



*Caliger* affirmeth, that in the land of the Giants, there is a beast which hath the heade, necke, and eares, of a Mule, but the body of a Camell; wherefore it is probable, that it is conceiued by a Camell and a Mule: the picture whereof is before sette downe, as it was taken from the sight of the beast, and imprinted with a discription at Middleborough in the year 1558. which was neuer before seen in Germany, nor yet spoken of by *Pliny*.

They said that it was an Indian Sheepe, out of the region of *Pernu*, and so was brought to Antwerpe, sixe thousand miles distant from that nation. It was about two yardes high, and five foote in length, the neck was as white as any Swan: the colour of his other parts was yellowish, and his feet like an Ostrige-Camels: and although it were a male, yet it did render his vrine backward: it was afterwarde giuen to the Emperour by *Theodorice Neus*, a citizen of the nether Colen. It was a most gentle and meek beast like the *Camelopardall*, not past foure yeare olde: wherefore I thought good to expresse it in this place, because of the similitude it hath with the manners of the former beast, although it want hornes and differ in some other members.

### Of another Beast called Campe.



*Diodorus Siculus* maketh relation, that when *Dionisius* with his Army trauailed thorough the desert and dry places, annoyed with diuers wild beasts, he came to *Zambirra* a city of *Lybia*, where he slewe a beast bred in those partes called *Campe*, which had before that time destroyed many men, which a cition did purchase him among the inhabitantes a neuer dying fame, and that therefore there might remaine a continuall remembrance to all posterity of that fact, he raised vp there a monument of the slaine beast to stand for euermore.

## OF THE CAT.



Cat is a familiar and well knowne beast, called of the *Hæ-* brewes *Catull*, and *Schanar*, and *Schunara*; of the *Græcians* *Aeluros*, and *Kattes*, and *Katis*, of the *Saracens*, *Katt*, the *Italians* *Gatta*, and *Gatto*. The *Spaniards*, *Gata* and *Gato*, the *French*, *Chat*; the *Germanes*, *Katz*; the *Illyrians*, *Kozka*; and *Furioz*, (which is vsed for a Cat by *Albertus Magnus*) and I coniecture, to be either the *Persian*, or the *Arabian* worde. The *Latines* call it *Feles*, and sometimes *Murilegus*, and *Musio*, because it catcheth Myse, but most commonly *Catus*, which is deriued of *Cautus*, signifying wary:

*Ouid* saith, that when the Gyantes warred with the Goddess, the Goddess put vpon them the shapes of Beasts, and the sister of *Apollo* lay for a spy in the likenes of a cat, for a cat is a watchfull and warye beast, sildome ouertaken, and most attendaunt to her sport and prey; according to that obseruation of *Mantuan*:

*Non secus ac muricatus, ille, inuadere pernam,  
Nixitur, hic rimas oculis obseruat acutis.*

And for this cause did the *Egyptians* place them for hallowed Beasts, and kept them in their Temples, although they alledged the vse of their skinnes for the couer of shieldes, which was but an vnreasonable shift, for the softnesse of a cats skinne is not fit to defend or beare a blow: It is knowne also, that it was capitall among them, to kill an *Ibis*, an *Aspe*, a *Crocodill*, a *Dogge*, or a *Cat*: insomuch as, that in the daies of King *Ptolamey*, when a peace was lately made betwixt the *Romaines* and the *Egyptians*; and the *Roman* Ambassadors remaining still in *Egypt*, it fortun'd that a *Romane* vnwares killed a cat, which being by the multitude of the *Egyptians* espied, they presently fell vpon the Ambassadors house, to raze downe the same, except the offender might be deliuered vnto them, to suffer death: so that neither the honour of the *Roman* name, nor the necessity of peace, could

