

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 26, March 2020

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction since 1993

For Fur-ther Information . . .

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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: Why Do They DO That?

Do you ever wonder why cats and dogs do some of the things they do? Test your knowledge of our 4-pawed friends. Do you know the answers to these questions?

1. Why do cats seem to enjoy knocking things off of tables and shelves?
2. Why do dogs lick wounds?
3. Why do cats "knead" on people?
4. Why do dogs howl when they hear music?
5. Why do cats raise their rear ends when someone scratches near the base of their tails?
6. Why do dogs sniff people's crotches?
7. Why do cats often seem like they're trying to trip their people?
8. Why do dogs eat grass?
9. Why do cats love boxes?
10. Why do dogs turn in a circle before lying down?
11. Why do cats have rough tongues?
12. Why do dogs wag their tails?
13. Why do cats wag their tails?
14. Why do dogs pant?



(See pages 2, 3, & 5 for answers.)



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Answers to Quiz: Why Do They DO That?

Here are the answers to the quiz on p. 1:

- 1. Why do cats seem to enjoy knocking things off of tables and shelves?** avodermnatural.com says cats do this either because they're trying to get your attention or they're having fun. And really, if you watch a cat's face and body language when knocking something down, doesn't it look like they're enjoying watching the thing fall?
- 2. Why do dogs lick wounds?** According to cuteness.com, dogs instinctively lick wounds to clean them and that studies have shown that this can protect against infection.
- 3. Why do cats "knead" on people?** When kittens are nursed by their mothers, they use their paws in a kneading motion to stimulate the flow of milk. When an adult cat does this to their human, it is likely that the cat is feeling loved and cared for in much the same way as their cat-mother made them feel.
- 4. Why do dogs howl when they hear music?** Have you ever noticed that when one dog howls or barks, others in the vicinity join in? It's a form of communication, and it's how wolves in the wild can let each another know their location. Perhaps there is a particular tone or note in the music that reminds your dog of a howl and stimulates the instinct to join in or sing along.
- 5. Why do cats raise their rear ends when someone scratches near the base of their tails?** That part of a cat's back is one of the few places the cat cannot reach to scratch, so it feels great to be scratched there! Most cats will lift that part of their back up to let you know they like that scratching. On a related note, have you seen the cat haiku on this very topic?

You must scratch me there!
Yes, above my tail! Behold,
Elevator butt.

Author Unknown

- 6. Why do dogs sniff people's crotches?** As rude as that behavior

(Continued on page 3)

Burlington The Cat On Sheltering In Place



Hello, Burlington here.

Like millions of other families in the United States and around the world, my family has been staying

home to avoid catching or spreading the COVID-19 virus.

Mom has closed the book store and Dad is working from home. Mallory and Matthew are home from college and are taking some of their courses online.

Jersey and I, while we don't completely understand much about the reasons behind the family being home, are enjoying their company.

Oh, I admit, at first it was confusing. Your pets are more accustomed to your daily routines than you may realize. We knew that the days when everyone was home used to be called "weekends", so when every day started to be "weekends", we were naturally perplexed.

"Burlington, what's going on?" Jersey had asked me when several days had passed and still no one was leaving the house.

I thought for a while before I answered. "Well, there is the thing called a 'holiday weekend' that generally lasts a bit longer than a regular weekend, but I don't think that's what this is." I shook my head. "Dad set up the alcove off of the



kitchen with a desk and computer, and the papers he plays with during the day have the same scent that his shoes used to have when he would come home from the place called 'work', so apparently he brought

'work' home with him."

"Yes, that's odd." Jersey sighed in agreement. "Mom brought home a bunch of books before she closed the book store," she added, "And she's been selling them online instead of having her customers come to her in person."

I nodded. "She's also been busy communicating with her virtual book club and something she calls a 'COVID-19 Quarantine Reading List'."

Jersey's eyes lit up and she said, "Oh, and don't forget about all those boxes of our food that showed up!"

Mom orders our food and treats online and the company ships to our house in a big box, but not usually in the quantities we'd received recently.

"Oh, yes," I replied, "And there have been deliveries of groceries and hot food for the family." I shook my head. "It's very strange that they aren't even going to the store or out to eat."

