

Tab 1

POLAR NIGHT

A Warriors Roleplay
PUBLIC DOCUMENT: MASTERDOC

IMPORTANT

Use DOCUMENT OUTLINE on mobile ([three dots in the top right](#) → “Document Outline”) to quickly select parts to read.

Use DOCUMENT TABS on computer ([dotted bar in top left](#)) to quickly select parts to read.

Computer users can hide sub/sections by hovering over a section title and clicking the dropdown arrow on the left. Mobile users can tap on the titles instead.

LINKS

[Polar Night: Timeline](#)
[The Flora and Fauna of PNRP](#)
[Polar Night: Carrd Site](#)
[Polar Night: Discord](#)

The Clans

WarrenClan



The Diligent & Dutiful

WarrenClan is composed of cats from all walks of life, open to those of varying religious views and opinions. These cats make their home within a hard-won mountain hare warren, situated under a sacred tree they dub "The Warren Tree." Their home is malleable, able to be manipulated to create false tunnels and new exits, all the while being able to patch them up as if they had never existed.

However, these tunnels come with certain dangers. If they are not maintained and support tunnels are not regularly checked, the whole warren could collapse. This is especially true in kitting tunnels and long paths. Warriors must regularly check and ensure supports are in place.

Origin

During a particular bountiful summer, many vagabond families came together to celebrate. Realizing survival was easier in a large group, they dubbed themselves a "Clan," dishing out roles and names based on individual abilities and group needs. During this time, despite now being a united front, cats prioritized their family over all else. As the Clan grew, families became muddled, and cats felt like they needed another way to identify themselves. This birthed the tradition of rank-based names and their suffixes.

During a harsh leafbare, a pair of second-generation brothers, Harefoot and Crowshade, sought to find their Clan shelter. Harefoot located a suitable location: a mountain hare warren, inhabited. He led a raid on the warren, and through the

hard-won battle, all came out as brothers and sisters. The Clan acknowledged Harefoot's tenacity and loyalty to all cats, not just those of his family, and elected him as the newly named WarrenClan's first leader. Harefoot, realizing he could not lead alone, invited his brother, Crowshade, to stand at the helm with him as his second-in-command.

Thus, WarrenClan was born.

Culture

WarrenClan cats are generally very proud of their ancestry. They are less likely to be swayed by outsiders' opinions and typically stick to their family values, which have been passed on from generation to generation. Many WarrenClan cats prefer routine and tradition and spend most of their pastime sharing tongues and strengthening bonds. Because of their traditional mentality, they are less open to taking in loners and prefer to keep to themselves unless a cat is truly in need.

These cats excel in decoration — without the herbs and trinkets they hang on the roots that permeate their warren ceiling, the tunnels would be bleak and depressing. Through the oldest of tunnels, cats may see various crafts made by generations past, which elders love to speak about. A collapse of one of these tunnels is seen as devastating.

WarrenClan warriors are adept at digging tunnels and are masters of navigating the dark. They are clever strategists who pride themselves on upper body strength to keep their warren strong. These cats often create false tunnels, dead ends that confuse potential predators, along with traps in the ground near their camp or false entrances to deter animals.

CavernClan



The Proud & Flexible

CavernClan is a new Clan within the Frozen Valley. These cats have split from WarrenClan, exhausted from constant starvation, overpopulation, and rigidity.

These cats make their home within an expansive cave, which becomes more dangerous the deeper you go. Their home is rigid, but this does not reflect the cats that live within, having molded the once cold and uninhabitable caverns into a home, warm and welcoming.

Although their new home comes with many advantages, such as geothermal springs and vents deep underground that keep the system warm, these same springs and vents pose a danger to the cats. The farther one ventures down, the more rancid the air becomes. Venturing too far leads to death within minutes, and cats are generally forbidden from going farther than the prey pile. Younger cats are sometimes oblivious to the danger of the smell, and without proper guidance, may wander farther than they can return from.

