

# Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 25, September 2019

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 "Share with Squirt" to share a question or story in our Squirty'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 Caretakers' Corner".
- Look for "Share" buttons throughout our site to share content via Twitter, Facebook, email, and other services.



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## Quiz: Animal Fact or Myth?

Test your knowledge! Do you know which of the following widely-believed statements are true and which are myths? Here goes . . .

1. There's an 'alpha' wolf in every wolf pack.
2. Bulls charge when they see the color red. 
3. Bears hibernate in winter.
4. Lemmings commit mass suicide.
5. Touching a baby bird makes it unlovable to its mom.
6. Ostriches bury their heads in the sand. 
7. Owls can do a 360-degree head spin.
8. Butterflies die if you touch their wings.
9. All bees only sting once and then they die.
10. You get warts from touching toads and frogs.
11. Rattlesnakes always rattle before striking.
12. Chameleons change color to blend into their surroundings. 
13. Turtles don't feel pain through their shells.
14. Piranhas can devour a human being in seconds.
15. The female praying mantis eats the male after procreation.
16. Turkeys drown in the rain.
17. Bats are blind.
18. Camels store water in their humps. 
19. Crocodiles are slow on land.
20. Cats always land on their feet.

(See pages 5 and 7 for answers.)



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### Pet Humor

Some cat and dog Riddles to tickle your funny bone:

- Q: Why are dogs like phones?  
A: Because they have collar IDs!
- Q: What is a cat's favorite movie?  
A: "The Sound of Mewsic!"
- Q: Why do dogs run in circles?  
A: Because it's hard to run in squares!
- Q: How do you know a cat is agitated?  
A: He's having a hissy fit!
- Q: Why did the snowman name his dog "Frost"?  
A: Because "Frost" bites!
- Q: What's a cat's favorite magazine?  
A: Good Mousekeeping!
- Q: Which dog breed absolutely LOVES living in the city?  
A: A New Yorkie!
- Q: What's a cat's favorite color?  
A: Purr-ple!
- Q: Why aren't dogs good dancers?  
A: Because they have two left feet!
- Q: Why was the cat afraid of the tree?  
A: Because of its bark!
- Q: Why can't dogs work the TV remote?



(Continued on page 6)

### Burlington The Cat And The Cat-Fe



Hello, Burlington here. Or should I say, "Garçon here"? No; you're right. A *garçon* is a waiter in a French restaurant or hotel, and Mom's café is not French.

Also, I'm not a waiter. And Health Department rules don't allow me to be near the food.

But I'm getting ahead of myself again. Allow me to start from the beginning.

Guess what! Mom opened a café!

It all started this spring, when the opportunity arose for her to rent the unit next door to the book store.

"What will you do?" Dad had asked her when she brought it up for discussion over dinner the night she found out the unit was available. "Are you going to expand the store?"

"I want to knock out part of the wall to create an archway and put in a café that will be an extension of the book store."

She grinned before adding, "Guess what I'll call it."

"Books and coffee?" Matthew suggested.

"Nourish Your Brain and Body?" was Mallory's guess.

Finally, Mom told them: "Paige Turner's Books and Cat-Fe!"



Dad looked confused. "Cat-Fe?"

Mom nodded so fast it made her ponytail bounce. "I was reading about several coffee-houses and cafes across the country that are run in cooperation with animal shelters. People go there to get a cup of coffee or a snack, and they get to interact with some of the cats and dogs that are available for adoption."

"Ah," Mallory said, smiling, "that sounds fun!"

Mom shrugged. "Well, we already know that lots of people like to drink coffee or tea while they read, and lots of people like to read with a cat nearby, so why not offer all of those things in one place?"



Matthew looked up over his glass of milk. "Will it just be cats?"

"Yeah," Jersey muttered from her spot beside me on the floor, "What about dogs?"

Mom nodded to Matthew. "I'm going to focus on cats at this café," she explained, "because Helen is coordinating with the TNR program at the rescue group to bring some of their cats to the café to meet the people who could potentially adopt them."

