



The Scoop

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Feb. is National Pet Dental Health Month

February 2013

In this issue:

- [Dental care reduces illness causing bacteria](#)
- [Warning signs of dental disease](#)
- [Two kitties breathe easier after dental care](#)
- [Share on our memory wall](#)
- [Care for ferals in cold months](#)
- [Profile: American Shorthair](#)
- [Trivia contest/win free catnip](#)
- [Cat's Meow: bring the outdoors in](#)

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>

Good Dental Care Reduces Bacteria That Can Cause Illness

You might think that getting dental care for your kitty means sweeter breath and whiter teeth. You would be half right! Another big reason for keeping feline teeth and gums healthy is that it reduces the risk of bacteria in the blood stream that can cause illness and make certain diseases worse, including:

- Kidney disease
- Heart disease
- Urinary tract infections
- Upper respiratory infections



Plus, those loving kitty kisses will smell a whole lot better!

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

Look for These Warning Signs of Dental Disease

Cats should have their teeth, gums and mouths examined biannually to check for dental disease, tartar, broken or diseased teeth and oral cancers. You can spot some of the warning signs of dental disease with this 5-minute at-home check.

Step 1: Smell kitty's breath. Your cat's breath should not be offensive. Bad breath can indicate dental disease; diseases of the kidneys, respiratory system, liver or skin; oral sores or cancer; or diabetes.

Step 2: Look at kitty's gums. Gently pull back the sides of your cat's mouth to reveal the side teeth and gums. Examine the gum line (where the teeth meet the gums) for redness and puffiness (gingivitis). Look at the upper and lower gum lines on both sides, and look at the front teeth. Redness and swollen tissue, or gum tissue receding from the tooth, are signs of dental disease.

Step 3: Look at kitty's teeth. The same way that you looked at your kitty's gum, examine his or her teeth. Are they white, or yellow or brown? Check for teeth that are broken or chipped, or any with a red spot which is a hole. Look for tartar, a hard substance from light to dark brown in color.

Many of the above conditions can be extremely painful to your kitty so if spot any of them, make an appointment to see your veterinarian.

The best way to prevent dental disease is daily home brushing. See how to get started with our Me-Yow Tube™ video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzQEQLPcx2Q>

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

Two Kitties Breathe Easier Following Dental Care

Ginger and Jack are 5-year-old littermates. Both cats had chronic yellow nasal discharge and upper respiratory congestion for many months. While both cats were eating well and active, their family became concerned when nothing they tried at home seemed to help.

Ginger and Jack came to The Cat Practice and were found to have severe dental disease with heavy tartar, gingivitis, loose and missing teeth. Both cats had to be in a great deal of pain.

Following the removal of diseased teeth, dental cleaning and injection of antibiotics, the kitties went home. After two weeks, their family reported that their nasal congestion and discharge were gone! Thank you to Ginger and Jack's family for letting us share their story!

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 or call 248-540-3390.



Share Stories of Beloved Kitties on Our New Memory Wall

Memory Wall

Welcome to our Memory Wall. For anyone who has lost a pet, we all know how difficult it can be. We have created the Memory Wall as a place to remember and honor the special pet in your life – or a pet that is being missed by someone you know.

You might want to share what you remember most. Maybe something that made you smile or laugh – how your pet came to live with you – or how your pet made a difference in your life. Or you can leave kind words for someone you know who has lost a pet. It might be a story or a poem. Words of comfort. Or whatever you feel in your heart.

[Click here to post your pet to our Memory Wall.](#) [Click on the pet's picture to leave condolences.](#)



Memorial Donation

You can also make a donation in memory of a loved one's pet. All donations go to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund (a certified 501c3 non-profit) to help provide care to injured and ill cats who are homeless or whose families are unable to provide for their care.



To make a donation, use the button to the right. Please fill in the name of the pet to be honored. We will notify the pet's family that a donation has been made in their pet's name. You can also make a general donation to the fund.



