



The International Cat Association's



Happy Holiday Ideas for You and Your Cat



HAPPY HOLIDAY IDEAS FOR YOU AND YOUR CAT

1.Easy Ornaments, Decorations and Gifts for the Cat Lover	3
2.Tasty Treats You Can Bake.....	8
3.Cat Christmas Cards.....	13
4.Christmas Cat Coloring Pages.....	14
5.Best Christmas Cat Books to Read.....	23
6.Holiday Safety Tips.....	25

Easy Ornaments, Decorations and Gifts

Lazy Cats Christmas Tree Ornaments

Basic Instructions (full size patterns at end of instructions)

Start with a piece of tightly woven material. Cut two of the oval shapes. If you are going to be appliquéing the head, cut a head pattern also.

If you are going to be embroidering or painting the features, do it before you sew the front and back of the body together.

Lay the cat pattern on top of the piece of material and put a sheet of carbon paper under it. Trace the cat features.

With the wrong sides of the material together, sew around the oval, leaving a one-half to one inch opening. Clip the sewn edges and turn right-side-out.

Stuff the body with a fiber-fill stuffing or potpourri for a scented ornament. (Dried Catnip if the ornament is for a cat.) Do not over stuff, so the cat will lay flat. With your fingers, work the stuffing into place so it is evenly stuffed. Then hand stitch the opening together.

If you are going to quilt the cat, do it at this point.

For ornaments, stitch a loop of small ribbon or heavy gold thread to the middle of the cat at top, so that it balances when hung.

The pattern for Baby Fur-Ball has only a front design and a plain backing.

Start with one size oval and turn it into a whole litter of snoozing, stretching and yawning kittens. The body is the same size in each of the ornaments, but some of the ornaments are oriented wide, some long. The features in each cat vary.

Embroider or paint features on the cats with textile paints. Even do them in applique if you wish.

Choose an unbleached cotton material for a homespun look or make them out of bright calico. If you are painting them, why not paint them the colors of your own cats and add their names and the date for a keepsake ornament. They make nice presents for cat lovers.

The ornament patterns are four inches long and two and one fourth inches high. (4" x 2 1/4")

By doubling the pattern (6" x 4 1/2") you can use the pattern for a pot holder. Just add a loop (so you can hang the pot holder) to one edge before you sew it shut. A nice effect can be made by quilting through the cat's features.

You can triple the pattern (12" x 6 3/4") to make a small couch pillow.

Extras

If you really want to get fancy, try rolling a tiny ball of yarn and stitching it to the cat's front paws, and running the end of the strand around as though the cat has been playing with it, stitching it in place.

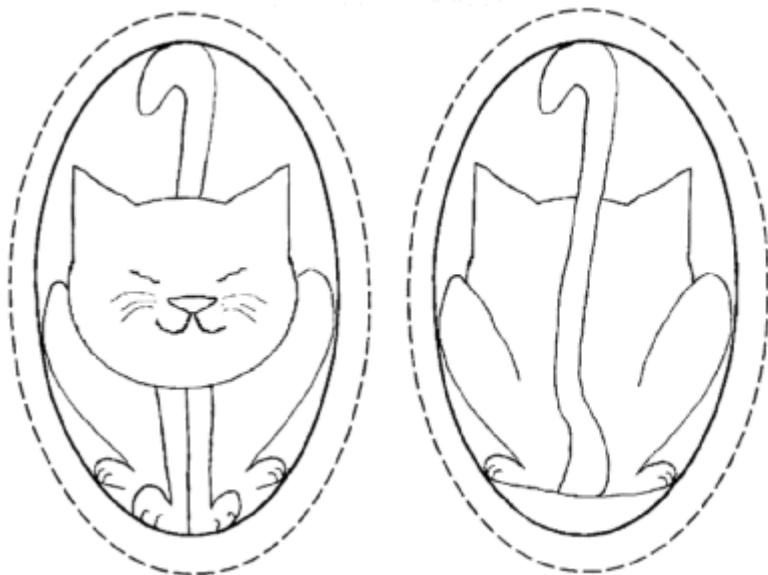
Stitch through the middle of a piece of ribbon under the cat's chin and then tie in a bow.

Sew a tiny bell under the cat's chin. Or, stitch a tiny bell inside the body of the cat so the ornament jingles.



