

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 15, August 2013

Partners in Prevention **Not** Destruction, since 1993

For Fur-ther Information . . .

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- Read about Paws and Claws Society's programs or see "Gems of Wisdom and Pearls of Knowledge: Humane Messages" at Compassion Central
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- Read articles about pet care (and even use the age calculator to find out your pet's age in human years) at Caretakers' Corner
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Welcome to the
Dog Days of
Summer!

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Did You Know?

Fascinating bits of facts and trivia about our non-human planet-mates

From thefactsite.com:

Fear of Animals

The fear of animals in general is called zoophobia, and agrizoophobia is the fear of wild animals, but how many names of more specific phobias do you know? Try to match the phobia from the list below with the type of critter they apply to. (Answers are on page 7.)

Is . . . A fear of . . . ?

Arachnophobia	mice
Taurophobia	cats
Alektorophobia	fish
Ailurophobia	spiders
Ichthyophobia	bees
Suriphobia	bulls
Apiphobia	chickens

40 Other interesting facts:

1. There are currently over a million animal species upon planet earth.
2. There are over 70,000 types of spiders spinning their webs in the world.
3. There are 3,000 kinds of lice in the world.
4. There are roughly twenty-four thousand species of butterflies.
5. There are over 2700 types of snakes in the world and they live in deserts, forests, oceans, streams, lakes.
6. There are over 210 breeds of goats in the world.
7. For every human in the world there are one million ants.

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Humor

Animal Riddles

from ducksters.com and funology.com

Cats and Dogs

Q: What state has a lot of cats and dogs?

A: Petsylvania

Q: What's worse than raining cats and dogs?

A: Hailing' taxi cabs!

Q: What time is it when 5 dogs chase 1 cat?

A: Five after one.

Q: What did the dog say when he sat on sandpaper?

A: Ruff!

Q: Where did the school kittens go for their field trip?

A: To the mewseum

Q: What did one flea say to the other?

A: Should we walk or take a dog?

Q: Have you ever seen a catfish?

A: No. How did he hold the rod and reel?

Q: What's a dog's favorite food for breakfast?

A: Pooched eggs.

Q: What is a cat's favorite breakfast?

A: Mice krispies



Q: What do you do if your dog chews a dictionary?

A: Take the words out of his mouth!

Q: What kind of cars do cats drive?

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

Burlington and Jersey On The Dangers of "People Food"



Hello. Burlington here.

As you probably know, the kids are out of school for Summer Vacation right now.

Mom has been helping them to find fun activities so they don't get too bored. One day last week, Mallory went to visit her friend Savannah for the day. Savannah's family recently got a new puppy, so Mom suggested that Mallory take Jersey with her and let her play with the puppy.



Well, when Jersey came home that afternoon (ripping me from a deep slumber on Dad's ottoman, I might add), she was shaking and talking so fast, I could barely make sense of what she was saying.

"You'll never believe it, Burlington," she said, "It was so scary!"

"Why don't you start from the beginning?" I suggested.

"Ok," she said, panting, and then she sat down and gathered her thoughts.



"and we met the puppy. His name is Jody. He's a beagle. He's just a baby, but he's bigger than I am."

"That's not unusual," I said, "I'm bigger than you are, too."

She nodded. "Well, that's true."

"So what happened?"

"Well, we played for a while.

Jody has lots of toys. Then we napped on Savannah's bed while she and Mallory sat there and talked. They talked about school and what teachers they think they'll have next year, and about boys, and movies, and clothes, and . . . Oh, nail polish!"

She lifted her front right paw and proudly showed me her raspberry-colored nails.

"They gave me a peticure. That's what they called it. A *pet-icure*. Cute, huh?"

"Yes, that's cute," I said, "But what happened?"



"The girls dressed me up as a bride. I didn't like that too much."

"But what happened that was

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Burlington the Cat

(Continued from page 2)

scary?" I sighed and rolled my eyes.

"That was later. When I was napping, I woke up because I heard the girls rustling around in the room, looking for something. They looked under the bed, and under the night stand, and in drawers and under shoes . . . everywhere. I thought they were looking for Jody, because I noticed he wasn't lying beside me anymore, but how could he fit under a shoe?"

"No, even *you* can't fit under a shoe," I said.

