cats ran wild and had to hunt for their own food. Now they are domesticated pets that spend their whole lives indoors, and they no longer know how to hunt for their food.



This is a Japanese Bobtail.

They have short, kinked tails that are different on every cat.

# GOOD MANNERS WHEN YOU VISIT A CAT SHOW

Have lots of fun, enjoy looking at the cats, and be sure to:

1. Walk in the show hall. Cats like slow movements.
2. Always ask cat owners if you may touch or play with their cat.
3. Speak softly in the show hall. Cats love to hear soft voices.
4. Watch quietly in the judging rings so that you can learn about cat breeds.
5. When you see someone carrying a cat to or from a judging ring, always let them get through the crowd first. They need to be on time for the judge.
6. If you want to take a photograph of a cat, always ask the owners first if it is OK.

## ENJOY THE SHOW !





# How Do Cats Compete?

Cats compete at CFA cat shows in one of four categories:

- KITTEN** - for cats between the ages of 4 and 8 months
- CHAMPIONSHIP** - for CFA registered cats over 8 months of age
- PREMIERSHIP** - for CFA registered altered cats over 8 months of age
- HOUSEHOLD PET** - for non-pedigreed cats that have been altered

The cats are handled by each judge, who compares them to a written "standard" for each breed. The standard tells the judge the shape of the body, head, ears, length of tail, details about the expected coat length, plus describes all of the possible color descriptions.

## What do the Ribbons Mean?

Cats compete by color class, and by sex within the color class. The judge will look at all the males of a color first, then the females of the same color and will hang these ribbons:

**HI NT**  
In a judging ring, the **male cats have blue cards** for their numbers, and the **females have pink ones.**

**BLUE**  
**RED**  
**YELLOW**

**FIRST** in the color and sex group  
**SECOND** in the color and sex group  
**THIRD** in the color and sex group

**RED/WHITE/BLUE**

**WINNERS RIBBON**  
If a cat is trying to become a Champion it will need 6 of these striped ribbons to do so.

**BLACK**  
**WHITE**

**BEST OF COLOR CLASS**  
**2nd BEST OF COLOR CLASS**  
All of the males and all of the females in a color class will compete for these two ribbons.

**BROWN**  
**ORANGE**

**BEST OF BREED or DIVISION**  
**2nd BEST OF BREED or DIVISION**  
All of the males and all of the females in a breed will compete for these two ribbons.

**PURPLE**

**BEST CHAMPION OF BREED or DIVISION**  
All of the male Champions and all of the female Champions in a breed will compete for these two ribbons.

**RED/WHITE**

**MERIT AWARD**  
This ribbon is awarded by the judge only to cats in the Household Pet Class.

**ROSETTES**

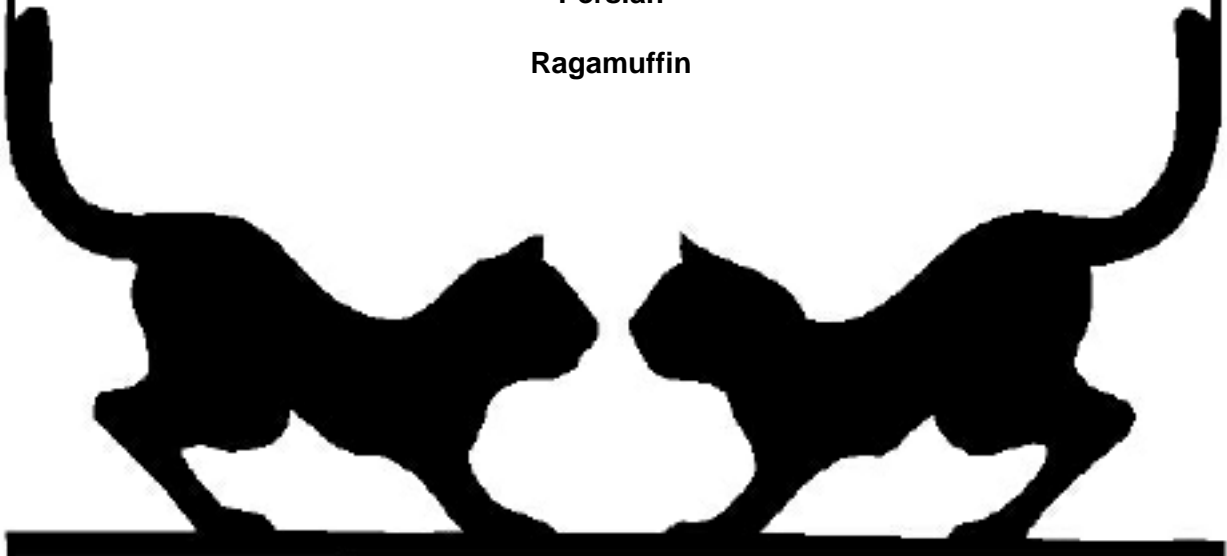
**BEST IN SHOW AWARDS**  
These are the ribbons that the owners are really, really hoping their cat will be given! These fancy rosettes are awarded to the "top cats" in the show.



