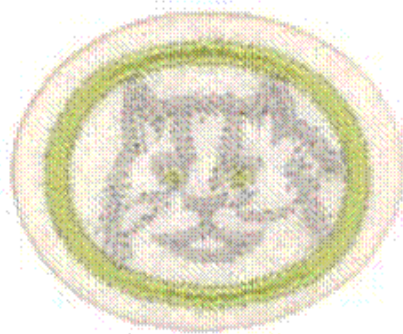




Pathfinder Honour: Trainer's Notes

Cats



Instructions to Trainers / Instructors of this Honour

Thankyou for being involved with this Honour. These notes have been developed to assist in teaching / instructing this honour. We recognise that there is much more information available and we are grateful that you should share your expertise.

Please remember that Honours are designed to develop our Pathfinders in many ways; their interests, their knowledge and their relationship with their Saviour and Creator. Your enthusiasm and creativity will have a huge impact on those doing the honour.

To complete an Honour, the following (where applicable) must be completed satisfactorily:

- Physical and Practical Requirements.
- Honour Workbook.
- Honour Assessment Sheet. *(On SPD Honour Website but Leader's level access is required)*

Additional Reference Material

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book/Nature/Cats

An excellent site showing pictures of the cat family etc.

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikijunior_Big_Cats

<http://www.catsofaustralia.com/>

“Note: Useful sites, but be aware that material on these websites is beyond the control of the SPD”.

Acknowledgements

The sources listed in ‘Additional Reference Material’ are much appreciated
Also, please refer to within the text of these notes

Cats Honour

REQUIREMENT 1. What is the scientific name of the cat family?

The Felidae or Felis family

REQUIREMENT 2. How is the structure of the paw similar in all cats?

The claws are retractable and very sharp. Retractable means the claws can be drawn into the body. Each paw has 5 toes in the front and 4 on the back. There are soft pads on each paw.

REQUIREMENT 3. How are the eyes of all cats alike?

The pupils of the eyes can be very large, enabling them to see at night. They also shrink to a very narrow slit, which enables them to see in very brilliant sunlight, making the cat family a nocturnal (night) as well as a daylight prowling family. The back of the eye is coated with a reflecting surface

REQUIREMENT 4. What is the main food of the cat family? How are the cat's teeth fitted for this?

The cat family's main diet consists of flesh.

Teeth are long, sharp and angular. This makes them well able to tear flesh. They have four front canines (biting and tearing) and knife-edged teeth on sides (cutting skin and muscle)

REQUIREMENT 5. Of what use are the cat's whiskers?

Cat's whiskers are used for judging the width of holes and distances. The whiskers are very sensitive in this use.

REQUIREMENT 6. How are the cat's ears protected?

The ears are protected by hair inside the ear, which is also very sensitive. (Try touching these hairs when your cat is sound asleep). These hairs protect against anything entering the inner ear.

Cats Honour

REQUIREMENT 7. Identify from picture or personal observation four kinds of domesticated cats. Describe each one's temperament.

Siamese: The Siamese is easily recognisable by its distinctive colouring. The points come in a variety of colours. Siamese are a very intelligent, lively, entertaining cat. They can be very demanding and become totally involved in their owner's life. Siamese do not like to be ignored and always have to be the centre of attention. They usually regard themselves as people rather than cats. They have a strong personality and are usually very talkative, often with a loud voice. They frequently shout at their owners. They are extremely affectionate and make a wonderful, entertaining and totally dominating pets.

Manx: According to a writer in 1900, "the Manx is considered by many people as a national curiosity". It differs from the ordinary cat little, except in the absence of a tail or even an apology for one. The hind legs are thicker and rather longer than the ordinary cat's and it runs more like a rabbit. The Manx cat came from the Isle of Man originally and is a distinct breed.

The reason for the Manx cat's lack of tail is a mutant dominant gene. The mutation occurred long ago, because the Manx is a very ancient breed of cat.

