



The Scoop

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American Heart Month

February 2014

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February is American Heart Month

Heart Disease on the Rise in Felines – and What You Can Do

Cats -- like humans, are also prone to heart disease. In felines, heart disease is on the rise, and just like in humans, is often a silent killer. Cats with heart disease often suffer from exercise intolerance (heavy or labored breathing) or chronic coughing. Sometimes they have a heart murmur. All cats can be affected, but these breeds are at greatest risk:

Maine Coon	Ragdoll	Persian	American Shorthair
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Early detection can add years to your cat's life. Have your cat examined regularly. Your veterinarian will listen for heart murmurs and may also recommend an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart), which is strongly recommended for cats with a heart murmur, especially before procedures involving anesthesia. Heart disease is treatable with medication. For more information on feline heart disease, go to <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com/Guides/Heart.pdf>. To see if your cat is at high risk, go to <http://thecatpracticepc.com/earlydisease.htm#breeds>.

Affectionate Felines Show the Love This Valentine's

We asked you to share your kissy kitty pictures with us and you did! Here are our 3 favorites – If you see your name below, please pick up your free bag of catnip at The Cat Practice!

*"What greater gift than the love of a cat."
— Charles Dickens*



Charlie and Oliver submitted by Sarah Trenz



Olivia and Nigel submitted by Christine Bender



Philip and his sister submitted by Phil Hubler

See more on our Facebook page: facebook.com.

No Flowers or Chocolate for Kitty This Valentine's!



Two favorite Valentine's Day gifts – flowers and chocolate – can spell big problems for cats, dogs and other pets. Both can be potentially fatal if ingested.

Many Valentine flowers are toxic to cats, including lilies which cause rapid kidney failure and death. Click here for a guide to non-toxic alternatives: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

Chocolate, especially dark chocolate, is toxic to cats and dogs. Be sure to keep goodies out of reach!

More Valentine Hazards

These items can also be harmful to kitty:

- Ribbons and bows
- Lit candles
- Alcoholic beverages
- Candy containing artificial sweeteners like Xylitol

February is National Pet Dental Health Month

Periodontal Disease Can Lead to Other Serious illness

About 85% of adult cats have some form of periodontal disease ranging from mild gingivitis to painful tooth abscesses and resorptive lesions (the feline version of a "cavity"). Periodontal disease is caused by a buildup of tartar and plaque, a bacteria –laden film that coats your cat's teeth and produces enzymes that break down gum tissue and cause inflammation. Dental disease is painful and, if left untreated, can lead to serious illnesses including liver disease, kidney failure and heart damage. Read more about recommended dental care for your kitty at <http://thecatpracticepc.com/dental.htm>.

Go to thecatpracticepc.com, to read more about cat breeds at high risk of dental disease.

What is Resorptive Disease?

Resorptive lesions are common and cause resorption of the tooth beginning at the root. These lesions are not preventable and not curable, so the teeth that show signs of resorption typically require extraction.

News and Events

New Options for Kitties Facing End-of-Life

When cats get old or become ill, families want to make sure their cat is comfortable and enjoys good quality of life. [The Cat Practice Hospice & End-of-Life Care](#) provides new options for providing comfort care as kitties age or experience serious illness. If you have such a kitty, contact our hospice nurse, **Laura Kramek**, for a consultation at 248-540-3390.

New Nurse Hotline

The Cat Practice has a new email "hotline" to answer your questions e about your kitty's health. Email 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>

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. Consider boarding your cat 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.

Surprise Kitty With These Healthy Valentine Cat Treats

Catnip Heart Cookies

Ingredients

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 cup of all-purpose flour | 1/4 cup of whole wheat flour |
| 2 tablespoons of wheat germ | 2-4 tablespoons of catnip |
| 1/3 cup of milk | 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil |
| 1 tablespoon of molasses | 1 egg |



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl (flour, wheat germ and catnip).
3. Combine the wet ingredients in a bowl (egg, milk, vegetable oil and molasses).
4. Mix the wet and dry ingredients together and work into a dough.
5. Lightly flour the counter or other work surface. Remove a portion of dough and use a rolling pin to uniformly flatten the dough to a thickness between 1/8 of an inch and 1/4 of an inch.
6. Cut the dough into hearts using a cookie cutter or a knife.
7. Place cookies on a lightly greased cookie sheet; bake 10-15 min. or until crisp and light brown.

Makes about 50 medium-sized cat treats. Once cooled, gently remove treats from cookie sheet. To store: Transfer to a covered plastic container and refrigerate for up to two weeks. Freeze leftovers in small freezer bags. As needed, remove a bag from the freezer and thaw for several hours.

How to Tell If You Have a Feline Einstein

The debate goes on over who's smarter: cats or dogs? Cat families have long known that their felines have minds of their own. In addition, cats are known to have excellent memories and are also highly adaptable and able to survive in many situations on their own. Just how smart is your kitty? Take the Cat Channel quiz to see if you have a feline Einstein! Go to <http://www.catchannel.com/cat-iq-test.aspx>



A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Manx



Photo ©Karen Weaver

The **Manx** cat is best known for its lack of a tail. Some Manx cats may have a very short stub while others are missing a tail altogether. The Manx can come in a variety of coat colors/patterns though an all-white Manx is extremely rare.

If you have a Manx, you will know that they are sociable and attached to humans, though they can be shy with strangers. They are extremely smart and playful, and can learn to fetch small objects and follow simple verbal commands. The Manx is also prized for their hunting skills making them valuable to farmers with rodents.

Some partial tail Manx cats are prone to a form of arthritis that can cause severe pain. The Manx is also susceptible to "Manx syndrome," a condition in which the tailless gene shortens the spine causing serious damage to the spinal cord. They can also develop megacolon which is a reoccurring condition causing constipation that can be life threatening to the cat if not properly monitored.

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

Cat Trivia

True or false: Spaying a female before her first heat cycle will greatly reduce the risk of mammary (breast) cancer.

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: False, the normal body temperature for cats ranges from 100.4 to 102.5.

Congrats to **Jenny Feinstein** who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

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 are a mysterious kind of folk. There is more passing in their minds than we are aware of.
- Sir Walter Scott



Follow us:

Cat's Meow Tip: Avoid Medication Mix-Ups

If you are getting multiple medications for your kitty and at least two of them come in capsules, they can be very easy to mix up once they are out of the pill container. Avoid having to second guess which medication you are giving to kitty by asking the technician or veterinarian (or pharmacy if you are reordering) to order your prescriptions with **TWO DIFFERENT SIZE CAPSULES**. Having one capsule slightly larger will enable you to distinguish between two identical-looking medications. -- **Contributed by Linda Wasche of Sylvan Lake**



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:

- o Spot health conditions early to avoid more costly care later.
- o Treat the whole patient looking out for physical and emotional wellbeing.
- o Respect each cat as an individual with his/her own distinct personality & heredity.
- o Avoid surgery at all cost. (The exception: all cats should be spayed or neutered!)
- o Provide alternatives for care whenever possible.
- o Partner with cat families through knowledge sharing.
- o Make oral hygiene and preventive dental care a priority.

The Scoop is published monthly by The Cat Practice.



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

www.thecatpracticepc.com
meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com

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