

CATS

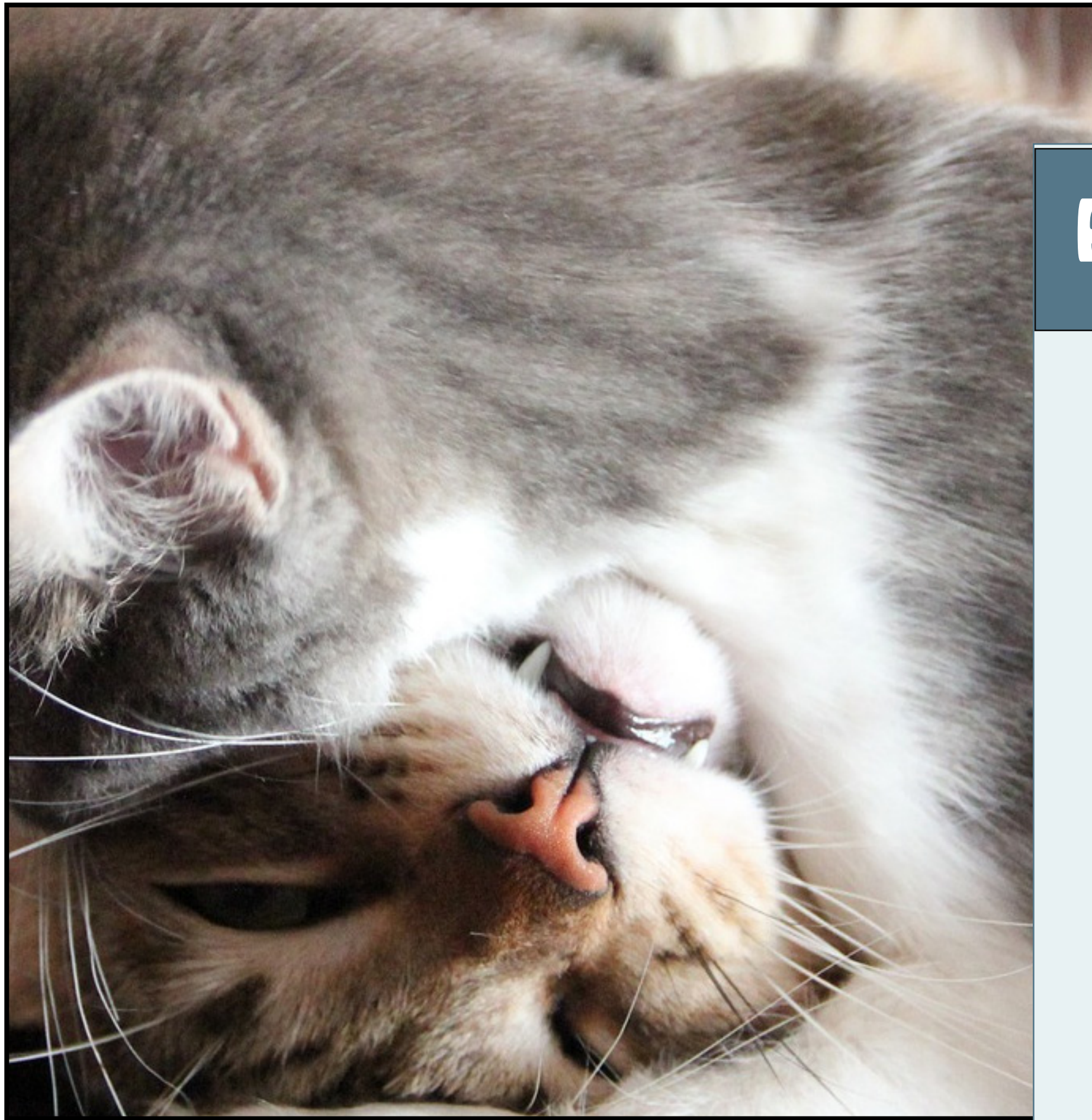
Magazine

VET ALERT!
HAVE YOU
TESTED
YOUR FELINE
FOR FIV?