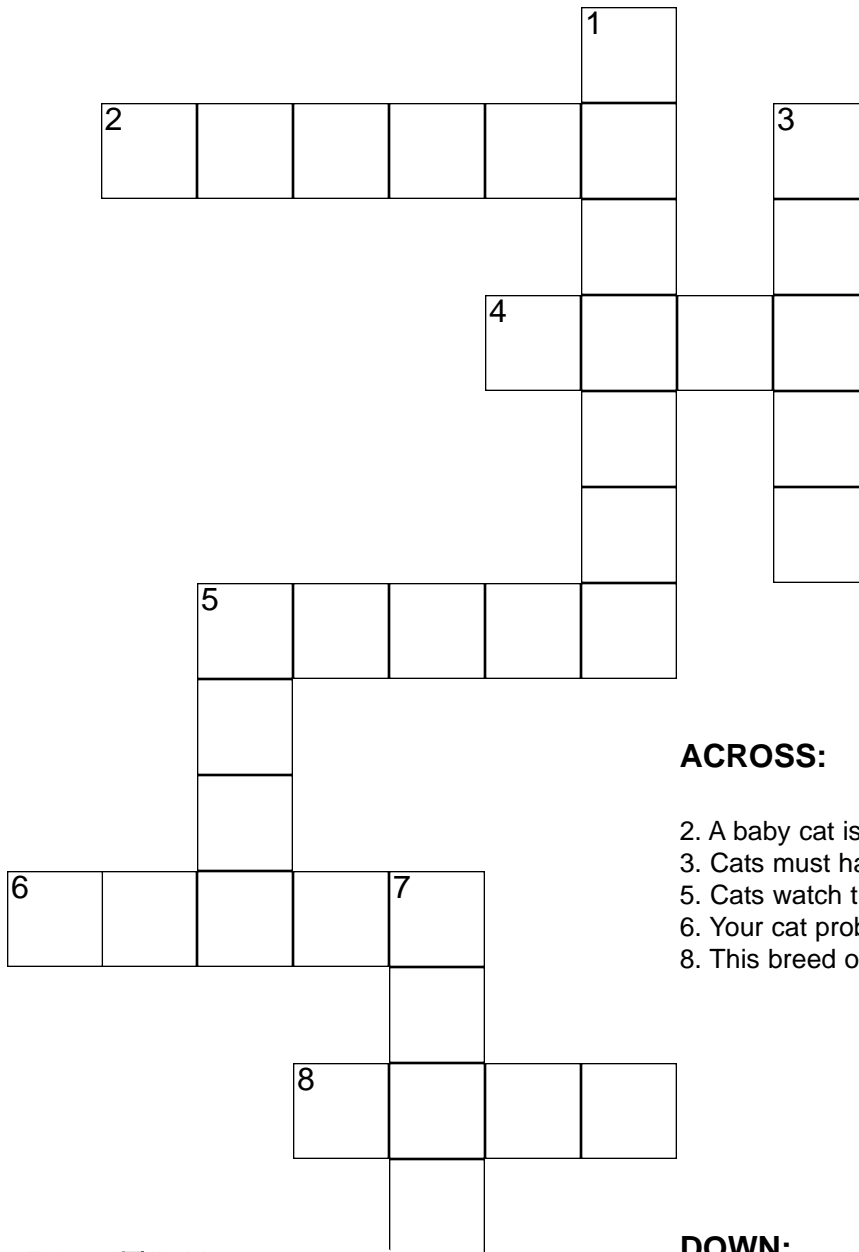
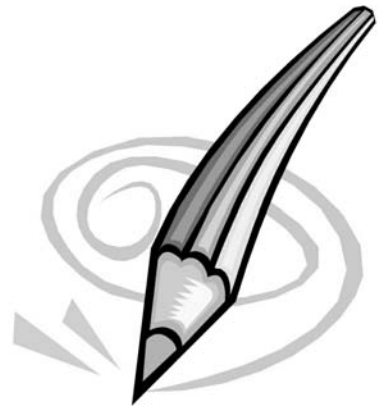
# The Breeds of Cats You Might See at this CFA Cat Show

