

Chapter 1 : Cat Mythology: Tales of Good, Bad and Just Plain Kooky Feline Legends

Cat Mythology covers many things. Stories, artwork, Gods and Goddesses, and entire ways of thinking. I've included the following poem because, to me, it shows how cats are loved and revered not just in ancient history, but even today.

The cat was known earlier, however, as by the end of the 3rd century c. Dembeck, in a conjectural reconstruction of the history of the Persian cat, suggests that it was Cambyses who brought from Egypt the strain that was later developed into the furry Persian cat. Because of its association with evil the cat was taboo in Sasanian Persia. The governor ordered all the house cats in the city killed, but this led to such an explosion in the mouse population that the inhabitants of the city were forced to abandon their houses. The city was saved when the queen brought a kitten to entertain the king, persuading him to remove the wicked governor from his post Moscow ed. The cat is not mentioned in the Bible, though it is casually alluded to once in the Apocrypha Baruch 6: However, legendary narratives about it abound in other Jewish sources Wood, pp. In popular beliefs cats are variously regarded both as blessed baraka, cf. White cats can also be jenns, however Donaldson, p. In dream interpretation, the cat is the sign of the thief cf. A very old belief is that the mother cat is so enamored of her young that she eats them Aelian, 6. In folk medicine a number of illnesses and cures are connected with cats. To cure her barrenness the placenta of a cat should be held over her head while water is poured on it. Numerous omens are taken from the behavior of cats. Cats play an important role in Persian literature. This tale, which is widely found in Arabic literature, e. Once, however, the goddess decided to test her nature and released a mouse in the bedchamber. The cat maiden immediately jumped up and began chasing the mouse Daley, p. In Persian this tale is attached to a famous proverb: For other Persian tales about cats see Marzolph, s. Thompson, *The Types of the Folktale*, Helsinki, Aelian, *On The Characteristics of Animals*, tr. M Brigg, *Nine Lives. The Folklore of Cats*, New York Dembeck, *Animals and Men*, tr. Winston, New York, Donaldson, *The Wild Rue*, London, Ginzberg, *The Legends of the Jews*, 7 vols. Gubernatis, *Zoological Mythology*, 2 vols. Hehn, *The Wanderings of Plants and Animals*, tr. New York, , and Ruthland, Vermont, and Tokyo, Perry, *Babrius and Phaedrus*, Cambridge, Mass. Pliny, *Natural History*, ed. Thompson, *Motif-Index of Folk-Literature*, 6 vols. Wood, *Bible Animals*, London, Mahmud Omidshafar Originally Published: December 15, Last Updated: December 15, This article is available in print. In *Mythology and Folklore*.

Chapter 2 : Cat Mythology, a History of Felines in Folklore and Legend

Cat Mythology Fact #2: This sacred animal was so important to the Egyptian society and religion, that after the cat's death, its body was mummified and buried in a special cemetery.

