



“Keeping Your Cat Busy”

**By Kit Belcher, Executive Director
Beltrami Humane Society
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Kittens begin to explore their surroundings at about one month of age. They really can hardly hold themselves up on their legs, but their hunger for action can't be stopped. The playfulness of the kitten that is so very amusing is really nothing but a rehearsal of the types of behavior that may be displayed later on in its life.

During social play, the siblings learn how to get along with one another, that is, in various games of pursuit and combat. They test the behavior they will use with other cats. The threatening body language with which they try to intimidate each other is all in fun, but the facial expressions and gestures are unambiguous. They will raise their hackles and masterfully arch their back and present their broad side; their ears are laid back and their gaze transfixes their adversary. The hissing, spitting, biting and scratching are all part of the program, as is the final frantic chase.

The hunting instinct awakens around the end of their sixth week of life. Then follows the stalking, lurking, hunting, and jumping which is practiced tirelessly. A kitten will turn into a healthy animal only if it has an opportunity for development of its physical abilities on an every day basis.

If a kitten can accumulate a positive experience with its owner during the most important socialization phase, it will join into a real partnership in its lifetime and use this energy up in your home that it would have used with its mother and siblings.

Provide your cat with a wide choice of toys and lots of time. Perhaps as an adult, your kitten will retain its youthful disposition and enjoy more playing at an advanced age in its life.

There are many different ages of kittens and cats that are ever so playful here at Beltrami Humane Society. They come in all colors and sizes. Our featured cat this week is “Gilligan”. She is a 4-5 year old spayed,

medium to long haired, diluted calico. She has been here since May of 2006 because her owners could not care for her any more. She is a very sweet girl when she is feeling safe and secure, and when “she is not around other cats”. She loves to have her own space, and is a good mouser. She would be very happy in a nice warm barn, as a shop cat or an only cat indoors. She loves to be the “queen of her domain”.

You can visit Gilligan at 1612 Carr Lake Rd SE, Bemidji, MN. You can also see her as well as our other animals up for adoption on our website photo gallery at www.beltramihumane.com. Check us out on www.petfinder.com or see our “Pets of the Month” posted at Pamida, see a few pet photos at the ends of the pet aisles at your local “Walmart Store”, listen to KKBJ Mix 103 (early show) and hear about our “Pet of the Week”. Our hours of operation are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. Call us if you have questions at (218) 751-7910.

Upcoming Events include our “30th Year Anniversary” coming up at the end of July. We invite you to come and help us celebrate this joyful event. Watch for more information to come.

Our annual “Walk for Animals” is scheduled for September 15th down at the waterfront. This is a great time to get out with your favorite furry companion and enjoy the fresh air, fall colors and a little exercise.

Are you looking for a chance to work with animals? Become a Volunteer! Our animals are always ready for extra lovin’ and attention! You can help bathe, groom, play fetch or even take a dog out for a walk on the trails. If you enjoy cats, you can help with grooming, entertain them with cat toys, or even sit and cuddle a kitty. Our next Volunteer Training meeting is scheduled for July 14th, Saturday, 1-2 p.m. All volunteers need to be at least 14, or accompanied by an adult.

We have just received a brand new power washer for the dog kennels. We wish to thank Cecil and Shirley Chilson for this contribution. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We are currently “full to capacity” and therefore, in need of many supplies. The cost of caring for one animal per day is \$10.00. We have 45 cat kennels and 28 dog kennels. Can you help?

Shelter Wishes: Dog Food, Cat Food, Puppy Chow, Kitten Chow!
Paper towels, 33+ gallon trash bags. We are currently “full to capacity”.