A True Story

Sasha Monkey
And The Calico Cat
The calico kitty is a pregnant stray, who wanders the streets in search of a home.

All cats are members of the family Felidae. A cat is pregnant for about 58-65 days. This is roughly two months.

One evening the calico kitty steps up to a lady named Genevieve.

Cats have keen eyesight in the dark. It is almost like they have built-in infrared glasses. A cat’s eyes also have “eyeshine” at night, due to a reflective layer of cells called the “tapetum lucidum” that has crystal-like properties. Cats’ whiskers can be used as an alternative sensing device in the dark. The extreme sensitivity of the hairs can register very small changes in the air pressure, helping cats maneuver in the dark.
Genevieve looks down and hears a faint rumbling. The calico kitty is purring and rubbing on her legs.

Cats have glands around their eyes and between their ears, so when a cat rubs up against you, she is actually marking you as “hers” with her scent.

Genevieve talks softly to the cat.

Cats respond better to women than to men, probably due to the fact that women’s voices have a higher pitch.

Although long considered a solitary animal, the cat is relatively social. A cat will respond and answer to speech, and seems to enjoy human companionship. Cats do not think that they are little people. They think of people as big cats. This influences their behavior in many ways.

The calico kitty purrs louder as Genevieve rubs her head and back. Purring can be a cat’s way of saying, “All is well. I am content.”

But many experts report that cats will purr when feeling any intense emotion or even to reassure themselves. It is a fact that female cats often purr when they are in labor, as well as when they
are nursing their kittens. Cats purr at about 26 cycles per second, the same frequency as an idling diesel engine. Domestic cats purr both when inhaling and when exhaling.

Genevieve can tell the calico kitty is about to give birth. When kittens are born, they are helpless and need to be protected. They need their mothers to keep them warm and clean and give them milk.

The calico kitty chirped and walked toward Genevieve’s front door. If a cat “chirps” at you and walks away, this is a sign that she wants you to follow.

Genevieve lifts the kitty with both hands and takes her inside. She names the calico kitty “Mama”.

First she gets food and water for the thirsty Mama.

When a cat drinks, its tongue, which has tiny barbs on it, scoops the liquid up backwards. These small “hooks” also come in handy when tearing up food. Cats are carnivorous and hunt and eat small animals.

Genevieve gets the kitty a basket with a soft towel.
**Scent:** Both cats and mona guenons use olfactory communication. Monas have scent glands and rub their scent on those they associate with. Cats have scent glands in many places on the body, including between the toes, on the shoulders and back of the neck below the ears, the anal sac, the rump, under the eyes and on the chin.

By rubbing his face on various objects, such as legs and furniture, the cat is leaving his scent. Other cats or other animals with a good sense of smell who pass the object (furniture leg or leg of a person) will often stop and sniff, maybe even rubbing their faces on the object to leave their scent as well.

Scent marks contain molecules called pheromones. The pheromones that come from the glands on the face generally have a calming effect on cats.

The next night Mama has five tiny babies.

Cats mate and bear young to survive as a species, but if left to her own devices, a female cat may have kittens every four months. This is why population control using neutering and spaying is so important. An average litter is three to seven. A kitten will typically weigh about 3 ounces at birth.

For the moment, the calico kitty is content. Cats knead with their paws when they’re happy. But what the gentle Mama doesn’t know is that
her new friend Genevieve is moving to another country very soon.

And that is how the mama kitty--and her basket full of kittens--comes to live in Sasha’s garden when her babies are just two days old.

Sasha is a four year old mona guenon (GWEN-un) monkey. Mona guenons are tree loving monkeys that come from West Africa from Ghana to Cameroon. Mona is the Moorish name for ‘long-tailed monkeys’.

**Cat paws and claws:** A cat’s front claws are retractable. Cats sharpen their claws on tree branches, carpeting and furniture. Scratching uses the scent glands between their toes and is one way cats spread their scent.

One of the reasons that kittens knead their mother’s stomach is to stimulate the flow of milk.
The scientific name for the Mona gue-non is Cercopithecus mona. The name guenon comes from the French word for fright. When guenons are excited they show their teeth in a grimace.
Just as there are about 100 distinct breeds of the domestic cat today, there are over 150 species of monkeys and fifteen species of guenons. Guenons are sometimes called “the masked monkeys”, because their facial patterns look like geometric mask designs.

Sasha lives in a tropical garden with other monkeys and lots of plants.

Mona monkeys are complex social animals and are old enough to have baby monkeys when they are about 5 years old. Monkeys do not have litters like cats.

**Cat breeding fact:** A female cat may have kittens every four months.

**Cat species:** There are about 100 distinct species of the domestic cat today. The rag-doll is considered the largest. The Siamese is considered one of the most intelligent.
There are over two dozen types of guenon monkeys and over 150 species of primates. Guenons are African monkeys, most of whom have the distinctive facial patterning that gave them the nickname “the masked monkeys”. Just as different breeds of cats can interbreed and have young, so can different guenon subspecies. The red-tailed monkeys and the blue monkeys are one species noted for mating with each other in the wild.
They usually have a single young and sometimes twins. Some types of monkeys, like the South American marmoset, may have triplets. Both monkey and kitten births often take place at night and monkey young are born in the tree where the mother sleeps.

When Sasha was very small, she learned from her own kitten that cats of all ages are very special.

Both cats and monkeys have a flexible spine and share a love of climbing and hunting small animals. Both cats and monkeys create relationships based upon physical contact. They need bodily contact for reassurance and affection. Cats and monkeys both use lots of body language. Both cats and monkeys can bush up to make themselves appear

Expressions: Cats and monkeys both have facial expressions that signal their emotional state.

The happy cat has straight ears and relaxed whiskers.

The angry cat has laid back ears, forward directed whiskers and small pupils.

The fearful cat has flattened ears, flattened whiskers and large pupils.
larger to their potential foes. All cats share certain characteristics and body language gestures that are unique to the cat family. Monkeys also have specific gestures that signify welcome, threats, display, fear, submissive behavior, affection or bonding.

**Body language:** All cats share certain characteristics and body language gestures that are unique to the cat family. Cats have more specific communication signals than the average cat owner is aware of.

Both cats and monkeys have flexible spines. Cats are built for hunting and climbing. Monkeys are built for climbing, grasping branches and hunting for food.

Cats and monkeys are intelligent and can learn to read each other’s signals, such as rubbing up against each other to make friends.
But there is a first time for everything. Mama Kitty has never seen a monkey before. One look at Sasha and timid Mama’s hair stands up evenly all over. Is she going to fight the little monkey?

**Aggression:** Under the warm, furry, exterior of both cats and monkeys, is instinctive fearful/aggressive animal behavior waiting to happen. When cats or monkeys are upset, they don’t call a therapist. They take matters into their own...claws, teeth, paws or hands.

