

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 29, Fall/Winter 2021

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction since 1993



For Fur-ther Information . . .

You can find more information on our web site at 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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Pet Memes

Here is a collection of cat and dog memes found scattered around the Internet:



(Continued on page 2)

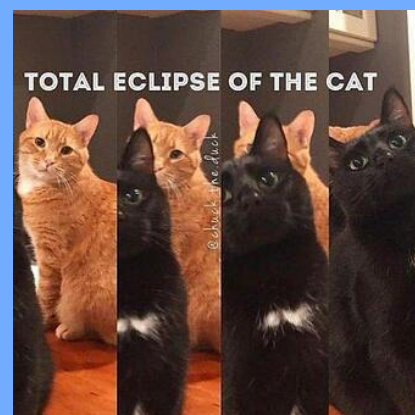


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Pet Memes (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)



(Continued on page 3)

Burlington The Cat on Therapy Horses



Hello. Burlington here. The other day, I made friends with a horse. That's not a sentence I ever expected to say, as I did not grow

up around horses and my family lives in a quiet suburban neighborhood, but nevertheless, it is true.

Mallory is studying psychology in college and has been doing a Summer Internship working as a volunteer in an Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) program.

My curiosity was piqued when she offered to take me with her when she had a meeting at the stable.

"One of the horses used to be good friends with a cat that lived on the property," she said, "But the cat passed away and the horse seems to miss him. Maybe meeting you might help her with her grief."

I'd never met a horse before, but I had heard Mallory talk about them quite a bit since she was a little girl. She had horse posters and figurines in her bedroom while she was growing up, so I had an idea of what a horse looked like. I knew from listening to her talking with her friends over the years that horses are very large animals that can weigh anywhere from 840 to 2200 pounds. Since she has been involved in the Equine Therapy program, she has shared even more information with us about horses.

"Horses don't hide their emotions," she said last week at the family dinner, "Their strong emotional sense serves as a survival tool within their herd. They recognize and respond to the emotions of other horses in their herd. If one horse is afraid, the others will



become afraid. They respond to human emotions in a similar way."

Mom smiled and nodded. "I can see how that would be helpful for a person in therapy. We all need to feel understood."

"Many clients in therapy have to learn how to identify their feelings in order to work through them," Malloy explained. "They may have buried their emotions due to trauma, or, as in the case of addicts, they may have been numbing their feelings with drugs or alcohol. The therapy horse provides information to the client through its own behavior. For instance, if the client approaches the horse angrily, the horse will respond to that anger. This information can help the therapist and the client identify and address those emotions."

She went on to tell us that horses are gentle and honest by nature.

"Many clients are surprised to feel such kindness from a creature so much bigger than they are."

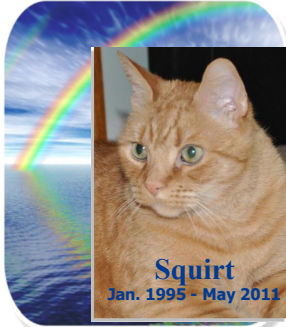


To learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports, see "For Fur-Ther Information" on page one!



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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: Why do ducks wag their tails?

Answer: There are actually multiple reasons why a duck might wag its tail.

Ducks, like dogs, wag their tails when they are excited or happy. Ducks have been observed wagging their tails after receiving food or having a nice drink of water as well as when they see a person they like. (Often this person is also someone who feeds them, increasing the chance of a happy response to seeing the person.)



Ducks in the wild may also wag their tails when calming down from a stressful situation.

When a duck has been swimming, it will wag its tail after getting out of the water. This is to shake off excess water and speed up the drying of its feathers.

During mating season, male ducks will wag their tails, flap their wings, preen, and exhibit other mating-specific behaviors in order to attract the attention of potential mates. You could say this is how a duck flirts.

Question: Why do baby goats jump around?

Answer: This question has multiple answers, too!

While goats jump for many reasons at all stages of their lives, baby goats often jump straight into the air with all four feet. This is called "stotting".

They do this for play and to entice other baby goats (or even people or other animals in their environment) to play with them.

Stotting may also be a fun way for a baby goat to show off their athletic skills to impress their peers.

Another reason that baby goats jump is to release energy. Young animals (and human children) have an abundance of energy that needs to be released. While human children may run around or do somersaults, or kittens and puppies may chase each other or run around seemingly haphazardly to release this energy, baby goats release their excess energy by jumping.