Families can honor kitties who have passed away on The Cat Practice's new **Pet Memory Wall**. Post a picture and share your memories and favorite stories about your beloved kitty at thecatpracticepc.com. You can also convey your condolences to others who have lost their kitties and make a contribution in a pet's memory. The **Rufus Memorial Feline Fund** (a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization) raises money to care for homeless kitties as well as those whose families are unable to provide for their care.

How to Care For Feral Cats During Cold Months

For feral cat caretakers, help your colonies survive the cold winter months:

- Provide a shelter made of wood or plastic. Elevate it off the ground to protect against moisture and line the inside with newspapers.
- Keep shelters small to maximize body heat; use multiple shelters for large colonies.
- Use straw for insulation and bedding. Avoid blankets, which absorb moisture.
- Remove snow from entrances and exits so cats don't get snowed in.
- Avoid snow-melting salt and chemicals since they can be toxic if ingested.
- Feed canned food in insulated containers since it takes less energy to digest than dry food.
- Provide fresh water continuously to prevent dehydration.



A Cat is Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: American Shorthair



Although the American Shorthair is a natural breed, the process of selective breeding has developed the breed as we know it today. American Shorthairs are good-natured, easy-going and popular with families. They can be calm but are

also playful even into old age. American Shorthairs do not really mature until they are around 3 or 4 years old. Males tend to be more easygoing than females.

American Shorthairs have a short, lustrous coat in a range of colors and patterns. They are generally a healthy breed, but can be prone to heart disease (hypertrophic cardiomyopathy or HCM). This can be diagnosed with an echocardiogram.

Cat Trivia

Question: Cats lose their temporary teeth as kittens and growth permanent teeth just like human adults. True or False?

– Be 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! Cats use their whiskers to measure holes and openings so they don't get trapped.

Congrats to Harriet Shakir (Starsky's mom) 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.

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.

Cat's Meow Tip: Bring the Outdoors in!

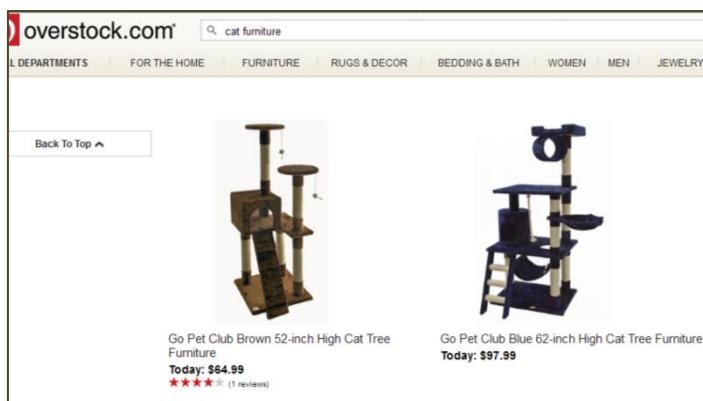
Cold temperatures mean less action going on outside. Kitties can get bored or depressed (like some people!) in the winter months. But you can create a stimulating indoor environment to keep kitty occupied.

If you don't already have one, get a **tall cat tree** and place it near a window. Great prices are at

[http://www.overstock.com/se](http://www.overstock.com/search?keywords=cat+furniture&SearchType=Header)

[arch?keywords=cat+furniture&SearchType=Header](http://www.overstock.com/search?keywords=cat+furniture&SearchType=Header) Get an **outdoor birdfeeder** to entice birds and critters to entertain your kitty as he/she watches out the window. Indoors, use **interactive toys**, like mice or feathers on wire, for your kitty to stalk and pounce on. This type of play is great for bonding time and will keep your kitty occupied during cold months! -Contributed by: Cindy Houlihan, DVM

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.



Our Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8 am – 9 pm
Friday: 8 am – 8 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 8 am – 6 pm

Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this.
–Anonymous

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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