Of the name

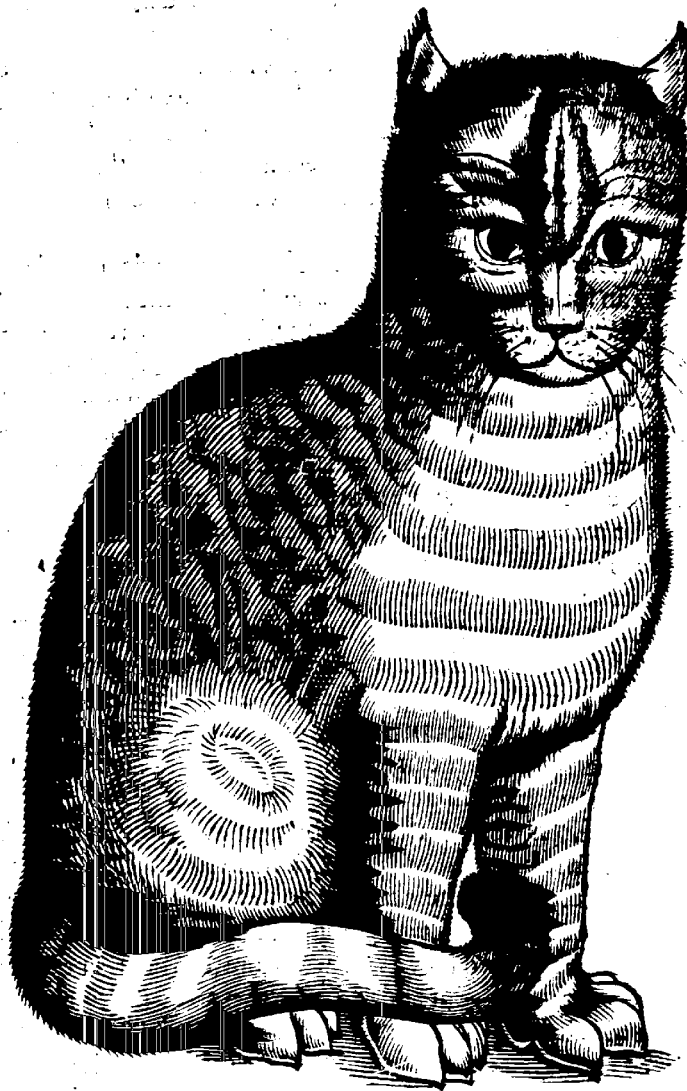
The nature and etymology of a Cat.

Their vse among the *Egyptians*

A historie.

*Cælius*

could have restrained them from that fury, had not the King himselfe & his greatest Lords come in person, not so much to deliuer the Roman Cat-murderer, as to sauegard him from the peoples violence; and not onely the  
 10 Egyptians were fooles in this kind, but the Arabians also, who worshipped a cat for a God; and when the cat dyed, they mourned as much for her, as for the father of the family, shauing the hair from their eye-lids, and carrying the beast to the Temple, where the Priests salted it and gaue it a holy  
 20 funerall in *Bubastum*: (which was a burying place for cattes near the Altar) wherein may appeare to all men, in what miserable blindness the wisest men of the world, (foraking, or deprived of the true  
 30 knowledge of God are,) more then captiuated, so that their wretched estate cannot better bee expressed then by the words of S. Paule, *When they thought to be wise, they became fooles.*



Once cattes were all wilde, but afterward they retyred to houses, wherefore there are plenty of them in all countries: *Martiall* in an Epigram, celebrated a *Pannonian* cat with this distichon:

Of the taming of Cattes and their countryes.

40 *Pannonias nobis nunquam dedit umbria cattas,  
 Mauult hac domina mittere dona pudens.*

The Spanish blacke cats are of most price among the Germanies, because they are nimblest, and haue the softest haire fit for garment.

The best cats

A cat is in all partes like a Lyonesse, (except in her sharpe eares) wherefore the Poets saie, that when *Venus* had turned a cat into a beautifull woman (calling her *Aeluros*) who forgetting her good turne, contended with the goddesse for beauty: in indignation whereof, she returned her to her first nature, onely making her outward shape to resemble a Lyon, which is not altogether idle, but may admonish the wisest, that faire & foule, men and  
 50 beasts, hold nothing by their owne worth and benefite, but by the vertue of their creator: Wherefore if at any time they rise against their maker, let them looke to loose their honour and dignity in their best part, and to returne to basenes and inglorious contempt, out of which they were first taken, and howloeuver their outwarde shape and condition please them, yet at the best they are but beasts that perish, for the Lyons suffer hunger.

