

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 14, June 2013

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

For Fur-ther Information . . .

You can find more information on our web site at pacsnj.org!

- Find out "What's New" by following links on our home page or clicking on "News"
- Read other issues of our newsletter by clicking on "Burlington Reports", or join our email list to be notified when new issues are ready for viewing
- Click the link for any issue of the newsletter to comment on that issue's content. Start or join a discussion!
- Hover over "Burlington Reports" on our navigation menu to find "Links for Further Reading" for more information on topics mentioned in *Burlington Reports*, or click on "Share with Squirt" to share a question or story in our Squirty's Words column
- Click on "Furry Angels" to learn about pets currently available for adoption, read about pets who have found their Forever Homes, read or submit to the Funny Pages, read Letters From The Heart, or download forms
- Read about Paws and Claws Society's programs or see "Gems of Wisdom and Pearls of Knowledge: Humane Messages" at Compassion Central
- Find statistics and No Kill information on Tips From The Trenches
- Read articles about pet care (and even use the age calculator to find out your pet's age in human years) at Caretakers' Corner
- Look for "Share this page"      on any page in our web site to share the content via Facebook, twitter, email, or one of several other services



In This Issue:

Did You Know?	1
Burlington The Cat On Animal Intuition	2
Humor	2
Summer Dangers and Year-Round Dangers	3
Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge	7
Questions to ask the shelter staff before taking your new pet home	8

Did You Know?

In this issue, we learn some interesting facts about some of the wild relatives of our pet cats, dogs, hamsters, and rabbits.

Facts About Big Cats:

from animals.nationalgeographic.com

- An adult lion's roar can be heard up to five miles (eight kilometers) away.
- Long, muscular hind legs enable snow leopards to leap seven times their own body length in a single bound.
- A tiger's stripes are like fingerprints—no two animals have the same pattern.
- Cheetahs do not roar, as the other big cats do. Instead, they purr.
- Tigers are excellent swimmers and do not avoid water.



Snow Leopard

Facts About Wolves:

from animals.nationalgeographic.com

Wolves are the largest members of the dog family.

Adaptable gray wolves are by far the most common and were once found all over the Northern Hemisphere.



Wolf packs are established according to a strict hierarchy, with a dominant male at the top and his mate not far behind. Usually this male

and female are the only animals of the pack to breed. All of a pack's adults help to care for young pups by bringing them food and watching them while others hunt.

Facts About Fennec Foxes:

from animals.nationalgeographic.com

Fennec foxes dwell in the sandy Sahara and elsewhere in North Africa. Their nocturnal habits help them deal with the searing heat of the desert environment, and some physical adaptations help as well.

(Continued on page 6)



Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Humor

Here are some jokes the kids might like, from onlygoodjokes.com:

Q: What do you call 13 bunnies in a row, hopping backwards?

A: A receding hairline!

Q: What do you call a woodpecker with no beak?

A: A headbanger.

Q: Why do cows wear bells?

A: Because their horns don't work.

Q: What is a rabbit's favorite dance style?

A: Hip-Hop!

Q: What do you give a sick bird?

A: Tweetment!

Q: What do you get when you cross a high chair and a bird?

A: A stool pigeon.

Q: Why are dogs like phones?

A: Because they have collar IDs.

Q: Why does a dog stay in a shadow?

A: Because it doesn't want to be a Hotdog.

Q: What do you get when you put a fish and an elephant together?

A: Swimming trunks.

Q: What do you call a sleeping bull?

A: A bull-dozer.

Q: Why do hummingbirds hum?

A: Because they don't know the words.

Q: What do you call a cow that won't give milk?

A: A milk dud!

(Continued on page 3)



Hello, Burlington here.

Most people tend to think of dogs when someone mentions service animals, but did you know that other animals often assist humans as well? In fact, we cats have very sharp intuitive skills when it comes to understanding what people are feeling.

Mom was just commenting on that one day last week when she had taken me to the book store with her.

I'd been sleeping in my favorite spot in the front window, waiting for the kids to arrive after school, when two women walked through the front door.

The younger of the two walked toward the seating area Mom has set up near the back of the store and sat down in one of the overstuffed chairs while the older woman browsed the cooking section. I watched the younger woman as she sat. She was very still and kept her eyes nearly closed. I jumped down from my spot and walked over to her, rubbing tentatively against her leg while making a trilling sound in my throat.

"Hi, Kitty," she whispered.

I hopped up onto her lap. A person's scent is different when they are in pain, and there is a shift in the colors of their aura as well. I knew that she had a headache and was experiencing a great deal of discomfort.

