

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 7, April 2012

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Paws and Claws Society (PACS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation legally registered with the State and Federal governments.

What's New At PACS



Happy Easter!

• View and read "Letters From The Heart", written with love by pet owners who share their touching stories of thanks

• **Cape May County Reached No-Kill Status in 2010!** The hard work and dedication of all the animal advocates in Cape May County has paid off for the animals! Congratulations to one and all! We need to

continue with the programs and not let up for a minute. Paws and Claws Society contributions to this achievement are many.

- The 2012 No Kill Conference will be August 11-12 in Washington DC
- **Grant applications being accepted by Paws and Claws to fund no-kill programs and services.**

See our web site, www.pacsnj.org, for more information.

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Happy Spring!



Did You Know?



Fascinating bits of dog and cat facts and trivia found around the Internet

We found some very interesting myths about cats and dogs on petwave.com (see our web site for the full link - click on Burlington Reports). Here are a few. How many did you think were true?

The Myth: If a dog has a warm, dry nose, it is sick.

The Origin: There is no identifiable origin for this myth. People just seem to think that a dog with a warm and/or dry nose is sick, and that a dog with a cold wet nose is well.

The Truth: If a dog has a dry or warm nose, it means that he has a dry or warm nose. A dry nose or a mildly warm nose has nothing to do with the overall health of a dog.



The Myth: Cats can see in the dark.

The Origin: This myth probably originates from people observing cats navigating at night. Cats are often active at night and do tend to get around very well in the dark.

The Truth: Although cats do see better in semi-darkness than people, they cannot see in total darkness. The pupils of their eyes open much wider in dim light than those of people, letting in more light during the normal hunting hours of dawn and dusk. But again, cats cannot see in complete darkness.



The Myth: Dogs age 7 years for every one human year.

The Origin: The basis for this myth remains a mystery. It probably comes from simple math: an average life span for dogs is 10 to 12 years, and multiplying this by seven equals 70 to 74 years, roughly the average life span for people today.

The Truth: Contrary to popular belief, there is no exact formula to gauge how much a dog develops or ages in

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Did You Know?

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comparison to so-called "people years." Aging is as individual for dogs as it is for people. Taking a dog's age and multiplying it by 7 is an overly simplistic formula and does not reflect a dog's actual developmental status. A more accurate rough guide is as follows:

Dog:	Human
1 Year	15 Years
2 Years	24 Years
4 Years	32 Years
7 Years	45 Years
10 Years	56 Years
15 Years	76 Years
20 Years	98 Years

Of course, there is a distinct difference in aging between small dogs and giant breed dogs. Large dogs have a significantly shorter life span than do small dogs. Their development in the early years is

about the same as other breeds; however, large and giant breed dogs developmentally are much older than smaller breeds in their later years, starting at about 7 years of age.

Note from PACS: We have a handy age-calculator on our web site, pacsnj.org (click on Caretakers' Corner), to find out how old your cat or dog is in human years.



The Myth: Cats always land on their feet when falling from heights.

The Origin: In the feline world, the most popular cliché is, "Cats always land on their feet." In reality, although cats do instinctively try to fall feet first, they commonly break bones or suffer other injury when falling from heights.

The Truth: This is perhaps one of the most widely known and dangerous of all myths regarding cats, because unfortunately many children have tried to prove that it is true. It is not. Cats are indeed very athletic and agile animals, and they do have a unique instinctive ability to twist themselves around in mid-air to correct their position during a fall. However, if a cat is surprised, sick, disoriented or injured, it is unlikely to be able to adjust its position to land feet-first. Of course, if it falls from a great height, a cat's ability to reposition itself will not matter, because the force of the fall will cause serious injury or even death whether the cat's feet hit the ground first or not. Moreover, if a cat falls from a short height, it may not have enough time to twist around and land on its feet.

See "Understanding Dog Behavior" on page 5 for more dog myths.



Hello. Burlington here.

Did I ever tell you about the time I got to play Easter Bunny?