Origin

CavernClan formed as a split from the once overpopulated WarrenClan. The heads of the rebellion were fed up with Weepingstar's inaction after his father's tumultuous reign and believed the new leader incapable, setting off on their own with a large group of cats to build a new life in the caves. They are flexible, and while sharing the same origin as WarrenClan, take heart in being unrooted from their ancestors' home.

Culture

Unlike WarrenClan, CavernClan cats do not hold as much weight on ancestry as they do on individual accomplishments. While individualism is celebrated, they believe that every cat must pull their weight for the good of the Clan. As long as a cat can contribute to the betterment of the Clan, all are welcome, including loners, and CavernClan is wont to turn away a cat in need, however small the problem.

They are not as keen on decoration as their neighbors, as their cave system is naturally adorned in colorful crystals, lichens, and mushrooms, but they do enjoy carving murals into softer stone deposits such as soapstone. Lighter carvings can be wiped away with moisture, while some especially creative cats enjoy carving pictures of their friends and family on smaller rocks and keep them close to their nests.

These cats are incredibly attentive to the younger generation. Their nursery is situated in the warmest corner of the system, where heat leaks through the retentive soapstone. Training of apprentices is somewhat communal to ensure the best possible training for their young minds. Mentors give their apprentices arduous tasks the closer they get to becoming a warrior, solidifying their basic survival skills in the event they get caught on their own. Because of this,

CavernClan warriors are known to be resourceful, with an innate ability to slip out of tricky situations unscathed.

Religion

In the beginning, faith was flexible — each family had their way of explaining the otherworldly. Many had focused on the Moon and saw it as a sacred, feminine entity, and the stars being cats who had passed on. Blueflower, WarrenClan's first medicine cat, known for her vivid visions from cats of the past, solidified their once fractured religion. While the spectrum of faith is varied, Clan cats believe in StarClan and the Moon.

StarClan cats are described as being frozen husks of what they had been in life. They come in many forms: stiff and cold, misty and soft, bright and overwhelming, but one fact remains across all accounts: they are creepy, liminal spirits who have no real attachment to the world of the living any longer.

StarClan cats rest in the Moon's blanket — the night sky — watching over all cats and keeping them safe. In dreams, most describe the Moon's blanket as cold and far away. Depending on the situation, cats have painted a vivid picture of snowstorms or an engorged moon. Most of the time, only medicine cats, leaders, the young, and the dying see visions of these cats. It is not uncommon for spirits to visit their living friends and family. However, they often only come to them in times of need, whereas medicine cats will often see strange icy figures several times a day.

Ceremonies

Promotions

Leadership

When the time has come, a medicine cat leads the deputy (or a cat of their choosing in the absence of a deputy) to the Lake of Stars to receive their nine lives. They are escorted to the middle of the lake with their noses to the medicine cat, dreaming of their ancestors who each grant them one life. Their last life seems to be their strongest, and they pledge to the medicine cat to remain secretive about the ceremony. During this time, Clan cats look to the sky, and if an aurora can be seen, it is taken as a blessing from StarClan. The new leader returns with a star on their forehead, representing their new position and nine lives. They tend to rest in the coming days, digesting their audience with StarClan and settling into their position.

Deputyship

Leaders make their choice of deputy based on achievement and reputation. They often pick a cat that they know they will get along with. A leader will ask for the Moon's blessing and hope that StarClan approves of their choice. Unlike a newly appointed leader, the deputy must work very hard in the days following his election. He must get used to setting patrols, delegating tasks, and making up for his leader's absence. For some cats, it comes naturally; others look back on it with disdain. After their leader returns to their duties, a deputy is finally allowed to take a vigil wherever they see fit and whoever they wish to accompany them. After both of their inaugurations, they work together to ensure the Clan's success.

