



The Scoop

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Happy Spring!

April 2017

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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>

Lilies and Other Flowers Can Cause Easter Emergencies

Unfortunately, each year around Easter, numerous cats die from kidney failure as a result of Lily toxicity. If you have a cat, Lilies should NEVER be in or around your home. Lilies cause **ACUTE (or sudden) kidney failure** as a result of the toxic effects of the plant on a cat's kidneys. (See more below on Chronic and Acute kidney disease.)



ALL Lilies are toxic to cats and ALL parts of the Lilly plant are toxic. ANY FORM OF CONTACT WITHY A LILY PLANT – EVEN BRUSHING UP AGAINST A LILY CAN BE FATAL. Lilies come in MANY shapes (trumpet, star, bowl and funnel) and in a variety of colors (orange, yellow, white, pink and purple). Not all Lily species produce flowers.

Signs of Lily toxicity in cats:

- Excessive salivation.
- Vomiting, poor appetite, lethargy.
- Excessive urination

The above cause rapid dehydration resulting in the kidneys shutting down leading to death.

[Visit our website for more information on plants which might pose a danger to your cats.](#)

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CAT HAS COME INTO CONTACT WITH A LILY PLANT

- Seek veterinary care **IMMEDIATELY**. If treated within 18 hours, your cat has the best chance of survival.
- **Cats usually do NOT survive if treatment is delayed past 18 hours, even with aggressive care.**

Feline Kidney Disease on the Rise

Kidney disease is becoming more common in cats, especially as they age. [Certain breeds -- Exotic Short / Long Hair, Himalayan and Persian cats -- are especially susceptible.](#) Kidney disease can be acute (quickly occurring) -- usually as a result of ingesting some type of toxin -- or chronic (develops over time). Following is an overview of each type of kidney disease and how they are treated.

ACUTE KIDNEY DISEASE

<p>Causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urinary tract obstruction • Toxins (antifreeze, insect/snake venom, heavy metals, many plants especially lilies, rat poison) • Some drugs • Kidney infection • Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) 	<p>Signs / symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden loss of appetite • Lethargy • Vomiting (possibly with blood) • Diarrhea (possibly with blood) • Unusual smell to breath • Seizures • Urination more frequent or not at all
<p>Treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick removal of toxins • Intravenous fluids often for several days 	<p>Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of potential toxins • Monitoring blood/urine to prevent urinary obstructions/infections

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

<p>Causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congenital (usually polycystic kidney disease – seen mostly in Persians) • Infection or cancer of the kidney • Certain viruses such as feline leukemia (FeLV) or FIP. • Stones in the kidneys or in the ducts from the kidneys to the bladder (ureters) 	<p>Signs / symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight loss • Drinking/urinating more • Anorexia
<p>Treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change diet to canned food • Medication • Subcutaneous fluids at home • In severe cases, hospitalization on IV fluids • Veterinary re-examination every 3-6 months 	<p>Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed a canned food only diet and encourage fluid intake • Monitor blood/urine to prevent/detect infections and other problems



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 larsen.christina.joy@gmail.com

FDA Warning: Human Cancer Cream can be Fatal to Pets

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an alert in January that the human topical cancer medication Fluorouracil cream USP 5% can be fatal to pets. Fluorouracil is also marketed under the brand names Carac, Effudex and Fluoroplex. Pets exposed to Fluorouracil, which is applied on a person's skin, can become seriously ill and die after ingesting even a small amount.



One dog that played with and punctured a tube of Fluorouracil died 12 hours later. Another ingested a whole tube and had to be euthanized. **Cats are expected to be extremely sensitive to Fluorouracil and could ingest it while grooming if the owner touches the cat after applying the cream.**

If you use Fluorouracil: store it out of reach of pets and discard/clean any cloth or applicator that may retain medication. Avoid leaving medication residue on hands, clothing, carpeting or furniture. **If your pet becomes exposed to these medications, see your veterinarian immediately.** Report incidents to <https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ReportaProblem/ucm055305.htm>

Choosing the Right Pet Sitter Starts with Asking the Right Questions

Finding someone you can trust to take care of your cats while you are gone is not an easy task. Some cats do well being boarded and adapt well to new surroundings. However many cats feel more secure in their own surroundings.



In choosing a pet sitter, be prepared to ask lots of questions. Is your pet sitter licensed? Is he or she bonded and insured? These are just a few of the questions you should be asking. [Download and print out our handy guide to choosing a kitty sitter on The Cat Practice website.](#)

Number of Overweight Cats Continues to Climb

Data from Nationwide pet health insurance indicates that pet obesity is on the rise for the sixth straight year. In 2015, Nationwide members filed 1.3 million pet insurance claims for conditions and diseases related to pet obesity. Excessive body fat increases the risk of preventable health issues and may shorten pet life expectancy. The top 10 cat obesity-related conditions are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Urinary tract disease | 6. Arthritis |
| 2. Kidney disease | 7. High blood pressure |
| 3. Diabetes | 8. Heat failure |
| 4. Asthma | 9. Gall bladder disorder |
| 5. Liver disease | 10. Spine immobility |

Source: *Pet Age Weekly News, Jan. 4, 2017*

[Find out more about nutrition and weight control on our website.](#)

Regulate your cat's weight by:*

- Not feeding table scraps.
- Feeding a canned or wet diet.
- Monitoring meals / food amounts.
- Regulating amount of treats.
- Following an exercise schedule.

*Consult your veterinarian to determine your cat's ideal weight.

A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: Minuet



The Minuet cat was developed by crossing the Persian with the Munchkin cat. The breed got TICA recognition in 2012, but is not recognized by other breed associations.

The strong boning of the Persian helps to support the Minuet's short legs. Although this is a relatively healthy breed, the Persian ancestry makes it necessary to test these cats for Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD).

Photo courtesy of resqmeffarms.com/ Peggy Chenault

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

Cat Trivia

True or false: Some cats vomit a couple times each month – it's just normal for that cat.

Be **FIRST** to email us with the **RIGHT** answer at 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, cats will not usually stop eating with a sore tooth. Many still eat like normal.

Congrats to S. Kaperzinski of Royal Oak who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

Cat's Meow Tip: Kitty-Proof Flooring from the Boat Marina

After having had enough "accidents" on my second floor carpeting, I was ready for a replacement. I wanted flooring that was scratch and moisture resistant ruling out carpet and hard woods. Not a fan of laminate, I chose a woven vinyl flooring that is made for boats! It has the look of sisal but the durability of vinyl. -- **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. If we run it, you get a **FREE** bag of organic catnip. Limit to 75 words. See past [Cat's Meow Tips](#).

Wi-Fi available



Ask at our front desk

Are You Getting The Scoop?



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

The cat seldom interferes with other people's rights. His intelligence keeps him from doing many of the fool things that complicate life.
- Carl Van Vechten

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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