



# The Scoop

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## Happy Labor Day – Sept. 5

September 2016


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### Make Labor Day Kitty & Pet Safe

Cats and other pets are naturally curious – and during holidays -- when you are entertaining guests – they can easily get into some potentially dangerous situations.

This Labor Day, make it part of your holiday planning to identify risk areas and take precautions for the safety of your cats and other pets. Look out for these main types of hazards:

<p><b>Alcoholic beverages</b></p> <p>Cats and dogs will lap up beer, cocktails and wine. Though it may look cute seeing your pet join in the festivities, even a SMALL amount of alcohol can cause alcohol poisoning and be FATAL to your pet. Keep alcoholic beverages out of reach and covered. If you suspect that your dog or cat has consumed alcoholic beverages, contact your veterinarian.</p>	<p><b>Ribbon</b></p> <p>During holidays, balloons and hostess gifts often come tied up with ribbon. Immediately remove and discard any ribbons as cats love to play with and sometimes eat them. Ribbon can cause serious intestinal blockage.</p> 
<p><b>Fire</b></p> <p>Outdoor picnics means there are often barbecues, torches and candles. All can spell trouble for kitty and other pets. Keep barbecue grills covered to avoid attracting pets with enticing smells. Consider using battery operated lanterns and camp lights instead of lit luminaries.</p>	<p><b>Food</b></p> <p>Many foods that show up at holiday events can be toxic to cats and dogs. Keep dishes containing the following stored away from pets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onions</li> <li>• Macadamia nuts</li> <li>• Caffeinated drinks</li> <li>• Sugar free food/drinks (containing Xylitol)</li> <li>• Chocolate</li> <li>• Raisins</li> <li>• Grapes</li> </ul>

Also – remove foods that can cause serious obstructions and internal lacerations like **corn cobs** and **chicken bones**, as well as **fatty and greasy foods** that can cause intestinal upset and diarrhea. More hazards to avoid can be found at [thecatpracticepc.com/hazards.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/hazards.htm).

### September is National Pain Awareness Month

### Be Able to Spot Acute & Chronic Pain in Cats

September is National Pain Awareness – and what better time to make sure that you know how to spot the signs of pain in your cat.

In cats, the signs of pain can be SUBTLE as cats often mask their illness as a throwback to surviving in the wild. Pain can be due to an injury or quickly onset medical trauma – this is **ACUTE pain**. Or, it can be pain that is persistent due to an ongoing condition – this is **CHRONIC pain**. In either case, there are numerous signs that your cats may be in pain.

Watch for:

- Increased vocalization (can include growling, hissing, moaning or even purring more than usual)
- Licking a particular area of the body more than usual
- Failing to groom
- Changes in behavior (more irritable/grumpy, more clingy/needy, hiding, avoiding bright areas)
- Not eating
- Change in litter box habits
- Change in mobility (signs of limping, reluctance to move, playing less, difficulty jumping)
- Abnormal body positions
- Panting or open mouth breathing
- Dilated pupils or eyes closed for long periods
- Reaction to palpation
- Changes in posture including hunching up, shifting of weight, lowering head



### What to do:

If your cat has any of these symptoms – even if subtle – always see your veterinarian. **NEVER give your cat any type of medication on your own. Many human medications are fatal to cats.**

Find out about managing pain in cats at [thecatpracticepc.com/painmanagement.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/painmanagement.htm).

### 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)

## New “Diagnostic” Cat Litters Do NOT Replace Need for Vet Exams

Several new cat litters – and cat litter additives -- detect changes in the Ph balance of a cat’s urine that can be caused by bladder or kidney problems. A color-coding system lets the cat’s owner know if the Ph balance is “normal or abnormal.”

While these products can be a great addition to your cat’s care, they do NOT replace your cat’s regular checkups.

**[TWICE ANNUAL checkups are recommended for ALL cats regardless of age or medical history.](#)**

As part of your cat’s annual exam, BLOOD WORK is still the best way to detect feline bladder and kidney problems. A new blood test – SDMA -- provides EARLY DETECTION of kidney disease. A urinalysis is also recommended which tells the veterinarian how well your cat’s kidneys are concentrating urine, the urine pH level and if crystals or infection are present in the urine.

In between exams if you spot any abnormalities in your cat’s litter habits, contact your veterinarian.



## Drug-Resistant Urinary Tract Infections in Pets on the Rise

Urinary Tract Infections (UTI’s) may be getting more difficult to treat. A recent article in *Science News* talks about new studies finding an increase in UTI’s in pets that are resistant to drug treatment. The studies, conducted by scientists from the University of Lisbon in Portugal, say it’s not clear whether pets are picking up the microbes that cause the infections from their owners – or vice versa. In any case, researchers are concerned since pets are becoming a vehicle for bacteria that are becoming drug resistant. See more at <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/fido-and-fluffy-could-unleash-drug-resistant-microbes>.

UTI’s are common in cats and symptoms range from mild to severe. Cats with any form of UTI will most likely experience some level of pain which can be severe.

**Left untreated, UTI’s can lead to chronic and severe pain and weight loss, and can spread to your cat’s kidneys causing serious illness and even death.**

### Signs that your cat may have a UTI:

- Urinating small amounts
- Going to the litter box more often
- Crying during urination or straining to urinate
- Frequent urination
- Blood in urine
- Urinating outside of the litter box
- Excessive licking of the urinary opening

## A Cat’s Not Just a Cat!

### Breed Profile: Colorpoint Shorthair



The Colorpoint Shorthair is the result of breeding a Seal Point Siamese with a Red American Shorthair Tabby. Colorpoints come in 16 colors and are similar to the Siamese with a long, hard body, fine bone structure, wedge-shaped heads with large flaring ears and deep blue eyes.

Colorpoints are affectionate and loyal, extremely talkative and love attention. Don’t be surprised if your Colorpoint follows you around the house chattering away. This highly intelligent breed can easily be taught to play games such as fetch.

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

## Cat Trivia

**True or false:** The prime time for kittens to be socialized is from 12 to 20 weeks of age.

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 month’s trivia answer:**

True. Cats’ collarbones are NOT connected to other bones.

Congrats to Nancy B. of West Bloomfield who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

## Cat's Meow Tip: Terry Cloth Strips Can Simplify Teeth Cleaning

Brushing your cat’s teeth is one of the best things you can do to help prevent plaque and tarter buildup. But using a tooth brush in kitty’s mouth is not always easy. Instead of using a toothbrush, I cut up small strips of clean terry cloth towel about 1 inch by 4 inches. Take the strip of towel, wrap it around your index finger and apply the toothpaste. (NEVER use human toothpaste. Get specially formulated feline toothpaste from your veterinarian or pet supplies store.) Use the piece of towel to rub toothpaste on kitty’s teeth. Discard when done. -- **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](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

*There are no ordinary cats.  
- Colette*



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### 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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