



# The Scoop

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## June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

June 2012

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### June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

## Consider Adopting a Homeless Kitty

Cat overpopulation in S.E. Michigan means there are many homeless cats and kittens looking for good homes at the area's numerous rescue groups and shelters. If you are looking for a new feline friend, consider:



**Oakland Pet Adoption Center**, 1700 Brown Rd., Auburn Hills. [www.oakgov.com/petadoption](http://www.oakgov.com/petadoption). While OPAC tries to place as many cats and kittens as possible, it's often faced with overcrowding.

**Pet Finder**, [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) which features kitties up for adoption from a variety of rescues and shelters. The site also allows you to search by cat breed.

For an easy transition for your new shelter kitty, follow these tips:

- Have your new kitty checked by your veterinarian before coming home. It's common for shelter kitties to have a case of the sniffles that other kitties at home could pick up. It's easily treated with antibiotics or immune boosters.
- Make sure that your kitty has been tested for BOTH feline leukemia (FeLV) and FIV before placing them with other cats.
- Set aside a room or area for your new kitty to get used to your home. This allows resident pets to adjust to someone new while allowing the new kitty to check things out slowly.
- Never force interactions between the new kitty and current residents. Let them meet slowly and on their own terms. Create positive associations with treats or toys.
- See if kitty likes new foods – and remember, canned is better than dry! Feeding the same shelter food is not necessary unless it's a prescription diet for a medical problem.

## Keep Kitty Safe This Summer by Avoiding These Seasonal Hazards

Hot weather means increased risk of mosquito bites, dehydration and getting into garden plants. Watch out for these hazards to keep kitty safe this summer.

- **Outdoors:** You might be tempted to let your cat outside in the warm weather. You risk your cat fighting with other cats/wildlife, or getting hit by a car. If you want to take your cat outside, keep him/her on a leash closely supervised.
- **Antifreeze:** Many car owners change their vehicle's antifreeze / water mixture. Antifreeze, which tastes sweet to pets, is highly toxic and can be fatal if consumed.



- **Sunburn:** Even cats can get sunburned, especially white or light-colored ones. Sunburn can cause serious skin problems so avoid leaving kitty outside too long, especially in the intense afternoon sun.
- **Barbeques and picnics:** Many leftovers can cause gastrointestinal upset, vomiting and diarrhea. In particular, cats do not have the enzymes to digest dairy-based products such as mayonnaise. Also spoilage can cause food poisoning.

**Fireworks caution:** Loud noises / explosions can be stressful even for indoor pets. In preparation, consider using anxiety remedies such as [Bach Flower Essences \(Rescue Remedy\)](#), [Feliway](#) or [pheromone collars](#). If your cat spends any time outside, bring him/her inside before fireworks start. Also watch for fireworks debris which can be toxic if consumed.

## Caring for Aging Kitties – Seminar Series continues

There are still a few seats left at our very special series on Caring for Aging Kitties. Topics include:

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Pet hospice care      | Wed., June 13 |
| Pet loss and grieving | Wed., June 27 |

All seminars are from 6 – 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per program. Pay through PayPal at [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or at The Cat Practice. Proceeds go to the **Rufus Feline Memorial Fund** for ill and injured homeless cats and cats in need. For more information, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390.



## See more on our End of Life and Hospice Program as featured in:



Go to [thecatpracticepc.com](http://thecatpracticepc.com) to see this and other news coverage.

## 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>

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

## 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!

### Breed Profile: Mixed Breed Cat

Instead of showcasing a purebred, we want to talk about the mixed breed kitties we all know and love!



Mixed breed cats date back to the Egyptian Pharaohs and perhaps before. Early cats tended to be somewhat uniform within a geographic area, but these became mixed as cats on sea-trading vessels often abandoned ship, joining the local feline population. Cats survived witch hunts of the 1500s and 1600s, though their numbers severely dwindled. As people realized that cats were valuable in curtailing rat populations and were good companion animals, their numbers grew and they were allowed to breed randomly.

Mixed breed cats come in any color combination with short, medium or long hair. Personality may be based more on environment than ancestry. There is a "Household Pet" class in cat shows, and all mixed breeds are accepted; the only requirement is that the cat is well-cared for and content, and must be spayed or neutered.

## Cat Trivia

**Question:** The average cat can run 20 mph at a sprint. *True or False?*

– 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:**  
Answer: False! It was a trick question! There are actually 10 million more cats owned in America than dogs.

Congrats to Ann Watts (with Buzz and Maggie), who was the first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

## 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).

## Preparing to Take Kitty on a Road Trip

More families are taking pets on vacation with them. If your next road trip includes your kitty, follow these tips for a safe and happy feline!

- **Use a properly-sized carrier.** Bigger is better with room for kitty to stand, turn and lay down. Hard-sided carriers are safer/more durable.
- **Protect against accidents.** Place several layers of disposable diaper pads in the bottom of the carrier to soak up accidents. Keep plastic bags handy for disposal. Some cats get car sick so withhold food for a few hours before leaving. Offer food and water only at rest stops. Freeze a bowl of water for kitty to lick to avoid spills.
- **Buckle up kitty!** Put the seatbelt through the plastic handle on the carrier's top and secure it like a child's car seat.
- **Put a litter box on the floor.** Do NOT let kitty out of the carrier while the vehicle is moving or when doors are opened. When stopped, let kitty stretch and use the litter box.
- **Prepare for finicky eaters.** Bring your cat's regular food, plus favorite meals or treats.
- **Organize medications.** If your cat is on medication, pack supplies in a sturdy cooler bag. Use a daily pill organizer to make dosing easy. Keep veterinarian's contact info handy.
- **Reduce stress with calming aids.** *Rescue Remedy* is an herbal calming aid; there are also calming collars that contain lavender and chamomile. Spraying *Feliway pheromone* in the car can also help calm kitty nerves.



### **If your Kitty Will Be Boarding**

If kitty will be staying behind and boarding while you are on vacation, make sure that:

- Kitty is current on vaccines (at least 10 days prior to boarding).
- You bring any special foods in a labeled container with kitty's name on it. Also make a note of any foods that your kitty cannot eat.
- You bring any medications that your kitty may be on in a labeled container.
- You let the boarding facility know if your kitty has been sneezing or has any other health problems.

## Are You Getting The Scoop?

To sign up, send us an email at [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

## Cat's Meow Tip: Great Prices on Cat Trees at Overstock.com

If you are in the market for a cat tree or any type of cat furniture or scratching posts, check Overstock.com. They have a huge selection, excellent prices, frequent, promotions and shipping is only \$2.95.

Go to [overstock.com/Pet-Supplies/Cat-Furniture/3647/cat.html?sort=Top+Sellers](http://overstock.com/Pet-Supplies/Cat-Furniture/3647/cat.html?sort=Top+Sellers)



Go Pet Club Jungle Gym Cat Tree Pet Furniture  
See Price in Cart  
★★★★★



Cat Tree Condo House Scratcher 72-inch Furniture  
Today: \$124.99  
★★★★★



New Cat Condos Triple Cat Perch  
Compare: \$89.99  
Today: \$84.49  
Save: 6%  
★★★★★



Armarkat Cat Tree Condo Scratcher  
Compare: \$169.00  
Today: \$110.14  
Save: 35%  
★★★★★

Contributed by Dawn Hamill, LVT, of The Cat Practice.

*Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email*

[Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com).

*If we run it, you get a FREE bag of organic catnip. Limit to 75 words.*

*Cats do not have to be shown how to have a good time, for they are unfailing ingenious in that respect.*  
- James Mason

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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