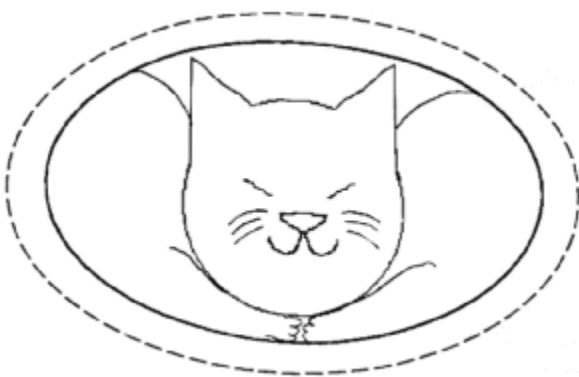
Pattern for Baby Fur-Ball

(Cut 2 - Pattern front, but back is plain material.)

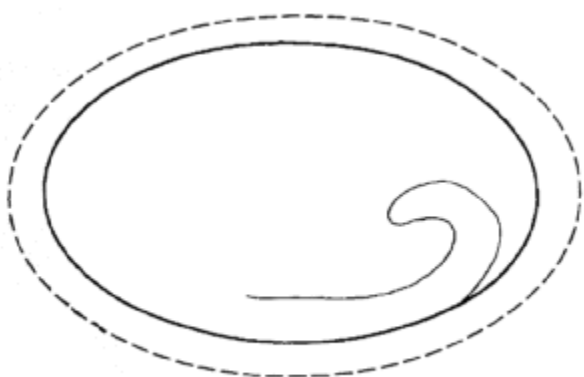


**Pattern for
Meditating Cat**

(Cut One Front & Back)



**Pattern for Fat Cat
(Cut One of each
Front and Back)**



Cut along dotted oval line
Sew along solid oval line

Cut out notches all around
circle after stitching

Mouse Christmas Ornament

Difficulty: **Very Easy**

Age: 4 and up

Parental supervision is recommended

Holiday Links

This mouse Christmas ornament is an easy way to make your own Christmas tree decorations. A bit of cardboard and some imagination make this a favorite [Christmas ornament](#) craft, especially for cat owners.



What you'll need:

- Gray craft foam
- Pen
- Heart stencil, die cut, or cookie cutter
- Scrap of yarn in any color
- 2 Tiny wiggle eyes
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Green or red 1/4" wide Ribbon
- Green or red "Painters" paint markers

How to make it:

1. Lay the middle of the heart stencil on the edge of the craft foam. This creates a mouse shape. Trace around the stencil.
2. Cut out "mouse".
3. Hole punch two holes on the top of the mouse and one on the rounded end of the mouse. (see photo)
4. Cut a piece of ribbon to hang the mouse.
5. Tie the ribbon at each end.
6. Write your cat's name on the mouse. You may want to write the YEAR on the back.
7. Tie the yarn for the tail.
8. Glue a wiggle eye on each side of the head. (see photo)
9. Hang on your Christmas tree and enjoy!
10. **Materials and Tools:**
11. 4 sheets of brightly-colored felt thread

1 sheet of white tissue paper
fabric shears
straight pins
3"-piece of ribbon
craft glue
large and small sequins, buttons or other embellishments



12.

13. **Steps:**

14. 1. Draw a simple fish shape onto a sheet of tissue paper to create a pattern. Cut out the pattern and pin it to the felt. Cut two of each felt piece, one for the front and one for the back of the stocking.



15.

16. 2. Cut out smaller shapes of felt for the fins, eyes and tail. Glue them to the front of the stocking with craft glue.



17.

18. 3. Shape the piece of ribbon into a loop, center and stitch it onto the back stocking piece. This will create the stocking's hanger.

19. 4. Topstitch the two pieces together to create the finished stocking.

20. 5. Embellish the finished stocking by gluing a large sequin or button to the fish's eye and smaller sequins or buttons on alternating scales

Tasty Cat Treats You Can Make

Molasses Cat Treats

Combine the whole wheat flour, all purpose flour, soy flour, wheat germ and powdered milk in a large mixing bowl.

Beat the egg lightly with a fork and add it to the dry ingredients along with the milk, oil, catnip, shredded cheese and molasses. If the dough is too thick, add a few more drops of milk.

Place the dough on a lightly floured surface and roll it to a thickness of about 1/8 inch with a rolling pin.

Cut the dough into kitty-sized pieces and bake them for 20 minutes. Prop the door open and allow the molasses cat treats to cool in the oven before removing.

Store the cooled molasses cat treats in an airtight container.