Both cats and monkeys are capable of hurling themselves at the object of their displeasure, a person or other animal, then wildly biting, clawing and vocalizing. They can back off, circle their target and fly in for a second attack, then a third.

Although cats are domesticated they still require adequate gentling and socializing, which has a lasting impact on their adult behavior. A monkey, however, is not domesticated and cannot be gentled or socialized out of instinctive aggressive adult behaviors.

*The wagging tail:* Cats and monkeys are intelligent and learn to read each other’s body language. When the cat’s tail wags like this, he is curious or excited about something.

If a cat is frightened, the hair stands up fairly evenly all over the body; but when the cat threatens or is ready to attack, the hair stands up only in a narrow band along the spine and tail. If a cat creeps low to the ground, it is stalking its ‘victim’, so be aware that the cat will start a full speed assault. If a she wants to fight, she has powerful jaws, long, sharp teeth and puncturing claws. Mona monkeys also have dagger-like canine teeth and can be ferocious fighters.
Instead the frightened calico runs in the garden plants to hide.

Unlike the monkey, who walks or runs on alternating legs, the cat steps with both left legs, then both right legs. This method of moving ensures speed, agility and stealth.

But the little monkey doesn’t want...
Cats who spray: Cats may spray in response to other cats. The urine shoots straight out and the tip of the tail will quiver back and forth as the cat sprays. Adult females as well as male cats can spray urine to mark their territory, but unneutered males are most likely to. More than 90% of male cats will not start spraying if they are neutered before the behavior begins.

Both cats and monkeys have a sense of territory. Sometimes they fight over territory and some New World monkeys, like some cats, will scent mark their territory with urine. Monkeys and cats may both fight over territory, but both species can also learn to share their territories with other animals.

With Sasha out of sight, Mama settles in with her babies. But the next morning, before the little Mama knows what is going on, Sasha sneaks back in the garden and gently climbs in the basket.

trouble either. Sasha is eager to share her garden with the pretty calico. She is socially curious now that the little cat is in her territory.
Mama is very cool this time. She seemed to be thinking, “No problem, it’s just that little monkey I saw yesterday.”

You can tell a cat’s mood by looking into its eyes. A frightened or excited cat will have large, round pupils. An angry cat will have narrow pupils. The pupil size is related as much to the cat’s emotions as to the degree of light.

Because cats are relatively social they make good pets. Mama treats Sasha like another friendly cat. Mama doesn’t hiss or growl or run, the way she would if she were angry or scared.

Socializing: If properly socialized the domestic cat is quite tame. Although many people consider cats a solitary species, they can and do live in groups. Cats can live in groups, but they don’t need to. Most monkeys live in groups but some monkeys break away from their groups and live alone (solitary monkeys), returning only once in awhile to interact with group members.
Cat history: Most domestic cats of today are thought to have descended from the African wild cat. The relationship between cats and man dates back at least 5,000 years. The domestication process began about 3,000 BC in Egypt when cats were enlisted to protect grain silos from rodents. These felines became so valuable that they were regarded as gods. The domestic cat was descended from this Egyptian stock.
Cats transfer all the social skills meant for other cats onto humans or other animals they are raised with. Monkeys do the same.

On the second day, Mama and Sasha are like old familiar friends. Mama purrs when Sasha climbs in. Sasha immediately starts grooming Mama and her babies. Mama shows her acceptance of Sasha by pushing her face against Sasha’s head.

**Social skills:** Cats transfer social skills meant for other cats, like playfulness, onto human or other animals they grow up with.

Most types of monkeys transfer their social skills to other types of monkeys they live with in the wild.
If your cat pushes its face against you, it is a sign of acceptance and affection.

Again, Mama lets Sasha’s fingers comb through the orange, white and black fur on her back.

Monkeys groom themselves and they groom through each others fur many times during the day. Although they look for dry skin and debris, grooming is mainly a social behavior. Monkeys have special concentrated grooming sessions where they take turns grooming each other as they rest. Grooming is friendly behavior and also relaxes them, whether they are grooming or being groomed.

After examining all of the kittens...Sasha wants to hold a baby.

Monkeys live in large social groups in the wild. Young female mona guenons practice what is called “aunting” behavior. When they are too young to have a baby of their own, the mona will practice being a good mother by borrowing a baby from someone else, usually her own mother, who now has another offspring. Sasha wants to practice her aunting behavior with Mama’s kittens.

Mama monkeys carry their young by holding them securely to their chest. In the beginning, the baby cannot cling firmly or safely to the mother’s fur, so

**Mothers and young:** The young de Brazza’s guenon is more drably colored than her mother. Unlike cats who have eight nipples, monkeys have two.

**Aunting:** When the young mona guenon is old enough to explore off the mother, “aunts”, in the form of adolescent females will come and benignly snatch the baby up. Holding infants give them practice for being mothers themselves.
she holds it close with her hand, especially when she is on the move.

Sasha holds the baby kitten supportively like she would hold a baby monkey. She knows the kitten can’t hold on to her.

Sasha picks little orange Teddy to

**Monkey facts:**
Young red-tailed guenon, right, is grooming a young swamp guenon. Just as one breed of cat, say a Persian, may pick an cat of a completely different breed, say a Manx, as a friend, most guenons species choose to hangout with other types of monkeys in the wild:

**Mona guenons** associate with white-throated guenons and white-collared and gray-cheeked mangabeys. They also interbreed in the wild with crowned guenons.

**Lesser spot-nosed guenons** form groups with Campbell’s guenon and Diana monkeys and they associate with olive colobuses.

Contrary to popular belief, even domestic cats are not tame from birth if feral born and/or if not properly socialized with people. Because monkeys are not domesticated, they are still wild even when

hold first. At birth, kittens can’t see or hear well. Kittens usually open their eyes between seven to ten days but sometimes it happens as early as two days.
born in captivity. More than the domesticated cat, monkeys are strongly governed by instincts that kept them alive in the wild. The wild monkey has a stronger inclination toward aggressive behaviors than the domestic cat. These aggressive behaviors develop more as the monkey matures. In contrast to the docile adult cat, the adult monkey is often aggressive and always far more difficult to care for.

Wild birds sometimes fly over the wild little Sasha monkey. Sasha thinks of them as a danger and whether she is inside or outside, will hide the kitten under her thigh when she hears their caws above the garden lattice.

She will be instinctively protective of the kitten, since large birds of prey have been known to swoop down and grab a

Body language:
Both cats and monkeys use lots of body language. This is the mona guenon’s threat posture. It is a show of intent and is accompanied by intermittent grunts of displeasure. Notice the fur pattern, which also transmits a message. The white of the inner arms and legs forms a long sharp toothlike pattern which adds to the formidable looks.

Most of the time cats and monkeys will attempt to avoid direct conflict through a show of intent.