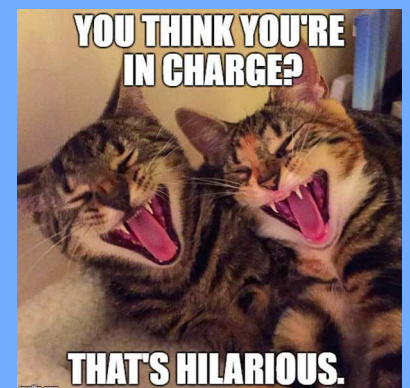
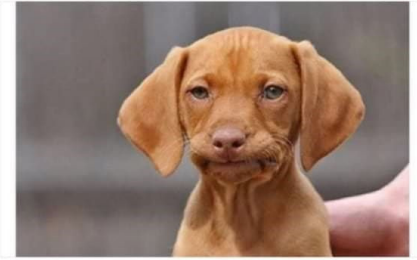


Peace, Love, and Head-Butts.
Squirty

Pet Memes (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

When your phone battery is at 6% and it dies anyway



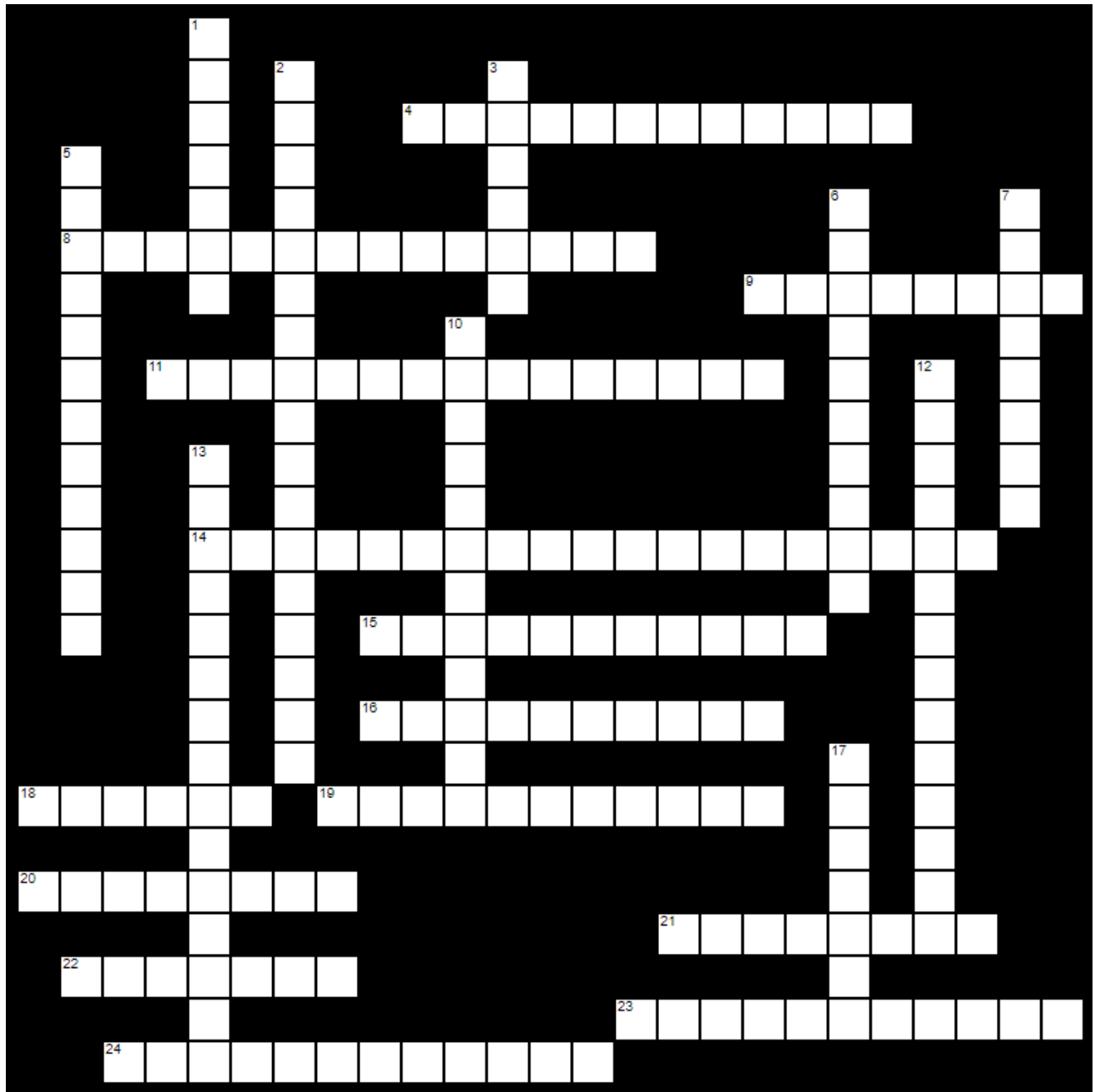
(Continued on page 6)



