



# Felines

james madison thomas

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## photography by james madison thomas

All my sisters are great animal lovers. They've raised — enjoy raising, mind you — every sort of lifeform with a face. Dogs, cats, pigeons, goats, horses, crabs, snails, but no snakes that I remember... I've gotta be missing the gene for animal worship. If you know me, you know I have a great non-affection for cats in particular. This probably stems from the allergic reaction I always get when around them, a gift that keeps on giving for hours, but really, I think I plain just don't like them. I don't feel inclined to probe the depths of my psyche for the reason just now. I do feel quite vulnerable when I say this out loud, sure that all the neon signs in town are lighting up to point me out as a villainous, hard-hearted fiend, just a step away from serial-killer status (only I bet they'll never put me in a feature film). Worse still, I feel the same way about dogs, only more so [cue skywriting aircraft to fill the entire sky, ready to release whole paragraphs of accusations]. They are so "in your face," oblivious to any hint of personal hygiene issues. So, I generally try to avoid being trapped in a room with domesticated animals of any nationality or social standing and keep my secrets safe. The bright side is that kittens, for me, are not cats, at least not yet. By the time this transformation happens, I'm long gone. I can't say I can breathe any better around kittens, but the hilarity is a pretty fair trade for the malaise. They are actually...um...i mean... you know.. if you put it in the proper context... okay, so they are cute, but lots of things are. Our neighbors rescued a homeless feline which promptly rewarded them by littering the place up, eight to be exact. Anyhow, I thought how I might make them a present of the past-frozen-for-the-future with some images and expand my portfolio at the same time. I just feel that every photographer should have some examples of fissiped mammals with retractile claws right in there with the sunsets and flowers. At this juncture, I need more photos of creatures, closeups of bugs' mugs , landscapes, and grandsons. You can't have too many grandsons. Who knows, perhaps absolution will be mine if this falls into the right hands.  
— jmt 2005



























































































































