



# The Scoop

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## Wishing You and Your Kitty a Safe & Happy Halloween!

October 2014

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### Share Your Cat's Halloween Photos; Favorites Get FREE catnip!

Does Halloween bring out your kitty's unbelievable cuteness? Or do you have a *Franken-feline*? We want to see them all! Post your cat's Halloween photos at <https://www.facebook.com/catpracticemi> no later than Oct. 24, 2014. We will pick three favorites to get **FREE catnip** and share as many as we can in our November issue of The Scoop.

### Wishing You and Your Kitty a SAFE HALLOWEEN!

Keep your cat out of trouble – and out of the ER -- this Halloween. Keep kitty away from these potential **Halloween hazards**:

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Sugar free candies /gum | Chocolate   |
| Candy wrappers          | Raisins     |
| Glow sticks             | Lit candles |

### Halloween 2013



Norway Suess



Austen Szczepkowski



Mia Lyons



Harley Lyons

### October is National Spinal Health Month

#### Cats are at Risk of Spinal Injury & Disease

The feline spine is remarkable with more than 33 vertebrae, giving cats flexibility, strength and stability. If your cat's spine is injured or diseased, it can affect his or her ability to walk, stand and function. It can be easy or difficult to treat, based on the underlying cause. In any case, any form of back pain can be extremely painful for your cat.



#### Common Spine Problems:

- **Arthritis.** One of the most common spine problems. Most cats get arthritis in the lower back and hips at some point in their lives.
- **Trauma.** Injury often occurs when a cat's tail is caught by a moving car or shutting door, and the cat pulls away separating the vertebrae, or due to massive trauma like being hit by a car. Such injuries often lead to paralysis and elimination difficulties.
- **Tumors.** Tumors can form and press on the spinal cord. Cats with [feline leukemia \(FeLV\)](#) are more prone to certain types of tumors.

#### Signs and symptoms:

Any of the following may be a sign that your cat has some form of spinal injury or disease. Contact your veterinarian if you notice **any one** of these symptoms:

- Weakness in the limbs
- Loss of sensation or feeling in the legs or back
- Lack of grooming
- Hesitancy or inability to jump onto things
- Stiff, jerking or "stilted" gait
- Reaction to pain around the rear end

### Pet Communicator Addresses Full House

Seats were full at the September seminar *What do Fluffy and Fido really think?* featuring pet communicator Lisa Turek. The event, held at the Birmingham Country Club, was attended by more than 100 guests and was covered by **Fox 2 Detroit**. See news coverage at: [thecatpracticepc.com/news.html](http://thecatpracticepc.com/news.html)

Turek says she communicates with living and deceased animals by connecting with their spirits. To connect with a pet, Turek needs a photo or description. She has helped owners modify their pet's behavior, locate lost pets and find out if sick pets are in pain. Turek says that animals understand much more than people think, are sensitive to human energy and emotions and are intelligent in ways that people are not. For more information, go to [lisaturek.com](http://lisaturek.com).



### News and Events:

#### Win FREE catnip for posting your cat's Halloween photo!

See details at left.

#### Oct 16 is National Feral Cat Day

#### Spay / Neuter is Best Way to Help Feral Cats



Feral cats – cats born in the wild – face a difficult life. Helping ferals with food, outdoor shelter and water is great, but the best thing you can do is get them spayed or neutered to prevent future generations! All About Animals Rescue in Warren, Michigan runs a low-cost spay/neuter clinic that serves feral cats. AAAR also offer classes on feral cat Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Go to [allaboutanimalsrescue.org/](http://allaboutanimalsrescue.org/).

#### See Our New Archive of Cat's Meow Tips

Each issue of The Scoop brings you creative and thoughtful ideas to help you best care for your kitty. See ALL of these tips archived at <http://thecatpracticepc.com/catsmeowtips.html>

#### Kitty Camp

Cats staying in our Kitty Camp get 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. Go to [thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html](http://thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html) or call 248-540-3390.