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Crossword Puzzle: Types of Birds (With Photo Clues)

How many of the 24 types of birds pictured on page 5 are you able to name? This crossword puzzle comes with photo clues rather than word clues. Visit our web site, pacsnj.org, to see the completed version of this puzzle or to solve the puzzle online.



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Crossword Puzzle: Types of Birds (With Photo Clues)



Photo 01
 (2 Down)



Photo 02
 (1 Down)



Photo 03
 (7 Down)



Photo 04
 (20 Across)

Across

4: See Photo 11

8: See Photo 18

9: See Photo 16

11: See Photo 15

14: See Photo 12

15: See Photo 21

16: See Photo 17

18: See Photo 06

19: See Photo 22

20: See Photo 04

21: See Photo 07

22: See Photo 19

23: See Photo 20

24: See Photo 09

Down

1: See Photo 02

2: See Photo 01

3: See Photo 23

5: See Photo 10

6: See Photo 05

7: See Photo 03

10: See Photo 14

12: See Photo 13

13: See Photo 08

17: See Photo 24



Photo 05
 (6 Down)



Photo 06
 (18 Across)



Photo 07
 (21 Across)



Photo 08
 (13 Down)

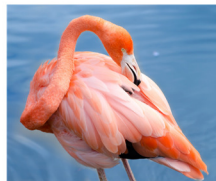


Photo 09
 (24 Across)



Photo 10
 (5 Down)



Photo 11
 (4 Across)



Photo 12
 (14 Across)



Photo 13
 (12 Down)



Photo 14
 (10 Down)



Photo 15
 (11 Across)

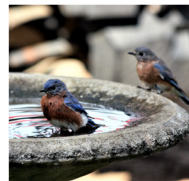


Photo 16
 (9 Across)



Photo 17
 (16 Across)



Photo 18
 (8 Across)



Photo 19
 (22 Across)



Photo 20
 (23 Across)



Photo 21
 (15 Across)



Photo 22
 (19 Across)



Photo 23
 (3 Down)



Photo 24
 (17 Down)



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Pet Memes (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)



Can Your Dog or Cat Talk?

You may have seen the videos on various social media platforms: dogs or cats pressing buttons to play pre-recorded words or phrases, indicating what they want to say or ask for. It is often surprising and fascinating to watch the animal's thought process at work.

In early 2018, speech-language pathologist Christina Hunger, who had used Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices in her practice to help her patients express themselves with words, brought home a new Catahoula Blue Heeler mix puppy, Stella. In observing Stella, Hunger recognized many of the same pre-linguistic communication skills that toddlers demonstrate right before they start talking. This led her to wonder whether Stella would be able to use an AAC device to communicate in the same way Hunger's patients did.

On her web site, hungerforwords.com, Hunger explains, "I started my experiment with just a few recordable buttons that Stella could push to say, 'outside,' 'play,' and 'water,' and the same language facilitation



Stella, Christina Hunger's Talking Dog

strategies I use with children. Since introducing those first words, Stella has progressed far beyond what I ever thought could be possible. Now, Stella uses a homemade communication device to say more than 45 words (and counting!), combine up to 5 words together to create unique phrases, ask and answer questions, express her thoughts and feelings, make observations, participate in short conversations, and connect with us every single day."

Since Stella's story made international headlines in 2019, thousands of other dogs (and a good number of cats, as well) have learned to communicate using the same type of buttons.

Stella's ancestry may have played a role in making her the ideal "World's First Talking Dog". Both Catahoula and Blue Heeler breeds were developed through mixtures of various herding breeds.

The book *First Friend: A History of Dogs and Humans* by Katharine Rogers says that "Herding dogs were developed in the early Middle Ages, probably in northwestern Europe and probably by crossing northern dogs with sight hounds."

