



The Scoop

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

CATS CAN FEEL END-OF-SUMMER BLUES TOO!

August 2012

In this issue:

- [Watch for Back-to-School Kitty Blues](#)
- [The Cat Practice goes mobile!](#)
- [Barbecues can be hazardous to cats](#)
- [Orange Tabby Cats - Resorptive Disease](#)
- [Indoor Cats at Risk for Parasites](#)
- [Profile: Tonkinese](#)
- [Trivia contest/win free catnip](#)
- [Cat's Meow: Black light flashlights](#)

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>

Watch for Back-to-School Kitty Blues

When kids go back to school – and the house becomes quiet with less activity -- cats often feel melancholy similar to the same goodbye-to-summer blues experienced by many kids and adults. This change in routine can cause some cats to act out in any number of ways.

Cats are particularly vulnerable to change. If they become bored or have nothing to do, they can fill this time with excessive meowing, destructive behaviors, eating houseplants and scratching furniture. Any of these can be signs that kitty is having a difficult time adjusting to a new family schedule.

If time permits, gradually introduce your cat to short periods of separation. Or give your cat a treat every time you leave the house as a form of positive association. Scolding or punishing your cat could make the behavior worse, so be patient. Be sure to talk to your veterinarian to rule out any health concerns.



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

The Cat Practice Goes Mobile!



Visit The Cat Practice website on your smart phone or mobile device and you'll see a whole new, easier to read layout!

Our new mobile site will make it easier to use direct links to call us or find us on your phone's map. It also provides direct links to emergency hospital information.

If you have questions about our new mobile website, call the Cat Practice at 248-540-3390.

Our new mobile home page makes it easy for you to call The Cat Practice or find us on your smart phone map. Reach emergency centers quickly by tapping directly on their phone number.



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

Indoor Cats Still at Risk for Parasites

End of summer and the start of fall mean a spike in parasites. Even if your cat stays indoors, he or she is still at risk for the following parasites:

- 1. Fleas:** We see more flea infestation in late summer and fall. Fleas come into our homes through window screens and on clothing. For cats, they can cause severe skin reactions and transmit tapeworms. They can also create breeding grounds for more fleas! **Prevention:** Topical medications from a veterinarian, such as Revolution or Advantage Multi, applied monthly effectively treat and prevent fleas. Beware of over-the-counter products sold in pet stores as they are not strictly controlled by the FDA and have been known to cause serious illness in some pets.
- 2. Intestinal parasites:** Roundworms, tapeworms, giardia and coccidia are among the most commonly found intestinal parasites in cats. Cats get tapeworms from fleas or by eating mice or other rodents. Roundworms come from infected soil, either outdoors or in potted plants. Giardia and coccidia are commonly found in cats with diarrhea. **Prevention:** See flea prevention above. Make sure your cat has a stool sample checked annually by your veterinarian.
- 3. Heartworm disease:** Heartworm is spread by mosquitoes even in colder months when mosquitoes go dormant and become active again when temperatures reach the mid-40's. Heartworm disease can cause serious lung damage to cats. **Prevention:** Monthly preventatives such as Heartgard, Revolution or Advantage Multi given year round.

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.



Labor Day Barbecues Can Pose Health Risk to Curious Cats



As we say goodbye to summer, don't forget that barbecues and unsupervised outdoor time can spell trouble for your cat.

Outdoor access: Before the weather turns, some people allow their cats time outdoors. Fights with other cats, wildlife interactions or other dangers such as traffic are all risks to your kitty. If you take your cat outside, keep him or her closely supervised or on a leash.

Barbecues and picnics: Avoid giving your cat leftovers which can cause gastrointestinal upset, resulting in vomiting and diarrhea. Mayonnaise and other dairy-based foods can be particularly bad, since cats do not have the enzymes necessary to digest dairy products. In addition, spoilage can cause food poisoning.

Orange Tabby Cats Prone to *Resorptive Disease*

BJ, who lives with his family in Sylvan Lake, is a patient of The Cat Practice. At 9 years old, BJ has had 10 teeth extracted due to a dental condition common to Orange Tabby cats called *Resorptive Disease* or *Feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions (FORLs)*.

FORLs, characterized by resorption of the tooth by cells called odontoclasts, affects up to two-thirds of domestic cats. Orange cats and purebreds, especially Siamese and Persians, are most susceptible. FORLs appear as holes in the surface of the tooth near the gums leading to a painful breakdown of the tooth.

Symptoms: Most cats adapt to chronic pain and have no obvious symptoms. The lesions are often found by veterinarians or veterinary nurses during check-ups. FORLs can pop up relatively quickly, which is another reason why cats should get biannual exams.

Treatment: Since the lesions are painful, the affected tooth should be removed, which is done under anesthesia. X-rays are recommended to identify other teeth that might be affected.

Prevention: Unfortunately since the cause of this process is unknown, there is no known means of prevention. Genetics seems to play a role, though studies show that dental disease and inflammation may also be contributing factors. As in all cases, home teeth brushing and application of oral gel may be helpful in reducing gingivitis and possibly FORLs.



The Cat Practice patient, BJ.

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.

A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

Tonkinese



Tonkinese cats are crossbred between Siamese and Burmese breeds. They are distinguished by color points with three coat patterns: mink, solid and pointed. Common colors are platinum, champagne, blue and natural. Eye color varies from gold or

blue-green in solid Tonkinese cats, blue in pointed and aqua in mink cats.

Tonkinese are like Burmese in temperament; less high-strung and demanding than Siamese with less-piercing voices. They are lively, friendly and talkative with gregarious personalities, and can live indoors if given enough exercise. The Tonkinese craves, and returns, affection and companionship. They are typically heavier than they appear to be, due to their muscular bodies.

While Tonkinese are not known for breed-related health problems, they have been known to sometimes be sensitive to anesthesia and vaccines.

Cat Trivia

Question: A group of cats is called a "troop". 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! Americans spend more money on cat food annually than on baby food.

Congrats to Sue & Joe Kaperzinski, along with Bella and Oscar, who were first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

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

Cat's Meow Tip: Black light flashlight finds urine spots

[Animal Planet's "My Cat From Hell"](#) features an eccentric cat behaviorist, Jackson Galaxy, who uses a black light flashlight to find cat marking areas around the house. This tool can be very useful in identifying problem areas, but there are a few things to know before buying one.

Different wavelengths associated with UV light determine the quality of the light. The lower the nm (nanometer) number, the higher the light's quality and intensity. Many UV black lights are in the 400nm range and are inexpensive, but steer clear. Numbers in the 380-385nm range are a good starting place, but lights around 365nm are going to be the best.

One LED flashlight on Amazon is 380-385nm and costs \$17.60: <http://www.amazon.com/>

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.



If you yell at a cat, you're the one who is making a fool of yourself.

– Unknown

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.



875 South Worth
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-540-3390

www.thecatpracticepc.com
meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com

©Copyright 2012