"No, I can't. Finally, Savannah said, 'I left it right there.' and pointed to the edge of the night stand. Mallory said, 'How can a chocolate bar just disappear?'"

"Uh-oh," I said.

"Yeah. Well, I knew the word 'chocolate', because I remembered that's the stuff that smells so good that Mallory won't let me have. So I jumped down to the floor and started sniffing for it. I wanted to save the day for Savannah by finding it."

"That was good thinking."

"Thanks. Well, I sniffed and sniffed, and got nothing. Then Mallory said, 'Where's Jody?' and they both started to panic. They

noticed the bedroom door was open just a little bit, so they went into the hall, calling, 'Jody, Jody, Jody'. I put my nose to the floor and followed it, and finally I caught the scent of chocolate!"

"Where was it?"

"It was on a piece of a wrapper that I found in the living room. I barked, to get the girls' attention, and I kept looking and sniffing. One piece of the wrapper led to another, and another, and finally, I found Jody lying on the floor beside a big chair."

"Oh my gosh, was he ok?" I was sitting up now, listening intently.

"I barked and barked, and I asked him, 'Jody, are you ok? Speak to me!' and he looked at me, and in a very tiny voice, he said, 'I don't feel so good,' and the scent of chocolate wafted from his mouth and almost knocked me over!"



"What did you do?"

"I barked and barked and barked, until finally Mallory and Savannah came and found me, and then Jody, and they called out for Savannah's mom, who was in her sewing room. She ran out and saw what had happened, and she

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Humor (Continued)

A: Catillacs!

Q: What goes tick-tock, bow-wow, tick-tock, bow-wow?

A: A watch dog.

Q: What kind of cat should you never play games with?



A: A cheetah!

Q: How does a dog stop a video?

A: He presses the paws button

Q: There were 10 cats in a boat and one jumped out. How many were left?

A: None, because they were copycats!

Q: How do you stop a dog barking in the back seat of a car?

A: Put him in the front seat.

Q: What is a cat's favorite movie?

A: The sound of Mew-sic!

Q: What kind of dog has a bark but no bite?

A: A Dogwood!

Q: What does a cat say when somebody steps on its tail?

A: Me-ow!

Variations on a theme . . .

Q: Why did the cow cross the road?



A: To get to the udder side.

Q: Why did the cow *really* cross the road?

A: Because the chicken was on vacation.

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Humor (Continued)

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Q: Why did the lamb cross the road?

A: To get to the baaaaarber shop!

Q: Why did the dog cross the road twice?

A: He was trying to fetch a boomerang!

Q: Why did the turtle cross the road?

A: To get to the shell station.

Q: Why did the dinosaur cross the road?

A: The chicken wasn't around yet.

What do you call . . . ?

Q: What do you call a cold dog sitting on a bunny?

A: A chili dog on a bun.



Q: What do you call a thieving alligator?

A: A crookodile

Q: What do you call a cow that eats your grass?

A: A lawn moo-er.

Q: What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?

A: Lilly.

Q: What do you call lending money to a bison?

A: A buff-a-loan

Q: What do you call a pig that's been arrested for dangerous driving?

A: A road hog.

Q: What do you call a baby bear with no teeth?

A: A gummy bear!

(Continued from page 3)

scooped Jody into her arms and said, 'Come on, girls, we're going to the vet.'

"That sounds scary!"

"It was! I got to go along with them, because Savannah's mom said she would bring Mallory and me home once they got Jody to the doctor."

"What happened when you got to the vet's?" I asked.

"The real question is what happened on the way to the vet's . . ." she said, her eyes growing even wider, which I didn't think was possible.

I groaned. "Oh, no . . ."

"He threw up all over in the car, and all over me. The lady at the vet's office was really nice, and she gave me a bath before I came home."

"And Jody?"

"Yeah, he got a bath, too."

"No," I said, "I mean, what

Burlington the Cat

happened when the doctor saw him?"

"Oh. The doctor checked him out and he was ok, but he was really lucky. The doctor said to never, ever let a dog or cat eat chocolate. They gave Savannah's mom a whole list of foods that dogs and cats shouldn't have."

"That was smart."

"Yeah. Savannah's mom said she's going to put it on the refrigerator so everyone in their family will see it."

