The First Book of MEOW
for Boys and Girls

The Adventures of Two Very Special CATS

For Kids Who Love Cats FROM
THE IAMS COMPANY
Dayton, Ohio
Meet Meow and Whiskers

Meow is a wise and talented cat. In THE FIRST BOOK OF MEOW you will read her stories and fables about cats of long ago and cats of today. Her letters of advice offer helpful hints on the care of your cat. Do you like to draw? Meow shows the many ways to draw cats. THE FIRST BOOK OF MEOW has puzzles to solve and riddles to make you laugh.

You will also meet Meow's friend, Whiskers. He is a curious and frisky kitten. You will read about Whiskers' trip to the cat show and his adventures at the circus. Whiskers likes to tell riddles and jokes, too. But most of all he likes to play ... and eat good food.
Once upon a time there was a big cat who lived in an old barn. The cat slept all day. At night he hunted the mice who lived in the barn.

The frightened mice called a meeting. A mother mouse said, “What can we do about the cat?”

A little grey mouse jumped up. “I know!” he said. “We can tie a bell around the cat’s neck. When we hear the bell, we will know the cat is coming. When we hear the bell, we can run to a safe place.”

“Hurrah! Hurrah!” all the mice cheered. “What a wonderful idea. That’s the way to stop that mouse-hunter. That’s the way to stop that cat!”

An old grandfather mouse, who had been listening quietly, stood up. “Dear friends,” he said, “grey mouse has a very clever idea. But I have one question for you. Who will put the bell around the cat’s neck?” he asked.
We wash our hands before we eat.  
But cats wash after they eat. 
This Aesop fable tells

WHY CATS EAT **FIRST** AND WASH **AFTER**

One fine day Cat caught a mouse. He held the mouse down with his paw. “You will be a delicious dinner,” he said.

But the clever little mouse cried out, “Shame! Where are your manners?”

“I have very good manners,” said Cat. “What do you mean?” he asked.

“You must wash your paws and face before you eat,” said the mouse.

“I am the cleanest of all the animals,” said Cat. “I always wash before I eat.”

Cat lifted his paw and washed his face. At that moment the clever little mouse ran away. Cat’s dinner was gone.

THAT’S WHY CATS ALWAYS EAT **FIRST** AND WASH **AFTER**
A Cat Is in the Word!

"Look what I learned in school today," said Whiskers. "I can spell CAT!"

"Very good," said Meow. "We can play a word game with the letters... C A T."

Read the clues and look at the pictures. Help Whiskers fill in the blank spaces. Can you read the new word?

1. A fish with whiskers.
2. "Meow, chirp"
3. "Moo"
4. The player behind home plate.
5. Shop at home with this book.
6. A creepy crawler.

Answers: 1. catfish, 2. catbird, 3. catelle, 4. catcher, 5. catalogue, 6. caterpillar
MEOW AND WHISKERS’ JOKES AND RIDDLES

WHEN ARE MICE UNHAPPY?

WHEN IT’S RAINING CATS AND DOGS!

WHAT TIME IS IT WHEN TEN CATS RUN AFTER ONE MOUSE?

I DON’T KNOW.

WHAT DO YOU CALL A CAT WHO DRINKS LEMONADE?

A SOUR PUSS!
“Please tell me a story,” asked Whiskers.
“I will tell you a Chinese fairy tale,” said Meow.

THE BOY WHO LOVED TO DRAW CATS

In days long past there lived in the Chinese village of Lang Po a boy named Lin. His father was a master artist and teacher. Every day Lin spent many hours in his father’s workshop. His father taught him how to paint and draw.

Lin had a dearly loved cat named Chi Chi. He made many paintings and drawings of her. “I will be a painter of cats,” said Lin. “Someday I will go to the Imperial City. I will become the royal artist of China.”
Some years went by. One day Lin's father said, "My son, there is nothing more that I can teach you. It is time for you to journey to the palace of the Emperor."

Lin embraced his father. "I will remember all you taught me, most honorable father. Wish me good fortune," he said.

Lin journeyed many weary miles over the mountains, past the walled city to where the dark forest began. On the road he met an old peddler. "Be careful, my young son," said the man. "There are wicked bandits on this road. Be sure you find shelter before night falls."

Lin thanked the peddler and went on his way. The sky grew grey and black with rain clouds. Then the storm began. The wind blew sheets of rain against Lin's body. "There is an old temple," said Lin. "I can sleep there tonight."
He pushed the heavy doors open. Lin found some sticks and built a fire to warm himself. The firelight brightened the empty walls. “I have not painted since I began my journey,” he said. “I will paint a temple cat on that wall. It will protect this holy place from evil.”

All night long Lin painted. Then he put out the fire, lay down and was soon asleep. He did not hear the wind or the rain that fell on the temple roof. Suddenly the sounds of loud voices woke him.