Medicine Cats

Medicine cat apprentices are chosen by the currently established healer. There is little fanfare over a medicine cat taking on an apprentice until they are officially announced, as it is rare for any apprentice to make it past the first few moons. It is typical for a medicine cat to announce their apprentice on the first day of a new moon. Medicine cat apprentices may earn their name sooner or later than their peers, and earning their name does not necessarily mean their apprenticeship is over: it just means that StarClan approves of their knowledge and marks them as valid medicine cats.

Warriorship

Warrior ceremonies are treated with honor and respect. Cats are excited to celebrate the promotion of a warrior and their hard work thus far. It is considered a great achievement to become a warrior, as most do not make it this far in the unforgiving Scandinavian wild. Cats will chant the new warrior's full name, share tongues, and decorate the cat with an array of flowers or crystal shards, depending on the Clan. Some who are skilled enough may even create bouquets, garlands, necklaces, or keepsakes, and even after the vines and flowers wilt, they are often valued for the rest of a warrior's life. After their ceremony, they are swiftly eased into their duties.

Apprenticeship & Mentoring

Apprenticeship is an incredibly exciting time for young cats as it opens up a myriad of opportunities. It offers freedom from the confines of their musty nursery tunnels, and despite not being kits any longer, they are still very malleable. Kits are expected to begin training once they hit six moons and graduate at twelve moons into a fully-fledged warrior. A new mentor and apprentice will touch noses.

WarrenClan sees apprenticeship as sacred, as they handle a malleable, clean slate. An apprentice's first days consist of navigating their home's vast tunnels, along with lessons on collapsing tunnel safety procedures, digging support tunnels, the history of the warrens, and various other intricate tunnel-related tasks. Afterwards, mentors decide on how they want to train their apprentice and

in what order, overseen closely by the leader, and they are trialed many times to ensure they are on track. As their apprenticeship comes to a close, they are faced with a grueling test to ensure their readiness, decided by their mentor, which ranges from hunting, herb gathering, trinket-making, and tracking.

CavernClan approaches apprenticeships differently, believing the most important part of an apprentice's first moons is self-sustaining survival skills. While assigned an individual mentor, training is often a communal effort, so that mentors and apprentices alike can share strategies and tips more readily. The individual mentor, however, is vital to an apprentice's success, as one-on-one training is valuable and necessary. Due to CavernClan's more practical approach to apprenticeship, the last trial a cat will face is a survival mission: they are sent into the howling woods for a quarter of a moon, supervised secretly by their mentor, and if they survive without a helping paw, then they may earn their warrior name. Soft skills such as trinket-making or bouquet-making are often learned after a cat's apprenticeship.

Birth & Death

WarrenClan cats prefer to give life and experience death solitarily, or between family. Due to their malleable home, many cats choose to use "kitting tunnels," passed down from generation to generation. The older a kitting tunnel is, the more likely it is to collapse, so preparing a tunnel is an affair a pair does not take lightly. Doing so alone can be more arduous, but more rewarding in the end. Kittens will converge in the main nursery chamber to play, but are not allowed further than that.

Due to their expansive history of starvation and disease, WarrenClan deaths are not given much fanfare out of respect for the family. Funerals are held on the Lake of Stars, where cats are sunk into the lake and given to the Moon. Those who lead lonely lives will still be celebrated by the Clan, most often by friends. The death of a high-standing cat, such as a leader, is more of a Clan-wide affair, but cats still keep quiet out of respect.

Unlike WarrenClan, CavernClan's life and death are celebrated by all. Raising kittens is a communal effort, and all cats pitch in to take care of new life. Queens and Kings especially dote on each other, and elders often visit when new kits are born, sharing tips and tricks on parenthood. Fathers tend to take a less active role in the kits' early upbringing, believing their paws are best used for the betterment of the Clan, but frequently visit and give stories of their outings. Kittens may sometimes be allowed out into the lesser cavern as long as there is low traffic and they are being supervised.

