



The Scoop

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

National Pet Dental Health Month / Happy Valentine's Day!

February 2012

In this issue:

- [Tips for showing the LOVE to your kitty](#)
- [Valentine's safety reminder](#)
- [Watch for signs of dental disease](#)
- [Preventing feline heart disease](#)
- [Trends Magazine: Kitty Up](#)
- [Profile: Toyger](#)
- [Trivia contest/win catnip](#)
- [Foster homes needed](#)
- [Cat's Meow: Why is kitty misbehaving?](#)

Your Kitty Needs Love Too!

Cats need love and affection just as much as humans. Cats that feel loved and secure in their homes are happier, more content and less likely to have behavior problems.



Show your kitty love this Valentine's Day – and throughout the year – with:

- Regular grooming including combing or brushing.
- Lots of touching, petting, and stroking. All of these stimulate the release of chemicals called cytokines, which signal the brain to release natural pain killing chemicals called endorphins.
- Massage. Massaging a cat after a long day at play helps with minor aches and pains and generates a calming effect for the cat. It's also beneficial in maintaining healthy joints and circulatory system. Learn how to massage your cat at: <http://www.ehow.com/>

How will you know that kitty loves you back? Cats show affection by purring, kneading with their paws, face bumping, rolling on their back and that "slow blink" they make when looking at you – which is known as a cat kiss!



Valentine Bookmarks

Vicki Corwin, whose cats Riley and Sweet Pea go to The Cat Practice, made these lovely Valentine bookmarks. Proceeds go to the Rufus Memorial Feline Fund. Buy one at our front desk!

News and Events

Free Supply of Cat Tooth Paste

In honor of National Pet Dental Health Month in February, schedule a dental cleaning under anesthesia in February and get a FREE 30-day supply of toothpaste and a toothbrush!

Great Valentine's Gift for Cat Lovers! Proceeds Go to Cats in Need



Say Happy Valentine's Day to the cat lover in your life with one of our **Morning Nip** or **Cat-feine** thermal coffee mugs. Proceeds go to help cats in need through our Rufus Memorial Feline Fund. Cost is \$10. Available exclusively at The Cat Practice!

February is National Pet Dental Health Month

Watch for These Signs of Dental Disease in Your Cat

While dental disease in cats can lead to other physical problems, it can be easy to treat if caught early. How can you tell if your cat could be on his or her way to dental disease? An oral exam is always part of your cat's physical at The Cat Practice. But you can watch for these changes between visits:

- Bad breath
- Drooling
- Lumps or bumps
- Red, inflamed or bleeding gums
- Reluctance to eat, especially hard foods
- Reluctance to groom (which can result in more oily or flaky skin and fur)



The most common symptom.... nothing! Most cats with dental disease have no outwardly visible symptoms, so it's a good idea to check your cat's teeth and mouth between your cat's regular veterinary exams. See our **Me-Yow Tube™** video on how to perform an oral exam and brush your cat's teeth! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfInGzEtn6k>

Heart Disease on the Rise in Felines – and What You Can Do

February is American Heart Month. Just like humans, cats are also prone to heart disease. In fact, heart disease is on rise in felines, and just like in humans, it's often a silent killer.

Cats with heart disease often suffer from exercise intolerance (heavy or labored breathing) or chronic coughing. Sometimes they will have a heart murmur. All cats can be affected, but these breeds are at greatest risk:

- Maine Coons
- Ragdoll
- Persian
- American Shorthair



Early detection can add years to your cat's life. Have your cat examined regularly. Your veterinarian will listen for heart murmurs and may also recommend an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart), strongly recommended for cats with a heart murmur, especially before procedures involving anesthesia. Heart disease is treatable with medication. For more info, go to <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com/Guides/Heart.pdf>

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



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

Kitty Camp

Cats staying in our Kitty Camp enjoy



Oakland Shelter Looking for Foster Homes

The Cat Practice is a satellite adoption center of Oakland Pet Adoption Center in Auburn Hills. OPAC is looking for foster homes to care for kittens and adult cats while permanent homes can be found. Contact Larry Obrecht, OPAC executive director, at 248-391-9100 or Obrechtl@oakgov.com.

Valentine's Safety Reminder: These Items Can be Toxic to Cats

This Valentine's Day, remember to keep these items out of kitty's reach:

- Chocolate candy; foods containing chocolate
- Many flowers, especially lilies
- Ribbons and bows

If you believe that your cat has consumed any of the above, contact your veterinarian immediately.



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.

A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

Breed: Toyger



The Toyger breed was developed from a striped domestic shorthair cat and a Bengal to resemble the wild tiger in a housecat package!

As with tigers, the Toyger has vivid markings on a bright orange background with white on the undersides and insides. These dramatic patterns are unique to each cat like a fingerprint.

This distinctive new breed of cat also resembles a tiger with its long, deep body, big bones and high shoulders. Males typically weigh 10 to 15 pounds; females 7 to 10 pounds.

Toygers are friendly, outgoing and delight in being with people. They are highly intelligent and interactive, and get along well with other pets. Easy to train, Toygers can be taught to walk on a leash and play fetch. Their laid-back demeanors make them easy to live with, bringing you a sense of having truly tamed the wild!

Cat Trivia

True or False? Adult cats have 30 teeth.

– 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:

False, a cat's jaw can only move up and down, which is why dry food does not prevent dental disease as previously thought.

Congrats to Mary and Taz Olson for being the first to email with the correct answer and claim their 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.

Kitty Up

The Cat Practice was recently featured in an article on how veterinary practices can improve their feline care in *Trends magazine*, published by the American Animal Hospital Association.

The article, by writer Jack Sommars, says, "The Cat Practice takes cat-friendliness to an entirely different level. They get down on the floor." He is, of course, referring to the practice of The Cat Practice veterinarians situating themselves at "kitty level" when they examine their patients.

"It says a lot about how we feel and how we respect these animals," says The Cat Practice owner Cindy Houlihan, DVM. "Our clients appreciate it and often join me on the floor."

The article goes on to quote Dr. Houlihan as saying, "There are veterinarians who think cat families won't be willing to do a certain level of diagnostics or treatment because 'it's just a cat.' Cats are sometimes seen as a lesser species . . ." [Click here for full article](#)



Cat's Meow Tip: Don't assume kitty is just misbehaving

ALWAYS check to rule out an underlying medical condition first -- before you assume your kitty is misbehaving. My Maine Coon, Oscar, was urinating on throw rugs around the house, just about daily. The Cat Practice did a urinalysis and found that Oscar had a urinary tract infection. He didn't have any other symptoms. After a shot of antibiotics, and 30 days of anti-inflammatory medication, Oscar is no longer wetting the rugs! -- *Linda Wasche, Sylvan Lake*

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.

"After scolding one's cat one looks into its face and is seized by the ugly suspicion that it understood every word. And has filed it for reference."
- Charlotte Gray

Wellness/early detection

Chronic conditions

Medical/surgical care

Geriatrics/hospice

Kitty camp boarding



The Scoop is published monthly by The Cat Practice.

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