For centuries, herding dogs in many countries have been trained to respond to hand signals or sounds that give the dogs commands

such as which direction to move, when to stop, and how slow or fast to move, in the process of directing sheep and other



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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Can Your Dog or Cat Talk? (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

animals toward the destination preferred by the farmers. Might the aptitude of the herding dogs to understand and follow directions communicated either visually or auditorily translate into Stella's ability to understand the meaning behind the words represented by her buttons, and to understand clearly enough to use those words to communicate with her humans?



Copper, @thechattylab on TikTok

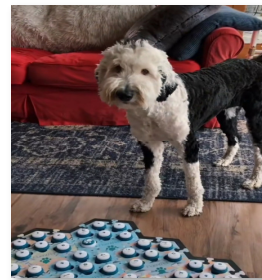


@akittynamedwinter on Tik Tok

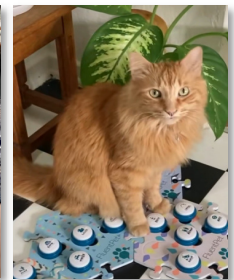
Or perhaps all dogs and cats possess an aptitude for adapting to our language that goes beyond anything we'd conceived of before?

A quick search of social media will return video upon video of numerous dogs and cats using recordable buttons to express their needs and wants (and even feelings) to their people.

If you've tried this communication method with your pet, please share your results with us!



@What_About_Bunny on Tik Tok



@Justinbieberthecat_ on Tik Tok

Burlington The Cat

(Continued from page 2)



Caring for horses by feeding or brushing them, or riding or walking with them, helps to build trust and empathy between the horse and client in addition to helping to develop and strengthen emotional awareness, social skills, impulse control, problem-solving skills, and confidence.

"Is this a new type of therapy?" Dad asked.

Mallory shook her head. "It's not new at all. There is documentation in ancient Greek literature indicating that they used horses for therapeutic purposes. In 600 BC, Orbasis of ancient Lydia wrote about the

therapeutic value of horseback riding."

The day I went with Mallory to the stable was a day when there were no client appointments. I was allowed to explore the stable while Mallory spoke with the staff nearby.

It didn't take long for me to meet Godiva, the horse who missed her feline friend.

We spent a good part of that afternoon together, sometimes sitting in comfortable silence, other times sharing our feelings with one another. I felt humbled to be accepted and liked by such a strong and majestic animal. I could understand how that relationship could be such a healing one for humans as well.

Before we left, Godiva spoke to me, in the unspoken language that exists between animals.

"Thank you," she said.



"For what?" I inquired.

"For listening with your heart. You've helped me today."

I purred and gave her a slow eye-blink.

"That is what you do for humans every day!"



Burlington is a fictional gray tabby cat belonging 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 (now adult) children are Mallory and Matthew. The family also adopted a Chihuahua and named her Jersey. See our web site, pacsnj.org, for other issues of Burlington Reports and to read the ongoing adventures and learning experiences of Burlington and his family!



Paws and Claws
Society, Inc.

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1017 Grove Avenue
Thorofare, NJ 08086

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Visit us online at www.pacsnj.org

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Burlington Reports Issue 29, Fall/Winter 2021

Fall / Winter / Holiday Items That Can Be Toxic To Pets

Happy Fall / Winter 2021!



As we come into another fall/winter holiday season, it is as important as ever to be aware of potential dangers posed by foods and other items that our pets may come into contact with.

Be sure to avoid letting cats and dogs have access to toxic items this fall/winter/holiday season, such as:

- Alcohol
- Foods containing grapes, raisins and currents (such as fruit-

- cake)
- Chocolate
- Xylitol (an artificial sweetener found in many sugarless gums and candies)
- Leftover, fatty meat scraps
- Poultry bones
- Onions
- Garlic
- Nutmeg
- Yeasty breads / doughs
- Milk and milk products
- Various types of nuts
- Raw or undercooked meat
- Sugar
- Sage
- Cake batter
- Caffeine

- Mushrooms
- Food packaging (such as foil wrappers, etc.)
- Imported snow globes (have been found to contain anti-freeze, which can be fatal to pets even in very small amounts)
- Liquid Potpourri
- Poinsettias
- Mums (chrysanthemums)
- Compost / Mulch piles

As the weather becomes cooler, pests such as moths and rats tend to look for shelter indoors, causing many people to put out deterrents that are toxic to cats and dogs, such as:

- Mothballs
- Rat poison