Since time immemorial, civilizations across the world have been devising myths about these curious creatures, ranging from superstitions about their supposed luckiness to stories of them playing fiddles, hanging out in cradles, or sailing the sea with owls in pea-green boats. Cats pop up in many religions as well, as both angelic and devilish figures. Getty Images Iceland, for all of its twee elven aesthetic and excellent quality of living, has some pretty savage Christmas stories. Farmers tell this tale to their workers as an incentive to finish processing wool before autumn comes, so everyone can get their new clothes made before the slob-eating Christmas Cat shows up. In the Middle Ages, cats were commonly thought of as sinister beasts with basically the same powers as witches and warlocks, obviously in cahoots with Satan. They could also make your beer go sour if they felt like it. To be fair, snakes were also blamed and destroyed as well. This was ill-advised, of course, because the real distributor of the plague was the Oriental flea, which lives on rats, and with dramatically fewer cats and snakes to keep their numbers in check, the rat although some say it was a gerbil population in Europe soared as did the plague. Getty Images The Japanese believe that cats are lucky, but there are a lot of qualifiers. One legend explains that a Japanese cat once waved a paw to beckon a lord into a house, which saved him from being struck by lightning a moment later, and so a cat who beckons with her paw is considered a lucky gesture. Tortoiseshell cats are also considered lucky in Japan, especially the rare male ones. A Buddhist belief says a cat with a dark coat brings promises of gold, while a light-colored cat brings silver. In Russia, Russian Blue cats are considered lucky. This one comes to you from the Bible. But did you know she could also turn into a cat? She likes newborns best and stalks them in the night, draining them of every drop of blood, vampire-style. She sometimes shows up in folklore as a screech owl too. In this way, special souls lived in a sort of feline purgatory, and when the kitty died, the chaste soul would ascend to paradise. A Siamese one, of course. A gold-trimmed cat was present at the crowning of the current Thai King, Bhumibol Adulyadej, in A fire was also never burned in a room with a corpse, since every cat loves to curl up by a warm fireplace. Wikimedia Commons Speaking of black cats with white patches: The couple ignores him, and they continue discussing the strange occurrence, amidst the racket. Or, rather, by watching them, you can. Rain is also foretold if a cat busily washes its ears. As well, if a cat continually looks out a window on any day, rain is on the way, and some say that when a cat sleeps with all four paws tucked under its body, it will rain. A rainstorm is coming if the cat sleeps on its back too. On the voyage, she cursed the whole fleet by calling up a storm to wreck the ship, as revenge upon the crew members who thought it was unlucky to have a woman on board and wanted her to be drowned. She was turned into a four-eyed cat who haunted the ocean, and the fishermen still throw her a morsel of food to appease her, lest she try it again. Many sailors and fishermen also think that if a cat falls overboard, a storm will show up and the ship will be capsized. In a few different areas of Europe, it was thought to be ill-advised for a pregnant woman to pick up a cat or let it sleep in her lap. In Portugal, it was once said the cat will afflict the baby with a wart or mole, usually a hairy one, and in England, it was thought the baby will either be born with a cat-shaped birthmark or with the face of a cat. This is sort of not fair, because another English folk tale says that black cats are lucky as a wedding gift, as is a cat of any color, apparently who sneezes within earshot of the bride on her wedding day. Early Christians believed that if a cat sat on a grave, the soul of the deceased was possessed by Satan. About a century ago, tall tales in the Pueblo and Navajo country in northern Mexico and Arizona described a living, moving, breathing cat-shaped cactus, with needles in place of fur and two sharp blades for forelegs. The cactus cat liked to go around slashing the bases of real cacti with its knife-paws, to let the milky juices collect and ferment into pulque. It would do this to 80 cacti at a time, specifically. Once his work was done, the creature would return to the beginning of the circuit, get drunk on the pulque inside the cacti, then go around causing trouble in the region, swiping at cowboys and leaving telltale red welts. Egyptians considered them deities, and killing a cat was punishable by death. When a family cat passed on, the whole clan went into

mourning. Meanwhile, up north, every Norwegian Forest Cat is supposedly thought to be either a fairy or a goblin in disguiseâ€”and the difference can be ascertained if you stare into their eyes.

Chapter 3 : 14 Legends About Cats From Around the World | Mental Floss

Cats in Mythology Bastet - the Egyptian Cat Goddess. The goddess cat in Egyptian mythology is well known in the world of mythology. The goddess cat was named Bastet, also known as Bast.