Cats do this with their backs arched, claws out, and hair raised. Like the mona guenon, they lock eyes in a fierce standoff.

Two cats will hiss and growl, and the occasionally swing a paw, until one cat breaks eye contact, ending the battle of wills.
monkey’s baby.

Guenons are Old World monkeys and see in color like people do. There is some dispute about the cat’s color vision. At one time it was believed that they only saw black, white and shades of gray. Recent studies have shown that cats can see blue and green. There is disagreement as to whether they can see red. Teddy looks golden orange to Sasha but his orange coat might not look the same to mama kitty.

Calico cats have litters with kittens of different colored markings. The gene in
When a mona guenon explores, she may choose to walk flat footed. If she senses something suspicious, the last third of her tail will pilo erect (bristle).

 Monkey facts: The guenon stands up on its hind feet in order to get a better view of the landscape and possible opportunities or dangers.

A frightened guenon may bristle all over when he or she thinks danger is near.

When a mona guenon explores, she may choose to walk flat footed. If she senses something suspicious, the last third of her tail will pilo erect (bristle).

The mona guenon who is acting submissive in order to avoid trouble, will sit tall and straight but put her head down so the eyes don’t show up. They get lost in the mask. Hands are folded below the waist.
cats that causes the orange coat color is sexed linked, and is on the X sex chromosome. Orange cats are always males. Calico cats are always female.

The coat of a baby mona guenon is always the same when born. It is more dull in color than the adult’s fur. The mona monkey’s coat darkens and brightens as it matures and develops stronger gold and copper highlights.

The kittens huddle together beside the mother to keep warm. Sasha checks each kitten to see if it is a boy or girl. This is like a ritual for her and she does it each time she

**Cat fact:** By interacting with their mother and littermates, kittens learn how to be cats. They also explore the social ranking process ("who’s the boss of who").
visits them.

Inside her sitting room, Sasha doesn’t want anyone else to touch her kitten. In the wild, she might have had to go to great lengths to borrow a baby. Although Mama is very easy about sharing her babies, Sasha is still afraid someone else might want to borrow the baby back from her!

In the wild young, aunting females like Sasha will often chase each other in order to steal a coveted baby.

Sasha sits with Teddy in a warm soft place.

Mona guenons are true tree dwellers and

Socializing the kitten

Take time to acquaint kitty with being touched and handled all over. Teach your kitten to enjoy being picked up and hugged! That way he won’t feel threatened, defensive or irritated when he is handled as an adult.

For the older kitten, start the lessons when your kitty is relaxed. Begin by handling him in ways he finds pleasurable. Scratch behind his ears and stroke the top of his head. Stroke down his back, down the hind legs and tail. Stroke along the side of his body. See if he will roll onto his side or roll over on his back to accept a tummy rub. Use a gentle voice and plenty of praise.
often like to sit up high off the ground. Both cats and monkeys prefer to lounge up high, where they have a view of prey or danger.

Teddy’s very relaxed and just takes a nap.

Kittens began dreaming at just over one week old. The average cat sleeps 16 to 18 hours a day. Kittens should eat or sleep 90% of the time during the first two weeks.

Cats like to sit or lay when sleeping. Guenons have small pads on their bottoms (ischial callosities) which make sitting upright comfortable for them when they sleep on a tree branch.

Monkeys have a daily rhythm of resting and traveling to look for food. Mona guenons like to start their day early with

It’s a fact:
Cats have short toes and foot pads that enable them to walk on cold surfaces and in the snow. With their long fingers and toes, monkeys are more susceptible to frostbite and need to live in a warmer climate.

Monkey fact: Guenons have two hairless, oval pads of skin under their tails that make sitting on hard tree branches more comfortable!
socializing and grooming others. The most active parts of their day are morning and afternoon when they forage for food. During the midday heat they rest and spend most of their time in social grooming. Toward evening they find sleeping trees and congregate to snack and socialize before they sleep.

Mona guenons, like most monkey species, have social hierarchies. This means that each monkey has a certain rank of importance. The monkeys with higher rank are more important and have more power. The lower ranking monkeys get second pick of food and friends. Contrary to popular belief, cats also have a

Cat games:

There’s something about cats and wiggly people feet hiding under the bed covers.

They will remind your cats of one of their favorite prey: ‘Imaginary Mice’.

Watch out because Imaginary Mice can be hooked through several layers of cloth! The more they wiggle, the more inticing the game. And if you are sleeping, so much the better for your cat!

Below, red-tailed guenons and a swamp guenon (2nd from the right) groom and play with one another. Most monkeys interact with different species in the wild.
Sasha remains vigilant even when she looks relaxed, so don’t think you could take Teddy away from her when she looks the other way.

Sasha pulls Teddy back up again and takes charge. Right now,
Teddy is the most important thing in Sasha’s day.

Sasha wants to hold Teddy as much as she can. Normally she would be quite active, running all over her territory, inside and out into the enclosed gardens. She has a long attention span for babies and after an hour, she is still just as interested.

Teddy’s asleep but Sasha remains attentive. Sasha sometimes holds the kittens on her furry feet, which she has learned will calm them. Sasha’s feet have four long toes and a thumb, which makes them good for grasping things. She has four fingers and an opposing thumb on her hand like a person. Unlike the monkey, kittens have paws instead of hands. Their front paws have five toes, and their back paws have four.

Some cats are born with as many as seven front toes and extra back toes (polydactyl).

Kittens like to nurse often, so it’s time to put the butterball Teddy back with Mama. Transitions are hard for little monkeys. Sasha is

If you’re gonna laze around, then I’ll just laze around too...

Cat fact: Cats sleep roughly two-thirds of their life away!

Polydactyl cat facts: During embryological development, polydactyl cats develop extra toes, a dominant characteristic. Some cats develop an extra “paw” on each front foot with three toes and a “palm” pad (a total of 7 toes on each front foot!). The back feet may have just have one extra toe (making 5 on each back foot). All the paws and claws are fully functional!
offered another kitty as a trade for Teddy. It’s not an easy thing. She has to be coaxed.

When she goes back to the cat basket, Sasha sits awhile enjoying the cat family. Then she reaches her hand into share Mama’s dry cat food.

Like cats, mona guenons are quick and effective bird hunters. Like cats, they will also hunt lizards and small rodents. Most monkeys are also excellent at catching insects like spiders and moths as part of their diet.

Cats need a diet that is about 30% protein and this is fine for some kinds of monkeys too. Sasha would hunt for small birds and lizards in the wild just as Mama would. Both cats and monkeys can creep through leafy boughs and come up si-
lently on unsuspecting prey. Both cats and monkeys can leap into the air and pounce like lightening on small prey. Both cats and monkeys need special diets, not table foods, at every stage of their lives.

The cats’ hooked claws are used for grabbing and holding onto prey. The claws on his front feet are retractable but the back feet claws are not. The back claws get worn down from being walked on so are not as sharp as the front claws.

