



# The Scoop

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## Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

November 2016

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### News and Events:

**Christmas Open House**  
Sat., Dec 17, 2 – 5 p.m.

## Looking for a Great Kitty Gift? Food Puzzles Offer Many Benefits

Food puzzles take giving kitty treats to a whole new level. These toys require that cats solve a problem or learn to maneuver the toys in a way that treats become available. A new study says that such toys can positively impact feline health and behavioral issues.



In the study, one obese cat lost weight following months of playing with a puzzle while another resolved its owner-aggression issues. According to the study, food puzzles appeal to cats' natural instinct to hunt for food, and provide mental stimulation and increased activity. Food puzzles are a great way to keep cats mentally stimulated.

### Feline Gifts You Make Yourself

Anyone can go to the pet supplies store for holiday cat treats and toys. But gifts that you make yourself are even more special. Here are a few ideas:

- **Homemade cat treats** -- Make treats from natural ingredients like fresh salmon, tuna, catnip and oatmeal. Go to: [www.simplypets.com/pet-recipes/Cat/Treat](http://www.simplypets.com/pet-recipes/Cat/Treat)
- **Outdoor critter "TV"** -- Create kitty entertainment by placing bird and small critter feeders in front of door walls and windows. Stock with plenty of bird seed, nuts and suet. Don't forget the fresh water.
- **Shopping bag tunnel** -- Cut holes large enough for kitty to crawl through in the bottom of paper shopping bags. Place bags inside each other and tape together. **NEVER use plastic bags as kitty can get tangled and suffocate.**

**We recommend using dry food morsels instead of treats as the reward.** Although wet food is better for kitty's health, occasional dry food is fine and, in puzzle toys, can be a fun reward. **Catnip can also be put into the mix for added kitty fun!**

For the complete study, go to: [aaha.org/blog/NewStat/post/2016/09/06/828996/Food-puzzles-have-positive-impacts-on-felines.aspx](http://aaha.org/blog/NewStat/post/2016/09/06/828996/Food-puzzles-have-positive-impacts-on-felines.aspx)



Please join us from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 17 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>

## Recipe for a Feline-Safe – & Pet-Safe – Thanksgiving

With the focus on family, friends and food, Thanksgiving can create lots of distractions which can mean trouble for cats and other pets. The holiday is filled with potentially dangerous foods and other hazards that could put a damper on holiday festivities. Keep kitty and other pets out of the emergency hospital this Thanksgiving by following these rules for pet safety.

- **Pack up leftovers immediately away from cats.**
- **NO table scraps (turkey bones can splinter and cause obstructions).**
- **Hide all hostess gifts.**
- **Create a safe haven for kitties and watch doors to prevent escape as guests come and go.**
- **Blow out candles – or use battery-operated ones. (See [Cat's Meow](#) below.)**



### 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](http://thecatpracticepc.com/boarding.html) or call 248-540-3390.

### November is National Pet Diabetes Month

## Feline Diabetes on the Rise; Easily Managed With Early Detection

Like humans, cats are susceptible to diabetes, especially as they age. Feline diabetes is on the rise, probably attributable to obesity, a more sedentary lifestyle and overreliance on dry food. The good news is that, when detected early, diabetes is highly manageable.

### Signs of Feline Diabetes

- Increased water consumption, urination and appetite
- Weight loss
- Cataracts after awhile with the disease

### Treatment & Management

When detected early, feline diabetes is easily managed and treated with dietary changes, glucose checks and insulin injections. If very ill upon diagnosis, some cats may require hospitalization in the beginning to stabilize them.

### Preventing Feline Diabetes

Keeping your cat's weight under control and feeding him or her mostly wet food are the best way to prevent feline diabetes. For more information, [visit our website](#) or talk to your veterinarian.



[Find more information on feline diabetes at thecatpracticepc.com.](http://thecatpracticepc.com)

## Lookout for These Seasonal Hazards

Preparing for winter cold and holiday festivities can lead to potentially fatal hazards for cats and other pets. Use the checklist below to make sure that winter items are properly contained and stored.



	Danger	Prevention
<b>Antifreeze</b>	Has a sweet taste that pets like. Many cats walk through and ingest the substance when grooming. Contains ethylene glycol which is toxic and can cause brain, kidney and liver damage. If you think that your cat has come into contact with antifreeze, immediately contact your vet or emergency hospital.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep cats out of the garage or where vehicles are parked.</li> <li>Ask your service garage about the less toxic antifreeze replacements that do NOT contain ethylene glycol.</li> </ul>
<b>Holiday decorations</b>	Cats are curious so shiny tinsel, lights and ornaments dangling on the tree are inviting. Cats can climb trees, and chew and break decorations and lights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid using tinsel on your tree.</li> <li>Consider ornaments made of plastic or wood that are not fragile like glass ones.</li> <li>Secure your tree at the base so it's not easy to tip over.</li> </ul>
<b>Sub-freezing temperatures</b>	Cats are susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep cats indoors during cold months.</li> <li>For outdoor cats, provide a safe heat source, like a heated cat house or igloo, outside.</li> </ul>

Find more information on hazards to avoid at [thecatpracticepc.com](http://thecatpracticepc.com).

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

#### Breed Profile: Turkish Van



The Turkish Van is a rare ancient breed that was developed in Asia and came to the U.S. in the 1980s.

The breed is white semi-longhaired with colored markings mostly on the head and tail. The coat lacks an undercoat and has a unique

cashmere-like texture that makes it water-resistant. If you're an avid swimmer, the Turkish Van may be for you as the breed loves swimming and playing in water.

The Turkish Van can be vocal and loves to be the center of attention. This cat becomes extremely protective and bonded to one or two people. It will make sure that his/her "pride" is safe.

Photo credit: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish\\_Van#mediaviewer/File:Pper\\_the\\_Turkish\\_Van\\_cat.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_Van#mediaviewer/File:Pper_the_Turkish_Van_cat.jpg)

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

#### Cat Trivia

**True or false:** Cats are more resistant than other species (e.g., dogs) to venomous snake bites.

Be **FIRST** to email us with the **RIGHT** answer at [larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com](mailto:larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com) and win a free bag of organic catnip! See next month's issue for the answer!

#### **Last month's trivia answer:**

False. The prime age for socialization is between 2 and 7 weeks of age.

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

## 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](mailto:Nursehotline@Thecatpracticepc.com)

**AARC wellness exam savings** for senior cats. Go to [thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm](http://thecatpracticepc.com/aarc.htm)

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

**Story ideas for The Scoop.** Contact [larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com](mailto:larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com)

Wi-Fi available  
Ask at our front desk



### Are You Getting The Scoop?

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### 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).

### Our Hours:

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

*The cat has too much spirit to have no heart.*  
- Ernest Menaul



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### Cat's Meow Tip: Battery-Operated Candles Safe Around Pets

This holiday, instead of traditional candles, opt for battery operated ones instead. You will get the same ambience, but without the risk of flaming candles getting knocked over. I learned the hard way when I was taking a bath with lit candles. My Calico, Lily, jumped up on the tub and her tail caught fire. Luckily it went out when she ran into the bedroom. Since then, I have found that battery-operated candles are a much better choice. I especially like the ones with timers.

-- **Contributed by: Linda Wasche, Sylvan Lake**

**Do you have a cat care tip that is just the Cat's Meow? Email [larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com](mailto:larsen.christina.joy@gmail.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:

- 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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