You may remember that Mom's friend, Helen, adopted her cat, Patches (previously known to me

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

**Question:** More and more people are going to see Holistic doctors nowadays. Is there a Holistic option for pets?

**Answer:** Yes, there is! Many people, uneasy when their conventional vets (or their own conventional doctors) prescribe medications that can be potentially dangerous or come with too many unwanted side effects, turn to Holistic medical professionals instead. A Holistic veterinarian and a conventional veterinarian both must earn a DVM (doctor of veterinary medicine) degree before entering their professions. A Holistic veterinarian then may choose to train in any of several specialties including herbal, physical rehabilitation, massage, and acupuncture, as well as other therapies.

A Holistic DVM uses an integrative approach to treatment, looking at your pet as a whole and treating the underlying condition rather than simply treating the symptoms, and is much less likely to prescribe drugs as a first choice course of action.

Of course, because a Holistic veterinarian is a doctor of veterinary medicine, he or she is able to prescribe drugs if necessary. In an emergency or acute situation where natural methods may not work or may not offer fast enough results, a Holistic veterinarian may use drugs or other methods that a conventional veterinarian would use.

There are many ways to find a Holistic vet in your area. You can ask other pet owners, speak with someone at your local pet store, or check the web site for the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association at [ahvma.org/find-a-holistic-veterinarian](http://ahvma.org/find-a-holistic-veterinarian). (Find the link on Paws and Claws Society's web site.)



**Question:** My vet said that my cat has extra teeth. Should I be concerned? Do dogs ever have extra teeth?



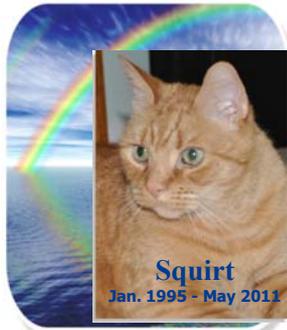
**Answer:** An adult cat has 30 teeth and an adult dog has 42 teeth. Compared to an adult human's 32 (or 28 if they've had all 4 wisdom teeth removed), dogs are by far much toothier than cats *or* people!

Sometimes, however, a cat or dog may have extra teeth, known as supernumerary teeth, caused by a condition called hyperdontia. This is actually more common in dogs than in cats. For both, it occurs more frequently with adult teeth than with baby teeth.

While supernumerary teeth aren't necessarily a problem, having extra teeth can lead to damage to the normal teeth, overcrowding, and periodontal disease. Sometimes the extra teeth are impacted.

Regardless of whether your cat or dog has too many teeth, not enough teeth, or the exact number of teeth he or she is supposed to have, it is always important to have their teeth checked on a regular basis. Your vet will let you know if there is any reason for concern and will recommend appropriate treatment if it is needed.

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



*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.*



Do dogs ever have extra teeth?

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



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(Continued from page 2)

as Breezy, who also happens to be my long-time girlfriend) from a rescue group that does TNR. That stands for Trap-Neuter-Release or Trap-Neuter-Return. They catch stray and feral cats by placing yummy food inside a cage with a trap-door. Then they take the cats to be spayed or neutered and either find forever homes for them or, if they are too feral to be able to live with humans, return them to the area where they were found.

Mom said, "Helen is working with someone else in the group who wants to open a little burger and sandwich shop where people could meet the dogs that are available for adoption. They want to name it the 'Downtown Grill and Pup'."

"Cute." Dad chuckled.

Mom went on to describe her vision. "Imagine, instead of just tables and booths like most cafes, there would be *some* tables in the café area, and then the far wall of the café would be made entirely of glass. Through that wall of glass, you'd be able to see the area where the cats would be, with cozy little alcoves with benches or oversized soft chairs. Maybe a window seat or two. Lots of fluffy pillows and super-soft lap blankets. And sisal-covered poles that the cats

could climb, leading up to shelves and cubby-hole boxes built onto the walls, so they could relax and observe not only everything that's going on in their room, but also in the café."

