



# The Scoop

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This issue: Happy Holidays

December 2011

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## News and Events

### Save \$30 on Teeth Cleaning in Jan. & Feb.

Schedule a dental cleaning under anesthesia in January or February and get \$30 off! Call no later than January 15, 2012 to make your appointment!

### Reminder:

#### Dec 17 open house!

Stop in from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for some great holiday fare with fellow cat lovers!

## The purr-fect holiday gift for you from The Cat Practice!



Economic hardship has taken a severe toll on the pets in our community. Many are being abandoned and dropped off at area shelters every week. **Adopt a cat or kitten this holiday season from OAKLAND PET ADOPTION CENTER as a gift from The Cat Practice.** Your gift includes the adoption fee, spay or neuter, health exam and vaccinations. All you need to provide is a loving home and a second chance to a homeless pet.

To receive your gift, email us at [Lindaw@LWmarketworks.com](mailto:Lindaw@LWmarketworks.com) to request an ADOPTION GIFT CERTIFICATE which will be mailed to you. **Cats and kittens must be adopted through OAKLAND PET ADOPTION CENTER, 1700 Brown Rd. in Auburn Hills.**

## Have a Happy & Safe Holiday by Avoiding These Hazards

Every holiday has its risks, but December festivities have the most potential problems for pets. Veterinarians see an increase in pets consuming toxic substances as well as foreign objects.



Keep your kitty out of the emergency hospital this holiday season by keeping him/her clear of:

### Foods/beverages

- Alcoholic beverages, coffee, chocolate, grapes, raisins and some nuts can all be toxic for cats.
- Turkey/poultry bones can cause intestinal blockages or perforations if ingested.
- Strings off of turkey and meats smell yummy, but can be dangerous if swallowed.

### Decorations:

- Ribbon, string and yarn can cause gastrointestinal obstructions if swallowed.
- Candles can start a fire or be a burn hazard if knocked over or if kitty gets too close.
- Potpourri can cause stomach upset and vomiting if ingested.
- Decorations such as spray snow may contain toxic chemicals; read labels carefully.

### Christmas trees:

- While very enticing for cats, tinsel can be extremely dangerous if swallowed.
- If they break, glass ornaments pose a risk if glass or metal pieces are swallowed.
- Electrical cords should be covered or put out of reach to prevent chewing that can result in electrocution or electrical burns.
- Live trees are often treated with fertilizers and/or preservatives. Cover the base so that cats cannot drink the water which can also contain bacteria. (An e-collar cone collar around the base of the tree is one way to keep kitty out!)

### Holiday plants:

- Lilies are extremely toxic to cats and cause acute kidney failure if chewed or eaten.
- Christmas Rose, Holly, Mistletoe, Philodendron and Dieffenbachia can also be dangerous.
- Poinsettias can cause mild irritation to a cat's mouth and gastrointestinal tract.

### Other Hazards:

- Batteries contain corrosives that, if chewed on, can cause ulcers in a cat's mouth and gastrointestinal tract.

### Winter warning:

Outdoor cats, especially strays, often sleep on engine blocks of parked cars for warmth. If the car is started, cats can face serious injuries or death. Knock on the hood or honk the horn before starting the car to wake sleeping kitties.

## Morning Nip Travel Mugs Make Great Gifts; Help Cats in Need



Delight the cat lover in your life with one of our **Morning Nip** or **Cat-feine** thermal coffee mugs. Give a great gift while helping cats in need. Proceeds go to our Rufus Memorial Feline Fund. Cost is \$10. Available exclusively at The Cat Practice!

## Does Your "Kitty Got Talent?"



Have a talented feline? We're looking for kitties to star in our new video series! Contact [tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com)



Follow us:

## Save on Wellness Exams

## Reward Kitty With These Homemade Cat Treats

### Chick N' Biscuits

1-1/2 cups shredded cooked chicken  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
1 cup whole wheat flour  
1/3 cup cornmeal  
1 tablespoon soft margarine

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Combine chicken, broth and margarine and blend well. Add flour and cornmeal. Knead dough into a ball and roll to a 1/4 inch thick rope. Cut into one-inch sized pieces and place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Makes 18 cookies.

### Tuna Tidbits

6 ounce can of tuna  
1/4 cup water drained from tuna  
3 tablespoons cooked egg white, chopped  
1/4 cup cornmeal  
1/2 cup whole wheat flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine tuna, egg white and water. Add cornmeal and flour and blend to form a dough. Knead into a ball and roll to a 1/4 inch thick rope. Cut into one-inch sized pieces. Bake at 350 F for 20 minutes. Makes 12 cookies.



## for Senior Cats! **AARC** All About Retired Cats

Save 10% off all senior wellness exams and get free blood pressure checks, free nail trims and more! AARC is open to cats 15 years and older.

[thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm)

## Just one more benefit of having a cat!



Having a cat means that you can park in The Cat Practice parking lot! Check out our new parking lot signs that remind non-cat people they will just have to find a spot elsewhere!

## Kitty Camp

Cats staying in our Kitty Camp enjoy frequent attention and plenty of play and exercise in our Kitty Playroom. Boarding your cat is a great alternative while you are away, have guests or are having work done at home. For more information – or to register – go to [thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html](http://thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html) or call 248-540-3390.