The degree of "taillessness" in the Manx varies. The varieties have been divided into four groups with the wonderful names of Rumpy, Rumpy-riser, Stumpy and Longy. A Rumpy Manx is the ideal exhibition animal, with no hint of a tail. Rumpy-risers have a small knob of a tail, Stumpies have a definite tail stump and Longies are hard to distinguish from normal cats.

The perfect Manx should have a distinct double coat with soft under hair and a glossier coarser top coat. They come in a whole range of coat and eye colours.

The Manx is a fascinating, attractive cat who will repay the interest of owners with intelligence and faithfulness.

Persian: The beautiful Persian has a long and distinguished history and has appeared in cat shows for over 100 years. It is currently the most popular breed registered in Australia. Famous for their placid, gentle temperament, Persians are quiet and affectionate and have an ability to adapt to any environment. However, they do not appreciate being teased or having their hair pulled and are probably more suitable to adult households or those with gentle children.

The Persian is particularly well suited as a house or apartment cat and being an indoor cat also helps to keep its coat in optimum condition.

Potential owners must be prepared to groom the glorious coat daily. This is a high maintenance breed which depends totally on its owner for its comfort and wellbeing. If grooming is neglected for any length of time the coat matts and will require expert attention. Persians moult heavily twice a year, and shed some hair all year round.

Cats Honour

Abyssinian: In looks, the 'Aby' (as it is affectionately known in the cat world) is similar to drawings of Ancient Egyptian cats and there are some who believe it originated in the Nile Valley, however there continues to be speculation and controversy concerning its history. There is no doubt, however, that it is one of the oldest short-haired breeds. The name is not because the breed originated in Ethiopia, formerly Abyssinia, but because the first Abyssinian exhibited at a cat show in England was imported from that country.

Abyssinians appear both lithe and sleek, with the latter feature emphasized by their glossy coats. They have an unusual ticked fur, in which each hair has two or more dark bands. The standard Aby shade, called Ruddy or Tawny, is a warm brown ticked with black. Another very popular colouring is sorrel, which is a copper red with red-brown ticking. Rarer colours include blue, beige-fawn and silver.

Medium-sized and well muscled, Abys have large, somewhat pointed ears and big brilliant almond-shaped eyes in amber, green, or yellow, rimmed in black or brown.

Abys make ideal companions. They are busy cats, alert and active, with voices that are quiet and 'bell-like'. Independent, easy to settle and exceptionally intelligent, they are definitely a cat that likes to be with people. Once you have obtained an Aby as a companion you will never be alone. Abys are excellent at training people to do just what they want them to do!

Domestic: Amongst all the many varieties of cats available as household pets, there's no doubt which one reigns supreme in the popularity department - the Domestic - also known as the moggie!

This basic, no frills feline with its unsophisticated charm has been part of our lives for as far back as we can remember...

Most of us grew up with a moggie, they welcomed us home from school and played with us in the backyard. Regardless of the lack of pomp and pageantry surrounding these cats there was always something reassuring about seeing them curled up contently in front of the fireplace or sunning themselves on the front veranda.

Moggies do not conform to any standards - coming in a range of shapes and sizes, plus a riot of attractive coat colours and patterns. Interestingly, the tortoiseshell is almost invariably female, while the rare male is inevitably sterile. Red tabbies are often males, hence the title "ginger tom".

"Moggies" are invariably extremely robust, hardy cats with a no-fuss, self-assured nature. Most have a short easy-care coat but some have a fluffier coat that requires grooming.

The moggie's lack of aristocratic ancestry will never stop it being "top cat" in the hearts of millions of Australians.

(from: www.catsofaustralia.com)

Cats Honour

REQUIREMENT 8. Of what benefit to man are domesticated cats?

The domesticated cats of all varieties are good rat and mice hunters. Thus they are man's allies against the rodents (rats, mice, etc) who eat our grain and food, and who are also carriers of disease. Cats are used in China and Japan to protect silkworm cocoons from rats

REQUIREMENT 9. Identify from pictures or personal observation seven kinds of wild cats. Tell in what part of the world they are found.