“Hurry! Bring in the sacks. Put the gold inside,” he heard someone call.

The big door pushed open. Lin hid in his corner. “It’s the bandits,” he thought. A crash of thunder shook the temple. Just then a bolt of lightning lit up the walls. The bandits looked at the huge cat. “The temple cat is alive!” screamed the bandit chief. His men dropped the sacks on the floor. They ran out screaming, “Run for your lives!”

Lin watched the frightened bandits run away. “Now the villagers can rebuild the temple with this stolen gold,” he said.

He looked at his painting on the wall. “I am the best painter of cats in all China,” he said. “Now I know the Emperor will ask me to be his royal artist.”

And so it was that the little boy who loved to draw cats, became the most famous artist in China.
"I want to draw cats, too," said Whiskers. "If you want to be a good artist, you must practice," said Meow. "Look at cats. All of them are different. There are big cats and little cats. There are fat cats and skinny cats. Some are longhaired and some are shorthaired. Let's all draw cats!" said Meow.

YOU CAN DRAW CATS, TOO.

LOOK AT THEIR EYES

LOOK AT THEIR NOSES AND MOUTHS

OR YOU CAN DRAW FUNNY CATS
Meow and Whiskers Go To A CAT SHOW

WAKE UP, WHISKERS. TODAY IS THE CAT SHOW.

I LOVE SHOWS! WILL THE CATS SING?

OH, NO! IT IS NOT THAT KIND OF A SHOW.

TWO TICKETS, PLEASE.

LOOK AT THESE DIFFERENT BREEDS!

WHERE IS THAT CAT'S TAIL?
Manx cats don't have tails. I know an old fable about them...

... just then the doors were closed on the cats' tail. That is why the Manx cats are tailless, so the fable says.

BANG! Ouch!

He looks like the cats who lived in Egypt thousands of years ago.

All the animals were on Noah's Ark. But the two Manx cats were late. "Hurry, hurry, we are closing the doors," Noah called to them.

Oh, no. It is not that kind of a snow. That cat is an Abyssinian.

How about the cat with the pointed ears? Will he dance?

The cats protected the grain in the storerooms from the rats.

The Egyptians were the first people to have cats as house pets. They loved their cats. Some rich owners put jeweled collars and earrings on them.
It was against the law to harm a cat. When a pet cat died, the owners shaved their own eyebrows. The cat mummies were buried with little mummy mice.

Over 100 years ago Maine sailors brought home longhaired cats from the Orient. These cats mated with shorthaired cats.

Look at that cat with the blue eyes.

That is a Siamese cat. He is a relative of the cats who lived long ago in Siam.

No. She is a Maine coon cat. Some people think she is part raccoon. That is not true.

The Maine coon cats are the relatives of those early sailing cats.

These cats guarded the walls of the king's palace.
WHERE IS THAT CAT GOING?

His number was just called. Now it is his turn to meet the judge.

...For the condition of his coat, the shape of his head and ears, the color and shape of his eyes, the shape of his body, and his physical condition.

Will the judge put the cat in jail?

And here are some winners!

No! The judge loves cats and knows all about them. She will look carefully at each cat.

The judge awards the cat points......

Time to go home. Did you enjoy the cat show?

Oh, yes! Let's go again next year!

I have a surprise for you.
Dear Meow,
Our cat, Tabby, carries her newborn kittens by the loose skin at the back of their necks. What is the best way for me to carry a kitten?
Betsy       Baltimore, MD

Dear Betsy,
Never pick up a kitten by the scruff of his neck or by his legs. Carry your kitten with one hand under his hind quarters and one hand under the chest.
Remember a kitten is a living thing and not a toy.
Best wishes,
Meow

Dear Meow,
We plan to get a kitten from a litter that was born four weeks ago. The kittens are so cute. How can we decide which one to choose?
Rick       St. Louis, MO

Dear Rick,
You want to pick a friendly, healthy kitten. The kitten should be at least eight weeks old before he leaves his mother. Look for a kitten with clear, bright eyes. A healthy kitten has a pink tongue and a rosy mouth. He should not be too fat or too thin. His fur should be clean and shiny.
Wave a feather near the kitten. Does he follow the movement of the feather with his eyes? Try to gently pet the kitten. Does he relax when you stroke him? Does he purr with happiness?

Remember a happy, alert kitten will grow into a friendly cat. Good luck with your new pet, Meow

Dear Meow,

Should I be feeding my cat vitamins? I want her to grow up healthy and strong.

Jackie

Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Jackie,

Your cat needs to eat a well-balanced diet of meat protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. A good quality cat or kitten food will give your pet the essential nutrients for good health. You do not need to give your cat vitamins unless they are prescribed by your vet.

Yours for a healthy pet,

Meow

Dear Meow,

We have a two-month old puppy named Rusty. Our family wants to get a kitten. Will Rusty and a new kitten get along?