"People Foods" That Are Dangerous for Dogs and/or Cats:

Chocolate
Grapes
Raisins
Onions
Garlic
Chives
Caffeine
Macadamia Nuts
Xylitol
Alcohol
Yeast Dough
Fruit Pits and Seeds
Green Tomatoes
Raw Potatoes



Burlington is a fictional gray tabby cat who belongs to a family in the Northeast United States. "Mom" is Paige Turner, owner of a small book store. "Dad's" real name has not been mentioned to date. Their two children are Mallory and Matthew. The family also adopted a Chihuahua and named her Jersey. See our web site for other issues of Burlington Reports and read the ongoing adventures and learning experiences of Burlington and his family!

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Copy Cats

Although it is very difficult to find anything online that suggests a link between the origin of the phrase "copy cat" and the behavior of actual felines, many cat owners, and now scientists as well, have observed that cats indeed possess some unique mimicking abilities.

In 2005 in the Amazonian forests, after many reports by local inhabitants that wild cats, including cougars, jaguars and pumas, had been witnessed mimicking their prey in order to trap them, scientists were finally able to record an instance as evidence.

Researchers were studying a group of eight pied tamarins (squirrel-sized monkeys) at the Reserva Florestal Adolpho Ducke in Brazil that were feeding in a ficus tree, when they observed a margay cat emitting calls similar to those made by tamarin babies.

While the tamarins ultimately escaped unharmed, the sentinel monkey and four others were fooled enough to investigate the sound before the margay showed itself and they fled.

Many cat owners have observed "cat chatter", and there are many videos of this behavior online (see our web site for examples). Cat chatter generally happens when a bird is chirping loudly near a cat, or just outside a window where the cat is looking out. The cat

begins to make a chirping-chattering sound, and it is believed to be a mimicking of the bird. Cats have also been observed chattering to squirrels.

Some people believe that this chattering is a sign of the cat's frustration at being unable to catch the prey that holds its attention, or that they are moving their jaw in anticipation of the hunt, or in response to a surge of adrenalin. Considering cats' other mimicking behaviors, however, it just may be that the cat is attempting to "blend in" by sounding similar to its prey.

Mimicking behavior isn't limited only to hunting, however. Many cat owners report that their cats make sounds that are similar to human words such as "Hello" or "Mama" or "No".

Much like human children with siblings, kittens are often reported to mimic the behavior of an older cat in the same household. Some even sit or sleep in mirroring positions with their feline housemates.

What do you think? Do you believe that cats have perfected the art of mimicry or are all these behaviors merely coincidental?

Ribbit.



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

Humor (Continued)

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Q: What do you call a pig who knows karate?

A: Porkchop!

Q: What do you call an exploding monkey?

A: A baboom!



Q: What do you call an elephant in a phone booth?

A: Stuck!

Q: What do you call a dinosaur in a car accident?

A: A tyrannosauraus wreck!

Q: What do you call a mommy cow that just had a calf?

A: Decalfinated!

Q: What do you call a deer that costs a dollar?

A: A buck.

Q: What do you call snake with no clothes on?

A: Snaked.

Q: What do you call a dinosaur at the rodeo?

A: A Broncosaurus or Tyrannosaurus Tex.

Q: What do you call a messy hippo?

A: A hippopota-mess!

Q: What do you call a cow that twitches?

A: Beef jerky

Q: What do you call a bruise on a T-Rex?

A: A dino-sore!

Q: What do you call a gorilla wearing earmuffs?

A: Anything you like, he can't hear you.



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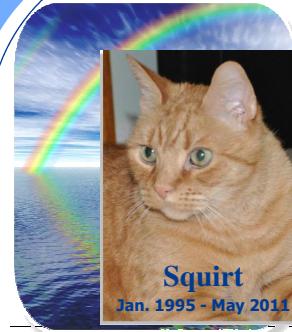
Did You Know? (Continued)

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8. There are no ants in Iceland, Greenland, and Antarctica.
9. There is an average of 50,000 spiders per acre in green areas.
10. There are approximately 450 million goats around the world.
11. China has the most goats in the world, they have over 170 Million.
12. According to records there are 50 million monkeys in the world!
13. There are an estimated 400 million dogs in the world.
14. The U.S. has the highest dog population in the world. France has the second highest.
15. A cheetah's lifespan is up to 12 years in the wild. 
16. The life of a housefly is only 14 days.
17. The lifespan of 75% of wild birds is 6 months.
18. Alligators can live up to 100 years.
19. The lifespan of a bush baby is 14 years.
20. The longest recorded life span of a slug was 1 year, 6 months.
21. The oldest recorded elephant lived for 82 years. 
22. The great horned owl has no sense of smell.
23. An elephant can smell water up to 3 miles away.
24. Turkeys have a poor sense of smell, but excellent sense of taste.
25. Cats can hear ultrasound.
26. Some dogs can smell dead bodies under water!
27. The Latin name for moose is *alces alces*.
28. The scientific name of the red fox is *Vulpes vulpes*.

