



The Scoop

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Happy New Year!

January 2016

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News and Events:

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>

Take Care of Stray Cats in Cold Weather



Winter is always a tough time of year for strays and homeless cats. If cats are friendly, they may be someone's pet who has gotten lost or has been abandoned by the owners. In this case, check for collar tags or consider taking the cat to a veterinarian or shelter to see if they are micro-chipped.

On the other hand, if a cat appears to be skittish and afraid of humans, it may be best to provide care outside. For feral cat caretakers, help your colonies survive the cold winter months with these tips:

- Provide a shelter made of wood or plastic. Elevate it off the ground to protect against moisture; line the inside with newspapers.
- Keep shelters small to maximize body heat; use multiple shelters for large colonies.
- Use straw for insulation and bedding. Avoid blankets, which absorb moisture.
- Remove snow from entrances and exits so cats don't get snowed in.
- Avoid snow-melting salt and chemicals since they can be toxic if ingested.
- Feed canned food in insulated containers since it takes less energy to digest than dry food.
- Provide fresh water continuously to prevent dehydration.

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.

Be a Calming Influence to Your Cat During Vet Visits

A trip to the vet can mean anxiety for a lot of cats. This can lead to fewer exams and increased risk of undetected illness and disease. In addition, avoiding the vet only makes nervous felines even more anxious when they do see the vet.



An anxious cat can start with an anxious cat owner! When a cat senses its owner's apprehension, the cat becomes MORE anxious - a vicious cycle! Follow these pointers to become a calming influence to your cat during his or her next vet visit.

- 1. Watch your behavior.**
While well intended, some human behaviors can increase your cat's anxiety. Clutching your cat, talking loudly, staring in your cat's face and invading his or her personal space can all raise your cat's anxiety level. In addition, human sounds -- intended to soothe or quiet (like "shhh") mimic the hissing sound of another cat and can also add to the stress.
- 2. Avoid reprimanding your cat.**
Tapping on your cat's head or using a stern voice may startle the cat and provoke a fight-or-flight response. Cats are not humans and react differently to discipline. Instead, reinforce positive behavior and ignore negative behavior rather than trying to correct it.
- 3. Determine if your presence helps or hinders.**
The Cat Practice usually encourages owners to remain with their cats for blood draws, but if you become anxious during such a procedure, it may be best not to be present. A spike in the owner's anxiety can cause kitty to become more fearful.
- 4. Understand cat vocalization.**
Recognize that vocalization, such as hissing, growling or yelping, is normal when a cat experiences fear. It does not mean that your cat is being hurt or mishandled. Cats use vocalization as a means of expressing themselves, which is healthy and normal.



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 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

Next month is Pet Dental Health Month

Awareness is Growing for Serious Effects of Dental Disease



National Pet Dental Health Month – observed each February – is raising awareness about the need for dental care and the effects that poor dental health can have on a cat's (or dog's) wellbeing and longevity.

Dental disease can be present in cats that are only several years old and, if left untreated, can lead to serious illness including heart disease, kidney disease and more.

[Read more about dental health care at The Cat Practice.](#)

Sneezes & Sniffles Can Signal Winter Colds

Just like in humans, dry winter air and seasonal viruses can make your cat's nose run and eyes water. Kitties get colds too, but it's important to make sure that a common cold doesn't turn into something more serious.

Be on the lookout for: sneezing, coughing, runny eyes and / or nose, congestion and lack of appetite. Viral infections usually just need to run their course, but a secondary bacterial infection may require antibiotics and other supportive care.

Contact your vet if your kitty is:

- Congested with yellow or green eye or nose discharge.
- Not acting or eating normally.

Monitor at home if:

- Your kitty is eating and acting normally.
- Discharge from eyes or nose is clear.



Cat-fe Open in Ferndale; Cats Call English Pub Home

The Cat-fe Lounge, opened in Ferndale, is Michigan's first permanent feline coffee house. Operated by the Ferndale Cat Shelter, the Cat-fe Lounge features adoptable cats and kittens who roam free and interact with customers who can enjoy coffee, tea and treats. For more info, go to <http://catfe.cafe>.

Also see how one English pub, called the *Bag O' Nails* in Bristol, England, has become home to more than a dozen cats who socialize with the patrons. Go to

<http://www.aol.com/article/2015/11/12/calling-all-cat-lovers-this-british-bar-is-home-to-an-army-of-21263970/?ncid=txtlnkusaolp00000058&intcmp=hplnws#slide=3701849>



A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Savannah



The Savannah has an exotic look unlike any other breed.

The first known Savannah was born April 7, 1986 when a female domestic cat gave birth to a kitten sired by an African Serval, a medium-sized African wild cat native to sub-Saharan Africa. This unusual female kitten, with domestic and Serval-like traits, was named "Savannah" along with the breed. The Savannah was accepted for Championship status by TICA in 2012.

Most Savannahs are the size of a large domestic cat. Their coat usually has a distinct spotted coat pattern.

The Savannah is an active cat who needs daily interaction, either with its human family or with a companion cat. It is also a very loyal cat who will bond strongly with its human family, but is not a lap cat and will show affection on its own terms. Many Savannahs love to play in water. They can easily be trained to walk on a leash with a harness, and most love to play games such as fetch.

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

Cat Trivia

True or false: Cats sometimes paw their water to check the level before drinking.

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, poinsettia plants are not highly toxic in cats. Ingestion can cause minor GI upset such as vomiting.

Congrats to Maryann Clark of Troy who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

Wi-Fi available 
Ask at our front desk

Are You Getting The Scoop?

To sign up, send us an email at meowmail@thecatpracticepc.com or call 248.540.3390

Follow Us in the News!

Check our website regularly for updates on our recent news coverage.

thecatpracticepc.com/press.htm.

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

Cat's Meow Tip: Manage Litter Box Misses

Our cats have a tendency to back right up to the edge of the litter box. Occasionally, urine spray goes outside the box and leaks underneath to the floor. We now place the litter box on an adult Depend-style bed liner. Any spray is absorbed by the liner and prevents it from seeping under to the floor. The liner can be changed when necessary and saves a lot of additional cleaning.

-- Contributed by: Lynn Sarosik

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](#).

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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