



# The Scoop

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## Have a Happy & Safe Thanksgiving!

November 2013

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### News and Events

**Dec. 21 -- Save the Date!!**

You're invited – to The Cat Practice Christmas Open House – Saturday, December 21, 2 to 5 p.m.

## What Does Your Kitty Want for Christmas?

If you are shopping for Christmas gifts for kitty, you might want to look as far as your own kitchen pantry. There are lots of ways to amuse kitty with some common household items and treats you can make at home. Gather a bunch of them together in a festive gift bag and let the feline fun begin!



### Homemade Cat Toys

1. Use empty toilet paper tubes placed tightly together in an empty Kleenex tissue box. Hide treats in the tubes for kitty to scoop out.
2. Ball up aluminum foil for batting.
3. Cut holes in a cardboard box for peeking and swatting.



### Homemade Crunchy Cat Treats

Find out how to make yummy homemade cat treats with tuna, rye flour and parsley. Go to [thecatpracticepc.com](http://thecatpracticepc.com).

## Keep Kitty and Other Pets Safe This Thanksgiving

Every Thanksgiving veterinary emergency hospitals see an increase in the number of patients. Keep your kitty out of the ER this holiday by avoiding these common Thanksgiving hazards.

### Food

- Feed kitty turkey only in small quantities; overfeeding can cause vomiting.
- Be sure to remove any bones that can cause intestinal obstructions and severe internal damage.
- Hide grapes and raisins which are toxic to cats (and dogs), and can cause kidney problems.
- Store away onions and garlic which can cause anemia.

### Decorations

- Never leave candles unattended.
- Put away ribbon and string that can become entangled in your feline's intestines if they eat it.

## 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.

## New Nurse Hotline

The Cat Practice has a new email "hotline" to answer your questions 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.

## See Who Was a Real Party Animal This Halloween!



Norway Suess



Austen Szczepkowski



Mia Lyons



Harley Lyons

## 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>

## Anti-Freeze Bill Stalling in State Legislature

Michigan Bill #29, which would require companies to add a bitter-tasting additive to automotive anti-freeze, passed the Senate and is now in front of the House Regulatory Reform Committee. The bitter additive would make it less likely that cats, dogs and children would be drawn to the otherwise sweet-tasting liquid which can be fatal if ingested.

To express your support of the bill, or for information on the status of Bill #29, contact Representative Hugh Crawford, chairman of the Regulatory Reform Committee at [Hughcrawford@house.mi.gov](mailto:Hughcrawford@house.mi.gov).

### In the Meantime, Keep Anti-Freeze Out of Reach

- Keep pets out of the garage and away from motor vehicles that can leak antifreeze.
- If adding antifreeze, immediately clean up any spills.
- Store antifreeze where pets and children can't reach it.
- Watch for **signs of antifreeze poisoning** which include: Drunken appearance (staggering, loss of coordination, and disorientation); excessive thirst; excessive urination; vomiting; listlessness; depression; seizures and coma.

## 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)

## November is American Diabetes Month

### Feline Diabetes is on the Rise; How to Spot Symptoms

Just like in humans, diabetes is also being seen more frequently in cats, especially as they age. The good news is that with early detection, diabetes can be easily treated and managed.

Symptoms	Treatment	Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive drinking</li> <li>Increased urination – more/more frequent</li> <li>Increased appetite</li> <li>Weight loss</li> <li>Vomiting and/or diarrhea</li> </ul>	Your veterinarian may recommend a diet change and/or insulin injections.	Keep kitty a healthy weight! Being overweight for long periods of time is the number one factor leading to feline diabetes.

## November is Senior Pet Month

### Human-Quality Diagnostics Catch Signs of Serious Illness Early

Today, cats are living 20 years and more. As cats age, they face many of the same health issues as humans, including arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and cancer. **Human-quality diagnostics** – like ultrasound and echocardiogram – are making **EARLY DETECTION** of such health conditions easier – and easier to treat.

A cat is considered senior at age 10. If you have a senior cat, work with your veterinarian to be on the lookout for early signs of health conditions that can become serious if left untreated.

[Click here for information on how serious feline illnesses are detected.](#)

## November is National Hospice Month

### The Cat Practice Hospice Featured in National Magazine

*Trends* magazine, published nationally by the American Animal Hospital Association, profiles The Cat Practice’s Hospice and End-of-Life Care program in its October 2013 issue. The article includes an interview with The Cat Practice owner, veterinarian Dr. Cindy Houlihan on why she created the Hospice program, as well as comments on caring for hospice cats from hospice nurse Laura Kramek who runs the program. “Through all the years I’ve practiced, I’ve always felt there was a missing piece, Dr. Houlihan says. To read the full article, go to [thecatpracticepc.com](http://thecatpracticepc.com). For information on end of life options and care, contact Laura Kramek at 248-540-3390.



## A Cat’s Not Just a Cat!

### Breed Profile: Havana



In the 1950s, British cat fanciers developed the rich brown cat called the Havana. They bred chocolate point and seal point Siamese with solid black domestic shorthairs and a dash of Russian Blue.

The Havana comes in rich mahogany red-brown and pinkish grey or lilac, with matching whiskers. Both colors provide a stunning background for the Havana’s brilliant green eyes.

The Havana is curious, playful and people-oriented. They favor attention, show a great deal of affection and want be part of everything you do. The breed is also known to be healthy and robust.

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

## Cat Trivia

**True or false:** Female cats DON’T spray urine to mark their territory.

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:

True! The persecution and killing of cats caused an upswing in the rodent population which carried the fleas and spread the Plague, killing 30-60% of Europe’s population in the 14th century.

**Congrats to Kevin Larsen who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip for his cat Newton!**

## 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’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.

## 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 need for a piece of sculpture in a home that has a cat.” –*

*Wesley Bates*



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.



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