Demeter Demeter is the goddess of the harvest. When her daughter, Persephone, is in the Underworld, Demeter grieves and Winter falls upon the earth. This name could work for many female cats. It could work particularly well for a rescue cat that has had kittens or for a cat that loves to frolic among the plants and trees. Demeter, Goddess of the Harvest Source 9. Gaia In Greek mythology, Gaia is earth personified. She is not a true god or Titan, she exists as the literal earth mother. She is the mother of the Titans, the sea gods, and the giants. In art, Gaia usually appears laying upon earth or partially on it. Gaia could be a great name for a motherly cat who enjoys lounging around on her back and giving you long, mysterious stares. Hera Hera is the wife of Zeus and queen of the gods. Hera is the goddess of women and marriage, which makes her feelings about Zeus make even more sense. Hermes The winged god, Hermes, is known for his speed. He is the messenger of the gods. He is also known as a trickster. He likes to trick other gods just for the sheer satisfaction of doing so. Hermes is also the patron of travelers. Hermes could be a nice name for a male cat that runs very fast or who likes to play tricks on you and other people and creatures he meets. If you like taking a cat with you when you go traveling, this is a great name for that kitty too! Hermes, Messenger of the Gods Source Muse The nine muses in Greek mythology are known for their knowledge of the sciences, arts, and literature. Each muse has her own specialty. The nine arts assigned to the muses are: A lot of female kitties could fit this name since there are nine muses and they cover such a wide variety of subjects. A shy kitten might be the Muse of Literature or philosophy, while you might call a more physical feline Muse because she dances all over the house. Nike Nike is the goddess of victory. Nike flies on her chariot, visiting battlefields and rewarding valorous warriors. Nike could make an interesting name for any cat that reminds you of victory. After all, cats can bring good luck, so why not victory? Persephone Persephone is the daughter of Zeus and Demeter. She reigns as queen in the Underworld alongside the god-king, Hades. Persephone is a goddess of vegetation. She ate seeds from a pomegranate while in the Underworld and must stay there every fall and winter because of this. Persephone could make a good name for a female rescue cat. It would also be a pretty name for a cat with a regal demeanor. Persephone and the Pomagranate Source Zeus Zeus is the king of the gods. He is the god of skies and thunder. Zeus is married to Hera, although he cheats on her all of the time. Zeus has many, many children from many mothers, both immortal and mortal. He resides on Mount Olympus. Zeus might make an interesting name for a male cat that likes to flirt a lot. It could also work for a majestic cat who could be king of all cats.

Chapter 4 : Cat Mythology - Cat at Home

This is why AnimalWised brings you this list of Greek mythology names for cats. Whether it is the name of a god, Titan or other characters from Greek myths, they are.