It was not quite two years after my family adopted me. Mom's brother and his wife came to visit over the holiday weekend, along with their son, Cole, and his dog, Honey. Cole was six years old at the time and had been in a wheel chair for several months due to an injury from a traffic accident.

Honey, a young Golden Retriever, was a service dog who had been adopted from a shelter and trained by a local service dog organization.

"I worked very hard during my training," she'd told me the day we met, "and I want to be a very good helper to Cole."

The day we met, of course, I hid under Mallory's bed for half an hour before venturing down to the living room. I'm not too proud to admit that the combined sensory input was too much to take. The scents of three humans I had never met, and the presence of a dog, added to the fact that I had never seen a wheel chair before and had no idea what to make of it, was enough to send me running. My curiosity was what brought me back.

"Burlington, this is my cousin, Cole," Mallory said when I entered the living room.

The adults were all busy talking to one another, but Cole leaned forward and held his hand out to me. I glanced at Honey, who was lying beside

Burlington's Bunny Tale

Cole's chair. She was watching me. Her tail made a "flump" sound on the floor.

"We have a cat at home," Cole said, "Honey won't chase you."

Slowly, I crept closer and sniffed Cole's hand. I knew he was gentle. He petted my head.

Honey told me about her training, Mallory and Matthew and Cole talked to each other and to Honey and me, and by the time the evening was over, I found myself asleep on Cole's lap and no longer afraid of Honey.



Early the next morning, which was Easter Sunday, I awoke in my spot at the

foot of Mallory's bed, and the first thing I saw was Honey's nose. Actually, I *heard* it before I saw it, snuff-snuffing a few inches from my head.

"What?" I asked, sleepily.

"I'm concerned about something," she whispered.

"What are you concerned about?" I asked, sitting up and stretching, "Where's Cole?"

"He's still asleep. I'm concerned that he won't be able to participate in the Easter egg hunt today, with the other kids."

"Why not?"

"Because in his chair, he won't be able to reach to pick up eggs that are hidden on the ground."

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Burlington the Cat

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"You can get them for him, right?" I asked.

"Yes, I can," she said, "Golden Retrievers are able to carry even raw eggs in our mouths without breaking them, but I'll have to resist the temptation to seek out the eggs myself, with my nose. I know Cole, now, and he wouldn't want to have an unfair advantage over the other kids."

"You should be able to resist that temptation," I assured him, "Just remember your training."

Honey sat down, her head still at bed height.

"There is something else I'm concerned about," she whispered, even more quietly.

"What?" I found myself whispering in response.

"Cole was talking to me last night, after everyone else was asleep. He told me he always used to wake up very early on Easter morning to peer out the window, hoping to catch a glimpse of the Easter Bunny. He never got to see him."

"The Easter Bunny is very quick," I said, "He has to start so early in the morning, and he has to move quickly enough to make it all the way around the world before all the children wake up. It must be almost impossible to ever see him!"



"I know, but . . ."

Honey tilted her head, her ears flopping beside her face, forehead

wrinkled. She went on, "I just thought, with all that he's been through since his accident, and all the adjustments in his life, it would be so great if I could manage to help him see the Easter Bunny, just this once."

"How do you suppose you could do that?"

"I don't know."

My eyes surveyed the room while I ran the problem through my mind.

"Wait," I said, when my gaze landed on a pair of bunny ears attached to a headband that was lying on Mallory's dresser, "If we can't show him the real Easter Bunny, maybe we can show him the next best thing."

