



The Scoop

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June is Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month

June 2014

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June is Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month

The Best Places to Find a Kitty Companion

Think adoption first. There are THOUSANDS of homeless cats and other pets waiting for good homes at Michigan shelters and rescue groups. For the MOST comprehensive list and profiles of available pets, go to petfinder.com. Search for a pet by species, breed, age, gender and by your zip code.

Kitty City Adoption Sites

PET SUPPLIES PLUS.

Pet Supplies Plus stores in **Bloomfield Hills** (248 -333-7545) and **White Lake Twp.** (248- 889-4131) feature the area's only open-air adoption centers where you can interact with the adoptable cats. Call stores for more info.

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 or call 248-540-3390.



Make Sure New Kitty is Right for Your Home & Family

Families often say that they "just knew it was meant to be" when they met their cat (or dog) for the first time. Before adopting, make sure the pet is right for your family and for your home. No one wants to have to return a pet. [Find out what to ask yourself before adopting.](#)



Have Patience When Introducing a New Cat into Your Home

Don't be surprised if a new kitty goes and hides or doesn't want to eat for the first few days. Cats are creatures of habit and most need time to adapt to a new environment. What can you do to help your new kitty adjust?

1. **Set up a room** (a small bedroom or bathroom are fine) just for the new kitty with a litter box, food, water, toys, and bedding. Let kitty get adjusted to the house a little at a time so it's less overwhelming.

2. When he/she appears comfortable, **supervise kitty in exploring the rest of the house.** If you have other pets, put them in the new kitty's room at this time to get accustomed to each other's scents.

3. Use **Feliway feline pheromones** to reduce visible anxiety. It mimics the "happy" pheromones cats release when they mark areas with their faces. It's available as a plug-in diffuser or a spray.

Why Two Cats are Better Than One!

- Cats can get lonely and will bond with each other for companionship. This doesn't detract from their relationship with you!
- Cats with a "sibling" as a playmate have less behavior issues, are kept busy and are less bored.
- You get to save 2 lives instead of one! :)



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.

Nurse Hotline

The Cat Practice has an email "hotline" to answer your questions about your kitty's health. Email NurseHotline@thecatpracticepc.com If your cat has symptoms of illness, it's still best to make an appointment with your veterinarian.

Wellness Exams Recommended for Newly-Adopted Cats

Living in a shelter or rescue environment with other cats can spread sickness like upper respiratory infection (similar to the common cold). Most homeless pets are examined quickly and signs of other illnesses can be missed. Make an appointment for a [wellness exam](#) for your newly-adopted kitty as soon as possible. It's a good idea for your veterinarian to check for:

1. **Intestinal parasites:** Make sure to bring a fresh stool sample to your appointment. Worms (especially in kittens) are very common and sometimes require more than one deworming treatment. [Read more about parasites.](#)

2. **Fleas:** These little buggers can be very difficult to treat once your home is infested, so it's always better to prevent them in the first place or catch them early. [Read more about fleas.](#)

3. **Upper respiratory infection:** URI in shelters and rescues is common and difficult to control with the number of cats moving through. It's highly contagious and can be passed to resident cats at home. A roughly three-day incubation period may cause cats to seem okay when adopted but start developing symptoms after a few days. **URI is easily treated with antibiotics and supportive care.** [Read more about URI.](#)

4. **Feline Leukemia & FIV:** These two viruses cause immune deficiency in cats and there is no cure. **However cats can live long, happy lives despite being infected,** though they do pose a problem if there are existing cats in the household since both diseases are transmittable from cat-to-cat. Most shelters and rescues test cats before they are adopted, but some don't check for both diseases. All cats should have two **NEGATIVE FeLV & FIV** tests in their lifetime. [Read more about FeLV & FIV.](#)



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>



Are You Getting The Scoop?

To sign up, send us an email at meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com or call 248.540.3390

Keep Kitty Safe From Animal Bites & Other Summer Hazards

Summer can be a dangerous time for kitty. Here are the top five summer hazards that we see most often at The Cat Practice.

1. Abscesses. Cats who go outside, especially at night/twilight, are MUCH more likely to get into fights and end up with a nasty bite or wound. If left untreated, bites and wounds can fester and become a painful abscess (pocket of infection) requiring medical treatment. Bites from other cats also spread Feline Leukemia and FIV, so cats spending any time outdoors should be tested annually.

2. Poisoning. Cats often nibble on indoor and outdoor greenery. Some are toxic, especially any variety of lily, which causes kidney failure in cats. Check your landscaping against the toxic plants list at <http://thecatpracticepc.com/hazards.htm>.

3. Over-the-counter topical flea and tick medication. Some medications purchased at pet stores are not controlled by the FDA or EPA and can lead to life-threatening reactions. Some topical treatments made for dogs can kill a cat. Get flea, tick and heartworm medication from your veterinarian.

4. Insect stings and insect-borne diseases. Bee stings and spider bites can cause allergic-type reactions in cats requiring veterinary care. Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes (we have a lot in Michigan!) and is on the rise in cats. All cats should be on a monthly heartworm preventative.

5. Lost or trapped. Outdoor cats often get trapped without food or water when they try to find shelter from the hot sun. If you must let your cat go outdoors, bring kitty inside during the hottest part of the day and before nightfall. Make sure your cat is microchipped and wears a collar with tag.



Plan Now for 4th of July Fireworks

It's not uncommon for cats to be afraid of loud noises, especially thunder and fireworks. Help desensitize your cat in advance by playing these sounds at a lower volume. Increase the volume as your cat becomes more comfortable.

A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Egyptian Mau



The Egyptian Mau breed is thought to have originated in Italy in the 1950s and is descended from cats brought from Egypt. The Mau, a relatively rare breed, is slender and muscular, and slightly shorter in the front than in back. Maus have a skin fold under the belly, similar to that of the cheetah, which helps make them fast runners.

One of the most recognizable traits of the breed is the long, dark, dorsal stripe that runs along the cat's spine, from head to tail. Maus come in five colors: silver, bronze, smoke, black and blue/pewter.

The Mau is loyal and friendly. It is also more temperature sensitive than most breeds being fond of very warm places. Maus are also more sensitive to medicines and anesthesia.

Img by Heikki Siltala (CH Chai-lai Lisimba (Simba)) [CC-BY-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons]

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

Cat Trivia

True or false: Kittens are born instinctually knowing how to cover their eliminations.

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 answer!

Last month's trivia answer:

True. The print on a cat's nose is a unique pattern, like the human fingerprint.

Congrats to Pam Mullins of Southfield who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

Cat's Meow Tip: Hideaway Cat Dining Area

Our kitchen is small and guests often tripped over kitty food bowls. So when we installed a new pantry, recessed back from the main kitchen, our contractor included a pull out kitty dining "table." This drawer-like feature enables our kitties to leisurely dine, and when food bowls are empty, the drawer goes back under the pantry. The drawer design also keeps stray food from going all over the floor. A water fountain is in a separate area of the kitchen.

-- Contributed by Linda Wasche / Sylvan Lake

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](#).



Save on Wellness Exams for Senior Cats!

AARC

All About Retired 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

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.

Contact Us:

If you have story ideas for The Scoop or would like more information, please contact Tabitha at Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com.

Our Hours:

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

The smallest feline is a masterpiece.

- Leonardo da Vinci



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
meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com

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