

# Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 22, March 2018

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

## For Fur-ther Information . . .

You can find more information on our web site at [pacsnj.org](http://pacsnj.org)!

Home Programs Furry Angels News Compassion Central **Newsletter** Tips From The Trenches Caretaker's Corner

- Find out What's New by following links on our home page or clicking "News".
- Read other issues of Burlington Reports by clicking "Newsletter", 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 "Newsletter" 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 Squirt's Words column.
- Hover over "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", download forms, and more.
- 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 Care-takers' Corner".
- Look for "Share" buttons throughout our site to share content via Twitter, Facebook, email, and other services.



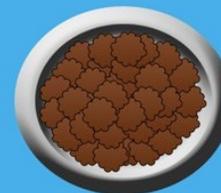
### In This Issue:

Pet Humor	1
Burlington The Cat (And Jersey) On Jobs For Dogs	2
Squirty's Words...From The Rainbow Bridge	3
Pet-Themed Crossword Puzzle	4
Pet-Safe Household Products	5
Answers to Pet-Themed Crossword Puzzle	6
An Important Springtime Reminder: Easter Lilies Kill Kitties	8

## Pet Humor



## Cat Logic



Full



Empty

JOHNWASCHNEIDERBURGER.COM

Yelling at a dog to stop barking doesn't work because the dog just goes,

"Cool, now we're both barking!"



(Continued on page 2)

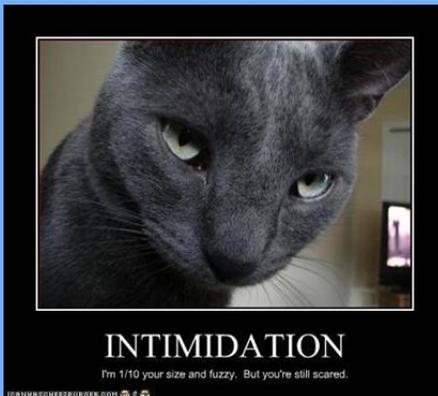


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### Pet Humor (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)



### Burlington The Cat (& Jersey) On Jobs for Dogs



Hello, Burlington here.

Jersey came to me with an unexpected comment one day last Fall. After her

third trip outside that morning (which was spent doing the same thing she always does during her trips outside: running around the back yard, sniffing the ground, and barking and pretending to be ferocious if she sees a squirrel), she jumped up on the couch beside me, plopped down, and said, "I need to find a job."

"A what?" I asked her, lifting my head only slightly from the spot where I'd had it resting on my paws.

"A job. A purpose. A reason to get up in the morning."

She followed that with a long and dramatic sigh.

I rolled my eyes.

"Are you trying out your impersonation of a human? If you are, it's not bad." I put my head back down.

Jersey nuzzled at my leg with her cold, wet nose. She knows I don't like when she does that, but it always gets my attention, and she knows that, too.

"I'm serious, Burlington. We dogs like to do something meaningful in life. We don't find satisfaction in just lying

around the house..."

She glanced at me before

adding, "No offense."

It was no fur off of my back. "None taken," I said.

She shook her head and went on, her forehead creased. "It's not enough to be funny and cute and irresistible."

I still didn't follow. "Okay," I said.

"I want to *do* something. Something that helps someone."

She jumped down and ran over to the wooden magazine rack beside Dad's recliner. With her teeth, she pulled out a paper magazine and dragged it back to the couch, jumping up again and settling down beside me. She nosed the pages until she'd flipped to an article about dogs working.

"It says here that there are all sorts of jobs for dogs."

"You haven't let the humans see you reading, have you?" I asked.

"Of course not," Jersey replied, giving me an *are-you-kidding?* look.

I glanced at the article over her shoulder.

"What kinds of jobs?" I asked.

"Oh, lots of them. Dogs can be companions, offering comfort to humans or other animals. Everyone knows about



(Continued on page 6)



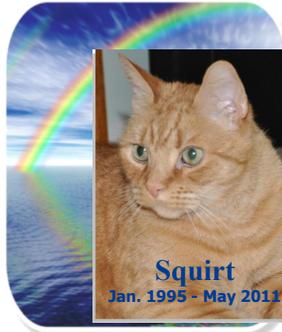
See "For Fur-Ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!

