



# The Scoop

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## National Kidney Month / Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 2012

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### News and Events

#### March Special

Schedule a **wellness exam** in March and get FREE GREENIES cat treats (one 3-oz. bag).



See Dr. Cindy Houlihan brush a patient's teeth on Fox 2 News! [myfoxdetroit.com](http://myfoxdetroit.com).

### Keep the Luck of the Irish! Avoid These St. Patty's Hazards

Just like for other holidays, traditional St. Patrick's Day festivities can pose a risk to your feline. Make sure your kitty has the luck of the Irish and avoids these common St. Patty's feline hazards:

- **Corned Beef** – Onions and garlic used in preparing corned beef are toxic to cats.
- **Green beer** – Alcohol of ANY type is dangerous for cats so clean up any spills.
- **Shamrock plants** – These are toxic to cats and can cause kidney problems if ingested.

#### St. Patty's gift idea for cat lovers.

No blarney! You and kitty can celebrate with these **Irish Drinking Songs for Cat Lovers**.

Just nothing stronger than milk for kitty,



please! Get at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). (Or ask Dr. Cindy Houlihan if you can listen to hers the next time you're at The Cat Practice!)

For more info on substances toxic to pets, go to at <http://www.aspca.org/Home/Pet-care/poison-control.aspx>

### March is National Kidney Month

#### Keep Your Kitty's Kidneys Healthy with These Tips

One of the most common diseases in cats is CRF (chronic renal failure), or kidney failure. Some kidney failure in cats may be genetic. At the same time, there are known contributors and direct causes of feline kidney failure. Keep your kitty's kidneys healthy by:

- Keeping kitty away from **poisons that can cause kidney failure** including: antifreeze (ethylene glycol), grapes, raisins and lily plants.
- **NOT giving kitty human medications** like aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen (an anti-inflammatory), all of which can cause kidney failure.
- Having your cat examined if his/her urinary or litter habits change. **Untreated urinary tract infections** can cause acute kidney failure.
- Scheduling **regular examinations with your veterinarian every 6 months**. All cats should have a blood and urine panel annually; older kitties should have them every 6 months.
- **Feeding your cat a high quality, well-balanced diet and keep a constant supply of clean, fresh drinking water** to help keep kidneys functioning longer.

### The Cat Practice Building Highlighted on Design Firm Website; FREE offer to Business Owners

The Cat Practice building renovations are being highlighted on the website of the design firm Ideation Signs and Communications in Royal Oak. Go to <http://www.ideationorange.com/branded-environment/2012/2/9/the-cat-practice.html> to read about the steps the company took to produce the much more inviting exterior that you see today.



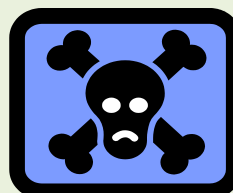
Ideation Signs and Communications is offering business owners, who are clients of The Cat Practice, a **FREE consultation**. Contact them to find out how your business can benefit from new signage, a building facelift and more to help strengthen your brand. Mention The Cat Practice when you call. Call 248-399-4332 or go to [www.ideationorange.com](http://www.ideationorange.com).

### March is Poison Prevention Awareness Month

#### Check for Common Household Products that Could Poison Your Cat

With spring around the corner, this is a good time of year to go through your stash of household products. Some common products can be poisonous to cats and other pets. If you have any of the following, make sure they are stored out of kitty's reach.

- Certain pet flea treatments, such as K9 Advantix for dogs, are toxic to cats if licked or ingested



### 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



- Insecticides and pesticides
- Garden products such as fungicides, pesticides and fumigants
- Paints, stains, varnishes, paint stripper, brush cleaner and other home decorating items.
- Human medications
- Household cleaning products
- Car cleaning and detailing products
- Many hobby products such as oil paints, putties and glues
- Art supplies, especially *artist grade* art supplies that use mineral pigments

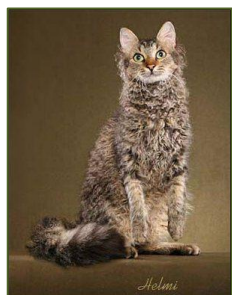
**Follow these safety tips to keep pets safe and healthy:**

- Read labels before you buy, store and use household cleaners or pesticides.
- Keep all products out of the reach of pets and children.
- Follow label precautions, particularly concerning ventilation, wearing gloves, inhaling fumes/dust and keeping pets/children away from treated areas.
- Don't spray or store cleaning or pesticide products near pet food or water dishes.
- Make sure animals can't get at pest bait products while they are in use.
- In the event of a spill, be sure to keep animals out of the area until it's cleaned up.
- Don't forget about wildlife! Avoid spraying products on a windy day. Put away garden sprays, pesticides and other toxic outdoor products that can attract wildlife that might find the aroma or color tempting.
- **Know where to call for help and have this information handy at all times, including:**
  - Your veterinarian's phone number.
  - The closest veterinary emergency center.
  - The **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.**

*In all cases, have the product label with you so you can describe what your pet has consumed.*

**A Cat is Not Just a Cat!**

**LaPerm**



LaPerm was discovered in 1982 when a brown tabby gave birth to a litter with a new Rex mutation: a long, skinny, hairless kitten that when mature, grew a soft wavy coat.

LaPerm's coat has loose, light, airy curls and bouncy ringlets that feel like mohair. The breed is low shedding which makes maintenance a breeze.

The coat does not mat easily as there is little undercoat and the curl holds much of the loose coat to the body rather than dropping to the floor and furniture.

These active, outgoing cats like to be with their humans and join in on everything. Their affectionate, loving nature means they get on well with children and other family pets.

**Cat Trivia**

**Cats are able to sense air movement with their whiskers. 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:**

True! Kittens have 26 deciduous teeth, and adults have 30 total. Congrats to Colleen Hartwig who was the first to email me with the correct answer and claim her free bag of organic catnip!

**First full week of March is National Professional Pet Sitters Week**

**Checklist for Kitty Sitters**

A little pre-planning can make leaving your kitties with a sitter easier and help you worry less while you're gone. For pet sitters, getting the right information from your clients can be crucial in an emergency and makes your job easier in providing the best possible daily care. See [Choosing A reliable kitty sitter](#) that includes a handy kitty sitters' checklist and information sheet.

**Cat's Meow Tip: Toy "Fish Tank" Provides Hours of Fun**



This small unit (about 10 inches by 8 inches) contains a colorful rotating back-lit panel that gives the illusion of a fish tank. Plug it in, turn in on, and kitties will have hours of amusement as they watch the fishies "swim" by. Can stand on tabletop or wall mount. I found mine recently at CVS for \$10. - *Linda Wasche / Sylvan Lake*

**Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email to [Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com). If we run it,**

**you get a FREE bag of organic catnip. Limit to 75 words.**

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.

**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).

**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

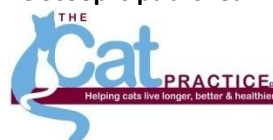
*There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast.  
 – Anonymous*

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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