Kim

Madison, WI

Dear Kim,

Can your family give Rusty and the kitten lots of time, care and love?

If the answer is yes, get a kitten now. Remember to give Rusty lots of extra love and praise. He was a part of your family first.

Watch your two pets carefully until they get to know each other. Talk gently to them. Feed Rusty and the kitten in separate rooms. Cats and dogs who grow up together become pals.

Happy pet family,

Meow
UP... UP... IN THE AIR

Do you like balloons? Whiskers won these at the Health and Safety Fair. One balloon has space for your health or safety message. What will it be?

Provide fresh water at least two times a day.

Play with your cat. Your pet needs regular exercise. Your cat can have a great workout with toys that swing, bounce or move.

Give your cat a clean, warm place to sleep.

Wash your cat’s water and food bowl every day.

Brush your cat daily to prevent hairballs.

Take your cat to the veterinarian for shots and a yearly check-up.

Read the label of your cat’s dry food. Make sure it says 100% nutritionally complete and balanced.

Your message here
Help Whiskers Get His Favorite Food!

Keep off the pawprints. Stay on the path. There is only one way to get to the food.
WHISKERS MEETS

The All-Star Circus Comes To Town

“Look at that circus poster,” said Whiskers. “Someday I will be a wild animal trainer. I will train the biggest, fiercest tigers,” he said.

“You are very brave,” said Meow.

“Let’s play circus,” said Whiskers.

“GRRR. I am a big tiger,” growled Meow.

“I am the trainer,” Whiskers said. He picked up a twig. “Here is my whip. Up! Up!” he shouted.

“Down. Down,” said Meow. “It is time for supper. This tiger is hungry.”

After supper Meow read Whiskers’ favorite story, Tigers Under the Big Top. When Meow finished the story, Whiskers was fast asleep.

The next morning Whiskers woke up early. Meow was still asleep. Whiskers put on his backpack. He tiptoed into the kitchen and wrote a note to Meow.

Dear Meow, I am going to join the All-Star Circus. I will write soon.

XXO Love, Whiskers
Whiskers took the bus to the circus grounds. “I want to join the circus,” he told the Ringmaster. “The Great Franboni needs someone to help him with his tigers,” said the Ringmaster. “That’s the job for me,” said Whiskers. “Someday I will be a wild animal trainer.”

Whiskers and the Ringmaster went to meet the Great Franboni. “Do you like tigers?” The Great Franboni asked. “Oh, yes,” answered Whiskers. “This is an important job,” the Great Franboni told Whiskers. “You will feed my tigers fresh meat daily. You will give them clean drinking water every day.”

Whiskers worked very hard every day. Every morning he talked quietly to the tigers. “Good-morning, Tony,” he said to the biggest tiger. “Good-morning, Cleo. Good-morning, Tara.”

“GRRRRRR! GRRRRRR,” the tigers roared.

Every evening Whiskers pretended he was in the center ring with the tigers.

One day The Great Franboni said to Whiskers, “You are brave and very smart. You are ready to become a part of my act.”

Whiskers wrote to Meow.

The next night Whiskers waited for his turn to come into the center ring. When The Great Franboni announced, “The Ring of Fire,” Whiskers entered the ring. The Great Franboni set a hoop on fire. “Jump. Jump,” he commanded. One by one the tigers jumped through the blazing hoop. “Jump,” again commanded The Great Franboni. Whiskers leaped through the flaming circle! The audience cheered the tigers. Everyone clapped loudly for the little kitten. Meow shouted to Whiskers, “I am proud of you. I am coming to see you every night!”
The Last Show

It was the last show before the circus moved to the next town. The band played. The drums rolled. “Now to end our show,” the Ringmaster announced, “The All-Star Circus proudly presents Little Whiskers and Tony in an act of perfect timing and balance.”


Whiskers ran around the big ring. He jumped on the teeterboard and triple-somersaulted through the air. He landed on Tony’s big paw.


“Whiskers! Whiskers. Wake up. Wake up. It’s time to go to school,” Meow called.

Whiskers opened his eyes. Blinking and sleepy-eyed, he said, “I had the best dream last night.”
What kind of a cat steals the spelling test answers?

What does a kitten on the beach and Christmas have in common?

WHISKERS' TONGUE TWISTER: Scat cat... Scat cat... Scat cat.

How many times did you say it?

A: They both have Sand-y Claws.
Color and Decorate Your Cat T-Shirt

Your name

I love my cat.

cat's name

Drawing by Whiskers
This Book Belongs to

A Special Friend of Whiskers

And don’t forget to order your copy of THE FIRST BOOK of ARF
Call: The Iams Company 1-800-525-4267

- GAMES
- STORIES
- PUZZLES
- DOG JOKES AND RIDDLES
- SECRET CODES
- FUN ACTIVITIES