Circle the breeds you  
find at this show

Abyssinian	Devon Rex	
American Bobtail	Egyptian Mau	
American Curl	European Burmese	Ragdoll
American Shorthair	Exotic	Russian Blue
American Wirehair	Havana Brown	Scottish Fold
Balinese	Japanese Bobtail	Selkirk Rex
Birman	Javanese	Siamese
Bombay	Korat	Siberian
British Shorthair	LaPerm	Singapura
Burmese	Maine Coon	Somali
Chartreux	Manx	Sphynx
Colorpoint Shorthair	Norwegian Forest Cat	Tonkinese
Cornish Rex	Ocicat	Turkish Angora
	Oriental	Turkish Van
	Persian	
	Ragamuffin	



# Crossword Puzzle

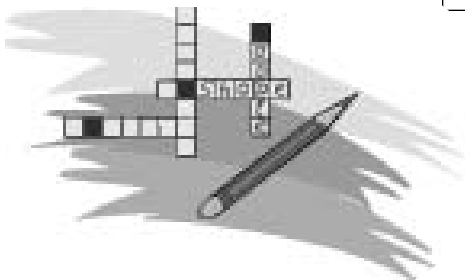


## ACROSS:

2. A baby cat is called a \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cats must have a scratching \_\_\_\_\_ to use
5. Cats watch these outside a window
6. Your cat probably likes to \_\_\_\_\_ in your bed
8. This breed of cat has no tail

## DOWN:

1. Cats are safe and healthy when kept \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cats need fresh \_\_\_\_\_ to drink ever day
5. A grey cat is really this color
7. Cats love to do this with a toy

