



The Scoop

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Happy Halloween!

October 2012

Halloween Photo Contest Winner



Congratulations Buzzie! Even though Buzzie is a fearless defender and goblin hunter, he approaches his foes in a curious and cautious manner and needs no disguise! He found that this friendly pumpkin was not a threat and whispered in his ear, "Happy Halloween to you!" **Buzzie wins an in-studio photo shoot!**

Submitted by Tina Mackintosh.

More photos BELOW!
[Click to view slideshow.](#)

In this issue:

- [Halloween photo contest winner](#)
- [National Spinal Health Month](#)
- [National Vet Tech Week](#)
- [Tips for fire safety around pets](#)
- [Profile: Black cats](#)
- [Contest honorable mentions](#)
- [Trivia contest/win free catnip](#)
- [Cat's Meow: Plastic grocery bags](#)

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

October is National Spinal Health Month

How to Spot Spine Conditions in your Feline

The feline spine is remarkable. It consists of over 33 bony vertebrae that give cats flexibility where they need it without compromising back strength and stability. At the same time, if the spine is injured or diseased, it can have major impact on your cat's ability to walk, stand and function. Be aware of the following conditions that can affect your cat's spine. **If your cat is staggering, limping, has limited use of his/her tail or limbs, or appears to be in pain, these are all possible signs of a spinal condition or injury. See your veterinarian immediately.**



Spinal conditions that affect cats

<p>Arthritis</p> 	<p>Arthritis is one of the most common problems seen in the feline spine. Most cats develop arthritis in their lower back and hips at some point in their lives. Symptoms include: hesitancy or inability to jump up onto things, stilted gait, lack of grooming especially near the rear end and reaction to pain when petted or groomed around the rear end. Arthritis can also be detected on x-rays. Arthritis can be managed with glucosamine chondroitin supplements and pain medications.</p>
<p>Trauma</p>	<p>Injury to a cat's spine often occurs when a cat's tail is caught by a moving car or a shutting door. The trapped pet instinctively pulls away, often separating the vertebrae at the root of his/her tail and damaging the spinal cord. Such injuries often lead to tail paralysis and elimination difficulties.</p>
<p>Tumors</p>	<p>If a tumor lies outside the spinal cord, surgery may eliminate it. However, tumors in the spinal cord are usually inoperable - although they may respond to other forms of therapy. When a tumor begins pressing on the spinal cord it can lead to weakness in the limbs, loss of sensation, pain and paralysis. Cats infected with feline leukemia (FeLV) are more prone to certain types of tumors.</p>

National Veterinary Technician Week is October 14-20

What does a "vet tech" do?



Veterinary technicians (or "vet techs") are the human equivalent to a registered nurse. The profession requires completing a degree in veterinary technology, passing state and national board exams and regular renewal of state licensing. A veterinary technician does everything a veterinarian can do except make a diagnosis, perform surgery or prescribe medication.

Veterinary technicians must master multiple technical areas including x-rays, drawing blood, anesthesia, surgical assistant, patient monitoring and recovery, laboratory technician, emergency and trauma – and more. Plus, they have to know how to perform these skills on multiple species!

As a member of the veterinary healthcare team, veterinary technicians work closely with veterinarians, veterinary assistants, practice managers, patients and pet families to provide an essential link in the care process. For more information on National Veterinary Technician Week and the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America, go to <http://www.navta.net>.

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

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.

Tips for practicing fire safety around pets

According to Pet Safety Alert, Inc., 40,000 pets are killed in house fires each year. During winter months, fire risks include malfunctioning heaters, candles and holiday decorations. Pets are helpless when trapped inside a burning home. Planning ahead could make all the difference. Here are a few life-saving tips:

- Place a pet rescue decal in your window. Get a free window cling-on sticker at www.adt.com/pets, www.akc.org and www.aspc.org.
- Keep collars, leashes and pet carriers easily accessible.
- Microchip your pet and put proper ID on the collar in case you get separated.
- Know your pet's hiding places.
- Inform first responders that you have pets inside.
- Shut doors to prevent fire from spreading.
- If you are escaping a fire and must leave pets behind, corral them into areas near entrances so firefighters can find them.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

NEVER leave lit candles unattended. Curious pets can knock them over and cause a fire.

Halloween contest honorable mentions

Stop by The Cat Practice for your prize of catnip!! [Click to view slideshow.](#)



Livia submitted by Stephanie Newman.



Blue submitted by Rhonda Panczyk.



Ice cream (left) and Oreo (right), submitted by Dr. Cindy Houlihan.



Emma (left) and Max (right) submitted by Lynn Thomas.



Kami & Muki submitted by Ryndee Carney.



Winston submitted by Susan Rugenstein.

A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

Halloween special: Black cats!

Black cats can be mixed breed or purebred.

The all-black pigmentation is equally prevalent in male and female cats. The most common eye color is yellow.

Folklore surrounding black cats varies. In some countries like Great Britain, Ireland and Japan, black cats symbolize good luck. In colonial America, black cats were associated with witchcraft. Today, black cats are often adopted in lower numbers than other cats at shelters. At Halloween, shelters turn down adopters looking for black cats, and families with black cats are encouraged to keep them indoors since they are commonly used in holiday pranks and rituals.



Cat Trivia

Question: Cat teeth are shaped and designed to chew food. *True or False?*

– Be **FIRST** to email 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! Cats perspire through their paws. Congrats to Dan Gonos, first to reply correctly and claim the free catnip!

Cat's Meow Tip: Reuse plastic grocery bags for scooping litter

Plastic bags from the grocery store provide an easy way to throw away scooped litter. Just shovel litter clumps right into the bags, tie them up and dispose with the trash. For convenience, store them in a container near the litter boxes. Just be sure there aren't any holes in the bottom before you start scooping into them! -- **Contributed by Tabitha, Cloud, Titus and Lulu**

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

Our Hours:

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

*Cats are a tonic,
they are a laugh,
they are a cuddle,
they are at least pretty
just about all of the time
and beautiful
some of the time.
- Roger Caras*



Follow us:

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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