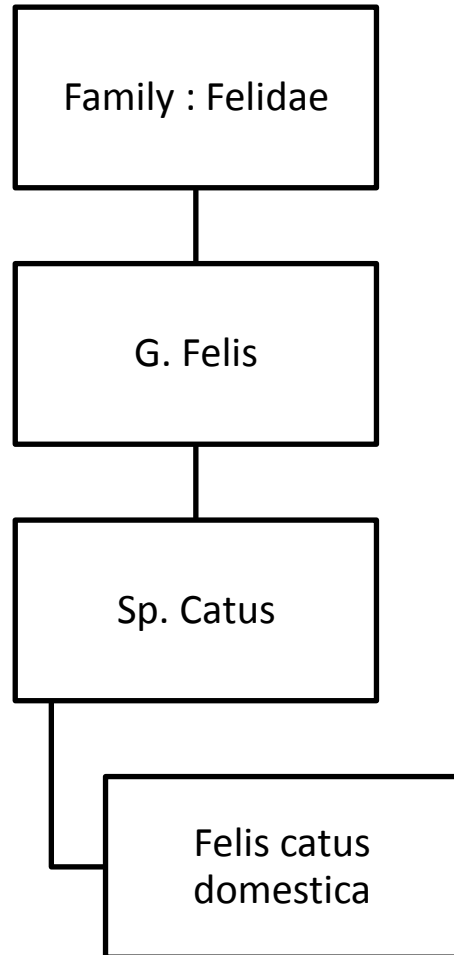


Management and Behaviour of Cats

Scientific classification



Common breeds

Common terms of cats:

- **Kitten:** young male or female cat.
- **Queen:** Adult female cat.
- **Tom cat:** Uncastrated adult male cat.
- **Neuter:** Castrated male cat.

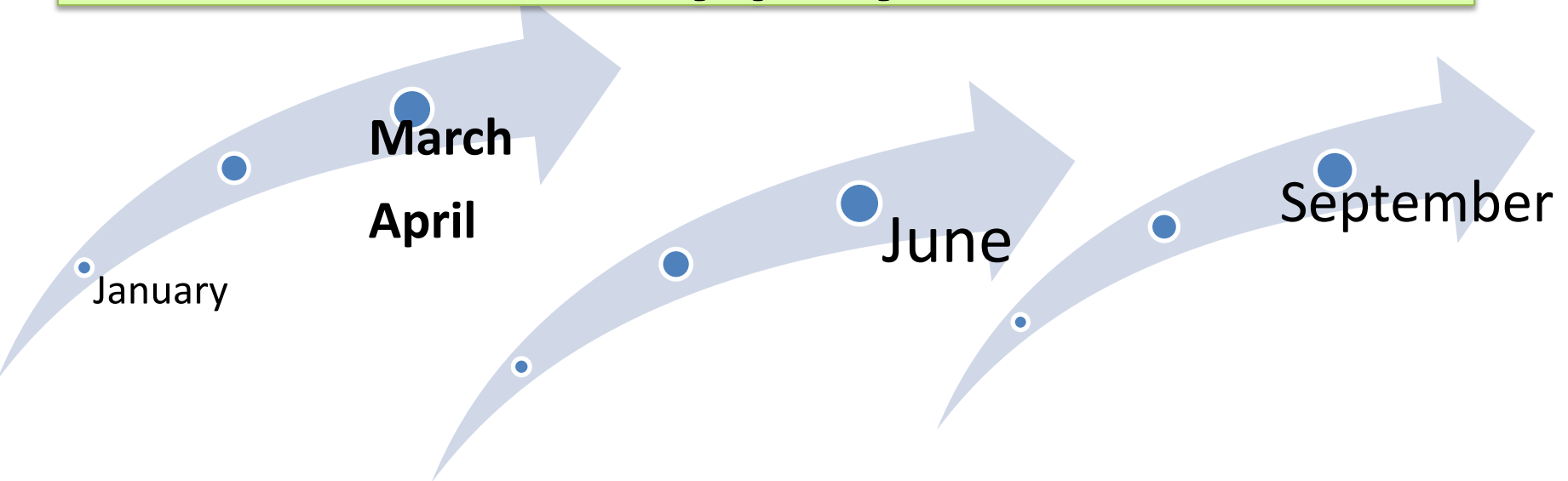


Breeding of cat

- Sexually mature at 6 months(Siamese and Burmese) should not used in breeding before 12 months

Estrous cycle in female cat (Queen) (Sexual behaviour)

Seasonally polyestrous



**In October, November and December Queen
becomes anoestrous**

FEMALE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Proestrus

1-3 day

- 1-Increase in general activity
- 2-Increase rubbing against objects, especially with the head and neck.
- 3-Rubbing progresses to rolling either gentle or violent.
- 4-Purring and female begins calling to male using the "heat cry".
- 5-Female spray urine so that both urine and sebaceous secretion left by rubbing may attract the male cat.