"Don't get me wrong," Jersey said, "I LOVE having them here all the time!" Her tail began to wag, seemingly of its own accord, as she reflected on her delight at having more of the family's attention.

I shrugged. "I enjoy the extra treats and the additional time Mallory has been spending playing with me, but . . ."

Jersey looked at me expectantly, her eyes willing me to go on.

"It's just that, well, I miss my 'alone' time, basking in the sun from the front window. I always looked forward to that once everyone would leave in the morning."

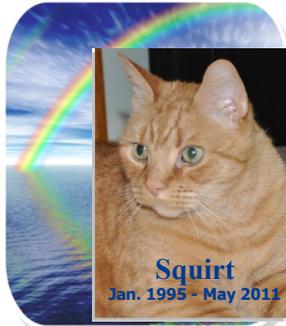
Jersey surprised me by snickering. I sat up straighter and gave her my indignant stare.

(Continued on page 6)



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Squirty's Words From The Rainbow Bridge



In memory of Squirty, a longtime friend of Paws and Claws Society who passed away on Mother's Day 2011 at the age of 16½, Burlington Reports added a new section to remember pets who have passed 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.

Question: Can cats and dogs catch or transmit COVID-19?

Answer: This is a question that many people have been wondering about over the past several weeks. It's one for which the answer is still not completely known, and there is conflicting information currently being reported by various sources. The few reports that suggest it's possible are just that, however: very few. This tells us that it is unlikely, or at least uncommon, for dogs or cats to catch or transmit COVID-19.

What *is* known is that you can protect your pets, just as you protect yourself and other people.

The same guidelines that help to keep people safe will help to keep your pets safe as well:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often
- Stay home unless you absolutely must go out (i.e. if you are required to go leave your home to work or you have an urgent emergency)
- If you absolutely must leave your home, wear a mask and remain at least 6 feet away from other people

These guidelines will greatly reduce the chances of bringing the COVID-19 virus into your home, where your pets could come into contact with it.

PLEASE DO NOT ABANDON YOUR PETS! They need you now more than ever, and they don't understand what a virus is or how to avoid catching it. They depend on you to do all that you can to protect them. To help ensure that your pets remain safe:

- Keep cats indoors at all times
- When you walk your dog, be careful not to let your dog go within six feet of other people or other dogs
- If you've been out or around other people who do not live in your house, wash your hands thoroughly before touching your pet, as germs can be transmitted to their coats and then to the next person who pets them
- If you do become sick, isolate yourself from others in your home (both people and pets), cover your coughs and sneezes, and ask someone who is not sick to care for your pet or pets until you are well again

Peace, Love, and Head-Butts.

Squirty

Be safe and well!

Answers to Quiz: Why Do They DO That? (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

may seem to us, it's just information-gathering to a dog. Dogs learn a lot about other dogs by sniffing their butts due to the high concentration of pheromones (chemical substances released by our bodies) in that area. Humans have a high concentration of pheromones in our crotches, too. Your dog can learn all sorts of things from your scent including your age, health, mood . . . even if a woman has recently had a baby!

7. **Why do cats often seem like they're trying to trip their people?** There are varying theories about this, but the most logical answer is: to get your attention! If you notice your cat doing this often at feeding time, it could be because as a kitten, your kitty learned that getting under Mama Cat's feet made her lie down to nurse the babies.
8. **Why do dogs eat grass?** Most people think that dogs eat grass when they don't feel well because it will make them vomit, however, this really doesn't happen with a large number of dogs and there is no scientific evidence to validate the theory. It seems that no one actually knows the answer to this question. Maybe the grass tastes good?
9. **Why do cats love boxes?** There are several reasons for this. Some of these reasons include: (1) Cats like small, enclosed spaces where they can crouch down and watch while hunting because they are "ambush predators". (2) A box makes a cat feel safe and secure because it's harder for another animal to creep up on them. (3) The sides of a box can give a cat the same feeling that he or she felt as a kitten, snuggled close with their mom and their litter-mates. (4) A cat's curiosity is so strong, the cat can't resist checking out a box or other new item in a



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



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Word Search Puzzle: 60 Most Popular Pet Names

We found the 60 Most Popular Pet Names on the bowwow.com.au web site. Their pet names list is gathered from orders from their Pet ID Tag business, pet-tags.com. (See the list of names on page 5.)