I purred for her as she reached up, delicately stroking my



fur. I crawled up so that I was resting on her shoulder and she laid her cheek against me. I continued to purr, knowing that my slow, rhythmic breaths were soothing to her. I felt some of the tension leaving her body.

"That's it. Just concentrate on relaxing," I thought to her, and on some level I believe she understood.

Mom had noticed this interaction between us. She approached the young woman and quietly asked, "Is there anything I can do for you?"

"No, thank you," the woman answered, "My mother and I are just waiting for our ride. Your cat is keeping me company."

The older woman joined us and explained to Mom, "My daughter and I just came from the doctor. She has migraine headaches."

"I noticed that Burlington is in his caretaking mode," Mom said, "He has an uncanny way of knowing when someone doesn't feel well."

They had a short discussion about animals and our instincts. They marveled at the calming effect of a cat's purr and pondered the human physiological responses to it.

(Continued on page 3)



See "For Fur-ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!



Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Burlington the Cat

(Continued from page 2)

"I read recently that a cat's purr vibrates at 60 cycles per second, or 60 hertz" Mom said, "and that also happens to be the same as many massage chairs and beds. I read of a study that showed that the brain produces more of the feel-good chemical, dopamine, in response to vibration at 60 hertz."

"Cats must know something that we don't," the woman said.

I closed my eyes and nodded, although they weren't looking and didn't see me.

"Have you considered taking him to a nursing home or children's hospital, to help the patients?" the woman asked Mom.

"Burlington has actually been quite helpful here at the book store," Mom replied. She went on to tell her about the time I alerted her to a dangerous situation when I looked out the window and saw Binkie, a little dog, locked in her owners' hot car.

"He's helpful not just here at the store," Mom went on, "We took a road trip last summer, and somehow he knew that the kitten in the hotel room next door to ours had her chin stuck in her collar." She scratched her head. "None of us knows how he knew that."



"What about the time you fostered the cat named Lucy," I

thought, "and I helped you find out

who she was and where she came from?"

I licked my paw and smiled to myself at the memory.

"It's fascinating," said the woman, "the way animals can sense things that we can't."

Mom agreed and the woman said, "I used to know a lady who had a little cocker-spaniel. The lady was elderly and had some issues with circulation in her legs. If she was on her feet for too long, her dog would bring her her slippers to tell her to sit down. Once the lady would sit down, the dog would lick her legs to stimulate her circulation."

"Did you see the story about the study that showed that dolphins can sense cancer in humans?" Mom asked.

She walked over to the counter and flipped her laptop open.

She searched and found the story and read the highlights aloud, telling about a captive dolphin named Keppler who is part of a swim-with program in the Caribbean.



A woman named Patricia Stoops was on a Carnival cruise in the British Virgin Islands and had signed up for a "dolphin excursion" on the island of Tortola. When the captive dolphins approached Stoops and her

(Continued on page 4)

Humor (Continued)

Q: What do you get from a pampered cow?

A: Spoiled milk.

Q: What did the horse say when it fell?

A: I've fallen and I can't giddyup!

Q: Why is a fish easy to weigh?

A: Because it has its own scales!

Q: What do you call a horse that lives next door?

A: A neigh-bor!

Q: Why did the tiger lose at poker?

A: Because he was playing with a cheetah

Q: What do you call a crate full of ducks?

A: A box of quackers!

Q: What do cows play at parties?

A: Moosical Chairs

Q: Why are four-legged animals bad dancers?

A: Because they have two left feet.

Q: What do you get if you cross an elephant with a whale?

A: A submarine with a built-in snorkel.

Q: What do you call a fly with no wings?

A: A Walk

Q: How do rabbits travel?

A: By hareplane.

Q: What goes black white black white..?

A: A penguin rolling down a hill!

Q: What is a cat's favorite color?

A: Purrr-ple

Q: Why didn't the boy believe the tiger?

A: He thought it was a lion!

(Continued on page 4)



Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Humor (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Q: What did the judge say when the skunk walked in the court room?

A: Odor in the court!

Q: What do you get when a chicken lays an egg on top of a barn?

A: An eggroll!

Q: What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?

A: Ouch!

Q: Why is it so hard to fool a snake?

A: Because you can't pull its leg.

Q: Why can't a leopard hide?

A: Because he's always spotted!

Q: What did the buffalo say to his son when he went away on a trip?

A: Bison!

Q: What do you get when you cross an elephant with a kangaroo?

A: Holes all over Australia.

Q: Where do cows go to have fun?

A: To the mooovies!

Q: What do you call a dog that shreds things?

A: A tear-ier!

Q: What do you get if you cross an elephant with a whale?