Holiday Treats

Things You'll Need:

1 1/2 cup leftover turkey or chicken

2/3 cup cooked pumpkin or squash, mashed

1 tbsp. olive oil

1 tsp. catnip

2 tsp. dried kelp

Mixing bowl

Place all of the ingredients in a mixing bowl.

Combine the ingredients with your hands.

Roll the holiday treats into small balls and feed them to your kitty.

Store extra holiday treats in the refrigerator, or freeze them for later use.

Tuna Treats For Your Finicky Feline

- 210 g [tuna in vegetable oil](#)
- 3/4 cup rye flour (normal whole meal flour is fine)
- 1 tablespoon chopped [fresh parsley](#)
- [water](#)

Change Measurements: [US](#) | [Metric](#)

Directions:

Prep Time: 10 mins

Total Time: 3 3/4 hrs

1. 1 Preheat oven to 180° C.
2. 2 Mix tuna, rye and parsley together well, breaking up tuna pieces so they are soft and mushy.
3. 3 Add water gradually, as is needed to make a firm dough that is easy to mould into a small shape.
4. 4 Roll a teaspoon-sized amount of the dough between your palms, creating a small round ball. Flatten the ball so it becomes disc-shaped.
5. 5 Repeat process until all mixture is used, placing each biscuit disc onto a lightly greased oven tray.
6. 6 Bake in your 180° C oven for 20 minutes, or until golden brown.

7. Turn oven off, though leave tray in until oven has completely cooled. (This will help to dry out the biscuits further, and therefore help the treats keep for longer).
8. When biscuits have cooled completely, they are ready to serve. Handy as an occasional treat, and/or an addition to your pet's everyday dry food.
9. Store treats in an air-tight container in the pantry.

Catnip Cookies for Cats

These fresh, coloring and preservative-free cat treats are sure to appeal to owners and even the most discriminating cat.

The following ingredients will be required for this cat cookie recipe

- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup of whole wheat flour
- 2 tablespoons of wheat germ
- 2-4 tablespoons of catnip
- 1/3 cup of milk
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon of molasses
- 1 egg

Cooking and Serving Directions

1. Begin by pre-heating the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl (flour, wheat germ and catnip).
3. Combine the wet ingredients in a bowl (egg, milk, vegetable oil, and molasses).
4. Mix the wet and dry ingredients together and work it into a dough
5. Lightly flour the counter or other work surface
6. Remove a portion of dough and use a rolling pin to uniformly flatten the dough to a thickness between 1/8 of an inch and 1/4 of an inch.
7. Cut the dough into 1-inch squares using a rolling pizza cutter or a cookie cutter of your choice.
8. Place the cookies on a lightly greased cookie sheet.
9. Bake the cookies for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the cookies are crisp and lightly browned.

Cheese Naps

Your cat will be dreaming about these cheesy snacks!

¾ cup white flour

¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese

5 tablespoons grated parmesan

3 tablespoons margarine

¼ cup water

¼ cup cornmeal

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine cheeses, margarine and water. Add flour and cornmeal. Knead dough and roll to ¼ inch. Cut with small cookie cutter and place on greased cookie sheet. Bake for 25 minutes. Makes 2 dozen. Allow your treats to cool to room temperature before serving. Store treats in refrigerator.

Chicken Biscuits

1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour

1 1/2 cups rye flour

1 1/2 cups brown rice flour

1 tsp dried kelp (alfalfa can be used instead)

4 tsps vegetable oil

1 1/2 cups chicken or beef broth

1 lb ground (minced) chicken

1 to 2 tbsps brewers yeast

Preheat oven to 350 Fahrenheit

In a large bowl, combine flour, and dry kelp. Slowly add oil, broth, and chicken. Mix well. Put dough on a floured surface, roll to a thickness of 1/8", then cut into desirable sizes, place on a greased cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown. Once done, place pieces in a bag with brewers yeast and shake to coat them. Store in fridge. Makes two to three dozen pieces.

Mackerel Munchies

1/2 cup canned mackerel (drained)

1 cup whole grain breadcrumbs

1 tsp vegetable oil

1 egg, beaten
1/2 tsp brewers yeast (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 Fahrenheit.

In a large bowl, mash drained mackerel with a fork into pieces. Combine with breadcrumbs, vegetable oil, egg, and brewers yeast if desired. Mix well. Drop mixture by 1/4 tsp onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake for eight minutes, take out and cool off. Then store in fridge.

Cat Cookies

1 cup whole wheat flour
1/4 cup soy flour
1 tablespoon catnip
1 egg
1/3 cup cat milk
2 tablespoons wheat germ
1/3 cup powdered milk
1 tablespoon molasses
2 tablespoons butter or oil

Preheat oven to 350 Fahrenheit.