Cat Mythology, Myths and Legends Custom Search Most of us are familiar with some cat mythology, and many cat tales are found all around the world from ancient times to the present day. Cats always fascinated us, they are a symbol of grace and poise. Many of the myths and legends surrounding cats have a kernel of truth at their foundation. From the Egyptians came the legend that a cat has nine lives. There are many cat stories and tales, here we will bring you the best and most interesting ones. About 10 years ago cats were domesticated and accepted members of the households of Egypt. Many of the breeds we now know have evolved from these ancient cats. The Egyptians were the first to keep and use cats to hunt fish and birds as well as to destroy the rodents that infested the grain stocks along the Nile. Cats were considered so valuable that the Ancient Egyptians protected it by law which they imposed the death penalty for killing cats - deliberately or not, they were revered as hunters and worshiped as gods. Cat Mythology Fact 1: While there were many other feline goddesses worshiped by the Ancient Egyptians, Bast, also known as Basted, was the only one represented as a domestic cat. Cats were believed to be a manifestation of the goddess Bast. Bast had many roles, including the goddess of protection, fertility, the moon, and also the protector of all cats. Cat Mythology Fact 2: Also, the Egyptians had strict laws prohibiting the export of cats. However, because cats were valued in other parts of the world for their rat-catching prowess, Phoenician traders often smuggled them out and sold them to the Mediterranean countries. Domestic cats were also found in India, China, and Japan where they were prized as pets as well as rodent catchers. Other cultures had different views of cats. Some embraced them, others detested them. Over the subsequent centuries, the domesticated cat proliferated throughout Europe, the Middle East, and China. Though no longer worshiped as deities, cats were still honored and appreciated for their mousing abilities no matter where they turned up. Cat Mythology Fact 3: By the 11th Century, about the time the Crusades began, cats were in huge demand since the rats were beginning to overrun the cities. Domesticated cats could now be found as far as Scotland. Cat in Celtic Lore Cats, domestic and wild, were also sacred to the goddess in Celtic mythology, and they were considered a potent totem animal of several clans. They believed that cats were guardians of the gates to the Otherworld, guardians of their treasures and also bring to the people the wholeness, as a spiritual link between humans and the universe. That cats are magical creatures, mysterious and sensual. However, black cats in Celtic lore were considered evil, and were sacrificed. Norse Legend Cats are sacred to Freya, the goddess of love and beauty, one of the original fertility goddesses of the region. Freya is viewed as the protector of the weak, healer, granter of magic and source of love and peace. The chariot of Freya is drawn by two large cats, other cats were also associated with this kind and loving goddess. All cats were secret to Freya, and farmers would leave out precious milk for them, to ensure that she blessed their harvest. And, if a cat appear at the wedding it was a sign of a very happy marriage. They associated cats with witchcraft and Satan, much like the feared black cat of Halloween, often seen riding with a witch on her broomstick. They were trying to establish Christianity as the only religion, and felt compelled to destroy all remnants of other cultures. The Church began what turned out to be a year killing spree of cats. When the cat population was depleted, diseased rats took over, and spread the plague. Since many people were sick and dying, the killing of cats stopped, and they were able to hunt the mice causing the plague. Cat Mythology Fact 4: Shortly after the cats helped obliterate the plague, the Catholic Church placed blame on the cats, and once again persecuted them. Cat Mythology - Japanese Cats Maneki Neko is Japanese for "beckoning cat," Maneki Neko are revered throughout Japan for drawing good fortune and awarding of evil spirits. Although Maneki Neko was created during the 19th and 20th centuries, where the Maneki Neko are traditionally represented by a bobtail-type cat seated upright with one paw raised to the side of its head. Pussy Willows According to an old Polish legend, a mother cat was crying at the bank of the river in which her kittens were drowning. The kittens gripped on tightly to their branches and were safely brought to shore. Each springtime since, goes the legend, the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the

tiny kittens once clung. **The Holy Man and Cat Mythology** In the Islamic community, cats were respected and protected at least in part because cats were loved by the Prophet Mohammed. It is also believed that the "M" marking on the forehead of the tabby cat was created by the Prophet Mohammed when he rested his hand on the brown of his favorite cat. **Cats and the Weather** During atmospheric changes, cats are said to act strangely and may seem uneasy, even tearing at cushions or carpets, it is said during these episodes that a cat is "raising the wind. The electricity in the air causes a cat to rub their ears and lick their fur. When a cat washes herself in her usual manner, there will be fair weather, but if she sits with her tail toward the fire or licks herself above the ears, bad weather is on the way. For more Cat Myths, Tales and Folklore, [click here](#).

Chapter 5 : Mythical Cat Names - Creative Names from Mythology

A mythology of cats book that proceeds, because of serious author bias, to ignore all the dark myths about cats and only give the reader the good ones. This is akin to writing "the mythology of wicca", say, and ignoring all witch burnings and dark magic, or doing the mythology of the Aztecs and ignoring the human sacrifices.

