



The Scoop

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Pet communicator program Sept. 17

September 2014

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September is Pain Awareness Month

Cats Left in Pain Often Experience Other Health Problems

Pain Awareness Month, started by the American Chronic Pain Association, raises awareness of the debilitating effects of untreated pain and pain management in humans.

Similarly no cat – or other pet – should ever be in pain. There are many feline-safe medications that treat short-term and chronic pain. Uncontrolled pain is a major stressor and affects physical health including wound healing and resistance to disease. Animals whose pain is prevented or controlled recover faster and better from surgery.

NEVER give human pain medications to pets. Some can be fatal.

Sudden pain, such as that experienced during surgery, if not managed properly, can lead to pain that can last for months or longer. Cats who have had surgery without proper pain management will be frightened and stressed during future veterinary visits. Can you imagine having surgery and going home without pain medication? Or having a painful disease, such as cancer or arthritis, and not taking anything for pain? Our feline friends deserve to have their pain treated, just like we do!



Types of Feline Pain and How to Tell if Your Cat is Hurting

Cats can experience pain for a number of reasons. Here are some of the most common:

Injury/trauma: Any injury will be painful and require pain relief.

Surgical: Even routine surgeries, such as spay / neuter, declaw and dental procedures with extractions cause considerable pain.

Neuropathic: Cats can experience damage to body tissue and nerves causing constant. Pain results from even light touch to the affected area.

Chronic disease: Pancreatitis, arthritis, dental disease, interstitial cystitis and cancer are probably the most painful, though other diseases such as kidney disease can make cats constantly nauseous.

Signs That Your Kitty May be in Pain:

- Change in eating habits / loss of appetite
- Hiding / withdrawal from humans
- Sensitive to touch; hiss/growl when touched
- Licking / biting themselves
- Lack of grooming
- Not using the litter box
- Reluctance to jump
- Sitting on top of paws sphinx-like

News and Events:

Pet Communicator Returns

Animal communicator Lisa Turek will once again talk to pet lovers about understanding what's on their pets' minds at **5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17 at Birmingham Country Club**. See more info below.

Try Out Our New Exam Room Seating

Kitties don't like cold steel tables. SO, we removed the tables from our exam rooms and replaced them with comfortable upholstered seating for you and your kitty. Kitty is more relaxed getting an exam with you and the veterinarian sitting right beside.

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 or call 248-540-3390.



What do Fluffy & Fido really mean? How to listen to & understand your pet.

An evening with animal communicator Lisa Turek & veterinarian Dr. Cindy Houlihan. Sponsored by The Cat Practice.

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 -- Programs at 5 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Birmingham Country Club (1750 Saxon Drive, Birmingham, MI)

Find out how to:

- Communicate with your pet.
- Listen to your pet / what they are thinking.
- Encourage positive behaviors.
- Reduce pet anxiety and stress.
- Increase responsiveness with positive energy.
- Make trips to the vet easier!

Registration

Please register **no later than September 10, 2014**. To register, call 248-540-3390 or go to thecatpracticepc.com. Register for either the **5 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.** program. Donation of \$10 per person includes light refreshments. Proceeds go to the **Rufus Memorial Feline Fund** for homeless cats and cats in need. Sorry no refunds. **Two FREE registrations if your cat is a patient of The Cat Practice.**



Lisa Turek (left) with Dr. Cindy Houlihan and Oscar.

Keep Back Packs & School Lunch Boxes Out of Kitty's Reach

Every fall, the Animal Poison Control Center sees an increase in backpack-related pet poisonings. Back packs can contain any number of toxic substances; at the top of the list are human medications. Also, some lunch box foods can be highly toxic to pets. Watch out for the following:



Backpacks:

- Gum (can contain xylitol which is highly toxic to pets)
- ADHD medication (often amphetamines)
- Albuterol inhalers used for asthma
- Over-the-counter medications (especially non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (such as aspirin, Celebrex, Motrin and others), as well as Tylenol)

Lunch Boxes:

- Grapes
- Raisins
- Onions
- Macadamia nuts
- Old /moldy foods

Choose Feline-Friendly Halloween Costumes

If you are thinking about a Halloween costume for your kitty, before you decide, put safety first.

Make sure your cat is safe this Halloween by choosing costumes that **DO NOT**:

- Impair vision, movement or breathing.
- Contain metallic beads, snaps or other small pieces that can be swallowed.
- Have tight elastic that can choke or restrict kitty.
- Include application of dye or coloring to your pet's fur. Even if the dye is labeled non-toxic to humans, it can still be harmful to pets.

IMPORTANT: NEVER leave a pet in a costume alone; some pets may chew and swallow parts of the costume.

Check Out These Cat-Lover Pumpkin-Carving Stencils

You can now immortalize your favorite feline as the scary face in this year's Halloween jack-o-lantern! Stencils make carving your cat's likeness easy and are available for just about every breed.



Go to <http://www.bhg.com/halloween/pumpkin-carving/pumpkin-stencils-of-favorite-cat-breeds/>

Left: Main Coon cat pumpkin.
Right: Scottish Fold cat pumpkin.
Source: [Better Homes & Gardens](#)



A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Devon Rex



Devon Rex cats trace their ancestry back to Kirlee, a feral cat with a curly coat, who lived in an abandoned tin mine in Devon, England.

Devon Rex cats are intelligent, mischievous and playful. They want to be involved in everything, are very people-oriented and get along well with children and other pets. However, do not leave your Devon Rex home alone for long periods as this breed can become destructive if they get bored.

Devon Rexes are muscular mid-sized cats. Their soft, short, curly coats vary from a tousled mop of curls to a thin suede-like coat.

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

Cat Trivia

True or false: Cat behaviorists recommend owners have one litter box per cat.

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:

False! A swishing or flicking tail usually means a cat is irritated or stimulated. Congrats to **Jodi Miller of Royal Oak** who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

Cat's Meow Tip: How to get your cat to drink more water

My cat, Owen, didn't seem to like water. I take a medication that requires drinking lots of water. He was always trying to drink from my glass which was always near me. So I got him a glass with a larger top, sat it beside mine, and many times he would come and take a drink from "his" glass while I was drinking from mine. It seemed to work very well. -- **Contributed by Carol Petersen of Rochester Hills**



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. 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

AARC wellness exam savings for senior cats. Go to

thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm

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

Story ideas for The Scoop. contact 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 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.

Our Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8 am – 9 pm

Friday: 8 am – 8 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 8 am – 6 pm

*Like a graceful vase,
a cat, even when
motionless, seems
to flow.*

- George F. Will

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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