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### Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge

**Question:** Why do my cats sniff each other's butts so often?

**Answer:** Wow, that must seem so strange to you humans, given that you communicate in ways that are so different from cats! A human would see a behavior such as butt-sniffing as quite rude, but to us cats, it's a completely normal and even essential part of the way we communicate with other cats.



*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 or to learn more about our animal family members. Ask Squirty a question or share your pet memorial story on our web site (hover over "Newsletter" on our menu). Let Squirty answer your questions or meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.*

You probably already know that we have an amazing sense of smell. Our scents speak volumes to other cats. A cat sniffing another's butt is kind of like a handshake between two people. It's a part of meeting, greeting, or becoming reacquainted with each other. From a sniff (of several possible spots on the body, including the head, chest and neck as well as, of course, the rear end), we can identify another cat and learn all sorts of things about that cat's health, diet, mood or emotional state, and many other pieces of important information.

#### **Related:**

Has your cat ever jumped up on your lap and then turned around, putting his or her rear in front of you? Have you wondered why? Now you know! Your cat is offering his or her scent the same way he or she would to another cat, much like an offer of a handshake. Of course, you're human, and your cat ultimately understands that. If you turn Kitty around so that you can see his or her face instead, it's ok. Some humans don't like to shake hands and other humans usually understand when they decline.

Cats that live together may reacquaint ourselves with one another frequently; as often as several times in the same day, or even in the same hour! When one of us comes back from the vet or some other out-of-the-ordinary thing happens in our day, we check each other out. It's a "How are you doing?" between cats.

The next time you see your cats saying, "How are you doing?" to each other, even if your impulse is to think it's gross, please remember that they are just being cats and engaging in a behavior that is not only natural to them but also relieves tensions and stress and reinforces our bond and communication with one another.



**Question:** Why does my cat touch noses with my other cat, my dog, and me?

**Answer:** This is partly about sharing scent and partly about touch. Newborn kittens have fully developed touch receptors in our noses and, because we are born blind, nose-touching is the first way we experience contact with our mothers. As we grow, the nose touch becomes an even social exchange, in that vulnerability-wise, it puts both cats in an equal position.



The nose touch is a greeting and a sign of trust, but is not necessarily a sign of affection per se. A head-butt, now *that* means your cat loves you! Your cat learned the head-butt (or head bunt) as a baby, along with kneading with the paws, to stimulate the flow of his mother's milk. It is also a great way to leave our scent on those we claim as our own.

*Peace, Love, and Head-Butts,*

*Squirty*



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**Pet Crossword (See Answers on Page 6.)**

Print this newsletter to solve this pet-related crossword using a pen or pencil, or if you prefer, you can solve it on our web site! Go to [pacsnj.org](http://pacsnj.org), hover over "Newsletter", and click "Links for Further Reading." Choose the links post for March, 2018, Issue XXII. Comment to let us know if you enjoyed this crossword and if you'd like to see more puzzles in future issues of *Burlington Reports*!

**Across:**

- 1 - To draw in air audibly through the nose to detect a smell
- 5 - A plant of the mint family, with a pungent smell attractive to cats
- 7 - Soft hair
- 8 - A limbless cold-blooded vertebrate animal with gills and fins and living wholly in water
- 11 - To save someone or something from a dangerous or distressing situation
- 12 - A cat's toilet
- 13 - To travel by foot, but not to run
- 14 - To surgically cause a male animal to be unable to reproduce