Estrus(heat phase)

4-7 day

-Rubbing and rolling increased



- Crouching lordosis tail is laterally displaced
- Sanguineous (dark red) discharge on the vulva
- Ovulation is stimulated, occurs 21-38 hr after copulation by the penis.

Anestrus

If the cat is not mated, metestrus occurs

cat may reject an approaching tom by hissing and striking out.

MALE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

1-Intermale aggression

**Territorial males
become increasing
irritable and protective
of their area (territory)
during mating season**



2-Courtship

-This period of mating usually lasts between 10 Seconds to 5 minutes and occurs primarily at night.

-Initially, the tom cat calls with a loud, harsh vocalization, commonly termed (Caterwauling)

-Usually the male circles the female before directly approaching

-Sniffing the genital area of proestrus and estrus females



3-Mating behaviour

Mating behaviour in tom cat consists of the following items:

- **The neck grip:** An experienced tom achieves the neck grip within 15 seconds.

Biting the skin of the dorsum of the neck is a remnant behaviour in lower animals, which use it to immobilize the female and provide proper orientation

for mounting. **The neck grip is not a form of mate aggression.**

Copulation: The tom cat mounts the female, straddling her with first fore limbs and then hind limbs.

Mounting and Fixation in cats



4-Repeated mating :

- The pattern of repeated mating between a pair of cats varies considerably with the individuals.
- After each mating there is a post ejaculatory refractory period before the male will mount again. The duration of this latent period varies from 5 to 15 minutes.

5- Post mating behaviour :

- Begins by leaping away from the
- female's striking "after reaction" which
- accompanied by her growling.
- The male then licks his penis and fore paws before he goes to sit near the female. The tom cat often remains with the female only during a few matings.



- **Pregnancy:** The average gestation period is 63 days, varying from 60-66 days.
- **Diagnosis of pregnancy:**
- **Signs:** The first sign of pregnancy is a pink shade (**pinking up**) which shows on the teats 3-4 weeks after mating while abdominal distension will be noticeable 2 weeks later (**burro shape**).
- **Abdominal palpation** at **17-25 days**, after 32 days the foetus and foetal membrane become difficult to distinguish.
- **Ultrasonic methods** are used; at 26 days fetus can be seen and heart beats can be distinguished.
- **Radiographically** The bones of fetal kittens become mineralized (calcified) at around day 40-45 of cat pregnancy.

Care of queen during pregnancy:

- In long-haired breeds it is advisable to cut away the hair round the teats.
- The box 10 days before parturition
- Box should be warm, dark well bedded
- Newspaper is a very suitable bedding material, and the queen will tear this up to make a nest.
- At fifth week of pregnancy food consumption of queen is increased, but she should not be allowed to get too fat prior to parturition.
- In case of constipation, white petroleum jelly can be smeared on cat's nose to be licked by cat.
- Cats in kittens should not be handled, fussed, or fondled.

Care of pregnant cat



Parturition(kittening)

Most birth occur at night, often in isolations, so parturition is not always observed because the cat is multiparous, the four phases normally associated with parturition are repeated several times. The termination of a kitten birth occurs at the onset of contraction of the next. The delivery of a placenta does not necessarily mark the termination of parturition in multiparous animals.

- **a-Contraction phase:**

The abdominal musculature shows obvious contraction, which are considered to accompany uterine contraction. The queen squatting and scratching, it may circle, with vocalization. She generally appears uncomfortable. This phase ranging **from 12 sec to 1.5 hours**.

- **b-Emergence phase:**

Uterine contractions cause the kitten to pass through the birth canal and pause in the vulva, the amniotic sac is ruptured and the queen licks its fluid.

- **c-Delivery phase:**

This represents the passing of the foetus from the vulva. Licking is directed specifically at the newborn increase. There is variation in the interval between kittens births, ranging normally from **32 second to 50 minutes** or more, most kitten are born within **15 to 30** minutes, with a total delivery time of 1-2hours.

- **d- placental phase:**

During this time the placenta is expelled from the genital tract, the female become restless again to the emerge of this tissue. Sometimes; eating it before it has completely emerged.

Litter size

- varies considerably, usually ranging between 1 to 9 births.
- Record litters of 13 litters and one unusual incidence of a queen carrying 18 fetuses have been recorded.
- Kittens are born hairless and blind and cannot take complete care of themselves, they are toothless, the queen rear them most of the 24 hours of the day.