



# The Scoop

Published by The Cat Practice, Birmingham, Michigan. Open 7 days a week and evenings.

## Have a Pet-Safe Summer!

July 2014

### In this issue:

- [Welcome Dr. Christina Larsen!](#)
- [Spot obesity in your pet](#)
- [Avoiding heat stress in your kitty](#)
- [National pet fire safety day July 15](#)
- [Breed: Maine Coon](#)
- [Trivia contest/win free catnip](#)
- [Cat's Meow: The perfect fluid bag hanger](#)

## Dr. Christina Larsen of Louisiana joins The Cat Practice

The Cat Practice conducted a national search for a veterinarian dedicated to feline care and sharing our same commitment to providing cats with a high standard of individualized preventive care. Dr. Christina Larsen provides all aspects of feline care with a special interest in feline behavior and emotional wellbeing, gastrointestinal diseases and aging /geriatrics.

Prior to joining The Cat Practice, Dr. Larsen externed at Memorial Cat Hospital in Houston and Alamo Feline Health Center in San Antonio. For her complete bio, please go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com/Larsen.pdf](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com/Larsen.pdf)

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Larsen. She joins The Cat Practice veterinary team of Dr. Cindy Houlihan and Dr. Ann Callahan.



## News and Events:

**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
 We are hosting a **MEET & GREET** with **Dr. Christina Larsen** on **Saturday, July 19** from **9 a.m. to noon**. Please join us for refreshments and to welcome Dr. Larsen!

## 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.



## Study Says Many Pet Parents Fail to Spot Pet Obesity

Research by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention says many pet owners don't recognize obesity in their pets. Out of 1,421 animals assessed in fall 2014, **57.6 percent of cats** and 52.6 percent of dogs were classified as obese, while pet parents considered these pets to be of normal weight.

### Cats that are overweight are at risk of:

- **Arthritis.** All cats eventually have some arthritic changes as they age, but being overweight can cause it to happen sooner and be more painful.
- **Diabetes.** One of the most common diseases in cats is diabetes. Cats who have been overweight for long periods of time are at higher risk.
- **Hepatic lipidosis (fatty liver disease).** This happens when an overweight cat loses weight quickly – as a result of untreated diabetes, hyperthyroidism or diminished appetite from another illness -- and can be serious.



**Cats fed DRY food are MUCH more likely to GAIN EXCESS WEIGHT than cats fed mostly canned food.**

### How to tell if your cat is overweight:

1. **Feel the ribs.** You should be able to feel your cat's ribs using SLIGHT pressure.
2. **Look at your cat from above.** You should be able to see a discernible waist line. If there is no curve, your cat is likely too heavy.
3. **Look at your cat from the side.** You should see an abdominal "tuck," meaning the abdomen should tuck up to the hips. If there is no tuck or the fat pad hangs low, the cat is likely overweight.

**If you suspect your cat may be overweight, or want to prevent overeating, talk to your veterinarian or veterinary nurse about your cat's diet and nutrition.**

[See our Me-Yow Tube Video for more help determining if your cat is overweight.](#)

## Avoid Kitty Heat Stress During the Cat Days of Summer

Warm weather and summer fun can also signal potential risk to your feline. Keep kitty safe with these tips for the "cat days" of summer.

**Keep kitty well-hydrated.** Get your cat to drink more by swapping out cute little ceramic water bowls for much larger dog bowls. Some cats hate having their whiskers touch the sides of the bowl! Use ice cubes as summer toys to slide across floors and to get cats to lick extra water.

**No air-conditioning?** Air-conditioning is best on very humid days. If you don't have AC, use fans to keep air circulating. Wet a washcloth with cool water and run it over kitty to cool him or her off.

**Shave long-haired cats.** Consider shaving your long-haired cat's coat shorter during summer months.



## 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.



**July 15 is National Pet Fire Safety Day**

**Make Home Safer for Pets With Fire Safety Tips**

Each year, 40,000 pets are killed in fires; most of them residential. In a fire, it's essential to get pets out quickly and safely. Follow these tips:

- **Locate your pet's hiding places.** During a fire, pets are terrified and run to places they feel safe. Find the best cubbyholes, map them out on paper, and include the map in your escape plan.
- **Prepare an emergency kit for each pet.** Include your pet's food, vet records, medications and photo. If boarding your pet until you're settled, the facility will need proof of vaccines.
- **Know your escape route.** Keep carriers (or collars and leashes for dogs) near doors that you use most frequently in case you have to evacuate or if firefighters need to rescue your pet.
- **Affix a pet alert window decal.** Record the number of pets inside your house on a pet alert decal and affix to a front window in easy view of emergency responders. Keep number of pets updated. Get free window decals at [www.adt.com/pets](http://www.adt.com/pets), [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) and [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org).
- **Consider monitored smoke detectors.** Pets left alone can't escape a burning house. Monitored smoke detectors connect to and send a signal to an emergency response center.
- **Give pets a way out.** During a fire, if you can't find your pets, leave an outside door open and call your pet's name once outside. With luck, he or she will hear you and head for your voice.



**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 [theatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm](http://theatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm)

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

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

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

**Breed Profile: Maine Coon**

One of the oldest natural breeds in North America, the Maine Coon is regarded as a native of Maine and is the official Maine state cat. It's believed that the breed originated from shorthaired domestic cats and longhairs introduced by New England seamen or brought to America by Vikings. While Maine Coons are highly people-oriented, they are not overly-dependent. They do not constantly seek attention, but prefer to "hang out" with their human, investigating whatever activities are going on and "helping" when they can.



The Maine Coon's semi-longhair glossy coat is heavy and water-resistant, and comes in nearly all colors and patterns; the most common is brown classic or mackerel tabby. At maturity, males can average 13-18 pounds and females 9-13 pounds.

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

**Cat Trivia**

**True or false:** There are more owned cats in the U.S. than dogs.

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

**Last month's trivia answer:**

False. Covering after elimination is a learned behavior that kittens get from watching their mother.

Congrats to Lynn Sarosik of Troy who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

**Are You Getting The Scoop?**

To sign up, send us an email at [meowmail@theatpracticepc.com](mailto:meowmail@theatpracticepc.com) or call 248.540.3390

**Follow Us in the News!**

Check our website regularly for updates on our recent news coverage. [theatpracticepc.com/press.htm](http://theatpracticepc.com/press.htm).

**Our Hours:**

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

*The cat seldom interferes with other people's rights. His intelligence keeps him from doing many of the fool things that complicate life.*  
- Carl Van Vechten



Follow us:

**Cat's Meow Tip: For Kitties Getting Fluids, the Perfect Bag Hanger**

If your kitty is on subcutaneous fluids for kidney disease, pancreatitis or other illness causing periodic dehydration, you may be wrestling with where to hang up the fluid bag. I use what I think is a plant hanger that I got at a resale shop. The bag slips right over the tip of the hanger's arm. You could also use a coat rack or the base of an old stand up reading lamp – minus, of course, the light bulb! -- *Contributed by Chris Jarosz of Sylvan Lake, mom to Bailey and Julius*

*Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email [Tabitha@theatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@theatpracticepc.com). If we run it, you get a FREE bag of organic catnip. Limit to 75 words. See past [Cat's Meow Tips](#).*



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.



875 South Worth  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-540-3390

[www.theatpracticepc.com](http://www.theatpracticepc.com)  
[meowmail@theatpracticepc.com](mailto:meowmail@theatpracticepc.com)

©Copyright 2014