



# The Scoop

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

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

December 2013

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### Yule Have a Purr-fectly Great Time at Our Dec. 21 Christmas Open House!!

Please join us from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 21 for The Cat Practice's annual Christmas Open House! Meet and mingle with fellow cat lovers, chat with our staff and doctors and enjoy some festive holiday fare. We hope to see you here at The Cat Practice!

Some scenes from last year's open house.



### Paws-sitively Cat Friendly Decorating Tips

Holiday decorations are pretty – and can be pretty INVITING – to your feline. Making your home's decorations cat friendly doesn't mean playing down the holiday spirit. It just means following some practical tips for reducing holiday temptations!

#### Decorating Do's

- Keep kitties out of the water that you supply to your Christmas tree by securing a decorative tree skirt snugly around the base of the tree. Water can contain harmful chemicals and preservatives from the tree.
- Put non-glass and unbreakable ornaments on the bottom portions of the tree that are more likely to receive the occasional pawing.
- Keep electrical cords secure, especially for known chewers. Use wire lume (plastic covering available at home improvement stores) if the cords cannot be tucked out of reach.

#### Decorating Don'ts:

- Don't use tinsel on the tree. Tinsel is linear, shiny and enticing to cats who will readily eat it. Tinsel can cause life-threatening intestinal obstructions and injuries.
- Don't use spray-on snow on windows which may contain toxic chemicals. Read labels carefully.



### New Kitty for Christmas? Now what?

If your family got a new kitty for Christmas, congratulations on the new addition to your family! Make kitty's – and your -- experience as happy and stress free as possible with these tips.

**Creating a safe place:** Make a room just for the new kitty with food, litter, toys and bedding so he/she can get accustomed to their new environment.

**Introduction to other pets:** Make it slow, gradual and positive by letting the new kitty poke around the house while current residents are in the new kitty's room. They can experience each other's smells before coming face-to-face. Use food, treats and toys on either side of the door to create positive associations.

**Nutrition:** Cats are true carnivores (unlike dogs), so they should be fed a high protein, low carbohydrate diet. This means dry food is not ideal. Canned food mimics more of a natural diet for cats, and is related to lower risks of certain diseases later in life such as kidney and intestinal disease.

**Toys and playtime:** Environmental enrichment is very important for cats. They thrive in homes with lots of vertical space provided by cat trees/furniture, shelving and other elements that allow them to perch in high areas. This is especially important in multi-cat households.

**Litter box:** It's easier to prevent inappropriate urination than to try and reverse it later. Have at least one litter box per cat, plus one (example: two cats = three boxes). Use clumping, scoopable, unscented litter and scoop daily. Do not use hoods or liners since both trap odors.



### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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)

#### What's in a Cat Name? See the Most Popular for 2013

Did you choose Skipper, Sox, Cream Puff or Oscar? Or maybe Bright Eyes, Sanford, Cleo or Jewel. See if your cat's name is among the most popular names for felines in 2013 at [youpet.com/cat-names/](http://youpet.com/cat-names/).

## If Your Cat Goes Outside, Watch Out for Frost Bite



When temperatures drop, all pets are at risk outside. If you have a feline who goes outdoors, be aware that cats can suffer from any number of health problems as a result of cold temperatures, snow and ice.

Even though cats have a thick fur coat, the tips of the ears, nose, tail, and toes, or any area where the hair is thin, are susceptible to frostbite. If your cat gets frostbite, he or she will also most likely get hypothermia. Any area that suffers frostbite may be lost if not treated immediately.

Initial treatment is to warm the tissue and restore circulation by soaking the area in warm (not hot) water for 15-30 minutes. If it appears that normal circulation is returning, your veterinarian may prescribe pain medication or antibiotics. If the circulation is not returning, as determined by the tissue turning dark in color instead of red, your vet may attempt additional measures to improve circulation. However, these areas are usually dead or contain dying tissue and often need to be surgically removed.

### Signs of Frost Bite

Affected areas will be pale to bluish white in color and much cooler to touch than surrounding skin. This is due to loss of circulation brought on by the cold. If the circulation returns, the affected area will be red and swollen, sometimes with a distinct line between healthy and damaged areas. Usually the area does not become painful until circulation returns.

## AVMA Lists 5 Most Common Cat Health Problems

The American Veterinary Medical Association has released its list of the five most common cat health problems:

1. **Obesity**, which has risen over 90 percent since 2007. Avoid cat food that contains carbohydrates such as corn and wheat which are fillers that add calories.
2. **Hyperthyroidism** is the most common glandular disorder in cats. Symptoms include weight loss and increased appetite.
3. **Dental disease**, which damages a cat's gums, teeth and tongue, can lead to many serious health problems like kidney and heart disease.
4. **Skin problems** including skin rashes, redness, bald spots and flaky skins can be caused by some pet foods, particularly those containing known allergens such as corn and any type of gluten.
5. **Feline lower urinary tract disease** which can be caused by stress, bladder infections, hyperthyroidism or diabetes mellitus.

## A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

### Breed Profile: Persian



While the history of the Persian breed is mainly unrecorded, what is known is that it has been around for centuries. The Persian has a sweet, gentle nature and prefers a calm atmosphere and gentle handling.

Their long and thick coat requires special care, including daily combing and regular baths to prevent matting and hairballs. While tangles and mats are unsightly, they are also uncomfortable for the cat and can tug at the skin. They can be painful to remove.

Persians are predisposed to heart disease, dental disease (due to their small crowded mouths), and respiratory problems due to the narrow nostrils from their flat face. Persians are extremely intelligent which helps them adjust easily to both the home and the show ring.

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

## Cat Trivia

**True or false:** Cats can get "age spots." – 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! Female cats can (and do!) spray urine to mark territory.

Congrats to Betsy Hemming who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

## Cat's Meow Tip: Stop Houseplant Digging

To prevent your cat from digging in the dirt around your houseplants, go to your local craft store and buy a few pieces of the plastic needlepoint mesh. Cut it to fit the pot, with a slit and an opening for the plant.

-- *Contributed by Tabitha Owens of The Cat Practice.*

**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.**



## 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.

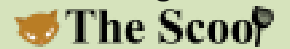
## Looking for Homes / Official Cat Adoption Site

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

*You can't own a cat. The best you can do is be partners.*

*- Sir Harry Swanson*



Follow us:

Wellness/early detection

Chronic conditions

Medical/surgical care

Geriatrics/hospice

Kitty camp boarding

## The Cat Practice commitment to cats and their people:

- o Spot health conditions early to avoid more costly care later.
- o Treat the whole patient looking out for physical and emotional wellbeing.
- o Respect each cat as an individual with his/her own distinct personality & heredity.
- o Avoid surgery at all cost. (The exception: all cats should be spayed or neutered!)
- o Provide alternatives for care whenever possible.
- o Partner with cat families through knowledge sharing.
- o 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](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com)  
[meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com)

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