



The Scoop

Published by The Cat Practice, Birmingham, Michigan. Open 7 days a week and evenings.

July is National Anti-Boredom Month!

July 2013

In this issue:

- [Cat Days of Summer](#)
- [July is Anti-Boredom month](#)
- [Summer road travel with kitty](#)
- [Keeping kitty at home](#)
- [Cat Nap photo contest](#)
- [Breed: Ragamuffin](#)
- [Trivia contest/win free catnip](#)
- [Cat's Meow: giving medicine](#)

News and Events

Our Memory Wall

See new memories posted to kitties who have passed on at www.thecatpracticepc.com/.

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
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

Keep Felines Safe During the Cat Days of Summer

Warm weather and summer fun can also signal potential risk to your feline. Keep kitty safe with these tips for the "cat days" of summer.

- **Keep kitty well hydrated.**
 - Get your cat to drink more by swapping out cute little ceramic water bowls for much larger dog bowls. Some cats hate having their whiskers touch the sides of the bowl!
 - Use ice cubes as summer toys to slide across floors and to get cats to lick extra water.
- **Watch out for insect bites.**
 - Ask your vet to write down the right dose of Benadryl (Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride) and show you how to give it by mouth in case kitty is stung by a bee or wasp.
 - If you see swelling on your cat's face, paws or body, contact your vet immediately. In most cases, cats have only minor discomfort that goes away quickly, but some cats can experience serious complications.
 - Of course, keeping your cats indoors is the best way to prevent from insect bites!



July is National Anti-Boredom Month!

Cats Need Mental and Physical Stimulation

Just like people, cats can become bored without mental and physical stimulation. Finding out HOW your cat plays can make all the difference. Try toys from each of the following categories to see which your cat responds to:

- Big chasing toys like balls or wheeled mice
- Small chasing toys like laser pointers
- Wrestling toys like large stuffed animals
- Dangling toys to bat

Get the most for your money by choosing the type of toy your cat most likes to play with made by a brand that uses high-quality, long-lasting materials. Check out this link below for a good guide on picking toys and for a list of tried-and-true brands: <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com/toys.htm>



Make Summer Road Travel with Kitty a Little Easier

For some cats, road travel can be very stressful, whether it's just a trip to the vet, a summer weekend or an extended vacation or business trip. In any case, make car travel less stressful for both you and your kitty by following these tips.

DO:

- Invest in a good quality hard-sided pet carrier with soft blankets and padded cushion for the bottom.
- Use Google Maps to plan out rest stops at least every four hours to let your cats out of the carriers (either in the car or on leashes).
- The night before you leave, give kitty dinner of canned food and extra water. The morning of the trip, just give a small snack and a little water to reduce the chance of car sickness.
- Spray *Feliway* (a product that mimics the natural feline facial pheromones that cats use to mark territory as safe and secure) around the car before putting cats in.

DON'T

- NEVER give kitty sedatives. They have many side effects and can cause complications.

When Flying With Kitty

Talk to the airline to ask about their policies on approved carriers and bringing your cat through security.

Have your cat examined by your vet and ask for a health certificate showing recent vaccinations to bring on the plane.

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

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



We want to hear about your favorite cat-friendly vacation spots, hotels or travel tips! Email Emily at: meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com.

Cat Nap Photo Contest / Win a \$100 Pet Supplies Shopping Spree!

Who is Fluffy sleeping with these days? Does Oscar still nap upside down hanging off the sofa? And is Lily still taking a snooze in your potted ficus plant? If your cat is a creative napper, then he or she just might win you a \$100 shopping spree in the Pet Supplies Plus Cat Nap Photo Contest. The store is looking for unique photos of felines napping in three categories:



- Most unique place for a cat nap
- Most comical napping position
- Most unusual sleeping companion

The three winners will be announced as part of **The Cat's Pajamas 200-cat, 48-hour adoption marathon being held August 9 - 11 at Pet Supplies Plus in Bloomfield Hills.** All entries must be original photos in electronic format and emailed to catnaphotocontest@comcast.net. Deadline is August 1, 2013. For entry rules, go to www.nootersclub.org. Pet Supplies Plus in Bloomfield Hills is at 2057 Telegraph.

Staying at Home Can Be Safer & More Comfortable for Kitty

If you decide that your kitty's better off left at home while you travel, NEVER leave your pet unattended for more than two days.

Before you leave:

- Unplug all electronic devices
- Loop cords of curtains and blinds out of kitty's reach.
- Arrange for someone to stop by, even if you are gone just a day or two, to make sure kitty is okay and to provide some interaction and companionship.



If you will be gone for two days or more, arrange for a pet sitter who stays in your home or comes by daily to feed and interact with your cat. Another option is to board your cat at a reputable boarding facility or veterinary hospital.

Kitty sitters

For information on how to choose a kitty sitter, go to <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com/sitter.htm>

Boarding

Make an unannounced visit to the boarding facility you are considering. Check for:

- Cleanliness
- Relative quiet and peaceful surroundings
- Areas for cats to play and stretch
- Experienced kennel staff – ask to meet them!

Whether you have a kitty sitter or are boarding your cat, ALWAYS leave contact information for yourself and for someone you trust who will be in town in case you are not reachable.

A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed profile: Ragamuffin



Ragamuffins are described as "ideal" for first-time cat owners due to their relaxed and warm dispositions. They are family-oriented and quickly bond with children and other pets. Ragamuffins do not make good outdoor cats because they are slow to defend themselves and even in intense play, rarely put out their claws.

Ragamuffins have long, plush coats in a variety of colors and patterns. Their silky coats can get matted if left un-groomed, but they are otherwise low-maintenance and generally healthy with regular veterinary visits.

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

Cat Trivia

Question: True or False? Calico cats are never male.

– 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. They are called *Toms* after the book "The Life and Adventures of a Cat" featuring Tom the cat.

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

guests or are having work done at home. For information – or to register – go to thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html or call 248-540-3390.

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

Cats were put into the world to disprove the dogma that all things were created to serve man.
- Paul Gray

Follow us:   

Cat's Meow Tip: Easy Way to Get Kitty to Swallow Medication

If your kitty is one any form of pill or capsule medication, getting kitty to take his or her medicine, can be a real *pill*. Next time, try blowing gently on kitty's nose to get him or her to swallow and get that medicine down more easily. -- *Contributed by Emily McNeilly of The Cat Practice.*

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.

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.

The Scoop is published monthly by The Cat Practice.



875 South Worth
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-540-3390

www.thecatpracticepc.com
meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com

