



# The Scoop

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## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 2014

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### 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.

### March 17 is St. Patty's Day – is Your Cat a Party Animal?

Celebrate St. Patty's Day with these adorable and funny photos posted at <http://mousebreath.com/2012/03/13-st-patricks-day-cats/>

Feel inspired? We would love to see YOUR cat in his or her best St. Patty's finery! Email your photos to [Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com). We will post as many photos to our facebook as possible and also feature some in next month's issue of The Scoop. Editors' three favorites get free catnip!

#### Chicagoland St. PETrick's Parade

The Chicagoland Family Pet Expo will host the second annual St. PETrick's Parade & Contest on Friday, March 14. Prizes for best costumes and parade displays. If you are going to be in the Chicago area and would like to participate, go to <http://www.petchicago.com/>.



### March is National Kidney Month

#### Help Keep your Cat's Kidneys Healthy

This month, during National Kidney Month, is a good time to remind cat families about the importance of healthy kidneys. Kidney disease is one of the leading causes of death for cats. What can you do to make sure your cat has healthy kidneys?

- 1. Feed your cat canned food.**  
Canned-food- only diets (and no dry food at all!) are the gold standard for cats. These foods have more moisture to help keep the kidneys flushed out and the body hydrated.
- 2. Encourage cats to drink more water.**  
Offer fresh water daily at multiple water stations throughout the house.
- 3. Get a screening blood and urine panel annually.**  
This is important for cats of all ages in order to catch kidney changes early. The earlier the diagnosis, the easier it is to treat and manage kidney disease with better results.



#### 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>

### California Café Caters to Cat Lovers

Cat families know there is nothing more relaxing than a hot cup of your favorite beverage and a cat on your lap! Well now others are realizing that, with the planned opening of KitTea in San Francisco. The tea house, slated to open this summer, will be home to 10 cats. KitTea also plans on fostering homeless cats that customers can adopt. The menu will feature organic teas and Asian and American snacks. See more at <http://www.delish.com/food/recalls-reviews/cat-cafe-san-francisco>

If you are looking for the PURR-fect way to carry your morning tea or joe, don't forget about **The Cat Practice's exclusive stainless steel travel mugs**. There are still a few left – but act quickly! Proceeds go to the Rufus Memorial Feline Fund. Cost is \$10. Available exclusively at The Cat Practice!



#### 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)

### For anyone who has lost a beloved cat

Losing a kitty -- or any beloved pet -- is such a difficult time for so many pet families. We wonder why they are here for such a short time. We wonder how life can ever be the same without them. We miss their soft steps and the smell of their fur. If you have ever lost a cat -- or know someone who has -- read this touching tribute, *In memory of Basil*, posted to The Cat Practice Memory Wall at <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com/memory/basil.htm>

Thank you to Carol Petersen – for posting – and for writing it.



#### 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.

## More from the West Coast: Cat Art Show

The Los Angeles Cat Art Show, held in January, included its own VIP night and attracted cat lovers from all over the West Coast. The 3,000 square foot gallery that housed the show featured everything from cat-themed paintings to hand-made quilts and photography to digital art. It also provided an opportunity for cat lovers to do what they like to do most – talk about their cats!

*"Toulouse" by Natalia Fabia*



It's worth a visit to see some of the art work at [http://ihavecat.com/2014/01/26/cat-art-show-los-angeles-opening-night-review/?goback=%2Egde\\_89012\\_member\\_5833575855565086723#%21](http://ihavecat.com/2014/01/26/cat-art-show-los-angeles-opening-night-review/?goback=%2Egde_89012_member_5833575855565086723#%21)

To all you creative cat lovers in the "D" – maybe an idea that could catch on here?

## New Lost & Found Map Makes it Easier to Find Lost Pets



Michigan Partnership for Animal Welfare (MPAW) has created a new lost and found map on its website for lost pets. Pet families can go to <http://michiganpaw.org/lost-and-found-pet-map/> to locate animal shelters in their area that hold pets for state-mandated stray holding periods. The mandate requires shelters to hold strays without identification for a minimum of 4 days, and 7 days for animals with ID (tag, microchip or tattoo). The idea is to give concerned pet owners a place to start looking for their pet once they've gone missing.

## A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

### Breed Profile: American Curl



In 1981, a stray black kitten with unusual ears was found on a doorstep. The affectionate kitten quickly endeared herself to the family and was named Shulamith. All American Curlys trace their heritage back to her. Geneticists have confirmed that the ear-curling gene Shulamith carried is unique. A cat with even one copy of the gene will show the curled-ear trait.

American Curlys are curious, exuberant and loving companions who greet each day with joy as they look for new adventures. They are exceedingly people-oriented and are known to pat their caregivers to get attention and include them in their activities.

American Curlys come in longhair and shorthair with a myriad of colors. While the curled ears are the major feature of this special breed, other characteristics are its large walnut shaped eyes and medium-sized rectangular body.

Photo by tanakawho [CC-BY-2.0](#), via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

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

## Cat Trivia

**True or false:** Most cats (not including those with extra toes) have four toes on their front feet and four toes on their back feet.

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! A female cat is at much greater risk for breast cancer if she goes into heat or has a litter before she is spayed.

Congrats to Sue Kaperzinski 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](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

## Cat's Meow Tip: Medication Station Simplifies Treating Diabetic Cat

"Do you have a diabetic cat? Then you have syringes, lancets, cotton balls, glucometer tester, test strips and treats among the stuff needed for a twice-a-day routine. I suggest setting up a "medication station." This is a dedicated place that includes a compartmentalized tray for keeping everything organized and at hand. I have my medication station up in an upper kitchen cabinet, directly above the counter that Newton and I use twice a day for our routine."

- Contributed by Kevin Larsen and Newton of Royal Oak

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.

Newton's Medication Station.  
Photo courtesy of Kevin Larsen



*"I love cats because I enjoy my home; and little by little, they become its visible soul."*

-Jean Cocteau

Follow us:   

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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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