Cats are of diuers colours, but for the most part gryfeld, like to congealed yse, which  
 commeth from the condition of her meate: her head is like vnto the head of a Lyon,  
 except

*Sipontinus*

Of the feue-  
r parts.

except in her sharpe eares: her flesh is soft and smooth: her eies glister aboue measure, especially when a mā cometh to see a cat on the sudden, and in the night, they can hardly be endured, for their flaming aspect. Wherfor *Democritus* describing the *persian swordge*, saith that it is not transparent, but filleth the eie with pleasur brightnes, such as is in the eies of Panthers and cats, for they cast forth beames in the shaddow and darkenes, but in the sunshine they haue no such clearnes, and thereof *Alexander Aphrodise* giueth this reason, both for the sight of Cattes and of Battes, that they haue by nature a most sharpe spirit of seeing.

*Albertus* compareth their eye-sight to carbuncles in darke places, because in the night, they can see perfectly to kill Rattes and Myce: the root of the herbe *Valerian* (commonly called *Phu*) is very like to the eye of a Cat, and wheresouer it groweth, if cats come therevnto, they instantly dig it vp, for the loue thereof, as I my selfe haue seene in mine owne Garden, and not once onely, but often, euen then when as I had caused it to bee hedged or compassed round about with thornes, for it smelleth marueilous like to a cat.

*Gallus.*

The Egyptians haue obserued in the eies of a cat, the encrease of the Moone-light, for with the Moone they shine more sully at the ful, and more dimly in the change and wane, and the male cat-doth also vary his eyes with the Sunne; for when the sunne ariseth, the apple of his eie is long; toward noone it is round, and at the euening it cannot be seene at all, but the whole eie sheweth alike.

*Pliny.*

The tongue of a cat is very attractiue, and forcible like a file, attenuating by licking the flesh of a man, for which cause, when she is come neere to the blood, so that her own spittle be mingled therewith, she falleth mad. Her teeth are like a saw, and if the long haire growing about her mouth (which some call *Granons*) be cut away, she looeth hir corage. Her nailes sheathed like the nailes of a Lyon, striking with her forefeete, both Dogs and other things, as a man doth with his hand.

The game &  
food of cats.

This beast is woonderfull nimble, setting vpon her prey like a Lyon, by leaping: and therefore she hunteth both rats, all kind of Myce, & Birds, eating not onely them, but also fish, wherewithall she is best pleased. Hauing taken a Mouse, she first playeth with it, and then deuoreth it, but her watchfull eye is most strange, to see with what pace and soft steps, she taketh birds and flies; and her nature is to hide her own dung or excrements, for she knoweth that at the fauour and presence thereof, will driue away her sport, the little Mouse being able by that stoole, to smell the presence of hir mortall foe.

*Pliny.*  
A secret.

To keepe Cats from hunting of Hens, they vse to tie a litle wild reu vnder their wings, and so likewise from Doue-coates, if they set it in the windowes, they dare not approach vnto it for some secret in nature. Some haue said that cats will fight with Serpentes, and Toads, and kill them, and perceiuing that she is hurt by them, she presently drinketh water and is cured: but I cannot consent vnto this opinion: it being rather true of the Weasell as shalbe afterward declared. *Ponzettus* sheweth by experience that cats and Serpentes loue one another, for there was (sayth he) in a certain Monastery, a Cat nourished by the Monkes, and suddenly the most parts of the Monkes which vsed to play with the Cat fell sicke: wherof the Physitians could find no cause, but some secret poyson, and al of them were assured that they neuer tasted any: at the last a poore laboring man came vnto them, affirming that he saw the Abbey-cat playing with a Serpent, which the Physitians vnderstanding, presently conceiued that the Serpent had empried some of her poyson vpon the cat, which brought the same to the Monkes, and they by stroking and handling the cat, were infected therewith; and whereas there remained one difficulty, namely, how it came to passe, the cat her selfe was not poisoned thereby, it was resolved, that forasmuch as the Serpentes poison came from him but in playe and sporte, and not in malice and wrath, that therefore the venom thereof being lost in play, neither harmed the Cat at al, nor much endaugered the Monkes: and the very like is obserued of myce that will play with Serpents.

