



The Scoop

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Welcome Spring – it's allergy time!

April 2013

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News and Events

More cat lover news: Read *Cat Chat*

Oakland Press blogger Caren Gittleman brings you all kinds of cat lover news, cool cat stories, new products and more. Go to: <http://opcatchat.blogspot.com>

Spring Means Allergies for Many Cats

In cats, spring allergies often appear as they do in humans: with a sneezy, runny nose and watery eyes, as well as itching, over-grooming and hair loss. If you notice these symptoms in your cat, you may have a seasonal allergy sufferer! Although there is no "cure," for allergies there are many treatment options.

What you can do at home:

- Use air-conditioning instead of opening windows or use an air filter system.
- Keep kitty inside while the lawn is being mowed.
- Minimize the number of houseplants in the home. (Avoid toxic plants. See the list at <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/17-common-poisonous-plants.aspx>.)
- Leave shoes and jackets at the door to minimize allergen spread.

How your veterinarian can help:

- If symptoms persist, ask your vet about treatment alternatives.
- Your vet might suggest allergy testing to identify what your cat is allergic to.

Although every breed of cat can have seasonal allergies, some breeds like Devon Rex, Orange Tabbies and Calicos are most allergy prone.

Flea and tick prevention

Ask your veterinarian about the variety of preventatives available to your kitty. Now at The Cat Practice, get two FREE doses of Feline Advantage-Multi with every six that you buy!

Does Your "Kitty Got Talent?"



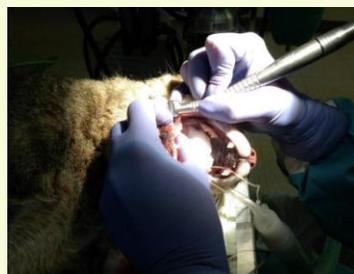
Have a talented feline? We're looking for kitties to star in our new video series! Contact tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com



See a Dental Surgery in Our Photo Documentary

Titus, whose person is veterinary nurse, Tabitha Owens, LVT, needed dental surgery to remove a bad tooth. See this photo documentary of Titus' surgery from beginning to end. The surgery is being done by Dr. Cindy Houlihan of The Cat Practice. Go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152663269030720.1073741825.254643980719&type=3> Note how every precaution is taken to make sure that Titus is safe and comfortable.



AAHA Recommends Dental X-rays

The American Animal Hospital Association's recently revised **Dental Care Guidelines for cats and dogs** recommends that full-mouth x-rays be taken with every dental procedure.

April is National Pet First Aid Awareness Month

Be Prepared with a Feline First Aid Kit

Quick thinking and basic first aid items can reduce the severity of some injuries and even save your pet's life. Put together a basic first aid kit in a plastic container. Include:

- A list of 24-hour emergency clinics close to home
- Number for the ASPCA poison control center **(888) 426-4435**
- Copy of your cat's most recent medical records
- Clean towels to wrap your cat in or to compress a wound
- Benadryl to be given ONLY as directed by a veterinarian over the phone
- Non-latex gloves
- A flashlight and magnifying glass to inspect for parasites or small wounds
- Tweezers for removal of small splinters and ticks
- Sterile eye-wash solution for cleaning out small, shallow cuts
- Non-adherent padding such as Telfa pads for bandaging minor wounds
- Antibiotic ointment to apply to small wounds
- Hot packs that can be activated and wrapped in towels to keep kitty warm



Kitty Camp

Cats staying in our Kitty Camp enjoy frequent attention



and plenty of play and exercise in our Kitty Playroom. Boarding your cat is a great alternative while you're away, have guests or are having work done at home. For information – or to register – go to thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html or call 248-540-3390.

What to Watch for After Spay/Neuter Surgery



Dr. Cindy Houlihan of The Cat Practice was recently interviewed for the article, "Spaying and neutering: What to look for after surgery," for the website, TheCatSite.com.



Dr. Cindy Houlihan

Dr. Houlihan says that all procedures should include pain management to make sure pets are comfortable following surgery. Families should carefully observe their pet for two weeks following any type of surgical procedure to watch for signs of discomfort or changes in the pet's behavior that could signal problems or reactions to the procedure. In addition, prior to any procedure, Dr. Houlihan recommends that pet owners ask lots of questions of their veterinarian to make sure that pets are properly monitored and that necessary precautions are taken.

See full article at: <http://thecatpracticepc.com>.

Website Wants to Know Special Things You Do for YOUR Pet!

Maybe you walk your kitty in a stroller. Or you just threw a birthday party. Or maybe you just bought kitty an extravagant new condo. How do you show your pets you love them? VetStreet.com wants to know for their weekly online series called "The things we do for love."



For you and your pet to be considered, contact VetStreet reporter Caroline Golon at query-2wz6@helpareporter.net. She says she's looking for pet owners who would like to talk about "The funny, sweet and maybe a little excessive things you do for your pets, like sleeping, clothes, outings, friends, parties, grooming, special products and more. Must have photos to share!" See past columns at: <http://www.vetstreet.com/search/?search=the+things+we+do+for+love>.



April 28 is Hairball Awareness Day

Why celebrate a slimy mass of barfed up fur? The real intent is to raise awareness about hairballs and their potential danger in causing intestinal blockages in your pet. How to prevent them?

- Regularly comb and brush kitty to remove excess fur.
- Use an over-the-counter hairball remedy twice weekly.
- Mix extra fiber, like canned pumpkin, into kitty's food.



A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Orange cats



Orange cats (also known as ginger or marmalade) are not a specific breed, but a color that extends through multiple purebreds and mixed breeds. All orange cats have tabby markings; some lighter than others. There's no such thing as a solid orange cat. The dilute version is cream or buff. Most orange cats are male, though females are not unheard of. Orange cats are usually outgoing and friendly. They

tend to have more health issues than many other colors, including a tendency to develop allergies, dental disease and heart disease.

Look up your cat on our [chart of Purebred & Mixed Breed Health Conditions at thecatpracticepc.com](http://thecatpracticepc.com).

Cat Trivia

Question: *True or False?*

Every continent has cats living on it.

– 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: Answer: True. Cats lose their temporary teeth as kittens and grow permanent teeth just like humans.

Congrats to Lynn Wolan who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

Cat's Meow Tip: Make Grooming More Pleasant for You and Kitty

Does your cat repeatedly bite his or her comb at grooming time? When it's time to comb your kitten, I fill a non-breakable cup with water. Before I comb each section of her fur, I lightly dampen the comb. Instead of biting the comb, our kitten now briefly licks the comb and then purrs with delight as I comb her! Now, grooming time is a much more pleasant experience for both of us!

-- Contributed by Sharon Suess and Norway

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.

Looking for Homes / Official Cat Adoption Site

See the adoptable cats and kittens in our lobby and on [our Facebook page](#). Also, we are now an [official adoption outreach center of Oakland Pet Adoption Center](#) in Auburn Hills so we are getting new kitties as often as we can adopt them out!

Follow us in the News!

Check our website regularly for updates on our recent news coverage. thecatpracticepc.com/press.htm.

Are You Getting The Scoop?



To sign up, send us an email at meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com or call 248.540.3390

Contact Us:

If you have story ideas for The Scoop or would like more information, please contact Tabitha at Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com.

Our Hours:

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

As every cat owner knows, nobody owns a cat.

- Ellen Perry Berkeley



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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