



A ferocious feline card game of Cunning, Mischief, & Schadenfreude



You are a **Cat**. You live in a **House**. You share this House with your pet **Hoomin**. Your goal is to smother this Hoomin with **Affection**, then cause **Mischief** around your House.

The first Cat to score 9 Mischief Points wins the game!

**NOTE:** It is a good idea to set aside an extra 10-15 minutes to learn your first game with new players.



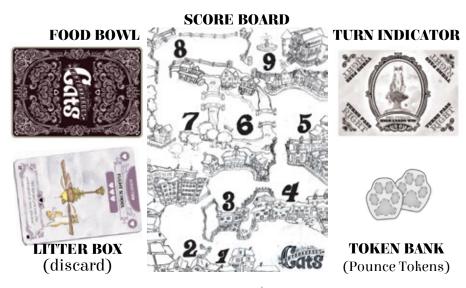
Set up the table according to "fig 1" on the following page, then distribute these items to each player:

- \*ONE Cat Card (Domestic side up)
- \*ONE matching Cat Token on the Start Here space.
- \*ONE Pounce Token from the Token Bank. (If this is your first game, you will not use these until you learn the STANDARD GAME on page 8.)

\*SIX cards from the Food Bowl.

**NOTE:** For added fun and chaos, allow each player to take their OWN six cards from the Food Bowl at the same time!

# fig 1 - The Neighborhood

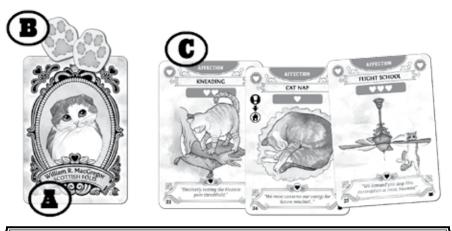


Your House/Territory

The space in front of each Cat is their House. You share this House with your pet Hoomin. Your goal is to bank Affection with this Hoomin in order to score Mischief.

If you try to score Mischief without building enough Affection, you will be banished from your House as a Feral Cat!

# fig 2 - Your House



A: Cat Card - B: Pounce Tokens - C: Play Area

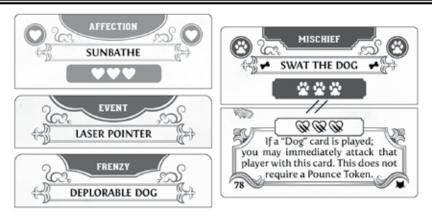
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**NOTE:** A DOMESTIC CAT'S play area is called their House. A FERAL CAT'S play area is called their Territory.

# Card Types

There are THREE types of cards you will encounter in a game of Cantankerous Cats:

# fig 3 - Card Types



### **AFFECTION CARDS:**

The lavender cards are Affection Cards. The amount of Affection is represented by the number of hearts at the top of the card. These cards are banked in your house until they are spent.

**NOTE:** Affection Cards do NOT make change. You must spend the entire card at once.

### **MISCHIEF CARDS:**

If you have Affection banked in your House, you may play a burgundy Mischief Card to score Mischief Points. The paws on the top represent the SCORE and the slashed hearts near the bottom are the COST. In order to score, you must pay the cost by discarding banked Affection Cards.

**NOTE:** If you are ever unable to pay for a Mischief Card, you will lose ALL of your banked Affection and become FERAL.

### **INCIDENT CARDS:**

Green "Event" and Yellow "Frenzy" cards are rule-breaking cards that do not cost any Affection to play. Follow the instructions written on the card, then place the card into the Litter Box.



# The First Bite

To determine the starting player, every Cat must bet one card from their hand to get the First Bite of the Food Bowl. Check the Turn Indicator to see whether HIGH RANK or LOW RANK cards win.

**NOTE:** To add some variety, you may flip the Turn Indicator like a coin to determine the direction of play at the start of the game.

To see a card's RANK, check the number in the bottom left corner. When you have made your decision, place your bet FACE DOWN in your House. When everyone has placed a bet, reveal the cards. The Cat with the winning card takes the First Bite and the Cat Toy. Discard all the bets in the Litter Box.

The game can now proceed.

All players start as a Domestic Cat. The first Cat to score NINE Mischief Points while holding the Cat Toy wins the game!