Of their loue  
and hatred

*Alianus.*

Cats will also hunt Apes, and follow them to the woods, for in Egypt certaine Cattes set vpon an Ape, who presently tooke himselfe to his heeles and climed vp into a tree, after when the cattes followed with the same celerity and agility: (for they can fasten their claws to the barke, and runne vp very speedily;) the Ape seeing himselfe ouermatched

with

with number of his aduersaries, leaped from branch to braunch, and at last tooke hold of the top of a bough, whereupon he did hang so ingeniously, that the Cats durst not approach vnto him for feare of falling, and so departed.

The nature of this Beast is, to loue the place of her breeding, neither will she tarry in any strange place, although carried very farre, being neuer willing to forsake the house, for the loue of any man, and most contrary to the nature of a Dogge, who will trauaile abroad with his maister; and although their maisters forsake their houses, yet will not these Beastes beare them company, and being carried forth in close baskets or sakes, they will yet returne againe or loose themselues. A Cat is much delighted to play with  
 10 her image in a glasse, and if at any time she behold it in water, presently she leapeth down into the water which naturally she doth abhorre, but if she be not quickly pulled forth and dried she dieth thereof, because she is impatient of al w.e. Those which will keepe their Cartes within doores, and from hunting Birds abroad, must cut off their eares, for they cannot endure to haue drops of raine dritil into them and therefore keep themselues in harbor. Nothing is more contrary to the nature of a Cat, then is wet and water, and for this cause came the Prouerbe that they loue not to wet their feet. It is a neate and cleanly creature, oftentimes licking hir own body to keepe it smooth and faire, hauing naturally a flexible backe for this purpose, and washing hir face with her fore feet: but some obserue, that if she put her feete beyond the crowne of her head, that it is a presage of  
 20 raine, and if the backe of a cat be thinne the beast is of no courage or value. They loue fire and warme places, whereby it falleth out that they often burne their coates. They desire to lie soft, and in the time of their lust (commonly called cat-wralling) they are wilde and fierce, especially the males, whoe at that time (except they be gelded) will not keepe the house: at which time they haue a peculiar direfull voyce. The maner of their copulation is this, the Female lyeth downe and the Male standeth, and their females are aboute measure desirous of procreation, for which cause they prouoke the male, and if he yeeld not to their lust they beate and claw him, but it is onely for loue of young and not for lust: the male is most libidinous, and therefore seeing the female will neuer more engender with him, during the time hir young ones sucke, hee killeth and eateth them if he meet  
 30 with them, (to prouoke the female to copulation with him againe, for when she is deprived of her young, she seeketh out the male of her own accord,) for which the female most warily keepeth them from his sight. During the time of copulation, the female continually cryeth, whereof the Writers giue a double cause; one, because she is pinched with the talants or claws of the male in the time of his lustfull rage, and thother, because his seed is so fiery whot, that it almost burneth the females place of conception. When they haue littered or as we commonly say kittened, they rage against Dogges, and will suffer none to come neere their young ones. The best to keep are such as are littered in March, they go with young fifty daies, and the females liue not aboute sixe or seuen yeares, the males liue longer especially if they be gelt or libbed: the reason of their short life is their  
 40 rauening of meate which corrupteth within them.

They cannot abide the sauour of oynments but fall madde thereby; they are sometimes infected with the falling euill, but are cured with *Gobrium*. It is needelesse to spend any time about her louing nature to man, how she flattereth by rubbing her skinne against ones Legges, how she whurleth with her voyce, hauing as many tunes as turnes, for she hath one voice to beg and to complain, another to testifie her delight & pleasure, another among hir own kind by flattering, by hissing, by puffing, by spitting, insomuch as some haue thought that they haue a peculiar intelligible language among themselues. Therefore how she beggeth, playeth, leapeth, looketh, catcheth, tosseth with her foote, riseth vp to strings held ouer her head, sometime creeping, sometimes lying on the back,  
 50 playing with one foot, somtime on the bely, snatching, now with mouth, & anon with foot, apprehending greedily any thing saue the hand of a man with diuers such gestical actions, it is needelesse to stand vpon; insomuch as *Coelius* was wont to say, that being free from his Studies and more vrgent waighy affaires, he was not ashamed to play and sport himselfe with his Cat, and verily it may well be called an idle mans pastime. As this beast hath bene familiarly nourished of many, so haue they payed deare for their loue, being required

The loue of home.

