



The Scoop

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Happy St. CAT-rick's Day!

March 2015

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O'Kitty, O'Kitty, Show Us Your Green!

How will you and your kitty celebrate St. CAT-rick's Day? Will you be *looking over a FUR-leaf clover*? Or maybe kitty will be enjoying some GREENIES treats? However you celebrate, we would like to get in on the fun. Please share your favorite St. CAT-rick's Day photos with us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/catpracticemi>. The best ones will be featured in the next issue of The Scoop.



Some GREAT St. Patty's Gifts for Cats & Cat Lovers

Are you looking for gift ideas for your Irish cat lover friend? See LOTS of cute cards, pillows, t-shirts, coffee mugs, postage stamps and more at <http://www.zazzle.com/>



For St. Patrick's gifts for your cat, see the delightful cat and dog collars, tank tops and hoodies at <http://www.1cutepooch.com/st-patricks-day-pet-dog-collars-tanks-hoodies/>

March is Poison Prevention Awareness Month

Make Your Home Kitty-Proof From These Common Household Poisons

Spring is a good time to review your stash of household products for possible feline hazards. Kitty-proofing your home can be a bit of a challenge. Keep in mind that kitties can go ANYWHERE so what you think is an "out-of-reach" spot is probably just part of your kitty's regular stomping ground. Make sure these items are out of kitty's reach:

- Flea treatments for dogs -- such as K9 Advantix -- which is toxic to cats if licked or ingested
- Insecticides and pesticides
- Garden products with toxic elements such as fungicides, pesticides and fumigants
- Paints, stains, varnishes, paint stripper, brush cleaner and other home decorating items
- Human medications
- Household cleaning products
- Car cleaning and detailing products
- Many hobby products such as oil paints, putties and glues
- Art supplies, especially artist grade art supplies that use mineral pigments

Home safety tips:

- Read the label BEFORE you buy household cleaners or pesticides.
- Read labels of any current household products so you can store them properly.
- Keep all household products out of reach of pets and children.
- Follow label precautions for proper ventilation and, skin/eye protection.
- Keep pets and children away from treated areas.
- Don't spray or store cleaning or pesticide products near pet food and water dishes.
- Make sure animals can't get at pest bait products while they are in use.
- When there's a spill, keep pets away. Think "infants and pets out" before cleaning the mess.
- Don't forget wildlife! Spraying on a windy day can carry garden products/pesticides into the water supply. Store products after use; wildlife might be tempted by the aroma or color. .

Preparing for an emergency:

- Phone numbers to keep near the phone:
 - Your family veterinarian
 - Closest emergency hospital
 - Local poison control center
 - ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center / 888-426-4435
- Check product labels for emergency information.
- Take product containers with you to the veterinarian.

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>

First week of March is National Professional Pet Sitters Week

Tips for Kitty Sitters

If you care for cats or other pets while their persons are away, a little preparation can make a huge difference, should one of your feline wards become ill or get injured. On the other hand, if you rely on the services of a kitty sitter, some foresight can make it easier for the sitter to reach you and to make decisions on your behalf.

See information on: [Choosing a reliable kitty sitter](#), [Information for your kitty sitter](#), [Kitty sitter daily checklist](#) at thecatpracticepc.com.

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.



March is National Kidney Month

Kidney Disease Affects Many Older Cats; Know How to Spot Signs

Kidney disease is a leading cause of death in cats and is especially prevalent among older cats. The earlier kidney disease is detected, the more easily it can be managed. While there is no cure for kidney disease, many affected cats live normal lives with proper care and medication. [See more on kidney disease.](#)

Early detection of kidney disease:

- Schedule an exam every 6 months to help spot kidney disease early, delay the onset and slow the disease's progression. Exams should include blood/urine panel every 6 months for cats age 12 and older, and annually for cats under age 12. [See more about biannual exams.](#)
- See your veterinarian if your kitty's litter habits have changed. A change in litter habits can signal a urinary tract infection which, if left untreated, can cause acute kidney failure. [Read more about litter box behavior.](#)

Signs & symptoms of kidney disease:

- Weight loss
- Drinking more water
- Vomiting
- Dull, dry hair/coat
- Dehydration
- Not eating well
- Urinating more (larger urine clumps in the litter box)
- Nausea (licking lips, not eating well, vomiting)
- Constipation
- Bad breath (ammonia-like odor)

Preventing kidney disease:

- Keep your kitty away from antifreeze (ethylene glycol), grapes, raisins and lily plants; all are poisonous and can cause acute kidney failure.
- Feed your cat a high quality, well-balanced diet.*
- Provide a constant supply of clean, fresh drinking water.*

*Note that feeding the "right" food and providing fresh water will not prevent *genetic* kidney disease, but it can help keep kidneys functioning better and longer.

A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Himalayan



The Himalayan is considered a color variation of the Persian rather than a distinct breed. Known for its blue eyes and point coloration, the Himalayan comes in two types: 1) traditional / doll-face and 2) peke-faced with more squashed-looking facial features.

Himalayans are mostly white or cream.

Points are black, blue, lilac, chocolate, red or cream with a tabby, lynx or tortoiseshell-pattern. Like many long-haired cats, Himalayans need brushing daily and may need their faces wiped.

"Himmies" are sweet-tempered, intelligent and social with a playful side. They tend to be more active than Persians. Some Himalayans may have the gene that causes Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). A genetic test can reveal which cats carry the PKD gene.

Photo credit: [By Asilverstein](#) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

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

Cat Trivia

True or false: The shamrock plant is mildly toxic to cats.

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! Scratching not only sharpens claws, but also is done to stretch muscles, explore surroundings and scent mark areas.

Congrats to **Beth Garfield of Ferndale** who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!



Cat's Meow Tip: Kittyblock Offers Unique Climbing & Hiding Places

We recently discovered the Kittyblock at **Cass Corridor** pet supplies in Detroit's Midtown. This patented cube is U.S.-made and designed by **Understated Corrugated, LLC** in Brighton, Michigan. Each Kitty Block is made of corrugated fiberboard bound by non-toxic starch-based adhesive. The blocks are cut by hand and are about 15 by 15 inches on the outside and 10 by 10 inches on the inside. See info at <http://www.mykittyblock.com/>



-- 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](#).

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 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

A cat pours his body on the floor like water. It is restful just to see him.
- William Lyon Phelps



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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