**NOTE:** The best way to learn the game is to use the Basic Game rules, then introduce the Standard Game after all players are comfortable.



# The Domestic Turn

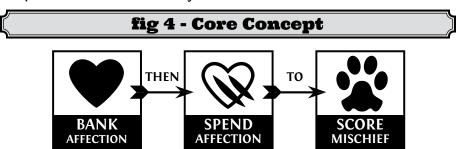
- **1. Meal Time:** Take the Cat Toy, then draw THREE cards from the top of the Food Bowl. (Om, nom, and nom!) Declare that you are taking cards to your fellow Cats.
- **2. Play Time:** After you have drawn three cards, you MUST take **TWO ACTIONS** from the following list:

**NOTE:** Every Action you take in this game MUST be declared. You may not take your Actions in secret. You may NOT play Actions simultaneously.

- **a.** Bank ONE Affection Card: Play ONE Affection Card into your House or Territory. Affection Cards remain there until they are spent or discarded.
- **b.** Score ONE Mischief Card: Play ONE Mischief Card into your House. You must pay the COST at the bottom of the card by moving banked Affection Cards into the Litter Box. Move your Cat Token the appropriate number of spaces on the Score Board, then place the Mischief Card in the Litter Box.

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- **c.** Play ONE Incident Card: Follow the directions on the card. Place the card into the Litter Box after it has been resolved.
- **d.** Picky Eater: Place your hand of cards into the Litter Box, then take an equal number from the top of the Food Bowl.
- **£.** Buy ONE Pounce Token: If you are playing the Standard Game, you may buy Pounce Tokens from the Token Bank. To do this, place TWO cards from your hand into the Litter Box.



**NOTE:** You MAY choose to take the same Action TWICE.

**3. Grooming Time:** When you have completed TWO Actions, discard down or draw up to the hand limit of FIVE cards.

**NOTE:** If the Food Bowl is empty, reshuffle all of the cards in the Litter Box to make a new Food Bowl. You must wait until a new card needs to be drawn from an empty Food Bowl before reshuffling.

**4. Nap Time:** Wake the next Cat in the neighborhood with a hearty "Meow!" before taking a well deserved nap.

Pass the Cat Toy to the next player.

**NOTE:** For a simple game, you may keep playing with the Basic Game and ignore all card text that refers to Feral Cats or Pounce Tokens. Remove the following cards from the deck: *Enemy of My Enemy* (36), *Scavenger* (76), *Animal Control* (83), *Escape* (4), and *Adoption Day* (5, 84). Skip to page 8.

If everybody feels comfortable with the Basic Game; it's time to learn about Pounce Tokens and Feral Cats!

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The Pounce

You may Pounce on the Cat Toy by saying "Pounce," then placing your Pounce Token on the Cat Toy. There are two ways you can Pounce:

# Pounce Opportunity \*\* MEAL FIRST SECOND GROOMING NAP TIME ACTION ACTION TIME TIME

### **PLAY TIME**

- 1. ATTACK with a Mischief Card: You may attack the Cat holding the Cat Toy with a Mischief Card. The target Cat must pay the cost of this card using the Affection banked in their House. If they are unable to pay for the card, the target Cat loses ALL of their Affection and becomes a Feral Cat. (See pg. 7) The attacker does not score any Mischief Points. IF the target successfully pays the cost of the Mischief Card, they score HALF of the card's value rounded DOWN.
- **2. PLAY ONE Incident Card:** You may play any Event or Frenzy Card. Follow the instructions on the bottom of the card.

# The Counter

If you are the target of a Pounce, you may spend your Token to Counter. You have two options to Counter:

- **1. BANK Affection Cards:** You may bank any amount of Affection Cards from your hand to meet the cost of a Mischief Card played against you.
- **2. PLAY ONE Incident Card:** You may choose to play an Event or Frenzy Card from your hand. Follow the instructions on the bottom of the card.

**NOTE:** You are never REQUIRED to Counter. You may choose to save your Pounce Token and accept the consequences of a Pounce.

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### **POUNCE TOKEN GENERAL RULES:**

- **1.** You may hold multiple Pounce Tokens. As long as there is a Token in the Bank, you may purchase one as an Action.
- **2.** You may NOT replenish your hand after performing a Pounce or Counter.

