



# The Scoop

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## Happy New Year!

January 2015

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### News and Events:

### 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>

## New Year's Resolutions for a Healthier, Happier Kitty

Stop smoking, lose weight, volunteer more. We all make resolutions like this each year. This New Year's, why not resolve to make some resolutions for your feline family member? Maybe it's resolving to spend more play time with kitty – or choosing a healthier cat food. Here are some ideas for helping your kitty live a healthier, happier life all year long!



### Cat Guardian New Year's Resolutions

1. **Measure your cat's food.** Half of U.S. pets are overweight. Monitor portions at each meal. Calculate daily calorie intake based on the cat's ideal weight and number of calories in their food. Your veterinarian can help with this.
2. **Feed an all-canned food diet.** Canned food is higher in protein and lower in carbs.
3. **Make daily interactive play part of your schedule.** Five or ten minutes gives your cats some great quality play time. Pick what they love -- catnip or a laser toy – and mix it up!
4. **Brush your cat's teeth.** It might sound scary but most cats can be taught to tolerate brushing if you follow the right steps. See our video at [Me-Yow Tube](#).
5. **Update collar tags and microchip information.** If your phone numbers or address have changed, make sure to get new collar tags or contact the microchip company.
6. **Scoop litter boxes every day.** If you aren't already, this is a great way to reduce the spread of bacteria and infections.

### 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.



## Colder Weather Can Be Risky to Cats Venturing Outdoors

If you have an indoor cat who ventures outside every now and then, keep in mind that even a small amount of time in below-freezing temperatures can cause frostbite on paws and other extremities. Cats that are left to roam outside are, of course, at even greater risk.

**Bottom line: Keep your cats indoors, especially in very cold weather. Cats left outside can:**

- Freeze to death, get stolen, injured or killed.
- Be exposed to toxic substances as a result of walking in salt or anti-freeze, and then tracking it inside or licking it off and ingesting it.
- Get frostbite. Especially vulnerable are areas with thin fur such as the ears, nose, tail and toes.
- Get hypothermia – a potentially dangerous drop in body temperature -- especially if the fur gets wet or damp.



## Kitty Love – Post Your Valentine Favorites

How does your kitty show that he or she loves you? Post your favorite affectionate feline pictures to our Facebook at [facebook.com/catpracticepc](https://www.facebook.com/catpracticepc). We will feature some of the best in our March issue of The Scoop!



## Where to Go for the Purr-fect Cup of Coffee



As reported in [AAHA NEWStat](#) (published by the American Animal Hospital Association), the number of cat cafés — places where humans can enjoy a cup of coffee along with feline companionship — is growing in the United States. The trend, which originated in Taiwan in the late 1990s, gained momentum in Tokyo in 2005. Today, Japan boasts close to 150 such cafés. In 2014, the trend found footing in Europe and the United States where there are now cat cafes in Oakland and San Francisco, California and Denver. To read more about this growing trend, go to:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/03/cat-cafe-oakland-california-cat-town\\_n\\_6095080.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/03/cat-cafe-oakland-california-cat-town_n_6095080.html)

### 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)

## Keep Kitties Safe with Thorough Holiday Clean Up

Remnants left over from holiday decorations and gifts can sometimes be hard to spot, but can pose lots of danger to curious kitties. Be sure to do a thorough clean up after the holidays to look for small items that can wreak big havoc if ingested by cats and other pets. Pick up and vacuum to remove:

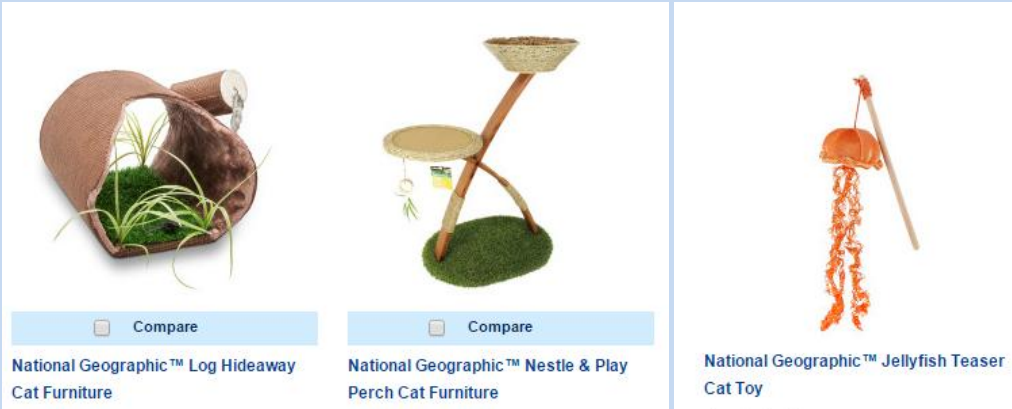
- Wire tree ornament hangers
- Pieces of ribbon
- Silicon packets often found inside gifts
- Pieces of tinsel (from trees and gift bags)
- Artificial greens and berries



Wi-Fi available   
Ask at our front desk

## National Geographic & PetSmart Join to Offer Interactive Cat Toys

National Geographic and PetSmart have joined forces to market a line of pet toys that entertain and exercise pets and encourage interaction with their humans. Cat toys include cat towers made from bamboo and wood, and a "Jellyfish Teaser." See more at <http://natgeo.petsmart.com/>



See our recommendations for choosing cat toys at <http://thecatpracticepc.com/toys.htm>.

## A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

### Breed Profile: Munchkin



The Munchkin achieved championship status in The International Cat Association (TICA) in 2003.

These sociable cats are extremely playful and love to run, chase and play with toys. They love company including children, dogs and other pets.

Munchkins are extremely curious and will sit up on their hind legs like a rabbit to get a better view of something that has caught their attention.

Munchkins come in short and long coat lengths and numerous colors and patterns. They are small to medium-sized, weighing between 5 and 9 pounds when fully grown. Their short legs are a natural mutation that shortens the leg bones, similar to the mutation that gives Corgis and Dachshunds their short stature.

Munchkins are a generally healthy breed. While there were concerns that the breed would develop spinal problems seen in short-legged dog breeds, studies have not confirmed this.

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

## Cat Trivia

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

Be **FIRST** to email us with the **RIGHT** answer to [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:** False. Poinsettias are overrated in toxicity and only cause GI upset (vomiting and diarrhea) if ingested.

Congrats to **Harriet Shakir of Bloomfield Hills** who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

## Our Hours:

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

*Cats are rather delicate creatures and they are subject to a good many ailments, but I never heard of one who suffered from insomnia.*

- Joseph Wood Krutch

Follow us:   

## Cat's Meow Tip: Fancy – and Less Costly – Option to Pet Food Bowls

Stainless steel or glass cat food bowls from the pet supplies store can cost \$4 a piece or more. If you have more than one cat, this can add up! Instead, look for human dessert bowls at resale stores and garage sales. Make sure they are made of thick glass (not fragile glass or plastic) and are not chipped or cracked. I got all SIX of these lovely glass bowls at a resale store for \$2! My cats love eating from these fancy dishes! -- **Contributed by: Linda Wasche, 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](#).**

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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