Funerals are held much like WarrenClan's, but all deaths tend to be a Clan affair as cats support those who have lost love, and celebrate the cat they are sending off. Both Clans revere their cats before they sink in similar ways:

Kittens are bundled in leaves with small bits of fur, feathers, and herbs to ease their way into the afterlife. **Apprentices** will have trinkets tied to their fur, and warriors may braid and groom their pelt to honor their hard work. **Warriors** are treated carefully as they are donned in garlands and flowers, and sent into the water with their favorite items trailing after them. **Deputies** are treated the same way. **Elders** are treated with respect, as most cats do not get to live so long, and medicine cats will rub their fur in sweet-scented herbs while close friends will tell tales of their life before lowering them into the Lake of Stars. **Medicine cats** are given one of each herb, granted that there are herbs to spare. These herbs are tied to their fur before they are set into the water. **Leaders** are embroidered by the whole Clan, blessed by the medicine cat, and sent into the water once each cat closest to them has made their momentary peace.

Retirement

Close friends and family celebrate retirement. A cat will be decorated in flowers or groomed by their family and friends, tended to carefully as they live out the rest of their moons in a well-deserved, privileged comfort. The oldest elders will have moons upon moons of vines and stems braided into their fur, taking on the appearance of an old guardian. They are careful to take good care of their fur, and when they can no longer maintain it, one of the duties of an apprentice is to help elders groom themselves. Their pelt is meticulously checked for ticks, grime, or dead flowers, often replacing the old with the new to keep these cats colorful.

The Code

Since their formation, WarrenClan has never seen a need for a warrior code as they all live in the same home and share the Frozen Valley. However, as tensions rise and morals are questioned, both Clans soon see the need for a code and begin drafting...

The Setting

The Frozen Valley

The cats live in a fictional region dubbed "The Frozen Valley," located in northernmost Scandinavia, near the coast of the Arctic Ocean. Their summers are three moons long — greenleaf — and their winters envelope the rest of the nine, which they call leafbare. They do not differentiate between spring, summer, fall, and winter, and instead use only greenleaf and leafbare to describe the difference. Despite this, however, as nature does, early leafbare will look more like autumn, and early greenleaf will look more like spring.

Medicinal Herbs

Greenleaf is an extremely important time for medicine cats, as it is prime time to stockpile herbs. For how tedious this task is, and how quickly a medicine cat can run out of important herbs, infections and sickness are incredibly dangerous.

Consequently, healers are very stingy about what they use their herbs on.

Parsley

Soothes bellyaches and stops milk production. A leafy plant that has a sharp scent and tastes cold and fresh. Found in sunny places during greenleaf.

Chervil

Soothes bellyaches and nausea, and can help treat infected wounds.

Sweet-smelling with clusters of pointed, fern-like leaves. Often found in lightly-shaded areas in warm months, and can sustain itself in early leafbare.

Billberries

Treats bad bellyaches and can be chewed into a poultice to slow bleeding and ease inflammation. It mimics blueberries, and the main way to tell them apart is their smaller size and deep, rich blue color. Found in forested areas and grows dormant in the thick of leafbare, with rare berries being seen during warmer polar night days.

Juniper Berries

Soothes bellyaches and helps with coughing and trouble breathing. Gives strength, can be used as an anxiety reliever, and is a good traveling herb. They tend to grow in slightly elevated areas in the sun, but can be found in the hilly forests of WarrenClan. They harbor a light blue appearance and grow alongside spiky, pine-like leaves, persisting through leafbare, but tasting a little more bitter.

Veronica

Eating veronicas can slow venom action from adder bites, and it can also be used in a poultice to treat wounds and asthma. It has been known to relieve persistent itching, as well. They grow upright and often are blue or purple, sometimes pink. Veronicas sprout at the beginning of greenleaf and are known to persist through the first few frosts.

Buttercup

A poultice can be used to relieve muscle soreness and treat burns, but it should never be eaten or orally crushed because it is toxic. It will cause vomiting and mouth ulcers, potentially death if eaten in large doses or by younger cats. They have leafy stems, and the bright yellow flower is used in medicine. It enjoys full sun, but can be found in less forested areas, growing in greenleaf and persisting through a few frosts like veronica.