**October 12-18 is National Veterinary Technician Week**

**Veterinary Technician Duties Similar to Human Healthcare Nurses**

Veterinary technicians have many of the same responsibilities as human healthcare nurses. While nurses work in one area, vet techs work in many, such as: emergency, pediatrics, anesthesia, surgery and radiology. Plus, they work with different species! Vet techs do everything that a licensed veterinarian does EXCEPT diagnose a disease, prescribe medication or perform surgery.



[Read about our vet techs here.](#)

Depending on the state, vet techs earn the designation of LVT (Licensed Veterinary Technician), RVT (Registered Veterinary Technician), or CVT (Certified Veterinary Technician). All are equivalent to an RN (Registered Nurse) in human medicine. Vet techs must complete general college requirements, plus get a two- or four- year veterinary technician degree - and pass state and national board exams. Many states require continuing education. With additional intensive study and training, vet techs can become board certified in specialties like Internal Medicine, Emergency & Critical Care, Dentistry, Anesthesia, Behavior, Surgery and Nutrition.

**October 5-11 is National Fire Prevention Week**

**Prevent Pets From Starting House Fires**

Each year, hundreds of house fires are inadvertently started by pets. Causes can be chewed wires, knocked over candles or pets getting into flammable products.



**Monitor / put out open flames** — Pets can be attracted to candles, lanterns, stoves and open fires like the fireplace or barbecue. Watch pets carefully while any form of open flame is in use and completely extinguish flames when you are done.

**Remove or protect stove knobs** — Pets can accidentally turn on stove knobs which is the leading cause of pet-started house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Remove or protect stove knobs from activation while you are away.

**Rethink candles** — Instead of regular candles that can be knocked over by pets, consider flameless battery-operated candles.

**Pet proof** — Safeguard electrical wires, appliances and other hazards within your pet's reach.

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

**Breed Profile: Balinese**

The Balinese is a Siamese with a long coat, but they are really so much more!

The Balinese has a single coat that lies close to its long, slim body, which rarely tangles or mats. The Balinese comes in a variety of colors and patterns from the commonly known seal point to the rare lilac tabby and white point.



Balinese have loving temperaments and bond closely with their families and get along well with children and other pets. They demand lots of attention and get into mischief so should not be left alone for long periods. The Balinese doesn't have any major breed-related health issues, though at the Cat Practice, we see more allergies and dental disease in this type of breed.

Image source: [wiki/File:Ghislaine\\_6028.jpg](http://wiki/File:Ghislaine_6028.jpg)

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

**Cat Trivia**

**True or false:** Scratching is only done by cats to sharpen the claws.

Be FIRST to email us with the RIGHT answer at [Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com) and win free organic catnip! See next month's issue for the answer!

**Last month's trivia answer:** False! There should be 1 litter box per cat PLUS 1 (example: 2 cats = 3 boxes; 3 cats = 4 boxes, etc).

**Congrats to Erin Inkrott of Livonia** who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free catnip!

**Cat's Meow Tip: Litter Box Alternative / Soft Wood Pellets**

Clay litter can be difficult to scrape out of litter boxes and often gets tracked through the house. We were looking for an option and found Wayne Davis Quality Bedding equine soft wood pellets. The pellets do a good job of controlling odors, are easy to scoop out and do not track as much as clay litter. Plus, they are only about \$6 for a 40-pound bag! It took our cats a few weeks to get used to it. The pellets are sold at feed stores. For locations, go to [www.tributeequinenutrition.com](http://www.tributeequinenutrition.com). -- **Contributed by Linda Wasche of Sylvan Lake**



**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. See past [Cat's Meow Tips](#).**

**Important**

**Contact information:**

**The Cat Practice Hospice and End of Life Care.** Contact hospice nurse Laura Kramek for a consultation at 248-540-3390.

**Nurse hotline.** Get answers to questions answered about your kitty's health. Email: [Nursehotline@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Nursehotline@thecatpracticepc.com)

**AARC wellness exam savings** for senior cats. Go to [thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm)

**Adoptable cats and kittens.** Visit our lobby and [Facebook page](#).

**Story ideas for The Scoop.** Contact [Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com)

Wi-Fi available   
Ask at our front desk

**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

**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).

**Our Hours:**

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

*Cats do not have to be shown how to have a good time, for they are unfailing ingenious in that respect.*  
- James Mason

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.



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