

TOP CAT



SEXY BOY



THE STORY ABOUT HUBLEE



The cat shot over the fireplace
Burnt tail on red hot coal
The cat shot over the hearthrug
Like a firework on a roll

BIG CAT

A very interesting story found throughout most of Europe since mediaeval times and popular throughout Ireland concerns the death of the "King of the Cats". The story goes along the lines of: A man once met a huge cat, which attacks him and which he with difficulty managed to slay. Before it died, the fierce animal told him that it was the "King of the Cats". On his return home, the man told his wife that the King of the Cats was dead and, hearing this, the old domestic cat that was sleeping by the fireside jumped up and left the house. Some versions have a more macabre ending, with the domestic cat leaping at the man's throat and killing him as the bearer of bad tidings.



THE DOG OR THE

Another story popular in Ireland, tells of an argument between a cat and a dog regarding which of them should live inside the house. To settle the question they decided to have a race, and the one that reached the house first should have that privilege. The dog was winning the race, but stopped to attack a poor beggarman whom he did not recognise, and so the cat reached the house first.



ANCIENT CAT

One of the most common animal mummies in Egypt was the cat. Cats were believed to represent the goddess Bastet. Consequently, they were raised in and around temples devoted to Bastet. When they died, they were mummified and buried in huge cemeteries, often in large communal graves.

From about 332 B.C. to 30 B.C., animals began to be raised for the specific purpose of being turned into mummies. The mummies were sold to people on their way to worship a god and left at the temple as offerings. Scientists have uncovered a gruesome fact: many cats died quite premature and unnatural deaths. Two- to four-month-old kittens seemed to have been sacrificed in huge numbers. So many cat mummies were made that researchers can only guess that there were millions of them.

TRAINED CAT

A more widespread tale describes how a cat is destined to always behave according to its nature. A certain man has his cat so well trained that it holds a candle for him while he reads. However, a visitor (in Irish versions usually a poor travelling scholar) bets that he can make the cat drop the candle, and accordingly releases a mouse from his pocket. The mouse races across the table, with the eyes of the cat riveted on it. When a second mouse is released, the cat can no longer control its



MR RAT

Rats were the principle pest-creatures in Irish life; since they stole and dirtied the grain they were therefore believed to be vile and vengeful creatures. The mouse however, had a more variable image. It was said that mice first came into existence due to a miracle of St. Martin, who once placed some food under a tub and warned his companions to leave it there until-the-morrow. An inquisitive person lifted the tub during the night, and a plague of mice rushed forth. In order to control them, Martin threw his glove after them and it turned into a cat. This derives from an international legend, which has mice and rats created by the devil and sent into Noah's Ark. Noticing them, however, Noah threw his glove at them and it became a cat. The legend in its international form is told