WHO'S
THAT CAT?
MEET THE
BOMBAY

HOW TO
DEAL WITH
AGGRESSION
BETWEEN
CATS IN
YOUR
HOUSEHOLD

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Featured Article

How to deal with Aggression Between Cats in Your Household

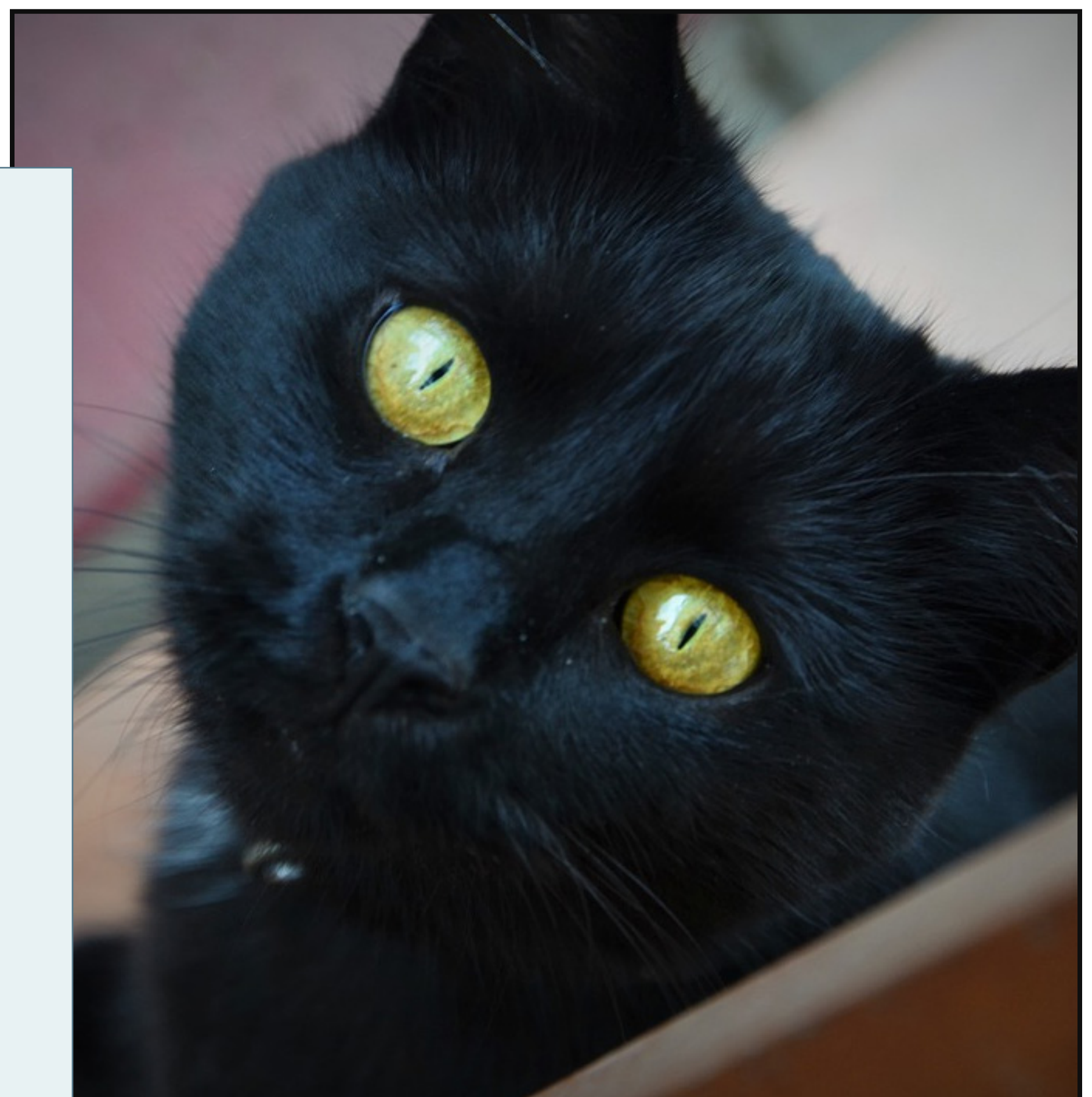
Some cats just won't give peace a chance. There are several reasons that cats might not get along. The most common is undersocialization—a lack of pleasant experiences with other cats early in life