Stories, artwork, Gods and Goddesses, and entire ways of thinking. The thought of our cats waiting for us at the Rainbow Bridge is a very comforting one, no matter what faith you follow. I hope you love it as much as I do. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour, those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster. You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart. Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together. Some of our oldest phrases and names for things come from cats. These tales and myths are found all around the world, and cat myths continue to be created from ancient times all the way to present day. Many myths portray cats as wicked felines with evil powers and as omens of bad luck. Others represent cats as clean, pure entities who are the bearers of good luck. Throughout the ages, cats have been honored and loved, feared and loathed but seldom ignored. There are as many cat stories and myths as there are cats in the world. Those unfortunate tales which are not only untrue, but which foster hatred of cats and can be detrimental to cats as a species. There are so many myths, both positive and negative concerning cats. Here and in the pages that follow, I will attempt to bring you the best and most interesting ones. Egyptian Cat Worship You probably seen many figurines, posters and the like of Bastet, and already know that cats were worshiped in ancient Egypt. The Egyptian Goddess Bastet or Bast was sometimes portrayed as having the body of a woman with the head of a cat. However, Bastet was shown most often with the body and head of a beautiful black cat. Bastet was known as the Goddess of cats, protection, stealth and independence. She bestowed the gifts of sexual pleasure, joy, beauty and grace. Cats were so revered that a person killing a cat, even accidentally, was put to death. Many works of art have been dedicated to the Grimalkin. While magical cats are nothing new, it is interesting to note that even the Great Bard, Shakespeare spoke of Graymalkin in Macbeth. The myth goes as follows: Hearing her piteous cries, the long reeds on the shore felt sorry for her. Taking pity on the mother cat, the reeds bent over so that the kittens could grab onto their long leaves and stalks, saving themselves and giving the mother cat back her precious babies. Ever since, the helpful reeds have grown beautiful velvety blooms atop their stalks, both as a reward and as a reminder of the tiny kittens that clung to them in order to save their lives. The name Pussy Willow refers to those velvety little blooms. Holy Men Love Cats Too! The religion of Islam speaks of cats as being clean, useful animals. Which, of course, they are! In the Islamic world, the cat was respected and protected at least in part because cats were loved by the prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam. The bronze incense burner shown at left represents a cat with its mouth half open and ears pricked. In cat mythology, this posture often represents a warrior cat. The back, neck and chest are all perforated to allow incense to escape. These are just a few examples of stories found in cat mythology throughout the world. I will address each new story or myth on its own page. Think of this as Cat Mythology Head Quarters, and access all the new myth pages from here. I hope you enjoy your visits here, and remember, this is your cat site, too. The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior.

Chapter 6 : Myths and Facts About Cats

Domestic cats have their place along side the big cats in mythology, too. Legends from Thailand (Siam), Burma, and other Asian countries, have cats as the vessel that transports a monk's or royal person's soul to heaven after death.

