



The Scoop

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Understanding Your Senior Cat During Older Americans Month

May 2012

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May is Older Americans Month

Cats are Living Longer; Seniors Need Special Care



With the right preventive care, cats can live 20 years-plus. Once a cat reaches age 9, he or she is considered "senior." This is a good time to become even more diligent about your feline's care.

Encourage more fluid intake. Fluids decrease work load on your cat's kidneys and prevent dehydration and constipation. Place extra water bowls around the house or get a water fountain if your cat likes running water. Add a little water to canned food.

Place litter boxes in easy to get to areas. Arthritis can make climbing/descending stairs difficult and painful. Place litter boxes on the main floor of the house or where your cat spends the most time. Low-sided litter boxes make getting in/out easier.

Monitor elimination. Normal stools are long, connected and easily compressible. If you see small balls of hard stool your cat may need a stool softener; see your veterinarian.

Manage arthritis. See article above right.

Help with grooming. Arthritis can make grooming painful. Hard-to-reach places, such as the rump, can become matted and dirty causing discomfort, skin problems and urinary tract infections. Talk to your vet about keeping kitty well-groomed.

Place nightlights around the house. Cats lose their eyesight as they age. Strategically place nightlights to help your cat find food, water and litter boxes.

See your vet every 6 months. As with people, problems caught early are much easier to treat and manage and result in a better long-term prognosis.

May is National Arthritis Month

Arthritis Can Slow Down Senior Kitties

While arthritis cannot be cured, cats can be made more comfortable with supplements and pain medication.

Signs of feline arthritis:

- Stiff when walking
- Hesitation to jump up or down
- Different sleep position than normal
- Constantly seeks warmth
- Resists petting or grooming

What to do:

- Get a heated pet bed to sooth joints.
- Place steps or ramps by favorite sleeping or perching areas.
- Give your cat a supplement for joints and cartilage. Talk to your vet; also ask about prescription pain meds.

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



Follow us:

NEW Website Offers Expanded Info, Preventive Care

Our new website – at www.thecatpracticepc.com -- features expanded information on feline health and wellness, how to prevent serious illness and conditions, tips for cat families and more! Plus, to come: online ordering and access exclusively for The Cat Practice feline families!

THE Cat PRACTICE
Helping cats live longer, better & healthier™

- Wellness/early detection
- Medical/surgical care
- Kitty camp boarding
- Chronic conditions
- Geriatrics/hospice

Michigan's first cats only veterinary hospital

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

News and Events
CARING FOR AGING KITTIES
May 16 & 30, June 13 & 27
Topics: Geriatric & end of life care, hospice & pet loss. Speakers: Veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek and clinical psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald. **Space is limited / register here.**

HEARTWORM DISEASE IN MICHIGAN IS ON THE RISE. Unseasonably warm weather means more mosquitoes placing your kitty at risk. **Find out how to PREVENT this UNTREATABLE disease in cats.**

> See our **Feline Library** of helpful videos and printed tips.

Each cat is an individual with his or her own distinct personality and heredity.

With the right care and early detection, many cats are living 20 years or more.

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



Hospice Program Offers Care for Aging, Ill Cats

For families with aging and terminally ill cats, The Cat Practice is starting what is believed to be Michigan's first pet hospice. Our Hospice & End-of-Life Care program, headed by veterinary hospice nurse and licensed veterinary technician Laura Kramek, will offer feline care modeled after human hospice.

The program is for families whose cats face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life. For information, go to <http://thecatpracticepc.com/cathospice.htm> or call Laura Kramek at 248-540-3390.



Hospice & End of Life Care

REMINDER: Caring for Aging Kitties – Seminar Series in May/June

Caring for geriatric cats	Wed., May 16
Making end of decisions	Wed., May 30
Pet hospice care	Wed., June 13
Pet loss and grieving	Wed., June 27

All programs are from 6 – 7 p.m. To register, go to www.thecatpracticepc.com or call 248-540-3390.

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!

National Pet Week, May 6-12, Promotes Responsible Pet Care

Being a responsible pet family includes making sure your pet receives preventive health care (vaccinations, parasite control, etc.), spotting changes in health and behavior early and seeing your veterinarian when something is not right. For more on National Pet Week and responsible pet care, go to <http://www.petweek.org/>.

National  Pet Week 

A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Snowshoe



The Snowshoe can be traced to the early 1960s when a litter of Siamese kittens, each with four white feet, were bred with the American Shorthair.

The Snowshoe is known by the popular white 'V' facial markings. However, Snowshoe kittens are born totally white. The point coloring develops in a few weeks and the tail, legs, head and ears darken as the kitten ages. The most common colors are seal point and blue point. Eye color ranges from sparkling blue to pale blue-gray.

Most Snowshoes form a primary bond with their chosen person while still maintaining friendships with other people. They like to be near their primary person, but unlike a dog, prefer to lead than to follow. Being "owned" by a Snowshoe is something you have to experience to appreciate!

Cat Trivia

Question: There are 5 million more cats owned in America than dogs. *True or False?*

– 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:

Answer: True! All kittens are born with blue eyes. If the eyes are going to change color, they start between 3 to 12 weeks old. Congrats to Carol and Owen Petersen who were the first to answer correctly and claim their free bag of catnip!

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

Civilization is defined by the presence of cats.
– Unknown

Cat's Meow Tip: Giving Multiple Medications at Once

If your kitty is on multiple medications, this tip will save you time and enables kitty to swallow multiple medications in one gulp! Get an EMPTY GEL CAP capsule from your veterinarian or pharmacist. (The Cat Practice has 5 different sizes.) **IMPORTANT NOTE: USE ONLY NEW GEL CAPS AND AVOID EMPTYING AND USING PREVIOUSLY FILLED ONES AS THEY COULD STILL CONTAIN RESIDUE.** Pull apart the two ends of the gel cap. Take the pills or pieces of pills that have been prescribed to your kitty and insert them into the ends of the gel cap. Put the two gel cap pieces back together. You will find that one gel cap is easier for kitty to swallow than most pills!



Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email to Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com. If we run it, you get a FREE bag of 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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