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Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge



In memory of Squirt, 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 Squirt a question or share your pet memorial story on our web site (click on Burlington Reports). Let Squirt meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.

Question: Hi Squirt. Can a cat be allergic to people?

Answer: That's a good question! Almost everyone knows someone who is allergic to cats, but despite the fact that some may giggle at the idea of a cat being allergic to a human, researchers at an Edinburgh, Scotland animal hospital say that humans can trigger asthma attacks in cats.

Feline asthma was first described in scientific literature more than 90 years ago. As more and more cats are living solely indoors, however, the overall incident rate of feline asthma is increasing, according to Nicki Reed, a veterinarian at the University of Edinburgh's Hospital for Small Animals. While this in no way means that cats shouldn't be kept solely indoors (in fact, cats are much safer living indoors than out [see more on this on page 8]), it does bring to light the importance of keeping the cats' environment as allergen-free as possible. Remember, we cats depend on our people to do what we are unable to do for ourselves.

In humans and in other mammals, an allergy occurs when the immune system over-reacts to foreign substances or particles (called allergens). In cats, symptoms of this overactive immune system can include:

- Skin itchiness (causing scratching and rubbing)
- Sneezing, coughing, wheezing
- Vomiting, diarrhea, gas, bloating

Allergies in cats fall into four types: Food, Fleas, Airborne (Inhaled), and Contact.

The most common examples of inhaled allergens for cats are the same as for humans. These include cigarette smoke; tree, grass, and weed pollens; molds, mildew and house dust (which includes skin dander and mites). In humans, the reaction to this type of allergen is usually respiratory, but cats react by developing severe itching of the entire body.

A contact allergy is the least common type in cats, and, as an article on halopets.com tells us, "is caused by something your cat comes in contact with, such as carpet, bedding (especially wool), or detergents. If your cat is allergic to such substances, there will be skin irritation and itching at the points of contact (elbows, bottom of the feet, belly, etc). Treatment involves identifying and removing the allergen".

According to knowyourcat.info, "Scientific studies have shown that 0.5% of cats suffer from allergy to hu-



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Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge

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mans" specifically. The article explains, ". . . just as humans are not actually allergic to cats themselves, but to microscopic drops of cat saliva which is deposited on their fur when they clean themselves, cats can be allergic to human skin cells [or] dandruff . . . Humans shed skin at an amazing rate, replacing the outer layer every day or two. This means that household dust is partly - or even mainly - flecks of dry, dead human skin, which you and your cat inhale regularly."

So whether your cat has asthma or more common allergies, and whether he or she is actually allergic to humans or is reacting to the "fallout" of human behavior (i.e. cigarette smoke, detergents or chemicals in the home, or exposure to pollens, molds, mildew, or house dust), there are some simple things you can do to help:

- During times of the year when pollen counts are high (and when grass is being mowed), keep all windows closed
- When weather and pollen counts permit, open windows to air out the house
- Use air filters that help to remove airborne allergens in the home
- Use air conditioning during hot and humid times of the year to reduce dampness and prevent growth of many molds and mildew
- Bathe your cat regularly with a hypoallergenic shampoo to remove pollens and other allergens from the coat (these can be absorbed through the skin)
- Dust and vacuum often. If carpets are old, consider replacing them with new carpeting or even switching to tile or wood floors (many humans with allergies find this helps a lot)
- Wash cats' bedding (and your own bedding, if your cat sleeps with you) in hot water with a hypoallergenic detergent
- Use stainless steel or glass feeding dishes and clean them regularly
- Make sure that the type of kitty litter you are using does not generate a lot of dust, or if necessary, try replacing the litter with shredded newspaper
- Brush your cat's coat regularly to distribute the natural oils and prevent mats that can further irritate itchy skin
- Give your cat a pet supplement with fatty acids to provide beneficial anti-inflammatory properties and improve the quality of their skin and coat
- Control fleas and prevent infestation
- If you suspect that your cat has a food allergy, ask your vet for advice on less commonly allergic foods or an elimination diet that is balanced and will not restrict needed nutrients

As always, talk with your vet if you suspect that your cat has asthma or a serious allergy that is not resolved by the above measures. While asthma and allergies in cats are often mild, they can sometimes be very serious and should not be ignored.

