

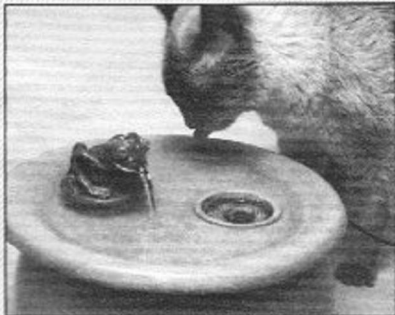


catnip

The newsletter for
caring cat owners

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Earning top marks during testing are these new cat products (from left), the durable and lightweight SturdiPet™ Incognito Carrier; R&R™ Respiratory Relief with Herbal Essence, a hypo-allergenic litter; and Ebi's Ceramic Pet Drinking Fountain, which encourages cats to drink by providing flowing water.

2012's Best New Cat Products

Our product editor and her test team evaluate five new items designed for indoor cats.

Ebi's Ceramic Pet Drinking Fountains

While adequate water consumption is important to any cat, it becomes especially critical in aging cats and cats suffering from kidney disease. Getting a cat to drink from a water bowl can be challenging. *Catnip* Medical Editor Arnold Plotnick, DVM, DACVIM, who operates a cat-only clinic in New York City, recommends owners switch from a traditional water bowl to a fountain-type water bowl to ensure cats do not become dehydrated.

"Cats are often fascinated by flowing water, and will usually drink more water if the bowl contains flowing water," says Dr. Plot-

nick. "Running water is far more attractive to a cat than static water in a bowl."

Artist Eberhard Basler handcrafts utilitarian one-of-a-kind ceramic pet fountains worthy of any art gallery. Not only do her creations provide fresh, filtered water for indoor cats, they fit most home decors. That's because you can choose the size, style, color, filter, pump and water spout.

The pet fountain features four parts: a wide base bowl, a lid, a charcoal filter and a pump. You can choose from four different sizes that hold from a half-gallon to up to 2.5 gallons of water.

Assembly takes only a couple of minutes. A low voltage aquarium pump with a transformer powers the unit. The product comes with a screen that captures cat hair and other debris, preventing these items from entering the reservoir and filter. It uses a Drinkwell® filter, available from any pet supply store.

The water arced out of a frog's mouth on my unit. The flow

provided the soothing sound of trickling water, and the pump made almost no noise. The cats were immediately drawn to the fountain. I liked that it is easy to clean and reassemble. This product earned a five-paw approval rating.

The units come in small (holds up to 1 gallon), medium (holds up to 1.5 gallons), large (holds up to 2 gallons) and extra large (holds up to 2.5 gallons). The fountains retail for \$179, \$189, \$199 and \$229 respectively plus shipping. You can order it directly from Vera Basler Artists Group by calling 727-475-1114 or by visiting its website: Ceramic-pet-fountains.com.