Dad and Matthew and Mallory all agreed that sounded like a great environment for introducing the cats to their potential future people.

"People would have the option of sitting in the café and watching the cats through the glass wall, or taking their books into the cat room to read while curling up with a cat or two."

Mallory said, "Or they could play with the cats and not read at all!"

Mom nodded and smiled. "I'll see if Burlington would like to spend some time at the café," she said.

I couldn't help the purr that began to rumble inside me. I do like helping Mom at work, and I enjoy meeting her customers.

Jersey piped up again. "What about me? Can I work there, too?"

Of course, the family only heard something like, "Bark-arf-yip", but I answered Jersey on Mom's behalf: "Remember, you already have your job working at the

## Burlington The Cat (Continued)

retirement center."

"Two jobs." Jersey corrected me, sitting up straight with a look of pride on her face. "I'm a Reading Companion in the library and a Fitness and Safety Assistant in the gym."

I nodded. "That's right. And that's a pretty full schedule."

She agreed, but I heard her say softly, "Maybe I could work part-time at the Grill & Pup."

Mom worked out the details in the following weeks and then began construction, and in what seemed like no time at all, the Cat-Fe was open for business!

Breezy and I work there a few days a week, greeting customers and preparing them to meet the cats who need homes. Mom is sure to let the customers know that Breezy (aka Patches) and I are not up for adoption, but that we will happily introduce them to those who are.

Mom and Mallory created a program to correct some common misconceptions and myths about cats, which can be especially important for people who have never had a cat before!

After reading about studies that were performed to determine the most common reasons people gave for choosing not to adopt a cat, Mom realized how important it was to provide some myth-busting education.

"Do you know how many people

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## Word Search Puzzle

How many of the popular dog breeds below can you find in this puzzle? (Go to our web site, [pacsnj.org](http://pacsnj.org), to see the completed version of this puzzle or to solve the puzzle online.)

### 30 Popular Dog Breeds

F V N J P I T B U L L W B E A G L E N E  
 U C H I H U A H U A N E E C M R H S I B  
 D J I A E B K A B O B I B K K E D B E I  
 D O B E R M A N U M B M I O I Y J T F R  
 R A N C J A L A L A D A C H S H U N D I  
 S A G R V P H A L L V R H J P O X T W S  
 I P S E O H U O D T S A O C O U L J A H  
 Y E L H R T M U O E T N N O M N O A L S  
 B P S A I M T N G S P E F L E D S C A E  
 X A H N B H A W J E U R R L R D Y K S T  
 T P E X V R T N E G G Q I I A A M R K T  
 A I E P X B A Z S I R N S E N L R U A E  
 K L P Q A J D D U H L E E U I M G S N R  
 G L D F Q O Y G O P E E A K A A B S H W  
 N O O O B O X E R R P P R T N T C E U H  
 Z N G V P O O D L E P E H W D I V L S I  
 B A S S E T H O U N D J E E Q A G L K P  
 E H Q G S C H N A U Z E R R R N N V Y P  
 T E H T O P I S Q V Z S Y T N D H E B E  
 O D A U C T B L O O D H O U N D K Q K T

#### Word List:

- |                  |                     |                |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. ALASKAN HUSKY | 11. DALMATIAN       | 21. PIT BULL   |
| 2. BASSET HOUND  | 12. DOBERMAN        | 22. POMERANIAN |
| 3. BEAGLE        | 13. GERMAN SHEPHERD | 23. POODLE     |
| 4. BICHON FRISE  | 14. GREAT DANE      | 24. PUG        |
| 5. BLOOD HOUND   | 15. GREYHOUND       | 25. ROTTWEILER |
| 6. BOXER         | 16. IRISH SETTER    | 26. SCHNAUZER  |
| 7. BULLDOG       | 17. JACK RUSSELL    | 27. SHEEPDOG   |
| 8. CHIHUAHUA     | 18. LABRADOR        | 28. SHIH TZU   |
| 9. COLLIE        | 19. MALTESE         | 29. WEIMARANER |
| 10. DACHSHUND    | 20. PAPILLON        | 30. WHIPPET    |