A: A submarine with a built-in snorkel.

Q: What time does a duck wake up?

A: At the quack of dawn!

Q: What do you call a fish with no eye?

A: FSH

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 3)

group, most of the dolphins interacted with the humans as they normally do. But Kepler took an interest in Stoops and refused to leave her alone. When Stoops told the trainer that the dolphin had run into her, he said, "Oh, that's unusual."

Stoops told WJHG-TV news in Panama City, "The dolphin trainer said the dolphin detected something wrong with me."

Stoops was taken aback by what the trainer's said next: He asked if her trip was sponsored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, to fulfill a final wish of swimming with dolphins.

"He asked if I'd ever had cancer. I said, 'no way!' " she said.

A week after returning home, Stoops noticed some pain in her chest. She went to the doctor, who discovered a spot on her lung and diagnosed her with lung cancer. Now cancer free, she hopes to visit the animal in the fall.

"That reminds me of the stories we hear about dogs that can sense an oncoming seizure in someone with epilepsy, or an episode for someone with a heart condition."

Mom replied, "I got an email just the other day with an old photo from Life Magazine. It was from 1956 and showed a little girl having medical tests done, and beside the bed was a pool with ducklings swimming around. The little girl had such a look of joy on her face."

Burlington the Cat

"I read an article written by a man whose son has autism," the woman said, "When his son was four years old, he didn't speak, and the dad took him to an animal shelter, intending to get a dog. They wound up going into the cat room and the little boy saw a tuxedo cat. He pointed to the cage and spoke his first word: cat. They adopted the cat, who they named Clover, and the little boy had many conversations with Clover as he grew up."

"I read about that," Mom said, and did another search on her computer to find the story, "I loved the quote . . . here it is."

She read from the article, "He once told me that he believed all cats have autism, because 'Cats are like me. They look at everything and think about it when everyone thinks they're not paying attention and they only talk when they have something to say.'"

We all turned when we heard the front door chimes, and we saw Mallory and Matthew smiling at us as they came in. Mallory ran directly toward me and scooped me up into her arms. As she planted kisses on my cheeks and told me how much she loves me, I closed my eyes in kitty bliss.

I gave her a kiss on her nose. Of all the things animals can do that amaze humans, loving our people is by far one of my favorites!



Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Summer Dangers and Year-Round Dangers

Summertime means lots of outdoor activities, from yard work to cookouts, or simply relaxing outside with a drink or food. Keep in mind that our pets, or local wildlife, can be endangered without our realizing.



This image, posted on Facebook, may at first elicit an "Awwwww" response, but it can also serve as a reminder to us that items we unthinkingly leave within the reach of animals (both indoors and out, any time of year) can be dangerous or even deadly to them.

Foods left within a pet's reach should be covered to protect against accidental ingestion. Often, food is set out at a pool party or barbecue, and may include a plate with sliced tomatoes and onions for burgers or fruit salad with grapes. A dog that wants to be included in the festivities just may sample some of the spread before anyone notices.

Common ingredients in beverages often consumed by humans, including caffeine and alcohol, can be poisonous to animals.

Xylitol is a sugar-free sweetener found in many chewing gums, mints, snacks, dental care products, vitamins and supplements. The Pet Poison Hotline web site tells us that common signs of xylitol ingestion are:

- Weakness
- Lethargy

- Collapse
- Vomiting
- Tremoring
- Seizures
- Jaundice
- Malaise
- Black-tarry stool
- Coma
- Death

On their web site, they also list the top 10 pet poisons for dogs and for cats, based on their database from their Pet Poison Hotline:

Dog Poisons:

1. Chocolate
2. Insect bait stations
3. Rodenticides (i.e., mouse and rat poison)
4. Fertilizers
5. Xylitol-containing products (i.e., sugar-free gums and candies)
6. Ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin® in brand name or generic form)
7. Acetaminophen (Tylenol® in brand name or generic form)
8. Silica gel packs
9. Amphetamines, such as ADD/ADHD drugs
10. Household cleaners

Cat Poisons:

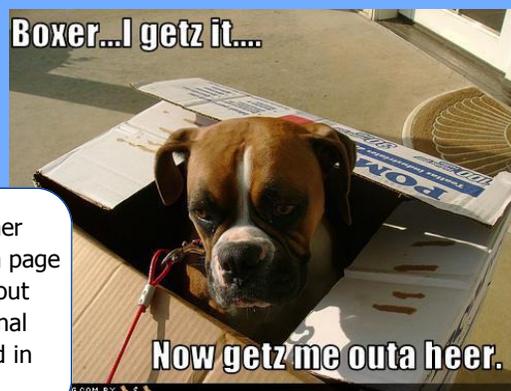
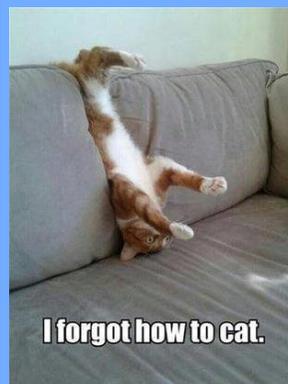
1. Lilies
2. Canine pyrethroid insecticides



See "For Fur-ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!