In a large bowl, mix flour, catnip, wheat germ, and powdered milk together. Add molasses, egg, oil, and milk. Stir and then roll out flat onto oiled cookie sheet and cut into small pieces. Bake for twenty minutes. Take out and let cool, then store in fridge.

Cat Christmas Cards

Free Vintage Cat Cards - download your favorite vintage Christmas cat card at <http://vintageholidaycrafts.com/vintage-christmas-cards-cats/>

Other great sites for ecards include:

<http://www.sloppykisscards.com/cat-holiday-ecards.php>

www.jacquielawson.com

<http://www.furallover.com/selectimage.asp?sort=&name1=&group=Christmas&start=1&num=32>

<http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/an-enews/holiday-ecards.html?gclid=CJbvopio6qUCFQ915QodlX0MtQ>

Another idea is to create your own card. All you have to do is use Microsoft Word or a software that will allow you to design a card.

Use an image that is available online. Search in Google, under Images, for Christmas cats. You'll find graphic images, photographs, and more that you can save to your computer and then drop onto a card.

Web sites that are good for creating your own ecard include:

www.buzzle.com

www.myfuncards.com

www.somecards.com

www.smilebox.com

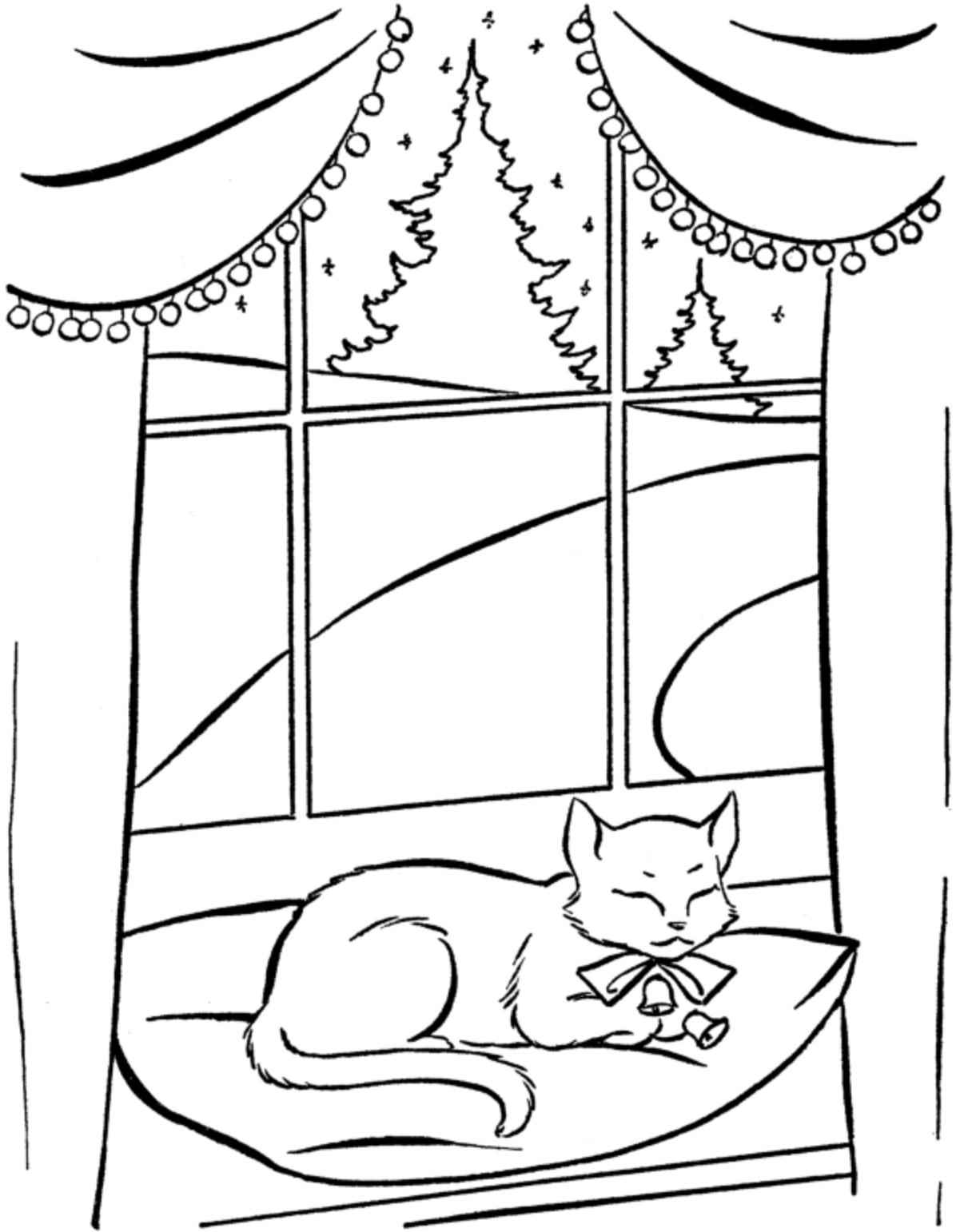
www.vistaprint.com

Cat Christmas Coloring Pages

Kids always love to color cat pictures.

And what a purrfect gift for someone they love!





