

## Cats 2.0: What every feline aficionado needs to know

By Wendy Diamond

Cat owners like us think we already know all there is to know about our feline companions. But we're wrong—a day doesn't pass that I don't learn something new about cats. After all, for each of their nine lives, there is a short story waiting to be told. For instance: Everyone has heard of the pony express, but in 1879, the latest home mail delivery system was cat powered! In Liege, Belgium, postal workers trained 37 "mail cats!" Just how they "trained" them is unknown, though some suggest they used trails of milk saucers. You guessed it—the experiment failed because the cats were too independent-minded and probably didn't appreciate being paid in catnip! (P.S.: Now I understand where dog's loathing of the mailman stems from!)

Here are some other gems:

- Is your cat a lefty or a righty? Recent studies show that female cats tend to be right pawed, while males are more often left pawed.<sup>1</sup> So next time your cat reaches out, watch to see if they follow this norm.
- Remember Superman, who could "leap tall buildings in a single bound?" Well, cats can't do that, but they can jump up to five times their own height in a single bound.<sup>2</sup> That would be the equivalent of Michael Jordan or LeBron James dunking a basketball into a basket over 30 feet high!
- Ever wonder what the world looks like to a cat? One thing is for sure—they're not cockeyed optimists looking at the world through rose-colored glasses! How do I know? While cats can detect a fuller range of colors in the blue, green and yellow spectrums, they can see very few reds.<sup>3</sup>
- Did you know your cat is bilingual? All that meowing is really just "people speak" since cats rarely meow at other cats. Instead, they typically spit, purr or hiss at one another.<sup>2</sup> I'll take a meow over a hiss any day!
- Ever shake a clammy hand? Well, it would be like shaking a cat's paw. Cats don't have any sweat glands on their body. Instead, they sweat through their front and back paws, which is why they try to avoid handshakes.<sup>2</sup>

For more fun feline facts visit: [CatMythBusters.com](http://CatMythBusters.com).

*Wendy Diamond, one of America's foremost pet lifestyle experts, has teamed up with Bayer's Advantage® II for cats to put the kibosh on common cat myths. For more information visit:*

[www.CatMythBusters.com](http://www.CatMythBusters.com).

### References

1. Discovery News. Female Cats Are Right-Pawed, Males Are Lefties. <http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2009/07/23/cats-handedness.html>. Accessed July 13, 2012.
2. RandomHistory.com, 99 Interesting Facts About Cats. <http://facts.randomhistory.com/interesting-facts-about-cats.html>. Accessed August 15, 2012.
3. PawNation, *What Dogs and Cats Really See on TV...and Elsewhere*. <http://www.pawnation.com/2009/07/23/what-dogs-and-cats-really-see-on-tv-and-elsewhere/>. Accessed July 30, 2012.