Lion: The lion is often called the king of the beasts; the male lion measuring nearly 1.2 metres in height at the shoulder and 3.3 metres in length.

The male is enhanced in his appearance by a magnificent thick shaggy mane of long hair that falls from the neck, shoulders and part of the throat and chin. The female is not graced with this adornment and in size is smaller than the male. Their favourite food is the Zebra, but it is not fussy, and Antelopes, Buffaloes and even giraffes are included in the menu. His terrific roar puts terror into every animal within hearing. The natural home of the lion is Africa and a very few are found in parts of India. It likes sandy, rocky districts and waits for its prey (food) in reeds and long grass near water holes.

Puma: The Puma is widely distributed in North America. Although its body is only about 1.2 metres in length, it is quite powerful and is one of the finest leapers, clearing six metres at a bound with ease. It has a uniform, light brown coloured coat and its diet consists of small animals and birds.

Jaguar: This is a native of South and Central America, and Mexico. It is closely related to the Leopard, though larger, and is similarly spotted, but with bold black streaks across the breast. The markings are beautifully patterned on a rich brown-coloured background of fur. Its prey includes horses, pigs, cattle, sheep, and even fish, lizards and insects. It is a good swimmer, and also an expert climber, often lying in wait on the branch of a tree ready to pounce on its prey (food).

Cheetah: This animal can be tamed and trained for hunting purposes. It is, over short distances, the fastest animal on land and can reach a speed faster than any grey-hound, (a very fast dog) but has not the endurance to maintain that great speed for more than about four hundred metres. It has been known to reach a speed of one hundred and ten kilometres per hour. It is found on the open plains of Africa and India. It is one of the smaller members of the cat family and has a small head and light build.

Cats Honour

Leopard: Ferocious and bloodthirsty, the leopard is quick and graceful in movement. When fully grown it stands about 1.7 metres at the shoulder with the average overall length of about 2.1 metres. It is beautifully marked and is sought after for its lovely fur. The ground colouring varies from nearly white to black, but the general colour is reddish-yellow, with rosette markings from head to foot, in black. Its diet consists of small antelopes, birds, baboons, wild pigs, and small mammals. Its natural home is Asia and Africa.

Tiger: It has a light brown coat beautifully marked with stripes, which act as a natural camouflage. It is found mainly in India. Its food consists of small game, such as deer and pigs. They like damp places such as riverbanks and they are good swimmers, often travelling long distances by water to hunt on islands. They grow to three metres in length (including the tail).

Lynx: The natural home of the Lynx is Europe and Asia. It has a short tail, smooth coat, long legs, bearded cheeks and tufted ears. Its colour varies from reddish to grey and is sometimes spotted. It is a powerful animal, and although not more than one metre in height, it is capable of killing a sheep though its main diet is birds and small animals

REQUIREMENT 10. What animal is known as the king of beasts? Why does it have this title? What is its temperament really like.

The lion is known as the king of the beasts. This goes back as far as recorded history, for the Greek word for lion is translated as king in Latin. The lion gets this distinction because it fears no other animal. It is also said that the lion is named king of the beasts because of its courage and loyalty. Its courage cannot be doubted, but a lion is not particularly loyal. Male lions are known to take over another male's pride of females by chasing away (or killing) the resident male(s). They often form coalitions of two to five males and work together to oust other males. When they succeed in doing this, they then kill any cubs in the pride so that the females will be receptive to breeding sooner. The females sometimes attempt to defend their cubs, but this is rarely met with success. These coalitions of males do not limit their activities to a single pride either. A coalition may dominate several prides within their range. Not exactly a model of loyalty! (But then again, neither are human kings). From: http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book/Nature/Cats

Cats Honour

REQUIREMENT 11. Tell the story of Androcles and the Lion.

