

Letters

VARNER'S CATS

For almost five years I have been doing an unscientific, uncontrolled experiment with soy involving cats. Bear in mind that more than a quarter of married couples in the US cannot conceive. Some of you may be familiar with "clover disease," which happens when a sheep, cow or other animal gets too many legumes (alfalfa, clover, soy, peas, beans). One of our organic dairy farmers said he solved the problem getting his cows to cycle and settle when he switched from soybean meal to sunflowers. From my experience with legumes, too much means a bull can become sterile, while cows abort or do not get pregnant.

Knowing that soy can affect reproduction, about five years ago I started feeding soy-based dog food as part of the cat food for the wild cats on the farm to try to keep the reproduction rate down and maybe get the cat population to three or four so I would still have good gopher control.

It worked—sort of. Only the female cats that were adults when I started feeding soy get pregnant, and only the two adult males court females.

The other females do not pregnant as long as they stay here and keep eating soy. The young females cycle but do not settle unless they leave and go the neighbors to eat for a couple of months. The first year all the males died; there are two from last year but they really aren't active with the females so the

older males do not need to drive them off. The only surviving female from last year got ovarian cancer this summer and I had her put down.

The litters that are born to the adult females have four to six kittens which usually die within minutes of birth. Of the 22 or so kittens that were born this spring, only four survived and only one of them is alive now. There were only three of the five adult females still alive

viruses that affect kittens, plus feline leukemia and they fall prey to predators, so this is not a controlled environment.

However, I grew up on a farm and have lived on this farm with wild cats for almost thirty years. My experiment has convinced me that soy is the critical factor in the birth survival rate of the kittens. If I could catch the females I could get them spayed but even at \$150 per cat, it would not lower the total cat population—others would just move in.

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Dr. Kaayla Daniel receives the Integrity in Science award for her successful protest of the Solae petition for a soy-cancer health claim at *Wise Traditions* 2006.

this spring (one had cancer) so this summer the dominant male brought in three or four pregnant females from somewhere else; there are about 6-8 kittens still alive from them. The total number of cats here stays at about 20. Like all critters living in the wild there are some

viruses that affect kittens, plus feline leukemia and they fall prey to predators, so this is not a controlled environment. However, I grew up on a farm and have lived on this farm with wild cats for almost thirty years. My experiment has convinced me that soy is the critical factor in the birth survival rate of the kittens. If I could catch the females I could get them spayed but even at \$150 per cat, it would not lower the total cat population—others would just move in.

TRADITIONAL DIETS FOR REHABILITATION

I have begun a new job as a cook at The Canyon, a high-end drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Malibu California. (The website is www.thecyn.com.) It costs 36,000 dollars a month to stay there and it is owned by Fred Segal, the fashion designer. Fred has been doing the primal diet for several years now and wanted to implement some of it at the center, namely raw dairy products and raw fish (sushi, ceviche, etc.). On our own initiative, we have also begun to implement other healthy Weston Price food practices such as sourdough