**NOTE:** It IS possible to have ZERO cards in your hand during your turn. If this ever happens and you must take an action, the only Action you can take is "Picky Eater" for ZERO cards.

### **POUNCE RULES:**

- **1.** You may only Pounce on the Cat who is holding the Cat Toy unless you are FERAL. (see "Feral Cats")
- **2.** Pounces cannot cancel a card that has already been placed on the table unless an Incident Card allows it.

### **COUNTER RULES:**

**1.** Cats cannot win a game with a Counter. If you would have scored enough points to win, you score ZERO Mischief Points.

# Feral Cats

If you cannot pay for a Mischief Card placed in your House, you will be forced to wander the streets as a Feral Cat! Discard ALL of your banked Affection and continue the game with these modifications:

- **1. HOMELESS:** Since you do not have a Hoomin to interact with, the following conditions apply:
- \*Limited Food: Place TWO of the three cards you draw during Meal Time into the Litter Box.
- \*Pounce Tokens: Pounce Tokens cost THREE cards.
- \*Blameless: You cannot be attacked with Mischief Cards. You are not able to score Mischief Points.
- \*Troublemaker: You may attack any Domestic Cat as an Action. You do not need a Pounce Token for this.
- **2. ADOPTION CHECK:** If you have FOUR Affection Points in your Territory at the start of your turn, you IMMEDIATELY continue playing as a Domestic Cat.

**NOTE:** When you are Adopted, KEEP ALL of your banked Affection.

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# Instant Actions

Instant Actions are BLACK and WHITE icons at the top left of some cards. They represent opportunities to sneak in an extra card or two during the course of the game.





### **FOR EXAMPLE:**

When an EVENT card is played, you may BANK or SCORE this card for NO AFFECTION COST

**NOTE:** Instant Actions can trigger each other! Use this to your advantage for big plays during your turn.

# Winning the Game

When a Cat is about to score their NINTH point, they must announce their intention to the neighborhood. There will be one final chance for any Cats with Pounce Tokens to perform a Pounce AFTER the winning card is played. If no one can prevent the victory, the game ends.

The winning point MUST be scored by playing a Mischief Card in your House while holding the Cat Toy.

**FERAL VICTORY:** In the STANDARD GAME a Feral Cat may claim victory if they manage to Bank NINE Affection Points while holding the Cat Toy. If a Feral Cat is about to claim victory, they must also give every player with a Pounce Token the opportunity to prevent the victory.

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Kitten Rules

for Families and Young Children



# www.cantankerouscats.net

# Game Setup

**1. REMOVE** the following cards: **MULTIPLIKITTY** (1) ESCAPE (4) ADOPTION DAY (5, 84) **BUSH DWELLER (20) ENEMY OF MY ENEMY (36)** TREE DWELLER (65) **SANTA CLAWS (74, 85) SCAVENGER (76) ANIMAL CONTROL (83)** 

- 2. Follow the Setup Diagram on the back of this rule sheet.
- 3. The player who most recently pet a cat goes first. (Or you may defer to the youngest player)

# How to Play

- 1. DRAW two cards from the deck, Om Nom! (The deck is also called the Food Bowl)
- 2. You must take TWO Actions from the list to the right.

# How to Play (continued)

# **ACTION LIST**

# a) Bank ONE Affection card.

Place ONE Affection card next to your Cat card. This is your House.

NOTE: Affection cards STAY in your House until you spend them on Mischief. They do not make change.

# b) Score ONE Mischief card.

Place ONE Mischief card in your House,

then perform the following steps:

\*Check the slashed hearts near the BOTTOM of the Mischief card. Discard enough Affection from your House to meet or beat that number.

\*\*Check the number of paws at the top of the card. Move your Cat Token up the Scorecard that number of spaces, then place the Mischief card in the Litter Box.

# c) Play ONE Event or Frenzy card.

Read the text at the bottom of the card out loud. Follow those directions, then place the card into the Litter Box.

# d) Be a Picky Eater.

Place ALL of the cards in your hand into the Litter Box. Draw FIVE new ones from the deck.

- 3. Pass the Cat Toy to your right and say "Meow!" to end your turn.
- 4. The first cat to score NINE Mischief points is the winner!