Keep in mind that dogs can suffer from allergies as well; just not as commonly as cats. Much of the advice in this column can apply to your dog, too!

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

Did You Know? (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

- 29. *Canis lupus lupus* is the scientific name for a grey wolf.
- 30. Chocolate, macadamia nuts, cooked onions, or anything with caffeine is harmful to dogs.
- 31. Small quantities of grapes and raisins can cause renal failure in dogs.
- 32. Apple and pear seeds contain arsenic, which may be deadly to dogs.
- 33. A newborn Chinese water deer is so small it can almost be held in the palm of the hand.
- 34. The hippopotamus is born underwater.
- 35. Before they're even born, sand tiger sharks eat their twin brothers and sisters! 
- 36. At birth, baby kangaroos are only about an inch long—no bigger than a large water bug or a queen bee.
- 37. Baby whales grow to 1/3 of their mother's length in the womb.
- 38. At birth, a panda is smaller than a mouse and weighs about four ounces. 
- 39. Dalmatians are completely white at birth.
- 40. Turtles, water snakes, crocodiles, alligators, dolphins, whales, and other water going creatures will drown if kept underwater too long.

Answers to the "Fear of Animals" quiz on page 1:

- Aripophobia is the fear of bees.
- Suriphobia is the fear of mice.
- Ichthyophobia is the fear of fish.
- Allurophobia is the fear of cats.
- Alektrorophobia is the fear of chickens.
- Taropophobia is the fear of bulls.
- Arachnophobia is the fear of spiders.



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Reasons To Keep Your Cat Indoors

In our April 2013 issue, we looked at a list of ways that spaying or neutering can keep cats healthier. In this issue, let's examine some of the many reasons that your cat is safer if kept indoors.

To begin, indoor-only cats are safe from:

- Being hit by cars
- Being injured in fights with other outdoor cats
- Being injured or killed by predators such as owls, raptors, coyotes, or native big cats
- Being injured or killed by dogs running in packs (or even one large dog)
- Being abused by humans
- Being stolen
- Getting lost
- Being injured or killed by severe weather conditions (heat stroke, lightning strike, flooding, freezing temperatures)
- Being bitten by bugs or snakes
- Illness due to eating food not moni-

tored by their owners

- Disease and illness carried by non-vaccinated animals the cats may come into contact with outside
- Poisoning by antifreeze, lawn pesticides, mole and rodent poisons, etc.

Other benefits:

- Cats that are kept solely indoors are not a danger to local wildlife.
- Cats that are not allowed outside won't be a nuisance to your neighbors (marking territory, using their yard as a litter box, etc.).
- There is a huge benefit to being able to monitor your cats' litter box! Noticing that kitty is having a difficult time going, or finding blood or mucus in the box can alert you to serious or even potentially fatal conditions, if left untreated.
- The average life span of a cat kept indoors is 12 - 20 years. Outdoor cats have an average life span of 1 - 5 years.

For cat-owners who worry that their cat's natural instincts are not properly able to

be expressed indoors, there are many ways to keep the indoor environment fun and exciting for your cat! When compared with all the dangers of being outdoors, and the added benefits of being kept inside, isn't it worth a few little adjustments to keep Kitty happy and safe?

Some things you can do to help satisfy your cats' desire to be outside:

- Dedicate a space near a sunny window for Kitty. Cats love to sun themselves!
- When weather permits, open windows (so long as your screens are secure). The fresh air is both cleansing and interesting for cats to sniff.
- Be sure to spend time each day playing with your cat(s). It keeps things interesting for them, provides exercise, and it's fun for you, too!
- If you have a screened patio or porch, allow Kitty to experience the feel of the outdoors within the safety of the screen.
- Consider leash training if your cat really wants to go outside. That way, you can both enjoy the fun!