



# *Lightfoot Ragdolls*

## *and Cherubims*

### CHEMICAL SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

Oh, what I can say about Chemicals in your home! Do not think what you clean your home with or scent your home with doesn't matter! It can matter a great deal!

A few years back, I decided to hire someone to clean my house. I had a cat that was about 3 weeks pregnant. They brought cheap dollar store cleaners. I didn't even think about it. When the kittens were born, there were 3. Two girls were born with cleft lips. They didn't make it. It was devastating. I didn't have the cleaning ladies come back.

My wonderful stud likes to pee in his pen. I was using an enzyme product that kills the smell. Again, I didn't think about it. It was used for cat pee by carpet cleaners. I had 2 litters of kittens where I lost most of them with two different mamas. It couldn't have been the mamas. One of them had previously had a healthy litter with this stud. I realized that maybe what I was using the stud pen was the cause. I changed and started using Hypochlorus. Since then, we have had 2 healthy litters and another on the way.

I recently read a story on Facebook where a family had purchased a plug-in scent product. It was plugged in over the cat food bowl without thinking about it. The cat got suddenly sick and shortly after passed away. The family discovered that the plug-in had been leaking into the cat food. Beyond a leak, the plug-ins usually have harmful chemicals in them—Glade, Bath and Body Works, Febreze, all of them are harmful. Another breeder I know had been using Febreze on her furniture and had 2 litters with cleft palates. She did some research and found that could be the cause. She quit using it and the problem stopped.

Don't by cat litter that is scented. Don't use air fresheners of any kind except essential oils. Cats are sensitive to most essential oils, but if you use them sparingly and make sure the cats can escape to another room free of the diffuser, they are fine. I recently listened to a Breeder's Summit where there were a lot of speakers. A breeder that is also a vet and scientist working with researching things that effect animals, says she only uses 2 products to clean her home—white vinegar and water and Young Living Thieves cleaner. You need to have a glass spray bottle to mix the thieves cleaner in. I have done some research and Hypochlorus seems safe, as well. You can choose what you want to use, but please realize what you use may effect the lifespan and health of your cat.

Even things like sunscreen, lotions, etc., can affect your cat. I have one cat that loves to lick me. I need to make sure he's not licking chemicals off of me. If you use sunscreen, please wash it off when you come in. Make sure your lotions are safe.

There are also foods that are poisonous to your cat. "Grapes and raisins, as well as onions, garlic, and chives, are all extremely harmful foods for cats. Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure — although the reasoning behind that isn't clear. Meanwhile, onions, garlic, and chives wreak havoc on your cat's gastrointestinal system and can cause anemia. - TICA"

Many cats don't eat your food when you leave it laying around, but why risk it? I have one cat that will lick clean any bowl that is laying around, so we need to be careful to rinse dishes off after eating. If you are cooking with these items, make sure you pick up anything that falls and throw it away.

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