## A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

### American Bobtail



Native to North America and reminiscent in appearance to wild cats, the American Bobtail is medium-large to large in size. Its naturally short tail, unique in each cat, is proudly held up above the back when

the cat is alert, often wagging to express the cat's mood. The American Bobtail is recognized as a naturally-occurring breed originating with feral cats around the United States and Canada. Its above-average intelligence and affectionate, but low-key, personality make the American Bobtail a great family pet that typically bonds with the whole family. The breed comes in a wide variety of colors and patterns in short hair (plush like rabbit fur) and in medium-long (easy to maintain with minimal combing).

## Cat Trivia

Domestic cats purr when inhaling AND exhaling. True or False?

Quick, go make your cat purr, listen closely and email us with your answer!

– Be the FIRST to email us with the RIGHT answer at [Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com) and win a free bag of organic catnip! See next month's issue for the answer!

Last month's trivia answer: True!

Some cats will purr due to being nervous or anxious, or while in pain.

Congrats to Ina Stashonsky who was the first to email with the correct answer, and claim her free bag of organic catnip!

## Antifreeze is often deadly; keep pets away

As we enter the colder months, it's important to remember that antifreeze is extremely toxic to cats and other pets. Each year, antifreeze kills about 90,000 pets. A cat only needs to ingest a very small amount of antifreeze for it to be lethal. Just a few tablespoonfuls is enough to kill a medium-sized dog. Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol which is poisonous and quickly destroys critical parts of your pets' kidneys. Ethylene glycol is also found in brake and hydraulic fluids, in some liquid rust inhibitors, and in other products. Cats, in particular, are drawn to antifreeze as a water source if none is available and due to its sweet taste.



### ANTIFREEZE POISONING IS AVOIDABLE if you:

- Ask for a brand of antifreeze that uses **PROPYLENE GLYCOL** which is much less toxic than ethylene glycol and has the advantage of being bitter tasting as well. Brands include [Sierra Antifreeze](#) and [Prestone LowTox](#), or ask your mechanic.
- Be vigilant. NEVER ever leave antifreeze out, no matter how small the quantity or how short a time.
- Check your car regularly for leaks, and keep all containers sealed and out of the reach of animals and children.
- Watch your own pet closely if he or she goes outside; immediate action is critical when an animal has been exposed to antifreeze.

**If you suspect that your pet has ingested antifreeze, IMMEDIATELY TAKE YOUR PET TO THE VETERINARIAN.** Treatment needs to start BEFORE symptoms even begin, since there is a very short window to treat before irreversible kidney damage occurs. Symptoms are very subtle initially and can include poor appetite, vomiting, change in urine (amount, frequency, or color), lethargy, and discomfort.

## Looking for Homes / Official Cat Adoption Site

See the adoptable cats and kittens in our lobby and on [our Facebook page](#). Also, we are now an [official adoption outreach center of Oakland Pet Adoption Center](#) in Auburn Hills so we are getting new kitties as often as we can adopt them out!

## Follow us in the News!

Check our website regularly for updates on our recent news coverage. [thecatpracticepc.com/press.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/press.htm).

## Are You Getting The Scoop?

To sign up, send us an email at

## Cat's Meow Tip: "Kitty Spritz"™ Reduces Holiday Anxiety

The holidays are often a time for house guests, parties and changes from regular routines – all of which can result in anxiety for cats.

Here is a "Kitty Spritz" that can help your cat be more at ease over the holidays.

IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS IS TO BE SPRAYED AROUND YOUR CAT AND IS NOT FOR YOUR CAT TO DRINK.

The mixture:

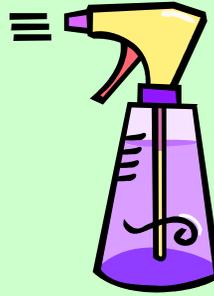
26 oz. water

1 oz. vodka

8-10 Rescue Remedy (you can get this in health food stores – is a human homeopathic anxiety reliever)

Mix the above and put in a spray bottle – spray in the air around your cats.

Some of it will land on their cats and they will ingest when they groom which is fine. Do NOT give this mixture to your cats to drink.



[meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com) or  
call 248.540.3390

### Contact Us:

If you have story ideas for The Scoop or would like more information, please contact Tabitha at [Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com).

### Our Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8 am – 9 pm

Friday: 8 am – 8 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 8 am – 6 pm

### *The Cat Practice commitment to cats and their people:*

- Spot health conditions early to avoid more costly care later.
- Treat the whole patient looking out for physical and emotional wellbeing.
- Respect each cat as an individual with his/her own distinct personality and heredity.
- Avoid surgery at all cost. (The exception: all cats should be spayed or neutered!)
- Provide alternatives for care whenever possible.
- Partner with cat families through knowledge sharing.
- Make oral hygiene and preventive dental care a priority.

*"As every cat owner  
knows, nobody  
owns a cat."  
- Ellen Perry Berkeley*

Wellness/early detection

Chronic conditions

Medical/surgical care

Geriatrics/hospice

Kitty camp boarding



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