Monkeys, with the exception of marmosets and tamarins, have fingernails instead of claws. The monkey uses his hands to grab the prey and transfer it to his mouth. With his sharp canine teeth planted in the prey, the guenon monkey shakes his head back and forth to weaken it.

Both cats and guenon monkeys have strong muscles, which are needed to move in a slow controlled manner. Cats and monkeys can freeze while waiting to sneak up on prey. Guenons also freeze in response to danger when they are being hunted themselves. Their strong muscles allow them to freeze hidden in a shadow much longer than a person could.

Sasha has shown a preference for girl kittens before, so maybe she will pick a girl kitten next.
Auntie Sasha chooses boy kitty, “Tucker”. Maybe she is attracted to

The kitten’s psychological adjustment:
Providing kittens a wide range of sensory experiences will help prevent fear of the unfamiliar. Introduce kittens gradually to normal indoor sounds such as the telephone, door bell, washing machine, garbage disposal, vacuum cleaner, blender, etc. Exposure to outdoor sounds, such as traffic, birds overhead and barking dogs will help their adjustment also.

The stir crazy cat:
Indoor cats often become bored with their static environments and the absence of nature.

“Oh boy. Locked in the house A-gain! Q-kay! Guess I’ll be forced to spend my entire day..... snagging the drapes, shredding the end of the couch, leaving foot-long hairball trails on the shag, eating houseplants, shedding extra fur, napping.....”

“Deja vu, deja vu, deja vu...”
his interesting face. Suddenly she loves him just as much as Teddy. Even little monkey Sasha picks a kitten up with both hands. People are not supposed to pick kittens or cats up by the scruff of their necks. Only mother cats can do this safely, and only with their kittens.

Tucker gets a nice hug under Sasha’s fluffy chin.

**Monkey tails:**

Some monkeys, including mona guenons, sit with their tails twined together. This demonstrates the closeness of two monkeys who are kin or a bonded male and female.

*Pick a cat up gently with both hands.*
Now Sasha falls asleep with Tucker snuggled safely under her thigh. When she wakes up again, she

**Kitten facts:** Kittens need their mothers through at least the first 8 weeks of life. Some experts recommend that kittens stay with their mothers for 12 weeks for best social development. Kittens who are taken from the mother before 8 weeks do not have the full benefit of their mother’s teaching (most of their learning is from observation) and they often develop neurotic behaviors.

**Cat Humor**

"Cats instinctively know the precise moment their owners will awaken ... then they awaken them ten minutes sooner."
The main features of the mona guenon are a dark bluish face with a dark eye mask, a flesh colored muzzle, a light yellow stripe on the forehead and yellow cheek whiskers. The body is brownish green with copper tones. The hands and feet are black. The chest and inner surface of the dark limbs are light to yellowish gray. The mona guenon has an athletic build and when mature, weighs about eight and a half (female) to 13 pounds (male). The tail is up to 75 cm long and has a white oval spot on each side of its base.

Adult female mona guenons are shorter and weigh about half as much as adult males. The canine teeth of the males are also longer and are used for fighting.

**The nose knows:** Aromatic markers called pheromones help establish and maintain a cat’s territory. These powerful scents are critical elements in communications between cats, and are emitted by different glands located strategically throughout the cat’s body.

**Rubbing:** Rubbing in both cats and mona guenons acts as a means to pick up or leave scent markers.

Monas usually rub by straddling or placing a leg or tail over another animal. They may also rub with just the underside of their chin.

In both cats and mona guenons, contact can communicate urgency, from gentle reminders of feeding time to a demanding insistent rub. Rubbing may also be a signal of social rank (who’s the boss of who), particularly in monas.
Male monkeys are the watch dogs, and when make deep warning sounds when they see a predator.

Tucker and his litter mates weigh about six ounces. As kittens should, they have doubled their birth weight in about one week. It is hard to believe now he will weigh seven to twelve pounds when adult. Sasha starts to groom him, smacking her lips as she carefully runs her hand through his fur.

Mouthing off, the cat’s voice:
Cats purr, they do long meows and short chirpy meows, caterwaul meowing (a loud, drawn out yowl when lost, confused or in regards to mating), growling, hissing, spitting (a spitting cat sprays moisture) and shrieking (when in a serious fight or in pain).

A cat who is about to throw up a hairball will make a long, low moan. Cats do not open their mouths when purring but do open them during most other vocalization.

The lip smacking is a sound that other mona guenons know is friendly. The kittens learn the meaning of this too. Cats and monkeys both make many different sounds, also called vocalizations.

Sasha examines Tucker’s tiny face.
Most cats have no eyelashes. Mona guenons have a fine line of eyelashes much like a person’s.

The cat’s whiskers are organs of touch. Most cats have about 24 whiskers on their upper lips, four rows of whiskers on each side. The upper two rows can move independently of the bottom two rows. A cat uses its whiskers for measuring distances. These extra thick whisker hairs grow on the upper lips, cheeks, chin and over the eyes. The muzzle whiskers can help a cat decide if an opening is wide enough to squeeze through. Cats have foreleg whiskers too, which can help them decide that a mouse is trying to escape its paws.

Mouthing off, monkey sounds:
The Young and female mona monkeys will squeak (a short exclamation), lip-smack as an appeasement sound usually to start grooming, but also during grooming.

They will say the word “meow” more phonetically than a cat (an exclamation of surprise or acknowledgment), grunt (displeasure or warning threat), scream (all out aggression, the equivalent of the cat’s hiss and spit or can also be an exclamation of pain), and cough (warning of predator overhead like a bird or danger from another animal in the area, like a big barking dog).

The mona’s mouth is usually closed while vocalizing, with the exception of the rare scream.

The mature male mona has a different voice than the female, as is common in the guenon family. Instead of the higher sounds, he has a low voice with which he warns the group about danger.

The dominant male (also called “the old male”) also uses his voice to stake out his group’s territory.

Mona guenons have short curved whiskers called guard hairs on their upper lip, chin and brows. The guenons whiskers give them some of the same information that cats get from their whiskers.
It’s a fact: Cats have paws and monkeys have hands! Most monkeys have opposing thumbs like people. Most monkeys also use their feet as hands, since they have a big toe that is like a thumb. A guenon may hold or carry a piece of food with her foot.

Monkey sounds: This is the mona guenon lip smacking as she grooms a spotted guenon.

It’s a fact: In Great Britain, black cats are thought to bring good luck. In India monkeys are considered sacred.

It’s a fact: In Great Britain, black cats are thought to bring good luck. In India monkeys are considered sacred.

Monkeys are known for their adaptive intelligence.

One reason Sasha loves kittens so much is because she was introduced to many of them as a youngster. At first, Sasha was fearful of all cats and kittens. As you can see, she has learned to get over it.