## Answers to Quiz: Animal Fact or Myth?

Surprise! The answer to all 20 quiz questions is:



According to lists on [mnn.com](http://mnn.com) and [list25.com](http://list25.com) (see links on our web site), the truth is:

1. While captive wolves do seem to have an alpha in every pack, this is not true for wild wolf packs .
2. It isn't the color that makes bulls charge; it's the movement. In fact, bulls (and all cattle) are color-blind to red and green.
3. Bears actually go into a state called "torpor", which is similar to, but is not actually, hibernation. See links on our web site to learn more about torpor!
4. A Disney nature documentary from the 1950's called "White Wilderness" appears to be the reason many people still today believe that lemmings throw themselves off of cliffs. In reality, the filmmakers were unable to capture this behavior on camera, so they threw the lemmings off of the cliff to make it appear as if the myth were true. While a lemming may occasionally fall off of a rock or cliff and drown, they do not do it on purpose or en masse.
5. The belief that a mother bird will abandon her young if they carry the scent of a human is

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### Pet Humor (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

- A: Because they always hit the paws button!
12. Q: What did the cat say when it was confused?  
A: "I'm purr-plexed!"
13. Q: How are a dog and a marine biologist alike?  
A: One wags a tail and the other tags a whale!
14. Q: What do you call a cat that lives in an igloo?  
A: An eskimew!
15. Q: What did the waiter say to the dog when he brought her food?  
A: Bone appetit!
16. Q: How do cats stop crimes?  
Claw Enforcement!
17. Q: What did the hungry Dalmatian say after his meal?  
A: "That hit the spots!"
18. Q: Why was the cat so agitated?  
A: Because he was in a bad mewd!
19. Q: What do you do if a dog chews your dictionary?  
A: Take the words right out of his mouth!
20. Q: What do cats have to do in the morning?  
A: Read the mews-paper!



(Continued from page 4)

believe that a cat can't be trained," Mom said to Mallory, "Or that all cats are aloof and unfriendly, or that cats steal the breath from a baby?"

Breezy and I locked eyes when we heard that last one, both of our faces wearing confused expressions.

"Steal the breath from a baby?" Breezy whispered, shuddering. "How could that be possible, even if cats *were* that mean?"

"Why would someone think that, about cats and babies?" Mallory asked, as if she'd heard Breezy.

Mom shrugged. "They've heard it or been told it was true, over the years, and they probably never had a cat or had any experience to show them it isn't true."

Mom and Mallory structured their program around addressing each of several common beliefs and misconceptions that caused people to resist the idea of having a cat for a pet.

Their program includes tips for



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 to read the ongoing adventures and learning experiences of Burlington and his family!

### Burlington The Cat (Continued)

keeping a clean and odor-free litterbox, demonstrations on how to teach cats tricks, advice on fun and scratch-free playtime, and a helpful list of cat-facts.

Mom and Mallory also teach people who are inexperienced with cats the difference in how to introduce yourself to a cat vs a dog. We cats have a different way of processing sensory input than dogs and we can be overwhelmed if approached excitedly, loudly, or roughly. We need time to sniff you and feel comfortable before we're ready to be petted. We respond very well to the technique Jackson Galaxy calls the "finger nose", so Mom and Mallory teach it as part of their program.



Have you ever seen two cats walk up to each other and touch noses? That's one of the ways we say hello. Holding out your finger to us and letting us touch our nose to your fingertip works in the same way, and will often lead a cat to pet your hand with his or her head!

Mom often likes to quote a favorite aunt of hers, who once said, "I used to think I didn't like cats . . . until I met one."





