



The Scoop

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Happy Spring! Pet First Aid Awareness Month

April 2012

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News and Events


More cat lover news: Read *Cat Chat*

Oakland Press blogger Caren Gittleman brings you all kinds of cat lover news, cool cat stories, new products and more. Go to: <http://opcatchat.blogspot.com>



Flowers, Chocolate, Grass Top List of Easter Hazards

Isn't it nice to see some spring color after a long winter? Easter and springtime decorations liven up the scenery, but can pose potential health risks to your pet.

Flowers		ALL lilies can be fatal to cats if ingested. Tulips and carnations can also be toxic along with more than 100 other flowers. For a complete list go to www.thecatpracticepc.com/links.html. Discard the silica packet and rubber bands that often come with flowers.
Sweets		Dark chocolate contains methylxanthines, a caffeine-like stimulant that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, seizures and elevated heart rate. The high fat content in milk chocolate can lead to life-threatening inflammation of the pancreas. Artificial sweeteners like xylitol (in many sugar-free candies and gums) can also be toxic to pets.
Decorations		Plastic Easter grass is a big problem for cats since they like anything that moves. If ingested, Easter grass can become a serious intestinal obstruction.
Gift wrap		Gather up tape, ribbons, bows, wrapping paper and cellophane. If swallowed, any of these can get lodged in your pet's throat or digestive tract.

If you suspect that your pet has consumed something toxic, see your veterinarian immediately.

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

Caring for Aging Kitties – Seminar Series in May/June

Due to better care and nutrition, cats are living 20 years and more. For feline families, this means caring for aging cats and making sometimes difficult quality-of-life decisions.

Please join us at The Cat Practice for a very special series that will bring you closer to your feline and help you provide the very best lifelong care. All programs are from 6 – 7 p.m.

Caring for geriatric cats	Wed., May 16	Making end of decisions	Wed., May 30
Pet hospice care	Wed., June 13	Pet loss and grieving	Wed., June 27

Laura Kramek, Hospice Nurse

If you bring your cats to The Cat Practice, you have probably met Laura Kramek, LVT, veterinary nurse/hospice nurse overseeing our new Hospice & End of Life Care program. Laura has been with The Cat Practice since 1993 and is a graduate of Michigan State University. She has a special interest in geriatric pets, end of life care and in helping families understand their options. Laura has two cats: Eppoisses, an orange tabby, and Pinot, a brown tabby.



Speakers: **Laura Kramek, LVT**, veterinary nurse/hospice nurse at The Cat Practice (May 16, 30 and June 13) and **Dr. Camille Greenwald, PhD**, licensed clinical psychologist focusing on life transitions. (June 27). Space is limited so reserve early. Cost is \$10 per program or \$25 for the series. Pay by PayPal at www.thecatpracticepc.com or pay at The Cat Practice. Proceeds go to the **Rufus Feline Memorial Fund** for ill and injured homeless cats and cats in need. For more info, go to www.thecatpracticepc.com or call 248-540-3390.

Follow us:   

Save on Wellness Exams for Senior 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

New Family Member? Make New Kitty Introduction Easy

You may have recently adopted or brought home a new family member. Make the transition smooth and easy with these tips:

Introduction to other pets: GO SLOW! Don't force interactions with other pets. Give your new kitty his/her own room for a few days to adjust. Slowly introduce everyone for short periods and always end on a good note! Favorite treats or toys help create positive associations.

Meal time: Find out what type of food kitty is used to eating. If you plan on changing food, mix kitty's former food with the new food for several days. Cats' systems can be sensitive, especially when under the stress of a new home, so a slow transition will help prevent stomach upset and diarrhea. And remember, canned food is better than dry!

Health testing and vaccines: Make a veterinary appointment for your new kitty soon after he/she arrives (especially if you have other cats). Make sure that kitty has had all age-appropriate vaccines, deworming, and Feline Leukemia /FIV testing. Many kitties coming from shelters end up with upper respiratory infections that can usually be cleared up with a short course of antibiotics.



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 or call 248-540-3390.



Heartworm disease is on the rise in Michigan

The recent warm weather means an increase in insect populations including mosquitoes and fleas. Heartworm disease, spread by mosquitoes, is on the rise in southeast Michigan cats. Unfortunately cats can't be treated for this disease as can dogs, so prevention is essential. Mosquitoes can live dormant year 'round indoors and become active in high-40°-plus temperatures so cats need year 'round protection. The same is true for fleas (which can pass tapeworms to your cat). A topical liquid, like **Advantage Multi®** or **Revolution®**, is all that's needed. Applied to the skin on the back of your cat's neck, it lasts for a month and when applied monthly, provides year 'round protection. >>Read more about [Feline Heartworm Disease and Fleas](#).

April 30 (always the last Friday in April) is National Hairball Awareness Day

Reducing Hairballs is Good for Kitty Health



Not only are hairballs not fun to clean up, they can be dangerous for your cat as they can cause intestinal blockages. Prevent hairballs with regular combing and brushing to remove excess fur. Using an over-the-counter hairball remedy, given a couple times a week, or mixing extra fiber like canned pumpkin into kitty's food, can help hairballs pass naturally.

A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

Exotic Shorthair



The Exotic Shorthair cat is ideal for anyone who loves the look of the Persian, but does not have the time to care for all that hair!

Bred to be just like the Persian except with a short, dense coat, the easy-going Exotic Shorthair is affectionate and gentle with the quiet manners of the Persian. The breed has a soft voice and often makes chirping sounds. Their intelligent curiosity makes them a joy to be around. They also get on well with children and other pets.

Breed standards are identical to the Persian except for coat length. The breed has been recognized since 1979.

Cat Trivia

True or False? All cats are born with blue eyes.

– Be the FIRST to email us with the RIGHT answer at 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! A cat's whiskers have numerous nerve endings at their base giving cats detailed information about nearby air movements and objects. Congrats to Debbie Ketner with Munchkin and Scooter, who were the first to answer correctly and earn a free bag of catnip!

April is National Pet First Aid Awareness Month.

Do you know what to do if your pet is injured, consumes something poisonous or suddenly becomes ill? Go to www.avma.org/firstaid/ for tips. This website contains information on what to do in an emergency -- at home and when traveling -- and more. Remember that first aid care is not a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your pet's life until your pet can get veterinary treatment. Keep phone numbers handy for your **regular veterinarian, 24-hour veterinary emergency center** and [ASPCA National Poison Control Center](#) (888-426-4435).

Cat's Meow Tip: Make pill giving easier



If your kitty is on medication, make it easier for you (or your cat sitter) and save time by pre-cutting pills and pre-loading gel caps for morning and evening doses. Get a daily pill organizer – one for morning and one for evening -- if needed. The organizer makes sure that kitty gets the correct medication at the right time, on the

right day. Make up the organizer for the upcoming week! -- **Submitted by Tabitha Owens, LVT at The Cat Practice (who appreciates this trick for boarding guests!)**

Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email to Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com. If we run it, you get a FREE bag of organic catnip. Limit to 75 words.

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.

Are You Getting The Scoop?

To sign up, send us an email at 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.

Open 7 days:

Monday - Thursday: 8 am – 9 pm
Friday: 8 am – 8 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 8 am – 6 pm

Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow.

– Jeff Valdez

Wellness/early detection

Chronic conditions

Medical/surgical care

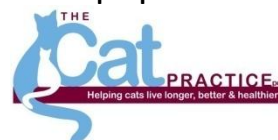
Geriatrics/hospice

Kitty camp boarding

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 & 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.

The Scoop is published monthly by The Cat Practice.



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