Now whichever baby kitten Sasha has seems to be her favorite for the moment. Sasha adores Tucker. She goes from a one-armed hug to a two-armed hug, one around his neck and the other around his
waist. Tucker is very calm and sleepy.

Soon she knows it’s time to put Tucker back and she’s resistant. But now it’s time for Sasha to go back to the kitty area and say good-bye to them for the day. Sasha has been holding babies for almost two hours. Each time Sasha returns a baby to Mama, mama kitty grooms him.

*Cats spend about 30% of their waking time grooming.*

Mama has started rolling over to show Sasha her belly. If a cat rolls over on her back to expose her belly, it means she trusts you.

*Telling cat tails*

*If a cat is afraid or is trying to avoid a confrontation with a dominant cat or other animal, it’s tail will become puffed up or bristled. It will then lower its tail as a sign of submission.*

*A smooth raised tail is a friendly tail.*

*If the cat is really excited, as when he anticipates his dinner, his upraised tail might begin to twitch with anticipation. The cat will probably next try to communicate by rubbing against her owner.*

*With prey the tails of hunting cats show more subtle movements. Other cats in the area will understand the predator’s intention, but the prey will not.*

*Cats who wag their tails like this are agitated.*
A cat’s tail acts as an extension of its thoughts, an indicator of its mood and as a warning of intention. When a cat’s tail quivers, this is an expression of great love. Twitches (as opposed to swishes) can also mean excitement and curiosity. If the cat’s tail starts thrashing, his mood has changed and maybe it is time to distance yourself. Cats wag their tails when they are in a stage of conflict. The cat wants to do two things at once, but each impulse blocks the other. Once the cat makes a decision, the tail will immediately stop wagging.

Monas are known to use their long, strong tails as weapons and they whip them back and forth like a bull whip.

Monas hold their tails over their backs in a jaunty arch when walking, as if to say "look how cool I am", and their tails are held down when running. A pair of monas will also twine their tails to affiliate or show a bond with each other.

Guenons have tail language too, but scientists are still speculating as to its exact meanings. Monkeys are more complex and difficult to understand than cats.

When we leave the kittens, Sasha is unhappy and would like to hold them more. She doesn’t understand why she can’t. So to express her opinion, she puts her hand on my arm and gives me a big pinch with a hard twist. If she were older, maybe she would protest by giving some bites. Like cats, monkeys do not think they are little people. They think of people as other monkeys and treat them accordingly.

Mama’s kittens are two weeks old and have their eyes open now.

**Telling monkey tails:**
Mona monkeys pilo-erect (stand their fur up) on their tails and their overall body fur, including cheek fur, when upset and frightened. This puffing up makes them look bigger, just as a cat looks bigger when he arches his back, pilo-erects and hisses.

**Kitten facts:** At the age of two weeks, competition for rank (“who’s the boss of who”) and territory (“this land is my land-so get out of my space”) starts.
When their eyes open, they are always blue at first. They change color over a period of months. At two weeks of age, kittens are alert and trying to stand.

The final eye color, which is determined by the individual cat’s genes, can be green to gold to copper or blue. The eye shape may be round, slanted or almond. Kittens begin to develop their eyesight and hearing at approximately two weeks. They begin to walk at 20 days.

Sasha comes running from her special room and opens the door leading out into the garden. She

**Cat facts:**

Kittens start to walk at about 20 days of age.

Sometimes a cat may have one blue eye and one green eye.
always climbs right in the cat bed. She likes all the kittens and takes turns holding different ones. Sometimes she wants to hold two at a time, but one is always taken away. So now she has learned to pick up only one.

This time she picks up a girl named “Licorice”. Sasha’s human friend Jana is visiting. She carries Licorice over beside Jana’s feet.

Kittens and monkeys are both quick, playful and curious. Unlike monkeys, all cats are digitigrade. This means they walk on their toes with the back part of

Cat Games  Cats love to play with “imaginary mice” and often find them rustling around within the dark space of the crinkly paper bag. Whether on his way in or on his way out, your cat is sure to enjoy the mysteries of the paper bag.....
the foot raised. Monkeys like Sasha walk using both the pads and digits of their hands and feet.

Licorice and Sasha go under Jana’s long skirt to explore. You can see Sasha’s long dark tail and Licorice’s tiny black tail sticking out. The cat’s tail is used to maintain balance, as is the tail of the mona guenon.

Like all Old World monkeys, monas do not have prehensile tails, meaning that they cannot grasp objects with their tails like some New World monkeys can. The domestic cat is the only species able to hold its tail vertically while walking. Mona guenons hold their tails either vertically

**Kitten facts:**
Kittens are most playful during roughly the third month of life. Their social life includes snuggling, wrestling, grooming, chasing, pouncing, leaping and ambushing play. They will also practice pawing, tossing, and mouthing objects, all in mock practice for hunting.
Now Sasha climbs on Jana with boy kitty “Tucker”. She trusts Jana not to take her kitty away. If Jana tried to take Tucker, Sasha would get tricky, grab Tucker and run. Monkeys can usually act more quickly than humans and they know it.

The little monkey has Teddy again. He likes to meow a lot. He is the fussiest of all the kitties. When Sasha is told to “make the kitty happy”, she knows that means to get him calm and quiet. Sasha gets

**Kitten facts:**

The “sensitive period” for cat-socialization lies between 2 and 7 weeks of age. If you buy a kitten from a “cat mill breeder” it is unlikely that he will be properly socialized.

It is far more beneficial to the kitten to have someone put in the time socializing him at the right age, rather than have to solve a cat behavior problem later in life.
a worried look on her face when Teddy fusses. But almost right away she sits him in a position where he calms down. Her expression says, “See? He’s very happy now!”

**Kitten facts:**

Behaviorists believe that kittens who are handled an average of half an hour a day during the first eight weeks are more likely to develop larger brains. They will develop into more playful cats who are better learners.

Although most cats are still considered kitten-like through the first two years of life, skills not acquired during the first eight weeks could be lost forever.
She puts her arm around Teddy to make him feel safe. He’s asleep now and Sasha is about to fall asleep too.

When Sasha returns the borrowed baby, Mama grooms him again. Mama gives all her babies a thorough tongue licking. Sasha doesn’t lick the babies as much as Mama does and sometimes she licks herself like a cat.

*Cat grooming: Cats seem to lick themselves more during hot weather. Cats don’t sweat, so behaviorists think that the saliva evaporating from their bodies may help them to cool themselves.*

*Cats groom each other and they groom themselves. The cat’s way of grooming is by licking with its rough tongue. Occasionally the cat may bite dirt out with her tiny front teeth. The cat is limber and reaches to lick all parts of her own*
body but the face, head and ears. For these she first licks her paw, then uses the paw to rub over her face like a wet washcloth.