RaisingOurKids.com



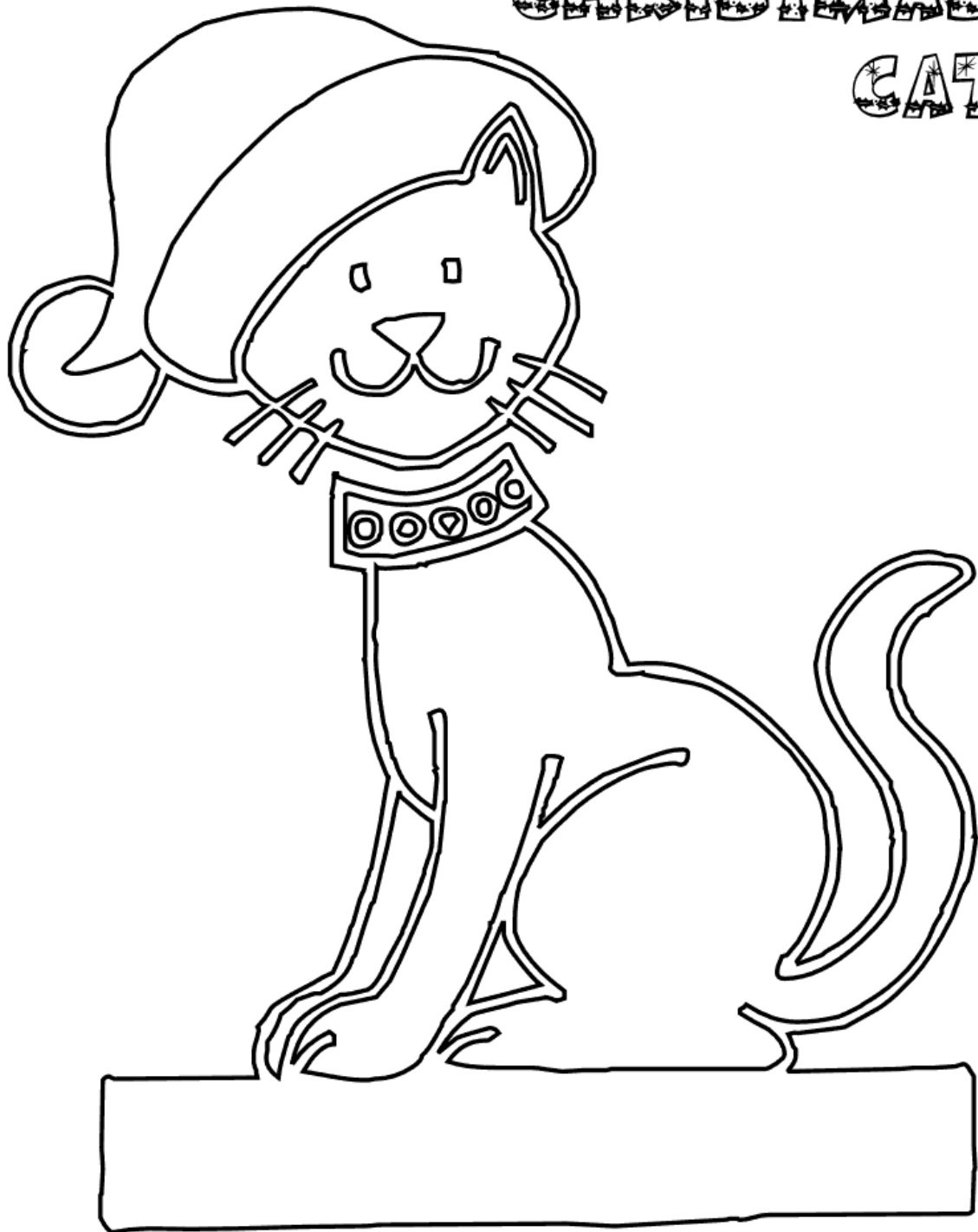




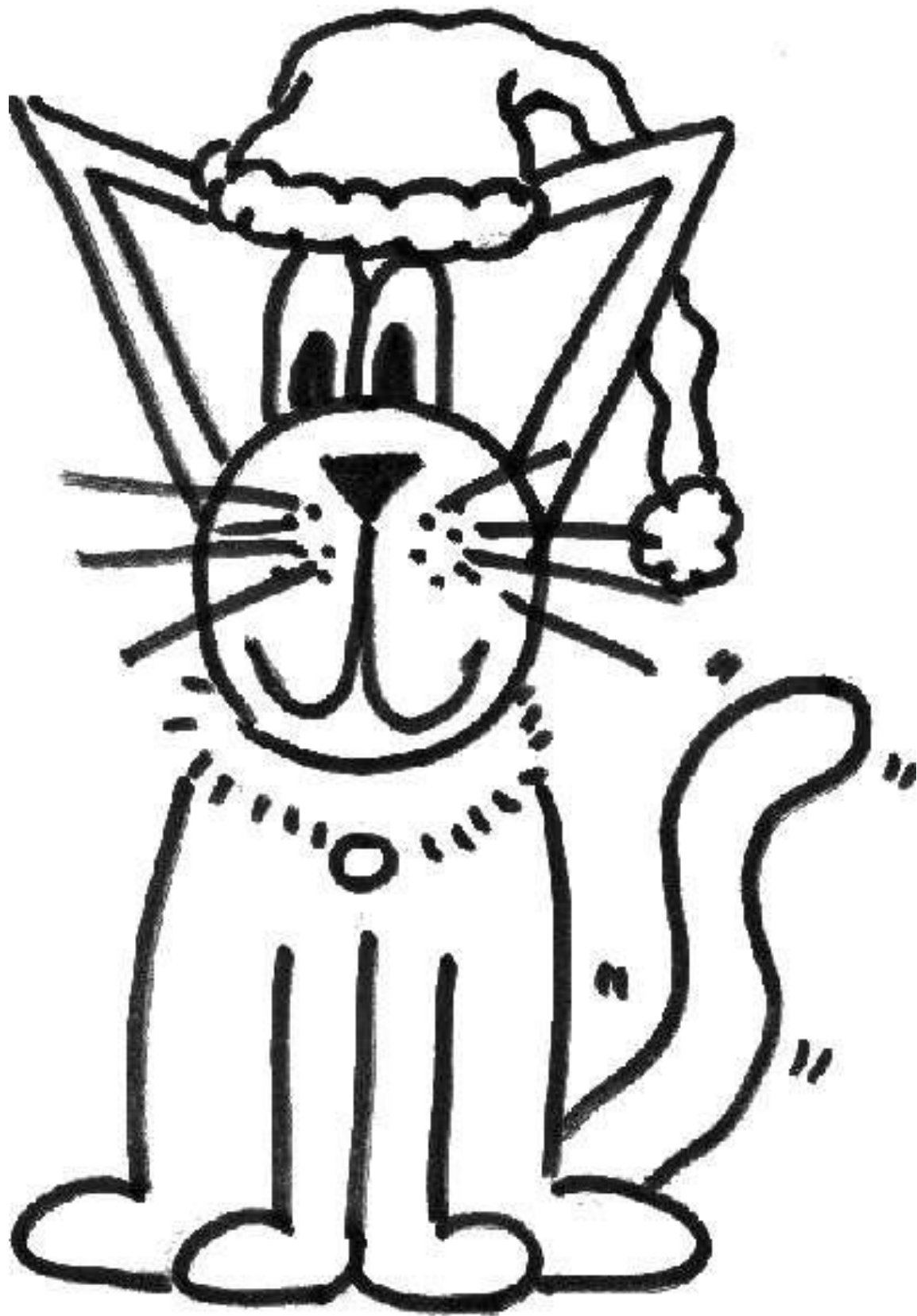


CHRISTMAS

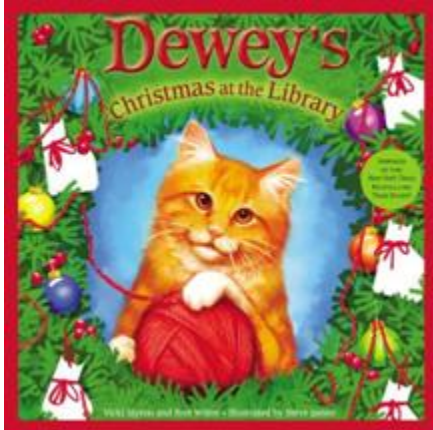
CAT



COLORINGKIDSBOYS.COM



Best Christmas Cat Books to Read

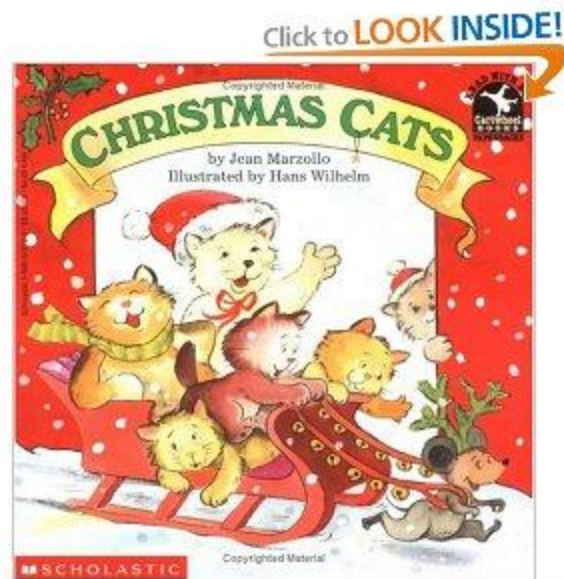


What's the top book about a cat and Christmas?

Dewey's Christmas at the Library - Dewey has been the resident library cat for many years now. And even he knows how to celebrate Christmas! This is the # 1 book to read your kids - or even yourself - to get into the "Holiday mood".

But don't stop there. Here's a list of "must reads"....buy a few of these books to enjoy with your family, or yourself.

Christmas Cats by Shirley Rousseau Murphy



A Christmas Surprise by Sue Bentley

Christmas Cats by Jean Marzollo Three Wise Cats: A Christmas Story by Harold Konstantelos

12 Cats for Christmas by Roger Priddy
Three Wise Cats: A Christmas Story by Harold Konstantelos
What Cats Want for Christmas by Kandy Radzinski