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Featured Breed

Discover the Bombay Cat

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Aggression Between Cats in Your Household

Some cats just won't give peace a chance. There are several reasons that cats might not get along. The most common is undersocialization—a lack of pleasant experiences with other cats early in life. If your cat grew up as the only cat, with little or no contact with other felines, he may react strongly when he's finally introduced to another cat because he's afraid of the unknown, he lacks feline social skills, and he dislikes the disruption to his routine and environment. Cats tend to prefer consistency over change. This is especially true if the change involves a newcomer to your cat's well-established territory. Cats are a territorial species. While some cats overlap their territories a great deal, others prefer to keep a good distance from their neighbors. Two unrelated males or two unrelated females may have a particularly hard time sharing space. Another cause of strife may be a feline personality clash. Cats usually don't get to pick their housemates, and sometimes we humans just don't select the right match. In some cases, however, cats get along just fine until something scary or unpleasant (like fireworks or the odor of the veterinary clinic) becomes associated with the other cat. In other cases, relationships change as the cats mature. If one cat reaches the age of one to three years old and then trouble brews, social maturation may be a factor.

Any sudden change in your cat's behavior could be an indication of an underlying medical condition. If you notice any unusual physical or behavioral symptoms, or if your cat stops eating, please see your veterinarian right away.

Other Types of Aggression to Consider

Maternal Aggression

A female cat with a litter of kittens may hiss, growl, chase, swat or try to bite another cat who approaches, even one with whom she was formerly friendly. Maternal aggression usually subsides once the kittens are weaned. It's good idea to spay maternally aggressive cats to prevent future litters and future aggression problems.

Play Aggression

It's common for kittens and young cats to engage in rough, active play because all feline play consists of mock aggression. Cats stalk, chase, sneak, pounce, swat, kick, scratch, ambush, attack and bite each other—all in good fun. If they're playing, it's reciprocal. They change roles frequently. Their ears are typically forward in play, their claws may be out but they don't cause damage, and their bodies lean forward not back.

Suggestions for Managing Your Cats

- Never let the cats “fight it out.” Cats don't resolve their issues through fighting, and the fighting usually just gets worse. Interrupt aggression with a loud clap of your hands, spray from a water gun or a burst of compressed air (no noise).
 - Neuter the cats. Intact males are particularly prone to aggressive behavior.
 - Separate their resources. Reduce competition between the cats by providing multiple, identical food bowls, beds and litter boxes in different areas of your house.
- Provide additional perches. More hiding spots and perches will allow your cats to space themselves out as they prefer.
- Don't try to calm or soothe your aggressive cat, just leave her alone and give her space. If you come close, she could turn and redirect her aggression toward you.
- Reward desired behavior.
- Praise or toss treats to reward your cats when you see them interacting in a friendly manner.
- Try pheromones. Feliway™, a product that mimics a natural cat odor (which humans can't smell), may reduce tensions. Use a diffuser while the aggression issue is being resolved.

If the Aggression Is Mild or Between Two Cats Who Used to Get Along

- Separate your cats in different rooms for several days or weeks, with separate beds, bowls and litter boxes. This way they can hear and smell each other, but don't have to interact.
- Place the cats' food bowls on opposite sides of a closed door. This will encourage them to be close together while they're doing something that makes them feel good.
- Each day, have the cats switch rooms so that they both experience some variation and get access to each other's scents. You may need an assistant to do this safely.
- After several days, if both of your cats appear relaxed, crack the door open one inch. If they remain calm, open the door a bit more, then a bit more. If the cats remain relaxed, they may be ready to be together again. But if they react with any signs of aggressive behavior—such as growling, spitting, hissing, swatting, etc.—separate them again and follow the gradual reintroduction instructions below.
- Some cat parents have had success with rubbing a bit of tuna juice on their cats' bodies and heads. The cats become so occupied with grooming, which is a relaxing behavior, that they're less likely to be bothered by the other cat. If things go really well, the cats may actually groom each other because they can't reach the juice on their own heads.