Tansy

Tansy stems are chewed to soothe sore throats and help fight illnesses, and can kill ticks if mouse bile isn't available. They have bright yellow bulbs growing off of leafy stems and grow in greenleaf, receding before leafbare is in full swing.

Sheep's Sorrel (*Sorrel*)

Can help ease fevers, but is also a great traveling herb that is used to ease hunger pangs. They grow in large leafy shrubs and produce thin stems in greenleaf where small red or yellow buds bloom. They are very hardy plants that can be dug up annually, even in deep leafbare.

Heather

A large shrub that treats aching joints or generally sore bones. They often grow in sunny fields in expansive patches with bright pink leaves, and sometimes small patches will survive frosts.

Poppy Seeds

The seeds can aid sleep and anxiety, and are often used as painkillers. However, they are not recommended for nursing queens or in prolonged doses. They have leggy, thin stems that harbor a bright red flower on top, and peeling back the petals reveals the black seeds. They easily survive frosts, but cannot survive leafbare.

Wild Garlic

Garlic draws out potent venom and is an important herb to treat adder bites - however, they are extremely toxic to cats, and should never be chewed or eaten. They grow underground, with white, spiky petals protruding from the dirt, mostly in sunny spots. They do not grow when the ground begins to freeze.

Honey

Soothes throats and infections while giving energy to the receiver. It can also draw out mild venom, like bee stings. Honey needs to be harvested carefully, as cats can easily be attacked by the horde of bees protecting it. Honey is most easily harvested on colder days or during periods of rain or snow and at the tail end of greenleaf, right before they stop producing for their leafbare slumber.

Mouse bile

Medicine cats will often slice a mouse's belly to get to the mouse bile, which kills ticks and is picked up with moss balls. The taste is horrible, however, and any cat will regret their life choices if they end up tasting it. Cut mice are given to warriors to eat, most often to the cats that reside in the medicine den.

Moss

A good source of bedding, but moss can also be rolled into balls - big or small - to collect liquids like water or mouse bile. It is best for transferring liquids around the warrens for the sick, old, young, and nursing. It often grows on north-facing surfaces of rocks and trees, persisting through leafbare as long as the surface they're growing on isn't covered in snow.

Cobwebs

Best harvested in the caves, cobwebs can slow and even stop bleeding. It is used less often to craft stilts and bind herbs together. The only risk of harvesting cobwebs is the creepy spiders, which are often on the smaller side and are harmless.

Tree Sap

Tree sap can be harvested at any time of the year, and works as a great, strong tool to stick things together — especially when making stilts, or attempting to get herbs to stick when not using cobwebs. Not only is it useful for medicine cats, but it can be used by cats to craft trinkets and accessories. However, it can be difficult to harvest, as cats need to know the right trees to harvest from, and be able to dig their claws deep enough into the bark — oftentimes, they will strip the bark, and see if any sap comes out by pressing the tree. Then, they can harvest with a leaf or moss.

Festivities

Sunthaw Festival

The Sunthaw Festival is a gathering of Clan cats at the beginning of the valley's short, prosperous summer. The cats gather to celebrate the Moon's rest, the warmth of the sun, and the blooming plants, taking in the scents of the air as the caribou herds begin to move into their section of the valley. Respected cats tend to give speeches during this time — the highlight of the festival, and a great boost to Clan morale. WarrenClan holds this festival in the wolf meadow, while CavernClan holds this festival in the Roaring Canyon, offering them a better view of the caribou herds.

Leafbare Vigil

When the sun sets, welcoming the Moon and Her blanket, cats will watch the sunset together in silence. While it is scary to welcome in leafbare, the Clan takes this vigil together to honor each other's fears, standing together in the face of adversity. It is a very special event for each cat, with some choosing to celebrate the vigil alone, and others with their Clan. Breaking the vigil is taboo, as it is over the moment the moon rises.