# NOTES

\*\*Some cards have special conditions in BLACK TEXT on the bottom of the card. You must follow these rules unless a card says you "may" do something.

\*\*\*Ignore ALL rules that refer to Pounce Tokens.



# Place this in the center of the table



# Give each player the following:



# FREQUENT QUESTIONS

DO I HAVE TO SAY "MEOW" AT THE END OF MY TURN? YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SAY "MEOW!", BUT YOU MUST SAY SOMETHING TO SIGNIFY THE END OF YOUR TURN. THIS LETS EVERYONE ELSE KNOW THAT YOU ARE DONE WITH YOUR TURN AND THE NEXT PLAYER CAN BEGIN.

YOUR FRIENDS MAY ALSO JUDGE YOU HARSHLY IF YOU DO NOT SAY "MEOW." YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, PLAYING A CAT GAME.

# WHAT CARD IS THE "CURRENT" CARD?

THE MOST RECENT CARD TO HIT THE TABLE FROM THE PLAYER HOLDING THE CAT TOY IS THE "CURRENT" CARD. THIS IS TRUE EVEN IF THAT CARD IS A PART OF A CHAIN.

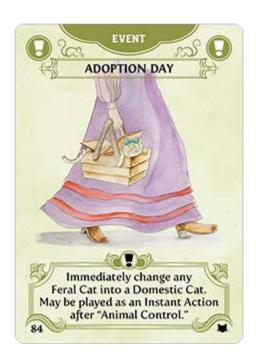
CAN I TAKE EXTRA ACTIONS WITH MY POUNCE TOKEN?
NO. POUNCE TOKENS ARE ONLY USED TO TAKE POUNCE OR COUNTER
ACTIONS. IT IS NEVER POSSIBLE TO HAVE MORE THAN TWO
ACTIONS ON YOUR TURN.

YOU MAY, HOWEVER, CHAIN MULTIPLE CARDS IN ONE ACTION IF YOU'VE STACKED YOUR HAND CORRECTLY.

# A CARD MADE ME DO SOMETHING. DOES THAT COUNT AS AN ACTION?

NO. IF YOU ARE COMPELLED TO DO SOMETHING BY A CARD, IT DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS YOUR ACTIONS FOR THIS TURN.

# **CARD CLARIFICATIONS & TACTICS**



# "ADOPTION DAY"

# **BASICS:**

Instantly change any Feral Cat into a Domestic Cat.

# **TACTICS:**

On the surface, this card is simple: Get back into your House so you can start scoring Mischief Points. In the hands of a skilled player, this is a great way to prevent a Feral Cat from claiming a sneaky Affection victory...



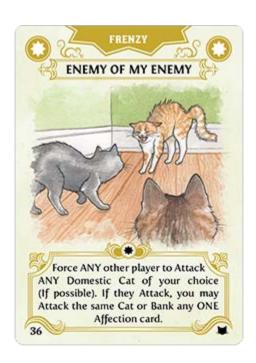
# "BLAME THE DOG"

# **BASICS:**

Nullify the Value and Cost of a Mischief Card as it is being played. Requires a Pounce Token to play.

# **TACTICS:**

This card is great for preventing a cat from scoring a game winning card. It is also a powerful defensive card that will make short work of high powered Attack cards like "Air Strike."



# "ENEMY OF MY ENEMY"

### **BASICS:**

Forces another opponent to do your dirty work. If they are able to attack, you can play a follow up Attack yourself OR take the opportunity to bank some Affection. If they are not holding any Mischief cards, this card has no effect.

# **TACTICS:**

This is a great card for locking down an opponent with a large amount of Affection built up. It allows you to damage an opponent's scoring potential by forcing them to play a Mischief card while dealing with the Affection bank of a second player. If you have some great Attack cards, this is also a great way to turn a point leader into a Feral Cat at low risk to you.



### "ESCAPE"

# **BASICS:**

Force the target Domestic Cat to continue playing as a Feral Cat. The target must discard HALF of their banked Affection, rounded down.

# **TACTICS:**

This is one of the trickier cards to utilize well. It's two primary purposes are making yourself Feral or making an opponent Feral. If you are aiming to win as a Feral Cat, this card could set you up if you find yourself with a lot of Affection, but not many Mischief Points on the board. It can also be used to antagonize an opponent that has some larger Affection cards in their House like "Bath Time" or "Santa Claws". Because the card has an IMMEDIATE effect; is also useful for preventing victory in the right hands.



