



The Scoop

Published by The Cat Practice, Birmingham, Michigan. Open 7 days a week and evenings.

Wishing you and yours a purr-fect holiday!

December 2012

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Join us Dec. 15 for Our Annual Holiday Open House

Please join us for our annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. It's the purr-fect place to meet lots of fellow cat lovers and celebrate the holidays with our veterinarians and staff. Plus enjoy lots of yummy finger food and desserts! No need to RSVP – we are looking forward to seeing you! **Your kitties will prefer to stay warm at home.**



Some scenes from a previous Holiday Open House.

Creative Holiday Gift Ideas for Your Kitty



Like many of us, you might have cat toys from last year that failed to impress. Buying for the finicky feline on your list can be a challenge. So we asked Addy Shattuck, owner of Pet Supplies Plus stores in Bloomfield Hills and White Lake Twp., for this year's best cat gift ideas. Here are her favorites – **ALL MADE IN THE USA:**

My Wish List for Santa

Nature's Animals Catnip
American grown pure fresh catnip. Sprinkle in your cat's play area and they'll have lots of fun rubbing, chewing and rolling! \$3.98



Da Bird Cat Teaser & Exerciser
Kitty will love chasing after this "birdie." Feathers can be replaced. Handcrafted. \$8.98



Zuke's Natural Purrz
These soft cat treats are a great stocking stuffer. They are made of chicken and are wheat, corn and soy free. \$3.78



Bergan Turbo Scratcher
This circle-shaped cat toy has a built in ball for hours of fun plus corrugated cardboard in the center for scratching. \$14.98



Vehicle Anti-Freeze Can Be Fatal to Pets – Take These Precautions

The American Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has issued its annual warning to pet families.

Antifreeze can cause DEATH within hours to your cat, dog or other pet. Due to its sweet taste, pets often lick or drink this highly toxic fluid. Even SMALL AMOUNTS CAN BE FATAL. To prevent a possible

tragedy, follow these tips from the ASPCA:

- Always clean up antifreeze spills immediately.
- Check your vehicle regularly for leaks.
- Always store antifreeze containers in clearly marked containers in areas that are inaccessible to pets.
- Never allow your pets to have access to the area when you are draining antifreeze from your car.

If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze, contact your veterinarian or emergency hospital immediately!



IMPORTANT NOTE: Propylene glycol-containing products, such as Prestone Low Tox™ brand antifreeze, are a less toxic form of antifreeze and could be used instead of conventional ethylene glycol antifreeze. Ask your auto shop or oil change service provider!

News and Events

December 15 Holiday Open House at The Cat Practice.

2 – 5 p.m. No RSVP needed!

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

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.

Avoid These Holiday 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:

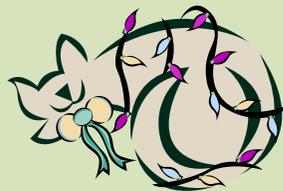
- While very enticing for cats, tinsel can be extremely dangerous if swallowed.
- If they break, glass ornaments pose a risk if glass or metal pieces are swallowed.
- Electrical cords should be covered or put out of reach to prevent chewing that can result in electrocution or electrical burns.
- Live 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.



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

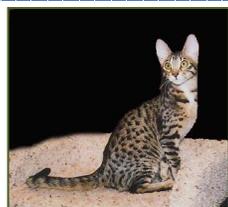
Two cats can live as cheaply as one, and their owner has twice as much fun.
- Lloyd Alexander

Follow us:   

A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Serengeti

The Serengeti is a preliminary new breed developed around 1995 by a conservation biologist who crossed a Bengal and an Oriental Shorthair.



The Serengeti is extremely agile, very active and loves heights. They can also be quite vocal and gladly talk with you about almost any subject. If properly introduced, they get along well with other pets.

The Serengeti is a medium-sized cat, similar to the Oriental Short hair, but larger boned with longer legs. The coat is short and tight, usually yellow to gold, with widely-spaced black spots. Less common colors are solid black or silver with black spots.

Still a new breed, the Serengeti is not known to experience any breed specific health concerns.

Cat Trivia

Question: A cat's outstretched whiskers are the same width as his or her body. True or False?

– Be FIRST to email us with the RIGHT answer at

Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com

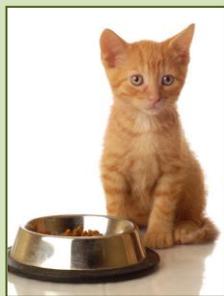
and win free organic catnip!

Answer in next month's issue!

Last month's answer: False! Cat teeth are made to kill prey and tear flesh. Cats eat pieces whole.

Congrats to Colleen Hartwig who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free catnip!

Cat's Meow Tip: Preventing Chin Acne



Some cats, especially those with allergies, can develop dirty chins leading to painful pimples that require medical treatment. Plastic food and water bowls are a big culprit since plastics are porous and hold oil and debris which deposit on your cat's chin. Switch to stainless steel, glass or ceramic bowls, and run them through the dishwasher regularly (daily cleaning is ideal). -- **Contributed by Tabitha Owens**

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

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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