(Go to our web site, pacsnj.org, to see the completed version of this puzzle or to solve the puzzle online.)

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Word Search Puzzle Word List



1. Tigger
2. Tiger
3. Max
4. Smokey
5. Sam
6. Kitty
7. Sassy
8. Shadow
9. Simba
10. Patch
11. Lucky
12. Misty
13. Sammy
14. Princess
15. Oreo
16. Samantha
17. Charlie
18. Boots
19. Oliver
20. Brandy
21. Lucy

22. Duke
23. Precious
24. Missy
25. Oscar
26. Fluffy
27. Whiskers
28. Gizmo
29. Taz
30. Molly
31. Midnight



32. Buddy
33. Baby



34. Toby
35. Dakota
36. Spike
37. Sophie
38. Rusty
39. Pumpkin
40. Jake
41. Alex
42. Maggie
43. Callie
44. Buster

45. Sylvester
46. Shelby
47. Rocky
48. Pepper
49. Milo
50. Daisy



51. Cleo
52. Chloe
53. Angel
54. Dusty
55. Bailey
56. Mittens
57. Casey
58. Socks
59. Snowball
60. Simon



Answers to Quiz: Why Do They DO That? (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

- room. (5) Cats like their "alone" time. A box can provide this feeling. (6) Cardboard is a great insulator, so a box can feel warm and cozy.
10. **Why do dogs turn in a circle before lying down?** This seems to be an instinct that dogs inherit from their wild ancestors. In the wild, dogs walk in a circle to tamp down grass or leaves and to warm the ground before lying down.
 11. **Why do cats have rough tongues?** A cat's rough tongue serves as a built-in hairbrush to smooth their fur while they bathe.
 12. **Why do dogs wag their tails?** A dog's tail is used as a tool for communication. We all associate a wagging tail with a happy dog, and dogs do wag their tails when they are happy, but they do so for other reasons as well. A tail held high that looks like it's actually vibrating more than wagging can signify threatening or aggressive behavior. Always watch for all aspects of a dog's body language before assuming he or she is happy or wants to be petted.
 13. **Why do cats wag their tails?** Unlike dogs, cats don't generally "wag" their tails to indicate happiness. If a cat's tail is held straight up high and shaking from the base up, the cat is probably excited, and if that straight-up tail is gently wagging only at the tip, Kitty likely wants to play. If you notice a cat's tail flicking, the cat is probably annoyed. A tail that is swishing back and forth can indicate that the cat may be annoyed, or may be about to pounce!
 14. **Why do dogs pant?** Dogs don't sweat through their skin the way people do, so they sweat through their nose and paw pads, and they increase airflow by panting, which helps to cool them down. A dog may also pant as a result of exercise, just as a human may breathe heavily from exertion. If your dog pants excessively, however, it could indicate stress, pain, or heatstroke. If you are concerned, it's a good idea to see your vet.



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



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Pet Humor

Have you been enjoying all the memes about pets on social distancing, working from home, quarantining, and how to stay healthy? Here are some good ones.



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 2)

"What's so funny?"

"Oh, it wasn't what you said," she explained. "Well, maybe it is. I was just remembering a meme that Matthew showed me that someone had posted online. It was a picture of a dog and a cat and the picture was titled, 'Dogs and Cats on News of Quarantine'. The dog was jumping up and down, so excited that the people would be staying home, but the cat glares at the camera and says, 'Why are you still in my house, hooman?'"

Before I had time to process that and decide whether or not I found it funny, Mallory came into the room and sat down.

"You guys must be wondering why we're all here at home with you every day," she said.

Jersey leaned over and whispered into my ear, "How does she DO that?"

I must admit I have no idea how Mallory knows what we're thinking.

She went on to explain that there is a very bad illness going around and that people all over are staying home to avoid getting sick.

"All over the world, many businesses have closed, events have been cancelled, students are being home-schooled, and people are being very careful not to spread germs."

Jersey whimpered softly. "But this kind of thing never happened before with other illnesses that were going around. Why now?"