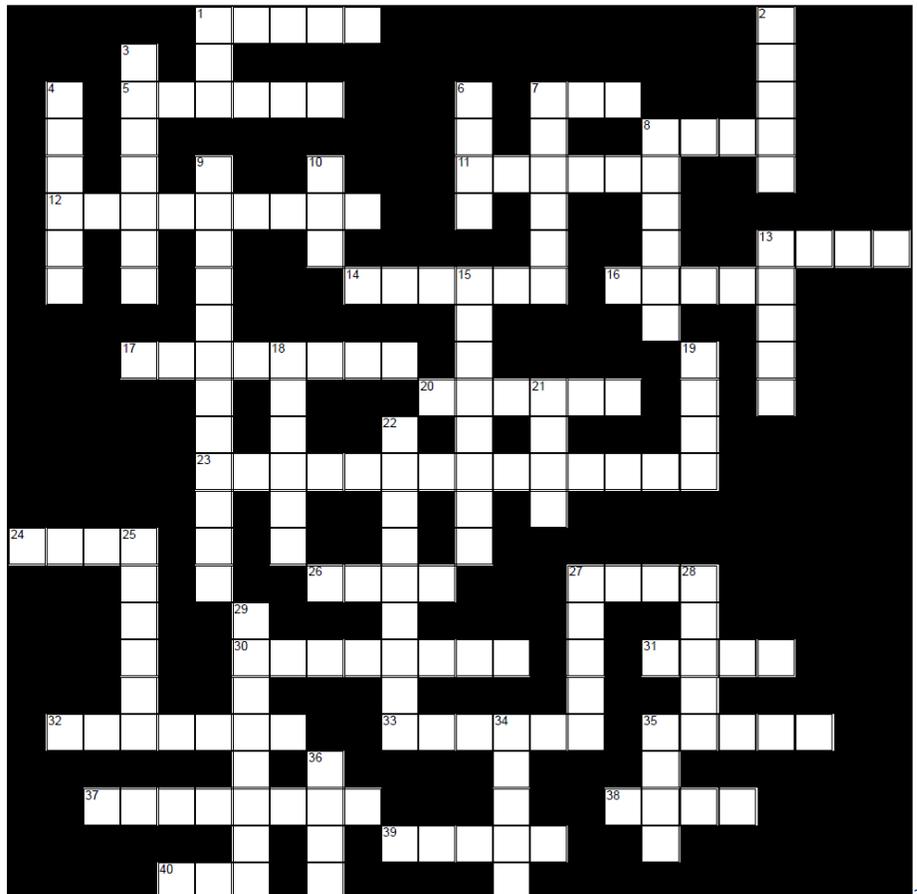
- 16 - A strap or cord for restraining and guiding a dog or other animal
- 17 - Long projecting hairs or bristles growing from the face or snout of many mammals
- 20 - A baby cat
- 23 - Caring for a pet is an important \_\_\_\_.
- 24 - The sharp explosive cry of certain animals, especially a dog, fox, or seal
- 26 - A low continuous vibratory sound made by a cat
- 27 - A strip of plastic, metal, or wood with a row of narrow teeth, used for untangling or arranging the hair
- 30 - To move from side to side
- 31 - To push oneself off a surface and into the air by using the muscles in one's legs and feet

- 32 - A toy designed to be bitten / chomped by animals (usually dogs) for purposes of stimulation and relief from boredom
- 33 - Special pieces of food that are not part of a regular meal, often used in training
- 35 - To hold an animal's (usually a dog's) paw in the hand, mimicking the way two humans might greet one another or finalize an agreement
- 37 - Vertebrate animals of a class that includes snakes, lizards, crocodiles, turtles, and tortoises. They are distinguished by having a dry scaly skin and typically laying soft-shelled eggs on land.
- 38 - Animal feet
- 39 - A baby dog
- 40 - Rapid movement side-to-side, as with a tail

**Down:**

- 1 - To be in a position in which one's weight is supported by one's buttocks rather than one's feet and one's back is upright
- 2 - To wash while immersed in water (or, a cat does this with its tongue)
- 3 - To scrape or dig with the claws or nails, usually to stop an itch
- 4 - A strap worn around the neck, generally holds tags and/or can be attached to a leash
- 6 - A warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrate distinguished by the possession of feathers, wings, and a beak and (typically) by being able to fly
- 7 - To care for an animal until it is adopted
- 8 - A domesticated polecat kept as a pet or used, especially in Europe, for catching rabbits. It is typically albino or brown.
- 9 - A doctor for animals
- 10 - A feeling of great pleasure and happiness
- 13 - A long, high-pitched complaining cry
- 15 - Teaching
- 18 - Signs of affection that, when coming from our pets, are in the form of licks
- 19 - To surgically cause a female animal to be unable to reproduce
- 21 - The hindmost part of an animal, especially when prolonged beyond the rest of the body, such as the flexible extension of the backbone in a vertebrate, the feathers at the hind end of a bird, or a terminal appendage in an insect
- 22 - An animal's underfur or down
- 25 - Ground meal shaped into pellets, especially for pet food
- 27 - A curved pointed horny nail on each digit of the foot in birds, lizards, and some mammals
- 28 - An implement with a handle, consisting of bristles, hair, or wire set