*Albertus.*  
A way to make Cats keepe home.

A coniectural secret.

Their copulation.

*Aristotle*

*Alianus.*

Choyse of young Cats.

*Gillius*  
*Caluus*  
alu. *Mundellus*  
Their diseases.

The hurt that cometh by the familiarity of a cat.

requited with the losse of their health, and sometime of their life for their friendship: and worthily, because they which loue any beasts in a high measure, haue so much the lesse charity vnto man.

Therefore it must be considered what harmes and perils come vnto men by this beast. It is most certaine that the breath and saour of cats consume the radicall humour and destroy the lungs, and therefore they which keepe their cats with them in their beds  
*Abyz. oar.*  
*Alex. benidict.* haue the aire corrupted and fall into feuer hectickes and consumptions. There was a certaine company off Monkes much giuen to nourish and play with Cattes, whereby they were so infected, that within a short space none of them were able either to say, reade, 10  
 pray, or sing, in all the monastery; and therefore also they are dangerous in the time of pestilence, for they are not onely apt to bring home venomous infection, but to poyson a man with very looking vpon him; wherefore there is in some men a naturall dislike and abhorring of cats, their natures being so composed, that not onely when they see them, but being neere them and vnseene, and hid of purpose, they fall into passions, fretting, sweating, pulling off their hats, and trembling fearefully, as I haue knowne many in Germany, the reason whereof is, because the constellation which threatneth their bodies which is peculiar to euery man, worketh by the presence and offence of these creatures: and therefore they haue cryed out to take away the Cars.

The like may be sayd of the flesh of cats, which can sildome be free from poyson, by reason of their daily foode eating Rats and Mice, Wrens and other birds which feede on  
*of a cats flesh* 30  
 poyson, and aboue all the braine of a cat is most venomous, for it being aboue measure dry, stoppeth the animall spirits, that they cannot passe into the ventricle, by reason  
*Ponzettus.*  
*Alexander.* whereof memory faileth, and the infected person falleth into a phrenzy. The cure whereof may he this, take of the Water of sweete Marioram with *Terra lemnia* the waite of a groate mingled together, and drinke it twice in a month, putting good store of spices into all your meate to recreate the spirits withall, let him drinke pure Wine, wherein put the seede of *Diamoschu*. But a cat doth as much harme with her venemous teeth, therefore to cure her biting, they prescribe a good diet, sometime taking Hony, turpentine, and Oyle of Roses melt together and laied to the wound with *Centory*: sometime they wash the wound with the vrine of a man, and lay to it the braines of some other beast and  
 pure wine mingled both together. 30

The haire also of a cat being eaten vnawares, stopperth the artery and causeth suffocation: and I haue heard that when a child hath gotten the haire of a cat into his mouth, it hath so clouen & stucke to the place that it could not be gotten off again, and hath in that place bred either the wens or the kings euill: to conclude this point it appeareth that this is a dangerous beast, & that therefore as for necessity we are constrained to nourish them for the suppressing of small vermine: so with a wary and discret eie we must auoyde their harmes, making more account of their vse then of their persons.

In *Spaine* and *Gallia Narbon*, they eat cats, but first of al take away their head and taile, and hang the prepared flesh a night or two in the open cold aire, to exhale the saour  
*Perottus.* 40  
 and poyson from it, finding the flesh thereof to be almost as sweete as a Cony. It must needes be an vncleane and impure beast that liueth onely vpon vermin and by rauening, for it is commonly said of a man when he neezeth, that he hath eaten with Cats: likewise the familiars of Witches do most ordinarily appeare in the shape of cats, which is an argument that this beast is dangerous in soule & body. It is said that if bread be made wherein the dung of cats is mixed, it wil driue away Rats and Mice. But we conclude the story of this beast with the medicinal obseruations, and tary no longer in the breath of such a creature compounded of good and euil. It is reported that the flesh of cats salted & sweetned hath power in it to draw wens from the body, & being warmed to cure the Hemorrhoids and paines in the raines and backe, according to the verse of *vrfinus*: 50

*Et lumbus lumbis prestat adesus opem.*

*Aylsus* prescribeth a fat cat sod for the gout, first taking the fat, and annoynting therewith the sicke part, and then wetting Wooll or Towe in the same, and binding it to the offended place.