"This illness is a lot more contagious than others," Mallory said, "I saw an article that explains the difference. With the flu, one person who catches it is likely to infect about 1.3 or 1.4 people. Those people then can each infect another 1.3 or 1.4 people. Once that happens 10 times, 14 people are infected as a result."

Burlington The Cat (Continued)

We quietly listened.

"Well, with COVID-19, one person can infect three people. And, as a side note, a person can infect other people for up to two weeks before they ever even have symptoms. Each of those three people can infect three more, so after 10 passes, that first person can infect 59,000 people."

We were stunned.

"It will all be ok," Mallory assured us with a smile. I wonder if she knows how soothing her smile is to us. "We're



doing what we need to do to 'flatten the curve', to keep as many people safe as possible, and when the danger passes, we'll return to normal again."

In the mean time, the family has been finding all sorts of ways to occupy their time and to remain in touch with family and friends, and people all over the world are feeling a sense of how interconnected we all are.

Many neighborhoods have organized scavenger hunts and other activities. People put pictures in their windows based on a specific theme or they put stuffed animals in their windows or their yards and the kids in the neighborhood take walks or bike-rides with their families (observing social distancing rules, of course), and they look for the items people have displayed for them.

Jersey and I were recently startled by a bunch of car horns honking, but Mallory quickly explained that it was someone's birthday around the corner, and that people are using parades of cars with signs, balloons, and other decorations, to celebrate birthdays and

(Continued on page 7)

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Burlington The Cat (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

weddings, since they can't have parties.

Musical artists and television personalities are entertaining their fans from their homes and fans are enjoying those glimpses into their favorite artists' own lives, furthering the sense that we are all in this together and we are all connected.

Mom has commented that the creativity of people when they are bored is remarkable, as evidenced by several parody songs, memes, and entertaining videos that have been shared across social media.

Jersey and I hear our family talking about things that we don't understand, but we are aware that these things make our family sad and worried, like the number of patients who didn't or won't survive this illness, or the number of people who are out of work and are struggling to get by, or the stress on all of the people who work in health care or deliver food or other items that people need. But they also talk about the number of people who *are* recovering from the illness and the many ways that people are finding to do something special for others, like organizing fundraisers or making face masks to donate to hospitals. They've talked about families reconnecting, and pollution levels dropping.

While we don't fully understand those things, we do feel the hope that they are cultivating, and the love and concern toward each other and both of us.

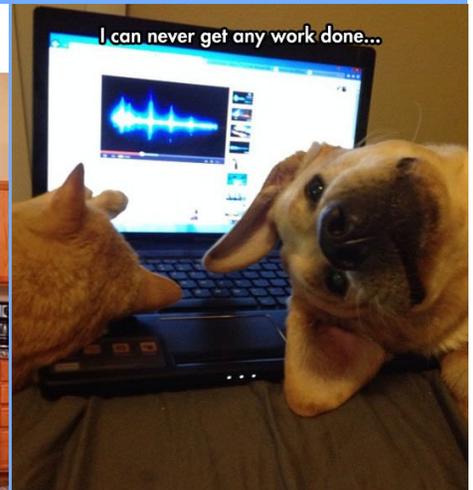
And for now, we're making the best of this time with our family at home, and we're getting in as many tummy rubs and chin scratches as we can.

We hope that you and everyone you love is safe and well and enjoying each other, too.



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!

Pet Humor (Continued from page 6)





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Visit us online at www.pacsnj.org

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When is Flea Season?

An article on petbasics.com tells us that fleas (as well as ticks and mosquitoes) can cause our pets health issues all year, although they are much more active during the spring and summer. As long as fleas have a "host" to live on (your pet), they will be a problem any time of year.

How can you protect your pets from fleas? Vacuum your floors and wash your pets' bedding often. Comb your pet regularly and be on the lookout for fleas and/or flea "dirt". You can also use flea prevention products. (Ask your vet for a recommendation that is right for your pet.)

Many flea-prevention products also protect against ticks. It's a good idea to routinely check your pets for ticks as you are petting or grooming them. Even if your cat stays indoors all the time (which is the very safest place for your cat to be), a tick can still "hitch a ride" into your home on your shoes or clothing without you even realizing it!

When Are Fleas Most Active in the United States?