This is very much a romp through some of the feline folktales and superstitions found around the world. The Scandinavian goddess Freyja rode in a chariot drawn by cats so farmers left out offerings for her cats to ensure a good harvest. In parts of Europe, a cat decorated with ribbons was released in the field after harvest-time to appease the gods. The Peruvian fertility god Ai Apaec could assume the form of a tomcat. A Chinese cat deity Li Shou warded off evil spirits at night and the Roman goddess Diana sometimes wore the form of a cat. Chinese legends say that cats were put in charge of the world and had the power of speech. The cats soon delegated this job to humans so that felines could laze about. That is why cats can no longer speak and why they wear supercilious expressions when they see us scurrying about! The shadowy patches on the necks of Siamese cats are the thumbprints of gods who picked the cats up to admire them. In Ancient Egypt, cats captured the glow of the setting sun in their eyes and kept it safe until morning, making it unlawful for cats to be killed except in ritual sacrifice by priests. When the Persians attacked part of Egypt they tied cats to their shields - the Egyptians dared not put up a fight in case they injured or killed the cats. To Muslims pigs and dogs are unclean, but the fastidious cat is tolerated. The Prophet Mohammed had a tabby cat which fell asleep on the sleeve of his robe. Rather than disturb the cat, he cut off his sleeve when he answered the muezzin call to prayer. In a related version from Christian folklore, the infant Jesus was laying in the manger shivering from cold. Alerted by his cries, a mother tabby cat lay next to the child to warm him up. In the southern parts of America the Devil sought retribution on anyone who drowned a cat and dispensed rheumatism for the lesser crime of kicking a cat. This cat was the animal form of a suspected witch who went to see with her fisherman lover and brought destruction on the whole fleet to spite those who wanted her drowned as a witch. Many seafarers believed that if a cat fell overboard it would call up a storm to sink the ship. The Russian Karelian cat is a longhaired bobtailed cat. Karelians are believed to be enchanted princesses. Many cultures consider cats to be mystical creatures which were really fairies or goblins in disguise hence the Norwegian Forest Cat is sometimes called the Fairy-Cat. In Japan, vampires can disguise themselves as cats but are readily identified by having two tails while sorcerers disguised as cats enter houses to devour naughty children! Her three devoted cats did the spinning for her. In England, black cats are considered lucky and white cats unlucky. In America it is the other way; black cats are unlucky and white cats are the bringers of good fortune. If it crossed your path from the left it brought ill luck, but if it crossed from the right it brought good fortune. Tri-coloured cats are also lucky in Canada, but naughty-torties are reputed to be troublesome in England. In Japan, a black spot on a cat means the the cat contains the soul of a departed ancestor. In Britain the black cat is considered to be a symbol of good luck and some people consider white cats to be unlucky, though "unlucky white cats" is not a widespread belief in Britain. In the US, white cats are lucky while black cats are unlucky and some shelters claim it is harder to rehome black cats because of the association with bad luck. In many countries cats are said to foretell the weather. In Indonesia cats are thought to control the rain. Pour water on a cat and it will summon rain. Even today, the cloud-grey Korat is ceremonially sprinkled with water to bring rain for the crops. In China the older and uglier a cat is, the luckier it is. This is self-explanatory as pets are forbidden and, according to a Chinese houseguest, his people traditionally eat "anything with legs except the table". In parts of northern Europe a cat which enters a house of its own volition brings good luck with it. In Russia, couples make sure a cat moves into their new home with them to bring good fortune. In Japan, a cat waved a forepaw to beckon a lord into a building, saving him from a lightning bolt and the beckoning cat is still used as a good luck charm. According to Buddhists dark coloured cats attracted gold and light coloured cats brought silver. In Abyssinia an unmarried girl who kept a cat was a wealthy catch. In rural areas of England it was believed unwise for a pregnant woman to let a cat sleep on her lap as the baby would be born with the face of a cat. Siamese palace and temple cats helped guard precious treasure. So diligent were they that their eyes became crossed from staring at the objects they were guarding. The cat knotted its tail round the

rings for extra security hence the kinked tails of early Siamese cats. The Manx lost its tail when boarding the ark and the door closed on its tail. Others say that cat-tails were used to decorate spears and helmets so mother cats bit off their kittens tails at birth. Sadly there is a modern day version of this tale. On some Greek islands kittens risk being caught and killed and their tails turned into souvenir keyrings. In Bali you stop a new kitten from straying by cutting off its tail and burying it by the door. Cats in Bali grew wise to this trick which is why cats in parts of Malaysia and in Japan only have bobbed tails. Of course, in England you just smear their paws with butter to stop them running off. Buttering the paws, in a round-about way, could solve the derivation of the saying "no room to swing a cat". During the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Whitechapel, when a family moved home it was customary to swing the family cat hopefully not by the tail! Polydactyl cats are also believed lucky by many people, especially by the early sailors travelling to America which is why there are now so many polydactyl cats in New England. They sailed across from Europe and jumped ship in the New World, leading to a high concentration of genes for polydactyly. Although some American writers and breeders have stated that polydactyls are only found in America, in actual fact they are common in Britain, fairly common in mainland Europe and not uncommon in Asia. There are hundreds more folktales, legends and regional variations on these tales. There are also modern-day Urban Myths involving cats.

