



# The Scoop

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## Ticks on rise in Michigan

July 2016

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### Lone Star Tick Putting Cats at Risk in Michigan & Across U.S.

The Lone Star Tick, which used to be found mostly in southeastern and south-central states, now has increasing prevalence in many states including Michigan, and as far north as Maine and as far west as central Texas and Oklahoma. It carries many diseases, both viral and bacterial, that are transmitted into your cat's blood stream and can be fatal. They can also be contagious to humans and other pets.



Ticks attach themselves to the skin and feed on an animal's blood. They are visible to the human eye and often attach themselves in and around the ears and neck. **Symptoms in cats include** fever, bleeding, poor appetite and low platelet count. Tick bites can lead to anemia and affect a cat's immune, lymphatic and nervous systems. If you notice any of these symptoms, or have spotted a tick on your cat, contact your veterinarian.

#### Removing a tick from your cat

Wearing gloves, use fine-tipped tweezers, to firmly grasp the tick's head. Pull it straight out and avoid spreading bacteria by not crushing or squeezing the tick's body. Place the tick into a jar of insecticide or rubbing alcohol. Inspect and clean the bite area with an antiseptic. Check it regularly for irritation and monitor your cat closely.

**The best prevention is to keep cats INSIDE. Also**

**treat your cat with a flea and tick-preventative recommended by your veterinarian.** See more on

Lone Star ticks in Michigan at: <http://www.thetimesherald.com/story/news/local/2016/05/22/lone-star-tick-might-latest-invader-michigan/84671690/>

### July is National Anti-Boredom Month

#### Make Sure Kitty Stays Active and Stimulated

National Anti-Boredom Month started with humans in mind, but can also pertain to kitties. Cats that become bored, and lack activity, can act out with bad behavior or just become depressed.

Cats need **mental stimulation and physical activity** to stay alert and enjoy good quality of life. Try to incorporate AT LEAST ONE of these activities into your kitty's daily routine.

- Play fetch. Cats can be taught to retrieve objects and bring them to you just like dogs. Toy mice and soft rubbery small balls (look for them in the cat toy aisle) are both great.
- Walk your cat on a leash. Test out the harness at home before going outside.
- Use laser pointers made for cats.
- Put treats or dry food morsels in a toy. (While a mostly canned-food diet is recommended for cats, treats, and dry food as a treat, are fine.)
- Teach your cat to do tricks!
- Enrich your cat's home environment. Create vertical spaces with cat trees or cat shelves. Add cat tunnels and cardboard boxes for hiding places.



[Find more information on feline quality of life, including our Me-Yow Tube video on choosing the best toys, by clicking here.](#)

### From Dr. Larsen: My Special Relationship With Bombays

Many of you have seen my cat, *Midnight*, at The Cat Practice and may have noticed how special he is to me. As a cat veterinarian, of course, I love all cats, but my Bombay has a special place in my heart.



Midnight goes to The Cat Practice with me each workday. Nothing gets him more excited than seeing his leash, signaling that it's time to go to work. Midnight is often found sleeping on the clothes dryer in the back of the clinic – and periodically comes to the lab area to make sure everyone is hard at work. He is fine traveling in the car and even has his own booster seat. So, if you're a human, you are probably sitting in the back!

Bombays are a rather rare cat breed created by crossing a sable Burmese with a black American Shorthair. They are highly intelligent and often considered dog-like -- although I would never mention this to Midnight!

The next time you are at The Cat Practice, ask to meet Midnight. He would LOVE to make a new friend! In the meantime, read more of his story at [thecatpracticepc.com/midnight.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/midnight.htm).



*Midnight loves to dress up!*

### 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>

#### 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 [larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com](mailto:larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com)

## Bee & Wasp Stings Can be Serious for Many Kitties

Certainly if your kitty goes outdoors, he or she is at much greater risk of being stung by a bee, wasp or hornet, but indoor cats are equally as vulnerable if venomous insects get in through open windows or doors.



For many cats, being stung can mean swelling and tenderness at the site of the sting. But for some cats, who are allergic to the venom, a sting can be fatal if not immediately treated.

**Whether your cat has mild swelling or a more serious anaphylactic reaction, it's important to seek IMMEDIATE veterinary treatment.**

### Signs that your cat may have been stung

- Localized pain
- Swelling
- Vocalization / crying

PUT AN ICE PACK ON THE AREA TO HELP REDUCE PAIN UNTIL YOU GET TO THE VETERINARIAN. For a mild reaction, your kitty may just need an injection of Benadryl. **NEVER GIVE YOUR CAT HUMAN BENADRYL.**

### An allergic reaction could be life threatening to your cat.

Early signs of anaphylactic shock include:

- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Urination or defecation
- Itchiness/hives
- Swollen muzzle / tongue
- Weakness
- Weak pulse
- Lethargy
- Cold limbs
- Drooling
- Changes in behavior
- Elevated heart rate
- Pale gums/mucous membranes
- Collapse
- Shallow/rapid/difficult breathing



### Bites in throat can be fatal

Cats love to catch flying insects and can easily swallow a bee or wasp. If you suspect this may have happened, GET VETERINARY HELP IMMEDIATELY. Not doing so can be fatal. Your cat's throat will swell quickly and he or she will suffocate. On the way to vet, place a small ice cube in your cat's mouth to help reduce swelling.

## A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

### Breed Profile: Cornish Rex



The Cornish Rex is distinguished by its curly coat, large ears and sleek, curved body. But underneath all this sophisticated elegance is a playful cat known for kitten-like antics.

Cornish Rex cats are playful, affectionate, highly intelligent and love interaction. They need lots of space and plenty of attention. Don't let this breed get bored – that's asking for trouble!

Though they appear to be fragile, the Cornish Rex is a sturdy, generally healthy breed.

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

## Cat Trivia

**True or false:** Cats' collarbones are not connected to other bones.

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

### Last issue's trivia answer:

True. Orange cats are more likely than many other cats to get heart disease, dental disease and allergies.

Congrats to Colleen of Bloomfield Village who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

## Cat's Meow Tip: Old Bassinet Provides PURR-fect Elevated Sleep Space

If you have a baby bassinet that is no longer in use, hang onto it! I have found that a bassinet makes a PURR-fect sleeping space for my two cats, Crowley and Castiel. Cats love elevated spaces so it didn't take them long to find this one, and as you can see, they are enjoying it immensely! They love climbing into the bassinet and have made it their special hiding place. Put a kitty bed, pad or blanket in the bottom for extra comfort. -- **Contributed by: Elise Wells, Bozeman, Montana**



Crowley (black) and Castiel (buff) sleeping.

Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email [larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com](mailto: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](#).

Wi-Fi available   
Ask at our front desk

## 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

## 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

*You can't own a cat. The best you can do is be partners.*

*- Sir Harry Swanson*

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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