



# The Scoop

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## Have a pet-safe Halloween!

October 2013

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### News and Events

#### New Options for Kitties Facing End-of-Life

When cats get old or become ill, families want to make sure their cat is comfortable and enjoys good quality of life. [The Cat Practice Hospice & End-of-Life Care](#) provides new options for providing comfort care as kitties age or experience serious illness. If you have such a kitty, contact our **hospice nurse, Laura Kramek**, for a consultation at 248-540-3390.

### Avoid Kitty Getting Spooked Off on Halloween

Many pets go missing on Halloween night. They often get *spooked off* by the added noise, ringing doorbells and strangers coming by in costumes. Cats are especially sensitive to the commotion and may take off through an open door. Where's the best place for kitty on Halloween night?

- Secure kitty in a favorite room – be sure to provide a litter box, water and toys.
- Consider boarding your cat overnight.
- If possible, pass out trick or treat goodies in an area that can be closed off from the rest of the house – like a breezeway, enclosed patio / porch or sunroom.

### Also avoid these other Halloween hazards:

- Xylitol – found in sugar free candies and gum
- Chocolate
- Candy wrappers
- Costumes
- Raisins
- Glow sticks
- Candles



### Safer Alternatives to Costumes

You can still have a festive feline, but with less risk to your pet. Consider Halloween-theme:

- Bandanas
- Collar attachments
- Small dog or cat t-shirts

### New Nurse Hotline

The Cat Practice has a new email "hotline" to answer your questions e about your kitty's health. Email [NurseHotline@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:NurseHotline@thecatpracticepc.com) If your cat has symptoms of illness, it's still best to make an appointment with your veterinarian.

### Plan for Pets in Fire Emergencies

According to Pet Safety Alert, Inc., 40,000 pets are killed in house fires each year. During winter months, fire risks include malfunctioning heaters, candles and holiday decorations. Pets are helpless when trapped inside a burning home. Planning ahead saves lives -- follow these tips.

- Place a pet rescue decal in your window. Get a free window cling-on sticker at [www.adt.com/pets](http://www.adt.com/pets), [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) and [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org).
- Keep collars, leashes and pet carriers easily accessible.
- Microchip your pet and put proper ID on the collar in case you get separated.
- Know your pet's hiding places.
- Inform first responders that you have pets inside.
- Shut doors to prevent fire from spreading.

If you are escaping a fire and must leave pets behind, corral them into areas near entrances so firefighters can find them.

### 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>

### Save on Wellness Exams for Senior Cats!



Save 10% off 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)

### Fall is Prime Flea Season

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

#### How to tell if your cat has fleas:

- Excessive scratching or licking
- Possible scabs or lesions, especially around the head and neck.
- "Flea dirt" (flea poop -- looks like regular dirt)  
Hint: 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, its flea dirt.



#### What to do:

- Ask your veterinarian about safe topical products such as Advantage Multi and Revolution.
- Thoroughly vacuum your house to eliminate flea eggs in carpets and bedding. Immediately dispose of the vacuum bag. Wash all bedding used by your cat.

#### What NOT to do :

- Don't buy over-the-counter treatments. Many don't work and can cause serious illness.
- Don't bother with flea dips or baths.
- Don't waste money on flea collars.

### Kitty Camp

Cats staying in our Kitty Camp enjoy frequent attention and plenty of play and exercise in our Kitty Playroom. Consider boarding your cat while you're away, have guests or are having work done at home. For information – or to register – go to [thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html](http://thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html) or call 248-540-3390.





Licensed veterinary technician  
Dawn Hamill checks blood pressure.

## Vet Techs Bring High-Level Skills to Exam Room

Veterinary technicians work with veterinarians to form a seamless team. While most human healthcare nurses work in one area -- emergency, anesthesia, surgery or radiology -- vet techs assist or work in ALL of these specialties on different species!

To earn their license, vet techs must complete general college requirements, plus get a two- or four- year veterinary technician degree - then pass state and national board exams. Many states require continuing education credits to maintain this license.

### October is National Spinal Health Month

## Spotting Spine Problems Early

The feline spine is remarkable and consists of over 33 bony vertebrae that give cats flexibility without compromising strength and stability. At the same time, if the spine is injured or diseased, it can have major impact on your cat's ability to walk, stand and function.



### See your veterinarian immediately if your cat has any of these symptoms:

<b>Arthritis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the most common problems seen in the feline spine.</li> <li>• Most cats get arthritis in the lower back and hips at some point in their lives.</li> <li>• Symptoms: hesitancy or inability to jump onto things, stilted gait, lack of grooming and reaction to pain around the rear end.</li> <li>• Managed with environmental adjustments to provide easier access to litter box, food and water, sleeping areas, etc., as well as glucosamine chondroitin supplements and pain medications.</li> </ul>
<b>Trauma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injury to a cat's spine often occurs when a cat's tail is caught by a moving car or shutting door and the cat pulls away, separating the vertebrae.</li> <li>• Such injuries often lead to tail paralysis and elimination difficulties.</li> </ul>
<b>Tumors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When a tumor begins pressing on the spinal cord, it can lead to weakness in the limbs, loss of sensation, pain and paralysis.</li> <li>• Cats with feline leukemia (FeLV) are more prone to certain types of tumors.</li> </ul>

### A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

## Breed Profile: Chartreux



Pronounced shar-TROO, this rare French breed known for its lovely blue-grey coat, copper eyes and gentle temperament, dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The adult Chartreux can weigh 12 - 16 pounds and has a dense, short coat that's water repellent and requires minimal brushing. In general, the Chartreux is not a talkative breed,

preferring to purr occasionally but rarely ever meow. The Chartreux is generally friendly to strangers and tolerant of children and other pets, and makes a wonderful addition to a home looking for a quiet, calm companion cat!

If you are getting your Chartreux from a breeder, know that they are prone to hereditary patellar luxation (kneecap displacement passed on genetically) so find out as much as you can about the cat's family history.

[See our comprehensive list of cat breeds and related health conditions.](#)

## Cat Trivia

**True or false:** Cats (specifically the lack of cats) caused the black plague.

Be 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:

False: they are made of keratin-the same fibrous protein that makes up hair and nails.

Congrats to **Beth Garfield** who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

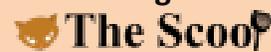
## Looking for Homes / Official Cat Adoption Site

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](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

*Cats are rather delicate creatures and they are subject to a good many ailments, but I never heard of one who suffered from insomnia.*  
- Joseph Wood Krutch

Follow us:   

## Cat's Meow Tip: Diabetic Cats – Make Drawing Blood Easier

The Cat Practice treats a number of cats with diabetes. If you have such a cat, you know the importance of frequent blood draws – done from the cat's ear -- to test glucose levels. Make it easier to get enough blood by taking a very warm (not hot) washcloth and holding it on the cat's ear. Wait about one minute and you will now be able to draw the blood more easily.

-- Contributed by Gen Perian, LVT, The Cat Practice, who learned this trick caring for her cat, Buddy.

Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email [Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto: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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