Cats and monkeys both have true fur, which means that they have both an undercoat and an outer coat to groom.

A tongue cleaning is as wet as cats generally like to get. Mona monkeys are different. Sometimes they purposely get wet. Some guenons like a warm sprinkling rain and will lick the water off her fur to help dry off.

Unlike guenons, most cats avoid water and must be handled carefully during bathing.

Monkeys, like cats, devote time each day to grooming. While cats mainly use their tongues for grooming, monkeys mainly use their hands, parting the fur to look for dry skin, wounds or parasites. Grooming is also a social behavior in monkeys.
**Cat fact:** Genetic factors are one influence on a cat’s temperament. Also, well-adjusted parents are probably more likely to produce friendly offspring.

“Oreo” is a little girl kitty. She has a tiny white tip on the end of her black tail and one black freckle on the end of her pink nose. Oreo is very cuddly and more docile in personality that Teddy. Oreo has just finished drinking milk from Mama before Sasha picks her up. At three weeks, the kittens are starting to walk on wobbly legs. They can climb all motions are done slowly.

Oreo is too young and too sleepy to play, so Sasha gets silly by herself. This is one of Sasha’s playful

All kittens are fluffy and appealing. But if you don’t like full grown cats, or want the responsibility of caring for one, don’t get a kitten.
poses.

Mama’s kittens are still young, but at four weeks, all of the kittens should be able to walk, run, and play. Mama cats start weaning their kittens at about six to eight weeks old. Kittens are able to eat solid foods when they are around 3 to 4 weeks of age. Kittens are attracted to meaty, fishy smells and experts recommend that they be fed specially formulated kitten chow.

Cats can’t taste sweets but monkeys can. Monkeys eat many fruits and green plants when they live in the wild. Cats also love to chew on green plants like grass, catnip, parsley or sage.

Ear facts: Cat and monkey ears communicate feelings. Monkey ears may stand out more when upset. Monkey ears are shaped more like human ears, but are often hidden in fur.

Cats rotate their ears to show many states of intent.

Look at Sasha’s long nose and Oreo’s small nose. Cats and monkeys both smell
with their noses but cats have an additional way to smell. Besides smelling with their noses, cats can smell with an additional organ called the Jacobson’s organ, located in the upper surface of the mouth. The Jacobson’s organ analyzes smells - and is the reason why you will sometimes see a cat “sneer” when they encounter a strong odor.

At first Sasha is feeling very alert while Oreo sleeps. But Sasha gets worn out too. It’s nap time again...

When cats are asleep, they are still alert to incoming stimuli. If you poke the tail of a sleeping cat, it will respond accordingly.

It is very quiet when Oreo and
Sasha are asleep. Oreo is safely snuggled with Sasha. When Oreo is outside she is able to climb out of Mama’s cat basket to explore.

Cats hear extremely well. If a sleeping cat hears a noise he will cock an ear.

Cats have 32 muscles that control the outer ear (compared to a human’s six muscles each). A cat can rotate its ears independently 180 degrees.

Monkeys have less ear control but cock their ears forward or backwards to catch sounds better. If a sleeping monkey hears a sound, he will most likely bolt awake like the wild animal he is.

Cat and monkey ears do more than just hear. They also communicate feelings. When the cat’s ears are back and the posture is steady, the cat is unsure of what move to make, considering its options. If the ears are back, and the body is low to the ground, this is a display of shame or remorse.

**Socializing the kitten**

If you want your cat to socialize freely and happily, you must give it plenty of opportunity as a kitten to socialize and play with different people and other animals that are friendly. Kittenhood socialization has a pronounced and long lasting effect on your cat’s personality.

**Cat facts:** Cats respond well when you offer them a daily rhythm of feeding, grooming and play. Cats are creatures of habit so they like to have scheduled playtime, scheduled grooming, etc. Patient cat owners may also teach, and scheduled in a nature walk for with the cat wearing a harness.
Female monkeys make the best grooming partners, so females often make stronger ties with other females.

Guenon enemies include the crowned eagle, the python, the leopard (weighing up to 60 pounds) and the golden cat (a middle-sized cat weighing up to 16 pounds).

**Monkey facts:** Guenons are found only in Africa, south of the Sahara desert.

Fourteen of the Fifteen guenon species are forest guenons. The remaining species inhabits the savannahs and plains.

Branch shaking is one threat that guenons and some other kinds of monkeys use to scare off intruders.

Adult female mona guenons are shorter and weigh about half as much as adult males.
The cat’s pricked ears show its interest in what’s going on around it. When a cat raises its head directly, this is an attempt to display dominance. If the head is lowered, that means subservience, or even a feeling of inferiority.

Mama is a very submissive cat and seems to be a cat that was not used to living with other adult cats.

**Smelling with the mouth:**
This Jacobson’s organ is located high up in the roof of the cat’s mouth. It traps the odor molecules and sends signals to the brain regarding the scent.

Flehming can occur with many scents but most often occurs when the cat smells urine. Many male cats have the “flehmen reaction” when they smell the genitals or urine of a female cat in heat.

*Jacobson’s organ.*

*Fighting cats....*
The cat dominance hierarchy An outdoor male cat may control as much as 50 acres as his territory if the cat population is sparse.

Male cats decide dominance ("who’s in charge") by strength. As with guenons, the males and females have separate pecking orders, one for the males and one for the females.

The strongest, most muscular male cat, usually the largest, will be dominant and will defend his territory from all encroachers.

The female cat with the largest with the largest litter of kittens will be at the top of the female hierarchy. Although female territories are smaller, they may defend them more fiercely. "Queens" with kittens are usually most aggressive.

She and Sasha touch noses when greeting each other out in the dappled light of the enclosed garden.

Sasha’s tail is arched in the position of the happy confident mona guenon.

Although Mama will puff up her fur and hiss at Sasha’s other cats, she continues to treat Sasha like a loving friend.
Kittens develop rather rapidly when compared to human and monkey babies. By 3-4 weeks of age kittens are mobile and moving away from the nest. They eat their first solid food and begin litter box training.

Mama’s kittens are almost four weeks old now. Sasha is keeping company with the fluffy orange Teddy. Like Oreo, he has developed a cute white tip on the end of his tail that wasn’t there when he was

Sleeping cats: Cats seem to realize that plenty of sleep is needed to fuel their nocturnal cat games!

When cats are asleep, they are still alert to incoming stimuli. If you poke the tail of a sleeping cat, it will respond accordingly.
Sasha snuggles him beside her on a towel. He is very alert and holds his neck up strongly.

When she sees someone coming toward her to take a picture, she thinks maybe that person would born.

Cat humor...What I learned from my cat...