- into a block
- 29 - Looking after the coat of (a horse, dog, or other animal) by brushing and cleaning it
- 34 - To bring a pet into your home, accepting responsibility for its care for the rest of its life; to provide a Forever Home
- 35 - To remain in the same place
- 36 - The characteristic crying sound of a cat



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## Pet-Safe Household Products

We all love our pets and want what is best for them. Keeping a clean house is part of that equation. However, some of the ingredients in our common household products may not be so safe for our pets.

An article on dogster.com gives us this list:

### ***Some Toxic Ingredients and Their Effects on People and Pets***

*Ammonia – Used in many de-greasers for ovens, glass and stainless steel, ammonia has a very high VOC, burns mucous membranes and contributes to asthma. If it is mixed with bleach, it creates a poisonous gas which can be deadly to small pets.*

*Chlorine – Used in disinfectants, toilet bowl cleaners and automatic dish detergent to name a few, chlorine is also used to bleach coffee filters. It can cause everything from dizziness to vomiting to laryngeal edema. Avoid this ingredient and be careful about letting your pet swim in the pool.*

*Glycol Ethers – Glycol ethers are found in many cleaning products that are not pet safe including glass cleaners, carpet cleaners and spot removers. It has been linked to anemia, lung damage and kidney damage in people and pets.*

*Formaldehyde – The thought of a funeral home comes to mind when formaldehyde is mentioned and everyone can recognize the strong, nauseating smell. But it's also used in products such as soaps and even some pet shampoos. It can contribute to asthma and is carcinogenic.*

The article goes on to list cleaning products, many seemingly harmless, that contain some of the above ingredients as well as others that are not safe for pets.

Because our pets spend a lot of time walking and lying on floors and furniture and then licking their feet or fur, they are naturally more exposed to any residue of the chemicals that we clean with. This can be true

even of our laundry detergent, as pets sleep in our beds, snuggle up to us and our clothing, and lie on their

blankets or beds that we wash with our laundry. Sometimes they even chew on their bedding.

A rover.com article lists “16 Pet-Safe Non-Toxic



Cleaners We Love”, which includes pre-made products as well as simple items that may already be in our kitchens, such as baking soda and vinegar.

A quick Internet search for a phrase like “baking soda for cleaning” or “vinegar for cleaning” will produce a great variety of tips for cleaning anything from the oven to the toilet. (There is some question, however whether cleaning with baking soda and vinegar together is as effective as all the Pinterest pins and Facebook videos would have you believe.) Check out the various resources online to learn which cleaning tasks are better accomplished with each natural method. (The article on rover.com cautions: “Don’t let your dog eat straight baking soda, which can cause stomach upset.”

Some of those “16 Pet-Safe Non-Toxic Cleaners” rover.com loves:

### *Puracy Natural All-Purpose Cleaner*

*This pet-safe cleaner works on multiple surfaces (glass, stainless steel, floors, countertops, etc.) and cuts through grease, grime, nose prints, wet food residue, and whatever other unwanted textures pets might leave. Plus, it smells mighty nice.*

### *Smiling Paws Pets Enzyme-Free Pet Stain & Odor Eliminator*

*For most organic messes, enzymes do the job, but temperature, humidity, pet medications and our animal’s diet can interfere with enzyme effectiveness.*

*This non-toxic cleaning product removes the stains and odors caused by feces, urine, and even wine and coffee on multiple surfaces.*

### *Clean+Green Pet-Safe Carpet Cleaner*

*To spot treat, hit that stain with this non-toxic, all-natural cleaner. No need to scrub, soak, or rinse.*

### *Seventh Generation Laundry Detergent*

*For washing pet beds, blankets, harnesses, clothes, and more, you’ll want a non-toxic cleaner that’s good for the environment. Seventh Generation is a trusted brand in the “green” cleaning space, and their laundry detergent is free of potentially harmful chemicals and additives.*



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



Paws and Claws  
Society, Inc.