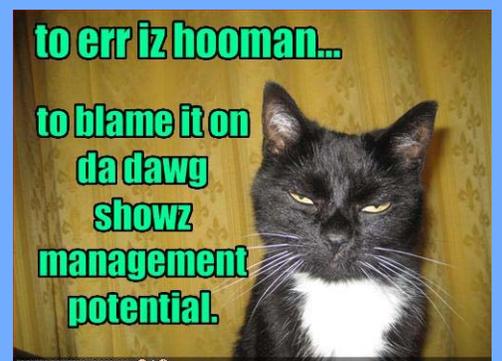
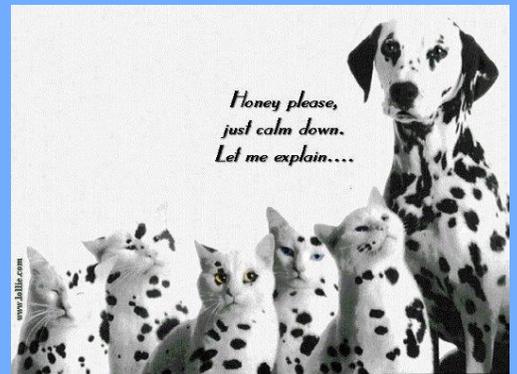
* * *

While we waited for Mallory to wake up, I pondered about how to communicate our idea to her. We would need her help to make our plan work.

You may remember, in the August issue last year, I told you about the time my family trained me to walk on a lead so I could go on vacation with them. Mallory had taken me outside a few times since then, to keep me used to the lead, and it is a rule in our house that I am not allowed outside without it. My family gets no arguments from me on that; I remember how dangerous things can be outside the safe walls and windows of our house, from other animals to snakes and bugs that bite, from harsh weather

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Humor





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How Can Your Cat Tell You He or She Is Sick?



Because our pets cannot simply "tell us where it hurts" when they aren't feeling well, we must be aware and watchful, noting even subtle changes in their behavior.

The Huffington Post recently ran an article that looks at 10 common observations about cat behavior that may indicate problems with their skin or fur, which "can be a clear indicator of certain health issues".

For instance, if your cat suddenly develops dandruff, it could be due to such varied causes as low humidity, not enough fatty acids in the diet, dry skin that develops normally as cats age, or a contagious "walking dandruff" mite called Cheyletiella. If your cat has itchy ears, she should be checked for ear mites, demodex mites, Cheyletiella mites, Notoedres mites, yeast and bacteria. If your cat has bald spots, your vet will be able to determine whether the "cat is making these areas bald because of allergies or if the cat is losing hair. This can be accomplished by your vet sampling the hairs under a microscope to see if the ends are being licked off or are intact (falling out) from an underlying disease." If your cat's chin looks red and feels rough, it could be chin acne, which "is usually due to an underlying allergy, but can also be seen from demodex mites, a bacterial infection or a fungal infection".

It's always a good idea to speak with your vet when you notice something new in your cat's appearance or behavior.

Follow the link on our web site (pacsnj.org, click on Burlington Reports) to read the full article.

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conditions, to exposure to disease. If I am on the lead, I know that whoever is holding the other end will keep me safe.

I jumped up on top of Mallory's dresser and picked up the headband in my teeth. It was very large, but not too heavy, and I dragged it to the edge and held onto it as I jumped to the floor and back up onto the bed. I walked up onto Mallory's chest, still dragging the bunny ears, and dropped them pointedly on her face. Understandably, she jumped in surprise and her hand came up to her face, the ears falling beside her on the pillow.

"What was that?" she asked me once her eyes focused on me.

I leaned in and kissed her on the chin.

"Good morning, Burlington," she said, and slowly closed her eyes again.



I picked up the ears and laid them on her chin where I had kissed her. Her eyes popped open again, crossing

in an amusing way when she looked at the ears. She pulled her hand from under the covers and picked them up.

"Are you playing with my bunny ears?" she asked.

I nudged them with the top of my head.

Burlington the Cat

"You want to wear them?"

She was laughing now.

I sat, making sure to lean forward so she could reach my head. She placed the ears on my head, bending the wire inside the headband so that it fit me properly.

I walked around on the bed, adjusting to the topsy-turvy feeling of the tall ears extending from my head. I wondered how rabbits do it, walking around with those things. Mallory sat up and picked up her cell phone from her bedside table and took my picture.

"This is so cute," she said, looking at the shots on the screen, and laughing again.

Once I felt I could balance the ears properly, I jumped off of the bed and went to the closet, where Mallory keeps my harness and lead. The closet door was partly ajar, as she generally leaves it, and I was able to reach my paw inside and bat at the lead, hanging from a hook on the back of the door.