...that it’s OK to wear the same thing everyday, sleeping is very underrated ... as is stretching, grooming requires a serious time commitment, remember to wash behind your ears, in between your toes and under your arms, eat whether you are hungry or not, play with your food, try not to obsess about cholesterol, make your own hours, exercise daily, go barefoot, obey your instincts, claim your own chair, recognize the toy in everything, make the most of unstructured time, everyone is entitled to an occasional mood swing, the faster you run upstairs, the more likely you are to forget why you went up there in the first place, avoid company you do not like, scratch when and where it itches, invite yourself to dinner, just because you’re home, you don’t have to answer the phone, enjoy your own company, yawn like you really mean it, flaunt your hair loss, especially around living room furniture, shred all documents.
like to steal Teddy. So with a sneaky look on her face, she pulls the towel up to hide little Teddy.

Once she thinks it’s safe again, she uncovers Teddy for some more grooming. She would like to hold him all day and all night but he still needs to keep company with Mama cat and his litter mates.

**Cat humor...**

Is it true that people who hate cats, will come back as mice in their next life?

**Introducing cats within your household**  A cat doesn’t have to have the mortgage in his name to claim your home as HIS PROPERTY. Your household is your cat’s home turf and it is usually easier for him to share it with you, his human caretaker, than another of his own kind. Because the cat social organization is flexible, a well socialized cat or kitten may welcome a new kitten playmate fairly readily. Playing will ensue. Older cats may get along with some cats but not others.
Cats in a multi-cat household:

Experts agree that cats put together in the same household are not always able to work out their differences. The more cats you have trying to share the same territory, the more likely it is that fighting will take place between some individuals. This is partly because cats are so territorial, more so than dogs. Also, cats do not establish a firm pecking order like dogs do. Don’t allow cats to keep fighting. Keep the problem cats separated unless you are present to monitor their behavior. A loud referees whistle is an excellent way to stop a fight in progress. Pulling fighting cats apart is not recommended.

At four to five weeks, kittens are beginning to run, to play and to wash themselves. They learn from playing together and by themselves.

At five weeks, Teddy’s more athletic. He is able to run up the back of the couch.

Sasha sits out in the garden with Mama and her brood. She puts

Feral cat facts:

A feral cat is one that is domesticated, but has been abandoned, lost or neglected and forced to survive on his/her own as a stray. The offspring of stray cats have had little exposure to humans, or bad experiences with humans, and are very skittish and afraid. These cats form groups known as colonies.
Vaccinations:

Although no vaccine is 100% effective, they have saved the lives of countless cats. Vaccinations are especially important for the outdoor cat. Vaccinations most commonly recommended are:

- **Panleukopenia** (inactivated) at 8-10 wks, 12-14 wks, then yearly.
- **Calicivirus**, (inactivated) at 8-10 wks, 12-14 wks, then yearly.
- **Rhinotracheitis**, (inactivated) at 8-10 wks, 12-14 wks, then yearly.
- **Rabies**, (inactivated) 12 wks, 64 wks, then triannually.
- **Leukemia**, (inactivated) at 9 wks, 12 wks, then yearly.
- **Chlamydiosis**, (live attenuated) at 8-10 wks, 12-14 wks, then yearly.

her arms gently around Mama’s shoulders as a sign of affection. The kittens play all around them, darting in and out of the plants, playing bouncy plant stems and fluttering leaves.

Now Sasha plays with Licorice. She has used her left foot to help gently boost Licorice into her arms so
She waits while Licorice explores under the couch.

**Cat facts:**

Cats who were brought up having pleasant experiences with other cats are more likely to be friendly and sociable toward a new likewise friendly cat that comes into their territory. Cats from small liters, orphaned cats, or cats that did not stay with their mothers and litter mates long enough (from 6 weeks to 8 weeks makes a difference and from 8 weeks to 12 weeks makes a difference, the closer to 12 weeks the better) will be less adaptable sociably with other cats. Although Mama kitty was a street cat, her ready friendliness toward people (not found in feral cats) showed that she had been kept as a pet. She did not, however, get along with Sasha’s tabby cats.

Now she’s looking. “Where are you Licorice?”

she can carry her.
When Licorice comes out, Sasha uses body language to invite her to play.

Kittens and cats need different kinds of play. They can play with an object by themselves or they can play with someone else (social play). This goes for monkeys as well.

Now Licorice gets a snuggle before she goes back to see Mama.

Feral cat facts:

Feral cats who are in the habit of fighting with other cats in order to defend their territory and food resources, usually don’t do well when confined in a space with house cats and are probably better taken care of as mainly outdoor pets. Sometimes the best you can do with a feral cat is provide it with outdoor bowls of food and water. When you can, catch it in a humane trap and have it fixed, then resume outdoor feeding.

Cat fact:

Cats love to sleep, day or night and don’t display “the work ethic”. Rats, pigeons and monkeys will endlessly press levers to earn food rewards. Cats are more likely to fall asleep on the job.
What can you do for conservation of resources to save monkeys habitats in the wild?

Have your group or class write to the president of the World Bank (1818 H Street NW, Washington DC 20433. Ask that the World Bank make loans to primate habitat countries like South America, Costa Rica, Africa, etc., conditional on the setting aside of and protection of national parks and wildlife refuges in areas inhabited by lemur (half-monkeys), monkeys and apes.

Time seems to pass so quickly with growing kittens. They are 5-6 weeks old now and soon they will be too big for Sasha to pick up, but she will still hug them, sit with them and groom their soft fur. She will love them just as much!

The “sensitive period” for cat-socialization lies between 2 and 7 weeks of age. By 6-8 weeks they start to show their hunting skills. By 8 weeks they are fully weaned.

By 12 weeks they are playing less with their litter mates and engaging in more hunting skills. Kittens are most playful during roughly the third month of life.
Their social life includes snuggling, wrestling, grooming, chasing, pouncing, leaping and ambushing play. They will also practice pawing, tossing, and mouthing objects, all in mock practice for hunting.

When she plays outside, Sasha sits in the kitty basket and helps eat the kitten chow.

When she plays inside with Oreo, Oreo is full of mischievous activity. She runs and pounces and does not have time to be cuddled.

After kittens are weaned, the growing kitten enters a stage of rapid growth, which lasts through the first 6 months of their life.

Although Mama kitty was a street cat, her ready friendliness toward

**Cat games**: Cats need few props with which to play. “King” or “Queen” of the pillow is a good game. Cats love to play with empty paper rolls, which may remind them of the mysterious mouse hole as they stick their paws in.

When in a playful mood, cats easily become fascinated by moving objects and prepare to play games of “leap and tackle”.

people (not usually found in feral cats) showed that she had once been kept as a pet. Mama and Sasha’s tabby cats continue to hiss, growl and spat at one another, so they are kept in separate areas.

**Cat fact:**

By 8 weeks of age, kittens are fully weaned. If taken away from the mother at an earlier age, they may develop neurotic behaviors.

Cats with abdominal pain have a leaning posture.

Unkempt fur is another sign of illness.