Chapter 7 : Feline Folktales - Cats in Folklore and Superstition

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She was often also depicted with a head of a leopard. At the time, she was depicted with a lion head. Seals and stone vessels with her name were found in the tombs of the pharaohs Khafra and Nyuserre Ini , indicating that she was regarded as protector since the mid 30th century BC during the Fourth and Fifth Dynasties. Next to the skeletons stood small pots that are thought to have contained milk for the cats. She is now shown only with a small cat head. When they died, they were embalmed, coffined and buried in cat cemeteries. Mummies were used for votive offerings to the associated deity, mostly during festivals or by pilgrims. Pagan temples were impounded and sacrifices prohibited by AD. Three edicts issued between and prohibited pagan rituals and burial ceremonies at all cult sites. Death penalty for offenders was introduced in , and destruction of pagan temples decreed in . By , the Christian church received all property that was formerly dedicated to paganism. Pagans were exiled by , and crosses replaced pagan symbols following a decree from . The village children came from day to day and provided themselves with the most attractive mummies they could find. These they took down the river bank to sell for the smallest coin to passing travelers. Most of them were cat mummies. The mummies probably date to between and BC. The analysis revealed that they were deliberately strangled before they reached the age of two years. They were probably used to supply the demand for mummified cats as votive offerings. Radiographic examination showed that mostly young cats were mummified; most cats died of skull fractures and had dislocated spinal bones, indicating that they were beaten to death. It had probably lived and died in the Ptolemaic period.

Chapter 8 : Feline Forever: Mythology - cats in Morse mythology

Myth: Cats Only Have to See the Vet Once a Year Julia Christe / Getty Images *Fact: Depending on their age, physical condition, and known medical problems, most cats will need to see their veterinarian several times each year, including urgent or emergency care visits.*

Dreamstime The cat-headed Bast was one of the most popular goddesses in ancient Egypt. Bygone cultures crafted fanciful myths to explain puzzling feline behavior – curious stories that are still capable of sending a shiver through our souls today. For centuries our feline friends have been both exalted and persecuted, thanks to popular tales of devil kitties, ancient gods and holy companions. In fact, I suspect that kitty snuggled on your lap still has some secrets to share! **Godly Cats** The ancient Egyptians adopted the lion, the leopard and the cat as symbols of power and virility. But Mesopotamian cultures elevated the feline to god status. A city by the Nile delta, Bubastis, once worshipped a cat-headed goddess named Bast or Pasht, who was associated with happiness, pleasure, dancing and the warmth of the sun. Early Europeans also had their feline icons: **Lucky Cats** Buddhist, Burmese and Siamese cultures believed that cats acted as hosts for certain holy human souls after death. These select souls would inhabit the felines for the rest of their natural lives, thus allowing the departed soul to gain access to Paradise. In ancient Japan, cats were revered and kept in pagodas, where they guarded over priceless manuscripts. Felines were considered so precious in the 10th century, in fact, that only members of the nobility could actually own them. During the Middle Ages, people believed that if a black cat crossed your path or home, it was a sign of good luck. But this lofty feline status also had its downside: **Sacrificial cats** were commonplace – they were burned to guard against witches, and kittens were entombed in foundations to protect against rats. **Bad Cats** **Dreamstime** In history black cats have symbolized both good and evil. As the story goes, she took the form of a huge black cat named El Broosha. The Middle Ages also portrayed cats as sinister creatures with all sorts of terrible, witchlike powers. Their teeth held venom, their flesh was poison, their hair caused suffocation and their breath infected human lungs with consumption tuberculosis. Back then, it was believed that cats could make beer go sour and that they carried souls to the devil. In Europe and early America, black cats were especially feared because black was the color of night and darkness – and therefore associated with all things evil. Irish folklore declared that tortoiseshell cats brought good fortune. A Buddhist superstition states that a dark-colored cat promises gold, while a double-clawed cat polydactyl is a potent bearer of good fortune. According to French folklore, a strange white cat meowing on your doorstep foretells a speedy marriage. Amy Shojai is a certified animal behavior consultant and the award-winning author of 23 pet care books, including *Complete Care for Your Aging Cat*. She lives in Texas with a senior citizen Siamese and a smart-aleck German Shepherd.