# "LASER POINTER" BASICS:

Cancels ALL of the effects of the CURRENT card on the table. This basically resets the state of the game to the moment just before the target card was played. Any cards that were spent, discarded, or gained as a result of that card are returned and refunded. The target card is placed in the Litter Box.

# **TACTICS:**

Laser Pointer is the trickiest card in the game. It is most often used to prevent a player from scoring Mischief or playing powerful Incident cards. There are TWO in the deck and they are also useful for preventing a victory. It is wise to keep one of these in your hand when you are about to win the game.



# "MIDNIGHT RUN"

# **BASICS:**

Immediately play ANY two cards.

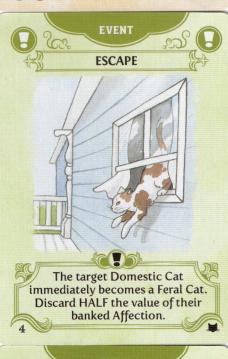
# **TACTICS:**

One of the most powerful cards in the game. When we say ANY two cards, we mean it. If it would normally cost multiple actions to play a card, it still counts as ONE card. This card is a linchpin for scoring large amounts of points or banking a lot of Affection at once. If you can stack your hand with the right Instant Action cards before playing this, you will be nearly unstoppable.

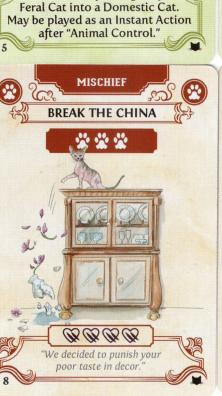




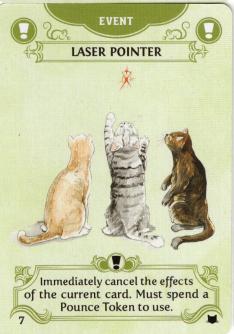


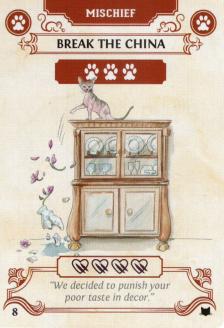


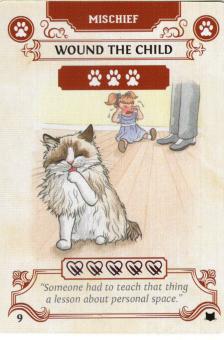


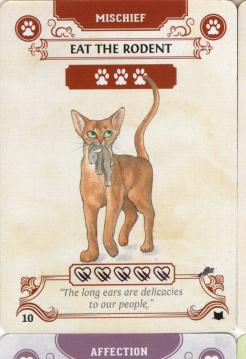






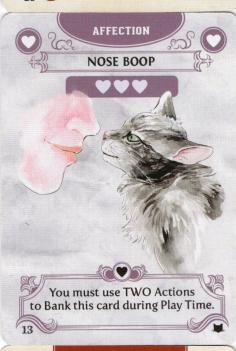


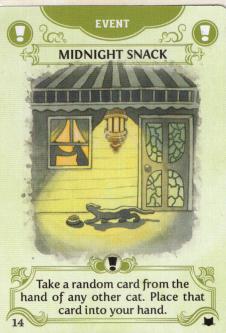












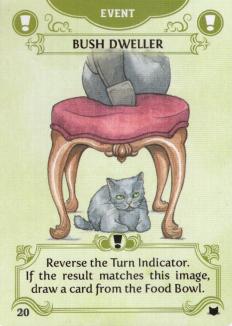












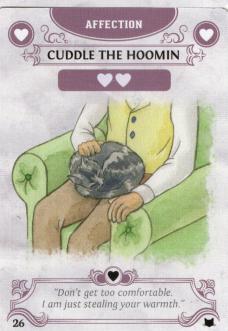


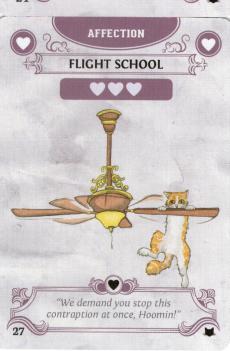








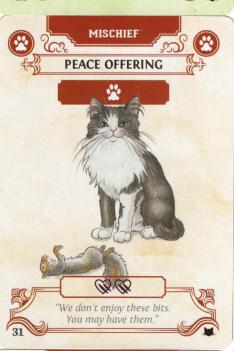


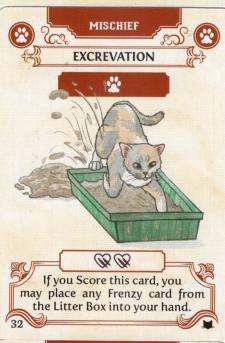




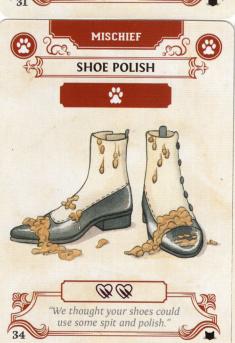


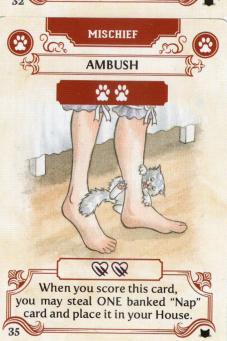


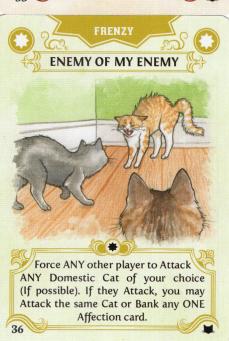








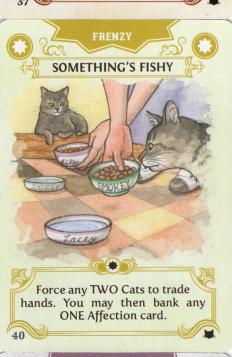
























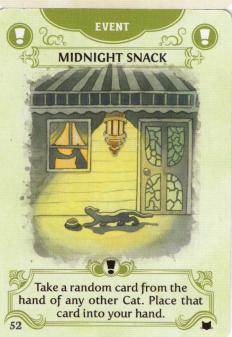


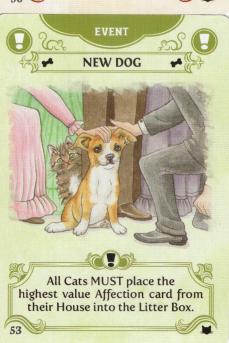