Christmas Crackers for Cats by John Hope
The 12 Cats of Christmas by Wendy Darling
The Magical Christmas Cat b Lora Leigh
The Cat Who Came for Christmas by Cleveland Amory
The Christmas Cat by Efner Tudor Holmes
Celebration, the Christmas Cat Book by Margaret Denk
Merry Christmas, Sugar! By Ellie O'Ryan
The Christmas Cat Story by Lorraine Frances Bedell
Jingle Cats by Michael McDermott
B.B. and the Christmas Cake by Lynn Sawford
Christmas for a Kitten by Robin Pulver

Holiday Safety Tips

How Keep Kitty Safe and Happy During the Holidays

A recent survey conducted of pet owners showed that nowadays more than 30% of owners take their pets with them. And travel is “not just for the dogs”. Cats and even birds enjoy road trips, and even flying, to get to another family member or friends’ home, or even a nice hotel or resort where the owners can relax and have fun (in the sun or snow).

Other options that pet owners take include:

Leaving kitty (or other pets) home for pet sitters, friends, neighbors or family to take care of

Boarding kitty at a vet, cat posh hotel or other facility

Just remember if kitty is traveling with you, staying home or being boarded, there are a few things you need to do:

- Write out instructions if your kitty isn’t boarded at the vet that includes who your vet is, how to get hold of them. Also include the local emergency clinic information for after-hour emergencies.
- Leave copies of all shot records, tags and other pertinent information about diet, medicines, etc
- Leave litter and clean pans out along with scoop, and bags for disposal of used litter and waste
- Leave out canned and dry food with instructions on how much to feed and when.
- Leave all medicines and supplements out with instructions on who gets what, when and the dosage.
- Clean bowls for water and dry food are good too. To make it easier if someone is pet sitting kitty, leave plastic spoons and forks plus paper plates to make it easier for them to clean up after kitty eats.