## Answers to Quiz: Animal Fact or Myth? (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

- untrue and was likely created with the intention of keeping children from disturbing the nests. That being said, it is important to note that bird's nests, as well as any wild animals or birds, should not be disturbed.
- Ostriches lay their eggs in large holes in the ground, and a few times a day, ostrich parents can be seen checking on their eggs by sticking their heads into the holes, but that is the closest they come to the myth of burying their heads. They don't bury their heads.
  - Owls can turn their heads up to 270 degrees, which, if attempted by a human would damage blood vessels in the neck or block blood supply to the brain, but they are not capable of a 360-degree rotation.
  - A light touch to a butterfly's wing won't cause lasting damage, but butterfly wings are very delicate and contain veins which, if broken, can cause the butterfly to die. It's always best to resist touching butterflies, but if your hand should accidentally brush gently against one, you don't have to be worried that you have harmed it.
  - This is sort of a trick-question because of the way it is worded. *All* bees do not die after stinging once, but honeybees *do*. A honeybee's stinger is different from the stingers of other bees and, because it has backward-facing barbs, it gets lodged in the skin and cannot be pulled out. In order for the honeybee to fly away after a sting, it must mortally injure itself to disconnect from its stinger. This does not happen to other types of bees, however.
  - Warts are caused by a human virus that is not present on a frog or a toad, *however*, frogs and toads can come with their own non-wart-causing dangers, ranging from toxins in their skin that can cause pain if they are touched, to neurotoxins that can potentially kill.
  - A rattlesnake uses the rattles on its tail as a warning that they are there. Generally shy and harmless if left alone, a rattlesnake will strike if it is startled or feels threatened, and they do not always rattle before striking.
  - Changing color to blend into surroundings sounds like a superhero ability and it would be very cool if any animal or person could do it, but alas, the reason a chameleon changes color has more to do with communicating its moods as well as with temperature and light.
  - A turtle's shell is a living part of its body and even has its own blood and nerve supply, which means a turtle can feel when its shell is touched. If the shell is damaged, the turtle not only can feel pain, but is also at risk of potentially deadly infection.
  - The piranha, a type of fish that lives in South American rivers and lakes, is generally understood to be shy and unaggressive, despite its sharp teeth. They mostly scavenge for fish, insects, and plants. In 1914, Theodore Roosevelt made a trip to Brazil where he saw piranhas quickly eat the meat off of a dead cow in a staged hoax for tourists in which captive fish were cruelly starved for days.
  - While a female praying mantis may occasionally eat the male after mating, this is not normal behavior for the species.
  - It is absolutely not true that turkeys drown in the rain.
  - Bats are not blind. In fact, some can see very well.
  - A camel's hump actually stores fat - enough that the camel can go for 3 weeks without eating.
  - Crocodiles are actually fast on land - probably faster than a human, in fact!
  - While cats are agile and able to readjust their position in mid-air, they do not always land on their feet. This is very important to know - never drop a cat from a height and don't let them get onto high balconies where they could possibly fall and get hurt!

~ ~ ~

See "For Fur-ther Information" on page one to learn about links on our web site, [pacsnj.org](http://pacsnj.org), for additional reading on this and other topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!



**Paws and Claws Society, Inc.**

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Visit us online at [www.pacsnj.org](http://www.pacsnj.org)

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## Be Sure to Read Labels Before Sharing With Pets!

### Peanut Butter Alert for Your Pets

A new type of peanut butter (and other nut butters) is being sold with less sugar, but now includes xylitol as a sweetener. That is what is used in sugarless gum and it can be deadly to dogs. Many people use peanut butter as a dog treat, or to fill a Kong, or disguise medications; if they now use the type with xylitol, it could be very dangerous.

This warning has been shared on Facebook over 650,000 times as of the publication date of this issue of *Burlington Reports*, but it bears repeating for anyone who may not have already seen it.

**Always remember:  
Even if a particular  
type of people-food  
is considered safe for  
your pet, read labels  
carefully, as there  
may be ingredients  
that are not safe!**

**Worth sharing for anyone with a dog.**