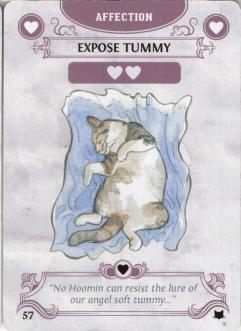




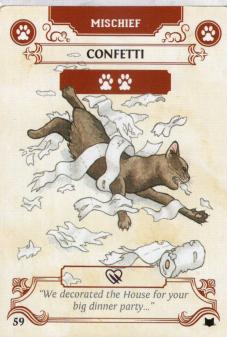




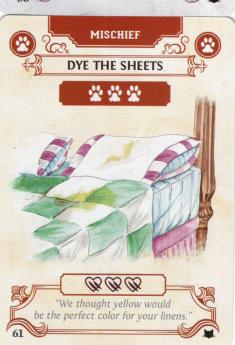


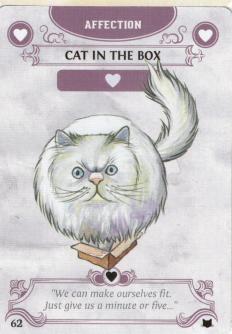






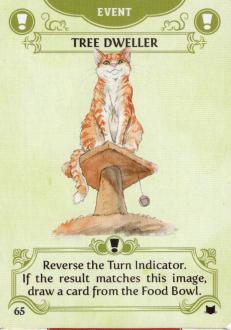


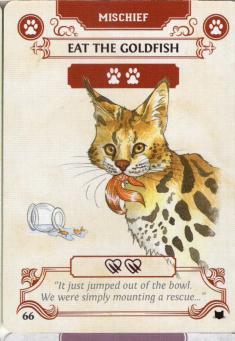




















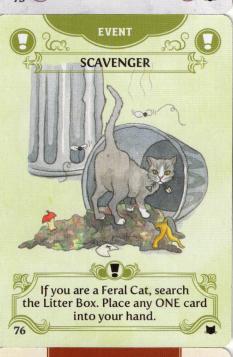


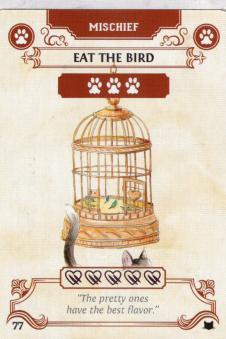








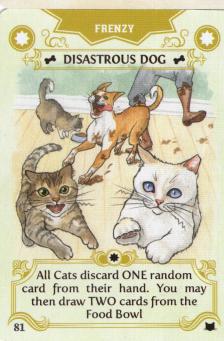














Ignore the cost of ONE
Mischief card as it is being played.

The target card is now worth

ZERO Mischief Points. Must spend

a Pounce Token to use.

Immediately cancel the effects

of the current card. Must spend a

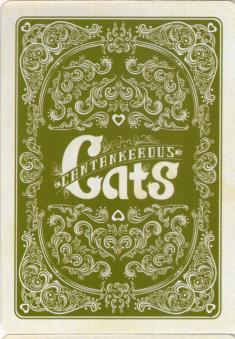
Pounce Token to use.

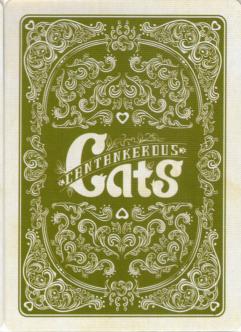
B B B B B B

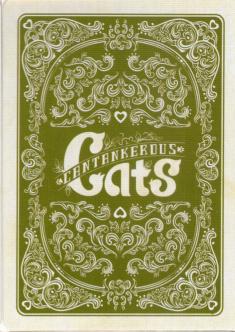
If "Flight School" is banked in

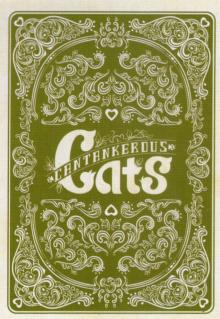
your House; you may immediately

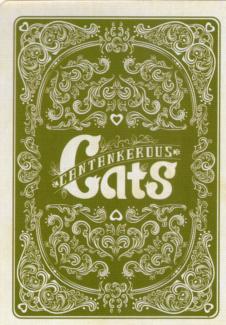
Score this card for ZERO Affection.

