

6 Reasons Your Cat Won't Stop Meowing Continued

So, pet owners are the true masters of the meow. With all this meowing business meant just for us, you'd think we'd be happier to hear from our cats on the regular. But if your cat's vocalizations are getting on your last nerve, here are some potential causes, as well as some techniques that might just quell all this cat-speak.

♥ Boredom and Breed

When we find ourselves bored or anxious, we might be prone to making small talk to fill the void. Your cat is no different, and a lack of things to do or play with might very well bring out the orator in your feline. If late-night yowling performances from your cat have become the norm, there are some actions you can take to keep your cat interested in doing things other than vocalizing.

The answer to fighting boredom, says Krieger, is to get involved in your cat's life. Have regular play sessions, treasure hunts with puzzle toys that hold treats, or begin a program of clicker training that can modify some undesired behaviors. Some cat breeds, Krieger advises, are chattier (Siamese, Abyssinians, Burmese, Bengals, and others), so potential owners should be aware of what they might be getting into when they choose a breed to own.

♥ Hunger

Not surprisingly, a prime source of increased feline vocalization is hunger, whether actual or perceived. If your cat believes that a noticeable dent in its food constitutes it being "empty," then you're bound to hear about it—and will probably continue to hear about it until the bowl has been topped off. "Cats that demand food should be fed small meals 4-6 times a day," recommends Krieger. "

♥ Owner Encouragement

Some people enjoy the sound of their cat's voice. "But, she adds, "there are times when the meowing is problematic, such as in the early morning or late night, while people are trying to sleep. In addition to not reinforcing the behavior, the reasons behind this behavior need to be identified and addressed."

Training your cat to "unlearn" this behavior can be difficult, and the fact that folks love holding conversations with their pets doesn't help much. "Many cats and people do answer back and forth to each other, holding 'conversations,'" Krieger says. "It works both ways. People enjoy the interaction—they like that their kitties answer them, and the kitties like the attention."

♥ Pay Attention to Me!

As mentioned previously, the most common reason for your cat's meowing is probably the most obvious one—it gets results. Your cat is quick in making the mental leap between the meow and being rewarded with what it wants. This habit can be tough to break—for both you and your cat. Rewarding quiet behavior is a possible remedy, says Krieger. "It's important to address the need for attention when the cat is not demanding attention with play sessions and other activities," At the same time, the meowing is never reinforced with attention. When the cat is quiet, she is reinforced.

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Free to a Good Home? Continued

Although despite our efforts sometimes things can slip by us too. Yet I am sure our diligence does result in a lot of happy homes for our charges. As volunteers we have an obligation to make sure all dogs and cats live a happy, safe, healthy and long life and when we see something that might put an animal at risk we should act. At the end of this article are some suggestions on how to put an end to "Free to a good home" advertising.

By Michelle Crean, Animal Aid
of SW MI

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"Animal Aid has frequently been criticized for charging an adoption fee. "If you're so anxious to find homes for these pets," we're told, "you should just give them away."

This attitude makes us shudder. In the first place, these small fees in no way begin to cover the cost incurred for medical treatment and upkeep of the pets.

1) People value what they pay for. Pets obtained for free are less likely to be spayed or neutered by their new owners and more likely to be abused and/or discarded, A recent study at one animal shelter yielded the startling statistic that 51% of all owner-surrendered dogs had been purchased for less than \$100; 41% of all owner-surrendered dogs had been obtained "Free to good home."

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Happenings at Spay and Save



Left: Maria Robb, fundraising coordinator, is seen here doing a fantastic job! Maria had tables at both Granite Run Boscov's and Plymouth Meeting Boscov's for "Friends Helping Friends Day." She raised \$1,108.13+ for our organization over Halloween!



Above: Garfield trying on his Halloween Costume at Gateway Pet Value.



Left: Two kittens had great fun playing with a Technician at Bryn Mawr Vet Hospital. Mikey and Friskey have found their forever homes.

Left: I am sure all of you at one time or another have had Louise (Weezy) in your store and have been as disappointed as I have been that she had not found her forever home. Thanks to the Roxborough Pet Valu and the efforts of Kathy Plover, David Richardson and 5 year old daughter changed this and gave Weezy her forever home!