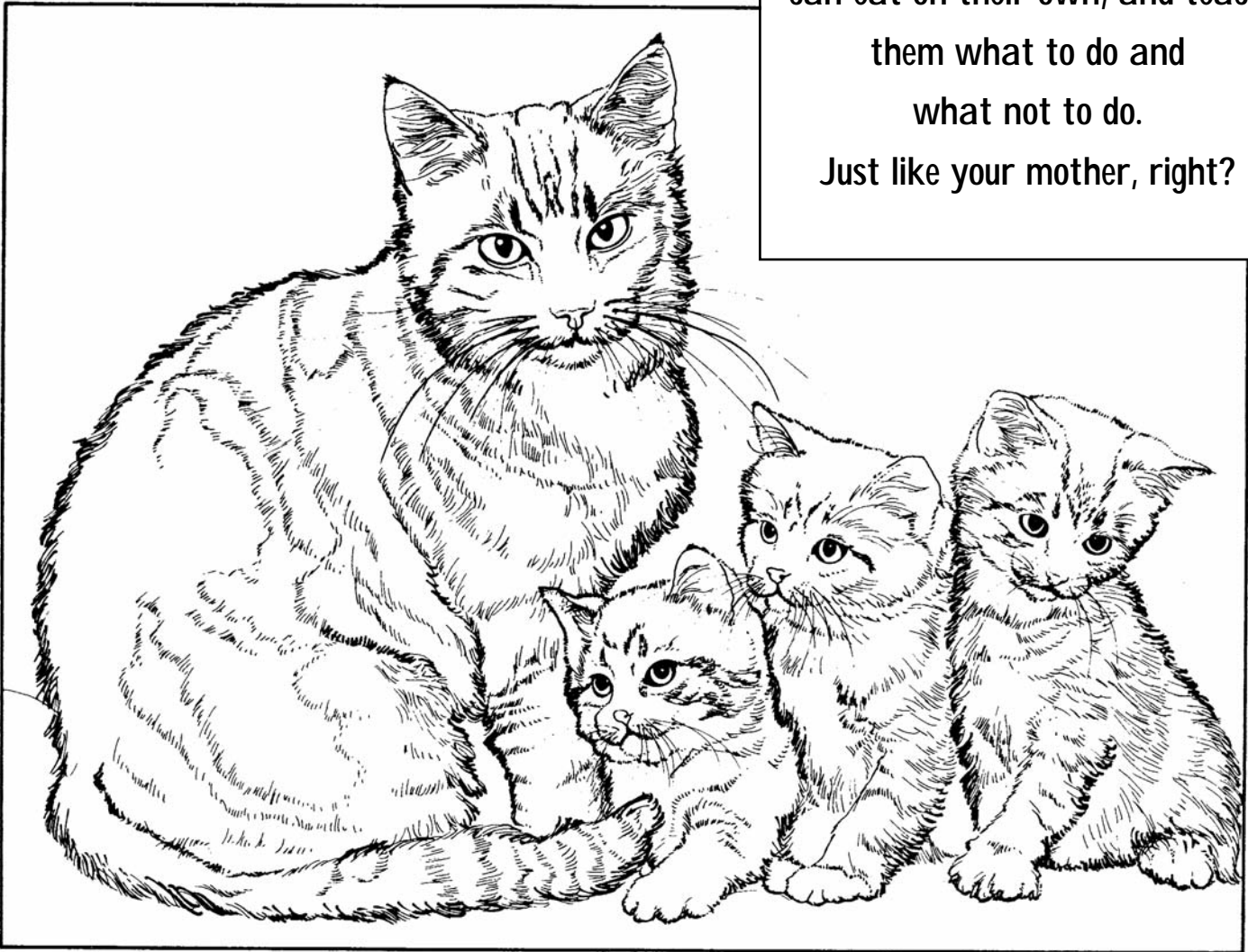


Answer key can be found at the end of this book.

**Every cat needs shelter,  
and the best shelter is inside your house.**

Cats that stay indoors live much longer,  
healthier lives than those that live outside.  
They are warm and comfortable, and always have food available.  
Plus they always have someone to love them.

These kittens rely on their mother  
to raise them, feed them until they  
can eat on their own, and teach  
them what to do and  
what not to do.  
Just like your mother, right?



# Word Search

Can you find the words hidden in this puzzle?



K	A	M	E	O	W
I	P	U	R	R	T
T	A	B	B	Y	A
T	W	A	L	S	C
E	N	F	U	R	S
N	C	L	A	W	S
F	E	L	I	N	E
A	B	Y	F	U	N



Circle the words going  
across, up or down.

cat      fur      claws

paw      meow      tabby

purr      feline      kitten

Can you make your own word search puzzle using words about cats?

Answer key can be found at the end of this book.