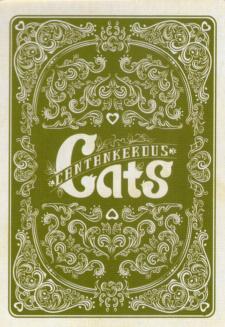


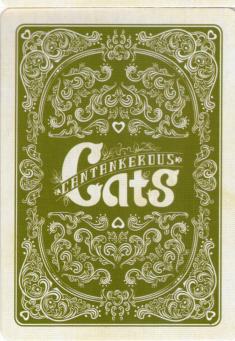


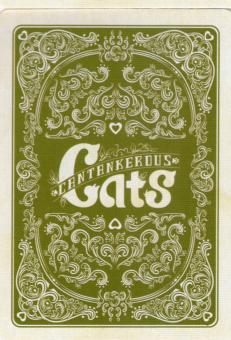


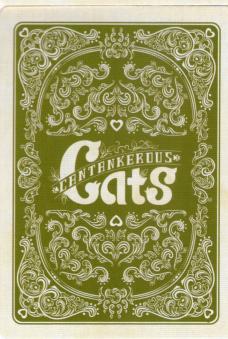




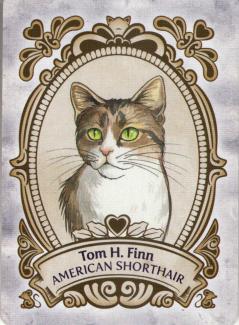






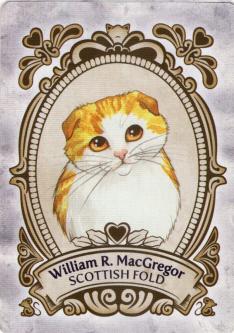






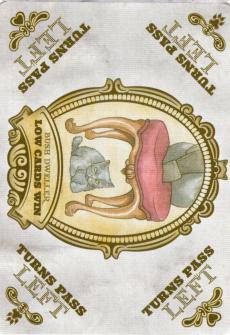


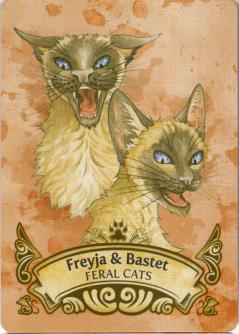


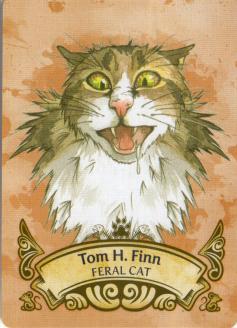


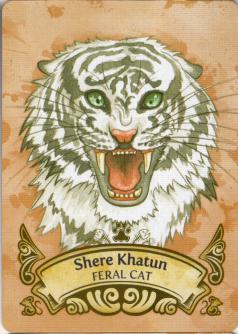








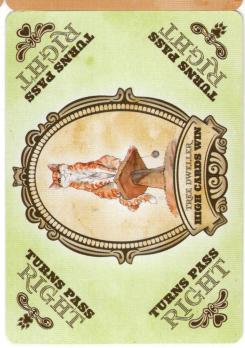




















# A BASIC FLOW

BANK Affection ( in your House. Lose Affection ( when you score Mischief ( ).

### GLOSSARY 2

PLAY: Any legal action using a card.
SCORE: Play a Mischief card in your House.
BANK: Play an Affection card in your House.
ATTACK: Play a Mischief card
against a Domestic cat.

### 🗠 INSTANT ACTIONS 🗻

IF ANY PLAYER USES ONE OF THESE CARDS:

Affection Mischief Event

YOU MAY USE THESE EFFECTS IMMEDIATELY

BANK or SCORE PLAY SERO AFFECTION

### DOMESTIC CAT

Normal game state. May be Attacked. Score your NINTH Mischief point while holding the Cat Toy to win the game!

### 1.MEAL TIME

Draw THREE cards from the FOOD BOWL

### 2.PLAY TIME

Take TWO of the following actions

A. Bank ONE Affection Card

B. Score ONE Mischief Card

C. Play ONE Incident Card
D. Buy ONE Pounce Token

E. Be a Picky Eater

You MAY take the same ACTION twice. You MAY NOT play actions simultaneously.

### 3.GROOMING

Discard down OR Draw up to the hand limit of FIVE cards.

### 4.NAP TIME

Pass the Cat Toy to the next player

### FERAL TURN

### 1.ADOPTION CHECK

If you have FOUR Affection points in your Territory, become a Domestic Cat.

Keep your Affection cards.

### 2.MEAL TIME

Draw THREE cards from the Food Bowl. Discard TWO of them.

### 3.PLAY TIME

Take TWO of the following actions

- A. Bank ONE Affection Card
- B. Attack any DOMESTIC Cat
- C. Play ONE Incident Card
- D. Buy ONE Pounce Token
- E. Be a Picky Eater

### With THESE Modifications

- \*You CAN NOT score Mischief Points
- \*You CAN NOT be Attacked
- \*\*Bank NINE Affection Points while holding the Cat Toy to win!
- B. Does not cost a Pounce Token.
- D. Pounce Tokens cost THREE Cards.

You MAY take the same ACTION twice. You MAY NOT play actions simultaneously.

### 4.GROOMING TIME

Discard down OR Draw up to the hand limit of FIVE cards.

### 5.NAP TIME

Pass the Cat Toy to the next player with a Hiss!









Breaking Games 3

www.cantankerouscats.net

# You Are a Cat

You live in a House.

You share this House with your pet Hoomin. Your mission is to shower this Hoomin with Affection while causing Mischief in their House. Other Cats in the neighborhood will be doing their best to thwart your efforts.

The first Cat to score 9
Mischief points is the winner of the game!



SECOND EDITION



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