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

### Pet-Safe Household Products

(Continued)

(Continued from page 5)



#### Better Life Natural Dryer Sheets

Keep you and your dog shock-free with these natural dryer sheets. If your dog sheds, these might be a good idea. Typically, commercial dryer sheets are packed with chemicals you don't want to transfer to your dog's skin, but these natural dryer sheets fight fuzz and static without the toxins.

#### Bean & Lily Non-Toxic Floor Cleaner

This formula is plant-based and safe for all hard floors. It's going to be gentle on skin and paws, and is safe enough to withstand all the accidental licking that happens in a pet-friendly home.

#### VetriCure Pet-Safe Disinfectant

This product boasts "no licking worries," which you know you've worried about! It kills harmful bacteria, including trichophyton, the leading cause of ringworm, without bleach or alcohol. Great for kennels and food dishes.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 2)

service dogs, who are trained to carry out tasks that their humans are unable to do for themselves. We can be public ambassadors, or part of a rescue team, or we can help the police solve crimes."

"You're too small to be a police dog," I reminded her.

"I know, but you asked what types of jobs a dog can do."

She was right. I had.

I sat up and made a point of washing my paws and face before responding. I like to make use of the pregnant pause now and then. It not only helps to create a

### Burlington The Cat (Continued)

sense of authority in what I have to say, but it's also so much fun to watch the anticipation on Jersey's face.

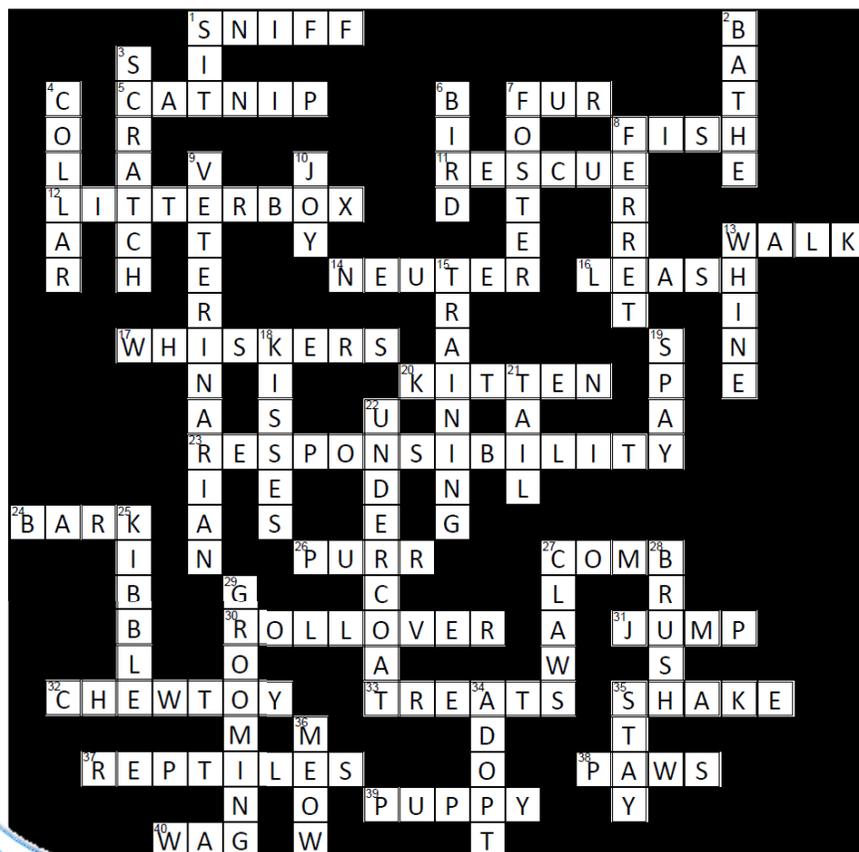
Finally, I said, "We help people and animals when Mom takes us to the book store and when we go on vacation with the family."

"Ooohh," she replied, "You know, you're right."