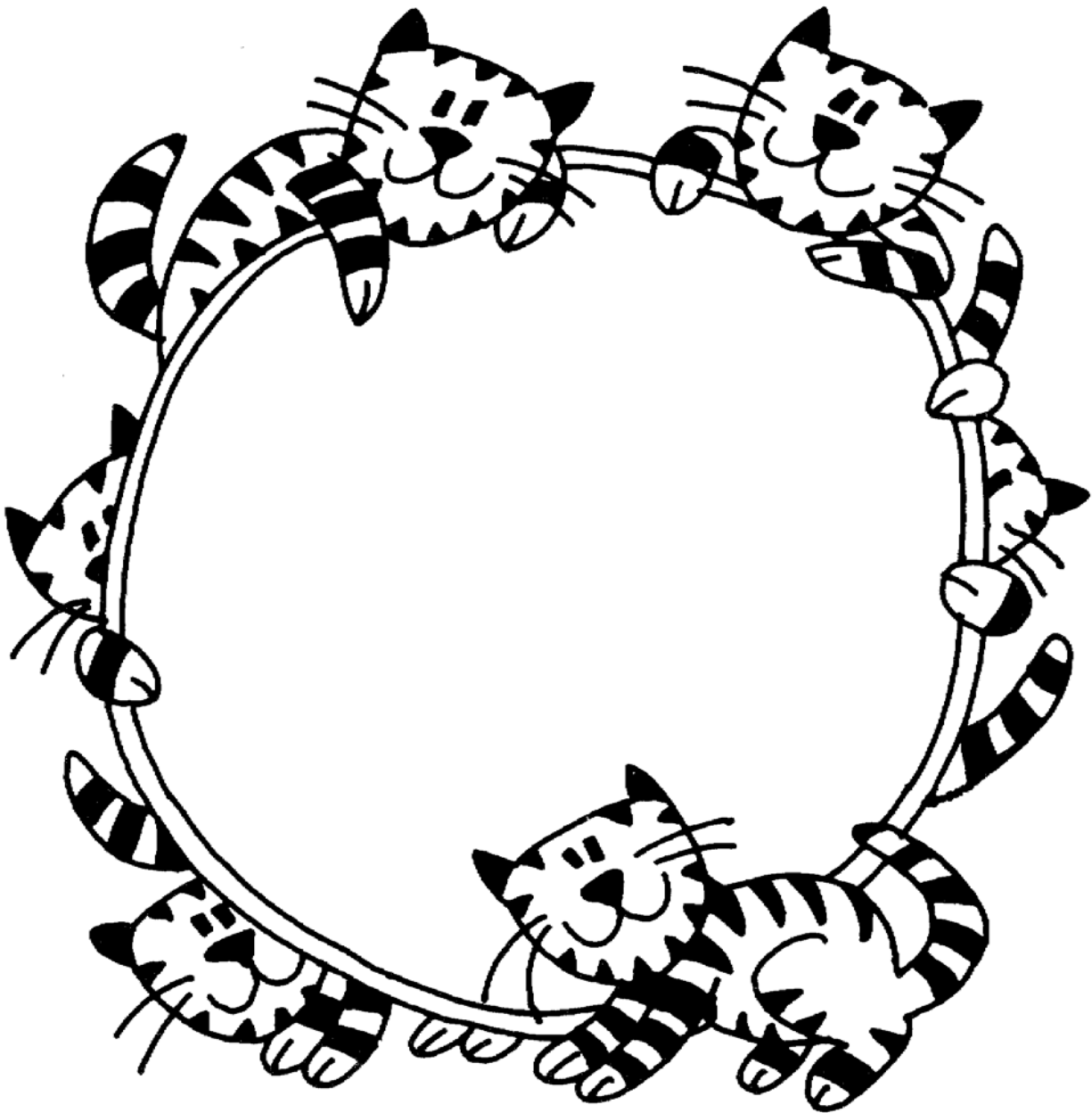
## Cats need to play.

It is how they get their exercise.

Play relieves stress, and the exercise is good for your cat.

Playing also helps keep your cats' weight under control.

Find games that you can play with your cat, like a feather or a crumpled up piece of paper for him to chase. You will both have lots of fun.



Can you draw a picture of your cat in the circle?

## Do You Know?

1. Are cats feline or canine?
2. When cats are happy, do they purr or growl?
3. The hair on a cat is called \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Can you trim a cats' claws just like people trim their nails?
5. When a cat has stripes, is it called flabby or tabby?
6. Do you think cats like to have a bath?
7. Can you name the kind of cat that no tail at all?
8. A baby cat is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When a cats' coat is soft and shiny, is it sick or healthy?
10. An orange cat is really this color: \_\_\_\_\_.



## Cat Myths and Trivia:

### **De Tails?**

The cat has 245 bones in its body. Of that number, 10% are located in the tail.

### **Do wild cats walk with their tails up?**

No, only your pet and other domestic cats can do this. Cats in the wild walk with their tails horizontal to the ground.

### **Cats always land on their feet.**

While cats instinctively fall feet first and may survive falls from high places, they also may receive broken bones in the process. Some kind of screening on balconies and windows can help protect pets from disastrous falls.

### **Cats should drink milk everyday.**

Most cats like milk, but do not need it if properly nourished. Also, many will get diarrhea if they drink too much milk. If it is given at all, the amount should be small and infrequent.

### **A cat's sense of balance is in its whiskers.**

Cats use their whiskers as "feelers" but not to maintain their balance.

### **Animals heal themselves by licking their wounds.**

Such licking actually can slow the healing process and further damage the wound. Veterinarian attention should be given to any injured cat.

### **Is there such a thing as a "rich cat"?**

A cat named "Brownie" was once left \$415,000 when his owner, Dr. Grier, died.

## Sometimes, cats need medical care.

They will need to visit a veterinarian for a checkup and shots every year.  
They also need to be altered (neutered or spayed.)  
This is very important for their good health.



This is a Scottish Fold.  
See how its ears fold over toward its face?

# How can you compete at a CFA cat show?

If you are interested in showing a cat, whether it is a household pet or a pedigreed one, CFA's **Junior Showmanship Program** may be the ideal place to get started!

If you are between the ages of 8 and 15, have we got good news for you!

