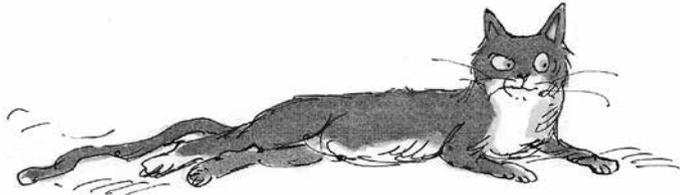


BEDDING, HUMAN



Sheets, quilts, blankets or a duvet: to humans this is bedding. To us, though, it's a canvas – the perfect place to be creative and make a statement. Most humans, unfortunately, don't appreciate our art and will interpret your efforts only as a random procession of muddy paw prints, rather than as a fine example of abstract expressionism. Ignore their shouts and shooing. They are philistines who don't appreciate your message about rebellion, anarchy and nihilism and don't realize that who they have living under their roof isn't just Mr Tibbles, but a true Pussy Pollock.



See also *Making the bed*

CATNIP



The formal name for this plant, a member of the mint family, is *Nepeta cataria*. Informally, however, it's known as the crack cocaine of the cat world. Humans like giving

us catnip-infused toys and scratching posts because they can see how these things drive us wild. It's true – the substance does have a powerful effect on us, stimulating pleasure receptors in our brains and making us flip out, jump and roll about and generally get extremely excitable. As anyone who's tried catnip knows, the sensation is hugely enjoyable and this hyperactivity is fine while it lasts. The hard truth, though, is that **no substance takes you down faster or harder than catnip.**



THE EFFECTS OF CATNIP

Catnip speeds up your whole body. Your heart beats quicker. You meow and purr faster. You can chase birds and your tail more effectively. You have less need for sleep (ten hours per day, not twelve to sixteen). You feel happy and excited, like you've suddenly come across an unattended chicken dinner. When the effects wear off, however, you become angry and nervous. It's like going to the vet ... but much, much worse.

Are YOU addicted to catnip? Take this test and find out

1. Is your catnip use interfering with your relationship with other cats or your kittens?
[] Yes [] No

2. Do you experience an anticipation high just knowing you're about to sniff catnip?
 Yes No
3. Do you believe that other cats are watching or talking about you? Yes No
4. Have you tried to quit or cut down on your catnip use only to find that you couldn't?
 Yes No
5. Are you nervous and restless (well, more than you are normally, given that you may live near a big dog)? Yes No
6. Have you ever lied to or misled other cats about how much or how often you use catnip?
 Yes No
7. Do you spend time hanging out with cats or in places you'd normally keep clear of, but for the availability of catnip? Yes No

RESULTS

If you answered YES to even one question then you might have a serious catnip addiction. The first step to getting help is admitting you have a problem, and this might take some serious soul-searching and brutal honesty.

See also *Catnip Anonymous*



CAT CHAT

Simba I got into a bad crowd and was soon freebasing catnip seven or eight times a day. Thankfully that's all behind me now and I only have an occasional sniff now and then.

CURTAINS



To humans these are pieces of cloth used to block out light or drafts, or both. To us they are sheer rock faces to climb and feed our craving for adventure. Reaching the summit (or what humans call the 'curtain pole') provides an almost incomprehensible sense of satisfaction – plus there's no chance of getting altitude sickness when you're just seven feet off the ground.

Humans think we climb curtains to give us a 'hunter's eye' view of our surroundings.

The truth is, we like the feel and the sound of our claws cutting into fabric.

It's that simple.

DOGS



Like the heroic Autobots and the evil Decepticons of Transformers fame, felines and canines have been foes for decades, locked in an endless struggle for dominance. Or, to put it another way, there's one thing we hate more than plants: dogs.

The reason for this hostility isn't logical. Hatred is usually based on inferiority or jealousy, but when we compare ourselves to dogs, we're so much better in every way. If you need reassurance of your superiority, look at the list below. And if you need further proof, just remind yourself, what animal did the Ancient Egyptians worship?

Dogs: game over.

11 reasons why cats are soooooo much better than dogs

1. It doesn't matter if a dog's name is Starey or Mr Staresworthy, if you get into a staring contest with a dog there will only ever be one winner – you.
2. Likewise, it doesn't matter if a dog can walk upright on two legs or balance a dinner plate on its nose, whatever you do, you'll always win at being cuter.
3. We have better colour vision. Dogs have trouble telling the difference between green

and red. Come on, they're two completely different colours!

4. Dogs are so uncivilized. I mean, who poops in public? In the middle of the street? And then uses the pavement or a grass verge as toilet paper? They're not animals, they're savages!
5. We don't, as a matter of course, have an insatiable urge to roll around in poop, decomposing animal carcasses or muddy puddles. Who would?
6. We can be trusted to go outside whenever we want, wander around, visit friends down the street, do some sunbathing and then saunter back home for dinner and bedtime. Dogs are totally irresponsible. Let one out and at the first whiff of sausages or a fox they're off, and that's probably the last you'll ever see of them (not that I'm complaining).
7. We can hiss, just like snakes. And that makes us badass.
8. We don't get overly excited when anyone new enters the house. Why react this way? It's doubtful that they're more important than you.
9. Unlike dogs, we see personal hygiene as an integral part of our daily routine and not an 'optional extra'.
10. We don't run around in circles and hysterically shout as soon as the doorbell goes. Where's the dignity in that?
11. We can see a small black mouse at the bottom of the garden on a moonless night. A dog has