"Here is a photo I would like to share of Liz. This one is of Liz on a blanket on my living room couch. I'd sit down on the couch and pull the blanket up and she'd immediately jump up on my lap. When I wanted to get up, I'd sometimes pick up the blanket and let her stay comfortable on the couch. Just as you described her, she was a "very worthy cat". I've thought about how much I miss her and the best way to honor her memory would be to adopt another rescued cat. Hopefully in the coming weeks I can again start the process of adopting another cat "Thanks so Much, Ed Azemar

(Thankfully, Ed adopted Cupcake and Sweetcake from Spay and Save too)



Above: Kittens found in King of Prussia Norview farms. Socialized with the help of Norview staff and Joann Morgan and Sue Goldberg. Mother's spayed and all of the kittens found homes. Things are a lot better now that Amy and Sheldon will no longer be competing for the Vanilla Ice Cream at Norview Farms

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♥ Advanced Age

As cats age, they can lose their faculties in the same way we do. "There are a number of factors that can cause an elderly cat to meow more or louder. Kitties who are losing their hearing often increase the volume since they can't monitor the level of their vocalizing," says Krieger. "Diseases and pain can also cause cats to vocalize," she says.

♥ Pain and Other Medical Factors

Dr. Adam Denish of Rhawnhurst Animal Hospital in Elkins Park, PA, says that excessive vocalizations from your cat can be a sign of pain or illness and shouldn't be ignored. "Pain is the most common cause of increased vocalization," he explains. "The source of the pain can often be difficult to find, as cats tend to hide when they're hurting. The cause might be dental, orthopedic, or abdominal, we see animals that are blind, diabetic, with thyroid problems, as well as cancer. For some cats, vocalization just says that something is wrong."

Finding a Solution

If "cat-erwauling" has become a problem in your home, it's always best to take your cat to the vet for a full medical evaluation, says Denish. "If your pet is deemed medically healthy, then the vet will look for environmental or neurological causes such as stress or anxiety, as well as abnormal interactions with other pets and humans at home.

Why not Advertise Pets as FREE TO GOOD HOME? Contd.

2. So-called "Bunchers" gather free pets until they have enough for a trip to a Class B Dealer who is licensed by the USDA to sell animals from "random sources" for research. While, unfortunately, there are legitimate medical reasons to use some animals in experimentation, most reputable medical labs use animals bred for the specific purpose. However, there are many, many different types of animal "research," and many types of facilities that use dogs. Almost every cosmetic, household, and chemical product is tested on animals, including former pets obtained from shelters and Class B Dealers.
3. Free animals are taken to "blood" pit-bulls--to train fighting dogs how to kill, and to enjoy it. This can be dogs and cats, of any size--in fact, rescuers suspect that a recently rescued cat was used in this manner. Often, a larger dog's muzzle will be duct-taped shut so that he can't bite back, and the fighting dog will gain confidence in killing a dog larger than he is.
4. One "adopter" in this area took free kittens to his "good home"--as dinner for a pet snake.
5. Unspayed or unneutered pure-bred dogs may end up as "breeding stock" in a puppy mill. One woman was certain that if she didn't give away her Dalmatians' AKC registration papers along with the dogs, she could keep them safe from millers. Wrong. Unscrupulous breeders, who use puppies as cash crops like other farmers raise cattle, pigs, or chickens, aren't above forging registration papers, or using those from deceased dogs. Rescuers have learned the hard way to make sure that all pets they place have been spayed or neutered before going to new homes.
6. So-called "collectors" (Hoarders) watch the newspapers for Free to Good Home animals. These collectors truly believe they are "rescuing" the animals.

What Can You Do to stop "Free to a Good Home"?

There are steps YOU can take to help end abuse:

- ♥ DON'T advertise Free pets; DO convince others not to. Some people even take the time to phone owners of pets advertising Free to Good Home and warn them of the dangers.
- ♥ DO spay/neuter to keep from creating possible Free to Good Home situations or condemning your pet to a short, miserable life in a puppy mill.
- ♥ DO write letters to the editors of your local newspapers warning of the dangers of Free to Good Home.
- ♥ DO contact breed rescue organizations (there is one for every breed of pure-bred dog!) or local animal welfare organizations for help in placing unwanted pets; if you bought the pet from a responsible breeder, he/she will help you rehome the pet.
- ♥ DO charge at least \$25 to discourage resale of pets to labs.
- ♥ DO take the time to interview every prospective owner. Ask for vet and personnel references, and check them, then visit the new home where your pet might be living!

