



The Scoop

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Wishing You and Your Family the PURR-fect Holiday!

December 2014

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Household Items Make Great Cat Gifts

If you are looking for the PURR-fect gift for kitty this holiday, you don't necessarily have to go to the pet supplies store to find it. There are lots of items you probably have around the house right now that will provide hours of fun to your cat. Find out how to make:

- Homemade catnip balls
- Homemade toilet paper roll toy
- Cardboard box palace

For tutorials for making these fun toys – as well as more kitty gift ideas -- go to

<https://www.worldsbestcatlitter.com/clearing-the-air/2014/03/the-10-best-homemade-cat-toys/>



Easy-to-Make Homemade Cat Treats



What better holiday gift for your kitty than to bake up some delicious homemade treats! When you make them yourself, you know that the ingredients are natural and high quality.

Homemade Organic Cat Treats

Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound steamed organic boneless and skinless chicken thighs
- 1 cup fresh organic spinach leaves
- 1 cup organic quick-cooking oats
- 1 organic brown egg
- 1 tablespoon organic catnip
- 1/4 cup flour

Click here for recipe: <http://www.popsugar.com/pets/Homemade-Organic-Cat-Treats-30776974>

Dos and Don'ts of Decorating for the Cat-Friendly Home

Christmas trees, wrapped packages and holiday foods can all spell trouble for your curious cat. Make your holiday decorating cat-friendly this holiday by following these easy tips.

DECORATING DO'S

- Keep **electrical cords/strands of lights** taped down or inaccessible. Chewing can lead to serious electrical shock or burns.
- **Anchor the tree.** Most cats like to climb. Use fishing line to secure the top of the tree to the nearest wall to prevent tipping.
- **Use Poinsettia instead of more toxic plants:** Poinsettia plants, if ingested, can cause mild vomiting and gastrointestinal upset, but are much safer than other holiday plants such as mistletoe and lilies.

DECORATING DON'TS

- **Tinsel** is possibly the most dangerous holiday decoration. If your pet ingests even a few strands, they can cause potentially deadly intestinal obstructions.
- **Imitation snow** or "flocking" on a Christmas tree can be very hazardous to pets if ingested.
- **Chemical tree preservatives**, that keep trees fresh, make tree water poisonous. Avoid using them or, if you must, cover the water bowl tightly with a tree skirt, towel, aluminum foil or plastic wrap.

See Norway Perform on Her Own YouTube Channel

Sharon and Rob Suess of Birmingham say that when Norway joined their family, it was "A life changing experience." No wonder. This 2-year-old Norwegian Forest Cat does tricks each morning and evening before meal time. Mom Sharon says that Norway usually learns new tricks in just one evening. "We try to think of new tricks to keep it interesting. Her favorite trick is 'Lie Down,' as she always purrs while performing this trick." Norway even has her own YouTube channel. See her perform at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJypcT06al> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4NS8FmzTBA>



Norway. Photo by Preston Smith.

Norway is the Suess family's first pet. She has competed in Cat Fanciers' Association cat shows and received the title of "Grand Premier." Norway also earned a "Best of Breed" rosette at the 2013 World Championship Cat Show.

Norway is now working on becoming a Certified Therapy Cat and practices by visiting senior citizens at Baldwin House Apartments in Birmingham. For information on becoming a Certified Therapy Cat, go to www.loveonaleash.org. Norway also likes to go on shopping trips with her mom and has traveled in three states.

News and Events:

Christmas Open House Sat., Dec 20, 2 – 5 p.m.



Please join us from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 20 for The Cat Practice's annual Christmas Open House. Meet and mingle with fellow cat lovers, chat with our staff and doctors, and enjoy some festive holiday fare. We hope to see you here at The Cat Practice!

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 or call 248-540-3390.



Take Precautions Against Anti-Freeze Poisoning

Each year, thousands of pets are accidentally poisoned by consuming anti-freeze. Even a few teaspoons can be deadly. Cats and dogs are attracted by the sweet taste of ethylene glycol, a key ingredient in anti-freeze. Even though manufacturers have agreed to add a bittering agent, this is no guarantee that curious pets will not lick or taste the liquid. A safer alternative is antifreeze made with propylene glycol antifreeze; it's still toxic, but not deadly to pets.



Prevent anti-freeze poisoning by:

- Keeping pets away from vehicle and vehicle parking places.
- Keeping pets indoors or on a leash.
- Soaking up known anti-freeze spills with kitty litter, safely disposing of the mixture and rinsing the area with copious amounts of water.
- Asking for antifreeze that contains a bittering agent or is made from propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol. These are mandated in some states, but that certainly doesn't mean that every car on the road is using these safer alternatives.

Symptoms of anti-freeze poisoning

Early Symptoms (30 minutes - 12 hours after ingestion):

- Nausea and vomiting
- Not eating
- Mild to severe lethargy
- Ataxia (wobbly, uncoordinated gait)
- Short, rapid movements of the eyeball
- Head or body tremors
- Increased thirst and urination

Later symptoms (12 - 24 hours after ingestion):

- Lack of urine production (caused by kidneys shutting down)
- Low body temperature
- Salivation, drooling, or ulcers in the mouth
- Vomiting and not eating
- Coma, unresponsiveness

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 answered about your kitty's health. Email:

NurseHotline@Thecatpracticepc.com

AARC wellness exam savings for senior cats. Go to thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm

Adoptable cats and kittens. Visit our lobby and [Facebook page](#).

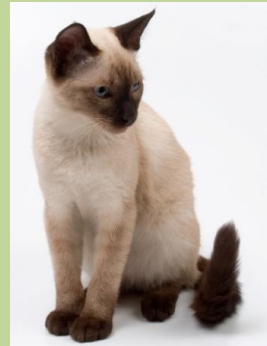
Story ideas for The Scoop. contact Tabitha@thecatpracticepc.com



Wi-Fi available
Ask at our front desk

A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Siamese



The origins of the Siamese have been lost, but it's fairly certain to have an eastern origin.

Manuscripts depicting pictures of pale-coated cats with a black mask, tail, feet and ears date back to 1350.

Siamese cats are perfect for someone who wants a pet who loves interaction and activity. They are also wonderful with children and other pets, are very intelligent and known for being vocal.

Nothing about the Siamese's appearance is round.

It's angular in every way. In contrast with all of the long physical features, its coat is short, glossy and sleek, lying close to the body with a fine texture.

Siamese tend to be heavy tartar producers and need more than average dental care.

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

Cat Trivia

True or false:

Poinsettia plants are extremely toxic to cats.

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!

Cat's Meow Tip: Monthly "Treat of the Month" for Cats

This is the cat gift that keeps on giving!

Get Pet Box (www.getpetbox.com)

offers a variety of feline (and canine) gift boxes that are shipped monthly.

Our cats love the surprises in each new box! Makes a great holiday gift for the cat lover in your life. All pet foods and treats are made in the U.S. A variety of gift box sizes are available.

-- Contributed by Cindy Houlihan, DVM, 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. See past [Cat's Meow Tips](#).



Our Hours:

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

There is no cat 'language'. Painful as it is for us to admit, they don't need one.

- Barbara Holland

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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