



The Scoop

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Summer's around the corner!

May 2017

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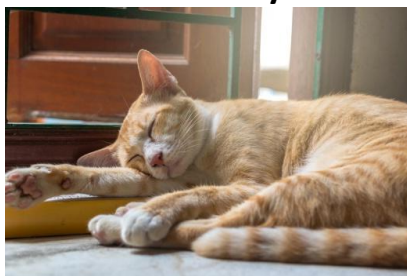
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May is Older Americans Month

Adopting an Older Kitty May be a Good Choice for Your Family

Many families looking for a cat opt for a kitten. But there are many good reasons to consider an older kitty instead.

If well cared for, cats can live to 20 years in age or more. So getting an adult or senior cat still means many years of feline friendship. Read on for more reasons an older kitty might be right for you.



Adult and senior cats:

1. Less likely to get into things like kittens do so you don't have to worry about possible damage and breakage.
2. Have established personalities so you know what kind of temperament cat you are getting.
3. Are generally mellower so if a lap cat is your thing, older cats are more likely to enjoy lounging.
4. Assuming regular veterinary care, will have a known health history so any allergies, sensitivities or chronic conditions will have been identified.
5. May adapt better to children and household activity than do small scared kittens.
6. **Often do not get homes so adopting an older kitty is often saving a life.**

Read about adult and senior cat care at: thecatpracticepc.com/adultcatcare.htm

May is National Arthritis Month

Preventing Arthritis in Your Aging Kitty

Similar to arthritis in humans, cats get the same symptoms of stiffness, discomfort and pain in their muscles and joints. And also like in humans, feline arthritis is often hereditary though it can be exacerbated by injuries and trauma.

While many cats will get arthritis as they age, there are a number of steps you can take to REDUCE the LIKELIHOOD that your kitty will be affected.

1. **MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT.** Feline obesity is the number one main contributor to the likelihood a cat will get arthritis. Keeping your feline a healthy weight will reduce stress on muscles and joints. Canned cat food is a better choice over dry for feline weight management.
2. **Keep your cat active.** Exercise should be part of your kitty's daily routine. Create play around toys that promote running and movement.
3. **Give daily joint supplements.** Supplements – like glucosamine and chondroitin made especially for felines – aid cartilage production and promote healthy joints. Talk to your veterinarian first to decide what is right for your cat.

Signs of Arthritis:

- Lameness and limping
- Hesitancy to go up / down stairs
- Inability to jump onto furniture
- Lethargy / excessive sleeping
- Painful when touching / petting

Learn about managing arthritis in your cat at: thecatpracticepc.com/arthritis.htm

June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

Adopting a New Kitty – Where to Go

If a new kitty is in your future, ALWAYS consider adoption first before buying from a breeder. There are thousands of cats and kittens looking for good homes at area shelters and rescues. Experts estimate that about 40 percent of unwanted pets are purebreds. Check these sources the next times you are looking for a new feline companion.

- **Ask your veterinarian.** Many veterinary practices maintain adoption areas or might know of a client who needs to find a kitty a new home.
- **Contact your local animal control or shelter.** In Oakland County, there is Oakland County Animal Control in Auburn Hills (www.oakgov.com/petadoption) and Michigan Humane Society in Rochester Hills (www.michiganhumane.org). Some cities also have animal shelters.
- **Contact local rescue groups.** There are literally HUNDREDS of local rescue groups in the Detroit area. Some of them only have cats. Best to Google cat rescues and your location. Keep in mind that many of these are staffed exclusively by volunteers so it may take time to get a call back.
- **Go to www.PetFinder.com.** Here you will find THOUSANDS of cats and other pets all available for adoption. You simply enter your desired species and breed along with your zip code to locate the pet you are looking for in your area.



Find more resources for new kitty adoption at: thecatpracticepc.com/adoption.html

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>

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.



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

Spring Gardening Tips – What to Avoid if You Have Cats

While getting your garden ready this spring, keep your kitty in mind. Many garden products and plants are toxic to cats and other pets so keep pets safe by avoiding these garden staples.

Many plants and flowers

Lilies are highly poisonous to cats and even brushing up against them can cause serious illness or death. There are MANY others including roses and tulips. For a complete list of plants and flowers toxic to cats go to www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants?field_toxicity_value%5B%5D=02

Insecticides and pesticides

The most dangerous are snail bait with metaldehyde, fly bait with methomyl insecticides with ingredients disyston and disulfoton, mole or gopher bait with zinc phosphide and all forms of rat poison.

Cocoa Mulch


Avoid using this form of mulch which is a by-product of chocolate and is toxic to cats and dogs.

Garden tools

Be sure to store away rakes, hoes, shovels, clippers and other garden tools that can get stepped on, poke eyes or face or cause serious puncture wounds.

[Find other household hazards you should avoid at theCatpracticepc.com/hazards.htm](http://theCatpracticepc.com/hazards.htm)



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

A Cat's Not Just a Cat!

Breed Profile: British Shorthair



The British Shorthair is a sturdy, dense-coated breed with large round eyes. Often thought of as blue in color, this breed actually comes in a number of colors and patterns.

This is a slow-maturing breed that does not reach its full size until three years of age. These cats are medium to large size with mature males weighing from nine to 17

pounds and females from seven to 12 pounds.

British Shorthairs are calm, easy going, affectionate and easily trained, although they usually don't like being picked up. They tend to become attached to their person, but also get along well with other humans and pets in the household.

These cats are generally healthy. They can be a bit clumsy, so soft tissue injuries and sprains can occur if they are too adventurous.

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

Cat Trivia

True or false: While domesticated cats purr, hiss and meow, cats that are feral are silent.

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 usually vomit due to eating too much, ingesting something disagreeable or playing too soon after eating. Vomiting can signal a gastrointestinal disorder and should be discussed with your veterinarian.

Congrats to Anne-Marie Yerkinner who was first to reply with the correct answer and claim the free bag of catnip!

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

Cat's Meow Tip: Make Teeth Brushing Manageable for Multiple Cats

If you have more than one cat in the house, daily teeth brushing can be a chore. Having multiple cats, I came to grips with the fact that I cannot brush each cat's teeth every day. So I have settled on a weekly schedule and made a chart to show when each cat gets his or her teeth brushed. So I brush one per day and then check it off on the chart. Doing one cat per day is better than nothing!

Teeth Cleaning

	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	
Grayson																						
Beau																						
Emma																						
Niko																						
Lily																						
Sadie																						

-- 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](#).

A meow massages the heart.
- Stuart McMillan

Follow us:   

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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 bimonthly by The Cat Practice.



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