Humor (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)





Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Did You Know? (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)



Their distinctive, batlike ears radiate body heat and help keep Fennec foxes cool. They also have long, thick hair that insulates

them during cold nights and protects them from hot sun during the day. Even the fox's feet are hairy, which helps them perform like snowshoes and protects them from extremely hot sand. The fox's feet are also effective shovels for frequent digging—fennec foxes live in underground dens.

They belong to the family *Canidae*, which also includes wolves and dogs.

Facts About Spotted Hyenas: from animals.nationalgeographic.com

Although hyenas appear similar to dogs, they are actually more closely related to cats. They live throughout much of Africa and eastwards through Arabia to India. Spotted hyenas live together in large groups called clans that may include up to 80 individuals and are led by females.



Spotted hyenas have good hearing and sharp eyesight at night. They are fast and can run for long distances without tiring.

Spotted hyenas are quite vocal and make a wide variety of sounds, including the "laughing" that has long been associated with their name.

Facts About Wild Hamsters: from animals.pawnation.com and wikipedia.org

The various species of hamsters range in size from approximately 2 inches long to over 13 inches. In general, hamsters live in dry, open habitats such as plains, deserts, foothills and steppes.

(Continued on page 7)

Summer Dangers and Year-Round Dangers (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

(topical flea and tick medicine designed for dogs but erroneously placed on cats)

- Household cleaners
- Rodenticides
- Paints and varnishes
- Veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (Rimadyl®, Deramaxx®)
- Glow sticks/glow jewelry
- Amphetamines (such as ADD/ADHD drugs)
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol® in brand name or generic form)
- Ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin® in brand name or generic form)

The Pet Poison Helpline advises, "If you suspect your pet has ingested any of these items or any other questionable substance, call Pet Poison Helpline or your veterinarian for assistance. Accurate and timely identification of the suspected substance is very important. Having the container, package, or label in hand will save valuable time and may save the life of your pet."

In addition to the ten most common pet poisons, other common summer dangers include: heat and humidity, salt water toxicity, pool chemicals, quick starting charcoal and barbecue chemicals, stings, compost bins or piles, slug and snail baits, mole and gopher bait, pesticides, mushrooms, firecrackers, many plants, onions and garlic, grapes or raisins, herbi-

cides, grass seed and mulches, organophosphates and carbamates, and blue-green algae or cyanobacteria.



Dogs who love to play at the beach can accidentally consume enough salt water to experience severe hypernatremia, or salt poisoning. Keep enough fresh water handy during beach visits to quench thirst

While doing lawn work, take caution to keep mulches, fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals



out of the reach of animals, and during spring and summer it's also important to walk your property before mowing the lawn, to check for rabbit's nests.



Also mentioned on the Pet Poison Helpline's web site is a message that always bears repeating:

"Pets should not be left in a car on a hot day or allowed to ride in the back of open trucks. Pets left in cars quickly develop heatstroke as the temperature inside the car reaches 160° in just a few minutes. Dogs riding in the back of open trucks can suffer from heatstroke as well as sunburn or thermal burns from the truck's hot metal areas. Rocks, dirt, and other pieces of flying debris can injure the dog's eyes and face."

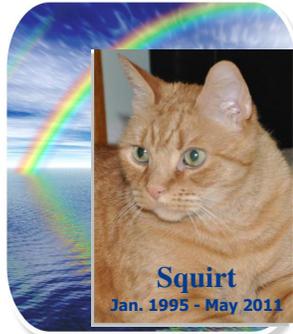


See "For Fur-ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!



Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

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.

Question: Every night, my cat walks around with his favorite toy and makes a funny howling sound for several minutes before he settles down to go to sleep. He sometimes sounds like a person saying "Hello" or "Mama". He doesn't appear to be in any pain and he doesn't seem to be upset. Why does he do that?

Answer: My human family was baffled when I began to do that in my later years.