"You want to go outside?" she asked, then said, "Ok, but I'll need a few minutes to get dressed first."

While Mallory was getting ready, Honey and I were planning our strategy.

"I'll go and wake Cole," she said, "And I'll look out the window until I see you."

I replied, "I'll keep my eyes on the guest-room window. Give me a signal when you see me."

She agreed, and said she would

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Burlington the Cat

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make enough of a commotion that Cole would go and look out the window, just in time to see me, dressed as the Easter Bunny, hopping through the back yard.

Fortunately, the grass had recently experienced a quick growth spurt, and Dad hadn't had a chance to mow it. I hoped that the tall blades would help my disguise.

"Ok, Burlington," Mallory said, coming back into the room wearing her new dress that Mom had bought for Easter.

She leaned over and helped me into my harness as Honey slipped out of the room and downstairs, to wake Cole and get into position.

Mallory and I climbed down the stairs, and when she opened the kitchen door and we stepped onto the back patio, I was struck with the beauty of the day. The sun was out, the temperature was perfect, and the birds were singing. I smiled to myself when I noticed that the grass was still tall, and my nose told me that there were some eggs and candy treasures waiting to be found. That must have been why Dad hadn't mowed the lawn yet: to



give the Easter Bunny some good hiding spots.

We strode out onto the lawn,

Mallory holding onto the lead, and I glanced over at the guest room window to see Honey's nose, pressed up against the glass. She lifted a paw and touched the window pane. Her signal that she saw me.



I resisted the urge to roll in the grass and drink in the beauty of the day. I had a job to do, after all. I led Mallory toward the back edge of the property, near the back fence, where the grass was tallest.

"Are you on a mission?" she asked me, giggling as if she thought I was being silly.

I crouched down and looked back at the window, and there was Cole, looking out! Quickly, I hop-hopped through the grass, hoping that the bunny ears were the focus of Cole's gaze and that he would not notice I was a cat.

Mallory was still laughing.

I glanced up again and saw Cole moving away from the window. Quickly, I turned and ran for the back door, Mallory scurrying behind me to keep up. When we got back into the kitchen, I shook my head until the bunny ears fell off onto the floor, and batted them with my paw until they skittered under the refrigerator.

"You're acting really funny, today, Burlington," Mallory said, unbuckling my harness.

Just in the nick of time, she removed the harness and laid it down, with

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Understanding Dog Behavior

Misunderstandings about dog behavior can impede training and frustrate both you and your dog.

Vetstreet.com published an article entitled "14 Common Dog Behavior Myths Decoded" that can be very helpful.

Here are a few of those myths that many people still believe:

"When your dog has a potty accident, it's important to rub her nose in it to let her know what she did." - Just imagine if someone did this to a human child! The child would feel afraid, shamed, and confused. Your dog would feel the same way, and would likely develop fear-based issues around potty-time rather than learning proper potty behavior.

"Shelter dogs have too much baggage. It's better to adopt a puppy to start with a clean slate." - Many animal owners, especially in recent years with the downturn in our economy, have sadly chosen to surrender their pets to shelters because they can no longer afford to care for them. These pets are loving animals who have known family life and whose hearts are aching to have a home again.

See our web site, pacsnj.org, hover over the button that says "Furry Angels", and click "Top Ten Reasons People Leave Pets at Shelters". The top three reasons on the list are: Moving, Landlord issues, and Cost of pet maintenance.

As the Vetstreet article says, "Many shelter dogs are well-behaved pooches who, for an endless list of possible reasons, could not be kept by their original owners. Older shelter dogs make ideal candidates for people wanting to skip the puppy stages of chewing, potty training and mouthing. The interview process at most shelters also pairs canine candidates with the family setting that will best suit the dog's temperament, which can create cohesion from the beginning."

"When a dog chews up shoes or destroys furniture it's because she's punishing the owner." - Dogs don't have the same complex set of emotions that humans have, and their behavior is generally based on motivation. A dog may chew on something because it feels good to them, relieves boredom, or indicates a separation anxiety.