The Junior Showmanship program has three levels that you can enter and compete in:



**NOVICE** for all beginners from the ages of 8 through 15, **JUNIOR** for ages 8-11 and **SENIOR** for those between 12 and 15.

You can show 3 times as a Novice before moving into either the Junior or Senior divisions, depending upon your age.

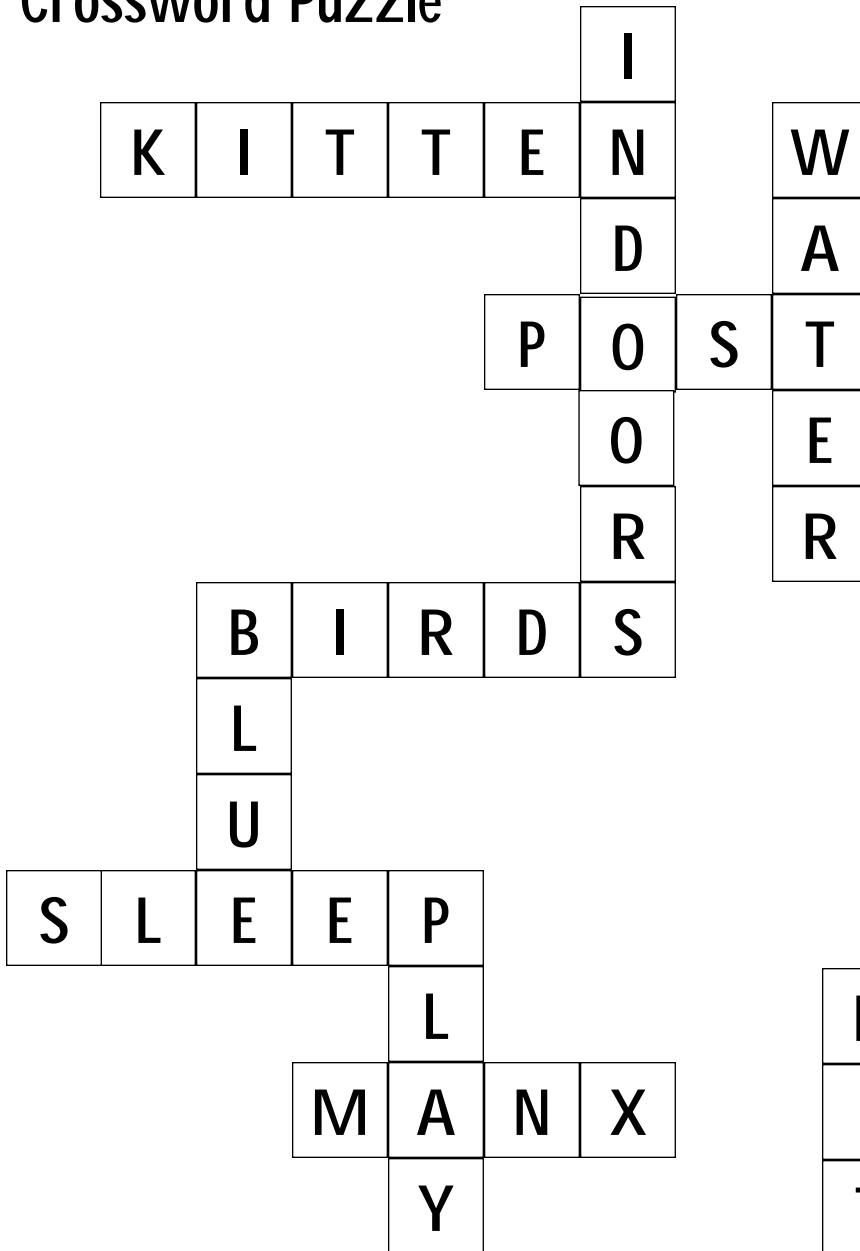
By competing in Junior Showmanship you will gain knowledge about cats, the different breeds, and how to care for your cat, plus develop your presentation skills.