Our veterinarian said that this type of night vocalization (also called nighttime calling or night calling) is fairly common in older cats. No one really knows exactly why cats do this. Some speculate that a cat may vocalize more loudly when there is hearing loss, although this doesn't explain why it seems to be so much more common at night. Others suggest that the sudden quiet in the house, after the people go to bed and the televisions are turned off, coupled with a cat's nocturnal nature, could be the reason for an increase in calling at night.

The most important thing to do is to rule out anything that could be wrong. Speak with your veterinarian to make sure that your cat isn't experiencing any health issues that could be causing this vocalizing behavior.

Cats who have not been spayed or neutered will vocalize loudly when in heat (or for unaltered males, when a nearby female is in heat). Having your pet fixed is one of the best things you can do for him or her, in so many ways. (See an article about this in our April 2013 newsletter.)

Otherwise, once you have determined that your cat is not in pain or other distress, and is not crying due to being lost or confused, you can go ahead and be amused by the strange sounds. One of my people used to talk to me



in the same kind of voice and we would carry on an entire conversation each night!

If your cat ever begins to vocalize for too long a period into the night and disrupts your sleep, speak with your vet about ways to retrain behavior to encourage quiet at night.

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

Did You Know? (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

Wild hamsters sleep during the day in the deepest part of their burrows to avoid predators and wake up after sunset, being active on the ground for a few hours in the early and late parts of the night.



The hamster has expandable cheek pouches, which extend from its cheeks to its shoulders. In the wild, hamsters are larder hoarders; they use their cheek pouches to transport food to their burrows. Their name in the local Arabic dialect where they were found translates to "mister saddlebags" due to the amount of storage space in their cheek pouches. If food is plentiful, the hamster stores it in large amounts.

Facts about Pikas:
from wisegeek.com



A pika is a mammal in the family *Ochotonidae*, placed among the same order as hares and rabbits. This rabbit relative can be found in North America and parts of Eurasia, and it strongly resembles a hamster, although pikas are not in fact closely related to the hamster.

Some concerns about the pika have been raised, as these animals are vulnerable to habitat destruction and climate change, leading several species to be threatened, especially in North America.

You may also hear pikas called whistling hares, a reference to the strange whistling noises which some species make. They are also called mouse hares, rock rabbits, or central Asian rabbits. The name "pika" appears to come from the Russian word *pikat*, which means "to squeak." These animals are extremely shy and very small, making it hard to see them in the wild unless one spends months studying them, but some zoos have pika populations for people who would like to get a closer look at the animal.



Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

1017 Grove Avenue
Thorofare, NJ 08086

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Visit us online at www.pacsnj.org

All content, unless otherwise noted, © Paws and Claws Society, Inc. All rights reserved. All artwork is either created for this newsletter, found in the public domain, or used by permission.

Questions to ask the shelter staff before taking your new pet home

Imagine you are a cat or a dog who has been living in a shelter and has just been adopted. You might be excited. You've heard of this concept of a "forever home" and you hope this will be yours! You may also be a bit anxious, unsure of what to expect. The shelter staff has been taking care of you for some time, now, and they have gotten to know you and your needs. You've grown accustomed to their routine. Change can be scary, even when it's for a really good reason.

Bringing a new pet home means a lot of adjustment, not only for you but for your new pet as well!

Most people ask questions, when adopting an animal, like what is expected upon signing a contract to adopt, what the adoption fee includes (spay/neuter, shots, etc.), what is known about the animal's history and any known health or behavioral issues.

Some additional questions you can ask, that may help you to decide which pet is right for you, include:

- **How well does this pet get along with other animals at the shelter?** This can be an important piece of information if you have other animals at home.
- **How well does this pet interact with visitors to the shelter?** This will be an indicator of how this pet will react to your family and friends.
- **How active is this animal?** The staff of the shelter

know these animals well because they work with them every day. They can tell you which dogs will need a lot of room to run, which cats like to sleep all day, and which ones like to play a lot.

Once you have decided on the animal you want to adopt, some questions you may not have thought to ask, but which could do wonders to make the move to your home go more smoothly for both of you, include:

- **What brand and type of food has the animal been eating?** Changing a cat or dog's diet too quickly can be hard on their digestive system. If you can buy some of the same food that your pet has been eating, you can gradually transition to whatever type of food you intend to feed.
- **What type of potty training is this puppy used to?** If you are adopting a puppy that is still being potty trained, it's a good idea to ask what training methods the shelter staff has been using. If they have been using newspaper and frequent walks outside, you won't want to confuse the puppy by suddenly switching to crate training. Pets find comfort in consistency.

You might also speak with friends or family members who've adopted pets and ask them what questions they wish they had asked. Don't be afraid to make a list to take with you - a prepared pet-parent is more able to make an informed decision.