Cats also assume this posture when throwing up fur balls.

Mona guenons have about 32 teeth. Since guenons eat a variety of foods, their teeth have low ridges (called cusps) for grinding food, but like cats, they have long sharp canine teeth as well.

Kittens have baby teeth and get their permanent teeth around the age of 7 months. Cats have about 30 teeth.
What can you do for conservation of resources to save monkeys habitats in the wild?

Get your local school, zoo or other community organization to adopt a wildlife preserve in a developing country. Support them with fundraising projects and ideas for conserving their wildlife.

Join the Peace Corps. The Peace Corp. has many wildlife conservation projects in primate habitat countries.

When Sasha plays with Mama and the kittens, she always has a stem, leaf or flower to chew on. When she eats kitten chow, she sometimes pouches handfuls of it so she can snack on it later.

Unlike cats, mona guenons have cheek pouches for storing their food. The pouches, which begin at the lower teeth

The guenon diet: Guenons are omnivores. They eat plant and animal food. Plant foods include tender leaves, stems, shoots, fruits, seeds. Animal food include birds, lizards, frogs, insects and eggs. A cat or a monkey might rob a nest of a baby bird. A monkey would also rob a nest of its eggs.
Guenons and water: Although they don’t seek out deep water, mona guenons are able swimmers if the need arises. If they fall in a lake or gully, they paddle to the shore like dogs. Again, like dogs, the monkeys first shake themselves to get rid of excess water. Then like cats, they lick their fur to help dry off. The mona guenon’s fur is sleek, not thick and is tapered to a crest under the belly, which helps drain water off.

and run along both sides of the neck, can hold as much food as the stomach.

Since monkeys compete for food in the wild, they need to be able to store it quickly to keep another monkey from getting it. Later the monkey can go to a quiet spot and eat the food in peace.

The mona monkey’s diet is omnivorous. That means it contains some of everything, consisting of a variety of vegetation and carnivorous fare.

Sasha always plays with the cats during the day. For all monkeys but the small South American Owl Monkey, nights are for sleeping.

Guenons roam their territory during the day, on the alert for food. Day roaming animals are called diurnal.
Cats are more active at night, making them nocturnal. Cats’ eyes are adapted for vision in dim light for hunting just after dusk and just before dawn, the prime hunting periods.

**The cat’s third eyelid:** Cats have a third eyelid at the inner corner of the eye. It is pale pink in color, and will be prominently visible if they are ill or have something caught in their eye.

Cats see about six times better than a person at night, but a cat cannot see directly under its nose. This is why the cat often cannot seem to find tidbits on the floor.

**The cat’s nosepad:** Unlike the monkey, cats have nose pads. Every cat’s nose pad, or nose leather, has unique characteristics. Just as no two humans have the same fingerprints, no two feline nose prints are alike.

A domestic cat can live twenty or more years. A mona guenon in the wild lives on the average of 16 years but under the best of conditions could live to be 40 or more in captivity.

**It’s a fact:** Cats are often bored inside and become sedentary without the stimulation of nature.
Mona guenons are sometimes found in African wildlife refuges and zoos. They are very adaptable and live in a variety of habitats in the wild, including secondary rain forests, mangrove swamps, gallery forests, and woodland areas. Monas are also found in farmlands such as cacao plantations and gardens where they are considered crop pests.

Health benefits and cats:

It has been scientifically proven that stroking a cat can lower one’s blood pressure. In other words, cats help people relax. In 1987, cats overtook dogs as the number one pet in America (about 50 million cats resided in 24 million homes in 1986).

It’s a fact: Both monkeys and cats like to relax themselves by warming in the sun.

Each day Sasha continues to play and snuggle with the kittens. Soon they will be grown up and ready to leave Sasha and the calico kitty. There are too many domestic cats living in the world today, so Mama will be spayed when she is done nursing her kittens.
At 6 months it is possible for female cats to go into heat. Male cats are mature enough to seek out mates when they are 9 to 12 months old. During these times they are old enough to be spayed and neutered also.

Between 1-3 years cats enter social maturity where they will begin to show more serious territorial behaviors.

Unlike cats, there are no longer enough monkeys living in the world today. All primates (monkeys and apes) are either endangered or threatened. They are al-

**Cat fixing facts:**

Cats who are not fixed may caterwaull, display frenzied behavior and spray urine. Getting your cat spayed or neutered should stop most, if not all, of this behavior.

Your cat can be spayed as soon as she is six months old before her first heat. You will be sparing her the frustration and nuisance of going through a heat period.

After your male is castrated, there will be a rapid decline in the incidence of roaming, aggression, fighting and spraying in most cats.

The average neutering time is about 4 months of age. If you wait too long, sometimes these behaviors will have already become ingrained as habits.

**Conservation facts:** Most monkeys (like this red-tailed guenon) and apes, including gibbons which are lesser apes, are considered either threatened or endangered in the world today.
ways threatened by the same things, hunting and habitat destruction. To in-
sure that we see them in the future, monkeys need a secure place in the wild. They need people who will set more wild-
life habitats aside for them. They need each and every one of us to be respon-
sible for human population control and conservation of resources, so that mon-
keys can have the habitats they need for future life.

*Monkey see, monkey do:* Infant monkeys try foods that their mother’s eat.

*Conservation facts:* Recycling resources (paper bags, glass jars, newspapers, plastics, aluminum cans, etc.) helps save natu-
ral resources, and it helps save monkey habitats in the wild.

As for Sasha, the little mona gue-
non monkey is safe, secure and happy in her tropical garden of monkeys and cats. And maybe one day she will have a real monkey baby of her own.....☝️
Glossary:

adapt: To change in order to live in a certain habitat, adjust to new territory with new foods and new animals.

carnivore: Animal that eats mainly meat.

communicate: Send signals or information with the voice, with scent or with facial expressions or body movements.

daily rythm: the daily pattern of activities of a species.

diet: the food that an animal needs to eat.

diurnal: Day living animals that sleep at night.

diverse: Many kinds of members.

groom: To clean, or pick through the fur.

habitats: Places in the wild where monkeys live.

ischial callosities: two cushioned sitting pads found on the Old World monkeys’ bottom.

mate: A male and female animal joining to produce offspring.

muzzle: An animal’s mouth and nose area.

New Wrold monkeys: Monkeys living in South and Central America

nocturnal: Night living animals that sleep during the day.

Old World monkeys: Monkeys living in Africa etc.

omnivore: Animal that eats plants and animals.

predator: Animal that hunts and kills other animals as food.

prey: Animal that is hunted and eaten by a predator.

social animal: Animals that travel in groups and have a social bond. They eat, groom, forage and sleep together. They have a group system for dealing intruders or predators.

solitary animal: animal that lives alone outside of a social group.

species:

wild: Living in uncivilized, natural areas of countryside.