*Galenus.*  
 The medicinal vertues of a cat.

For the paine and blindness in the eye, by reason of any skinned Webs, or nailes, this

this is an approved medicine. Take the head of a blacke Cat, which hath not a spot of another colour in it, and burne it to poulder in an earthen pot leaded or glazed within, then take this poulder and through a quill blow it thrice a day into thy eie, and if in the night time any heate do thereby annoy thee, take two leaues of an Oke wet in cold water and binde them to the eye, and so shall all paine fly away, and blindnes depart although it hath oppressed thee a whole year, and this medicine is approved by manye Physicians both elder and later.

The liuer of a cat dried and beate to poulder is good against the stone: the dung of a female cat with the claw of an Oule hanged about the necke of a man that hath had seuen fits of a quartane Ague, cureth the same: a neezing poulder made of the gall of a black cat, and the waight of a groate thereof taken and mingled with foure crownes waight of Zambach, helpeth the conuulsion and wryness of the mouth: and if the gall of a Cat with the black dung of the same cat, be burned in perfume vnder a woman trauailing with a dead child, it will cause it presently to come forth: and *Pliny* saith that if a pin, or thorne, or fish bone, sticke in ones mouth, let him rub the outside against it with a little cats dung, and it will easily come forth. Giuen to a Woman suffering the fluxe, with a little Rozen and Oyle of Roses, it stayeth the humour; and for a Web in the eie of an horse euening and morning, blow in the poulder of cats dung, and it shall be cured.

*Galen.*

*Sextus*

*Actius.*

*Rafis.*

*Albertus*

*Pliny.*

OF THE WILDE CAT.



All Cats at the beginning were Wilde, and therefore some doe interpret *ym. Esay. 34.* for wilde cats; and the Germans call it *Bonumruser*, that is, a tree-rider, because she hunteth Birds and foules from tree to tree. The Spaniard calleth it *Gato-montes*, and in some places of France it is called *chat-cirez*. There are great store of them in *Helmetia*, especially in the Woods, and sometime neere the Waters, also being in colour like tame cats but blacker, such as in England is called a *Poolcat*. I saw one of them, which was taken in September, and obserued, that it was in length from the forehead to the toppe of the taile, foure full spannes, and a black line or strake all along the backe, and likewise some blacke vpon the Legges; betwixt the breast and the necke there was a large white spot, and the colour of her other parts was dusky, red, and yellow, especially about the buttocks, the heeles of her feet were blacke, her tayle longer then an ordinary house cats, hauing two or three blacke circles about it, but toward the top all blacke.

They abound in *Scandinavia*, where the *Linxes* deuouere them: otherwise they are hunted with Dogges, or shot with Gunnes, and many times the countrey men seeing one in a tree, doth compassse it about with multitude, and when she leapeth downe kill hir with their clubs, according to the verse of *Newersianus*:

*Olaus mag.*

*Felemque minacem Arboris in trunco,  
Longis perfigere telis.*

In the prouince of *Malabar*, these cattes liue vpon trees, because they are not swift to run, but leape with such agility, that some haue thought they did flye: and verily they do flie, for they haue a certaine skin, which when they lie in quiet, cleaueth or shrinketh vp to their bellies, but being stirred, the same spreadeth from their foreset to their hinder, like the Wing of a Bat; by vertue whereof, they stay vp themselues in the aire, passing from tree to tree like a foule: as also doth the *Pontique* moult, as shall be declared afterward.

The skinned of wild cats are vsed for garments, for there is no skinned warmer, as by experience appeareth in *Scithia* and *Moscouia*, where their women are clothed with the furre of cats, but especially for buskins and sleeces with their haire turned inward, not only against cold but for medecine, against contracted sinnewes, or the gout. The fat of this beast is referued by some for heating, softning, and displaying tumours in the flesh:

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