- Leave toys that your cat loves to play with ... but make sure they're hidden if you don't want kitty to chew on feathers, etc.
- Always leave some towels and a clean bed or pad available in case of accidents.
- And don't forget to leave your cell phone #, where you're staying and another number for someone else locally that your pet sitter, vet or boarding facility can get hold of if they can't get hold of you.
- And if you can't be reached, make sure you have someone else in the family designated as the person to call if something happened to you during your trip.
- Keep a note on the refrigerator with the Poison Hotline too You never know when your pet sitter will need it if kitty stays home.
- Keep kitty in its favorite room with its bed, pan and food/water. It's better to keep him/her in one room so the cat does not escape out the door when your pet sitter leaves.
- Leave your itinerary if you're flying so they know when you'll be home.
- Make sure YOU have the contact information for your pet sitter, boarding facility or vet so you can call if needed to check in on your beloved feline.

If your cat is being watched at home, make sure you go over everything with your cat sitter. And if kitty is boarded, make sure you also go over the contact information and other pertinent information they need to know to make your cat's stay as happy and stress free as possible.

Keep Kitty Safe from Holiday Hazards

The holidays are meant to be happy and filled with joy! The last thing you want is an emergency trip to the veterinarian. If you plan ahead and keep in mind some tips, you can be sure your festivities will be filled with happy memories...and kitty will have a fabulous holiday too! Here are some potential hazards you need to be aware of:

Food

- Rich, fatty foods, like gravy or grease, can cause pain, vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration.
- Alcohol can cause serious intoxications in pets. Cats are often attracted by the sweet taste of drinks, especially eggnog.
- Chocolate, coffee, and tea all contain dangerous components called xanthines, which cause nervous system or urinary system damage and heart muscle stimulation. If a cat has ingested chocolate, signs can range from diarrhea to seizures and death.
- Uncooked meat, fish, and poultry can contain disease-causing bacteria, such as E. coli, and parasites such as *Toxoplasma gondii*. Bones from fish, meat, or poultry can also cause problems if swallowed.
- Tobacco products can be fatal to pets, if ingested. Signs of poisoning develop within 15 to 45 minutes and include excitation, salivation, vomiting, and diarrhea. Pets may develop seizures, collapse and die from cardiac arrest. Keep cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, nicotine gum and patches, and ashtrays out of the reach of pets. Empty ashtrays frequently since cigarette butts contain about 25% of the total nicotine in a cigarette.
- Uncooked yeast dough can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines.
- Grapes and raisins contain an unknown toxin, which can damage the kidneys.
- Meat-soaked strings from rump roasts if ingested can cause a surgical emergency called a 'linear string foreign body' in the intestines.

Poisonous Plants

- If ingested, holly (leaves and berries) causes stomach upset and can be potentially fatal to both cats and dogs. Mistletoe upsets stomachs and can cause heart collapse, while hibiscus may cause diarrhea.

Poinsettias have an irritating sap that can cause blistering in the mouth and stomach upset. View a list of plants that are poisonous.

Decorations and Wrappings

- Ribbons, yarn, and string can cause intestinal obstruction and bunching of the intestine along the length of the string.
- Adhesives and glues can be toxic.
- Potpourri contains oils that can be toxic to cats
- Never have candles burning in reach of pets as candles can cause burns and fires.
- Glass balls and ornaments if knocked off and broken can splinter and cause cuts or if ingested, a dire emergency.

Gifts

- Food in baskets could be attractive and opened up by the cat - that includes meats, cheese, chocolate and more.
- Ribbons and bows on baskets and boxes are attractive "toys" so you need to be careful about any decorations and wrappings
- Perfumes and aftershaves contain ethanol (alcohol), and perfume also contains essential oils which can be very toxic to cats if ingested.
- Batteries for toys or other gifts can be toxic and cause intestinal obstruction.

Christmas Trees

- Make sure the stand is stabilized so it won't tip over in case kitty wants to bat around some balls or jump in the tree
- Use only unbreakable balls, no tinsel or garland, or any other decorations that could injure your cat if broken or ingested
- Real trees cause problems with their sharp needles, and the sap when seeped into the water can cause digestive problems and even death if the water is ingested.
- The wires of artificial trees or lights on any tree can cause injury or death if chewed
- Sugar-based tree preservatives are potential danger because of bacterial buildup.

Visitors

- Keep your kitty in another room where visitors cannot open the door and let them out. Put their water, food, bed and pan back in the room so they feel safe.
- If you travel out of town and someone cat sits, make sure they keep kitty in their one room and leave good instructions and all of their food, treats, etc they would need to have a happy time while you're gone.

Pet Gifts and Treats

- Check for small parts or pieces that could be broken or chewed off, and swallowed
- Choose healthy treats and give in small amounts