**Visit [kids.cfa.org](http://kids.cfa.org) to learn more about how to get started!**



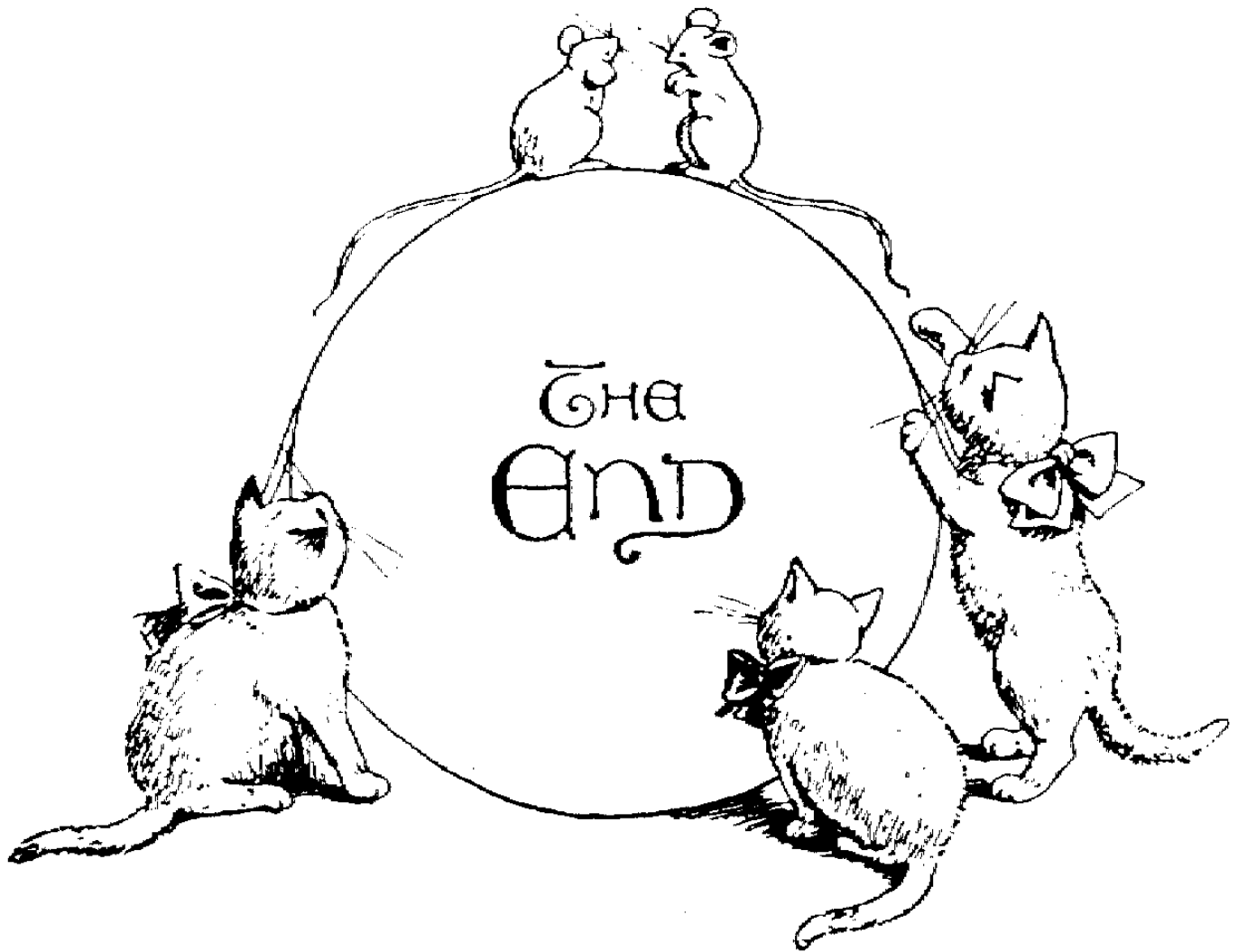
# Answer Key

## Crossword Puzzle



## Word Search

K		M	E	O	W
I	P	U	R	R	T
T	A	B	B	Y	A
T	W				C
E		F	U	R	
N	C	L	A	W	S
F	E	L	I	N	E



## CREDITS AND COPYRIGHT

This For Kids .. About Cats Activity Book is produced by The Cat Fanciers' Association as a companion piece to the For Kids .. About Cats web site at [kids.cfa.org](http://kids.cfa.org).

This booklet was designed by Karen Lawrence, with assistance from Martha Auspitz and Jo Ann Cummings.

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**The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1005, Manasquan, NJ 08736-0805.**  
**732-528-9797 Fax 732-528-7391 Email [cfa@cfa.org](mailto:cfa@cfa.org) Web Site [www.cfa.org](http://www.cfa.org)**



