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## **The Eye of the Tiger**

In the magnificent story, [Life of Pi](#), author Yann Martel tells of a boy shipwrecked in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. He's not alone, however - a 450-pound Bengal tiger is shipwrecked with him.

Immediately you can tell that [this story is no ordinary story](#) - what circumstances would allow a boy and a tiger to survive on a lifeboat in the ocean for 225 days, together? A question that doesn't even scratch the surface of the deep blue sea of thought this story encompasses. I'm ready to pick the book up and start reading it all over again - and I just finished it hours ago.

Yet on that surface, it's full of remarkably detailed and distinctly specific information about cat behavior - what I like to call "cat-ness." I petted my two tiger cats repeatedly while reading ... as they slept beside me, purring (tigers, by the way only purr while breathing out, not breathing in, like domestic kitties do), meowing, snarling, crying for food...

...making eye contact with me, laying with their bellies on the cool floor, panting, puking, hunting bugs in the windows, marking their territory, constantly reminding them who's Number One (that's me, of course - but you'd never know it with my two tigers).

All in all, Life of Pi is a very good read - for all the cool tidbits of tiger cat-ness as well as for the meaning the presence of a tiger in the story represents.

Photo Credit: [Wikipedia](#)

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## **Hairball Patrol**

Summer's around the corner and kitties are still shedding their winter coats of hair.

How can you tell? Well, I see wisps of it everywhere - on the floor, on the rug, on my clothes after my kitties sit on my lap.

Plus, I'm on hairball patrol.

Imagine cleaning yourself day in, day out, only to have the hair on your body accumulate in your stomach, and [there's too much there](#) for your body to expel normally. What naturally occurs? Well, you take care of it - by vomiting.

Experts say hairballs are the most common reason why kitties vomit and that they cause a digestive issue for the cat, not necessarily a respiratory issue.

To alleviate that hairball hacking a little bit, I brush my kitties. [It's a form of prevention:](#) getting rid of excess hair before the kitty has a chance to swallow it through grooming can help.

Plus my kitties absolutely love it. It's all that attention, partly.

The brush I use is rather small, with delicate metal combs that very effectively remove hair from the body. It's actually made for the task; check them out at your local pet store.

I also feed my kitties cat food with a hairball formula included. PurinaONE offers a [Hairball Formula](#). I use the [Science Diet hairball formula](#) when I need to. These products help your cat's digestive system to keep it healthy.

When all else fails, get out the [Woolite Oxy Deep](#). Works wonders on the rug.

Photo Credit: [10 Corso Como](#)

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**Cats yearning for love**

## Cats yearning for love

July 3rd, 2009 (Edit)



My girl-cat Sofie whines. She worries me.

Why cats whine and [what to do about it](#) can baffle any cat lover. With my Sofie, I not only check her water and food bowls, I also check to see if her litter box is clean. Sofie is very particular about her litter box. She won't go elsewhere, but she won't go in the litter box until it meets her clean standards.

How do I know this? Experience. Plus, Sofie whines about it, stands there in front of it until I give it - and her - the proper attention.

Which is another thing. Attention. Certain times of the day, I can hear the Sofie whine. She visits me in my home office, after I call her while she's whining, for a little head rub.

She acts like she doesn't want to be picked up and cuddled, yet after she whines about it for a moment (!), she's in all her cat glory, soaking up the attention.

She cries at night, too, if she's left alone in a room after we've gone to bed. I don't know why she doesn't just follow us to bed. We end up calling her and she sleeps on the bed with us nearly every night.

My husband consults a psychic every now and again. During a recent reading, she mentioned that Sofie is not feeling good. A day after the reading, Sofie had a vomiting incident, so she indeed wasn't feeling well.

But I think she's yearning for love.

Photo Credit: [pg](#) ~

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## Time to eat!



We are a multiple kitty household. We adopted Sofie and Sam at the same time. Funny thing, they both have issues with their weight.

As indoor kitties, we lavish fabulous toys on them. They love them. They exercise by flinging them up into the air for a self-serving catch. They leave "mouse killing fields" at the end of the bed, out into the hall ... all leading to their favorite place of all:

### **The Kitty Food Center.**

Cat diets are even more excruciating than human diets in terms of time-it takes months and months for a cat to lose a few. This, of course, doesn't stop kitties from begging for treats. Or food. Or attention ...

I've got Sofie and Sam on a diet. Changed their feeding schedule, too. Now, they each get an eighth of a can of "light " wet cat food in the morning and a few treats at 4:00 p.m. (and I mean it; Sam won't let me forget it!). Their bowls are full with an oral care formula of a cat food that our vet recommended. Why oral care? The nibbles are very large and the kitties need to really break it down and chew it. This is supposed to slow down their feeding, so they don't inhale the food, as mine usually do.

Lately, though, I see Sam stealing Sofie's food. It's a difference in their personalities, really. Sofie is sensitive and quiet. She investigates the food in her dish before nibbling. Sam just chows down.

In the case of treats, I see Sam's little paw reach over and swipe a few of Sofie's treats out from under her. And there's only a few treats there to begin with! This morning, Sam managed to eat all of his wet food plus all of Sofie's food, as Sofie watched from afar.

I'm afraid this is hindering their relationship, as I hear hissie-fits more often these days.

Some experts suggest disbanding a food center for [more personalized food locations](#) for each cat. I think I'm going to give this a try.

Photo Credit: [The Beast](#)

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### **Outdoor Cat Enclosures**

Do your indoor kitties look longingly out the window, secretly hoping you'll leave the front door open so they can throw caution to the wind, dart out of it and be free?!

Mine do. Sometimes.

If I would only get them an outdoor cat enclosure. Yes. "Outdoor freedom for indoor cats" is what [SunCATcher Enclosures](#) offers housebound creatures. You can connect the cat house directly to the big house (no pun intended) with tubes, so your kitties can move freely from one to the other. And some are big enough for a human to walk in, too.

What if you live in a windy place? Where the Santa Anas blow or the tumbleweeds flow? Are these cages secure enough to stay upright in the wind? Good questions for [CagesByDesign.com](#) and any other retailer that offers them.

Check it out. With an outdoor enclosure, your kitties may be in cat heaven.

Janet Muniz