If your dog is chewing due to a separation anxiety, it may be easy to interpret her behavior to mean that she is angry with you, but she is essentially attempting to soothe herself.

See our web site (click on Burlington Reports) for links to read the full article or find more information on dealing with separation anxiety in dogs.



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Jackson Galaxy is *Cat Daddy*



You may have seen him on "My Cat From Hell", the Animal Planet show described this way on the network's web site: "From spastic cats that break up relationships to violent felines that put their owners in the hospital, cat behaviorist Jackson Galaxy has seen it all. Follow Jackson as he brings his unique understanding of cats to desperate families on the verge of giving up on their furry companions."

Jackson Galaxy, the cat behaviorist also known as the "cat listener", has worked with thousands of cats, many that were thought to be beyond hope. He listens to the cats, and he understands them, and they respond. He teaches people how changes in *their* behavior will correct their cats' behavior problems. He explains how cats think in a way that we can understand and better communicate with them.

He is quoted on the Animal Planet web site: "I am truly content when I can walk into someone's home, or talk to them on the phone and help turn problems into workable programs. It's my mission to keep cats from being euthanized -- out of shelters and off the streets for reasons that are entirely preventable."

Jackson's new book, *Cat Daddy: What the World's Most Incurable Cat Taught Me About Life, Love and Coming Clean*, will be released on May 10, 2012, and for every copy that is pre-ordered before that date, Tarcher/Penguin Books will donate \$1.00 to save shelter cats! The charities that benefit are Best Friends Animal Society, Stray Cat Alliance, and Neighborhood Cats. Pre-orders can be placed at Barnes & Noble, IndieBound, Amazon, or Books-a-Million. Email your receipt to CatDaddy-Book@gmail.com.

See our web site, pacsnj.org (click on Burlington Reports) for links to more information.

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the lead, as Cole appeared in the kitchen. He wheeled his chair through the door, followed by Honey, who was wagging her tail.



I tried to look casual.

"Mallory, I just saw you outside with the Easter Bunny!" Cole said.

"The Easter Bunny?" Mallory replied, "I was outside with . . ."

She looked at me and saw that I was staring intently back at her. Her glance went, next, to Honey, who was staring at her with the same intensity. A tiny smile crept onto her face as she realized what we'd been up to.

"I know, right?" she said, looking back at Cole, "Wasn't that so cool? I noticed a couple eggs he left behind!"

As she pushed his chair over by the back door so he could look out, Cole said, "He was smaller than I had imagined."

Burlington The Cat

Mom came into the kitchen, followed by Matthew, Dad, and Cole's parents, and said, "What's happening outside?" when she noticed all of us looking out the window.

Mallory turned to her mother and said, "The Easter Bunny came! Can we go find the eggs?"

The adults made sure each of the kids had a basket and then they followed them out into the backyard, cameras at the ready. I watched the rest of the events from the screened porch. I stretched out, basking in the morning sunlight and the satisfaction of helping to make a little boy's wish come true, and watched as Honey carefully retrieved each of the eggs Cole pointed out to her.

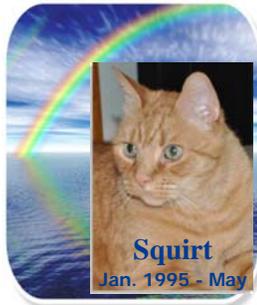


Be sure to see Letters From The Heart on our web site, pacsnj.org!



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Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge



In memory of Squirty, a longtime friend of Paws and Claws Society who passed away on Mother's Day 2011 at the age of 16½, Burlington Reports added a new section to remember pets who have passed. Ask Squirty a question, or share your pet memorial story on our web site (click on Burlington Reports). Let Squirty meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.

A good friend of my human Mom recently lost her beloved, cat, Kimmie, to Feline Leukemia. It was a shock to everyone who knew her, because Kimmie's human Mom did all the things that she was supposed to do to protect her: she had her tested and immunized, kept her indoors throughout her entire 12 1/2 year lifetime, loved her and played with her and fed her good food. She did all the things that a good pet parent does.

