



# The Scoop

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## Cats are Living Longer; Tips for Senior Care

May 2013

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### May is Older Americans Month

## Cats Living Longer; Help Your Senior Enjoy Better Quality of Life

The life expectancy of cats has nearly doubled as many cats are now living into their 20s! Here's how you can help make your senior cat's "golden years" happy and healthy.

- Visit your veterinarian every six months to stay on top of changes in blood chemistry and organ function, which can occur quickly in aging kitties and may require changes in diet.
- Watch for signs of arthritis and difficulty jumping up or walking, which can be easily managed with medication mixed into food or applied to the skin.
- If you have a senior cat with a chronic condition like kidney or heart disease, consider hospice care. Hospice care is an excellent option for managing (not curing) serious illness and ensuring that our feline friends are comfortable and happy. For more information, contact The Cat Practice hospice nurse, Laura Kramek, at 248-540-3390.

### May is National Arthritis Month

How a cat walks tells you a lot about whether or not they are in pain. Dr. Cindy Houlihan talks about spotting signs of arthritis and joint pain in your cat in an article recently on [thecatpracticepc.com](http://thecatpracticepc.com). See full article at: <http://thecatpracticepc.com>.

### Heart Disease in Cats on the Rise

More cats than ever before are getting heart disease. Signs include labored breathing coughing, weakness and lack of appetite. Find out more from this recent article. <http://thecatpracticepc.com/>.

### May 30 is National Hug Your Cat Day

## Do You Know the Right Way to "Hug" Your Kitty?

Cats appreciate and need affection, just like humans. But exuberant embraces may not always be welcome. Cats show affection differently than dogs. They have specialized scent glands in their cheeks that they use to rub against things in their environment as a way to "claim" them, so scratching your kitty under the chin and on the cheeks is an easy way to give love. Cats also "bunt" or knock their heads into your hands, face or shins as a sign of affection. But cats don't always need to have physical contact to show love! When your kitty looks at you from across the room and gives a slow blink, it's his or her way of saying "I love you." Next time you make eye contact, slowly blink back and send thoughts of affection!



## Sign Up for New Face Book Group for The Cat Practice Community



The Cat Practice has launched a new Face book community exclusively for cat families that bring their cats to the Cat Practice and for cat practice staff. Take part in conversations about everything from cat health conditions to keeping cat healthy and happy. To join the group, go to <http://www.facebook.com>.

## Study Says Most Vets Prefer Dogs; NOT True at The Cat Practice!

A study by Bayer HealthCare and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) says that 40% of veterinarians prefer dogs while only 17% prefer cats. In addition, 90% of veterinarians believe that dogs are easier to work with than cats, and 57% believe that cats are more challenging to diagnose than dogs.

For us – we'll stick with cats!



## News and Events

### New Nurse Hotline

The Cat Practice has set up a new email "hotline" for questions you may have about your kitty's health. [NurseHotline@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:NurseHotline@thecatpracticepc.com). If your cat has symptoms of illness, it's still best to make an appointment with your veterinarian.

### 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>

### 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](mailto:tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com)

### Save on Wellness Exams for Senior 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)

### 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](http://thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html) or call 248-540-3390.



## Study: Mixed Cat Breeds Most Popular

A survey conducted for pet food maker Royal Canin found that 40 percent of cat families identified “mixed breed” as their favorite type of cat. Other cat favorites were the tabby – not a true breed – at 20%, followed by the Maine Coon at 15%. In choosing a feline companion, while a pet’s temperament is the starting point, 55 percent of cat owners take appearance into account as the second factor.

## See a Dental Surgery

Titus, whose person is veterinary nurse, Tabitha Owens, LVT, needed dental surgery. See the photo documentary of Titus’ surgery at: [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).



## Website Asks What You Do for YOUR Pet!

VetStreet.com wants to know about “The funny, sweet and maybe a little excessive things you do for your pets.” To be considered, contact VetStreet reporter Caroline Golon at [query-2wz6@helpareporter.net](mailto:query-2wz6@helpareporter.net). “Must have photos to share!”



## A Cat’s Not Just a Cat!

### Breed Profile: American Curl



The adorable American Curl boasts naturally-curved back ears: an interesting result of gene-selective breeding since the 1980s. Affectionate and family-oriented, these cats adapt well to other pets, children, and new people. The Curl comes in both a long and short-haired variety and

requires minimal grooming as they have a scant undercoat. Although their more “open” ears can make them prone to ear infections or foreign objects, the breed is otherwise generally healthy. They have been described as having dog-like personalities in the way they pay attention to their owners, and would be an excellent addition to a playful, multi-pet family

## Cat Trivia

**Question: True or False?**

Cats are born left or right-pawed.

– 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:**

Answer: False. Icy Antarctica remains catless to this day.

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

## Cat's Meow Tip: Get a Food Scale for Monitoring Kitty’s Weight



Do you have an ill kitty or one with a chronic condition? If you do, your veterinarian will constantly ask you, how is his or her weight? Make it easy to monitor kitty’s weight by getting a home food scale. Look for one that will accommodate kitty’s size and weight (many go up to only 11 pounds, which is not enough for most cats). check amazon.com for good variety and reasonable prices. Many scales are under \$30.

– **Contributed by Dr. Cindy Houlihan**

**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.**

## 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!

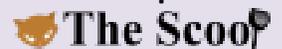
## Follow us in the News!

Check our website regularly for updates on our recent news coverage. [thecatpracticepc.com/press.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/press.htm).

## Contact Us:

If you have story ideas for The Scoop or would like more information, please contact Tabitha at [Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com](mailto:Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com).

## 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

## Our Hours:

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

*Intelligence in the cat is underrated.*  
- Louis Wain

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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