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Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Holiday Fundraisers

Below are the dates for Pet Photos with Santa at Plymouth Meeting Mall. Santa has photos from 10AM to 9PM. He has lunch at noon and dinner at 5 pm. Maria Robb usually sets up a table for Spay and Save at 5:30 each evening in front of Bath and Body Works. Contact her if you want to help out at mariarobb@hotmail.com

Great way to get into the Holiday Spirit and help raise funds for Spay and Save.

Monday 11/12, Monday 11/19, Monday 11/26, Monday 12/3, Monday 12/10, and Monday 12/17.

What Can You Do to stop "Free to a Good Home"?

- ♥ DO write a letter to your congressmen in support of legislation aimed at doing away with Class B dealers, who sell animals obtained from "random sources" to research facilities.
- ♥ DO report any incidence of suspected dog-fighting to police, Animal Control, and your local Humane Society.
- ♥ DO call police, animal welfare workers, even the health department, if someone in your area seems to be "collecting" cats or dogs.
- ♥ DO write to district attorneys, judges, and prosecutors if you hear of the arrest of any so-called collectors in your area and urge them not only to prosecute to the full extent of the law, but also to mandate psychological counseling for these individuals in the hopes of avoiding repeat violations.
- ♥ DO call police or animal welfare workers for any incidences of suspected abuse. Be willing to testify in court, if necessary. Note: what constitutes animal abuse is defined by state law. If your state has inadequate abuse laws, TRY TO CHANGE THEM!

Remember--the welfare of pets is in ALL our hands!" For more information and a sample letter to mail to the editor of the paper in which an ad "Free to a Good Home" is placed visit: <http://www.orgsites.com/tx/sapetrescue/freetogoodhome.pdf>

Volunteer Corner

Thanks to a Friend of Spay and Save, Debbie Pokallus



To the Right:
The two Spay and Save cats Figaro and Samson adopted by Debbie in 2007

Debbie Pokallus has adopted 2 kitties from us in the past. While promoting her own business (Bel Essence) at the Pennsylvania Women's Conference on Friday, October 12th at the Convention Center in Philadelphia she also promoted Spay and Save. Her products are completely animal-friendly, organic and great! She makes them herself. Also, she offers a 10% discount (which she donates to Spay and Save) for anyone who mentions us when they purchase her products.

Debbie describes her work: "I support all types of animal welfare around the globe, but for the events I do, I choose an organization local to that event, so that people attending get to know the work being done in their local area, and local organizations can get exposure. I choose Spay and Save because I've known about it for quite some time (and adopted animals!). It's a 100% volunteer organization with all funds going directly to the care of the animals, so it's not just about saving animals, it's also about how important community is to accomplish great work. It would not be possible to save animals without a dedicated group of people working together and freely committing their time and effort to the cause. Spay and Save is a model for what can be accomplished with people coming together for a shared, higher cause."

Check out this website for more information on Belessence products: <https://belessence.com/>



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event Location	Coordinators
1st Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu (Dogs)	Thresa Lare
1st Saturday	Limerick Petco	Alicia Ferraioli
5th Saturday	Paoli PETCO	Kathy Tierney
2nd Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu	Janet Lynch
2nd Saturday	Exton Petco	Morag Steskal
3rd Saturday	Limerick Petco	Madelyn Ferraioli
4th Saturday	Exton Petco	Paula Wenke
4th Saturday	Perk Valley Pet Eatery	Susan Trombadore
4th Saturday	Roxborough Pet Valu	Chris Daniels

The Annual Volunteer Holiday Donation Party on Friday December 21st at 7:00 PM is Pot Luck

I love having the Donation Holiday Party at my house but sorry to say as I age it has gotten harder and harder for me to weather the holiday rush. So to continue the tradition I will make my Vegetarian Soup and Chili but the volunteers can bring their Donation of liter or food for the cats or dogs and a favorite dish and along with it the recipe for other's to steal.

Looking for: Appetizers, vegetable party trays, vegetarian side dishes, dips and chips, soda, wine and desserts (I love Christmas cookies).

Please RSVP with what you are going to bring:

Toni Dougherty at 610 337 3075 or tonidocrt@gmail.com

Address: 611 General Armstrong Road King of Prussia Pa 19406



Svetlana Petrovna's Fat Cat Calendar from <https://shop.fatcatart.com/?product=fatcatart-calendar-2019> Is a humorous series of famous art by well-known artists where she has added a picture of her orange tabby cat.



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