What she (and many other pet-owners) did not know is that the Feline Leukemia (FeLV) virus can lie dormant in the bone marrow or central nervous system for months or even years, undetected by testing, and only become active when stress or other immune-suppression-causing diseases or treatments are present.

It is a good idea to have your cat tested every six months if there is any reason to suspect exposure to FeLV, including exposure as a kitten to a mother cat with FeLV, even if your cat has no symptoms. Otherwise, testing should be done annually (even if your cat has been immunized). Also be sure to speak with your vet any time your cat is treated for any illness or disease, and ask about re-testing for FeLV, just to be sure there is no latent awakening of a previously undetected infection.

And, of course, continue to practice protective habits with your cat. Cats should always be kept indoors unless they are on a lead, walking with their owners. Any exposure to other cats can be potentially dangerous. The FeLV virus is transmitted through saliva and other body fluids, via bites during fighting or mating, sharing water bowls, etc.



Kimmie

I met Kimmie at the Rainbow Bridge, and she wants to tell her people that she is ok, and that she has found a beautiful long ribbon that she can pull up and down the rainbow stairway, watching it trailing behind her.

My heart (and those of the humans I left behind) go out to Kimmie's family. Losing a pet is never easy. We hope that they are comforted by the knowledge that the love between pets and their people lives on.

*Peace, Love, and Head-Butts,
Squirty*

Thanks to Dr. Marc Seitz, DVM, of Red Bank Veterinary Hospital, Cherry Hill, NJ, for his help with the information about Feline Leukemia.

Just One Day

On March 22, the No Kill Advocacy Center posted the following on the "Just One Day" Facebook page:



New Jersey has just turned yellow and the number of shelters (both No Kill and traditional) is growing. We have the power to end the killing, even if it is for Just One Day. Help spread the word and get your local shelter to join our national day of No Kill by taking the pledge not to kill any savable animals on June 11, 2012. For Just One Day, "Euthanasia Technicians" will put down their syringes and pick up cameras. Instead of injecting animals with lethal doses of sodium pentobarbital, they will photograph them and post them on the Internet, on Facebook, on twitter. On June 11, 2012, they will market their animals to the public, they will reach out to rescue groups, they will host adoption events with discounted rates, they will stay open for extended hours, and they will ask their communities to help them empty the shelter the good way.

Instead of going into body bags in freezers, the animals will go out the front door in the loving arms of families. At the end of the day, the shelters will be emptier than when the day started with no one being killed in order to make that happen. And if they can do it then, they can also do it on June 12 for Just Another Day. . .

Visit Just One Day's facebook page (find the link on our web site, www.pacsnj.org, click Burlington Reports) to follow the progress.



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Spring Reminders

Spring is in the air once again! As you begin to spend more time outdoors, bring in cut flowers to enjoy, and get back into those home-improvement projects, be sure to remember your pets' safety.

Check out the back page of our April 2011 newsletter, with its helpful tips in the "Remember Pets As You Spruce Up For Spring" section.

The "Many Plants and Flowers Dangerous To Pets" section of our June 2011 issue lists several well known plants that are toxic to pets. Among the more dangerous plants are Lilies, which are so common at Easter time. It is very important to know that **even very small amounts of the lily plant could cause serious kidney damage in cats.**



As Jill Richardson writes on examiner.com, "Within only a few hours of ingestion of the lily plant material, the cat may vomit, become lethargic, or develop a lack of appetite. These signs continue and worsen as kidney damage progresses. Without prompt and proper treatment by a veterinarian, the cat may develop kidney failure in approximately 36-72 hours."

"All parts of the lily plant are considered toxic to cats and consuming even small amounts can cause severe poisoning. Cat owners should be aware of the dangers of lily ingestion and remove them from their cat's access."

Find links to previous newsletters, referenced web sites and articles, and more information at our web site, www.pacsnj.org (click on Burlington Reports).

Paws and Claws Society wishes you and your pets a happy and healthy spring!