If the Aggression Is Severe or Occurs Between Cats Who Have Never Gotten Along

- Separate your cats as described above but for a longer period of time, and reintroduce them at a much slower pace, like several days to a few weeks.
- Instead of simply opening the door to reintroduce the cats, provide daily reintroduction sessions that very gradually move the cats closer and closer together under supervision.
- During the sessions, you might find it easier to control your cats with harnesses and leashes, or by confining one or both of your cats in crates.
- During the sessions, keep both cats distracted with food or play. Start out with them far apart. Keep the sessions short. Make it easy for them to succeed.
- Separate your cats between reintroduction sessions to prevent a relapse.
- Only when your cats can peacefully eat and play within a couple feet of each other should they be left alone together unsupervised. Trust them only for short periods together at first and increase their times together gradually.
- Behavioral medication may be helpful in reducing

a domineering cat's aggression and a skittish cat's fear, making the reintroduction go more smoothly and quickly.

[Learn more!]



If Your Cats Still Can't Get Along

Don't hesitate to contact a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB or ACAAB) or a board-certified veterinary behaviorist (Dip ACVB) for guidance.

Video: Two cats fighting

Discover the Bombay Cat



The Bombay is calm, gentle and affectionate. This solid, medium-size cat was created in the 1950s by crossing sable Burmese with black American Shorthairs. His short, velvety coat is easy to care for.

The Bombay is an easygoing and tolerant cat who takes life as it comes. He enjoys greeting visitors and gets along well with children, dogs and other cats, although he will expect to be the one in charge. It's not unusual for him to learn to walk on a leash or to play active games such as fetch, but he also has a reputation as a lap cat. The Bombay loves attention, so do not get one if you don't have the time or desire to interact with him frequently. He will want to be involved in everything you do.

Brush the Bombay weekly to keep his thick coat shiny and healthy. The only other grooming he needs is regular nail trimming and ear cleaning.

The Bombay is well suited to any home with people who will love him and care for him. Keep him indoors to protect him from cars, diseases spread by other cats and attacks from other animals.

