



The Scoop

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September is Pain Awareness Month

September 2012

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See This Heartwarming Video of a Cat Playing With a Dolphin

Who would have thought? A cat on a boat with his family meets a new friend. See this amazing video at:

<http://www.slothster.com/2352-Cat-On-Boat-Plays-With-Dolphins.html>

September is Pain Awareness Month



Look for Signs of Pain in Your Kitty

If your cat is in pain, it could signal anything from arthritis – to dental disease – to a serious health condition. However spotting pain in cats can be hard since cats mask their discomfort to protect from predators.

Use this checklist to identify potential signs of pain in your kitty. If you notice any of these signs, see your veterinarian immediately. Chances are your furry friend has been suffering quietly for some time.

Condition	What to watch for
Arthritis	Stiffness, stilted gait, limping, hesitancy to jump, change in grooming habits.
Dental disease	Drooling, food falling from mouth. Often times, no signs at all. (That's why routine physical exams are so important!)
Post-surgery	Not eating, hiding, not interactive.
Chronic illness	Not eating, hiding, not interactive.

Halloween Photo Contest

Win a Feline In-Studio Photo Shoot!

For Halloween, will your kitty dress up as a scary cat or a fun-loving feline? "Witch" costume you choose doesn't matter as long as you share your best photo and enter our Halloween photo contest! Grand prize is an in-studio photo shoot for your feline. Honorable mentions will get cat nip. All winners get featured in the October issue of *The Scoop!*



Email your electronic photo entries to

meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com. In the text of your email, include your:

- Name, mailing address and phone number
- Name of cat(s) pictured
- Identification of the costume / what it is (some are more obvious than others!)

Entries must be in jpg, gif or png format and no larger than 2 mg. Entries will be judged on creativity, originality and quality of the photo. **DEADLINE is OCTOBER 15, 2012.**

Choose Cat-Friendly Halloween Costumes

Costumes that contain small pieces that can fall off or get tangled can be hazardous to your kitty. Make sure your cat is safe this Halloween by choosing costumes that **DO NOT**:

- Impair vision, movement or breathing.
- Contain metallic beads, snaps or other small pieces that can be swallowed.
- Have tight elastic that can choke or restrict kitty.
- Include the application of dye or coloring to your pet's fur. Even if the dye is labeled non-toxic to humans, it can still be harmful to pets.



NEVER leave a pet in a costume alone; some pets may chew and swallow parts of the costume.

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



The Cat Practice Featured in National Magazine

The Cat Practice End of Life Care and Hospice Program was recently featured in the national magazine, Natural Awakenings - Pet. See the interview with Dr. Cindy Houlihan and hospice nurse Laura Kramek, LVT, at <http://issuu.com/naturalawakeningseastmich/docs/napet-201209?viewMode=magazine&mode=embed>

Fall is Prime Flea Season

Each year, we see a huge spike in the number of cats with fleas. As the weather gets cooler, fleas look for warm places (like our homes). This puts all cats – including indoor-only -- at risk.

Signs of fleas:

- Excessive scratching or licking, possible scabs or lesions, especially around the head and neck.
- "Flea dirt" (flea poop) looks like regular dirt. Ruffle your cat's fur over a light-colored surface and sprinkle any dirt that falls off with a little water. If it turns red, it's flea dirt.

How to treat in infestation – DO:

- Ask your veterinarian about safe topical products such as Advantage Multi and Revolution. Your veterinarian might also suggest oral medications for more serious infestations.
- Treat your house. Thoroughly vacuum to eliminate flea eggs in carpets and bedding. Immediately dispose of the vacuum bag. Wash all bedding used by your cat.

How to treat infestation - DON'T:

- Wait. The longer you wait, the harder it is to get rid of.
- Buy over-the-counter treatments. Many don't work, are not regulated and can cause serious illness.
- Bother with flea dips or baths.
- Waste money on flea collars.



FLEA PREVENTION SPECIAL

Monthly treatments are easily applied and can make your home a no-flea zone!

Through September, at The Cat Practice, get 2 doses of Advantage Multi FREE with each box of 6. That's 8 months of protection for the price of 6!

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.

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

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

– Unknown



Follow us:

Fall Means Spike in Cat Allergies



With activities moving indoors, fall is the time of year that allergies often flare up for humans as well as for our furry friends.

Orange and white cats are most susceptible to allergies, though any breed of cat can be affected. If left untreated, allergy symptoms can be very uncomfortable and lead to infection, requiring more treatment. If you spot any of the following allergy symptoms, inform your veterinarian who will usually prescribe antihistamines and sometimes antibiotics. Watch for:

- Red, watery eyes and/or discharge
- Sneezing
- Itchy skin
- Excessive licking/grooming
- Scabs or skin lesions
- Chin acne
- Ear infections
- Feet infections

A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

Norwegian Forest Cat

The Norwegian Forest Cat is a healthy, robust natural breed that developed over hundreds of years in Scandinavia. They are a slow-maturing breed that may take up to five years to reach full maturity.



Traits include:

- Intelligent and resourceful.
- Mild-mannered and adapt easily to surroundings.
- Very interactive cats and enjoy being part of their family. Love to play with anyone who enjoys a game!

Due to their large size they are often confused with Maine Coons. Like Maine Coons, they have a predisposition to heart disease and should have regular exams and heart screenings.

Cat Trivia

Question: Cats perspire through their paws. *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: FALSE! A group of cats is not a troop, it's a clowder! Congrats to Beth Garfield (with Blixia and Princess) who was first to reply correctly and claim the free bag of catnip!

Cat's Meow Tip: Use Fleece to Keep Furniture Clean at Nap Time



Are you tired of your furniture being covered in cat hair when you have company? Cats love to sleep on cozy, soft things. The next time a fabric store (like Joanne's) has a sale or you get a coupon, buy pieces of soft fabric like fleece and use them to cover favorite sleeping spots. Simply remove before company comes! -- Submitted by Dawn, LVT (and Ute, Ari, Ebi and Ira)

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.

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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