The next morning, Jersey was up before anyone else in the house. She excitedly went from Mom and Dad's room to Matthew's room and then to Mallory's room, giving wake-up kisses. Her tail

(Continued on page 7)

### Answers to Pet Crossword (on page 4)



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

### Burlington The Cat (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

never stopped wagging all through breakfast and her potty time. When Mom opened the coat closet to get her jacket so she could go to work, Jersey planted herself in front of the door, her mouth hanging open in a crooked smile.

“What are you doing, Jersey?” Mom asked her in her amused voice. “Do you want to go to the book store with me?”

Jersey’s tail wagged at double-time.

Mom grabbed Jersey’s leash from the hook beside the coat closet, then turned to me.

“Burlington, would you like to go, too?”

I stretched and yawned (so as not to give the impression of being overly excited), then jumped down from my spot on the bench in the front hallway. Mom reached up and got my carrier from the shelf in the closet and opened it for me.

“Ok, then. Let’s go!”

We met a lot of people at the book store that day, just as we do any time we go there with Mom, but Jersey’s favorite customers were a group of ladies and gentlemen who had come by bus from a retirement center in town. She followed them around, sat on their laps or by their feet as they read, and listened intently as they spoke to her.

At the end of their visit, one of the ladies suggested to Mom that she bring Jersey

by the retirement center for a visit.

Mom smiled at Jersey. “She did enjoy spending time with all of you today.”

Jersey yipped in agreement, which made the humans laugh.

Mom wound up taking Jersey to see her newfound friends the following week. So many residents fell in love with her that she was invited back on a weekly basis. She is now a Reading Companion in their library and a Fitness and Safety Assistant in their gym.



“If someone is overdoing and should sit down, I bark and run toward a chair and they know to follow me,” she told me the evening after her first day in the gym, “And if they have poor circulation, I lick their legs to stimulate blood flow.”



She grinned and sighed. “I’ve found my job, Burlington.”

I was unable to hide the pride in my voice. “Yes, Jersey, I believe you have.”



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!

### Pet-Safe Household Products (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

#### SpotAway Pet-Safe Glass Cleaner

*Cleaning paw prints or slobber off the windows? Reach for this non-toxic option that doesn’t emit all the fumes of traditional glass cleaners. Also works well on glass-top tables, car windows, and mirrors (in case your dog enjoys licking their reflection...)*

#### Nature’s Miracle Stain & Odor Remover

*Also available in a handy spray bottle, Nature’s Miracle Stain & Odor Remover is a standby for many pet owners around the Rover office. It harnesses the power of bacteria-eating enzymes to eliminate funky smells from carpets, furniture, and more.*

#### Biokleen Bac-Out Stain and Odor Remover

*Bac-Out is another popular enzyme-based cleaner that kicks bad smells to the curb. It’s also a fantastic laundry addition—simply splash some in with your regular detergent.*

As always, be sure to read labels for ingredient lists even if you have used a product before, as manufacturers can periodically change ingredients used in their products.

See “Links for Further Reading” on our web site for full links to these lists. Also see the Caretakers Corner section of pacsnj.org for the “Pet-Friendly Cleaning Tips” sent in to us by a visitor to our site.



**Paws and Claws Society, Inc.**

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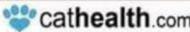
## An Important Springtime Reminder

A photograph of a ginger and white tabby cat wearing a full-body yellow hazmat suit with a clear face shield and black gloves. The cat is holding a yellow caution tape with a black biohazard symbol and the text "EASTER LILIES KILL KITTIES" in bold black letters. In the foreground, there are several white Easter lilies with green leaves. The background is dark. Text on the left side of the image reads: "Grooming pollen off their fur can lead to poisoning." Text on the right side reads: "Eating less than one leaf or flower can cause kidney failure!" At the bottom right of the image is the logo for "cathealth.com" which includes a blue paw print icon.

**Grooming pollen off their fur can lead to poisoning.**

**Eating less than one leaf or flower can cause kidney failure!**

**EASTER LILIES KILL KITTIES**

 cathealth.com

**Keep Easter Lilies out of Your Home If You Have Cats!**

<http://www.cathealth.com/toxic-items/easter-lilies-a-holiday-hazard-for-cats>