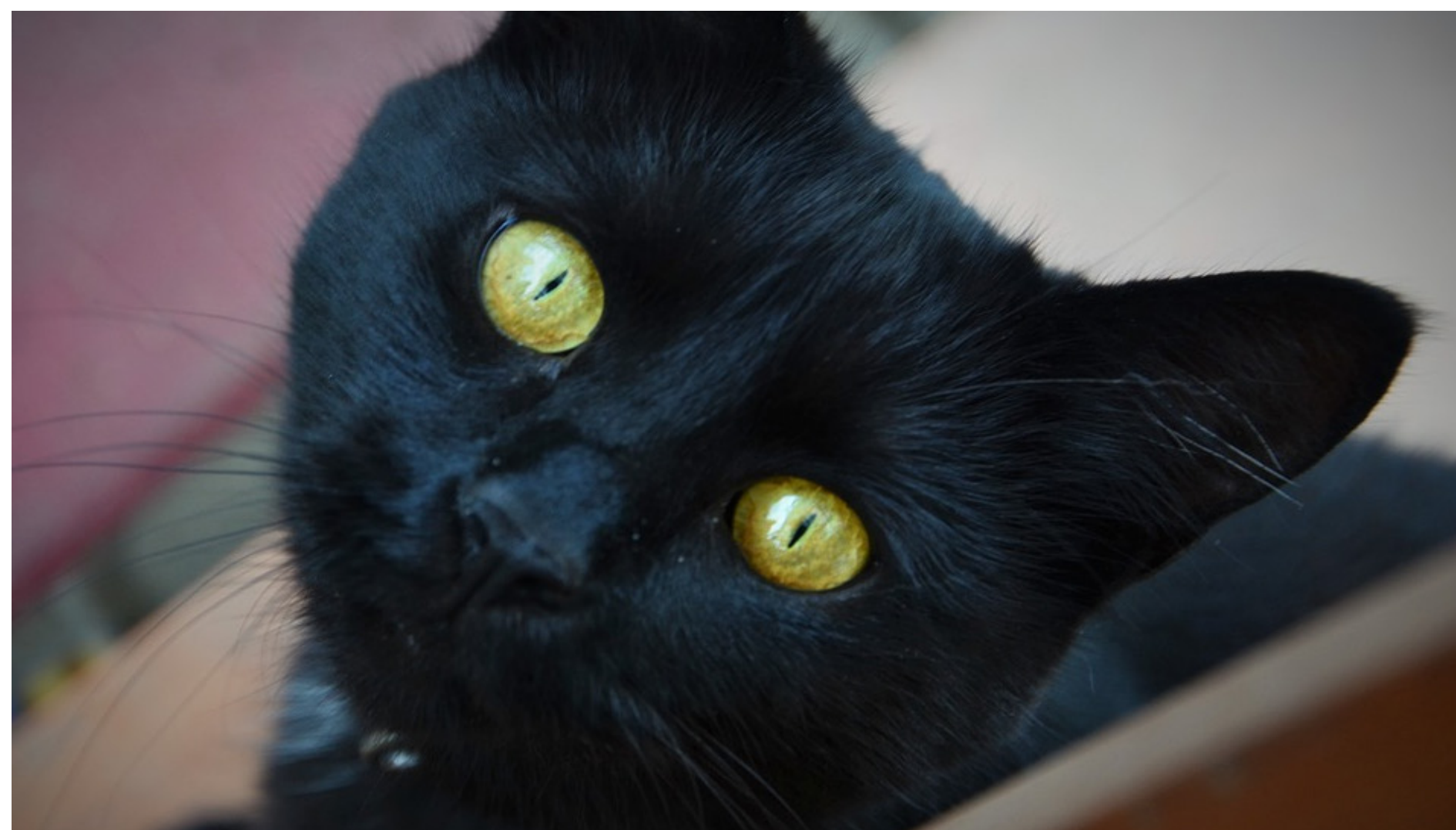
Other Quick Facts

When you look at a Bombay, you see a muscular, medium-size cat. If you were to pick him up, you would find that he is heftier than he looks.

To maintain the Bombay's body type and coat texture, breeders may occasionally outcross to Burmese, one of the Bombay's parent breeds. Outcrosses to American Shorthairs or domestic shorthairs are rarely done because the body type is not the same. The Bombay and Burmese differ in that the Bombay is slightly larger and has a longer body and longer legs.

While they reach sexual maturity early, sometimes at five months, Bombays may not complete their physical growth as far as size and muscle development until they are almost two years old.

The Bombay's nickname is "the patent-leather kid with the new-penny eyes."





Does your kitty
have FeLV or FIV?

**Get your feline
tested today!**



In-house FeLV and FIV testing: How do the newest screening tests compare?

A positive result can have a dramatic impact on a cat and its owners. These researchers set out to determine the reliability of four in-clinic veterinary products.

Why they did it

Control of retroviruses like feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) relies on accurate identification of infected cats. Point-of-care tests are often used to screen cats for infection and the decision to segregate or even euthanize infected cats requires confidence in in-house testing results. The authors of this new study evaluate the performance of new combination point-of-care tests for FeLV and FIV in the clinical setting.

What they did

The study authors evaluated surplus blood samples submitted by animal shelters, veterinary clinics and cat research colonies to a university diagnostic laboratory. All samples were coded to facilitate observer blinding.

- [Learn More](#)



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