



# The Scoop

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Happy Easter!

April 2014

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**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.

**Easter Baskets Should be Off Limits to Pets**

While Easter wouldn't be the same without Easter baskets, their contents can be risky for cats and other pets. Keep Easter baskets in cupboards or closets and out of pets' reach. Any of the following can mean serious trouble if your cat or dog gets into them.

- Chocolate (especially dark)
- Sugar-free candies (artificial sweeteners are toxic)
- Easter grass (serious intestinal obstruction hazard)
- Tape, ribbons, bows and cellophane (all intestinal obstruction hazards)



Also, bouquets of flowers can pose a health risk. Remove all:

- Silica packets (toxic)
- Rubber bands (obstruction hazard)

And as always, ALL lilies can be fatal to cats if ingested. Tulips and carnations can also be toxic along with more than 100 other flowers. See [thecatpracticepc.com/hazards.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/hazards.htm) for the full list.

**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](mailto:NurseHotline@thecatpracticepc.com) If your cat has symptoms of illness, it's still best to make an appointment with your veterinarian.

**April 26 is National Hairball Awareness Day**

**Minimize the Occurrence of Hairballs**

While we might not need National Hairball Awareness Day (April 26) to be made AWARE of hairballs, it's as good a time as any to talk about how to PREVENT them. While all cats, from time to time, will regurgitate the gob of fur known as a hairball, there are things you can do at home to reduce the number and size of hairballs that you cat expels.

- **Regular brushing at least weekly.** Brush long-haired cats more often. Use different tools to remove different kinds of hair. The Zoom Groom gets the top coat, while a comb or Furminator gets the undercoat.
- **Hairball remedy/lubricant.** Give every few days to help fur pass through kitty's GI tract.
- **Extra fiber.** Mix pumpkin or squash into canned cat food to help carry fur through the naturally through kitty's GI tract.

**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>

**April is National First Aid Awareness Month**

**First Aid Preparedness Goes a Long Way in an Emergency**

Reduce injury and perhaps save your cat's life in an emergency by being prepared at home. A pet emergency kit assembles some common items that to provide immediate care before taking your cat to the veterinarian or emergency hospital.



**Start by assembling important Information:**

- 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

Use a plastic container with a tight-fitting lid to assemble these supplies:

Item:	Use:
Non-latex gloves	Inspect wounds
Clean towels	Dry or wrap kitty for warmth and to compress wounds
Antibiotic ointment	Apply to small wounds
Non-adherent padding such as Telfa pads	Bandage minor wounds
Flashlight	Inspect for parasites or small wounds
Magnifying glass	Inspect for parasites or small wounds
Benadryl	Give ONLY as directed by a VETERINARIAN
Tweezers	Remove small splinters and ticks
Sterile eye-wash solution	Clean out small, shallow cuts
Hot packs that can be activated	Wrap in towels and use to keep kitty warm

For more emergency preparedness tips, go to [www.avma.org/firstaid/](http://www.avma.org/firstaid/).

**REMEMBER: First aid care is NOT a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your cat's life until your pet can get veterinary treatment.**

**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. 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/](http://thecatpracticepc.com/)

**April is Stress Awareness Month**

**Feline Stress Can Take its Toll**

Cats are sensitive creatures that stress out easily. Stress can lead to more serious health problems later. Stress in cats is caused by three main factors:



1. Physical stress such as sickness or pain;
2. Psychological stress from boredom, fear or loss of a human caretaker or animal companion;
3. Environmental stress: new home, new pet in the home or stray cats outdoors.

**How can you tell if your kitty might be stressed? Look for these signs:**

- Changes in grooming habits: washing until bare spots appear or no bathing at all.
- Meowing and verbalizing excessively.
- Pacing the floor (possibly meowing at the same time).
- Hiding more than usual or acting withdrawn.
- Sleeping less.
- Playing less.
- Urinating or defecating outside the litter box.
- Changes in eating habits or chewing inedible objects.
- Scratching at doors, windows or screens.

**Keep Kitty Stress-Free**

Go to [thecatpracticepc.com/stress.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/stress.htm) to find out how to identify what is stressing out your kitty and what you can do about it.

[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!

**It's That Time of Year to Watch Out for Fleas & Ticks**



Spring weather increases the chances of cats getting fleas and ticks. Indoor-only cats can get fleas, especially if there is a dog or another cat going in and out of the home.

Fleas and ticks are easier to prevent than treat! Monthly applications of prescription medications are all that's needed. Do NOT use over-the-counter products that are often inadequately tested.

**FACTS ABOUT FLEAS**

- Fleas can cause severe allergic reactions in cats; they can also give your cat tapeworms.
- Fleas can come into the house through screens, on clothing or on other pets.

**FACTS ABOUT TICKS**

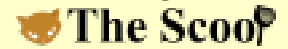
- Ticks carry diseases such as Lyme disease.
- Cats who go outdoors are more likely to get ticks.

**The Cat Practice SPECIAL**  
**Buy a box of 6 Multi Advantage flea & tick treatments & get 2 doses free!**  
**Now until September.**

**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).

**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

**A Cat's Not Just a Cat!**

**Breed Profile: Ocicat**



The Ocicat was developed accidentally in 1964 by a breeder trying to create a Siamese with points the same color as an Abyssinian. Instead, the result was a lovely ivory kitten with golden spots who looked like an Ocelot.

*Photo by Tom Bjornstad, Norway via Wikimedia Commons*

The Ocicat is full of energy, very adaptable and easily learns household rules. It's also very social and unhappy if left alone for long periods. An active household is best.

All Ocicats are spotted and come in brown/ black, chocolate, cinnamon, blue, lilac and fawn plus the silver version of these colors. They have low maintenance coats and need only weekly brushing.

Ocicats are prone to heart disease so regular screening echocardiograms are recommended.

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

**Cat Trivia**

**True or false:** Cats are colorblind.

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:**

False. Cats have 5 toes on the front feet, and 4 toes on the back feet.

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

**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).

**Our Hours:**

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

*"I love cats because I enjoy my home; and little by little, they become its visible soul."*

*- Jean Cocteau*



Follow us:

**Cat's Meow Tip: How to Save Money on Kitty Prescriptions**

Prescriptions for pets can get expensive, especially if it's a long-term medication. Many generic medications are available for \$4 at retail pharmacies at Target, Kroger and Wal-Mart. The quantity of pills is usually 30 tablets, and since most cats are on 1/4 to 1/2 doses, 30 pills for \$4 can last several months! Check retail pharmacy websites (or call) to find out if your cat's medication qualifies for the \$4 special."



-- **Contributed by Tabitha Owens of The Cat Practice.**

**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.**

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.



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