



The Scoop

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 2016

In this issue:

- [St. Patrick's Day – Irish songs for cat lovers](#)
- [National Kidney Month](#)
- [Kitty-proofing your home](#)

- [Planning for kitty sitter](#)
- [Breed: Russian Blue](#)
- [Trivia contest/win free catnip](#)
- [Cat's Meow: "prevent littering"](#)

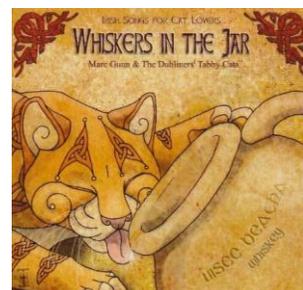
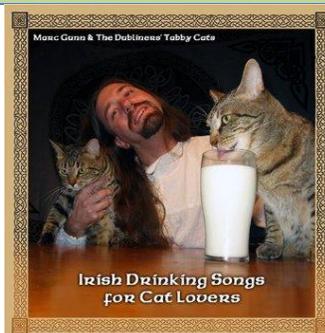
News and Events:

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>

Celebrate the PURR-fect St. Patty's Day with Irish Songs for Cat Lovers

It's that time of year for breaking out the catnip and *Greenies* treats for your cat. To add to the festivities, we found the PURR-fect St. Patrick's music for you and your cat. Tune in to *Irish Drinking Songs for Cat Lovers* and listen to such favorites as *Lord of the Pounce*, *When Kitty Eyes Are Smiling* and *the Old Grey Cat*. All tunes are performed by musician Marc Gunn & The Dubliners' Tabby Cats.



For I-tunes to preview, buy and download, go to <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/irish-drinking-songs-for-cat/id97352730>. Find the CD at <http://www.amazon.com/Irish-Drinking-Songs-Cat-Lovers/dp/B000CAGQ06>.

Second CD: Whiskers in the Jar: Irish Songs for Cat Lovers

ITunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/whiskers-in-jar-irish-songs/id283738161>

CD: http://www.amazon.com/Whiskers-Jar-Irish-Songs-Lovers/dp/B001B3QIMO/ref=pd_bxgy_15_img_2?ie=UTF8&refRID=0NBF6SF1HNMV04WEV9FY

March is National Kidney Month

How to Spot and Prevent Feline Kidney Disease

National Kidney Month – observed each March – was started to raise awareness about kidney disease in humans. But this is also a good time to focus on this disease in felines as it has become one of the leading causes of death in domestic cats.

In cats, kidney disease is a progressive condition with irreversible loss of function. However, treatment to slow progression and manage the disease can result in good quality of life and an extended life.

Visible Signs

Typical signs of kidney disease include:

- Excessive drinking and urinating
- Weight loss
- Lack of appetite
- Vomiting

Making sure that your cat gets enough fluids is the best way to prevent kidney disease.

Some cats may have an ammonia-like breath. Others may experience loss of body condition and dehydration. About 20% of cats with kidney disease also have high blood pressure.

Diagnosis

The only way to detect kidney disease is with blood and urine tests. Blood taken from a cat with kidney disease will have: 1) high Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN), 2) elevated Creatinine, 3) elevated Phosphorus and 4) low Potassium. SDMA is a new blood test, being recommended by many veterinarians, that indicates early kidney disease before other values become affected. A urine sample will show the concentration of the urine; if it's more dilute or light in color this usually indicates kidney disease.

Treatment

Although kidney disease cannot be cured, it can be managed. In early stages, we encourage water intake (canned food, water fountains, broths, etc). When that is not enough, subcutaneous (under the skin) fluids may have to be given at home. Some cats also need medications to lower phosphorus, increase potassium or to stimulate appetite, and reduce discomfort and nausea.

Prevention

FLUID is key to keeping kidneys healthy. CANNED CAT FOODS provide the best way to help keep your feline's kidneys functioning properly.

Read more about feline kidney disease at <http://thecatpracticepc.com/kidneydisease.htm>.

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.



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 larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com

March is Poison Prevention Awareness Month

Make Kitty-Proofing Your Home Part of Spring Cleaning

Even though you think that your home is kitty-proof, you might be surprised at some common household products that are toxic and hazardous to your feline's health.

Make it part of your spring cleaning this year to be sure that your house is kitty-proof. Print out and use our handy **HOME CHECKLIST** at thecatpracticepc.com/hazards.htm.



Plan Now for Vacation Kitty Sitting

This is great time to think about who will take care of your kitty during summer travel.

If you are looking for a kitty sitter, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters -- which certifies pet sitters -- has excellent information on choosing one at http://www.petsitters.org/hiring_a_pet_sitter.php.

In addition to finding a qualified sitter for your cat, follow these tips to insure that your kitty will be safe while you are away.

- If your cat is on medication, provide the kitty sitter with clear instructions. For example, if medication is not normally given in food, your cat may refuse to eat if the sitter gives it this way.
- Leave instructions for what to do if your cat gets sick while you are away.
- Consider having your cat micro-chipped. It's quick, inexpensive, and can give you some peace of mind if your cat gets outside!



See our printable kitty sitter daily checklist and more at <http://thecatpracticepc.com/sitter.htm>.

A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Russian Blue



Although the Russian Blue likely originated around the mid-1800s, it wasn't until 1912 that the breed was given a separate class for competition. The breed gained popularity in the U.S. in the 1960's.

Russian Blue cats are friendly but generally shy around strangers. They are known for their affectionate personalities and charming emerald green eyes.

While the Russian Blue is known as a healthy breed, worth noting is their LOVE OF FOOD.

This breed tends to eat beyond its need and is at risk of becoming overweight if allowed to eat excessively.

Photo credit: By Misiolac (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0], via Wikimedia Commons

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

Cat Trivia

True or false: Like lions, a group of domestic cats is also referred to as a "pride."

Be **FIRST** to email us with the **RIGHT** answer at larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com and win a free bag of organic catnip! See next month's issue for the answer!

Last month's trivia answer: True. Cats sometimes paw their water to check the level before drinking.

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

Two things are aesthetically perfect in the world - the clock and the cat.
- Emile Auguste Chartier

Cat's Meow Tip: Help Spread the Word About Cat Spay/Neuter

Help *Prevent Littering* this spring by spreading the word about the importance of cat spay and neuter. These adorable cat-themed Prevent Littering items are designed by NOOTERS Club®, a Michigan company that works to raise awareness about pet overpopulation. See their selection of CAT, DOG and RABBIT cartoons and sayings on t-shirts, tank tops, pet t-shirts, vehicle magnets and more at www.NOOTERSClub.org.

DURING MARCH, NOOTERS CLUB® will donate \$5 to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for every REGULARLY PRICED adult and ladies t-shirt sold. (Does not include specials or other promotions.)

-- Contributed by: Linda Wasche, Sylvan Lake
Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com
If we run it, you get a FREE bag of organic catnip.
Limit to 75 words. See past [Cat's Meow Tips](#).



Follow us:   

Wellness/early detection

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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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