Androcles and the Lion – retold by Joseph Jacobs

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0156.html#jacobs>

It happened in the old days at Rome that a slave named Androcles escaped from his master and fled into the forest, and he wandered there for a long time until he was weary and well nigh spent with hunger and despair. Just then he heard a lion near him moaning and groaning and at times roaring terribly. Tired as he was Androcles rose up and rushed away, as he thought, from the lion; but as he made his way through the bushes he stumbled over the root of a tree and fell down lamed, and when he tried to get up there he saw the lion coming towards him, limping on three feet and holding his forepaw in front of him.

Poor Androcles was in despair; he had not strength to rise and run away, and there was the lion coming upon him. But when the great beast came up to him, instead of attacking him it kept on moaning and groaning and looking at Androcles, who saw that the lion was holding out his right paw, which was covered with blood and much swollen. Looking more closely at it, Androcles saw a great big thorn pressed into the paw, which was the cause of all the lion's trouble. Plucking up courage he seized hold of the thorn and drew it out of the lion's paw, who roared with pain when the thorn came out, but soon after found such relief from it that he fawned upon Androcles and showed, in every way that he knew, to whom he owed the relief. Instead of eating him up he brought him a young deer that he had slain, and Androcles managed to make a meal from it. For some time the lion continued to bring the game he had killed to Androcles, who became quite fond of the huge beast.

But one day a number of soldiers came marching through the forest and found Androcles, and as he could not explain what he was doing they took him prisoner and brought him back to the town from which he had fled. Here his master soon found him and brought him before the authorities, and he was condemned to death because he had fled from his master. Now it used to be the custom to throw murderers and other criminals to the lions in a huge circus, so that while the criminals were punished the public could enjoy the spectacle of a combat between them and the wild beasts.

So Androcles was condemned to be thrown to the lions, and on the appointed day he was led forth into the Arena and left there alone with only a spear to protect him from the lion. The Emperor was in the royal box that day and gave the signal for the lion to come out and attack Androcles. But when it came out of its cage and got near Androcles, what do you think it did? Instead of jumping upon him it fawned upon him and stroked him with its paw and made no attempt to do him any harm.

It was of course the lion which Androcles had met in the forest. The Emperor, surprised at seeing such a strange behaviour in so cruel a beast, summoned Androcles to him and asked him how it happened that this particular lion had lost all its cruelty of disposition. So Androcles told the Emperor all that had happened to him and how the lion was showing its gratitude for his having relieved it of the thorn. Thereupon the Emperor pardoned Androcles and ordered his master to set him free, while the lion was taken back into the forest and let loose to enjoy liberty once more.

Cats Honour

REQUIREMENT 12. Relate four stories from the Bible in which a member of the cat family is mentioned.

Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6: 4-24)

Notice that because Daniel was faithful to God in both obedience and prayer, God was able to work a miracle to save him. When the angels shut the lions' mouths Daniel was able to rest quietly and without fear of these big cats. The men who had plotted against Daniel did not have God's protection - for them the lions became hungry, flesh-eating animals.

Sampson Slaying the Lion (Judges 14:5-14)

It was the Spirit of God who gave Samson the strength to kill the young lion when it attacked him. In nature nothing is wasted. The carcass of the lion made a home for a swarm of bees. The honey that Samson took from this source gave him the idea for his famous riddle.

David Killed a Lion. (1 Samuel 17:34-37)

Think how brave David was to go after the lion and kill it to save the lamb. He praised God for giving him protection when he did the right thing.

New Earth Story (Isaiah 11:6-9)

No longer will special strength or protection be needed where lions dwell. In the new earth all God's creatures can be friends. This is when we will really be able to enjoy the beauty and strength of the king of beasts.

Also:

Daniel's dream of the lion with wings – Daniel 7:4

Lion killed a disobedient prophet – 1 Kings 13:23, 24

Benaiah killed a lion in a snowy pit – 2 Samuel 23:20

Can a leopard change his spots? – Jeremiah 13:23