Chapter 9 : Feline Forever: Mythology - cats in ancient Greece

An ancient Chinese myth relates that, in the beginning of the world, the gods appointed cats to oversee the running of their new creation and, in order for communication to be clear, granted cats the power of speech.

Contact Author There is a whole world of places to get cat names from. How do you narrow it down and find the perfect name for your new kitty? One way is to look for what a name means. Mythology is a great place to turn for names brimming with meaning. Everything from gods and goddesses, to nymphs and even mystic locations, can make great names for your kitten or cat. Norse mythology comes from the region of Northern Europe known as Scandinavia, in which a pantheon of gods led by Odin, the All-Father, have adventures, fight their enemies, and fight each other in these myths. Asgard Asgard is one of the nine worlds of Norse mythology. It exists floating in the sky. It is invisible to the mortal world, but connected to it by a rainbow bridge called Bifrost. This name could work well for a cat with silvery or multi-colored fur. Embla This name comes from the Old Norse term for "elm. In Norse mythology, Embla was the first human woman. She and her husband, Ask, were made by three gods out of two trees. Frey is the god of rain, sun, and harvest time. Freya is a goddess of love and fertility. She enjoys the finer things in life. Freya is also a skilled magic user. These names might be good for cats who enjoy the finer things in life too. The goddess Freya 4. Gandalf You may have thought this name was only good for Tolkien wizards, but it originally comes from Norse mythology. This name might be good for a wise, strong or mysterious cat. Hel Hel is the daughter of the mischievous god, Loki. Her name comes from the Norse underworld, also called Hel. The word means "to conceal" in Old Norse. Hel ruled the underworld she was named for. This name might work for a black cat or a cat with a darker or more majestic nature. The goddess Hel Source 6. Loki Loki is the trickster god. Loki can manipulate just about anything, even having the ability to change his own form and gender. Loki has a love of pranks and will go to elaborate ends to play jokes on others. Loki can be selfish, but he is also the funniest of the Norse gods. This name could work well for a playful, adventurous or silly kitty. Mjolnir is so powerful it can level mountains to the ground with just one blow. The hammer has a short handle and was made by dwarves. Mjolnir might make a good name for a heavier set or stocky cat because the hammer is so stout and powerful. Odin Odin was the head of all the Norse gods. The one-eyed god had a pair of ravens that flew all over the world spying for him. Odin is the god of wisdom, war, and art. He lives in the palace of Valhalla, a place where warriors who fought bravely enough went after they died in battle. Odin could be a good name for a black cat, a brave or wise cat, or an especially good name for a one-eyed cat! Rune Runes are a set of letters that make up a written language. The earliest runes date back to A. Rune could be a good name for most any cat, as most cats are curious, mysterious, and wise. Saga A saga is a long tale or story, so perhaps this name would be good for a cat with a long "tail. Sigurd Sigurd was a Norse hero who had many adventures. He slew the dragon Fafnir and recovered his hoard of gold. Sigurd comes from the Old Norse words for "victory" and "guardian. Sigurd, Nordic hero Source Sindri Sindri may mean either "small" or "sparkling" in Old Norse. In mythology, Sindri was a dwarf who made all sorts of magical creations for the gods. This name might be good for a small cat or one with a lively personality. Thor Thor is the god of lightning, thunder, storms, and strength. He wields a mighty hammer, Mjolnir, that is perhaps the most famous weapon in Norse mythology. Thor is usually described as having red hair, so this name might be good for a red or russet colored cat. It would also be a great name for a very large and powerful cat. Thor, God of Thunder Source Tyr In Norse mythology, Tyr is a god of law and heroic glory. The god usually appears with only one hand. This name would be wonderful for a cat missing a paw or part of his or her tail or for one that has a very stern temperament. Valkyrie A Valkyrie is a warrior maiden who looks at mortal battles and chooses from those who die only the bravest to join the gods in the halls of Valhalla. Valkyrie are always brave and stalwart, but they can be loving too. A Valkyrie Source Questions must be on-topic, written with proper grammar usage, and understandable to a wide audience.