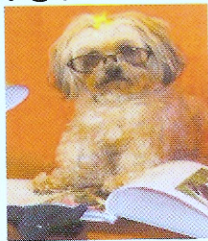


Dear Button

Dear Button,

Hi. I really need your advice about something. What is this "fetch" thing my humans keep talking about? I just don't get it. They keep throwing my balls and toys around the house. I just don't get it. Please explain this strange behavior.

Thanx,
Elly



Dear Elly,

A major part of having your own pet human is caring for it. Your human will want to play strange games, go for walks, and yes, even wipe their hands on you (I think they refer to this as 'petting.')

Anyway, fetch is simply a game you will need to play several times a day with your human. Basically they will find an object and throw it. Your job is to return said object, and then repeat until your human gets tired. This task may seem monotonous, however it is essential to maintaining a healthy and active human.

Now I know what you're thinking, its so simple! Well let me let you in on a little secret, humans are a very simple minded species. Try to do too much with them and they'll simply get confused! Just think about it, when was the last time you let your human out without a leash?



Dane County Humane Society Poker for Pets

You can "chip in" to help Dane County's homeless animals at



July 25th, 2009

For more information, on this and other DCHS fundraisers,
go to www.giveshelter.org



Take it from your pal Button, fetch is just enough stimulus to keep your human healthy and active. Just remember: throw, retrieve, repeat.

Love, Button

Kitty with a Pedigree

By Sarah Bartash

The regal cat, eventually revered as a god in ancient Egypt, was at first employed by humans for "pest control." Over 4,000 years ago, small wild cats were kept to protect grain from rats and mice. Soon, the Egyptians came to realize the cat offered a secondary benefit to mankind, that of companion animal. The cat moved from the granary into the home. Through many decades of domestication, certain recognizable breeds have emerged, from the fluffy, flat-faced Persian to the sleek Siamese.

Why would someone choose a purebred cat? Breeds pass on uniform traits, such as temperament and physical characteristics, to their offspring. This helps people select an animal that fits their lifestyle. Some of the things to consider include: amount of grooming required, size, noise (are you in a

position to own a cat with a potentially loud and insistent voice?), activity level, and tolerance of children, dogs and other cats.

The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) is the world's largest registry of pedigreed cats. They operate much like the American Kennel Club does for dogs. On its website, the CFA currently lists 40 recognized breeds of cat and each breed's official profile. The CFA supports feline health research, disaster relief, breeder assistance, and the welfare of all cats.

The CFA and other groups hold cat shows throughout the world for amateur and professionals alike. People who wish to show cats need not always have a kitty with a pedigree, as certain shows have a "household pet class" for cats of undetermined breeding. Exhibitors in the know, though, point out that showing can be addictive, and takes a real investment of time and money.

Cat Corner

When choosing a purebred cat, research your choice extensively to make sure it's right for you and your family. Try to visit people who own breeds of cats you might be interested in. Then, be sure to find a registered, reputable breeder. Inspect the cattery ahead of time and make sure it is clean and the cats are well cared for. Ask the breeder if they test for any known diseases or genetic issues. Many times you are given the choice of a kitten or a retired adult cat. Don't overlook the chance to give an older cat a great home!

For more information on pedigreed cats, cat breeders and a list of cat shows through the country, check out the CFA website at <http://cfa.org>.

