



# The Scoop

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## Have a Safe July 4<sup>th</sup>!

July 2015

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### Reduce Feline Stress During July 4 Celebrations

Independence Day is a holiday of parties, cook-outs, swimming and of course, fireworks! Lots of fun for people, but for pets, it can be a day (and night) of unsettling noises, separation from family, confusion and danger. Here are tips to help keep your cat safe during this July 4 holiday.



- 1. Keep cats indoors!** Even cats who are used to going outside can become frightened and confused, and can get lost or trapped trying to hide.
- 2. Update identification.** Microchipping is the best way to identify pets (see below), but it's no good if you don't update your info with the registry. Also make sure your cat has a collar with current ID.
- 3. Be careful going in and out.** Prevent an unwanted escape. Double check doors to make sure they are securely latched and that window screens don't have any holes or tears.
- 4. Set up a cat sanctuary room.** Include safe hiding places and food, water, toys and litter box. Spray Feliway, or use a Feliway diffuser, to help calm anxiety. Play soft music to block out noise. Periodically check on your cat and provide periodic interactive play.
- 5. Avoid human foods.** Picnic / barbecue foods aren't good for pets and can cause everything from an upset stomach to toxicity. Keep foods / beverages away from pets and ask guests to do the same.
- 6. Remove citronella candles.** Inhaling the citronella scent can cause irritation to your cat.
- 7. Avoid using calming medications.** Don't give your cat any calming medications unless you've been instructed to do so by your veterinarian.

[Read more about feline stress and how to manage it here.](#)

### July is National Anti-Boredom Month

### Keep Kitties Occupied to Avoid Boredom, Provide Mental Stimulation

While National Anti-Boredom Month was originally directed to humans, it applies to kitties as well! In cats, boredom can lead to undesirable behaviors such as aggression, excessive grooming / compulsive behaviors, over-eating, destructive behaviors such as excessive scratching or chewing, and even depression and physical illness. Remember that every cat is different – just like people (some of us like video games while others like more physical stimulation) – so see what your cat likes!



### Keep Your Cat Stimulated & Happy:

- If your cat is left alone a lot, leave on a radio or some music.
- Get new toys and rotate them. Put some toys away for awhile so they regain their novelty the next time you bring them out.
- Put catnip on toys!
- Put out an ordinary cardboard box and watch your kitty have a ball.
- Add vertical space with a cat tree or tower. Vertical space is just as important as horizontal space, and cat trees are safer (and more fun!) than the china cabinet!
- Bring out your cat's basic hunting instincts with toys that mimic prey, like a toy mouse on a wire or bird flyer on a string. (We have both at The Cat Practice.)
- Hide yummy morsels around the house and let your cat seek them out.
- If your cat enjoys the sights and smells of the outdoors, try a pet stroller, harness, leash or an outdoor enclosure.

### Keeping Senior Cats Amused

What about senior cats who don't move around as much or are not as interested in interactive play? Older cats, just like older people, need mental stimulation to keep their minds sharp.

- Make activities like bird watching easy by giving kitty a lower window perch – or one with steps to ease the discomfort of arthritic joints.
- Buy DVDs made for cats that are low-impact yet stimulating.
- Give your older kitty massage sessions to ease stiff muscles. Many people find that their cats love a light massage, and make it part of their daily routine.

### News and Events:

### See Our 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.



### 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](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)

Wi-Fi available  
Ask at our front desk



Most importantly, spend quality time with your cat every day. This can be as simple as 5 to 10 minutes of playing, combing or doing anything your kitty enjoys. Your cat will look forward to this time with you. And remind you if you forget!

[Watch our MeYow Tube video for more tips on choosing the right cat toys!](#)

## Microchipping is Best Way to Guarantee Your Pet Will be Identified

Should your cat or dog become lost, microchipping is the best way to make sure he or she can be identified if brought into a shelter or veterinary hospital. Microchipping is painless and relatively inexpensive with huge benefits if your pet ever gets lost or stolen.



### What you should know about microchips:

1. A microchip is an inert glass bead, the size of a grain of rice that is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. It contains a radio transmitter, an antenna, and computer chip with a 10-digit code. The information in a microchip is read by a scanner -- it's NOT a GPS or tracking system.
2. Different kinds of chips have different frequencies. The 128 kHz chip is the frequency that most scanners pick up, the 134 kHz chip is the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) compliant chip used in Europe, and the 125 kHz chip is used for dogs by the AKC (American Kennel Club). Most, but not all, shelters, rescues and clinics have universal scanners that read all three frequencies. The 128 kHz chip is most likely to be read and is your best bet. Brands include AVID (used by The Cat Practice) and HomeAgain.
3. The microchip number must be registered along with your contact info when your pet is chipped. That way all of your info is tied to your pet's identity. If you move or change your contact information, update this information with the microchip company.
4. Microchipping costs around \$50, depending on where you go. The microchip company charges a registration fee that is pre-paid for you by The Cat Practice when your cat is microchipped.

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

#### Breed Profile: Bengal

Originally developed from crosses between the domestic cat and Asian Leopard Cat, the Bengal is the only domestic cat with rosette-like markings.



Bengals are active, inquisitive and love high places. If you don't like a cat to leave the floor, a Bengal is not the right cat for you. If not given adequate mental stimulation, Bengals can have behavior issues including inappropriate urination and destructive behaviors, so it's important for them to have lots of stimulation. (See our [Anti-Boredom month story!](#))

The Bengal is noted for its luxurious short, soft coat which may have a spotted or marbled pattern ranging in color from cool grey to vibrant shades of golden, bronze, copper or mahogany. Bengals usually weigh from 6 to 15 pounds, with males generally being larger than females.

Bengals are generally healthy, but are prone to heart disease. Breeders should screen their cats with a cardiologist before breeding.

Photo credit [By V. Sauvaget](#) [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:** Cats without microchips have a 2% return rate, while microchipped cats make it home 39% of the time.

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:** False! The medication used to treat dogs can cause significant side effects in cats including acute pulmonary (lung) failure and death.

Congrats to **Gail Foster of Royal Oak** 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@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248.540.3390

## Save on Wellness Exams for Senior Cats!



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](http://thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm)



Learn how to brush your cat's teeth, give meds and more!  
[youtube.com/MeYowTube](http://youtube.com/MeYowTube)

## 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)

## Our Hours:

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

*Time spent with cats is never wasted.*

*- May Sarton*

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## Cat's Meow Tip: Pet "Playpens" are Great for Acclimating New Kitties

If you bring new kitties into your home, you might be looking for a place to acclimate them before making them part of the household. I used to keep stray and found kitties in a puppy crate, but have found a better solution. This pet "playpen" has eight sides with zippered openings. The bottom protects floors and carpets. Its soft sides make it a perfect temporary home for rescued or scared kitties. See a large variety of colors and styles at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Prices start at around \$24.

-- 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:

- 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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